

# The Nature and Character of God: The Holy Spirit

## Questions

- What do we basically believe about the Holy Spirit in the Trinity?
- Where does the Holy Spirit come from?
- What names have been given in the Bible for the Holy Spirit?
- Does the term 'Holy Spirit' occur in the Old Testament?
- Is the term 'Holy Ghost' equal to 'Holy Spirit'?
- What makes the Holy Spirit 'holy'?
- What are some heresies regarding the Holy Spirit?
- How do we know the Holy Spirit is a person?
- Should we call the Holy Spirit an 'it' or a 'him' or 'her'?
- What is meant by 'blasphemy against the Holy Spirit'?
- What activities did the Holy Spirit have in the life of Jesus?
- Did Jesus have the Holy Spirit himself?
- What functions does the Holy Spirit have in our lives?
- What are the 'gifts of the Holy Spirit' and who gets which ones?
- What are the 'fruits of the Holy Spirit' and who gets which ones?
- What symbols have been used for the Holy Spirit?
- Should we worship the Holy Spirit?
- Should we pray to the Holy Spirit?
- How is it possible to 'grieve' the Holy Spirit?
- How is it possible to 'quench' the Holy Spirit?
- What does it mean to be 'filled' with the Holy Spirit?
- Does the Holy Spirit provide revelations outside of scripture?
- Does the Holy Spirit illuminate our understanding of scripture?

# The Nature and Character of God: The Holy Spirit

The theology of the Holy Spirit is called [Pneumatology](#).

## Nicene Creed

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father [and the Son].  
With the Father and the Son  
he is worshipped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.*

*"Three Hypostases in one [Ousia](#)" [Three entities/Persons – one essence/Being/substance ]*

The **Macedonians** were a [Christian](#) sect of the [4th century AD](#), named after Bishop [Macedonius I of Constantinople](#). They professed a belief similar to that of [Arianism](#), but apparently denying the divinity of the [Holy Spirit](#), and regarding the substance of [Jesus Christ](#) as being the same in kind as that of [God the Father](#). They are regarded to have taught that the Holy Spirit was a creation of the Son, and a servant of the Father and the Son. This is what prompted the addition of “*And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father, Who with the Father and the Son is equally worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets,*” into the Nicene Creed at the second ecumenical council. They were regarded as a [heretical](#) sect by the Church. The sect's members were also known as [pneumatomachians](#), the “spirit fighters.”

## Word Origins of the Holy Spirit

In the *Tanakh*, the word *ruach* generally means wind, breath, mind, spirit. In a living creature (*nephesh chayah*), the *ruach* is the breath, whether of animals (Gen 7:15; Psa 104:25, 29) or mankind (Isa 42:5; Ezek 37:5). God is the creator of *ruach*: "The ruach of God (from God) is in my nostrils" (Job 27:3). In God's hand is the *ruach* of all mankind (Job 12:10; Isa 42:5). In mankind, *ruach* further denotes the principle of life that possesses reason, will, and conscience. The *ruach* imparts the divine image to man, and constitutes the animating dynamic which results in man's *nephesh* as the subject of personal life.

When applied to God, the word Ruach indicates creative activity (Gen 1:2) and active power (Isa 40:13). The Spirit of God also works in providence (Job 33:4; Psa 104:30), in redemption (Ezek 11:19; Ezek 36:26-27), in upholding and guiding his chosen ones (Neh 9:20; Psa 143:10; Hag 2:5), and in the empowering of the Messiah (Isa 11:2; Isa 42:1; Isa 61:1).

In short, as the *ruach* is to the created *nephesh*, so the Ruach Elohim is to God Himself, part of God and identified with God. Ruach may be understood as the Author of the animating dynamic of the created order, the underlying Principle of creation, and the One that imparts the *nephesh* to the entire universe.

