



Series: Closer Than You Think
Message: The Dove From Heaven
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"I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'"

John 1:32–33 (NIV), emphasis added

1. What does the image of the dove say about the Holy Spirit?

Turtle doves:

- never fight
- avoid noise
- are not territorial
- can't be domesticated
- mate for life

Pigeons:

- squabble constantly
- thrive in noise
- bully one another
- can be trained
- have multiple partners

The Holy Spirit is highly sensitive to his environment.

And do not grieve [agitate] the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Ephesians 4:30 (NIV)

2. What does this say about Jesus?

Turtledoves do not ordinarily alight on human beings—let alone “remain”. The dove felt comfortable “remaining” on Jesus because he provided a peaceful environment of gentleness and humility.

- Matthew 11:29
- Matthew 12:20

3. What does this say about us?

If we want to sense that the dove is “remaining” on us, we need to provide a comfortable nesting place—a peaceful environment that does not grieve the Spirit.

We grieve the Spirit (chase the dove away) when...(Ephesians 4:29–32)

- Our speech is unwholesome, lacking grace
- Bitterness, anger, and malice nest inside us
- We lack compassion, refusing to forgive as Christ forgave us
- We give in to sexual immorality, impurity, or greed

“Gentle, loving Holy Spirit,
Quell the tumult and the strife;
Sanctify by Jesus’ merit;
Grant us the experience of thy life!
Only by thy wise selecting can our words and deeds be true;
Thy loving hand correcting maketh us all anew.”

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:14, NIV)