



## STREETLIGHT BELIEFS PT 2:

Let's dig into the next article of faith:

***3. We believe that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God, conceived of the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary. He is fully God and fully man without division or confusion of the two natures.***

So let me level with you, I was raised agnostic. And if at the age of seventeen someone told me that I would one day fully embrace and believe in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ, I would have told them they're a whacko and tried to get them high to forget what they just told me.

In my early days of being a psychedelic consuming hedonistic pagan, I quite literally was, (not in the derogatory bible banger sense) **pagan!** I'm talking about believing in the Universe of an atom, being into Greek Mythology, Astrology, and eventually when getting sober also Buddhism, Yoga, Hinduism, and various New Age philosophies. When someone told me of the virgin birth of Jesus, I was like, "Yea right- that's a myth like many of the others that have been made up! It's a nice story and all but totally absurd!"

You know that the Greeks worshipped gods like Zeus who had sex with, impregnated, and even raped human women, right? And yet in the same breath, Euthyphro (from

Plato's dialogues) would also say, "For do not men regard Zeus as the best and most righteous of the gods?" Wow y'all- hard for me to imagine thinking that a *criminal* god was great- but alright...

Yet this "righteous god" was also a wild gigolo. Syd Barrett of the early Pink Floyd would have called him a "gigolo aunt"!

The sheer volume of sexual activity that Zeus participated in is dazzling. Here's a list someone compiled in an article I found online:

To start off, he married his sisters Demeter and Hera (his only other sister, Hestia, must have not been one of his wives only because she couldn't marry), his aunt Mnemosyne, his cousin Leto, another of his cousins' daughter Dione, and yet another of his cousins' daughter Maia. Close relatives aside, he also married some not-so-related females: Semele, Alcmena, and Io (the granddaughter of two siblings that after marriage produced over three thousand sons and daughters). He also married Themis, Eurynome, Europa, and Metis, the last of which he swallowed after marriage (Metis, while in Zeus' stomach, gave birth to Athena, who later exited Zeus' body via his skull). That covers all of his marriages, but he also had other sexual pursuits: for one, he had an affair with his daughter Aphrodite, and some Greek sources say a curse by Hera caused them to give birth to Priapos, a god that was deformed in the shape of a penis.

He went after Asteria but was not successful. As a swan, he had an affair with Nemesis, and he also produced one child with Hybris and two children with Selene, as well as an unspecified amount of offspring with the ninth muse Calliope. He accidentally impregnated his grandmother, Gaea, twice (also to note, Zeus' father Cronos came about when Gaea married her son Uranus). He pursued Persephone twice, once in the world and once in the underworld. He also went after Thetis but dropped the pursuit when it was prophesied that she would give birth to a son greater than whoever the father would be.

Zeus also abducted the Naiad Aigina for sexual purposes. Although he married Maia, as listed many lines above, he also had sexual relations with two other Pleides: Electra and Taygete. He also seduced Aix, Deino, Himalia, Hora, Callirhoe, Carne, Othreis, Plouto, Sinope, and Thaleia, as well as an unnamed African Nymph. Gods aside, Zeus also had sexual affairs with 20 mortals, including one male, Ganymede, a prince of Troy. The other 19 were Lysithea, the Hellenics Pandora, Protogeneia, and Thyia, Antiope of Boeotia, Callisto of Arcadia, Cassiopeia of Crete, Danae of Argos, Dia of Thessalia, Elara of Orkhomenos, Eurymedousa of Phthiotis, Kalyke of Elis, Lamia of Libya, Laodemia of Lykia, Leda of Lakedaimonia, Nioba of Argolis, Olympias of Macedonia,

Pyrrha the wife of Deukalion, and Phthia of Aegion. Thus, Zeus had sexual relations with a total of at least 57 others, a number of exceeds the number of Achaean deaths in the Iliad. It is certainly an outstanding achievement by “the best and most righteous of the gods”.<sup>1</sup>

So, in my pre-Jesus, agnostic days, when I would hear things about God impregnating a virgin that gave birth to Jesus, I would think, “what, so the God of Christianity came down in human form and had sex with Mary, then she gave birth to the demigod Jesus?” It sounds blasphemous to me now. But back then I had no biblical knowledge and hadn’t looked into the subject. It just sounded preposterous to me.

