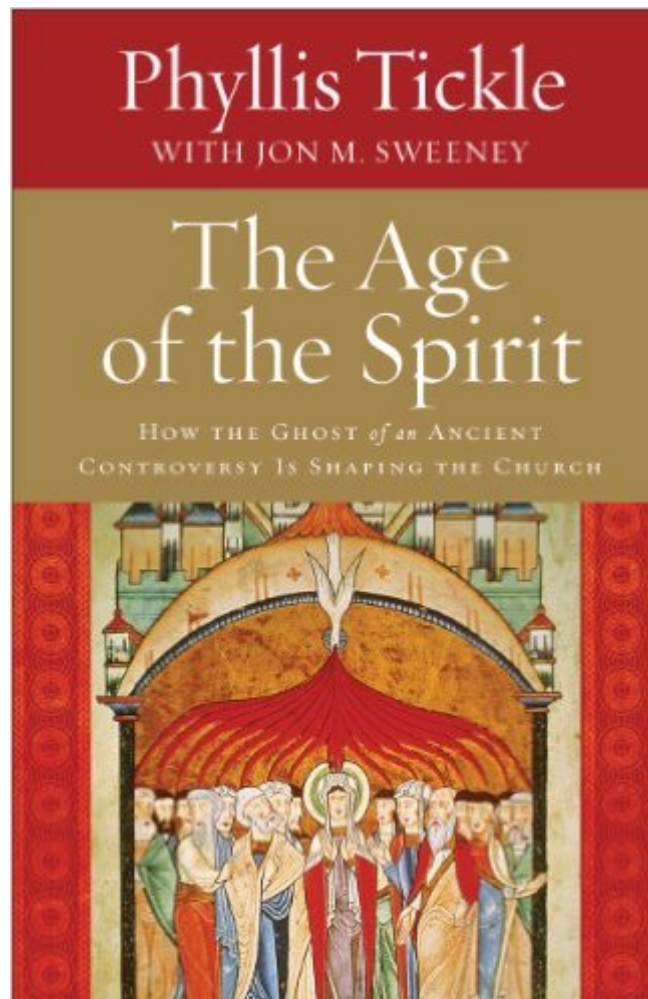


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# The Age Of The Spirit: How The Ghost Of An Ancient Controversy Is Shaping The Church



## Synopsis

A thousand years ago, the church experienced a time of tremendous upheaval called the Great Schism. The one faith became two churches, East and West, and the course of world history was forever changed. And it all swirled around one Latin word in the Nicene Creed, filioque, that indicated the Holy Spirit proceeded both from God the Father "and from the Son." From the time that phrase was officially instituted onward, the Holy Spirit's place in the Trinity and role in the lives of believers would be fiercely debated, with ramifications being felt through the centuries to this very day. In this fascinating book, readers will encounter not just the interesting historical realities that have shaped our faith today but also the present resurgence of interest in the Holy Spirit seen in many churches across the theological spectrum. Tickle and Sweeney make accessible and relevant the forces behind the current upheaval in the church, taking readers by the hand and leading them confidently into the Age of the Spirit.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Honestly, I've heard the name Phyllis Tickle flown around Christian circles. I wanted to give her newest book a try. Unfortunately, I feel like I picked up a heavy topic, too-late-in-the-game (she has written prior books leading up to this one). I'm also writing this review from the perspective of a rather young, perhaps-mainstream reader, rather than an academic. I admit that I'm also not a theology buff, and had a hard time getting through the background church history. Tickle argues in this challenging and academically-oriented book, that this next age will be that of the Holy Spirit. I was in college when the Emerging Christian movement was a thing. • While there was much

blustering about the tide that had turned in contemporary Christianity, and the idea of house churches versus institutions, I honestly didn't see the drastic changes that were portended by Emerging Christians like Brian McClaren, Phyllis Tickle and others. Life went on. As a result, I had a hard time picking up another book that started out with a sweeping view of Christianity's roots, and then made such bold statements as: "But however we choose to slice and dice the peri-Emergence's urbanizing, modernizing shift and its consequences, the conversation inevitably will always wind back around again to words like 'spirit' or 'spiritual, or even 'Spirit.'" And all of us can feel the shifting currents in that wind as it blows around us. "All of us? What shifting wind? The rhetoric in this book just didn't work for me and my personal experiences. I think in an academic context, Phyllis Tickle has an amazing capacity to explore the broader historical contexts of a movement, but I was skeptical of her ability to predict the future tide of Christianity.

For those hoping to engage in *The Age of the Spirit* by Phyllis Tickle and Jon Sweeney with a desire to obtain a deeper understanding of the Holy Spirit, you may come away disappointed and left with as many questions as when you began reading. The Spirit is shrouded in mystery and it is with humility and compassion that the authors guide the reader to be content with this ancient conundrum. As declared by the book's subtitle, the reader will walk away with a deeper understanding of "How the Ghost of an Ancient Controversy is Shaping the Church". For if the Church is truly moving into a new era; *The Age of the Spirit*, is it not even more imperative that the Body of Christ have a more firm grasp on the Trinity and the Spirit's place within? Have we reached a crossroads in history where we can no longer remain content with unanswered questions? As Dylan so prophetically declared to the past generation, "The Times they are a Changin'", Tickle now declares change for a generation of Christians just as frustrated, confused and in search of answers. Understanding cultural change is difficult to comprehend when staring in a mirror. One often has to look behind at the historical vehicles that have transported to a particular point in time. By carefully reflecting on the historical ups and downs that have occurred within the Church, Tickle helps the reader understand that the mysteries enveloping the third person of the Trinity are no different for those who sought solutions over 2000 years ago. They make it very clear from the beginning that in order to understand where we are, we have to have a firm grasp and understanding on where we've been, who we've been and how we've arrived where we are today. Ironically, before we begin to look ahead, we must first look behind.

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