- Old Testament Hebrew “Ruach Elohim/El”: Spirit [of] God
- New Testament Greek “Pneuma Hagion”: Spirit [of] Holy

# Names of the Holy Spirit

- “The Spirit” [1 Corinthians 2:12](#)
- “The Holy Spirit” [Psalm 51:11](#) [Isaiah 63:10](#) [Luke 12:12](#) [John 14:26](#)
- “The Spirit of God ” [Genesis 1:2](#) [Matthew 3:16](#) [Matthew 12:28](#) [Romans 8:9](#) [Romans 8:11](#)
- “The Spirit of the LORD” [Judges 14:6](#) [1 Samuel 16:13](#)
- “The Spirit of the Lord” [Luke 4:18](#) [Acts 5:9](#) [Acts 8:39](#) [2 Corinthians 3:17](#)
- “The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD” [Isaiah 61:1](#)
- “The Spirit of the living God” [2 Corinthians 3:3](#)
- “The Spirit of Christ” [Romans 8:9](#) [1 Peter 1:11](#)
- “The Spirit of his Son” [Galatians 4:6](#)
- “The Spirit of Jesus Christ” [Philippians 1:19](#)
- “The Spirit of Jesus” [Acts 16:7](#)
- “The Spirit of wisdom” [Isaiah 11:2](#)
- “The Spirit of counsel and might” [Isaiah 11:2](#)
- “The Spirit of knowledge and fear of the LORD” [Isaiah 11:2](#)
- “The Sevenfold Spirit of God” [Revelation 3:1](#) [Revelation 4:5](#) [Revelation 5:6](#)
- “The Spirit of your Father” [Matthew 10:20](#)
- “The Spirit of truth” [John 15:26](#) [John 16:13](#) [1 John 4:6](#)
- “The eternal Spirit” [Hebrews 9:14](#)
- “The life-giving Spirit” [Romans 8:2](#)
- “The Advocate” [John 16:7](#) (Or *Comforter*, or *Encourager*, or *Counselor*. Greek reads *Paraclete*)

## “Holy Spirit” in Old Testament

**Psalm 51:11:** *11 Do not cast me from your presence  
or take your Holy Spirit from me.*

**Isaiah 63:9-11:** *9 In all their distress he too was distressed,  
and the angel of his presence saved them.  
In his love and mercy he redeemed them;  
he lifted them up and carried them  
all the days of old.  
10 Yet they rebelled  
and grieved his Holy Spirit.  
So he turned and became their enemy*

*and he himself fought against them.*

*11 Then his people recalled the days of old,  
the days of Moses and his people—  
where is he who brought them through the sea,  
with the shepherd of his flock?  
Where is he who set  
his Holy Spirit among them,*

## **Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit**

**Matthew 12:22-32:** *22 Then a demon-possessed man, who was blind and couldn't speak, was brought to Jesus. He healed the man so that he could both speak and see. 23 The crowd was amazed and asked, "Could it be that Jesus is the Son of David, the Messiah?"*

*24 But when the Pharisees heard about the miracle, they said, "No wonder he can cast out demons. He gets his power from Satan, the prince of demons."*

*25 Jesus knew their thoughts and replied, "Any kingdom divided by civil war is doomed. A town or family splintered by feuding will fall apart. 26 And if Satan is casting out Satan, he is divided and fighting against himself. His own kingdom will not survive. 27 And if I am empowered by Satan, what about your own exorcists? They cast out demons, too, so they will condemn you for what you have said. 28 But if I am casting out demons by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God has arrived among you. 29 For who is powerful enough to enter the house of a strong man like Satan and plunder his goods? Only someone even stronger—someone who could tie him up and then plunder his house.*

*30 "Anyone who isn't with me opposes me, and anyone who isn't working with me is actually working against me.*

*31 "So I tell you, every sin and blasphemy can be forgiven—except blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, which will never be forgiven. 32 Anyone who speaks against the Son of Man can be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven, either in this world or in the world to come.*

**Answer:** The concept of "blasphemy against the Spirit" is mentioned in [Mark 3:22-30](#) and . The term *blasphemy* may be generally defined as "defiant irreverence." The term can be applied to such sins as cursing God or willfully degrading things relating to God. It is also attributing some evil to God, or denying Him some good that we should attribute to Him. This case of blasphemy, however, is a specific one, called "the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit" in [Matthew 12:31](#). In [Matthew 12:31-32](#), the Pharisees, having witnessed irrefutable proof that Jesus was working miracles in the power of the Holy Spirit, claimed instead that the Lord was possessed by the demon "Beelzebub" ([Matthew 12:24](#)). Now notice that in [Mark 3:30](#) Jesus is very specific about what they did to commit "blasphemy against the Holy Spirit."

