



# Healing & Wholeness #2

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## The Role of the Holy Spirit

w/c 12 September 2025

*"God is someone who creates something out of nothing. He takes emptiness and creates wholeness. He takes darkness and speaks light. Because of this, we can come to God empty and weak knowing that He takes us and with His power makes something out of nothing." (Vicky Beeching)*

As we approach this aspect of our consideration of healing and wholeness, we must be careful to read the passages through the lens of a New Testament, trinitarian understanding. As the Athanasian Creed puts it, "...we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in unity". In thinking of the Trinity, I often find an idea I heard some time ago to be useful, "Jesus represents humanity within the Godhead, and the Spirit represents the Godhead within humanity."

We saw last week how, in some senses at least, our transformation is complete (Colossians 1:13). In other ways though, it continues for the rest of our life – see, for example, 2 Corinthians 3:18. Writing to the Galatians, Paul describes this change as being the "fruit of the Spirit". It's clear then that we don't 'make' the change, but just what is our role in producing such fruit?

As you read the Corinthians passage, note how in verses four to six Paul emphasises the trinitarian aspects of these gifts and their giving – they are provided by:

The same Spirit (Πνεῦμα - Pneuma)

The same Lord (Κύριος – Kurios)

The same God (Θεός – Theos)

After reading each of our two passages for today (**Isaiah 61:1–6a** and **1 Corinthians 12:1–11**), I suggest that you ask yourself the four questions we used last week and then share your thoughts together:

What does this story tell me about God?

What does it tell me about human life?

If this really is God's word, what will I do as a response to it?

Who am I going to tell about what I have learned from this?

In writing to the church at Corinth, why do you think Paul restricts himself to mentioning just these God-given gifts when it is clear from other Bible passages that there are many others?

In reading the Isaiah passage, how do we get the right balance between considering the actions of the Lord's anointed as just spiritual and seeing them as setting our agenda for action in society today? Are they just metaphors for the good news of Jesus or do they relate more to the ways of God expressed by Isaiah earlier in his writings – for examples, see 1:15–17 or 10:1–2?

*"You don't need another person, place or thing to make you whole. God already did that. Your job is to know it." (Maya Angelou)*