But now, I see so clearly that Jesus needed to be born of a virgin, and in fact, was born of a virgin, and not by being raped or seduced by some ancient demonic god, but by literally being impregnated miraculously by the intervention and “supernatural insemination” of God. There was no sexual violation that happened there, thereby making Jesus a pure being created by God and brought into the world.

And I’m not sure what happened in the womb of Mary there. It blows my mind. I’m not sure if God miraculously created sinless spermatozoa and it made it’s way into Mary’s sinless, virgin egg. I don’t know what happened scientifically there. But I’ve thought about it plenty. I certainly won’t speculate because such things don’t even need to be fully understood this side of heaven.

Moody Bible Institute wrote a great article articulating their belief in the virgin birth.

The virgin birth is implied in the Old Testament as early as Genesis 3:15, which promised that "the seed of woman" would be the victor over Satan and sin. It is expressly predicted in Isaiah 7:14: "Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel" (NASB). According to Matthew 1:22-23, this prophecy was fulfilled in Mary. She is called a "virgin" in Luke 1:27. The Greek term parthenos normally referred to an unmarried woman of marriageable age. Mary did not conceive through ordinary means, but through the Holy Spirit. (Luke 1:35)

This was God's miraculous intervention, producing offspring without a human father. (Luke 1:26-28) No man or angel was involved.(Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:35) Christ, who was God from all eternity, took hold of this human nature thus conceived and joined it to Himself. (Hebrews 2:14; Phil. 2:7)

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://zyxyvy.wordpress.com/2011/10/16/the-sexual-relations-of-zeus/>

What called for the virgin birth? The fundamental need was found in the nature of the human race. Every normal, human birth produces another sinner, just as Adam, as sinner, produced a race of sinners. (Genesis 5:1-3; Romans 5:15-21; Ephesians 2:1-2) Our Savior had to be genuinely human and truly sinless in order to be our perfect substitute and pay our penalty of guilt before an infinite God by His death. (1 Peter 1:18-19; Hebrews 9:14)

This doctrine stands at the heart of the Lord's person and saving work. Without the virgin birth, there would be no salvation for sinners. Jesus Christ would be a sinful human being. If the virgin birth did not occur, then can't it also be said that other aspects of the Bible are not true and cannot be trusted? In short, it is an essential part of Scripture.

I believe Jesus was sinlessly brought into this world straight from heaven into the womb of Mary!

And I also believe that Jesus was **fully God and fully man without division or confusion of the two natures.**

This is where we get the term Hypostatic union (from the Greek: ὑπόστασις hypóstasis, "person, subsistence") is a technical term in Christian theology employed in mainstream Christology to describe the union of Christ's humanity and divinity in one hypostasis, or individual personhood.

In the most basic terms, the concept of hypostatic union states that Jesus Christ is both fully God and fully man. He is simultaneously perfectly divine and perfectly human, having two complete and distinct natures at once.

The Athanasian Creed recognized this doctrine and affirmed its importance by stating, "He is God from the essence of the Father, begotten before time; and he is human from the essence of his mother, born in time; completely God, completely human, with a rational soul and human flesh; equal to the Father as regards divinity, less than the Father as regards humanity. Although he is God and human, yet Christ is not two, but one. He is one, however, not by his divinity being turned into flesh, but by God's taking humanity to himself. He is one, certainly not by the blending of his essence, but by the unity of his person. For just as one human is both rational soul and flesh, so too the one Christ is both God and human."

Listen y'all- Jesus was **God on earth!** It's supposed to blow our minds! Jesus helped to create the heavens and the earth, and all the things on the earth, including us! Jesus

was perfectly holy! Jesus was perfectly righteous! He was perfectly just! He had supernatural power! He rose people from the dead, turned water to wine, healed the sick, drove out demons, cured blindness, and turned souls towards Him!

