

Dove: On Jesus, the Holy Spirit was like a dove in Matthew 3:16. For the benefit of John the Baptist, the Spirit came upon Jesus in this visible form as a dove.

By being baptized by John in the Jordan, Jesus identified Himself with mankind. Then God proclaimed Him as His Son by sending the Holy Spirit upon Him like a dove and by a voice from heaven saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." ¹

All the four Gospels record this descent of the Spirit like a dove (Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:10,11; Luke 3:21,22; John 1:32-34). Luke adds that the Holy Spirit descended in a bodily shape or form like a dove. That is, there was an actual, visible appearance that looked like a dove and that everyone could see. Matthew and Luke state that the Spirit as a dove came upon Him. John says it remained. But some ancient manuscripts of Mark and at least one of Luke say the Spirit as a dove descended into Him. This, of course, is just another way of emphasizing that the Spirit did not leave Jesus after coming upon Him. The dove to the Jews was more than a symbol of gentleness and peace. It was also the sin offering which the poor substituted for the Lamb (Leviticus 5:7). Jesus is God's own Lamb provided for the substitute for the poor, the needy, the sinful of this world, which includes us all (Romans

1- Book, What the Bible Says About the Holy Spirit, p. 89.

3:23). ¹

Tongues of Fire: (Acts 2:3)

Acts 2:3 - *And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.*

On the Day of Pentecost, the 120 experienced the issuing forth of many several tongues, looking like small flames of fire, and one such tongue sat upon each one of the brethren or disciples present.

1- Book, What the Bible Says About the Holy Spirit, p. 90.