



**FIRST BAPTIST**  
MERIDIANVILLE  
REAL. FAMILY.

# WHAT WE BELIEVE

THE  
BAPTIST  
FAITH &  
MESSAGE  
2000

Baptist Faith and Message 2000

God the Holy Spirit

Article II C



The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Savior, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ.

He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

## Key Texts

Genesis 1:2: —The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Psalms 139:7: —Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

## Key Texts

Joel 2:28-32: —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, your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. And it shall come to pass That whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the remnant whom the LORD calls.

## Key Texts

John 14:16-17: —And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

## Key Texts

John 16:7-11: —Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged



## Key Texts

Acts 1:8: —But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

## Key Texts

Acts 2:1-4: —When the Day of Pentecost had 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 the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

## Key Texts

1 Corinthians 12:13: —For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

Galatians 4:6: —And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, —Abba, Father!

## Key Texts

Ephesians 1:13-14: —In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

## Key Texts

Ephesians 4:30: —And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

2 Peter 1:21: —for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

# Major Theological Observations

**“The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God and as such is fully divine.”**

- He is a person and not an it, thing or force.
- He possesses with the Father and Son the one undivided divine nature.

# Major Theological Observations

Notice the verbs. This article says of the Holy Spirit that he *inspired, enables, exalts, convicts, calls, effects regeneration, baptizes, cultivates, seals, enlightens and empowers.*

**The Holy Spirit is essential in carrying out the will and purposes of God.**

# Major Theological Observations

## **The Holy Spirit inspired the Scriptures.**

He worked in the minds of biblical writers and so moved in them (2 Pet 1:20-21) that what they wrote as their own words was concurrently the fully authoritative, reliable and inerrant Word of God (2 Tim 3:16-17).



# Major Theological Observations

**The Holy Spirit illuminates the minds and hearts of believers** to help them understand and apply that divine word to their own lives (1 Cor 2:14).

The Spirit inspired the Bible so that he might use it mightily in transforming us by its truth.

# Major Theological Observations

**The Holy Spirit brings sinners to salvation.**

*He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Savior, and effects regeneration.*

John 3:1-8

# Major Theological Observations

**The Holy Spirit transforms believers through empowering their ever-increasing sanctification.**

*He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church.*

# Major Theological Observations

**The Spirit is God's seal and guarantee (Eph 1:13-14).**

*He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ*

- In Christ, by the power of the Spirit, we are assured the certainty of our full and final sanctification.

# Major Theological Observations

**The Holy Spirit equips us for meaningful and fruitful service in the church.**

*He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.*