

Holy Spirit & Angels

Does the Bible tell us to pray to the Holy Spirit? No. "Never do we find in the Scriptures prayers *to* the Spirit, but *for* the Spirit."(M. C. Wilcox). **Jesus taught us to pray to the Father to ask for the Holy Spirit.**

- **Luke 11:11** If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if *he ask* a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? 12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall **your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?** -Jesus
- **John 16:23** ... Verily, verily, I say unto you, **Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.** -Jesus
- **Galatians 4:6** And because ye are sons, **God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts**, crying, Abba, Father. -Paul

So, if we ask His Father, in Jesus' name, for the Holy Spirit, we will receive it. And, what is "it"? The Spirit of His Son - Jesus Christ.

Is the Holy Spirit a person, like the Father and the Son are? In John 14-16, Jesus personified (represented with the attributes of a person) the Holy Spirit as "the Comforter", using the pronouns, "he," "him," and "whom." But usually, the Holy Spirit is referred to in ways that would not be used to talk about a literal person. Here are some examples =>

- **Acts 10:45** And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was **poured out** the gift of the Holy Ghost.
- **Romans 5:5** And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is **shed abroad** in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.
- **Luke 3:22** And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape **like a dove upon** him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.
- **Acts 2:3** And there appeared unto them **cloven tongues like as of fire**, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

In Rev. 1:4 3:1 4:5 5:6, we read of "the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth." This must be another designation of the Holy Spirit, using the number 7 to show perfection and completeness. But, surely this can't be a reference to person. The Bible never talks about seven Gods or seven humans in this way. "We learn from this language that when we speak of the Spirit of God we are really speaking of his presence and power." (J.N. Loughborough), the mind - the thoughts of God and His "beloved" Son, Jesus Christ. But, not another person like the Father and the Son are persons.

JACOB'S LADDER EXPLAINED BY THE BIBLE

Genesis 28:10 And Jacob... **11** ... lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set... and lay down in that place to sleep. **12** And he dreamed. And behold, a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God ascending and descending on it. **13** And, behold, Jehovah stood above it, and said, I am Jehovah, the God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac...

John 1:51 And he[Jesus] saith unto him[Nathanael], Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.

So, Jesus is the ladder of Jacob's dream. But, why is that? What does it mean? And, what about those angels? What are they doing?

1 Timothy 2:5 For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

Dictionary Meanings:

MEDIATOR: "One that interposes between parties at variance for the purpose of reconciling them."

INTERCESSOR: "A mediator... one who pleads in behalf of another."

ADVOCATE: "in its primary sense, signifies, one who pleads the cause of another..."

Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ... **34** Who *is* he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

1 John 2:1 ... if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

Here, we see Jesus as our mediator/intercessor/advocate, pleading the merits of His blood, shed on Calvary, on our behalf, with His Father, Jehovah.

Matthew 26:28 For this is my[Christ's] blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Romans 5:6 For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ... **8** But God[Jehovah] commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. **9** Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. **10** For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

Hebrews 2:18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour[help] them that are tempted.

Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest[Jesus] which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Now, let's put this all together to better-understand Jacob's dream about the ladder:

- **The ladder** that stretches from Earth to Heaven is Jesus Christ. How so? Jesus was tempted in all the same ways we are tempted, yet without sin. So, he understands our weakness, is able to help us overcome, and intercedes with His Father, on our behalf(Hebrews 2:18; 4:15). Christ is also the (Holy) Spirit that helps with "**our infirmities**" and "**maketh intercession for us**"(Romans 8:26-34) So, with His humanity, He touches the Earth; with His divinity, He touches Heaven. Therefore, Christ certainly is the "**ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven**"(Genesis 28:12).
- We, the people of God, are at the **bottom of the ladder**.
- Jehovah, the Sovereign God of the universe, is at the **top of the ladder**.
- The "**angels of God ascending and descending** upon the Son of man[Jesus]"(John 1:51) - the ladder.

Next, we will consider the work of the "angels of God..." and of the angels of satan...

ANGELS AND SPIRITS

Acts 19:13 Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had **evil spirits** the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. **14** And there were seven sons of *one* Sceva, a Jew, *and* chief of the priests, which did so. **15** And the **evil spirit** answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? **16** And the man in whom the **evil spirit** was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

So, what are these evil spirits? I'm pretty sure we can all agree that these "evil spirits" are satan's fallen angels. Does the Bible also talk about "holy spirits"?

Matthew 25:31 When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the **holy angels** with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

Hebrews 1:14 Are they[angels(verse 13)] not all ministering **spirits**, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Now, angels are not "The Holy Spirit", but they are holy because they stand in the presence of Almighty God and only holy beings can do that without being consumed by the glory of Jehovah! The angels are also referred to as "spirits". So, it seems to me that we have satan's "evil spirits", because they are fully surrendered to the father of evil and we have God's holy spirits, because they are fully surrendered to the Almighty Creator.

It is the "ministering spirits", the holy angels of God, that are constantly "**ascending and descending**"(Gen 28:12; Jn 1:51) between heaven and earth, ministering to us who are surrendering ourselves to God and seeking His will. Their jobs are many, but the context of this lesson is about the Holy Spirit. Since the "**angels do always behold the face of**

my[Christ's] **Father which is in heaven**"(Matthew 18:10), they know the will of The Father. They know His words. Remember that Jesus said that His words are spirit(Jn6:63). So, it is angels that then descend to us to bring us the words and the will of Jehovah -- His Holy Spirit. Here is a Bible example of how this works:

Revelation 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, **which** God[Christ's Father] gave unto him[Christ], to shew unto his servants things **which** must shortly **come** to pass; and he[Christ] sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: **2** Who[John] bare record of the word of God[Christ's Father], and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he[John] saw.

Jehovah => Christ => angels => the prophets => us

-- AND --

Jehovah => Christ => angels => us

-- AND --

Jehovah => Christ => angels => us => others