

## **The Apostles Creed**

I believe in God the Father, Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth:  
And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord:  
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary:  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate;  
was crucified, dead and buried:  
He descended into hell:  
The third day he rose again from the dead:  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty:  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead:  
I believe in the Holy Ghost:  
The (universal) holy catholic church:  
The communion of saints:  
The forgiveness of sins:  
The resurrection of the body:  
And the life everlasting.  
Amen

### **“I believe in the Holy Ghost”**

*“From the creating work of the Father and the rescue work of the Son, it (the Creed) turns to the re-creating work of the Spirit, whereby we are actually made new in and through Christ. So we hear of the church (new community), forgiveness (new relationship), resurrection (new existence), and everlasting life (new fulfillment). But first comes a profession of faith in the Spirit Himself.”*  
(Packer, 113)

#### **1. The Holy Spirit is co-eternal God with the Father and the Son**

-When the Creed starts the third section with “I believe in the Holy Ghost” it is declaring a statement of belief in the full \_\_\_\_\_ of the Holy Ghost. The Trinitarian outline of the Creed is again seen here.

-The Holy Spirit (Holy Ghost) never had a beginning (co-eternal) and the Holy Spirit is God with the Father and the Son (Acts 5:3-4). The Holy Spirit possess all the divine attributes. What separates the persons of the Trinity is their \_\_\_\_\_ one to another. While it is said of the Son that He was eternally begotten of the Father, it is said of the Holy Spirit that He eternally proceeds from the Father and the Son (filioque clause of the Nicene Creed-John 14:26, 15:26).

#### **2. The Holy Spirit is given unto me**

-Belief in the Holy Spirit is not just academic but there must be a \_\_\_\_\_ understanding that the Holy Spirit dwells in the person who belongs to Christ. This knowledge is not only important personally but also relationally as Christians we must remember that our brothers and sisters in the body of Christ are also receipts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16).

-At regeneration the Holy Spirit enters a person and brings life (a new birth from above-John 3:3-8-this is called “regeneration”) and this then leads to that person expressing faith in Christ and repentance of sin (this is called “conversion”). The new birth brought by the Holy Spirit is \_\_\_\_\_ the starting place (experientially) of our salvation.

### **3. The Holy Spirit makes me a partaker of Christ and all His benefits**

-The Holy Spirit unites me to Christ, and it is only when I am united to Christ (and this happens by faith-which follows regeneration) that I become a partaker of Him and His benefits (justification, resurrection unto life, fellowship with Father, etc.). Those who are outside of Christ (not born again by the Spirit) experience \_\_\_\_\_ of the salvific benefits of Christ.

-We see here that the Holy Spirit’s “job” is to bring us to Christ and to continue to point us to Christ. “The key to understanding the New Testament view of the Spirit’s work is to see that His purpose is identical with the Father’s-namely, to see \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ come to the Son.” (Packer, 115)

### **4. The Holy Spirit comforts me**

-The Holy Spirit is called “the comforter” by Jesus (John 14:16). The Holy Spirit brings comfort to the people of God (Acts 9:31). The comfort that the Holy Spirit brings to us is the comfort that accompanies \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_. The saints know that even in the worst of circumstances God loves them and cares for them and that these present sufferings do not compare with what is in store for the people of God. Only as we are increasing in our understand of how the good news of Christ impacts all of life can we know this comfort.

-The comfort of the Holy Spirit is a reference to the inner calmness and comfort of the soul not a physical comfort involving \_\_\_\_\_ of life. As the Holy Spirit uses the Word to grow us in the knowledge and grace of Christ we grow in our experience of godly comfort. Our experience and knowledge of the Holy Spirit brought comfort is to then able to be used to comfort others who are struggling (2 Cor. 1:4).

### **5. The Holy Spirit shall abide with me forever**

-The Holy Spirit can never be taken away from the saint (to believe it can would be to believe that one can lose their salvation). The saints will persevere to the end because they have the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ in them (Eph. 1:13-14). Some may wonder, “How do I know that I have received the Holy Spirit?” “What are the signs of having received the Holy Spirit?” In this Packer provides a helper summary when he writes, “The only sure signs that are that the Christ of the Bible is acknowledged, trusted, loved for His grace, and served for His glory and that believers actually turn from sin to the life of holiness that is Christ’s image in His people.” (pg. 117)

-Those that have the Spirit will confess Christ (1 John 4:2), will be being sanctified (1 Peter 1:2), will be growing in a love for Christ and for His people (Eph. 3:14-19), and will know that God the Father is \_\_\_\_\_ Father (Rom. 8:15-16).