

# Introductory Meditation #1: The Holy Spirit of Christmas

## *What does it say? –*

STUDY: Genesis 1:1-5 and Matthew 1:18-23

GOLDEN TEXTS: Genesis 1:2 and Matthew 1:18 = *Now the earth was a formless void, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.... This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.*

## *What does it mean?*

When the earth was formless and empty, the Holy Spirit was moving. God's dramatic divine presence was felt even *before* "day one." Advent lasts only about a month, but when the Holy Spirit started the new creation in Mary's womb, the first Christmas began with nine months' preparation. What did the Spirit see in the formless creation that he came to protect and nurture? Does the Spirit indwell and nurture only perfect things? How did Mary qualify for her special Christmas role?

1. Could the Holy Spirit be present in darkness? Was it still dark over the face of the deep when he was there?
2. Is the Holy Spirit the One who "lit the fuse" for creation's Big Bang? Did the Holy Spirit start the new humanity inside Mary? What does the Holy Spirit do now?
3. How careful were Joseph and Mary to protect the divine-human life they were given? Are they a model for us to protect the life we have today?

## *What are we going to do about it?*

4. What should happen to us when the Holy Spirit moves over us, as he moved over the original waters? Inspired by him, how should we show care for what he creates?
5. Quick action is often wrong-headed, but the Spirit "moved upon the face of the waters." The Savior could have started as a grown human, but he took the time to develop inside Mary for nine months. How can we spend quality time attending to the Spirit's presence and loving his creation?
6. Who moves us more to care for life around us?—the Divine Infant developing or the Divine Infinite decreeing? Is it either one or the other? Why not both?

***Truth to Celebrate:** The Holy Spirit who led in the original creation also initiated the life of the new humanity—that is, Jesus Christ, in Mary's womb.*

***Advent-Action:** Honor the Spirit who initiated all creation—and continues to initiate new creation. At the same time, save 10-50% on power consumption by choosing only Energy Star appliances, office equipment, cooling and heating in choosing items for yourself and gifts for others.. ([www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov))*

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