



The Holy Spirit

Genesis 2:15 *The Lord God took the man and put Him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.*

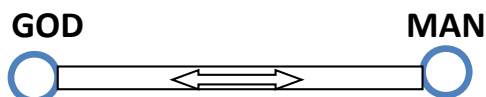
Thus it is clear that there was a relationship and a dialogue between God and Adam.

Genesis 3:8

Then the man and His wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

God used to come into the garden, where the man lived and the passage tells us they could even see one another. We deduce from this that there was no barrier between God and Adam. The connection was full, whole and perfect.

We can thus illustrate this relationship in a diagram, which comprises two points connected in two directions.



Then in: **Genesis 3 verses 12 and 13**

The man said, the woman you put here with me she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it. Then the LORD God said to the woman, what is this you have done? The woman said, the serpent deceived me, and I ate.

We now see the consequence of man's disobedience to God.

In Genesis: 3 verses 17 to 19

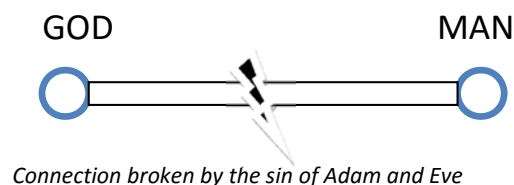
To Adam he said, because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, You must not eat of it, Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.

And also in **Genesis 3 verses 22 and 23:**

And the Lord God said, the man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out His hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever. So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.

We can now arrive at the following diagram, which shows how the connection is broken.

Henceforth the man no longer has easy access to eternal life. He will have to make an effort to come into contact with God: for example, through sacrificing animals. The dialogue with God is now via our thoughts through prayer.



Man must now pray to speak with God, using the intermediary of His thoughts.

Genesis 20:17 *Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, His wife and His slave girls so they could have children again,*

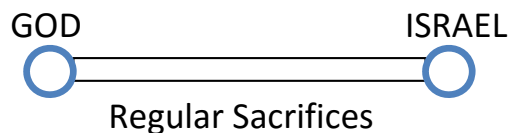
and also,

2 Sam 12:16 *David pleaded with God for the child. He fasted and went into His house and spent the nights lying on the ground.*

The connection is now made by the sacrifices of animals, to atone for sins. But that is a temporary solution because of the transient nature of man. As soon as he sins, he has to sacrifice an animal straight away to take his sin away.

Ex 29:18 *Then burn the entire ram on the altar. It is a burnt offering to the LORD, a pleasing aroma, an offering made to the LORD by fire.*

Ex 29:36 *Sacrifice a bull each day as a sin offering to make atonement. Purify the altar by making atonement for it, and anoint it to consecrate it.*



Throughout the Old Testament we see the struggles of the people of God. Sacrifices must be made daily. The priests are like intermediaries between God and man. Man has just an occasional relationship with God. The Holy Spirit only intervenes occasionally through certain chosen people.

Deut 17:9 *Go to the priests, who are Levites, and to the judge who is in office at that time. Inquire of them and they will give you the verdict.*

or also:

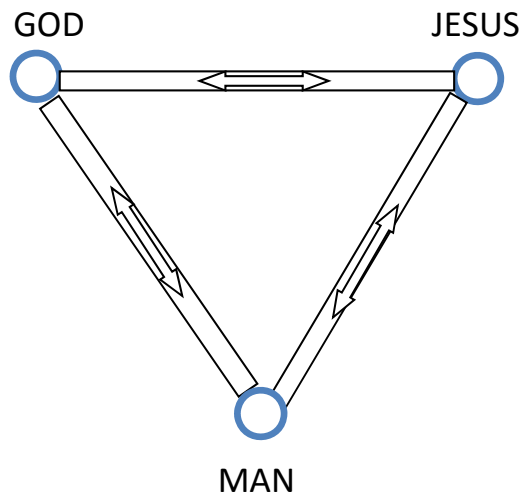
1 Sam 19:20 *So he sent men to capture him. But when they saw a group of prophets prophesying, with Samuel standing there as their leader, the Spirit of God came upon Saul's men and they also prophesied.*

Then comes the birth of Jesus.

This provides a change to the initial diagram. Three points are present at equal distance one from another, these three points form a triangle because the connection is now open in two directions, but also in all possible combinations. (see diagram below)

Mt 1:21 *She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save His people from their sins.*

Act 5:31 *God exalted him to His own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel.*



Jesus has, by the sacrifice of His crucifixion, opened up the connection that we see in the triangle above.

Man now has the possibility of access to eternal life when he wishes, through Jesus Christ. Once the access to Jesus was established, man's access to God was also restored. The purpose is to raise him spiritually.

