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June 4/5, 2022

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Holy Trinity. Although He is a person, He is the one we least associate with as a person. This is because of how He has been manifesting Himself. He comes as wind (moving everywhere), water (life), dove (purity and peace), and tongues of fire (purify, strengthen, eloquence). All these are not human forms. But they symbolize what He does in the lives of believers.

In the Old Testament, He was known as the Spirit of God, and He filled those who were chosen to lead God's people. Prophets, priests and kings were filled with the Spirit of God and through Him they could play their leadership roles effectively. Examples were Moses and the seventy elders; (Nm.11:24-25); the Judges; (Jgs.6:34); Saul and David; (1Sam.10:1-10;16:13). When the Spirit left them, they failed. Examples were Samson and Saul. It was Joel who prophesied that a time would come when everybody would be filled with God's Spirit (Jl.3:1-3).

In the New Testament, leaders, and those called to play a role in the salvation of the world were also filled with the Spirit of God; Zechariah, Elizabeth, John the Baptist, Mary, and Jesus Himself.

Jesus promised His disciples that they would receive the Holy Spirit who would help them and teach them the truth. He would enlighten them to understand all that He was teaching them. The prophecy of Joel, echoed by the promise of Jesus was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost, a Jewish agricultural festival.

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