

We are Pentecostal
resistant

Our perception is limited
to what we see with
outward signs

Two Real Realities

1. The holy spirit is not the exclusive property of pentecostals.
2. You cannot judge the holy spirit by what you witness in a worship experience.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

325AD Council of Nicaea

Nicene Creed

The Nicene Creed was one of the first affirmations of faith within the body of Christ and it dealt with the nature of Jesus in relationship with God.

the answer came in a term
presented by **Athanasius**
called Homousious.

Homo - same

Jesus is...

Holy like God

Divine like God

Omnipotent like God

Eternal like God

They knew the Holy Spirit was real.
They felt the power of the Holy Spirit.
But didn't know the relationship of
the Holy Spirit to God and to Jesus.

The debate about Jesus
was easier than the Holy
Spirit.

What is the true nature
of the Holy Spirit?

This debate introduced us to great theologians that helped shape western christianity.

The **Cappadocian** Fathers, also traditionally **known as** the **Three Cappadocians**, are Basil the Great (330–379), who was bishop of Caesarea; Basil's younger brother Gregory of Nyssa (c.332–395), who was bishop of Nyssa; and a close friend, Gregory of Nazianzus (329–389), who became Patriarch of Constantinople.

- Tertullian
- Augustine

Council of Constantinople

(381AD)

Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed

In the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed they added their understanding of the Holy Spirit.

And they learned the Holy Spirit has the same homousious as Jesus and God.

It ended the issue..

**..but it raised
another.**

Part of their declaration was
this homousious was made
manifest in three **hypostases**...

Hypostases - persons

What came out of Constantinople
is probably the most difficult
doctrine for the church to deal
with.

Doctrine of the **Trinity**.

God the Father
God the Son
God the Holy Spirit

Doctrine of the Trinity

1. distinctive

Doctrine of the Trinity is a
distinctive mark of
Christianity.



The same way the cross is our iconic symbol and our brand;

at the core of our doctrine and our faith, we believe God comes to us in 3 persons.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to
Thee;

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

2. Differentiates

The Trinity **differentiates**
us from other religions

We are the only people on the face of the earth who claims that God is one in 3 people.

islam does not,
judaism,
hinduism,
buddhism, no other religion.

3. It's difficult

It almost seems self contradictory
to say God is three people in one.
How could 3 people be one?

They (devout muslims,
jews) hold to the
monotheism of God

Montheistic -

Tritheistic (**Tritheism** is the belief that cosmic divinity is composed of three powerful entities)

In order to understand the
Trinity that allows us to
understand the Holy Spirit.

1. We have to establish the same God we acknowledge that is in Jesus is the same God that is the Holy Spirit.

Is the Holy Spirit God?

Typically when we say
God we associate that
with God the father.

Jesus Christ is our God.
Jesus is God made flesh
Word incarnate
Emanuel (God with us)

There is a God.

Jesus is God.

Is the Holy Spirit that same God?

Peter believed the Holy Spirit and
God were the same.

(Acts 5: 1-4)

Ananias, with Sapphira

Peter understands the
Holy Spirit and God are
the same.

Paul believes the holy spirit and
God are the same.

(1 Corinthians 3:16)

(1 Corinthians 6:19)

Hebrews 9

The Holy Spirit is eternal.

When God created the heavens and the earth the bible says the spirit moved across the face of the earth because the spirit was in existence before the earth was.

The Holy Spirit is
omniscient

Paul says in 1 Corinthians
2:10 The Holy Spirit knows all
things even the mind of God.

The Holy Spirit is
omnipresent

Paul said every city he went to he encountered the Holy Spirit because there is no where you can go and the Holy Spirit is not there when you get there.

The Holy Spirit is
omnipotent.

How does Mary get pregnant?

Gabriel says the Holy Spirit will come upon you and the Holy Spirit is so omnipotent the Holy Spirit could impregnate a virgin without a man.

You've experienced his
omnipotence of the Holy
Spirit in your life.

According to the word of God what changes you is
not Jesus and not God the father.

What changes you is the presence of the Holy Spirit
working on your heart, and mouth, and ...

Is God really 3 and
one?

Exodus 3

Moses said I need a
name

God wants Moses to know i
don't just have **one** name; I
will reveal to you who I am.

Back up against the
wall - Jehovah Jireh

Sick and He healed
you - Jehovah Rapha

Fight your battles -
Jehovah Nissi

The Jews understood there was only 1 God (monotheism). Deuteronomy 6:4 Moses gives the commandment that says hear oh Israel the Lord our God is one. There is only one god.

Most dominant name the
jews used for God is
Elohim.

Hebrew

Elohim

suffix IM is plural

There's plurality in
unity.

When God's ready to create
Adam and Eve He says Let
us create them in our image.

jacket
shirt

The pants is one garment but its
plural.

How can something singular be
plural.

Because pants are
singular up top - but
plural at the bottom.