

ESTABLISHING TRINITY

- Divinity
- Distinction ('personality' becomes a sub-set of distinction) i.e. not simply *extension*.

1. Divinity

a) Parallels with God.

- 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills."

b) Divine attributes:

- The Holy Spirit has God knowledge - all knowing. 1 Corinthians 2:10-11 "The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except the *spirit* of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the *Spirit of God*."

c) Divine activities

- Making people alive: Galatians 5:25 "if we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit" cf. Ephesians 2:4-5

d) Simply being the Spirit of God

2. Distinction

a) Relation to the Father and the Son.

- In prayer: Romans 8:26 "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us..."

b) Trinitarian Passages

- Matthew 3:16 "As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased".
- Matt 28:19 "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."
- Cf. also 1 Peter 1:2; Acts 10:38; Romans 15:30; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Romans 15:16

c) Personal properties

- Speaking: Acts 10:19-20; "While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three men are looking for you. So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them." cf. Hebrews 3:7

INSEPARABLE OPERATIONS, INDIVIDUAL APPROPRIATIONS: TRINITARIAN PNEUMATOLOGY (in fancy speak).

1. Inseparable Operations

- d) From his internal unity: God's external operations reflect his internal operations. God's internal operations are indivisible because he is *one* God, not three. Therefore God's external operations are also indivisible i.e. the Father never operates in isolation, the Son never operates in isolation, the Spirit never operates in isolation: *"The three persons do not merely "cooperate" in their external works, as if each person contributed his distinctive part to a larger operational whole. All of God's external works—from creation to consummation—are works of the three divine persons enacting one divine power, ordered by one divine wisdom, expressing one divine goodness, and manifesting one divine glory."*¹

e) Actions assigned to multiple members:

- Teaching and Acting:
- Dwelling in us:
- Making us alive:
- Born again:

Father - John 1:13 "who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God" cf. 1 John

Word - 1 Peter "since you have been born again, not of perishable

¹ Scott Swain, <https://zondervanacademic.com/blog/common-places-pro-nicene-theology-inseparable-operations/>, accessed January 15th 2019.

seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God"

Spirit - Titus 3:5 "he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit" cf. John 3.

f) Texts:

- Ephesians 2:18 "For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father."
- Isaiah 34:16 "Seek and read from the book of the LORD: Not one of these shall be missing; none shall be without her mate. For the mouth of the LORD has commanded, and his Spirit has gathered them."

2. Individual Appropriations

- a) From his internal distinctions: Because the distinctions between the three within themselves are really distinctions, the external operations are also distinguishable. But they are not just distinguished, they are 'ordered' as well. Common is the conclusion that the order within the Trinity is "From the Father, *through* the Son, *by or in* the Spirit".
- b) Texts
 - Father = 'from,' 'initiator,' 'sender,'
1 Corinthians 8:6 "Yet for us there is one God, the Father, *from* whom are all things and *for* whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, *through* whom are all things and *through* whom we exist". cf.
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 20:21 "As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you"
 - Son = 'sent,' 'through whom,' 'by'
Ephesians 2:18 "For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father."
His role as mediator is fitting cf. 1 Timothy 2:5
 - Spirit = 'in,' 'by'.
1 Corinthians 6:11 "And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

- Extras

John 15:26 "When the Counselor comes (Spirit), whom I (Jesus) will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me."

Titus 3:4-6 "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior".

3. Conclusion: Three things.

- a) We are dealing with a divine being (God)
- b) We are dealing with a being who never works alone (one God)
- c) We can still think and speak of his unique and particular role (three persons)
- d) A quote from Gregory Nazianzen: "This I give you to share, and to defend all your life, the one Godhead and power, found in the three in unit, and comprising the three separately; not unequal, in substances or natures, neither increased nor diminished by superiorities nor inferiorities; in every respect equal, in every respect the same; just as the beauty and the greatness of the heavens is one; the infinite conjunction of three infinite ones, each God when considered in himself; as the Father, so the Son; as the Son, so the Holy Spirit; the three one God when contemplated together; each God because consubstantial; one God because of the monarchia. **No sooner do I conceive of the one than I am illumined by the splendor of the three; no sooner do I distinguish them than I am carried back to the one.** When I think of anyone of the three I think of him as the whole, and my eyes are filled, and the greater part of what I am thinking escapes me. I cannot grasp the greatness of that one so as to attribute a greater greatness to the rest. When I contemplate the three together, I see but one torch, and cannot divide or measure out the undivided light."- Gregory Nazianzen, Orations 40.41, as quoted by Robert Letham, *The Holy Trinity*, 378.

