



*And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface ... Genesis 1 v 2*

Right from the start, before God spoke the world into existence, His Spirit was there – hovering over the surface. The potential energy of the life force sparkling and crackling with power before God had even created light. Some have argued that the creative force – whether the urge to save life, to create new life or procreate or even just to make things - is the image in which mankind was made. Surely this is an important part of the work of the Holy Spirit?

Having just returned from (another!) visit to York Minster, I am reminded of being just one link in a chain of believers stretching back to Jesus. I am, again, awed at the vision of the founders of that cathedral, as they trusted God for the funds to create that soaring stone structure. I am fascinated at the unity of a building which was constructed over 250 years ago and how the changing fashions of architecture have yet contributed to such a unique and satisfying whole, which still dominates the skyline of York as it would have when it was first built. The breadth of ideas and celebration of talent takes my breath away. And it is not a hollow relic or museum but still a lively and outward looking congregation, continuing to worship and glorify God on a site which has probably been used for Christian activities since the Romans occupied Britain. As the Olympic flame is passed from runner to runner, the flame of Pentecost is handed on from generation to generation ... and from missionary to new believers ... to congregations all over the world, thanks to the Holy Spirit.

And, here is a good question for you! What is the greatest work of the Holy Spirit?

Some years ago I remember our friend Kevin asking us this question. I don't remember what feeble answer I gave, but Kevin's reply shaped my life. He said that the greatest work of the Holy Spirit was bringing one person to a knowledge of their need of salvation. Understanding the grace through which we have been made whole again, new people with a new life ahead of us.

I'd like to end with a chunk of scripture, quoted from Colossians 3 in The Message about that New Life. As you relax in the sun of summer you may think about the huge difference that should be showing in your life.

### ***He Is Your Life***

*So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ - that's where the action is. See things from his perspective.*

*Your old life is dead. Your new life, which is your real life - even though invisible to spectators - is with Christ in God. He is your life. When Christ (your real life, remember) shows up again on this earth, you'll show up, too - the real you, the glorious you ...*

*You're done with that old life. It's like a filthy set of ill-fitting clothes you've stripped off and put in the fire. Now you're dressed in a new wardrobe. Every item of your new way of life is custom-made by the Creator, with his label on it. All the old fashions are now obsolete. Words like Jewish and non-Jewish, religious and irreligious, insider and outsider, uncivilized and uncouth, slave and free, mean nothing. From now on everyone is defined by Christ, everyone is included in Christ.*

*So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offence. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.*

*Let the peace of Christ keep you in tune with each other, in step with each other. None of this going off and doing your own thing. And cultivate thankfulness. Let the Word of Christ - the Message - have the run of the house. Give it plenty of room in your lives. Instruct and direct one another using good common sense. And sing, sing your hearts out to God! Let every detail in your lives - words, actions, whatever - be done in the name of the Master, Jesus, thanking God the Father every step of the way.*

***With all love  
Tracey***

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