This blasphemy has to do with someone accusing Jesus Christ of being demon-possessed instead of Spirit-filled. As a result, this particular incidence of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit cannot be duplicated today. Jesus Christ is not on earth—He is seated at the right hand of God. No one can witness Jesus Christ performing a miracle and then attribute that power to Satan instead of the Spirit. The closest example today would be attributing the miracle of a redeemed person's changed life to

Satan’s power rather than to the effects of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

The blasphemy of the Spirit today, which is the same as the unpardonable sin, is the state of continued unbelief. There is no pardon for a person who dies in unbelief. Continual rejection of the Holy Spirit’s promptings to trust in Jesus Christ is the unpardonable blasphemy against Him. Remember what is stated in [John 3:16](#): “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” Further on in the same chapter is the verse “Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him” ([John 3:36](#)). The only condition wherein someone would have no forgiveness is if he is not among the “whoever believes in Him,” for it is he who “rejects the Son.”

## Gifts of the Holy Spirit

<b>THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT</b>	
1 Corinthians 12:4-14	1 Corinthians 12:27-30
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wisdom</b></li> <li>• <b>Knowledge</b></li> <li>• <b>Faith</b></li> <li>• <b>Healing powers</b></li> <li>• <b>Miraculous powers</b></li> <li>• <b>Prophecy</b></li> <li>• <b>Spiritual discernment</b></li> <li>• <b>Speaking in tongues</b></li> <li>• <b>Interpretation of tongues</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Apostles</b></li> <li>• <b>Prophets</b></li> <li>• <b>Teachers</b></li> <li>• <b>Miracle workers</b></li> <li>• <b>Healers</b></li> <li>• <b>Helpers *</b></li> <li>• <b>Administration</b></li> <li>• <b>Speaking in tongues</b></li> <li>• <b>Interpretation of tongues</b></li> </ul>

- ADMINISTRATION - for efficiency
- APOSTLESHIP - new ministries
- CRAFTSMANSHIP - hand skills
- CREATIVE COMMUNICATION - artistic expression
- DISCERNMENT - for clarification
- ENCOURAGEMENT - affirmation
- EVANGELISM - good news
- FAITH - confidence
- GIVING - resources
- HEALING - wholeness
- HELPS - support

- HOSPITALITY - acceptance
- INTERCESSION - protection
- INTERPRETATION - understanding
- KNOWLEDGE - awareness
- LEADERSHIP - direction
- MERCY - care
- MIRACLES - God's power
- PROPHECY - conviction
- SHEPHERDING - nurturing
- TONGUES - message
- WISDOM - guidance

## Holy Spirit is Person

Clarity depends on bible translation e.g.:

**Ephesians 1:17:** *17 asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God.*

**Ephesians 1:17:** *17I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.*

However, these passages make it 100% clear:

**Isaiah 48:15-17:** *15 "I have said it: I am calling Cyrus!  
I will send him on this errand and will help him succeed.  
16 Come closer, and listen to this.  
From the beginning I have told you plainly what would happen."  
And now the Sovereign LORD and his Spirit  
have sent me with this message.  
17 This is what the LORD says—  
your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel:  
"I am the LORD your God,  
who teaches you what is good for you  
and leads you along the paths you should follow.*

**John 14:15-17:** *15 "If you love me, obey my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. 17 He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.*

**John 15:26-27:** *26 "But I will send you the Advocate—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and will testify all about me. 27 And you must also testify about me because*

*you have been with me from the beginning of my ministry.*

**John 16:7-8:** *7 But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment.*

**Acts 13:2-3:** *2 One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit [the Spirit the Holy] said, "Dedicate Barnabas and Saul for the special work to which I have called them." 3 So after more fasting and prayer, the men laid their hands on them and sent them on their way.*