THE SPIRIT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. "Spirit" generally. *Ruach*

- e) Gen. 41:8 (Pharaoh) "So in the morning his spirit was troubled"
- f) Genesis 45:27 "the spirit of their father Jacob revived"
- g) Exodus 6:9 "because of their broken spirit"

2. The Spirit (*Ruach*) of Yahweh

3. "Coming upon" people: 2 main areas

a) Examples

- Mighty acts - Gideon: Judges 6:34 "But the Spirit of the Lord clothed Gideon, and he sounded the trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called out to follow him." cf. Samson Judges 13:25-15:14
- Prophecy - Zechariah: 2 Chronicles 24:20 "Then the Spirit of God clothed Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, and he stood above the people, and said to them, "Thus says God, 'Why do you break the commandments of the Lord, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the Lord, he has forsaken you.'"
- Leading, building skills (Numbers 11, Exodus 31)

4. Anointing for Office: A unique 'coming upon' for the distinct purpose of being the ruler of God's people.

a) Saul

- 1 Samuel 16:14 "Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the LORD tormented him."

b) David

- Psalm 51
- 1 Samuel 16:13 "Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah".

5. Promised

a) On God's servant

- Isaiah 11:1-2 "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord."

- Isaiah 61:1 "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;"

b) On God's people

- Moses' wish

Number 11:29 "But Moses said to him, "Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD's people were prophets, that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!"

- God's promise:

Joel 2:28-29 "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my spirit." cf. Isaiah 44:3; Ezekiel 36:26-27

THE SPIRIT AND JESUS

1. Birth

- c) Luke 1:35 "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God".
- d) Matthew 1:18b "before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit".
 - power?
 - will?

2. Baptism

- a) John 1:33 "I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit'".

3. Governed and powered by

- a) Luke 4:1-2 "And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil."
- b) Luke 4:14 "And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee."

4. Miracles

- a) Acts 10:38 "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."
- b) Matthew 12:28 "But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons"

5. Anointed One

- c) Old Testament Promises
 - Isaiah 11:2
 - Isaiah 42:1
- d) Descends and remains
 - John 1:33 "I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'"
- e) Jesus himself anointed
 - Acts 10:38 "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him." David is anointed in 1 Samuel 16:13 and it is followed by the empowerment of the spirit

"Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah. Now the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the Lord tormented him." Luke 4:18 comes shortly after baptism in Luke 3:22 where we have "and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased";" a text which itself alludes to Psalm 2 and Isaiah 42:1.

6. Death

- a) Hebrews 9:14 "Who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God" (Holy Spirit enabled him to give up his life)

7. Resurrection

- a) Romans 8:11 "The Spirit of him who raised Christ Jesus from the dead dwells in you"
- b) John "I lay it down that I may take it up again"
- c) Timothy "vindicated by the Spirit"

8. Ascension

- a) Pours out the gift of the Spirit

THE ESSENCE OF HIS WORK SO FAR

- a) Many say that the Holy Spirit is the 'creative power' of God, or the 'perfecting' principle, he is 'the one who gets the job done,' by the plan of the Father, through the mediation of the Son (as the word and wisdom of God and as the mediator).
- b) In creation (word), Job 33:4; Psalm 104:30; 33:6 "By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host." (also Israel, Jesus, Individual saints)
- c) In revelation (word/scripture) 2 Peter 1:21 "For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit".
- d) In redemption (incarnate word). Letham: "Power of God at work".

The *cumulative force* of these parts of revelation, and *the themes* that are brought together therein give this teaching its authority. He is the 'executer' illustrated perhaps in a forward of a football match.