

The Seven-fold Spirit of God i.e. the Holy Spirit¹

“John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; **and from the seven Spirits** which are before his throne;” – **Rev. 1:4**

“And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; **These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God...**” – **Rev. 3:1**

“And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, **which are the seven Spirits of God.**” – **Rev. 4:5**

“And I beheld, and lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, **which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.**” – **Rev. 5:6**

“**The seven Spirits.** Many understand this to refer to *the Holy Spirit in His perfect fullness...* though some take this as a reference to seven angels who are before God’s throne.”² Cf. two OT verses:

“For behold the stone that I have laid before Joshua; **upon one stone shall be seven eyes:** behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.” – **Zech. 3:9**

“**And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.**” – **Isa. 11:2**

Let’s break that verse down:

“And (1) *the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,* (2) *the spirit of wisdom and* (3) *understanding,* (4) *the spirit of counsel and* (5) *might,* (6) *the spirit of knowledge and* (7) *of the fear of the LORD.*”

Regarding the number seven: “The number seven, occurring 54 times in the book [of Revelation], appears more frequently than any other number. **In the Bible it is associated with completion, fulfillment, and perfection** (cf. **Gen. 2:2; Ex. 20:10; Lev. 14:7; Acts 6:3**). In Revelation there are seven churches and seven spirits (1:4), seven lampstands (*candlesticks*, 1:12), seven stars (1:16), seven seals on the scroll (5:1), seven horns and seven eyes of the Lamb (5:6), seven angels and seven trumpets (8:2), seven thunders (10:3), seven heads of the dragon (12:3), seven heads of the beast (13:1), seven golden bowls (*vials*, 15:7), and seven kings (17:10).”³

As the second member of the Trinity, *the Lord Jesus Christ manifested these same characteristics & attributes* since all three persons of the Godhead are the same in essence cf. Jn. 14:16 where the word *another* means another of the *same kind* (see a separate handout on the word “*another.*”) Ryrie observes: “**The whole undivided essence of God belongs equally to each of the three persons.**”⁴

“Though the tree of David is felled (Isa. 6:13), A *rod* (shoot) or *Branch* would grow up from the stump (the family of David; *Jesse* was David’s father, 1 Sam. 17:12), in the person of Messiah. **He would be characterized by the fullness of the Holy Spirit (v. 2) and absolute integrity (vv. 3-5).**”⁵

In light of that it’s interesting to note what Jesus read at the beginning of His earthly ministry: “*The* (1) *Spirit of the LORD is upon me, Because He has anointed Me* (2) *to preach the gospel to the poor;* (3) *He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,* (4) *To proclaim liberty to the captives* (5) *And recovery of sight to the blind,* (6) *To set at liberty those who are oppressed,* (7) *To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.*” – **Luke 4:16** (NKJV)

¹ Compiled & written by Mike Edwards, Bible Baptist Church, Madison, Ohio, July 24 & 28, 2015 (bolding added-*mwe*)

² Ryrie, p. 1919 (study note)

³ Ibid, italics in the original.

⁴ Charles Ryrie, *Basic Theology* (Moody Press: Chicago, IL, 1986, 1999), p. 61

⁵ Charles C. Ryrie, *The Ryrie Study Bible* (Moody Press: Chicago, IL, 1986, 1994), p. 1025 (note), italics in the original.