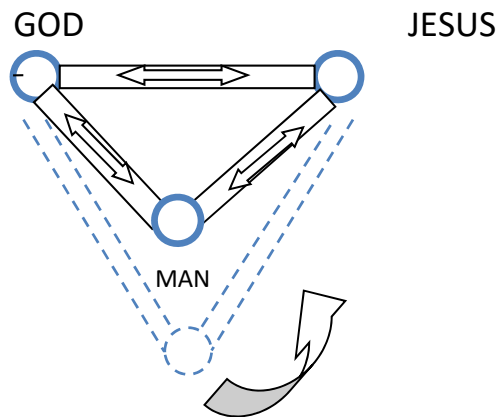
Thus the diagram will move slightly. In contact with God and Jesus, man rises spiritually.

John 16:15 *All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.*

John 16:27 *No, the Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God.*

The triangle, which was on the ground, rises up by the point of man (see below). But the position is not steady at all. The higher the man is raised the more he is likely to fall forwards or backwards.

The position is possible to hold, but very dangerous, uncomfortable, and takes great concentration from man in order to remain in balance.



Before going up to heaven, He (Jesus) asks the apostles to wait until the Holy Spirit is in them.

Acts 1:5 *For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.*

Acts 1:8 *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

When a man comes into the fullness of the Holy Spirit, it creates the perfect balance. The Spirit is the missing pillar in the preceding diagram and He is neither more nor less important than Jesus, or God himself.

Too often the Holy Spirit is considered to be just a "bonus" in the life of Christians. We know of course that he is a person, but often we don't realize that he is as equal to God and Jesus.

He is sometimes called 'The Spirit of God'. He is all the concentration, all the heart of God himself. He has the capacity to create, which is why Job says:

Job 33:4 *The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.*

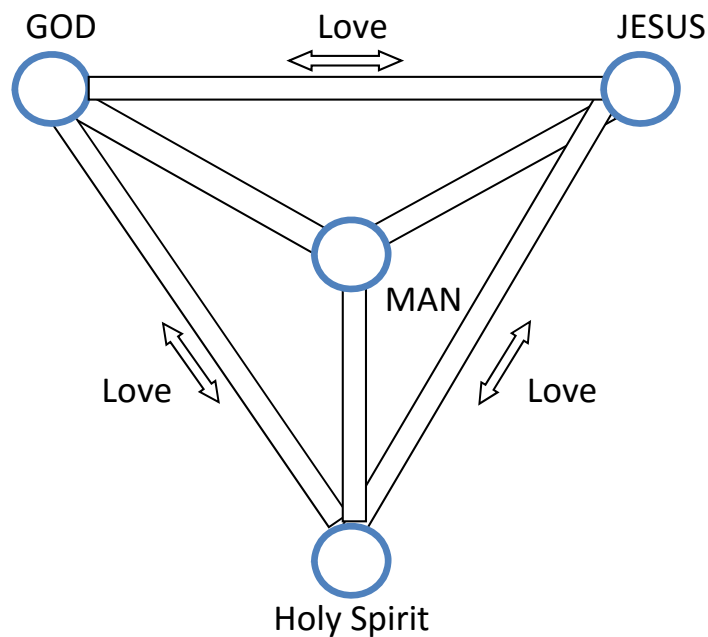
Or also, at the beginning of Genesis:

Gen 1:2 *Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*

Perhaps the earth wasn't round? It says here that it was 'formless' and the Spirit was "HOVERING", which in Hebrew is the same verb as that used for a hen sitting

on her eggs. Perhaps the Spirit gave the earth its form: up to this point everything was disorganized. He regenerated the earth and organized its face. He changed it, regenerated it, transmuted it towards order and good. This is one facet of the Spirit, among many others.

In the diagram below, thanks to His presence, the Holy Spirit gives me the perfect balance in my relationship with God, my creator, my Father and also in my relationship with Jesus my Savior. He makes me grow and He will help me to better glorify God and Jesus in my life.



The Holy Spirit forms an integral part of the Trinity. When we baptize somebody in water we must do it in the name of all three.

Jesus said

Mat 28:19: *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in^[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

Jude 1: 20 *But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.*

In this diagram we can see that the position of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit is of identical status. I praise God my Father, I praise Jesus my Savior, I praise the Holy Spirit my enlightener. I must establish the same relationship with the Holy Spirit as I have with God or Jesus Christ. Because the Holy Spirit is God, the Holy Spirit is Jesus, God is Jesus, and Jesus is God.

John 14:10 *Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing His work.*

God is the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is God: Because Peter says in the verse below *"you lied to the Holy Spirit", then "it is to God that you lied"*

Acts 5: 3 *Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? ⁴Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God*

Certainly, the Holy Spirit is the third pillar, which raises us towards God through Jesus. Without a full relationship with him, there is no growth in our life.

