

**CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
SERIES: THE HOLY SPIRIT**

SYMBOLS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (PART 1)

INTRODUCTION:

A. Symbols of the Holy Spirit

By definition, anything that's spiritual is non-physical, immaterial, invisible. This obviously includes the Holy Spirit. We can't see the Spirit of God with our physical eyes, but we can see the effects of the Spirit. It's for this reason that the Bible uses various symbols – often common, earthly objects – to describe who the Holy Spirit is and what He does.

Deposit

In saying that God “put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit (2 Cor 1:22), the Apostle Paul used a commercial term. The Greek word *arrabon* means “down payment, pledge, or first installment.”

- “Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts” (2 Cor 1:22).

The presence of the Spirit in our lives is a guarantee that God will finish the work He has started in us. – (Understanding the Holy Spirit Made Easy, p. 22).

- “**Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ**” (Phil 1:6).

B. Christian Quotes On The Holy Spirit

1. “You cannot convince the Holy Spirit to do what He doesn't want to do, and He always wants to do the Father's will.” – Henry and Mel Blackaby
2. “The Holy Spirit never enters a man and lets him live like the world. You can be sure of that.” – A.W. Tozer
3. “The Holy Spirit will always point people to the finish work of Jesus.” – John Paul Warren

PROPOSITION:

In this Bible Study, we will explore four (4) Symbols of the Holy Spirit, as recorded in the scripture, that signify His Nature, Presence, Action and Work.

The Symbols of the Holy Spirit:

I. THE HOLY SPIRIT AS A DOVE (Matt 3:16-17)

- “¹⁶ And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: ¹⁷ And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Matt 3:16-17).

A. The Trinity is Referenced in these Two Verses

The Trinity means God is three persons but one in essence (Divine Nature and Character).

- Jesus ... was baptized (v. 16); The Holy Spirit Descended upon the Son (v. 16); and the Father voiced His approval (v. 17).

B. The Holy Spirit as A Dove Descended upon Jesus

At His baptism, the Holy Spirit descended as a dove upon Jesus, symbolizing peace, purity and the gentle presence of God.

C. For Believers, the Holy Spirit as a Dove

The Holy Spirit as a dove symbolizes the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, guiding Believers toward living Holy lives, offering comfort and empowerment to be witnesses for Christ.

D. Believers are Called to be Obedient to God and His Word

Jesus' willingness to be baptized by John the Baptist, despite being sinless, demonstrates His obedience to the Father's will and His humanity. Believers are called to follow His example in their own lives.

STUDY QUESTION:

In what ways can you seek to be more open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in your daily walk with Christ?

II. THE HOLY SPIRIT AS WIND OR BREATH (John 3:8; 20:22)

¹⁸“The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.”²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost” (John 3:8; 20:22).

A. The Holy Spirit as Wind symbolizes the mysterious, sovereign and unseen nature of the spiritual rebirth.

1. The Holy Spirit acts independently of human control. He acts according to His own will.
2. The Holy Spirit is invisible. However, His presence can be seen through the changes He brings into a person's life.
3. The Holy Spirit as Wind symbolizes the active, life-giving power of God that brings salvation and eternal life.

B. Born a Christian

A person came in the inquiry-room, and I (D. L. Moody) said, “Are you a Christian?” “Why,” says she, “of course I am.” “Well,” I said, “how long have you been one? Oh, sir, I was born one!” “Oh! Indeed, then I am very glad to take you by the hand; I congratulate you; you are the first woman I ever met who was born a Christian; you are more fortunate than others, they are born children of Adam.” She hesitated a little, and then tried to make out that, because she was born in England, she was a Christian.

- Non one is Born Saved – A Christian.
- Salvation – being Born-Again – is By Grace Alone, Through Faith Alone, In Christ Jesus Alone.

STUDY QUESTION:

How does the symbol of the Holy Spirit as the Wind help you to understand the nature of His work in your life.

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT AS WATER (John 3:5-6; 7:37-38)

- “⁵ Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be *born of water* and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” (John 3:5-6).

- “³⁷ In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. ³⁸ He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of *living water*” (John 7:37-38).

