
Title: "All About the Holy Spirit" Pt. 2 *Learning from Holy Spirit Symbols*

Text: numerous

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Review -

#1 - The Holy Spirit was active in the Old Testamen, but was given by God to people in positions of authority, or people God wanted for certain tasks.

#2 - Leaders, Prophets, Judges in the Old Testament needed to stay obedient to God, or they could lose the Holy Spirit.

#3 - After Jesus' death, the Holy Spirit became available to all Christians, to live inside of them, at their salvation.

#4 - The Holy Spirit will begin the process of change for us. He will begin to try to help us become more like God, IF we continue to listen to the Holy Spirit, and we continue to obey God.

#5 - What is the Holy Spirit's job when He comes? We looked at 11 things.

1. The Holy Spirit wants to teach us all things, as well as, remind of things Jesus said.
2. Guide us into ALL **truth**. ([John 16:12-13](#)) (Truth means God's view on something)
3. Honor and glorify Jesus, by representing Him better. ([John 16:14](#)) ([John 12:45](#))
We start thinking different, causing us to act different. We become more like Jesus.
4. Convict and convince the world of sin. ([John 16:8-11](#))
5. Occasionally, tell us what will happen in the future. ([John 16:13](#))
6. Help us to live righteous lives, and to obey God. ([Romans 14:17](#))
7. Teaches us what to say, what to do, when to do things, that God wants. ([Acts 8:29](#))
8. We worship God through our spirit interacting with the Holy Spirit. ([John 4:23](#))
9. The Holy Spirit wants to bring unity with His saints. ([Ephesians 4:3](#))
10. Holy Spirit will makes us witnesses. ([Acts 1:8](#))
11. Helps us to pray more effectively. ([Romans 8:26](#))

#6 - The Holy Spirit inside of us becomes our deposit, our ticket to get into heaven.

#7 - 4 symbols of the Holy Spirit that give us insight on what the Holy Spirit is like, how He moves in our lives, and moves through our lives. (wind, water, fire, dove)

There are other possible symbols of the Holy Spirit. In this message I will stay with 4.

A. THE WIND

John 3:8 (NKJV)

⁸ The wind blows where it wishes, & you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." *(They will do as the Holy Spirit wishes, change direction, effect others lives where they feel God, etc)*

1. Things about the wind:

- a. You cannot see the wind. You can only feel it, and see its effect on things around you. You see tree branches swaying, grass moving, etc.
- b. The wind blows wherever it wants to. Man does not control the wind. The wind does its own thing. Man has to go along with it.
- c. The wind comes in different forms
 - It can be so powerful that it is a dangerous wind - tornados, huricanes.
 - It can be very strong, very powerful, almost blow you over.
 - It can be a very gentle breeze that feels very good especially on a hot, or humid, day.
- d. The wind changes stale air to fresh air. The wind refreshens constantly. It can take a very hot day, somewhat yucky day, aand turn it into a refreshing day.

2. How we can apply spiritual insights about the wind

- a. We cannot see the Holy Spirit, but we can definitely feel His presence and see the Holy Spirit's effect on people's lives around us.
- b. The Holy Spirit is in charge, not man. He does not need our ideas, He needs us to listen to get His ideas. We do not schedule the Holy Spirit. He needs us to go wherever He (the wind) takes us. We are not meant to know all that He has in mind. When He flows differently, when He changes things, we go with that change. He alone is in charge.
- c. The Holy Spirit displays Himself in different ways.

- He can even be dangerous for us if He is trying to get our attention, like a tornado or hurricane.
- Sometimes He is very strong, like a strong, but not dangerous, wind. We feel His presence so strong that it can move us to tears very quickly.
- He can also present Himself like a gentle, calming, breeze, very pleasant, very soothing.

In worship services, the Holy Spirit can do whatever He wants to do, display Himself however He wants to do it. This is why I'm 100% against trying to fabricate a service. We had a worship leader in the past who tried to pump up the services with fast paced songs at the beginning of the service.

I heard a teaching years ago that was telling worship leaders that the format for the service needs to be one that takes the people through various emotions - you need fast-paced, pumped up music, then slow it down trying to make people think more type of music, then bring them on the verge of tears, then pump them up again. It was a teaching about the best "format" for a service. The best movies nwe watch do that, plays to our emotions. *Would that work for God?* Yes, if life with God was all about our fleshly methods we come up with to appeal to people's flesh or emotions.