Jesus was also completely **human!** He hungered, He wept, He thirsted, He got tired, He slept, He ate, He felt emotional anguish, and He may have farted plenty and I personally think He laughed about it! Many theologians believe, with much reasoning behind it, that Jesus gave up aspects of His divinity in order to dwell on earth- particularly His omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence, only to gain those things back beyond His ascension into heaven with the new perspective of having died for our sins and risen from the grave!

Philippians 2 says it all, and I'll passionately preach and proclaim this passage until I go to meet Jesus myself!

*5 Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus, 6 who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited. 7 Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity. And when he had come as a man, 8 he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death— even to death on a cross. 9 For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow— in heaven and on earth and under the earth— 11 and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil. 2:5-11)*

Here's the next article of faith:

***4. We believe in the Holy Spirit, one of the three Persons of the Trinity, who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He is the life of every believer, empowering the believer for godly living, service, and the preaching and teaching of the gospel. The gifts of the Spirit are for ministry in the body of Christ.***

I could do a year-long sermon series on the Holy Spirit and how the Western Church has practically forgotten Him, swept Him under the rug, or distorted and abused Him. But for brevity I'll hit some main points about the Spirit.

When we look at this article, it states that the Holy Spirit is a person. He's not a force, He's not impersonal, He's not a feeling, He's not a vibe, and He is not a ball of mysterious goo. He's not the spiritual aspect of our soul. He is uniquely who He is! Let me explain further.

When Jesus talked about the coming of the Holy Spirit after His resurrection and ascension, He said; “When the Spirit of truth comes, **he** will guide you into all the truth. For **he** will not speak on his own, but **he** will speak whatever **he** hears. **He** will also declare to you what is to come. He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you. Everything the Father has is mine. This is why I told you that he takes from what is mine and will declare it to you.” (John 16:13-15) Notice how Jesus is referring to a person here. He’s literally saying that He would die, rise again, ascend to heaven, sit at the right hand of the Father, and then send an actual person, equal to Him and the Father in essence, yet different in function, to come and live inside of every disciple of Jesus. He didn’t say **it**, He said **he**!

And the Holy Spirit came to convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment: About sin, because people do not believe in Jesus; about righteousness, because Jesus went to the Father and His disciples would no longer see Him in the flesh; and about judgment, because the ruler of this world had been officially judged through what Christ accomplished. (John 16:8b-11)

The Holy Spirit convicts genuine disciples of Jesus of their sin, and makes them aware of areas that they need repentance and change. The Holy Spirit cuts to the heart of those He really lives in, and they can’t go on living in ways they lived before because of Him, and are propelled into a lifestyle of perpetual change, growth, inner crucifixion, and Christ taking over their inner being.

The Holy Spirit leads genuine disciples of Jesus into God’s righteousness. Followers of Jesus after His resurrection and ascension are actually in an even more privileged era than when Jesus was on earth, because Jesus now sits in a glorified state, next to the Father, and utters all the truths of heaven into the Holy Spirit who now literally dwells inside of all Christ followers.

The Holy Spirit has an eternal confidence that gets infused into us. He knows that satan is done for, so He has greater authority than satan and empowers the Christ follower to stand right in satan’s face and make him cower!

The Holy Spirit is the **life** of every believer, empowering the believer for godly living, service, and the preaching and teaching of the gospel. The Holy Spirit empowers all of us to have eternal joy, encouragement, conviction, direction, humility, and also emboldens us to share the truth of Jesus with others!

But not only all of that, the gifts of the Spirit are for ministry in the body of Christ. This would take months to explain, but passages like 1 Corinthians 14 speak of how the Spirit can move in a gathering of Christ followers.

Then we just think in general about the book of Acts and all the ways that the Holy Spirit moved miraculously in mission and amongst gatherings of Christ's disciples.

