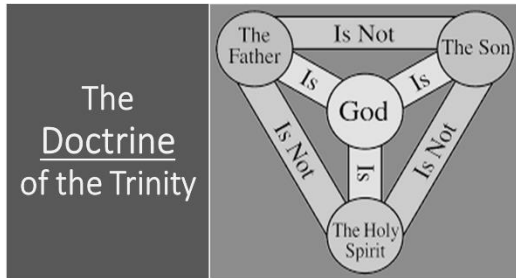


#1: The Holy Spirit in our Lives



1. WHAT IS THE TRINITY?

The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

- God is three persons (Mt 3:13-17)
- Each person is fully God (Phil 2; Acts 5:3-4)
- There is one God (Mk 12:29)

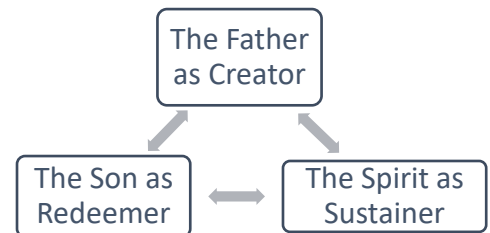
This is very much a mystery to us. Trying to understand an infinite God when we are very limited and short-lived beings is quite hard to do.

What we do know is that the Bible describes God as ONE being but with 3 persons. Trying to use a simple explanation gets us into trouble.

Some use water- it can be solid ice, a liquid, or a gas (water vapour). But that's a single substance appearing in 3 forms. That would mean that Jesus or the Spirit aren't real persons in and of themselves but somehow just forms God might choose to use for a time. Others say God is like the Prime Minister and his Cabinet. Here the Father would be the leader and Jesus and the Spirit would be like Cabinet Ministers. But then each one is entirely separate! And if you use an illustration like an egg – yolk, white, shell – then you have 3 distinct parts and the 'oneness' fades away. Sometimes we have to accept that we can't understand the infinite.

2. WE EXPERIENCE EACH MEMBER OF THE TRINITY DIFFERENTLY

Each person of the Trinity plays a part in our world and in our lives. In John 16 the Holy Spirit is described in the Bible as a counsellor, a guide an advocate, a source of power, our comforter and the one who stirs our minds and our consciences.



3. THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES

Every Christian is given the Holy Spirit.

ACTS 2 ¹When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit...

There are two aspects to this. When we yield our lives to God and we are redeemed through Christ, we receive the Spirit who lives in – indwells – us.

Romans 8 ⁹But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit if in fact you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.)

But we also have available to us constantly the filling of the Spirit. When we purposefully give God control of our thoughts and actions the Spirit does a special work in our lives.

Ephesians 5 ¹⁸Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, keep being filled with the Holy Spirit...

Acts 4 ³¹After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.

Other places in the Bible refer to this special help given by the Spirit.

Acts 1⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in Judea, and to the end of the earth

Acts 4:7⁷ They brought in the two disciples and demanded, "By what power, or in whose name, have you done this?"⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them...

This miraculous aid works in two ways.

i. The power for our personal transformation is available to us.

Galatians 5²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,²³ gentleness, and self-control.

ii. The power that permits us to make a difference in this world and to share God's love and message is available to us.

Acts 4³¹ After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness.

How can we become filled with the Spirit? (Remember, this is not a one time only thing.)

- i. By Faith: We choose to come to God in faith and claim His work in our lives.
- ii. By Confession: We examine our lives with His help and we confess our sin and commit to change.
- iii. By Request: We ask God's Spirit to then fill us for HIS work and purposes- not ours.
- iv. By Responding: We then follow God's guidance as we talk to Him in our days.

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Our Queensway version of TED Talks will focus on particular key ideas about what It means to be 'the Church' in a fast changing world. Drawn from Biblical references and key ideas from theologians and church leaders, our Theological Education Discussions will come regularly and will provide a 5 -7 minute look that will help us as a community to focus on our purposes, organization, & tasks.

Please use this page at home to reflect upon in the light of who we are as a church today. Open up your Bible to check the references, and then think and pray about what you've read. As we all do this, we will be opening ourselves to the leading of God's Spirit in our church community.