



John 14:15-21 New Revised Standard Version

¹⁸ “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

Notes:

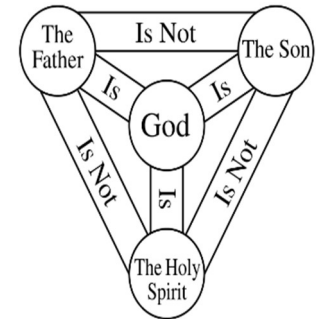
This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

We Believe in the Holy Spirit

The Precious Gift of the Father. Holy Ghost. The Advocate. Paraclete. Another Comforter. The Third Person of the Trinity. Regardless of how you and I choose to refer to the Holy Spirit, his work is vital to the life of the Church. Prior to his crucifixion, Jesus prepared his disciples for what was to come not only in the immediate future, but also for who would come to enable them to continue his ministry. He insisted they would not be alone in their endeavors, but rather that the Father and Jesus himself would come to them. How would this be? Through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The words used in Scripture to describe the Spirit of God include a Hebrew term for “wind” or “breath” and the Greek word for “air.” Both of these terms indicate the ability to supply energy or bring things to life. In the Old Testament, the Spirit of God came upon select individuals, kings and prophets for example, who supplied leadership and correction to God’s people. Common people anticipated a day in which God would supply all people with the Spirit so as to equip both men and women, young and old, to be the people God desired for them to be. Such a future was anticipated by the Prophet Joel as reported in today’s Old Testament reading.

Together, with the Father and Son, the Spirit makes what scholars often refer to as the “Godhead.” We also commonly use the term “Trinity” to describe the three persons of God. The word “Trinity” is nowhere to be found within Scripture although references to Father, Son, and Spirit abound and have helped formulate a doctrine of the “Trinity.” It is one of the most difficult truths about God to grasp



and even human attempts to “make sense of” the Godhead still come up short. God as three-in-one and one-in-three is something which I/we must embrace with faith. The diagram featured above has been used for some time when explaining the “Trinity.” Its purpose is to emphasize how Christians worship one God who is Father, Son, and Spirit and not three separate deities. When Saint Patrick ministered amongst the people of Ireland, he used the clover when explaining his thoughts concerning the “Trinity.”

Prayer Pebble: Lord, let your Spirit constantly remind me of your presence.