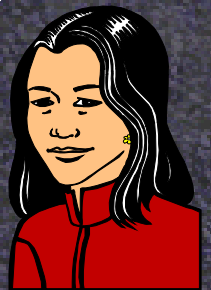


God's Rules for Language

What do language
rules show?

For Lansdale Presbyterian Church
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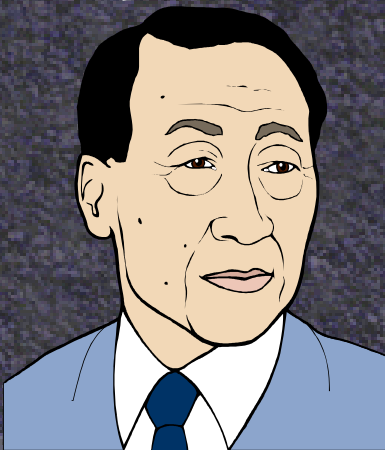
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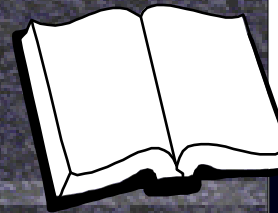
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The Challenge

Where do language
rules come from?

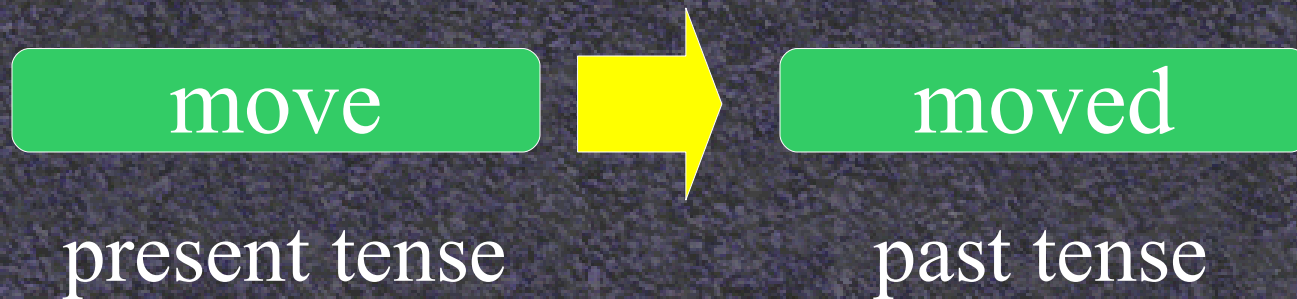


God



A. Character of Language Rules

An Example of a Rule



To get the past tense, add "d."

A General Pattern

simple present	participle	simple past	past participle
go	going	went	gone
sing	singing	sang	sung
walk	walking	walked	walked
wash	washing	washed	washed
move	moving	moved	moved

Rules

- Everywhere
- At all times
- Not changing

omnipresent

eternal

immutable

Character of Rules

- Everywhere **omnipresent**
- At all times **eternal**
- Not changing **immutable**
- Invisible
- Immaterial
- Truthful
- Powerful **omnipotent**

B. The Word of God

The Word of God

And God said, "Let there be light,"
and there was light. --Genesis 1:3

By the word of the Lord the
heavens were made,
and by the breath of his mouth
all their host. --Psalm 33:6

The Word of God (2)

Who has spoken and it came to pass,
unless the Lord has commanded it?
Is it not from the mouth of the Most
High that good and bad come? --Lam.
3:37-38

The Word of God (3)

He sends out his command to the
earth;

his word runs swiftly.

He gives snow like wool;

he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

--Psalm 147:15-16

The Word of God as Divine

- Eternal
- Divine in power
- Immutable
- Divinely righteous

The Word as Personal

- Rule implies a rule-giver
- Rules are rational
- Rules are language-like
- To shape language requires super-human wisdom

Creator and Creature

- Rule talk about created things. "moved"
- Rules are specific to this creation.
- God remains divine when he speaks specifically.
- Analogy with the Incarnation: Christ remains God when he becomes man.

Breaking the Rules

"You shall not steal." --Ex. 20:15

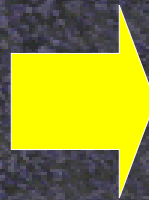
- A rebel steals.
- God holds him responsible.
- The rule is still there!
- Rebel writes "movd."
- People notice.
- The rule is still there!

