

Supplemental images and narrative to
Is Your God Big Enough? Close Enough? You Enough?
Jesus and the Three Faces of God
by Paul Smith



CHAPTER 8
THE CLOSENESS OF GOD AS SPIRIT
(pages 175-182)

I have found that the most helpful way to understand the biblical references to *the* spirit (as opposed to “spirit” without the “the”) as a being or entity is this:

“The spirit”
is consciousness personalized.



Another word to describe this is “anthropomorphism.” Personification and anthropomorphism are technically different but closely related terms. Personification is the attribution of human form and characteristics to *abstract concepts* such as nations, emotions and natural forces like seasons and the weather. Anthropomorphism is the attribution of human traits, emotions, and intentions to *non-human entities*.

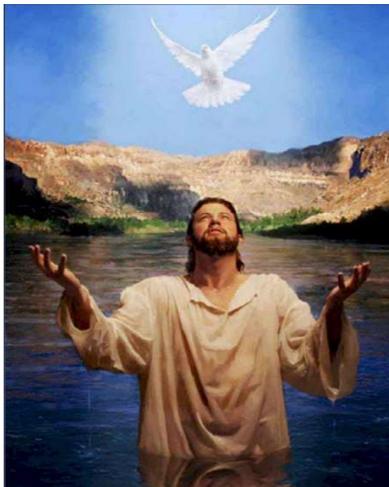


Here’s an anthropomorphism:
 “My computer is smiling at me today.”

A bird made to look like a person is an anthropomorphism.



“Washington is all confused” nowadays” is personification.



The dove seen coming down on Jesus at his baptism is personalizing the abstract idea of consciousness. Our divinely inspired imaginations use that image visually to “see” God’s elevated consciousness arising in (rather than on) Jesus.

God cannot be confined to any form or image of imagination. Yet we can thankfully realize that God is willing to reveal God’s self to humanity in human terms.



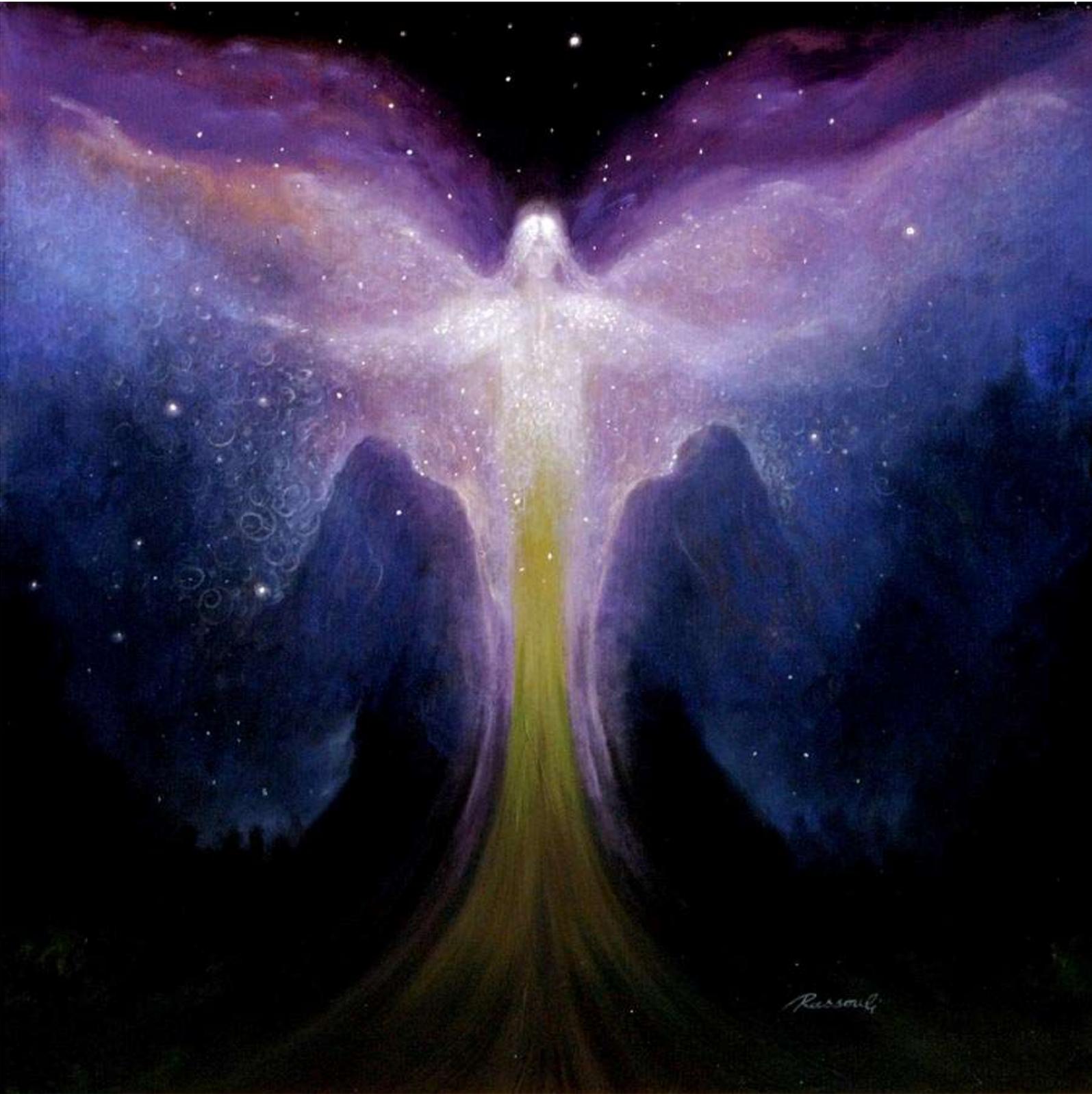
Artists have continued to use the imagery of the dove to indicate “spirit filling” or what I am calling a new intensification or inner awakening in consciousness.

This elevated consciousness is much more than a mental or head state. It affects the heart dimension of our bodies also as these two images beautifully indicate.





In The Spirit of Life by Kume Bryant
Spirit-breath-consciousness is like a divine waterfall flowing down upon
the earth.



A Spirit of Love by Rassouli Rassouli.com
God's presence in feminine form as Spirit helper



Spirit Our Helper

Here is our final image for this chapter on consciousness personalized as our Helper. Helper may be a tame word for what is the very fire of life itself, here represented by the flames and the heart, representing the loving creative center of divine-human consciousness.

We add this to the symbol for God as Mother-Father and the symbol for Jesus (plus other saints such as Mary and St. Francis that we will explore later). This gives us a pictorial diagram of Trinity Beside Us—God close to you and me.



TRINITY

Father



God Our
Mother Father

Son



Jesus Our
Risen Friend

Spirit



Spirit
Our Helper

BESIDE
US