



The Holy Spirit

Appendix B

SYMBOLS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Because of the various operations and manifestations of the Holy Spirit’s work and ministry, it has pleased the Father that the Spirit be symbolized. These varied symbols set forth the nature, character and function of the Spirit, even as do the symbols of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Water	The Spirit symbolized as water speaks of the life-giving flow which refreshes and satisfies. It also speaks of washing, cleansing and fruitfulness.	John 7:38, 39; 4:4; Psalm 72:6; 87:7; Isaiah 44:3; Exodus 17:6 with 1 Corinthians 10:4.
Fire	This symbolizes the holiness of God whereby the Holy Spirit is sent forth in judgment to purge, purify and enliven with zeal.	Matthew 3:11; Acts 2:3; Isaiah 4:4; Exodus 19:18; Malachi 3:2, 3; Hebrews 13:29
Wind or Breath	These symbolize the life-giving breath of God in its regenerating power. It underscores the fact that the Holy Spirit is invisible as a person, yet the effect of His work can be seen.	Acts 2:2; John 3:8; Ezekiel 37:9-10; Isaiah 40:7
Dew	Dew only comes in the stillness of the night, bringing refreshing to the mown grass. So it is with the refreshing work of the Spirit in the Church	Psalm 133:1-3; Hosea 14:5
Oil	Oil was distinctly involved in the anointing of the prophets, priests and kings to their offices. It speaks of the consecration and supernatural enablement of the Spirit’s anointing grace, the	Luke 4:18; Acts 10:38; 1 John 2:20, 27; Psalm 23:5

	illumination of His teaching, the soothing and healing balm of His presence. It is the Spirit who anoints the members of the Church to their priestly functions.	
The Dove	The symbol of the dove is used to represent purity, beauty, gentleness and peace, the nature and character of the Holy Spirit	Matthew 3:16 ; Luke 3:22 ; Genesis 1:2 ; Matthew 10:16
The Seal	A seal is significant of ownership, genuineness and security. This emphasizes the Spirit's activity confirming to us God's ownership of us, His authority over us and our security in Him.	Ephesians 1:13 ; 2 Corinthians 1:22 ; Ephesians 4:30 ; 2 Timothy 2:19
The Still Small Voice	The Spirit is the voice of God within man bringing a revelation of God's will to him.	Genesis 3:8 ; 1 Kings 19:11-13
The Finger of God	The Spirit is the one who points the accusing finger at the sinner, to bring about conviction with a view to the accused accepting Jesus Christ as his advocate	Luke 11:20 ; Matthew 12:28
The First Fruits	The first fruits were always symbolic of the full harvest to come, so the Spirit's initial work of regeneration points to the full salvation and glorification of the believer before God	Romans 8:23
The Earnest	The earnest was always a down-payment, a pledge of more to come. So the Spirit's work in salvation is simply the pledge of full and total redemption to come. This symbol is similar to the first fruits	2 Corinthians 1:22 ; 5:5 ; Ephesians 1:13-14
Enduement	The symbol of enduement means	Luke 24:49 with

	<p>the clothing of the Spirit upon someone. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the divine clothing from above. It is the believer's garment for ministry before the Lord.</p>	<p>Judges 6:34; Isaiah 61:10</p>
<p>The Number Seven</p>	<p>The number seven is used in relation to the Holy Spirit. It is a number symbolic of fullness, completeness and perfection. It represents the fullness and perfection of the Spirit's operation in the earth.</p> <p>Three examples show this symbolic truth of the Spirit's work.</p> <p>Seven Lamps These are symbolic of the Spirit's illumination, revelation and inspiration. Lamps must have oil to have light.</p> <p>Seven Horns Horns are symbolic of power and defence. Seven horns speak of omnipotence; the Spirit is all-powerful.</p> <p>Seven Eyes Eyes are symbolic of sight, insight, perception, intelligence and discernment. Seven eyes speak of the Spirit's omniscience, fullness and perfection of sight and insight.¹</p>	<p>Revelation 1:3-4; 4:5; 5:6 Proverbs 20:27 Revelation 5:6 Revelation 5:6, Zechariah 3:9; 4:10</p>

¹ Kevin J Conner *The Foundations of Christian Doctrine* page 80-82