

**May 12, 2019**

## **I Believe In the Holy Spirit**

**Romans 8:23-27**

8:23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

8:24 For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?

8:25 But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

8:26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

8:27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

### **1. The Spirit of God**

The only item concerning the Holy Spirit in the Apostles' Creed is "I believe in the Holy Spirit." It is written, "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. The Creator of Heaven and the Almighty Father" about the Father God, and about Jesus Christ it starts with "I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord," and ends with "he will come to judge the living and the dead." In the English language, 69 words are used there. However, about the Holy Spirit only six words are used, saying, "I believe in the Holy Spirit." Why? Isn't it because the Holy Spirit is less important than Father God and His Son Jesus Christ? No, that is not the case.

The fact that the Holy Spirit is written only in a very short sentence

is because the other part of the Apostles' Creed has already stated about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is called "the Spirit of God" in the Bible. The Apostles' Creed begins with "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth." And when God created heaven and earth, the Spirit of God was naturally there. As Genesis 1:2 says, "The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." The Holy Spirit was also involved in the creation of the world. Therefore, the work of the Holy Spirit was already included in the words, "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth."

The same is true for the part of "I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord." The Holy Spirit is introduced as the one who brought Jesus to the world, just after that, the words, "He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary." The Holy Spirit appeared at the time of Jesus' baptism and filled Jesus. All the miracles and powerful works that Jesus has done were by the Holy Spirit. As Jesus said, "But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you." (Matthew 12:28).

Thus, we have already seen the Holy Spirit in the power of the Almighty Father God, in the life of Jesus and in the works of God. So, after being told of the Father and of the Son of Jesus, the words "I believe in the Holy Spirit" were able to say what kind of person the Holy Spirit is. The word "I believe in the Holy Spirit" tells us that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Almighty God and the full of Jesus Christ.

## 2. The Spirit of Christ

The Apostle Creed says, “I believe in the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” This order is important. Because you can know and believe in God by His Son, who is filled with “the Spirit of God,” and you can know and believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, by the Holy Spirit, who is “the Spirit of Christ.”

Before we knew Jesus Christ, we knew only vaguely God. In Japan, every single nature is god. The celestial bodies such as the sun and the moon, mountains, forests, rivers, and the sea are themselves gods or goddesses, and people have worshiped them. If there is someone slightly better than the general public, they are also called as gods. That is why there are many gods in Japan. Even if a Christian says, “I believe in God,” he/she will hear the words; “Oh, yes. It’s good for you to believe a god. By the way, what kind of god do you believe?”

In Korea, “God” is called “*Hana-nim*.” Because “*Hana*” means “one”, God is called “one person.” In Japanese, “one person” has a slightly different meaning, but in this case it means “the only true God.” God is one, and there is no need to ask “Which God?” There are many Christians in Korea, probably because the concept of God is clear.

The Apostles’ Creed says, “I believe in the God, the Father Almighty” and then saying, “I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son.” In other words, God we believe is “the Father God of Jesus Christ.” The best answer to the question “Which God?” is “the Father God of Jesus Christ.”

John 1:18 says, “No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is

at the Father's side, he has made him known." God is completely holy, beyond this world, beyond human cognition. Sinful humans can not see God. God can not be captured with an astronomical telescope or an electron microscope. He can not be analyzed by any super computers. God is neither a substance nor a principle. He is a living Person. Only a person can manifest God, only person can know and believe in God. So, the Son of God became a person with the name of "Jesus," and lived with people in this world, and revealed the invisible God in a visible manner.

Jesus said, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father." (John 14:9), and the disciples said about Jesus, "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life." (1 John 1:1) As the word says, Jesus Christ has become the God who we can be heard the voice, see the appearance and touch him with our hands. We see God in the personality, deeds and teachings of Jesus Christ. We know God as the Father of Jesus Christ, and we can say clearly that God is such a person. How fortunate it is.

And, more fortunately, the Holy Spirit lived inside us so that we could believe in God and Christ. To "believe" starts from "knowing." We often say, "I can understand it with my head, but I can not believe in it easily." However, the reason we can not have faith may be because we are just "I understand" and we really do not understand. If you want to have faith, you need to have the teacher who properly teach you the Bible and learn seriously.

