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Divine Analogies

**Divine Analogies: Reflections On My
Relationship With The Holy Spirit**

Book 4 of the Series

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Divine Analogies: Reflections On My Relationship With The Holy Spirit

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Divine Analogies Volume 4 Introduction

Reflections On My Relationship With The Holy Spirit

Over my fifty years of following Christ, one truth has surprised me more than any other: the Holy Spirit is far more involved in my daily life than I ever imagined possible.

When I first committed myself to following Jesus, I understood the importance of the Father. I was captivated by the Son. But the Holy Spirit remained something of a mystery. I believed in Him because Scripture taught it, yet I viewed Him more as a theological concept than a living Person.

That slowly changed.

Over time, the Holy Spirit became my constant Companion, Protector, Comforter, Guide, Counselor, plus much more. What began as a belief matured into a relationship. What once seemed mysterious became deeply personal.

Looking back, I now realize that much of my spiritual growth occurred when I learned to trust His leading rather than relying on my own understanding or power.

This volume is a collection of reflections drawn from that journey. It is not intended to be my layman's view on the theology of the Holy Spirit. Rather, it is a series of analogies, experiences, observations, and biblical reflections that helped me better understand who the Holy Spirit is and how He works in my life.

Some readers will agree with what I write. Others may not. That is perfectly acceptable. My purpose is not to win arguments but to encourage exploration. I simply invite you to consider the possibility that the Holy Spirit desires a far more active role in your life than you may have imagined.

The Apostle Paul tells us that God's eternal purpose is to unite all things in heaven and on earth under Christ (Eph 1:10). I have come to believe that the Holy Spirit is God's primary means of accomplishing that purpose within His people today. Through Him, believers are comforted, strengthened, transformed, and equipped to participate in Christ's mission.

My prayer is simple: that these reflections inspire you to know the Holy Spirit not merely as a concept to be studied, but as the living presence of God who guides, empowers, and transforms those who follow Jesus.

Chuck Vollmer

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Holy Spirit as the Presence of Christ

If Jesus is in Heaven, how is He still with me? The answer is the Holy Spirit. Jesus may have ascended into heaven, but He did not leave His disciples alone. Through the Spirit, His presence is as real today as when He walked the roads of Galilee.



One of the most astonishing claims Jesus ever made was that it would be better for His disciples if He left them. I can't imagine hearing that. The men who walked beside Him, learned from Him, and witnessed His miracles were told that His departure would be to their advantage because the Father would send another Helper (Jn 16:7). At first glance, that makes little sense. How could anything be better than having Jesus physically present?

Before His ascension, Jesus promised He would not leave His followers as orphans (Jn 14:18). He promised that the Spirit of Truth would come, dwell within them, and remind them of everything He said (Jn 14:16-17, 26). Through the Holy Spirit, Christ's ministry would not end. It would expand from a few disciples in Judea to millions of believers worldwide.

For decades, I thought of the Spirit primarily as God's power. Today, I know Him as my Companion. He is the presence of Christ in my daily life. When He empowers and directs my steps, I become an active participant in the living ministry of the risen Jesus.

The Apostle Paul described the Holy Spirit as both the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ dwelling within believers (Rom 8:9-11). He testified that Christ lived in him (Gal 2:20). Scripture even refers to the Holy Spirit as "the Spirit of Jesus" (Act 16:7; Php 1:19). These passages convinced me that the Spirit is not merely carrying a message from Christ. He is the divine means through which Christ remains personally present among His people.

While Jesus reigns at the Father's right hand as Head of the Church (Eph 1:20-23), the Holy Spirit carries His presence throughout the earth. He teaches, empowers, sanctifies, unites, equips, and distributes spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12:4-11). He produces spiritual fruit (Gal 5:22-23), intercedes in prayer (Rom 8:26-27), and guides disciples into truth (Jn 16:13). Through Him, Christ remains actively engaged in the lives of His followers.

The more I learn from the Spirit, the more I realize that Christianity was never intended to be merely a set of beliefs, traditions, or moral principles. It is a living relationship with a living Savior. The Holy Spirit makes that relationship possible. Without the Spirit, Christianity risks becoming little more than doctrine, ritual, or human effort. With Him, believers become living ambassadors of Christ's kingdom, transformed into His likeness and empowered to participate in God's eternal purpose of uniting all things under His Son (Eph 1:10).

Holy Spirit as a Member of the Living Shield

When I first tried to understand the Trinity, I thought of it as a theological puzzle: three distinct persons yet one God. Over time, through prayer and reflection, I began to see it not as a riddle to be solved, but as the living shield that protects me every day. The more I trusted God, the clearer it became. The Father plans, the Son redeems, and the Holy Spirit empowers. Together they do far more than explain God—they surround me with His presence.

