

Paul speaks of the 'exceeding greatness' of God's power towards those who believe, 'according to that working of the strength of his might which he wrought in Christ when he raised him from the dead'. (Eph.1:19.20. R.V.) Believers will be 'changed', so that their 'vile body' is 'fashioned like unto his glorious body'; and this is spoken of as the work of Christ, 'according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself'. (Phil. 3:21.)

The Christadelphians

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To find out more about the word of God please contact:

THE CHRISTADELPHIANS
FREEPOST (CN 2737)
CROYDON
CR9 7WZ

or the publisher:

Andrew G Stubbs, The Christadelphians (Sherwood Meeting), 14 Covedale Road, Sherwood, Nottingham, NG5 3HY England.

or visit our website:

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The Holy Spirit

Watchman Christadelphians - Leaflet 2

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The Holy Spirit

In the leaflet of this series entitled 'The God of the Bible' evidence is adduced which shows that, although God is located in heaven, the invisible energy or spirit which flows from Him fills the Universe, so that God is everywhere present.

There are also numerous incidents recorded in the Bible which show that on occasions this power is used for the purpose of working wonderful signs and miracles. In the New Testament God's power, when used for such purposes, is described as 'the Holy Spirit', the word 'Holy' meaning 'sanctified' or 'separate'.

In the Authorised Version of the Scriptures the term is frequently translated 'Holy Ghost'. The word 'Ghost' is an obsolete form, and would be better translated 'Spirit' in every case, as indeed it is in modern translations such as the Revised Standard Version and the New English Bible. The original word in the Greek is 'pneuma', meaning 'spirit', 'breath' or 'wind'. When used in relation to God it denotes the 'out breathing' of His power, as can be seen from the following passages:

'Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created'.
(Psa. 104:30.)

'The Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters'. (Gen. 1:2.)

'By his spirit he hath garnished the heavens'.
(Job 26:13.)

The word 'Spirit' is also used to denote the power by which God is everywhere present:

'Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?... If I... dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall thy hand lead me'. (Psa.139:7-10)

'Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth?'. (Jer.23:24.)

The same word is employed to indicate the mind and will of God:

'My spirit shall not always strive with man'.
(Gen. 6:3.)

'They rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit',
(Isa.63:10.)

'Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God'.
(Eph.4:30.)

'I will pour out my spirit unto you, 'I will make known my words unto you'. (Prov.1:23.)

'...Rebellious children... that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit'. (Isa.30:1.)

When bestowed upon men, the Spirit of God gives them the ability to act and speak beyond human power:

'The Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward'. (I Sam. 16:13.)

'The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and his word was in my tongue. The God of Israel said...'
(II Sam. 23:2.3.)

'Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit'. (2 Pet.1:21.)

'The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me...' (Isa.61:1; Luke 4:18.)

'God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power'. (Acts 10:38.)

Christ, using the authority given him by his Father, promised to bestow this power on his apostles:

'The Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things ...' (John 14:26.)

This promise was fulfilled after his ascension to heaven:

'And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues...'
(Acts 2:1-4)

'Therefore being at the right hand of God exalted and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he hath poured forth this which ye see and hear' (Acts 2:33; compare R. V. margin.)

Jesus said 'God is spirit'. (John 4:24. R.S.V. & N.E.B.) The Spirit is the being and power of God, both in universal and particular manifestation. Father and Son are completely at one in mind and purpose, and - after Christ was glorified - in nature; together they exercise the power which is termed Spirit. There is a profound unity between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; but, as will be seen from these passages, it is not the mysterious 'trinity in unity' of three co-equal and co-eternal persons.

The Lord Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, which is also called 'the power of the Highest'. (Luke 1:35.) The same power raised him from the dead; and by the same power those who are faithful to him will be made immortal when he comes again. ►►