

Some things about God are very clear:  
Like, God is amazing, and God is kind.

But ...

God is also mysterious.

That's part of the job description of God. If God was transparent, and all-knowable, God would be less than humans. But it is the other way round.

Human brains can't contain the mind of God.

Humans are less than God.

Trying to understand God is a bit like trying to fit the ocean in a tumbler. Even harder than that.

And this is okay. It has to be. It is the way things are. Maybe we can even enjoy the mystery of

God: Einstein once said,

*'The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious.'*

### **Moment to Pause ...**

Ask yourself, "How do I feel about the mystery of God?"

Make time to *'be still,*  
*and know that God is God.'* (Psalm 46.10)

### **The Three-One**

One of the mysteries of God is the whole three-persons, one-being, thing. The trinity.

And perhaps the most mysterious member of the trinity is God the Holy Spirit.

We get the idea of God the Father: It is easy to understand what a maker is. We get the idea of God the Son: The Jesus in the Gospel writings is very relatable and exciting. But what about God the Holy Spirit?

Who or what is a Holy Spirit?

### **Moment to Pause ...**

Ask yourself, "How do I feel about God the Holy Spirit?"

Make time to welcome God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit into your day right now.

*'in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.'* Matthew 28.19

### **The Old:**

In the Jewish writings the Spirit of God features in a few ways. The Spirit makes, the Spirit empowers individuals, and the Spirit becomes present with God's people.

Some writers, (like Joel), also expected a future in which the Holy Spirit would do something new: Everyone would be drenched by the 'poured-out' Spirit. And then we don't hear much for a while.

The Gospel writers pick up the story ...

### **The New:**

One day a wild bloke shows up: John - the very strange cousin of Jesus. John was in the desert, dunking a line of people in the River Jordan. It was a way to turn from evil behaviour, to God, and get ready for what was coming next.

John was waiting for a sign from God. A signal in the desert:

*'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'* (John 1.33).

And that is exactly what happened. Out of the blue, Jesus joined the queue to be baptized.

When Jesus got to the front, John dunked him. Jesus broke the cold river surface and gasped for air with his heart pounding in his throat. Luke writes that Jesus prayed. And something rare happened. Heaven - you know, the place where God lives - became visible from earth for a short period of time. Woah.

Then, the Holy Spirit descended to / on Jesus. The Spirit came to stay with Jesus.

The *'one who will baptise with the Holy Spirit'* just showed up.

## Pentecost

Three years later, Jesus had died. And now Jesus is alive again.

Jesus instructs his followers to wait in Jerusalem, because they are about to be *'baptised in the Spirit.'* (Acts 1:4). It is about to happen.

*'When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ... All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.'* (Acts 2:1, 4).

On that day, the first believers were baptised in the Spirit. Since then, millions of people, over two thousand years, have accepted Jesus, and have been "baptised in the Spirit."

Today millions of believers experience the Spirit-related-life.

People just like you.

## Moment to Pause ...

Take time to thank the Holy Spirit for coming to live with you.

We are never alone. The mysterious, beautiful God has come to stay with us.

What will God do through you by his Holy Spirit?

How will you contribute to God's masterpiece?

Let's give the last word to Mother Teresa:

*"We are all pencils in the hand of God."*



# The Holy Spirit

[www.caraway.uk.com](http://www.caraway.uk.com)

[caraway@caraway.uk.com](mailto:caraway@caraway.uk.com)

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Spiritually Resourcing the Older Person