## Fruits of the Holy Spirit

THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT	
Galatians 5:22-23	2 Peter 1:5-7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Love</li><li>• Patience</li><li>• Kindness</li><li>• Goodness</li><li>• Self-control</li><li>• Joy</li><li>• Peace</li><li>• Gentleness</li><li>• Faithfulness</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Love</li><li>• Perseverance</li><li>• Brotherly kindness</li><li>• Goodness</li><li>• Self-control</li><li>• Knowledge</li><li>• Faith</li><li>• Godliness</li></ul>

## Holy Spirit is God

This confirms that the Holy Spirit is identified with being God:

**Acts 5:1-5:** *1 But there was a certain man named Ananias who, with his wife, Sapphira, sold some property. 2 He brought part of the money to the apostles, claiming it was the full amount. With his wife's consent, he kept the rest.*

*3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself. 4 The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was also yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren't lying to us but to God!"*

*5 As soon as Ananias heard these words, he fell to the floor and died. Everyone who heard about it was terrified.*

Other characteristics of deity are also confirmed:

- Omnipotent:  
**Genesis 1:2:** *2 The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.*
- Omnipresent:  
**Psalm 139:7-10:** *7 I can never escape from your Spirit!  
I can never get away from your presence!  
8 If I go up to heaven, you are there;  
if I go down to the grave, you are there.  
9 If I ride the wings of the morning,  
if I dwell by the farthest oceans,  
10 even there your hand will guide me,  
and your strength will support me.*
- Omniscient  
**1 Corinthians 2:10-11:** *10 But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets. 11 No one can know a person's thoughts except that person's own spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit.*
- Eternal:  
**Hebrews 9:14:** *14 Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God. For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins.*

## Functions of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is believed to perform specific divine functions in the life of the Christian or the church. These include:

- **Conviction of [sin](#).** The Holy Spirit acts to convince the unredeemed person both of the sinfulness of their actions, and of their moral standing as sinners before God.
- **Bringing to conversion.** The action of the Holy Spirit is seen as an essential part of the bringing of the person to the Christian faith. The new believer is "born again of the Spirit".
- **Enabling the Christian life.** The Holy Spirit is believed to dwell in the individual believers and enable them to live a righteous and faithful life.
- As a **comforter** or *Paraclete*, one who intercedes, or supports or acts as an advocate, particularly in times of trial.
- **Inspiration and interpretation of scripture.** The Holy Spirit both *inspires* the writing of the scriptures and *interprets* them to the Christian and/or church.

Another list:

- The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin.  
**John 16:7-8:** *7 But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate[[a](#)] won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict*



*the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment.*

- The Holy Spirit gives us spiritual strength.

**Ephesians 3:16-17:** *16 I pray that from his glorious, unlimited resources he will empower you with inner strength through his Spirit. 17 Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong.*

- The Holy Spirit encourages us.

**Acts 9:31:** *31 The church then had peace throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria, and it became stronger as the believers lived in the fear of the Lord. And with the encouragement of the Holy Spirit, it also grew in numbers.*

- The Holy Spirit guides us.

**Acts 20:22-23:** *22 "And now I am bound by the Spirit[a] to go to Jerusalem. I don't know what awaits me, 23 except that the Holy Spirit tells me in city after city that jail and suffering lie ahead.*

- The Holy Spirit gives us insight.

**1 Corinthians 2:12-15:** *12 And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us.*

*13 When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths. 14 But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means. 15 Those who are spiritual can evaluate all things, but they themselves cannot be evaluated by others.*

- The Holy Spirit gives us new life.

**John 3:5-6:** *5 Jesus replied, "I assure you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. 6 Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life.*

- The Holy Spirit gives us confidence in our relationship with Christ.

**Romans 8:16:** *16 For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children.*

- The Holy Spirit molds our character.

**Romans 15:13:** *13 I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.*

- The Holy Spirit empowers our prayers.

**Romans 8:26:** *26 And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.*

- The Holy Spirit facilitates worship.

**John 4:23-24:** *23 But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. 24 For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.”*

- The Holy Spirit gives power for witnessing.

