

Question: In eternity we always hear about God the Father and Jesus, but what about the Holy Spirit? I know of His work regarding people on this earth, but what about in the future? I don't recall ever hearing/reading of the Trinity beyond this earth.

Answer: The Scriptures do not provide explicit details on the role of the Trinity and Holy Spirit in the eternal realm; however, we can be confident that they will continue to function. One of the dominant themes of Scripture is expressed by Peter: "...fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ" (1 Pet 1:13b; cf. Rom 8:18, 24; 2 Cor 4:16-18). Indeed, that is when a Christian really begins to live. This has implications for the Holy Spirit's role in eternity. Consider the following verses:

- Romans 8:23 "And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body."
- 2 Corinthians 1:22 "Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge."
- 2 Corinthians 2:5 "For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked. For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life. Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge."

From these passages we learn that when we enter into eternity we shall experience an infinitely greater measure of the Spirit than is possible in the present time even though filled by Him to the extent of our feeble capacity (Eph 5:18). Fortunately, in eternity, John tells us that "...we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is" (1 John 3:2b). All sin and unbelief will disappear and nothing will hinder the Spirit's work in our lives. He will successfully conform us into the image of Christ (Rom 8:28; 2 Cor 3:18). Then, we will all "attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ" (Eph 4:13) and we will be "filled up to all the fullness of God" by the Holy Spirit (Eph 3:16-19).

In eternity, the Spirit will share in the absolute manner that Christ becomes the One who "fills all in all" (Eph 1:23; Col 3:11), and the Father Himself, when all things have been subjected to Christ, will become "all in all" (1 Cor 15:28).

Note: In answering this question, I found great help in the following resource: Rene Pache, *The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit* (Chicago: Moody, 1954), 220-223.