As Jesus said before ascending on high to the right hand of our father, in **John 16: 12 and 13:**

I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

This verse shows that a meeting with the Holy Spirit is primordial in a Christian life. Without a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit, as I have with my savior Jesus Christ, there will be many things I will not be able to understand or assimilate.

In practice, here are some examples which can help me to begin a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit:

In the same manner as when I met Jesus Christ for the first time, today I can speak directly with the Holy Spirit and not necessarily through God or Jesus. I remember that the Holy Spirit is like the soul of God. He is also like the soul of Jesus Christ, but at the same time He is a full person of the trinity. A good introduction to Him could be to say:

"Holy Spirit I do not really know you, I do not really know how to locate you in the divine trinity, but I want to know you, I now want to start a personal relationship with you. So be welcome in my life. Show me how to start to make a good team with you. What do I need to change in my life for us to make it? I know

that your first purpose is to make me know Jesus better and to know my Father in heaven better. I know that from now you are in me and that you walk beside me, wherever I go. I also know that the Spirit, which is holy, the one that has no limits, is my friend."

This prayer is not, of course, to be taken as a model. It is here to show the kind of close relationship that I must build with Him, exactly the same as the one I already have with my Dad in heaven and with my beloved Saviour.

I must also be aware that He is holy and as such he can't stand to be in the presence of sin.

I must expect some practical changes in my life, if I want to enter into an intimate relationship with my friend the Holy Spirit.

One of the first issues I have to expect with Him, is the need to identify every sin that is in me and some of them will seem so insignificant, that I will not even have identified them as such. It is natural that the Holy Spirit cannot live with sin; it is a fact that must be clear in my mind. It is not for nothing that he is sometimes symbolized as a dove.

Matt 3:16 *As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him.*

It would take a lot of patience to get a wild dove to come and rest on my hand and the slightest movement on my part would make it fly away.

The paradox of all this is that the Holy Spirit is a sensitive, delicate entity, refined by holiness and at the same time a powerful, strong being, with no limit to execute the will of our Father through Jesus Christ.

Often we consider Him one way or the other, but rarely both simultaneously. But this is His profound nature.

Thus logically, the more I have sin in my life, in my spirit, the harder it will be to have a deep relationship with Him. But once again from a practical point of view I can say to Him:

"My dear Holy Spirit, I know that you are Holy because it is your name. There is not a spirit in the invisible world holier than you, and I know that you do not like

sin, because it is contrary to your nature. Please then, my friend, show me where there is sin in my life and how I can get rid of it."

If I remember that He is the Spirit, who helps me to put into practice my spiritual and human growth, then I will not hesitate to ask him for very practical things, like: "Tell me how I must begin to remove this sin that you have shown me".

He is called the Spirit of God. "*God is Spirit*" says John 4:24. The Holy Spirit is 100% spiritual. But he is also called the Spirit of Jesus, and Jesus is God, who was made man. As John 1:13 tells us, "And the word was made flesh".

The spirit of Jesus is also 100% human. The word "human" is employed here deliberately to underline the fact that Jesus experienced everything that a human being could possibly experience in their life. Jesus is best placed to understand all the situations of my human life.

The Holy Spirit is the perfect friend, perfectly human and perfectly spiritual. Like us born again human beings, human and at the same time spiritual.

All of this thanks to my savior, Jesus Christ, who won the victory.

I give all glory to the father who created me, all glory to Jesus Christ who saved me, and all glory to the Holy Spirit, who makes me grow.

There is a lot of experience that shows how I can live with my friend the Holy Spirit. I need to be aware that when I enter this dimension of fullness with him, there is no limit. It is Him who will guide me there. I will be able to receive teaching directly from Him, in the form of a picture, a thought, or even words from my own mouth.

When we speak here about fullness of the Holy Spirit, I am not talking about speaking in tongues, but a different experience. It is as if, because of my thirst for more knowledge, the Holy Spirit opens a large door that will give me access to a fullness in Him. It is because of this thirst, because of this decision to go deeper with him, that he will open this door before me. I will then go into "another world", where the only limits are those that I put down and the experiences that will be open to me include speaking in tongues and entering into this fullness.

It is important for me to judge that I am being led correctly as I try to follow the Spirit, so here are some general guidelines:

- ✚ The Holy Spirit always acts to glorify Jesus.
- ✚ The Holy Spirit always acts to reveal the will of God in my life.
- ✚ The Holy Spirit never puts himself above of God.
- ✚ The Holy Spirit never puts himself above of Jesus.
- ✚ The Holy Spirit is in perfect agreement with the Bible

When I discovered the fullness of the Holy Spirit I started to question. Does God approve of my way of acting in prayer? Am I being extremist?

The five guidelines above (the list is not exhaustive), helped me keep a balance between the spiritual and the human.

So with these guidelines in mind and the door to fullness with the Holy Spirit open, it is up to me to enter in and live in this place of growth, which will help me to know my father and my saviour better and better.