A. The Holy Spirit as Water Symbolizes Purity, Refreshing, Cleansing and Spiritual Refreshment.

B. A Spiritual Birth Occurs When a Person Completely Trust Christ Alone For Salvation and Eternal Life.

A Born-Again person, through the Holy Spirit, receives a new nature and is made fit for the Kingdom of God.

- **Fit for the Kingdom of God** means undergoing a spiritual-birth – being Born-Again from above. It is a cleansing from (water) and a regeneration by the Holy Spirit. It represents a new nature and a new life in Christ.

C. In John 7:38, Jesus used the term “Living Water” to refer to the Holy Spirit.

D. The Holy Spirit as a River

“Bill Johnson, Senior Leader/Pastor of Bethel Church, in Redding, CA., teaches that the Holy Spirit is a flowing, present reality within Believers – a river rather than a stagnant lake, designed to alter the “geography” of surrounding circumstances. He emphasizes that this “living water” represents an active, overflowing presence that carries the heart of the Father.

The Holy Spirit is in us as a river, not as a lake. Rivers alter the geography of the land they flow over, and the Holy Spirit wants to do the same through us”. “He lives in us, but wants out (a continuous flow) – He is in as a river, not a lake”. The Holy Spirit “is a flowing presence, carrying the heart of the Father, desiring to saturate the land with the works of Jesus”.

STUDY QUESTION:

What is your testimony about the change in your life as a result of your spiritual birth?

IV. THE HOLY SPIRIT AS A SEAL (1 Cor 1:22; Eph 1:13; 4:30)

○ “For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom” (1 Cor 1:22).

○ “¹³In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were *sealed* with that holy Spirit of promise, ³⁰ And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are *sealed* unto the day of redemption” (Eph 1:13; 4:30).

A. The Holy Spirit as a Seal symbolizes Ownership, Securing, Authenticating, Belonging To, and Preserving until the Day of Redemption.

1. The Holy Spirit is God’s seal to Believers belong to Him and His guarantee to us is that He will do what He has promised. He is similar to a deposit or down payment on the contract.

2. The Seal of the Holy Spirit assures Believers of their secured position in Christ – union with Christ, eternal life, a new creation, children of God, and seats in heavenly places.

B. Our Salvation Cannot be Lost or Taken Away because Grace Will Never Fail.

○ “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand” (John 10:28).

○ Eternal Security is the Biblical Doctrine that once a person is genuinely saved – born-again by Grace through Faith in Christ Jesus, they are forever saved. Salvation is not temporary or probationary. It is eternal because it is secured by the everlasting God who cannot lie, cannot fail, and cannot be overthrown.

○ “In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began” (Titus 1:2).

○ “And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life” (1 John 2:25).

C. Holy Spirit, Sealing Of

The trucking industry has an interesting illustration of the sealing of the Spirit. For certain types of loads, when a truck is fully loaded and ready for its run, a plastic seal is put around the lock on the door. This seal cannot be broken before the truck reaches its destination without the penalty of loss of one’s job. This is similar to the sealing of the Spirit. The seal of the Spirit cannot be broken before the Christian reaches his heavenly destination. It is our guarantee of reaching God’s destination for us.

STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. How does the assurance of being sealed by the Holy Spirit influence your confidence in sharing the Gospel with others?

2. What are some practical ways you can demonstrate that you are living as someone who is sealed by the Holy Spirit?

CONCLUSION:

- A. **“O Holy Spirit, descend plentifully unto my heart. Enlighten the dark corners of this neglected dwelling and scatter there thy cheerful beams.”** – Saint Augustine
- B. **“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh”** (Gal 5:16). Believers are to Walk in the Spirit not the flesh (sin).
1. To Walk in the Spirit is to allow Him to have His way.
 2. To Walk in the Spirit is to remain in communion (interactive fellowship, partnership) with Him.
 3. To Walk in the Spirit is to make decisions based on His Holiness.
- C. **“Dependence on the Holy Spirit is a Continuous Moment-By-Moment Surrender that empowers a victorious Christian life, replacing human-striving with divine power. It involves actively acknowledging your need for Him in all decisions, walking in obedience to His guidance and meditating on scripture to align with His will.”** – Anonymous
- D. **Romans Road (Rom 3:10, 23; 5:8; 10:9, 13)**



From the Teaching Ministry of:
Pastor Carl Bennett
Corinth Christian Fellowship
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“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).