

The Spirit: The Lord, the Giver of Life

- Is He confined by space?
- Can we channel/give the Spirit?
- What is His work?

Key Passages	The Holy Spirit is...	His work is...	In partnership with the Word & Jesus	So what?
Gen 1:2; Ps 33:6; Ezek. 37:1-14; John 3:8; 6:63; 20:22; Rom. 8:2; 9-10; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23	The creator God A mighty wind The Spirit of Life	Giving life REGENERATION	Works with the word Sent by Jesus He unites us with Christ	Awe Preach

Nicene Creed:¹

*We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the Giver of Life;
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets*

- How would you persuade someone that the Spirit is truly fully God?

The Spirit shares the attributes, work and name of God:

- Name – Matthew 28:19; 2 Cor. 3:17
- Omnipresence – Psalm 139:7-8
- Creation, giving life – Genesis 1:2; 2:7; Psalm 33:6; 104:30; Ezek. 36:25-28; 37:1-14; John 3:5-10;² 6:63; 20:22

Spirit = breath = wind – *ruach* (OT), *pneuma* (NT)

“[I]n biblical thought the Spirit of God is as closely connected to the Word of God as breath is connected to speech”³

¹ Not in the form of the Council of Nicea (325) but as expanded at Constantinople (381) and with the later addition of the ‘and the Son’ clause only accepted in the Western Church.

² Note there is no imperative (“Get born again”) but only a condition (“You must be born again”). What is required is a complete change of nature, a rebirth. You have as much control over this as over your own first birth or over the wind. On “water and spirit” see [online resources](#).

³ John Woodhouse, ‘The preacher and the living Word,’ in Christopher Green and David Jackman (eds), *When God’s Voice is Heard: The Power of Preaching*. (Leicester: IVP, 2003), 55.

The Spirit gives us life by uniting us with Jesus The Life

- John 6:47-57,63; 14:6; 1 Cor. 6:17; cf. 1 John 3:24; 4:13
- “First, we must understand that as long as Christ remains outside of us, and we are separated from Him, all that He has suffered and done for the salvation of the human race remains useless and of no value for us... The Holy Spirit is the bond by which Christ effectually unites us to himself.” (Calvin, *Institutes*, III.1.3)

Implications:

- Spirit everywhere but specially/operationally present when giving life – John 3:8
- Awesome God with us – 1 Cor. 3:17; 6:19; Ephesians 2:22; Acts 5:3,9
- No Spirit no life – Rom. 8:2; 9-10
- The Spirit and the Word work together to bring life – Psalm 33:6; John 6:63; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23 – so preach the Word
- Jesus is God because he can send God – John 1:33; 20:22
- You cannot control the Spirit and send him – John 3:8; cf. Acts 2:2; 10:44-48⁴

Further reading:

- [Gregory of Nyssa on the Trinity and the divinity of the Holy Spirit \[Kindle e-book file\]](#)

⁴ Cf. Acts 8:14-25 (Spirit given through laying on of apostles' hands but then Simon harshly rebuked for wanting to buy the gift of giving the Spirit); 9:17 (Ananias lays hands on Paul); 19:6 (Paul lays hands on disciples of John the Baptist). There seems to be pattern that at early crucial moments of gospel progress and/or where it is important to show the connection of new believers who might be suspect (e.g. Samaritans or Saul the persecutor) with the church then there is laying on of hands – a strong sign of identification – as the Spirit is given. But generally the pattern is that the Spirit 'comes on' or 'falls on' people as the sovereign Wind of God. Wanting to have the 'power... so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit' is 'wickedness' (Acts 8:19, 22). The Spirit is the sovereign gift of God (Acts 8:20).