The Shield of Faith, described in Ephesians 6:16, symbolizes how trust in God protects me from the fiery attacks of doubt and fear. A shield isn't something I admire hanging on a wall. It moves with me into every battle, protecting me from both enemy assaults and my own poor decisions. Each Person of the Trinity works in perfect harmony to strengthen my faith, restore my brokenness, and keep me moving forward.



The term Economic Trinity describes how God acts in the world—His work in creation, redemption, and ongoing transformation. The word *economic* comes from the Greek *oikonomia*, meaning God's divine administration or plan. In this sense, the Father is the architect, the Son is the builder, and the Holy Spirit is the One who breathes life, power, and purpose into the entire work. I see this divine order most clearly when life feels chaotic. The Father's authority gives me direction, the Son's sacrifice grants me forgiveness, and the Spirit's guidance empowers me to endure.

This concept is often contrasted with the Immanent Trinity, which reveals who God is in His eternal essence—how the Father, Son, and Spirit relate to one another apart from creation. To me, this is the steel beneath the shield. The Father loves the Son, the Son loves the Father, and the Spirit eternally shares in that perfect communion. That relationship did not begin with creation and will never end. It is the unbreakable strength behind everything God does.

The Economic Trinity reveals the Immanent Trinity. In other words, what God does reveals who God is. That simple truth transformed the way I think about the Trinity. Instead of trying to solve an impossible mystery, I began experiencing the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit working together throughout my daily life.

These concepts help me better understand the Trinity's mysterious nature and how I relate to each divine Person. The Father anchors me in purpose, the Son redeems my failures, and the Spirit renews my strength and sets my course. Together, they are far more than a doctrine I confess. They are my Living Shield. Protected by Their perfect unity, I can advance through personal struggles, spiritual warfare, and the growing confrontation with the satanic trinity, knowing the victory ultimately belongs to God.

Holy Spirit as Grace, Part 1

I often wonder how a world so fractured by humans can still produce such beauty, order, and kindness. From my perspective, the answer lies in the dual nature of grace orchestrated by the Holy Spirit, who operates on two distinct “frequencies.” The Spirit is the sustaining energy source of all creation, animating every living creature. He also serves as the *energeia*—the supernatural indwelling power that transforms believers. To me, this distinction reflects what theologians call Common Grace and Special Grace. One sustains. The other saves.



Common Grace is the universal benevolence of the Spirit poured out upon all humankind. Through this mercy, He allows goodness to survive in a broken world by giving humanity the capacity to create, discover, govern, heal, and appreciate beauty. Every time a secular scientist develops a life-saving treatment, or an artist captures a truth that moves us to tears, I see the Spirit giving “life and breath and all things” (Act 17:25). Before I followed Christ, I could recognize beauty, kindness, and love, but I could not fully absorb them. They stirred my mind more than my soul. Looking back, I now see those moments as evidence of Common Grace quietly sustaining both my life and the world around me. Yet Common Grace only preserves; it does not redeem. It is external and universal, whereas Divine Grace is internal and personal.

Special Grace, also known as Saving Grace, is the saving work of the Holy Spirit that seals, justifies, and adopts a person into the family of God. Through this grace, the Spirit introduces a divine *energeia* into the believer—not human effort disguised as religion, but God’s active presence transforming the soul from within. In my own life, this transformation did not happen overnight. It unfolded gradually as the Holy Spirit reshaped my desires, convictions, and character into something more Christlike.

Over time, the qualities I once admired from a distance—love, mercy, patience, forgiveness, and compassion—began taking root within me. The Spirit empowers believers to bear the “fruit of the Spirit,” such as love, joy, and patience (Gal 5:22-23), while shaping their lives to reflect the “aroma of Christ” pleasing to the Father (2 Cor 2:15). Consequently, while all people reflect God’s craftsmanship through Common Grace, only those indwelt by the Spirit are spiritually adopted as children of God (Rom 8:14-16).

This understanding fills me with both sobriety and gratitude. Without the restraining influence of the Holy Spirit, humanity would rapidly descend into chaos. Every stable government, medical breakthrough, and genuine act of compassion reflects the Spirit restraining darkness while sustaining civilization. To me, Common Grace explains why civilization still stands, while Divine Grace explains how souls are transformed. Until the Eschaton begins, the Holy Spirit continues to preserve a place where light, beauty, mercy, and redemption may still dwell.

