

The Spirit of God is the one who implements the plans of the godhead. Yet in all this implementation of God's purposes, and especially in the application of Christ's redemptive work, the Holy Spirit appears to remain in the background, to keep Himself out of the center of attention, to keep the spotlight of importance and emphasis off Himself, and to focus our attention on the Second Person of the Trinity, the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Spirit is the Person of the Trinity who exerts energy and exercises efficiency to move the purposes of the godhead toward fulfillment. And yet He appears to do so quietly, unobtrusively, and modestly, preferring to give the place of honor (especially during the earthly ministry of our Lord and the period just following it) to the Son.

One of the scriptures in which this quiet, unobtrusive attitude may be seen is John 16:14-15, in which Jesus says, "He (the Spirit) will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you."

B. The Varied Ministries of the Spirit

The Spirit of God does some things in the implementation of the purposes of God that the other members of the godhead do not do. When we turn to the scriptures to discover the specific things the Spirit does, we are amazed to find out how many ministries the Spirit carries on.

Here is an enumeration of some of them:

<u>MINISTRY</u>	<u>REFERENCE</u>
1. Creation	Genesis 1:2 -- "Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."
2. Revelation	II Samuel 23:2-3 -- "The Spirit of the Lord spoke through me; his word was on my tongue. The God of Israel spoke, the Rock of Israel said to me."
3. Inspiration of Scripture	II Peter 1:21 -- "For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."
4. Restraint of Sin	Genesis 6:3 -- "Then the Lord said, 'My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal.' "
5. Power to cast out demons	Matthew 12:28 -- "But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you."
6. Conception of Christ's human nature	Matthew 1:18, 20 -- "This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit . . . 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.' "