

THE HOLY SPIRIT TREE

BY Brooks A. Harris, O.D.

01-31-2021

This morning, during my awakening prayers, I started thinking about how the Holy Spirit of God indwells (lives in) each Christian and how their body is His temple on earth. 1 Corinthians 6:19 states "... your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you" Then it hit me, how can the Holy Spirit live in all Christians at the same time but still be one person? Then I realized that the Holy Spirit is not cut up into millions of pieces to be implanted into each Christian, He is more like a huge tree with millions of root endings which penetrate each Christian.

Also remember that God is actually, God the Father **and** Jesus Christ **and** the Holy Spirit all in one. So, when we talk about the Holy Spirit, we are talking about one aspect of God and that one aspect can be described symbolically as a tree. Just as the tree has three major sections (the roots, the trunk and the branches), the Holy Spirit can be seen to occupy three areas (the earth, the expanse between earth and heaven, and heaven). The entire root system represents the Church on Earth (all Christians together) which have been called "the Body of Christ" (Col. 1:24). The branches of our symbolic tree can represent the entirety of heaven, and the leaves can represent the Tree of Life (which provides eternal life) with its leaves which will be for the healing of the nations (Rev. 22:2).

Just as the roots depend on the energy supplied by the leaves by the light of the sun, Christians depend on the energy (support, guidance, protection, teaching, etc.) supplied by the Holy Spirit by the light of the Son – Jesus Christ. In the Holy Bible, it says that God is Light (1 John 1:5) and talks about Jesus Christ being the Light of the World (John 8:12). And once on a mountain, three of Jesus's disciples witnessed this light of Jesus which exposed just a portion of His glory. In Matthew 17:2 it states "He (Jesus) was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light." The Bible also mentions in Rev. 21:23 that in the New Jerusalem in the New Heaven there will no longer be a need for the sun or moon because Jesus is its Light and God's Glory will illuminate it. In the book Imagine Heaven by John Burke, many people who have had near-death experiences have reported that upon their arrival at the end of a tunnel-like space, they were greeted by a bright, multi-colored light which communicated with them and enveloped them giving them a sense of overwhelming love, compassion and peace. Many people believe that this light is Jesus Christ.

So back to our analogy. Through the connecting channels of the tree, the roots communicate with the leaves through the trunk. A large tree can draw hundreds of gallons of water from the roots to the leaves every day while the roots communicate to the tree their need for energy. In return the energy from the leaves is delivered to the roots to strengthen and sustain their life. Likewise, through the connecting channels of God, the Holy Spirit communicates the prayers of Christians (their needs, pleas, desires, concerns, thanksgivings, etc.) to Jesus Christ. In turn the Holy Spirit answers the Christians' prayers however and whenever He determines to be appropriate, in order to strengthen and sustain the spiritual life of the Christian. Since our spiritual body lives on after our physical death, our spiritual life and our preparation, until we die, for our eternal life is ultimately what matters most.

I now see how the trunk aspect of the Holy Spirit could be seen as the tunnel which connects earth to heaven. As the trunk protects and supports the connecting channels of the tree, the Holy Spirit surrounds, protects and guides the spirit of Christians upon their physical death, as they transition from their earthly realm to God's heavenly realm. When you realize that the Holy Spirit is who performed the miracles of Jesus during His earthly ministry about 2000 years ago, and realize that this same Holy Spirit lives in us, you begin to realize that the power of God lives in us and we can do all things that God desires us to do through His power as long as we trust and obey God.

So, if you want to enjoy a wonderful relationship with God, attach yourself to a root of the Holy Spirit by accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal Savior, read and study His Word – the Holy Bible (His revelation to us of what He wants us to know), and talk to God through praying every day. Believe in your heart that God is real and living and confess with your mouth that you accept Jesus Christ. If you are loyal to God, the Holy Spirit will supply you with energy, and guide and protect your spirit, and eventually welcome you home to His eternal Heavenly Kingdom.