Holy Spirit as Grace, Part 2

For years, I struggled with the relationship between soul and spirit. My “aha” moment came when the Holy Spirit showed me how to equate the soul with Common Grace and the spirit with Special Grace, drawing a clear line between what is universally human and what is distinctly spiritual. This is now how I process reality.

Humans are composed of a body, soul (psyche), and spirit (pneuma). My material body relates to the physical world through my five senses. My immaterial soul relates to the psychological world, turning raw sensory input into unique thoughts, emotions, and choices. My spirit relates to the metaphysical realm, reaching toward truth and meaning. Before the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, my spirit was linked to this world and to the powers and influences that rule it. After the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, my spirit became linked to the Creator of all worlds.



In Christianity, the soul is a unique, divine creation breathed into humanity by God. It is the seat of free will, conscience, and individual identity. It is immortal, surviving physical death to face judgment or transition into an afterlife. I see my soul as my psychological command center—the seat of my intellect, emotions, and unique personality. My spirit, by contrast, serves as a vertical antenna specifically designed to connect me with Father God through His Son, Jesus.

The easiest way to think about the difference is in terms of direction: the soul looks horizontally inward into my history and outward toward the world, shaping my personality, while my Spirit-filled spirit looks upward, connecting me to the universal, the divine, and the transcendent. Operating across these two faculties are two distinct expressions of divine favor: Common Grace and Special Grace.

In my life as a non-believer, because of Common Grace, my soul appreciated beauty, formulated complex strategies, and practiced civic virtue. Since Common Grace is inherently horizontal, I operated strictly within the boundaries of the natural world. Despite outward success, I still felt empty inside, tethered exclusively to the material world.

In my life as a believer, the interaction between these forces creates a powerful, harmonious alignment. When the Holy Spirit introduced Special Grace, He ignited my spirit, which had once sat dark and unresponsive. This awakened spirit immediately began to reorient my soul. My free will, intellect, and emotions did not disappear; rather, the Holy Spirit captured them, refined them, and gave them a new propulsion system. The talents and intellect of my soul, which I once used solely for horizontal survival or self-elevation, now serve a vertical purpose.

Holy Spirit as Grace, Part 3

Part 2 explained how I analyzed the interdependence between soul and spirit and the relationship between Common Grace and Special Grace. Now, let me attempt to explain how I experienced this reality as a dedicated follower of Jesus, one who relies on the wisdom and power of the Holy Spirit to keep me from spinning out of control and flying wings level.

Through Common Grace, God gave me the ability to sustain and thrive in a 50-year marriage, rise to leadership positions within Fortune 50 corporations, become a serial business developer, and survive 175 combat missions. This universal gift explains why all people, regardless of belief, can compose magnificent symphonies, pilot aircraft, or exhibit profound human kindness. Scripture underscores this horizontal benevolence, noting that the Creator causes the sun to rise on both the evil and the good (Mat 5:45) and gives life and breath to everything (Act 17:25). Common Grace anchors humanity, equipping souls to navigate the physical world.

As a former pilot, I know that a modern fighter jet is useless without a finely tuned power source. In life, that power source is the human spirit, propelled by the Holy Spirit Himself. If my soul connects me to the earth, the indwelling Holy Spirit serves as my vertical antenna, built specifically to receive the Divine frequency.

By nature, my spirit sits dormant, blinded by the fractures of a broken world and my inherited sin nature. I cannot intellectualize my way into eternity because my intellect is a function of the soul, and my natural mind cannot comprehend spiritual truth (1 Cor 2:14). Transformation requires a sovereign, targeted intervention. Special Grace pierced my armored exterior, breathed life into an inert spirit, and shifted my secular worldview toward a Bible-based one.

This is exactly why Special Grace saves. The Holy Spirit performs a precise, supernatural intervention, awakening undeveloped spirits to recognize the Creator's will and purpose for their lives. The Bible frames this not as a minor tune-up but as a complete resuscitation that moved me from death to life (Eph 2:4-5) and transformed me into a new creation (2 Cor 5:17), softening my heart and making me more empathetic. This grace is a free, unearned gift (Eph 2:8), a divine rescue mission that delivers me from worldly darkness and directs me toward Father God, the God of Light (1 Jn 1:5), Jesus, the light of the world (Jn 8:12), and the light that overcomes all darkness (Jn 1:5).

When the Holy Spirit ignites the human spirit, it changes the soul's entire propulsion system. Our personality, intellect, and memories remain uniquely ours, but they now operate under a higher authority and a grander flight plan. The Holy Spirit seals this connection, testifying directly to our spirit that we belong to the Father (Rom 8:16). Common Grace preserves my soul so that I may live; Special Grace redeems my spirit under a higher authority and power source.

