



The Holy Spirit - God's Presence & Power!

The third and final section of the Apostle's Creed addresses foundational beliefs about the person and work of the Holy Spirit, and how the Spirit operates in us, in the world, and in the Church.

Discuss with your group -

- *Have you, or someone you know, experienced a clear "nudge" or "leading" from God to do something, pray for someone, or take a different path than expected? Share about it with your group!*
- *The Creed tells us that God the Father is seated on the throne of the Heavenly Temple, that Jesus has ascended and is seated at His right hand, and that the Holy Spirit (or Holy Ghost) is present in believers and the Church. What have you heard or learned about the Spirit? Share any questions you may have as we begin this study.*

Watch Video #8, then read and discuss, phrase by phrase...

"I believe in the Holy Spirit..."

- **Read John 14:16-20** - *At the Last Supper, Jesus promises to send a "Helper". Greek word 'paracletos' can translate as helper, comforter, counselor, advocate*
- **Read John 14:26-29** - *Jesus' disciples were surely anxious when He told them He would die and be taken away. How did these words help them - and us?*
- **The Work of the Spirit: Read John 16:7-11** - *The Spirit's role is to convict/convince the world of 3 things - _____, _____, and _____.*
 - *What sin does the Spirit convict of?*
 - *Who is righteous?*
 - *Who is judged and condemned?*

"...the holy catholic church..."

- **Read Ephesians 4:1-6 & 11-13** - *This is NOT the Roman Catholic Church, but the spiritual connection shared by all believers everywhere. (catholic = universal)*
- *What do these verses say about our connection to other believers, and the role we each play in bringing unity, growth, and maturity to the Body of Christ?*
- *"The Spirit-filled life is not a special, deluxe edition of Christianity. It is part and parcel of the total plan of God for His people." - A.W. Tozer*

"...the communion of saints..."

- *Refers to the spiritual connection between Christians who have died and believers still alive on Earth. These saints are present with Jesus in soul and spirit, gathered around His throne in the current Heaven, praying and praising.*
- *References: Revelation 6:9-11, Hebrews 12:1-2, and 2 Corinthians 5:5-9*

"...the forgiveness of sins..."

- *The Holy Spirit is active in the process of repentance, cleansing and forgiveness of sins, and imparting righteousness to believers (e.g. Acts 2:37-38).*

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ENCORE

JOURNEY

SCRIPTURE • BELIEFS • PRACTICES

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(* not Roman Catholic, but all believers everywhere!)

True Assurance

The Apostle's Creed describes God's character and work - past, present, and future. How does this ancient Creed give you hope and peace in our modern world?

The Holy Spirit - God's Presence & Power! *(continued)*

“...the resurrection of the body...”

- *The New Testament and the Creeds of the Early Church have always taught that our bodies will be physically raised and glorified at the Return of Jesus, just as Jesus' body was at His Resurrection. Salvation renews our soul and spirit now, and our body will be renewed by the power of the Spirit when Jesus returns.*
 - **Romans 8:18-25** - *In this incredible chapter, Paul writes that all of Creation is longing to know the renewal that we now have in our soul and spirit through the gift of the Holy Spirit. In the future, at Jesus' return, our bodies and all of Creation will also be renewed and glorified.*
 - **1 Corinthians 15:35-49** (through 55) - *The believers in Corinth asked the same questions we wonder about - what will our renewed bodies be like after the Resurrection when Jesus returns? Paul reminds them of the goodness of God's Creation in Genesis 1, before sin and death. While Paul doesn't explicitly answer the question, He gives us assurance that our resurrected body will reflect the glory of our Risen Lord.*
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:23-24** - *Our spirit and soul are blameless now through salvation in Christ, and our body will be also be renewed at the future coming of the Lord.*

“...and the life everlasting. Amen”

- **Revelation chapters 21 & 22** *describe the New Creation and the life everlasting. Essentially, all things are returned to the perfection of Genesis chapters 1 & 2, before sin, death, injustice, and evil were present on Earth. God will descend to be with us, as will the Heavenly Temple, and we will live in God's presence in our raised and glorified bodies in the New Creation, enjoying Him forever!*

Read The Apostle's Creed together: *What stands out to you this week?*