

Life in the Spirit
The Spirit and the World



Before the Day of Pentecost

We must never forget that the Holy Spirit was already working BEFORE the Day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit, the third person of the trinity is God from eternity past.

A. The Holy Spirit and the Material Universe

1. In creation: Each person of the Godhead is represented as having created all things!

a. The Father *Heb 1:1-2*

b. The Son *Joh 1:3* "...all things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that made."
See also Col 1:16.

c. The Holy Spirit *Psalm 104:30; Job 33:4*

NOTE: The opening statement of the Bible—"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth"—suggests that the entire Trinity was active; for the word "God" is the Hebrew Elohim, which is a uni-plural word indicating more than one personality.

2. Three acts of creation: In the account of Creation, as given in Genesis 1:1–27, the Hebrew word *bara* which means "to create" or "make out of nothing," is used but three times. At other times God is said to have "made" certain things, which would imply using something which was already in existence. And the HS was active in creating each of these kingdoms:

a. Heavens and the earth [*Gen 1:1*] *Job 26:26:13*

b. Animal life [*Gen 1:21*] *Psalm 104:30*

c. Human life [*Gen 1:26-27*] *Job 33:4*

B. The Holy Spirit and Humanity

The Holy Spirit witnesses to the Redeeming Work of Christ. God's plan for, and method of, salvation is borne witness to by the Holy Spirit. *Acts 5:30-32*

1. The convicting work of the Spirit: *John 16:8-11*

a. Of sin: [*John 16:9*] "...because they believe not on me." Only the Holy Spirit can overcome the sinful, human heart and make a man realize the greatness of his own iniquity. The Holy Spirit does not convict of general sin, the conscience [*Joh 8:9*] and the Law [*Jam 2:9-10*] do that. The Holy Spirit primarily convicts of the sin of unbelief—not believing in Jesus.

b. Of righteousness: [*John 16:10*] To convince the world of righteousness, must mean that the Spirit gives convincing evidence, not merely that His cause was good, and that He is innocent, but that in Him is found the righteousness which the world needs, the imputed righteousness which was graciously provided for us and becomes ours by faith.

C. Of judgment: [*John 16:11*] If Christ would judge the prince of this world (*John 12:31-32*) then all who follow him will likewise be judged.

Scripture (NKJV)

Heb 1:1-2 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, **:2** has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

Psalm 104:30 You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the earth.

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

Acts 5:30-32 The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. **:31** Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. **:32** And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."

John 16:8-11 And when **He** [*the Holy Spirit*] has come, He will **convict** the world of **sin**, and of **righteousness**, and of **judgment** :

:9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me;

:10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;

:11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

The Holy Spirit does not operate in this capacity through the atmosphere, as it were. He ministers through Spirit-filled believers (*Jn. 16:7–8*). This emphasizes the importance of each believer living a Spirit-filled life.