What a marvellous experience when the Holy Spirit seizes my mouth and makes it speak the wonders of the person of God. It is like a new psalm that the Spirit makes come out of my mouth, surprising me as I pronounce things about my Father that I didn't even know.

2Sam 23:2 *The Spirit of the LORD spoke through me; His word was on my tongue.*

Or when I ask the Holy Spirit to show me His love, He can have an influence on my body. He can make me experience an intense feeling which can become a physical feeling.

You may have the opportunity to receive so powerful an experience your own personal way. Just as salvation in Jesus is an individual, personal relationship, (even if the basis of the salvation is the same for all of us,) so the application is different for all of us. We each live our relationship with Jesus in a way adapted to our personality.

In the same way, the fullness of the Holy Spirit may be experienced differently from one person to another. Some of us may or may not experience a physical feeling and those of us that do, may not feel it in the same way as the next person.

Job 32: 18 *For I am full of words, and the spirit within me compels*

I can travel with the Holy Spirit. Like Ezekiel and many others in the bible.

Ezekiel 8: 3 *He stretched out what looked like a hand and took me by the hair of my head. The Spirit lifted me up between earth and heaven and in visions of God he took me to Jerusalem,*

In my opinion, finding a position in which I am perfectly relaxed is essential. A position where I will be able to almost forget about my body, so that my spirit will be completely released and attentive to the Holy Spirit. Some people lie down, others sit or recline etc. then, the Holy Spirit, in His fullness with me, can make me travel where he wants. It is a surprise every time!

John 3:8 *The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going.*

What an enormous privilege we have to live all that with Him. He will be able to carry me in images and thoughts to a place on the earth for a given situation, or to show me places in the invisible world, where there are spirits pure and impure, even angels. All with one purpose: **to make me grow** in Jesus. And the more I grow, the more I will know about my creator and my savior. The need to worship him will be reinforced in me and will become a vital need. And the more I worship my Lord, the more my faith will grow...

Notice again the first time we hear about the Holy Spirit in the bible:

Gen 1:2 *Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*

We have already mentioned it, but now we understand even better how the Hebrew word for "hovering" takes on its full significance as meaning incubation, regeneration. Further on, there are many passages where the Holy Spirit is described in action and in motion.

We hear of Othniel who, after the Spirit was upon him, went into action and became a judge.

Judges 3:10 *The Spirit of the LORD came upon him, so that he became Israel's judge*

Then Bezalel. It is clear he was filled with the Spirit of God in order to take very specific actions.

Ex 31: 2-5 *See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, ³ and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts- ⁴ to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver*

and bronze, ⁵ to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship.

Of course we remember the story of Samson, who, when he was filled with the Spirit of God put himself into action and motion.

Judges 14:6 *The Spirit of the LORD came upon him in power so that he tore the lion apart with His bare hands as he might have torn a young goat. But he told neither His father nor His mother what he had done.*

Again the Spirit, when he is in me, will push me to announce the salvation in Jesus Christ. For example in Isaiah, where it is once again an action, a decision taken.

Isa 61:1 *The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor.*

Next we see the Holy Spirit lead Jesus into a specific action. It is a decision from Jesus to obey, to go into the desert, the Spirit asks him to follow him. It is a movement.

Matt 4:1 *Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.*

Luke writes that the Holy Spirit will teach.

Luke 12:12 *for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say*

We then realize that the Holy Spirit is often related to a motion, an action, a movement, a decision. Or to put it another way: a change.

It is not, of course, my intention through these few pages to make the Holy Spirit "My God". But just to be well aware of the place of the three persons of the divine trinity.

As we say above, the three are at exactly the same level. And this is a concept that only the Holy Spirit can make me grasp: that all three are God, yet at the same time three full and separate entities.

God is our creator. He is the one who has shaped my whole being. Only He has a destiny for me. He is the one that will establish the perfect plan for my life.

Jesus, has another role. It is the word. Says John chapter 1. *"It is by this same word that the heaven and earth were created."* It is also by this same word that the good news of salvation has been announced.

For His part, the Holy Spirit leads all the actions in my Christian life. Through His presence I'll be able to acquire an unlimited fullness that should trigger in me: actions, motions, movements, decision-making. He is the one who helps me to put into practice all the teachings of Jesus Christ.

So I understand now, that it is essential to have the same intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit as I have with my Father and my Savior. I agree with a pastor who said: "It is very risky, even dangerous, to start a service for our Father without being in the fullness of the Holy Spirit."

What a wonder to see how God our Father has taken the time to create the trinity, so that we could better know Him, better love Him, and better serve Him . And it is my purpose now to realize that three persons, who form the trinity are there to help me in various areas of my life.

God and Jesus and the Holy Spirit are not "options", but God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, three persons equal in all respects.

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