The wind does what IT wants to do. We do not control it. We do not tell the wind to blow harder, or softer, or to disappear. We find out what the (wind) Holy Spirit wants, and we do that, most of the time not having a clue as to why. When He is in control, the church service becomes what He wants. The wind blows how He wants it to blow.

- d. The wind changes stale air to fresh air. The Holy Spirit wants to freshen us, change our stale side to fresh. Spending time with the Holy Spirit is the best

way to do that. BPQ (Bible, Prayer, Quiet time with God) is the best way to spend time with the Holy Spirit. And, "C" church has to be there as well. So, BPQC.

Those who try to follow the Holy Spirit in their lives must be willing to change direction to go in the direction the Spirit wants to go. They are not stuck in a format. For some people this will be harder to do than other people.

[Acts 2:1-2](#) (NKJV)

- ¹ When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.
- ² And suddenly **there came a sound** from heaven, **as of a** rushing mighty wind, and it (*the wind sound, Holy Spirit's presence*) filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Question: *Was there an actual wind that came and filled the house where they were at?*

Question: *Did they know it was coming? Did it redirect what they were doing at the time?*

The Holy Spirit life will play havoc on people who always live by having to plan.

B. Water, specifically "living water," or a "fountain of water springing up."

Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well:

John 4:10; 13-19 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you **living water.**"

John 4:13-14 (NKJV)

¹³ Jesus answered and said to her, "**Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again,**
¹⁴ **but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.**"

So, Jesus has used 2 different ways of talking about water:

1. Living water, which means it is alive. It keeps producing good things.

I believe He was talking about the Holy Spirit inside of us.

2. water that is like a continuous fountain, always springing up inside of us, always wanting to do things through us. Then, Jesus makes it clear that life with the Holy Spirit in charge where we listen, is key to everlasting life.

You might ask at this point: *Well, how do you know if Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit here?* Because it is the same terminology Jesus used in another example of John.

John 7:38-39 (NKJV)

- 38 **He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."**
- 39 **But this He spoke concerning the Spirit,** whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

3. Rivers of living water. (rivers are always continuously flowing)

We are not meant to become stagnant water. We are not meant to be people who, every once in awhile, see God's Holy Spirit flowing out of our lives. It is the nature of the Holy Spirit to continuously flow. And, it is the nature of the Holy Spirit to continuously be doing things.

If that is not happening through your life, you either need to get saved, or ask forgiveness for holding back the Holy Spirit, not listening to Him.

Just like moving water, He wants to flow continuously through us. But, you have to get out of the way. You have to start watching and listening.

This conversation with the Samaritan woman continues in verse 15-20:

John 4:15-20 (NKJV)

- 15 The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."
- 16 Jesus said to her, "**Go, call your husband, and come here.**"
- 17 The woman answered and said, "I have no husband."
Jesus said to her, "**You have well said, 'I have no husband,'**
- 18 **for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.**"
- 19 The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.
- 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you *Jews* say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship."

Notice that Jesus didn't give her the living water when she asked for it. Instead, He confronted her willful sin.

Notice also, in verse 19, the woman changed the topic from her talking about

her sin by asking a question. It's obvious she didn't want to talk about her sin.

John 4:21-22 (NKJV)

²¹ Jesus said to her, "**Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will**

neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. (*in other words, the hour is coming that it will no longer matter whether you worship on this mountain or in Jerusalem*)

²² **You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.**

You do not understand worshipping God. You just pursue the things of this world as your worship.

John 4:23-24 (NKJV)

²³ **But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the**

Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

²⁴ **God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit & truth."**

It is like Jesus was saying:

"If you are going to worship God you have to do it through God saving you, creating a spirit inside of you where the Holy Spirit lives, and you have to let Him show you how He wants you to think. You will worship God by listening to the Holy Spirit, and letting Him change your thinking so it is just like His. Truth is how God thinks. *You want to worship God? Do it through your new spirit God will give you at salvation.*"

John 4:25-26 (NKJV)

²⁵ The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ).
"When He comes, He will tell us all things."

²⁶ Jesus said to her, "**I who speak to you am He.**" (*and you don't even realize it*)

What can we learn, spiritually about this living water?