**Acts 1:8:** *8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

- The Holy Spirit enables us to serve Christ in the Church.

**1 Corinthians 12:7-11:** *7 A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other. 8 To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another the same Spirit gives a message of special knowledge. 9 The same Spirit gives great faith to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives the gift of healing. 10 He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to discern whether a message is from the Spirit of God or from another spirit. Still another person is given the ability to speak in unknown languages, while another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. 11 It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.*

## Jesus and the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is also believed to be active especially in the life of [Jesus Christ](#), enabling him to fulfill his work on earth. Particular actions of the Holy Spirit include:

- **Cause of his birth.** According to the gospel accounts of the birth of Jesus, he was not conceived by a human father, but by the Holy Spirit; and he was born of the Virgin Mary. The "beginning of His incarnate existence" was due to the Holy Spirit. The [Apostles' Creed](#) says Jesus was "conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary."

**Luke 1:35:** *35 The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.*

- **Anointing him at his baptism.**

**Matthew 3:16:** *16 After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him.*

- **Empowerment of his ministry.** The ministry of Jesus following his baptism (in which the Holy Spirit is described in the gospels as "descending on Him like a dove") is conducted in the power

and at the direction of the Holy Spirit.

**Luke 4:14:** *14 Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power.*

Jesus had the Holy Spirit himself:

**Luke 4:17-21:** *17 The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written:*

*18 "The Spirit of the LORD is upon me,  
for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released,  
that the blind will see,  
that the oppressed will be set free,  
19 and that the time of the LORD's favor has come."*

*20 He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. 21 Then he began to speak to them. "The Scripture you've just heard has been fulfilled this very day!"*

## Symbols of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is frequently referred to by metaphor and symbol, both doctrinally and biblically. Theologically speaking these symbols are a key to understanding of the Holy Spirit and his actions, and are not mere artistic representations.

- **Water** - signifies the Holy Spirit's action in Baptism, such that in the manner that "by one Spirit [believers] were all baptized", so they are "made to drink of one Spirit". [[1Cor 12:13](#)] Thus the Spirit is also personally the living water welling up from Christ crucified [[Jn 19:34](#)] [[1 Jn 5:8](#)] as its source and welling up in Christians to eternal life.

**John 7:37-39:** *37 On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, "Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! 38 Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'" 39 (When he said "living water," he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.)*

### **1 Corinthians 12:13:**

*13 Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit [Greek we were all given one Spirit to drink.]*

- **Anointing with Oil** - The symbolism of anointing with oil also signifies the Holy Spirit, to the point of becoming a synonym for the Holy Spirit. The coming of the Spirit is referred to as his "anointing". [[2Cor 1:21](#)] In some denominations anointing is practiced in Confirmation; ("chrismation" in the [Eastern Churches](#)). Its full force can be grasped only in relation to the primary anointing accomplished by the Holy Spirit, that of Jesus. Christ (in Hebrew, *messiah*) means the one "anointed" by God's Spirit.

**2 Corinthians 1:21-22:** *21 It is God who enables us, along with you, to stand firm for Christ. He has commissioned us, 22 and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment that guarantees everything he has promised us.*

- **Fire** - symbolizes the transforming energy of the Holy Spirit's actions. In the form of tongues "as of fire", the Holy Spirit rested on the disciples on the morning of Pentecost.

**Matthew 3:11:** *11 "I baptize with[a] water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.*

**Acts 2:3-4:** *3 Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. 4 And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.*

- **Cloud and light** - The Spirit comes upon the Virgin Mary and "overshadows" her, so that she might conceive and give birth to Jesus. On the mountain of transfiguration, the Spirit in the "cloud came and overshadowed" Jesus, Moses and Elijah, Peter, James and John, and "a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!'"<sup>[Lk 9:34-35]</sup>

**Luke 1:35:** *35 The angel replied, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.*

- **Luke 9:34-35:** *34 But even as he was saying this, a cloud overshadowed them, and terror gripped them as the cloud covered them. 35 Then a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, my Chosen One. Listen to him."*
- **The dove.** When Christ comes up from the water of his baptism, the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, comes down upon him and remains with him.<sup>[Mt 3:16]</sup>

