

# Fathom Academy: Christian Theology

**WEEK 5: THE HOLY SPIRIT**

[fathomchurch.org/academy](https://fathomchurch.org/academy)

# **Week 5: The Person of the Holy Spirit**

## ***[Pneumatology]***

### ***The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit [Pneumatology]***

#### ***Part I: Introduction & Doctrinal Development***

#### ***Part II: Person of the Holy Spirit***

#### ***Part III: Deity of the Holy Spirit***

#### ***Part IV: The Operations of the Holy Spirit***

### ***Part I: Introduction & Doctrinal Development***

#### **Introduction | Challenges**

**“The bane and bog of most evangelical theology for the last century has been the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. . . . To be sure, part of this dilemma is shared by all Christian theology in the West, namely, that the Spirit has been portrayed in Scripture without a face or with non-personal characteristics (such as a dove, wind, fire). The result is that theological consideration of the third article of the creed lacks depth and nuance.”**

**Terry Cross, “The Holy Spirit”**

#### **Person of the Spirit | Untamable Power**

##### **John 3:8**

**“The wind [τὸ πνεῦμα]blows where it wants, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit [τοῦ πνεύματος].”**

## Introduction | Etymology & Images

- *Ruach* (feminine)
- *Pneuma* [πνεῦμα] (neuter)
- *Paraclete* [παράκλητος] (masculine)
- Images
  - Dove (Mark 1:9–11)
  - Fire (Acts 2)
  - Wind/Gale (Acts 2)

## Doctrinal Development | Augustine of Hippo [354–430]

“[The Holy Spirit is the] love which is from God and is God.”

*De Trinitate* XV.32

“He [the Holy Spirit] is the one meant when we read, *God is Love*. So it is God the Holy Spirit proceeding from God who fires man to the love of God and neighbor when he has been given to him, and he himself is love. So the love which is from God and is God is distinctively the Holy Spirit.”

*De Trinitate* XV.31–32

## Doctrinal Development | Old Roman Symbol [2<sup>nd</sup> C.]

I believe in God the Father almighty;

and in Christ Jesus, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was born from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,  
who under Pontius Pilate was crucified and buried,  
on the third day rose again from the dead,  
ascended to heaven,  
sits at the right hand of the Father,

**whence He will come to judge the living and the dead;**

**and in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy Church,**

**the remission of sins,**

**the resurrection of the flesh.**

### **Doctrinal Development | Nicene Creed [325]**

**We believe in God, the Father, the almighty, the maker of all things seen and unseen.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God; begotten from the Father; only begotten, that is, from the substance of the Father;**

**God from God;**

**light from light;**

**true God from true God;**

**begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,**

**through whom all things on earth came into being;**

**Who, on account of us human beings and for our salvation came down and took on flesh, becoming a human being;**

**he suffered and rose again on the third day,**

**and he ascended into the heavens;**

**And he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**And in the Holy Spirit.**

**Doctrinal Development | Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed [381]**

**We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things, visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds;**

**Light of Light;**

**very God of very God;**

**begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.**

**Who, for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost and of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; he was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father;**

**From thence he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.**

***And in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father [and the Son],***

***who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified,***

***who spake by the prophets.***

**In one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church;**

**we acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins;**

**we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.**

## **Doctrinal Development | Challenges**

**How do we account for (what seems to be) the stunted development of pneumatology in the history of doctrine?**

- **Doctrines are forged in controversy: “There was as yet no formal theology of the Spirit and no effort to create it; nor was there any conscious heresy.” [H.B. Swete, *The Holy Spirit in the Ancient Church*]**
- **The Church’s functional theology was ahead of its confessional theology: “Who with the Father and Son together is worshipped and glorified.”**  
**[Nicene Creed]**

## **Doctrinal Development | Ignatius of Antioch [35–108]**

**“[Members of the Church are] stones of the Temple, prepared beforehand for a building of God the Father, hoisted aloft by that engine of Jesus Christ, His Cross; using the Holy Spirit for a rope, while your faith is your windlass, and your love the way that leads up to God.”**

- **The Spirit of God is linked directly to *ecclesiology***

**1 Corinthians 3:16–17: “Do y’all not know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in you [Οὐκ οἶδατε ὅτι ναὸς θεοῦ ἐστε καὶ τὸ πνεῦμα**

τοῦ θεοῦ οἰκεῖ ἐν ὑμῖν]? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him. For God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple.”