1. Water Cleans

Hopefully we take daily showers to clean off the dirt and oil on our own bodies.

The Holy Spirit wants to keep us clean from sin.

2. Water Stabilizes life.

We must have water in order to live. The body is made up of 60% water. We cannot go more than 3 days without drinking more water or we will die.

The Holy Spirit is God living in us. You have no spiritual life without the Holy Spirit. You have to keep drinking from Him or you will die.

3. Water refreshes us

Drinking water refreshes us. But, also being in rivers, springs, even swimming pools, are wonderful at refreshing us.

Ex: When I was a Policeman at Osage Beach, I lived about a mile from one beach, about 6 miles from another Beach on Hwy 42, & there was even another beach up towards the Sunrise Beach area, 10 miles? - was near Sunrise Beach. If I could find time in the summer to go to the beach and float around on a air mattress, it was incredible on how much stress it relieved in just 1 1/2 hrs. Water refreshes.

When we are down, or overly stressed, the Holy Spirit is meant to refresh us. Use that in your prayer on a down day. Pray "Father, I ask that your Holy Spirit will refreshen me. I am feeling very down right now. Please, make the water of the Spirit to come up inside of me right now, refreshening me."

4. Water can also be very powerful if it is flowing fast, or even has a current.

Rivers can be very fast moving, to the point that you can lose your footing trying to cross those kind of areas.

Example

If a person fell out of a boat in certain areas of the Mississippi river, or the Missouri river, there are parts of it that have a strong current that makes the water flows very, very fast, and even swirling in various directions. If you try to fight the current, that is when you will drown. That is when you will lose your life.

But, if you allow the current to move you, & you carefully swim toward the bank, you do not need to drown. You will eventually make it to the bank when the current allows you to do so. You have to work with the current, not against it.

Trying to fight what the Holy Spirit wants can be spiritually life threatening to you. First of all, you will not accomplish doing it. 2ndly, your best thing to do is to go

with the flow of where He is taking you. Stop fighting it.

Our 3rd symbol of the Holy Spirit is:

C. FIRE

[Hebrews 12:29](#) (NKJV)

²⁹ For **our God is a consuming fire.**

1. Fire consumes, burns up, everything that is in it.

The Holy Spirit is meant to consume you. Stop acting like you are in charge. You are not in charge. God is meant to be in charge, and if the Holy Spirit is going to occupy your life, He is going to consume your life.

[Colossians 3:2-4](#) (NKJV)

² **Set your mind on things above**, not on things on the earth.

³ For you died, (*you have been consumed by the fire*) and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

⁴ When Christ *who is our life* appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

2. Fire Purifies

Fire is used to purify things, including the making of precious metal objects. In that process, it will remove the impurities in the metal. When cooking food with it, it removes the things in meat that can kill you. It also makes food taste good.

The Holy Spirit will want to purify your life, to remove the impurities in your life.

3. Fire gives light in the darkness.

The Holy Spirit will provide light for you when you go through dark times.

4. Fire provides warmth.

5. Fire protects from evil that is nearby. (*for example: animals wanting to attack*)

Animals are smart enough to see the fire, know they cannot fight against it, and it will scare them away.

You can take these 5 things and use them in your prayers, depending on what you are going through in life. Look at those 5 things and think of a prayer you can use.

It is no wonder that when God's Holy Spirit was given to all mankind for the first time it happened through an appearance of fire:

Acts 2:1-8 NKJV)

- ¹ When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.
- ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, **as of a rushing mighty wind,** *(Holy Spirit was like wind)* & it filled the whole house where they were sitting.
- ³ Then **there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.** *(The Holy Spirit was like fire)*
- ⁴ **And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.
- ⁵ And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.
- ⁶ And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, **and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.**
- ⁷ Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?"
- ⁸ And **how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?**

D. DOVES [Genesis 8:6-12](#); [Luke 3:21-22](#); [Matt 10:16](#);

The dove was a key for Noah to know when the flooded water receded enough:

Genesis 8:6-12 (NKJV)

- ⁶ So it came to pass, at the end of forty days, that **Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made.**
- ⁷ **Then he sent out a raven,** which kept going to and fro until the waters had dried up from the earth.
- ⁸ **He also sent out from himself a dove, to see if the waters had receded from the face of the ground.**
- ⁹ **But the dove found no resting place for the sole of her foot,** and she returned

into the ark to him, for the waters *were* on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took her, and drew her into the ark to himself.
- ¹⁰ And **he waited yet another seven days, and again he sent the dove out** from the ark.
- ¹¹ **Then the dove came to him in the evening, and behold, a freshly plucked olive leaf was in her mouth;** *(symbolizing peace, love, hope, and new beginnings)*

and Noah knew that the waters had receded from the earth.

