

**"I believe in the Holy Spirit"**

(John 14:16-17; 1 Corinthians 12:1-12; Acts 2:1-4)

**Ancient Words & Living Faith***A Sermon Series on the Apostles' Creed*

"I believe in the Holy Spirit." The Christian life is a life lived in, by, and through the Holy Spirit.

**Dwelling in the Word**

Prayerfully read 1Corinthians 12:1-12 and ask: 1) What words, phrases, or images stood out to you? 2) What does this say about what God desires to accomplish in you? 3) How could you respond to what God says in this passage?

**Beginning the Conversation**

1. When you hear the phrase "I believe in the Holy Spirit," what is the first image or role that comes to mind?
2. The sources describe the Holy Spirit as the one who continues the "witness of Jesus" through his followers. Do you personally find it easier to relate to God as the Father, the Son, or the Holy Spirit?

**Digging Deeper**

1. Last week, the sermon noted that Jesus ascended specifically so that he could send the Holy Spirit. How does the Spirit's ministry as our "Advocate" ensure that the work begun in the life of Jesus continues in the world today?
2. The sources affirm that "creation is an act of the Triune God." Based on Genesis 1:2 and John 6:63, how would you describe the Spirit's specific role in both the original creation and the "giving of life" to believers?
3. We are adopted into God's family through the work of the Son, but how does the Holy Spirit enable us to share in the intimate relationship Jesus had with the Father, specifically in crying out "Abba, Father"?
4. The Father is said to have raised the Son by the same Spirit which indwells us as believers (Rom 8:10-11; Eph 1:19-20). Why is it significant for our personal hope of resurrection to recognize the Holy Spirit as the power of the new life?
5. The Creed explicitly links the Spirit to the Incarnation, stating Jesus was "conceived by the Holy Spirit." How does this demonstrate that our salvation is a result of both divine and human agency?
6. If real faith must be "worked out in the way we live our lives," as stated in James 2:10-24, what role does the indwelling Spirit play in moving us from mere intellectual belief to active allegiance?
7. One of the reasons creeds developed was to "clarify the complex understanding of God" following the giving of the Holy Spirit. How does confessing the Spirit as a distinct person of the Trinity protect us from viewing God as an impersonal force or a distant philosopher's god?

**The Apostles' Creed\***

**I believe in God,**  
the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ,**  
God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**  
the holy catholic<sup>[a]</sup> Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Notes**

[\*] This version is based on the translation of the ELLC.

[a] Catholic (small case c) means "universal."

**Living it Out**

1. To believe in the Holy Spirit is to acknowledge that we cannot live the Christian life in our own strength. This week, practice "active dependence" by pausing for a brief prayer (such as "Come, Holy Spirit") before a difficult meeting or conversation, asking the Spirit to guide your words and reactions.