We read, in Acts 2, of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the twelve apostles, accompanied by the miraculous wind, fire, and speaking in tongues (i.e., speaking in languages that were unknown by the apostles; cf. 2:6).

Many miracles were performed by the apostles (2:43). Peter healed the lame man at the Temple (3:7-11). God answered Peter in a miraculous earthquake (4:31). Ananias and Sapphira were slain by the Lord (5:5-10). Signs and wonders continued to be done by the apostles (5:12). Peter healed many from various cities (5:12-16). The prison doors were opened by an angel (5:19). Stephen wrought great wonders and signs (6:8). In Samaria, Philip did great miracles and signs (8:6,7,13).

The Lord appeared to Saul, but Saul is unsaved until he responds to the preaching of the gospel by Ananias (9:3-9). Ananias healed Saul's blindness (9:17-18). Peter healed Aeneas (9:32-35). In Joppa, Peter raised Dorcus from the dead (9:39-42).

Cornelius saw an angel. He and his family spoke in tongues, but he was saved by responding to the preaching of the gospel by Peter (10:4,46; cf. v. 48; 11:14). Peter saw the vision on the roof and spoke with the Lord (10:9-22).

A prison gate was miraculously opened (12:10). Paul blinded Elymus (13:11-12). Paul performed miracles in Iconium (14:3,4). At Lystra, Paul healed a crippled man (14:8-18). Paul healed a woman possessed by an evil spirit (16:18). The miraculous earthquake unloosed all the chains and doors in the Philippian prison (16:26). In Ephesus, twelve men spoke in tongues, and prophesied (19:6). Paul performed other miracles in Ephesus (19:11,12). In Troas, Paul raised Eutychus from the dead (20:8-12). Paul was not affected by the viper that should have killed him with a snakebite at Melita (28:3-6). He also healed those on the island who were diseased (28:8-9).<sup>2</sup>

I think we can clearly see that when Jesus ascended to heaven and sent the Holy Spirit, His amazing ministry just continued. And it certainly didn't stop in the age of the book of Acts. There have been accounts of the Holy Spirit's ministry doing the miraculous things of God for the last 2,000 years. The catch is that you have to dig into accounts from the

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://christiancourier.com/articles/miracles-in-the-book-of-acts>

underground and persecuted Church contexts to see where they're happening among those faithfully suffering for Jesus. There are plenty of people fabricating miracles on video in America to make money and exploit people, and there are plenty of hucksters out there. But the Holy Spirit is still alive and well, and performing the miraculous.

I have given accounts during my time in ministry of directly experiencing the Holy Spirit;

1. Healing me physically on at least six separate occasions
2. Healing one of my kids physically on one occasion
3. Driving a demon out of a friend of mine before he gave his life to Christ a month later.
4. Driving a demon out of a family member on numerous occasions before they came into relationship with Jesus
5. Filling me in a new way where I began to speak in a heavenly language that I knew God could only understand, while at the same time completely removing anxiety from me that I was overwhelmingly experiencing at the time.

But all in all- the greatest ministry of the Holy Spirit is the fact that He keeps us in intimate relationship with Jesus day in and day out!

Mission Control Center at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston is the hub of human spaceflight. The building is staffed 24/7 with flight controllers who constantly monitor the International Space Station and the humans living onboard.<sup>3</sup>

So these flight controllers hear vital information from NASA leadership, and then speak that information into the space suits and space capsules that hold the astronauts who need to hear it.

Father NASA speaks to Jesus, the ultimate flight controller, who then relays that information into all of us astronaut disciples on NASA's mission via the Holy Spirit! We are on mission into the unknown for Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit is **perpetually, continually with us!** We need not fear the unknown and difficult realities that we encounter along the way! Mission control is ever at our side! The Holy Spirit will be there to comfort, strengthen, encourage, build up, convict, guide, embolden, empower, and enlighten us! May we be continually filled with the Spirit of God!!!!

---

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nasa.gov/johnson/jsc-mission-control-center>