### **Doctrinal Development | Irenaeus of Lyons [140–202]**

“[The *ekklesia* believes in] one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and the sea, and all things that are in them; and in one Christ Jesus, the Son of God, who became incarnate for our salvation, and in the Holy Spirit, who proclaimed through the prophets the dispensations of God, and the advents, and the birth from a virgin, and the passion, and the resurrection from the dead, and the ascension into heaven.” [*Against Heresies* I.X.1]

- The Spirit of God is linked directly to *revelation* and *to the economy of salvation*
- Around the same period, Clement of Alexandria [150–215] spoke of the Spirit’s function of *interpreting* Scripture (a theme picked up later by the Reformers)

### **Doctrinal Development | Creed of Epiphanius [374]**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit who**

**spoke in the law,**

**and taught by the prophets,**

**and descended into the Jordan,**

**spoke by the Apostles,**

**and lives in the saints;**

**thus we believe in him; that he is the Holy Spirit,**

**the Spirit of God,**

**the perfect Spirit,**

**the Spirit Paraclete**

**uncreated [*aktiston*]  
proceeding from the Father  
and receiving of the Son,  
in whom we believe.**

## ***Part II: Person of the Holy Spirit***

### **Person of the Spirit | Attributes of Agency**

- **Cognition (1 Cor. 2:10; Rom. 8:27)**
- **Volition (1 Cor. 12:11)**
- **Emotion (Eph. 4:30)**

### **Person of the Spirit | Personal Functions**

- **Teaches and Reminds (John 14:26)**
- **Convicts (John 16:8)**
- **Speaks and Declares (John 16:13–14)**
- **Leads and Guides (Romans 8:14; Acts 16:6–10)**
- **Intercedes (Romans 8:26)**
- **Commands and Directs (Acts 8:26–40)**

### **Person of the Spirit | Attributes of “Passive” Personality**

- **The Holy Spirit can be blasphemed (Mark 3:29)**
- **The Holy Spirit can be lied to (Acts 5:3)**
- **The Holy Spirit can be resisted (Acts 7:51)**
- **The Holy Spirit can be quenched (1 Thess. 5:19)**
- **The Holy Spirit can be insulted (Hebrews 10:29)**

### ***Part III: Deity of the Holy Spirit***

#### **Deity of the Spirit | Divine Attributes**

- **Eternality (Gen. 1:2; Heb. 9:14)**
- **Omniscience (1 Cor. 2:10–11; Isa. 40:13–14)**
- **Omnipotence (Psalm 104:30; Psalm 33:6)**
- **Omnipresence (Psalm 139:7)**

#### **Deity of the Spirit | Of One Essence with Father and Son**

- **“Spirit of God” [πνεύματι τοῦ θεοῦ] (1 Cor. 6:11)**
- **“Spirit of the Living God” [πνεύματι θεοῦ ζῶντος] (2 Cor. 3:3)**
- **“Spirit of [God’s] Son” [τὸ πνεῦμα τοῦ υἱοῦ αὐτοῦ] (Gal. 4:6)**
- **“Another helper” from God [ἄλλον παράκλητον] (John 14:16)**

#### **Deity of the Spirit | Where Father and Son are, the Spirit is**

- **Narratives: Baptism of Jesus (Matt. 3:13–17)**
- **Confessional Formulae**
  - **Great Commission (Matthew 28:16–20)**
  - **“one Spirit . . . One Lord . . . One God and Father of all” (Eph. 4:4–7)**
- **The gifting of the Church (1 Cor. 12:1–11)**

### ***Part IV: The Operations of the Holy Spirit***

#### **1. God’s Power and Presence**

- **The fulfillment of the promise (Joel 2)**
- **The reversal of the curse (Acts 2)**
- **A down-payment of the age to come (Ephesians 1:13–14; 2 Corinthians 1:21–22)**

## **2. Illuminator of Revelation**

- **“I believe in the Holy Spirit . . . who spoke by the prophets” [*Nicene Creed, Art. 3*]**
  - **Jeremiah 1:5–12**
  - **Ezekiel 2:1–2**
- **Doctrine of Scripture as subset of Pneumatology**
  - **2 Timothy 3:16**
  - **2 Peter 1:21**

## **3. Animator of the *Pneumatic* Life [Individual]**

- **“The Holy Spirit creates in our hearts an upright faith” [*Belgic Confession* (1561)]**
- **The Spirit *creates* the Life of Faith**
- **The Spirit *sustains* the Life of Faith**

## **4. Engine of the Church’s Witness [Corporate]**

- **Mission: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” [Acts 1:8]**
- **Unity: “All of who have received the one and the same Spirit, are in a sense merged together with one another and with God.” [Cyril of Alexandria (378–444)]**
- **Equipment: “And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.” [Ephesians 4:11–12]**