- 12 **So he waited yet another seven days & sent out the dove, which did not return again to him anymore.**

Luke 3:21-22 (NKJV)

- 21 When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened.
- 22 And **the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove** upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased." (*Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the Father all worked together here*)

Question: *Did an actual dove appear?* No. The Holy Spirit appeared kind of like the shape of a dove. *Why a dove? What does a dove represent about the Holy Spirit?*

Relate each of these as how the Holy Spirit wants to shape us:

DOVES ARE:

1. Gentle, Peaceful, Harmless, Charming, low-key personalities

Many dove owners feel their pets bring charm and peacefulness to the home. They possess a dignified charm and personality not seen in other birds. They are great for children because they do not bite. They are extremely gentle. Many aspects of their personalities are low-keyed and passive. Yet anyone who has taken a cage of doves by surprise knows that they at times can be far from calm and peaceful.

2. Doves are NOT _____ - centered. (self) Not demanding of others. Do not need a lot of attention. They are easily cared for.

Doves do not need the same "hands on" attention as other birds. They make minimal demands of the owner. For birds, they are exceptionally neat. (Care for themselves well)

3. Doves are Quiet - Natured, NOT _____ (loud) Their main noises are soothing like koo-KOO-koo, or chirping sounds, especially during breeding times.

4. Doves give us a Feeling of _____, (purity) (being in the presence of God)

5. Very _____, (devoted) They enjoy time with their master.

One of the traits that makes doves such good pets is that they tend to adopt families well. Monogamous in nature they share that devotion with their adopted human family. Once a dove has accepted the family, it will sit at member's feet or even next to a personal object belonging to one of the family whenever free to do so.

Doves have a personality of their own, and are not like any other pet.

6. Doves _____ (hear) **VERY Well. They are very attentive to sounds.**

A bird flying over Lake Michigan can listen to waves breaking on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts. The dove has 200 times better hearing than a human.

7. Doves handle _____ (danger) **VERY well.**

When they first get startled they freeze to hide and to see what will happen.

"Like most birds, Doves can detect moving objects quicker than humans. Doves have to quickly see a predator so they can fly away without being caught. **When they know they are definitely in danger, they will fly straight upwards.**"

How do they handle danger well? They **listen, pause/wait** not making quick decisions, and if they do have to move quickly they do it *straight up*.

How should we handle danger, then?

1. _____,
 2. _____ / _____, (which means move slow),
 3. if you know danger is there, we go _____ _____ to God.
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Matthew 10:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ "Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore **be wise as serpents and harmless as doves.**

SUMMARY:

We have looked at 4 symbols of the Holy Spirit today. Each symbol gives us different perspectives on the Holy Spirit's personality, how the Holy Spirit works, and really, how we should live.

Song: Wings of a Dove by Ferlin Husky, 1960

Chorus:

On the wings of a snow-white dove, He sends His pure sweet love, a sign from above, on the wings of a dove

Verse 1:

When troubles surround us, when evils come, the body grows weak, the spirit grows numb, when these things beset us, He doesn't forget us, He sends down His love, on the wings of a dove.

Chorus:

On the wings of a snow-white dove, He sends His pure sweet love, a sign from above, on the

wings of a dove

Verse 2:

*When Noah had drifted, on the flood many days, he searched for land, in various ways troubles,
he had some, but wasn't forgotten, He sent him His love On the wings of a dove*

Chorus:

*On the wings of a snow-white dove, He sends His pure sweet love, a sign from above, on the
wings of a dove*

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1. All over the world, the dove is known as the emblem for peace.
 2. The dove is also a symbol of meekness and humility.
 3. A dove is a pure and harmless creature.
 4. Easily run off. More than any other animal, the dove, if harassed once or twice, will leave.
We must be very careful not to grieve Him.