

Worksheet 11

“The Holy Spirit”

Answer Sheet

Where does the Holy Spirit appear in Sacred Scripture?

- The Holy Spirit is present and active throughout Sacred Scripture, from the beginning of creation to the birth of the Church.
- In Genesis, the Spirit of God is described as hovering over the waters at creation.
- In the creation of man, God breathes the breath of life into Adam, which the Church has often seen as connected to God’s life-giving Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit speaks through the prophets, inspiring them to proclaim God’s word to His people.
- The Holy Spirit is active in the conception of Jesus in the womb of the Virgin Mary.
- At the Baptism of Jesus, the Holy Spirit descends upon Him in visible form like a dove.
- After the Resurrection, Jesus breathes on the Apostles and says, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”
- At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit comes upon the Apostles with the sound of a mighty wind and tongues of fire, empowering them to proclaim the Gospel in many languages.

How can we distinguish the Holy Spirit from the Father and the Son?

- The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are not three gods, but one God in three divine Persons.
- Each Person of the Trinity is fully God, equal in divinity, glory, and majesty.
- The Father is the unoriginated source within the Trinity, who creates and sends the Son.
- The Son is eternally begotten of the Father and became man for our salvation.
- The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son and is given to dwell in the Church and in the hearts of the faithful.
- Although all three Persons act together in every work of God, Scripture often highlights:
 - the Father in creation and sending
 - the Son in the Incarnation and redemption
 - the Holy Spirit in sanctification, guidance, and the life of the Church
- The Holy Spirit is especially revealed as the one who gives life, holiness, wisdom, and communion.

How is the Holy Spirit active in the writing of Sacred Scripture?

- The Holy Spirit inspired the human authors of Sacred Scripture.
- God did not erase their personalities, language, culture, or historical circumstances.
- Instead, the Holy Spirit worked through them so that they truly wrote as human authors while also writing what God wanted revealed for the sake of our salvation.
- Because of this, Scripture is both truly the Word of God and truly written in human words.
- The inspiration of Scripture shows that God often chooses to work through human beings to accomplish His divine purposes.

How is the Holy Spirit active in the Church?

- The Holy Spirit gives life to the Church and guides her in truth.
- Jesus prepared the Apostles for their mission and, after His Resurrection and Ascension, sent the Holy Spirit upon them in a powerful way at Pentecost.
- Through the Holy Spirit, the Apostles were strengthened to preach the Gospel, celebrate the sacraments, and shepherd the people of God.
- The Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church in handing on the faith through Sacred Tradition.
- Sacred Tradition is not merely old customs, but the living transmission of the Gospel in the Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit also assists the Church's teaching office, so that the faith handed down from the Apostles may be preserved, explained, and faithfully taught in every age.

How is the Holy Spirit active in the liturgy?

- In the liturgy, the Holy Spirit makes present and effective the saving work of Christ in the Church.
- Through words, signs, symbols, and sacramental actions, the Holy Spirit draws the faithful into communion with God.
- God is present in all the liturgical actions of the Church, but in a unique and supreme way in the Holy Eucharist.
- In the sacraments, the Holy Spirit works through the prayer of the Church, the ministry of the priest, and the sacred signs established by Christ.
- In the Eucharist especially, the Church calls upon the Holy Spirit so that the gifts offered may become the Body and Blood of Christ and so that the faithful may be united more deeply to Him.
- Thus, the liturgy is the work of Christ and the Holy Spirit in and through the Church.

How is the Holy Spirit active in prayer?

- The Holy Spirit helps us to pray and draws us into communion with God.
- He moves our hearts to faith, repentance, trust, praise, and love.
- The Holy Spirit teaches us to pray in union with Christ and helps us cry out to God as our Father.
- In prayer, the Holy Spirit opens us to God's presence and helps us recognize how God is at work in our lives.
- He also transforms us interiorly, helping us grow in holiness and deeper love of God.