

Nicene Creed

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father (and the Son)

Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. Who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

[Genesis 1:1–2](#) NLT

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.* The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.

In the OT *rûaḥ* occurs 378 times in Hebrew texts and 11 times in Aramaic passages. Its basic meaning is “wind, moving air,” and “breath.” Between the latter and the two former there is no strict distinction

[Jeremiah 13:24](#) ESV

I will scatter you like chaff driven by the wind from the desert.

[Numbers 11:31](#) ESV

Then a wind from the Lord sprang up, and it brought quail from the sea and let them fall beside the camp, about a day’s journey on this side and a day’s journey on the other side, around the camp, and about two cubits above the ground.

1. How is the Hebrew word *rûaḥ* being used in [Jeremiah 13:24](#) and [Numbers 11:31](#)?

Beyond this essentially physical meaning, *rûaḥ* is used to refer to qualities of human beings, God, and—less frequently—animals and supernatural spirits.

[Ezekiel 3:14](#) ESV

The Spirit lifted me up and took me away, and I went in bitterness in the heat of my spirit, the hand of the Lord being strong upon me.

[Numbers 11:25](#) ESV

Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him, and took some of the Spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied. But they did not continue doing it.

2. How do you think the Hebrew word *rûah* is being used in [Ezekiel 3:14](#) and [Numbers 11:25](#)?

[Judges 3:7–11](#) NLT

3. Why was the Lord angry with Israel? ([3:7](#))

4. What does this story tell us about why God allows bad things to happen to believers?

5. What did the Lord do because of Israel's rebellion? ([3:8](#))

6. What are some of the temptations Christians face in our modern culture?

7. How did God respond to Israel's prayers for deliverance? ([3:9](#))

8. What do you think is the meaning of "The Spirit of the Lord came upon him"? ([3:10](#))

9. How was Othniel able to bring Israel peace? ([3:9–11](#))

Genesis 1:1–5 ESV

10. How did the author describe the earth at the beginning of creation? ([1:1–2](#))

11. What hovers the surface of the waters? ([1:1–2](#))

12. What is the significance of God speaking, "Let there be light"?

Genesis 1:27 NLT

So God created human beings* in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

13. What do you think the Image of God is?

14. Who is made in the Image of God?

15. What does "male and female he created them" mean for you?

Genesis 2:7 KJV

And the Lord God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

16. How is it significant that God created man and “breathed into him the breath of life”?

Acts 2:1–13 NLT

17. What was celebrated on the day of Pentecost? ([2:1](#))

18. Where did a violent wind come from? ([2:2](#))

19. What was the importance of the wind and fire? ([2:2–4](#))

20. When the Holy Spirit filled the believers, what did they do? ([2:4](#))

21. How did the God-fearing Jews visiting Jerusalem react when they heard Christians speaking their languages? ([2:6–11](#))

22. What languages were the Jews from Galilee speaking? ([2:9–11](#))

23. What was the topic of conversation among the crowds? ([2:11](#))

24. Besides being amazed, how did the crowd react to the unusual happening they witnessed? ([2:12–13](#))

25. Why is the coming of the Spirit associated with wind, fire, and different languages?

26. When has God enabled you to do something that you didn't think you could do

27. How could our church benefit from greater sensitivity to the Holy Spirit?

28. How can we cultivate sensitivity to the Holy Spirit?

[Acts 2:14–21](#) NLT

29. When Peter stood up to speak, who stood up with him? ([2:14](#))

30. Why did Peter quote from [Joel 2](#)? ([2:17–21](#))

31. *Why does Joel link the outpouring of God's Spirit with 'the day of the Lord' ([2:31](#))?*

32. *What could this suggest about the Holy Spirit's role in the world?*

33. *What evidence is there that the Holy Spirit continues to be at work in (a) the global church and (b) our own church today?*

[Acts 2:29–47](#) NLT

34. Who sent the Holy Spirit? ([2:32–33](#))

35. What effect did Peter's sermon have? ([2:41](#))

36. How many were added to the fellowship of believers that day? ([2:41](#))

37. What happened to those who accepted Peter's message? ([2:41](#))

38. What did Peter say about Jesus of Nazareth? ([2:22–24](#))

39. How did Peter explain Christ's work as Messiah? ([2:25–35](#))

40. What did Peter tell his audience to do? ([2:38–40](#))

41. Why do you think God chose the Feast of Pentecost to send the Holy Spirit?

42. In what ways do you need to be more like Peter?

43. How can you prepare your friends and neighbors for the news that Christ can change their lives?

44. How have you been changed by the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life?

We believe in one holy catholic, and apostolic Church.