However, faith does not mean that we should just acknowledge that

there is God, as long as we have some knowledge of Jesus Christ. Faith is that I, as a person trust in God as the great Person. It is the relationship between a person and another person. And the Holy Spirit, the third person ties God, Christ, and us into a trusting relationship. In other words, the Holy Spirit works on the deepest part of us, our “spirit” and awakens our trust in God, who is the “Spirit.”

Everyone who believes in Jesus Christ has the experience of being taught by the Holy Spirit, having the eyes of faith opened and led to the confession of faith. Jesus said. “All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.” (John 16:15) Christ is God. He is the Son of God and an agent of God. And the Holy Spirit is “the Spirit of Christ” and is a representative of Christ. When we rely on the Holy Spirit, we will be able to know God more and believe in Christ more deeply. So, when the Apostle Creed says, “I believe in the Holy Spirit,” it states that “I could believe in God and Christ by the Holy Spirit.”

### **3. The Spirit of Prayer**

Christ manifests God as the Son of God, and the Holy Spirit shows Christ within us as the “Spirit of Christ.” The Holy Spirit is a representative of God and Christ, but at the same time, the Holy Spirit is also an agent of those who believe in Christ. Not only did Christ show God to human beings as a proxy for God, but also became the representative of human, and he died on the Cross on behalf of us. He was resurrected and is playing for the world to the Father God in heaven. It is the task given to a priest to represent God and simultaneously to represent human beings. Only Jesus Christ, who is

God and human, the God in humanity, can fully fulfill this priesthood, but the Holy Spirit is also a priest, just like Christ. He is fulfilling his duties.

It is written in Rome 8:23. “For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.” Thought we begin to pray, “Father in Heaven,” we may not continue prayers after that. There is a case that only groans, or only tears. But the Holy Spirit mourns with our groans. Even with nonverbal prayers, the Holy Spirit prays for us when our heart goes to God.

I don't think that prayer should be a lot of words. What we can pray with slams does not necessarily indicate our faith. There are times when you really get close to God and your heart beats with his holiness and grace, and you can only call him “Lord!” Sometimes the words of human beings are withdrawn and praying in deep silence. “Praying with spirit” refers to such a condition. The Holy Spirit prays with the believer's spirit there.

The Holy Spirit, who knows everything in God's heart, at the same time, knows all of our thoughts. No matter how hard we work, we can not say perfect prayer according God's will. Without the Holy Spirit, our prayers are selfish, out of place, and lacking. However, when One who completely knows both the mind of God and the mind of the person prays for intercession, our prayer will be worthy of the will of God. Instead of trusting in your prayer, saying, “I can pray properly,” believe in the prayer of the Holy Spirit and pray in trusting in dealing with me. That is what is said, “Praying in the Holy Spirit.” (Jude 1:20)

Since the Holy Spirit is God, it is natural that we should pray to the

Holy Spirit. However, the Holy Spirit dares to stand on the side of human beings and pray to the Father God with human beings. The mediator must be equal on both sides, but the Holy Spirit, who brings the connection between God and the believers, takes the initiative of the believers, in human terms, he stands and works on the side of the believers. So, “I believe in the Holy Spirit” means the confession of the faith that we rely on the Holy Spirit as our helper who knows all about us, prays for us, stands on our side thoroughly. The Holy Spirit teaches us the Father and Christ as “the Spirit of God.” Lead me to faith in Jesus Christ as “the Spirit of Christ.” And as “the Spirit of prayer,” he helps our prayers and the daily life of faith. We express his grace by saying, “I believe in the Holy Spirit.” Today, let us confess “I believe in the Holy Spirit” and let the Holy Spirit know God and lead us into a life following Christ.

**(Prayer)**

Lord God, the Holy Spirit is your heart, life, existence itself. You have made the Holy Spirit dwell in us through Jesus Christ, knowing all of us, and serving as the fulfillment of all our needs. In any hardship, help us to confess that the Holy Spirit is our helper, and call on you with the Holy Spirit. We pray this in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.