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## **Abstract**

### **M. L. King, Jr., and Zeitgeist: On His View of the Holy Spirit**

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Theologians are deeply interested in Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, understanding of the Trinity. However, he rarely referred specifically to the third hypostasis, the Holy Spirit, though he often spoke of the first and second hypostases, God the Father and Jesus Christ, respectively. This notwithstanding, King did occasionally allude to the Holy Spirit indirectly, at times speaking about the activity of the third hypostasis in terms of "Zeitgeist." Originally a German word, possibly springing from Hegel's work, King sometimes used Zeitgeist in the critical context of the Holy Spirit's activity. Therefore, the notion of Zeitgeist is essential to gaining insight into King's understanding of the Trinity. The purpose of this essay, then, is to clarify King's view of the Holy Spirit through the research of the writings in which he referred to the concept of Zeitgeist.

To summarize, though Zeitgeist was originally an idea that pertained to "the intellectual climate of the era," King utilized the concept to specifically refer to the activity of the Holy Spirit. Consequently, it may be concluded that Zeitgeist in King's writings is, indeed, in reference to the third hypostasis, the Holy Spirit.