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# The Holy Spirit

## The work of the Holy Spirit

[The Holy Spirit] shines upon those who are cleansed from every spot, and makes then spiritual men through fellowship with Himself. When a sunbeam falls on a transparent substance, the substance itself becomes brilliant, and radiates light from itself. So too Spirit-bearing souls, illumined by Him, finally become spiritual themselves, and their grace is sent forth to others. From this comes knowledge of the future, understanding of mysteries, apprehension of hidden things, distribution of wonderful gifts, heavenly citizenship, a place in the choir of angels, endless joy in the presence of God, becoming like God, and, the highest of all desires, becoming God.<sup>1</sup>

## The Holy Spirit must be glorified with the Father and the Son

Now it is true that some of them<sup>2</sup> are willing to glorify the Spirit, but not with the Father and the Son. But the Lord has assigned the Spirit His proper place;<sup>3</sup> why should we forsake it to invent another place? He is always described as united with the Godhead; why should He be deprived of His glory? We hear His name in the creed, at saving baptism, in the working of miracles. He takes up His abode in the saints; He bestows grace on the obedient. No gift can be bestowed on creation unless the Holy Spirit gives it; not even a single word can be spoken in defence of Christ unless the Holy Spirit inspires it - as we have learned in the Gospels from our Lord and Saviour.<sup>4</sup>

How could anyone who has partaken of the Holy Spirit be willing to forget or disregard that He is united to the Father and the Son in every way and try to tear Him away from them? Where will you take Him to be ranked? Among creatures? But all creation is in bondage and the Spirit frees it; “where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”<sup>5</sup> There are many other arguments why the Holy Spirit cannot be counted as a created nature, but for the moment I will not speak of them ... such an enormous treatise would result that my readers would be exhausted by its length.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *On the Holy Spirit* 9.23 (SVS Press, p.43)

<sup>2</sup> Basil's opponents, the *Pneumatomachoi* (“spirit fighters”)

<sup>3</sup> An oblique reference to Matt. 28:19

<sup>4</sup> Matt. 10:19-20

<sup>5</sup> 2 Cor. 3:17

<sup>6</sup> *On the Holy Spirit* 24.55 (SVS Press, p.87)