

Spirit vs. spirit

In Romans Chap. 8, Paul uses both “Spirit” and “spirit”

What all can the word “spirit” mean?

Currently, more and more people identify themselves as being “spiritual, but not religious.” What does that mean to you? Can you separate religion from spiritual?

Who is the Holy Spirit?

“According to the Bible, the Holy Spirit is the presence and work of the living God here and now in our individual lives, in the church, and in the world.”

Shirley Guthrie Jr.

Is the Holy Spirit exclusively a New Testament thing?

1. Involved in creation (Gen. 1:2)
2. Source of all human culture, art, creativity and wisdom
3. On the side of the helpless, poor, oppressed – those forgotten by “the powerful”
4. Most often comes upon a person, but not in a person (Judges)
5. Temporary
6. Predictions of a messiah who will have the Holy Spirit rest on him (Isaiah 11:1-2 – p. 1076)

What changed?

“In the New Testament the Spirit is present at work primarily in individual Christians and in the Christian community. But the New Testament itself tells us that the ‘wind’ (Spirit) blows where it will (John 3:8).”

Shirley Guthrie Jr.

Holy Spirit is everywhere and for all of God’s creation

Jesus is *the* example of being filled with the Holy Spirit. What does that mean? How did the Spirit manifest itself in Jesus?

Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to his followers – coming in His name

- Advocate
- Teacher
- Spirit of Christ

Came in force at Pentecost, not just for individuals, but the community also

Holy Spirit is a change agent – not here to protect the status quo

Gifts of the Holy Spirit:

- New life
- New truth
- New community

From the Brief Statement of Faith of the PC (USA)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit

everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers
in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit

who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

In a broken and fearful world

the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,

we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"