Throughout the New Testament, “the church” designates the universal church, to which all believers belong.

[Acts 9:31](#) ESV

So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

[Colossians 1:18](#) ESV

And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

Jesus implies a larger meaning for the Church

[Matthew 16:18–19](#) ESV

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

[Ephesians 1:22–23](#) ESV

And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

[Ephesians 2:19–22](#) ESV

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

Gk verb for “baptize,” *baptizein*, is formed from *baptein*, “dip,” and means “dip frequently or intensively, plunge, immerse.” By Plato’s time and onwards it is often used in a figurative sense (e.g., in the passive, “soaked” in wine, Plato *Symp.* 176 B)

[2 Kings 5:1–5](#) ESV

[2 Kings 5:10-14](#) NLT

45. In what way can a serious illness make a person more or less inclined to trust God?

46. What was Naaman’s reaction to the instructions to wash in the Jordan? ([5:11–12](#))

Mark 1:9–10 NLT

47. What reasons to be baptized did John give the people? ([1:4](#))

48. What had to happen before John could baptize a person? ([1:5](#))

49. What usually prevents us from being Christ's witnesses?

50. What step could you take this week toward becoming a better witness for Christ?

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Matthew 22:23–33 ESV

51. What rare, unlikely scenario did the Sadducees describe for Jesus? ([22:25–27](#))

52. What two important facts did Jesus charge the Sadducees with not knowing? ([22:29](#))

53. What did Jesus say about angels and marriage? ([22:30](#))

54. What distinctive belief did the Sadducees hold? ([22:23](#))

[John 6:39–40](#) NLT

And this is the will of God, that I should not lose even one of all those he has given me, but that I should raise them up at the last day. For it is my Father's will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life. I will raise them up at the last day."

55. What did Jesus say is the Father's will? ([6:39–40](#))

56. How does understanding that those who look to Jesus for salvation will not be lost shape our view of God's grace and mercy?

57. How does the assurance of eternal life impact the way you approach challenges in your spiritual journey?

[Revelation 20](#) NLT

58. Where will the final judgment of all people take place? ([20:11–12](#))

59. What do you think is the significance of the 'great white throne' mentioned in this passage?

60. What does it mean for you personally to understand that our actions have eternal consequences?

61. What steps can you take to ensure you are living in alignment with the truths expressed in [Revelation 20:11–15](#)?

62. In what ways can the message of hope in this passage provide encouragement during tough times?

63. Who will be involved in the final judgment? ([20:12](#))

64. What records will be used to judge everyone? ([20:12](#))

65. On what basis will people be judged at the end of time? ([20:12–13](#))

66. What will happen to those whose names are not found in the Book of Life? ([20:15](#))

[Revelation 21:1–4](#) ESV

67. What did John see once all the judgments had taken place? ([21:1](#))

68. In his vision, what did John see coming down out of heaven from God? ([21:2](#))

69. What did the voice that John heard speaking from the throne of God announce? ([21:3](#))

70. What will life be like in heaven? ([21:4](#))

71. What is the most beautiful place you have ever been?

72. What is one of the happiest or best memories you have?

73. What does the term 'new heaven and new earth' signify to you in the context of God's promises for the future?

74. How does the imagery of God wiping away tears influence your understanding of His compassion and care for us?

75. How can the assurance of a future without suffering motivate us to endure hardships in our lives today?

76. How can we embody the hope and comfort of [Revelation 21:1-4](#) in our communities this week?

