The Procession of the Spirit

God the Holy Spirit · The Trinity

As the Son is eternally begotten of the Father, so the Spirit eternally proceeds from the Father (and, according to Western theology, from the Son as well—the filioque). This procession is not a temporal event but an eternal relation, defining the Spirit's personal mode of subsistence within the Trinity. The Spirit is sent by both Father and Son in the economy of redemption, reflecting this eternal procession. He is called both 'the Spirit of God' and 'the Spirit of Christ,' belonging equally to both. The Spirit does not speak of Himself but glorifies Christ, even as Christ glorifies the Father—a beautiful mutual glorification within the Trinity.

Key Verses

John 15:26

But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me.

John 14:26

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things.

Galatians 4:6

And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Romans 8:9

But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

John 16:14

He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

Philippians 1:19

For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

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