**Matthew 3:16:** *16 After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him.*

- **Wind** The Spirit is likened to the "wind that blows where it will,"<sup>[Jn 3:8]</sup> and described as "a sound from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind."<sup>[Acts 2:24]</sup>

**John 3:8:** *8 The wind blows wherever it wants. Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit."*

**John 20:22:** *22 Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.*

**Acts 2:2:** *2 Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting.*

## Grieving the Holy Spirit

"Grieve" translates the Greek word *lupeo*, meaning to cause distress, sorrow, or sadness. An "it" cannot be made sorrowful or offended. A Person can.

**Ephesians 4:30:** *30 And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. 31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. 32 Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.*

How do we grieve the Holy Spirit?

- When we live like pagans. ([Eph 4:17-19](#))
- When we give in to our sinful nature. ([Eph 4:22-24](#))
- When we lie. ([Eph 4:25](#))
- When we get upset ([Eph 4:26-27](#))
- When we steal. ([Eph 4:28](#))
- When we swear. ([Eph 4:29](#))
- When in Sexual immorality. ([Eph 5:3-5](#))

Another list:

- All **sin**, big and small grieves the Holy Spirit.
- All works of the **flesh** and **worldliness** grieve the Holy Spirit.
- Our failure to realize the Holy Spirit's **presence in us and to rely on Him**.
- When we **quench** the Holy Spirit's promptings and nudges we also grieve the Holy Spirit

Another list, by Charles Finney (1839):

- By neglecting the truth.
- Levity of mind, and conduct, and conversation grieves the Holy Spirit.
- The reading of light and trifling publications grieves the Holy Spirit.
- Vain conversation grieves the Holy Spirit.
- Too much study, I mean too much mental application to those arts and sciences that have no direct reference to the sanctification of your souls.
- Neglect of study grieves the Holy Spirit.
- Too much business grieves the Holy Spirit.
- Not business enough grieves the Holy Spirit.
- Intemperance of every kind grieves the Holy Spirit.

- Self-justification grieves the Holy Spirit.
- Condemning others grieves the Holy Spirit.
- Speaking evil of your brethren or of any human being, or even of the Devil himself, grieves the Holy Spirit.
- Evil thinking, as well as evil speaking, grieves the Holy Spirit.
- A disposition to retaliate, grieves the Holy Spirit.
- Prejudice grieves the Holy Spirit.
- Pride grieves the Holy Spirit.
- Ill will grieves the Holy Spirit.
- Every neglect of duty grieves the Holy Spirit.

## Quenching the Holy Spirit

The Greek verb translated “put out the fire” is a present active imperative form of *sbennumi*. It is evidently equivalent to an order to stop doing what they were doing.<sup>73</sup> Literally, *sbennumi* means to extinguish a fire, but in its figurative sense it means to quench, stifle, suppress.

**1 Thessalonians 5:12-22:** *12 Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord’s work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance. 13 Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work. And live peacefully with each other. 14 Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are lazy. Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak. Be patient with everyone. 15 See that no one pays back evil for evil, but always try to do good to each other and to all people. 16 Always be joyful. 17 Never stop praying. 18 Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. 19 Do not stifle the Holy Spirit. 20 Do not scoff at prophecies, 21 but test everything that is said. Hold on to what is good. 22 Stay away from every kind of evil.*

How can the Holy Spirit be quenched?

- Lack of prayer & fasting.
- Teaching that the Gifts of the Spirit have ceased.
- Tradition and formality.
- Academics and degrees without the fire of the Holy Spirit.
- Sinful behaviors in the leadership.
- Man made rules and regulations.

One more thing should be noted concerning this sin. This is not an individual sin, but a congregational sin. In the Greek text, the word quench is in the second person plural meaning: Quench [ye] not the Spirit. He is addressing them as a corporate body. As a corporate body, they are guilty of this sin. While an individual believer can be guilty of grieving the Holy Spirit, a local body, congregation, or assembly can also be guilty of quenching the Holy Spirit.