

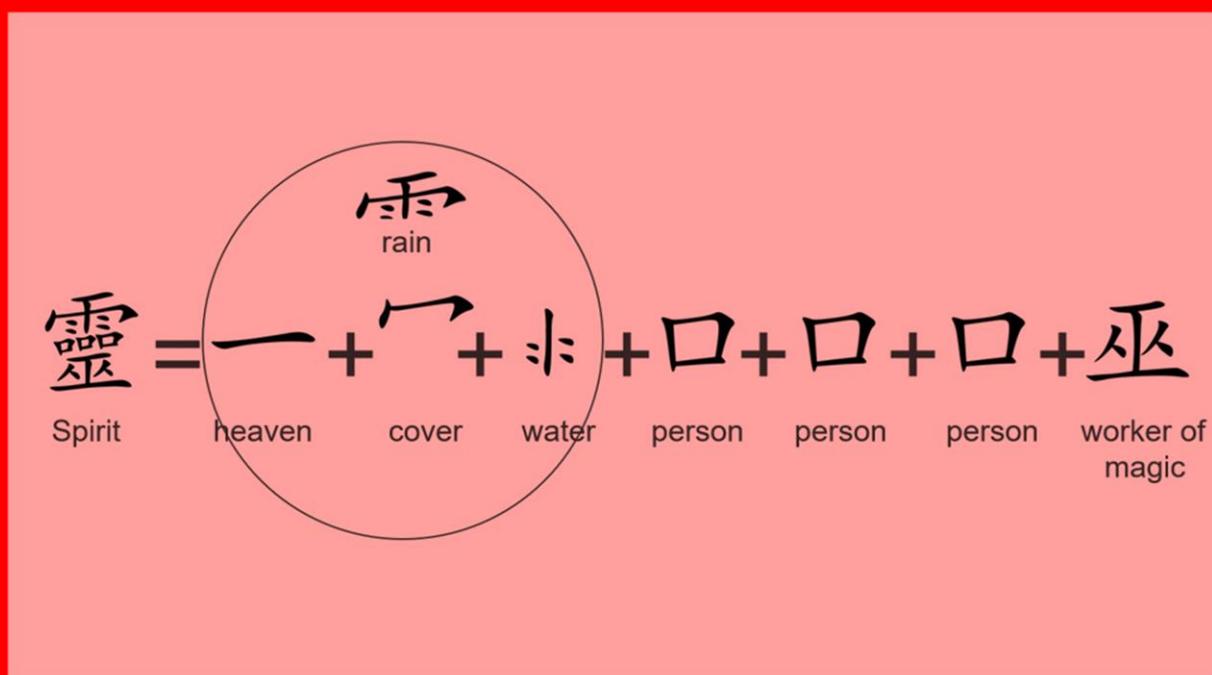


Spirit... what is it?

Everybody seeks to be happy, and at the end of all the festivity and merriment of the Lunar New Year, we must finally ask ourselves if we are truly happy. True happiness is when the Spirit of God dwells in us, an indwelling that comes about because we have trusted in the work that Jesus Christ has done on the cross, trusted in that He died for your sins.

'Spirit' (靈)

The word 'Spirit' (靈) comprises seven characters, an iconographic record of the Spirit of God performing the work of creation.



Character for 'Rain'

Genesis 1:2 says, 'And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the *Spirit* of God [from *heaven*] *moved upon* the face of the *waters*.' *Rain* is therefore an exact picture of Genesis 1:2 – 'the Spirit of God [from heaven] moved upon the face of the waters' - which describes the descent of God's Spirit to this earth.

The horizontal stroke normally represents *one* or *first*. But here it represents *heaven*, because of its position at the top of the figure.

Character for 'Worker of Magic'

The character for 'worker of magic' is an apt title given to the Spirit of God in that first week of creation. However, the Chinese today also apply this character to a 'witch,' 'wizard,' or 'one devil-possessed.' What a pity the spirit of the devil has replaced the Spirit of God in the interpretation of this symbol!

Character for 'Three Persons'

The character for 'three persons' indicates that not only did the Spirit perform the work of creation, the whole Trinity acted in creation. God the Father created, God the Son created, and God the Spirit created.

More importantly, the character for 'three persons' are literally three mouths, indicating that the acts of creation were performed by speaking things into existence. Psalm 33:6 says, 'By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.' Hebrews 11:3 says, 'Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.'

Happiness in Christ!

But the most important point is this. This Spirit which acted in creation can now be in us. When the Savior ascended into heaven, His enemies were probably delighted by the prospect of never having to be troubled again by the Man from Nazareth. They had no knowledge of God's plan for those who trusted in Christ. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 3:16, 'Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?' And Paul also declared in 2 Timothy 1:14, 'That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.'

That God the Spirit planned to live in the redeemed souls of sinners was something beyond comprehension, and yet this inestimable happiness became the experience of innumerable Christians. He now looks through the compassionate eyes of Christians, shares the secret council-chambers of their minds, and is gradually transforming them into the likeness of Christ. Most of the followers of Christ may never be given the privilege of living in a presidential palace, but every day they may enjoy

unending fellowship with the Holy Spirit. It is wonderful to know God is within many people.

The question then is this. Are you one of them? Have you trusted in in the work that Jesus Christ has done on the cross, trusted in that He died for your sins? For if you have trusted in Christ, God the Spirit will be in you. ‘... after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,’ says Ephesians 1:13.

May you be a new creature, with a new life in Christ this Lunar New Year!

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