

HOW GREAT IS OUR GOD!

Getting Reacquainted with the Spirit of Power

1 Corinthians 2:6–12



LET'S BEGIN HERE

“Boo! I’m the Holy Ghost.” That’s what some people think whenever the subject of the Holy Spirit arises. But who is He, really, and what exactly does He do? Is He an actual ghost, a mysterious fog-like substance that floats in the ceilings of cathedrals or hovers over cemetery plots like an ethereal phantom? Hardly! Of the three persons in the godhead, including God the Father and God the Son, God the Holy Spirit is the least understood and the most mystifying. Let’s dispel some of the myths and mystery by getting reacquainted with the Spirit of Power.



LET'S DIG DEEPER

1. Blowing the Dust Off the “Holy Ghost”: Who Is He? (1 Corinthians 2:6–12)

The Holy Ghost isn’t a ghost at all. He is a Spirit who, as the third member of the godhead, possesses all the attributes of God and operates in the same realm as God the Father and God the Son.

2. Blowing the Dust Off the “Holy Ghost”: What Is His Role? (Selected Scriptures)

The Holy Spirit works in regenerating the spiritually dead, baptizing saved individuals into the family of God, sealing Christians for eternity, and illuminating Christians with the truth.



Quotable

The Holy Spirit reveals the deep things of God to us in the Word of God, the Bible.

— Charles R. Swindoll



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DOORWAY TO HISTORY

God's Signet Ring

Seals were important objects in the ancient world of the Bible. Usually engraved, like signet rings, seals were made of semiprecious stones, gold, and onyx.¹ Their significance in the Bible was twofold. First, usually with an image impressed in wax, they physically sealed letters (1 Kings 21:8), legal documents (Nehemiah 9:38; Jeremiah 32:10), scrolls (Isaiah 29:11; Revelation 5:1), or doorways (Matthew 27:66). Second, figuratively, seals, like rings, united lovers (Song of Solomon 8:6), symbolized the deputizing power of God (Haggai 2:23), served as a sign of covenant ratification (Romans 4:11), and became a form of identification (1 Corinthians 9:2) and a declaration of ownership (2 Timothy 2:19; Revelation 9:4).

God's seal of the Holy Spirit—His signet ring, if you will—gives assurance that believers in Christ can never lose their salvation; they are secure and safe under the ownership and authority of God.



LET'S LIVE IT

Why should we care? Because we must guard against the thought that we have reached the pinnacle of our Christian maturity. Though the Holy Spirit no longer gives divine revelation through divine inspiration, He continues to give divine illumination into God's deep truth and to move us to take the gospel message of the Savior where it is needed.

What are the implications for your spiritual growth, given the fact that the Holy Spirit no longer gives divine revelation or inspiration but continues to provide illumination?

ENDNOTE

1. See Larry G. Herr, "Seal," in *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, vol. 4, Q–Z (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1988), 369.



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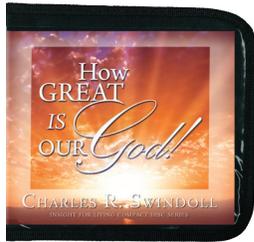
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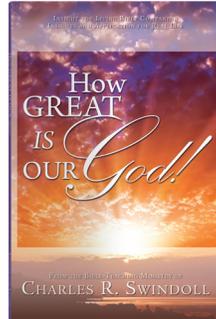
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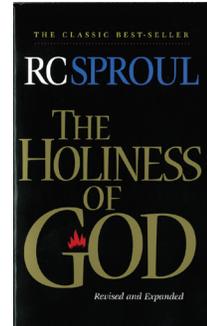
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