C. The Trinity

Language as Trinitarian

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God. --John
1:1

God
the Father



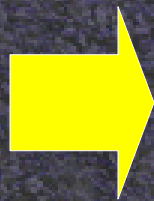
Word

Language as Trinitarian (2)

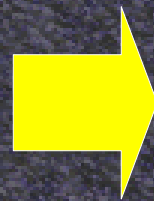
Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. --Ezek. 37:5

And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live. --Ezek. 37:14

God
the Father

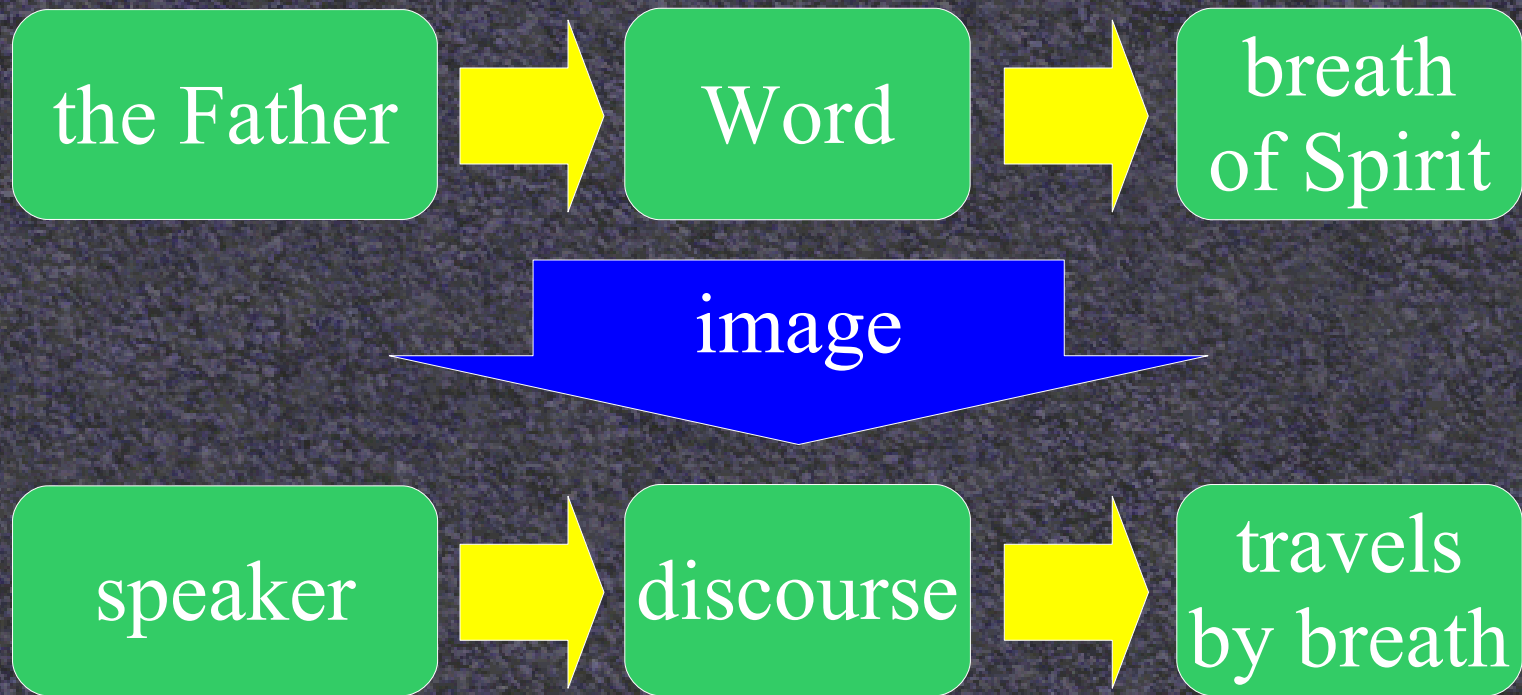


Word



breath
of Spirit

Human Language as Trinitarian



D. Dialogue with Unbelief

Unbelievers Using Language

For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. --Rom 1:19-20

Idolatry

... for although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. --Rom 1:21-23

God Near to Us

Even before a word is on my tongue,
behold, O Lord, you know it altogether.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is high; I cannot attain it.
Where shall I go from your Spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?

God Near to Us (2)

If I ascend to heaven, you are there!
If I make my bed is Sheol, you are there!
If I take the wings of the morning
and dwell in the uttermost parts of
the sea,
even there you hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me. --Ps.
139:4-10

Principles for Witness

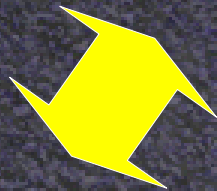
- People already know God.
- People evade and deny God.
- It is humiliating to be exposed.
- The gospel is the remedy.
- Pray.
- We are guilty too.

E. Indwelling

Indwelling in the Trinity

Believe me that I am in the Father
and the Father is in me. --John
14:11

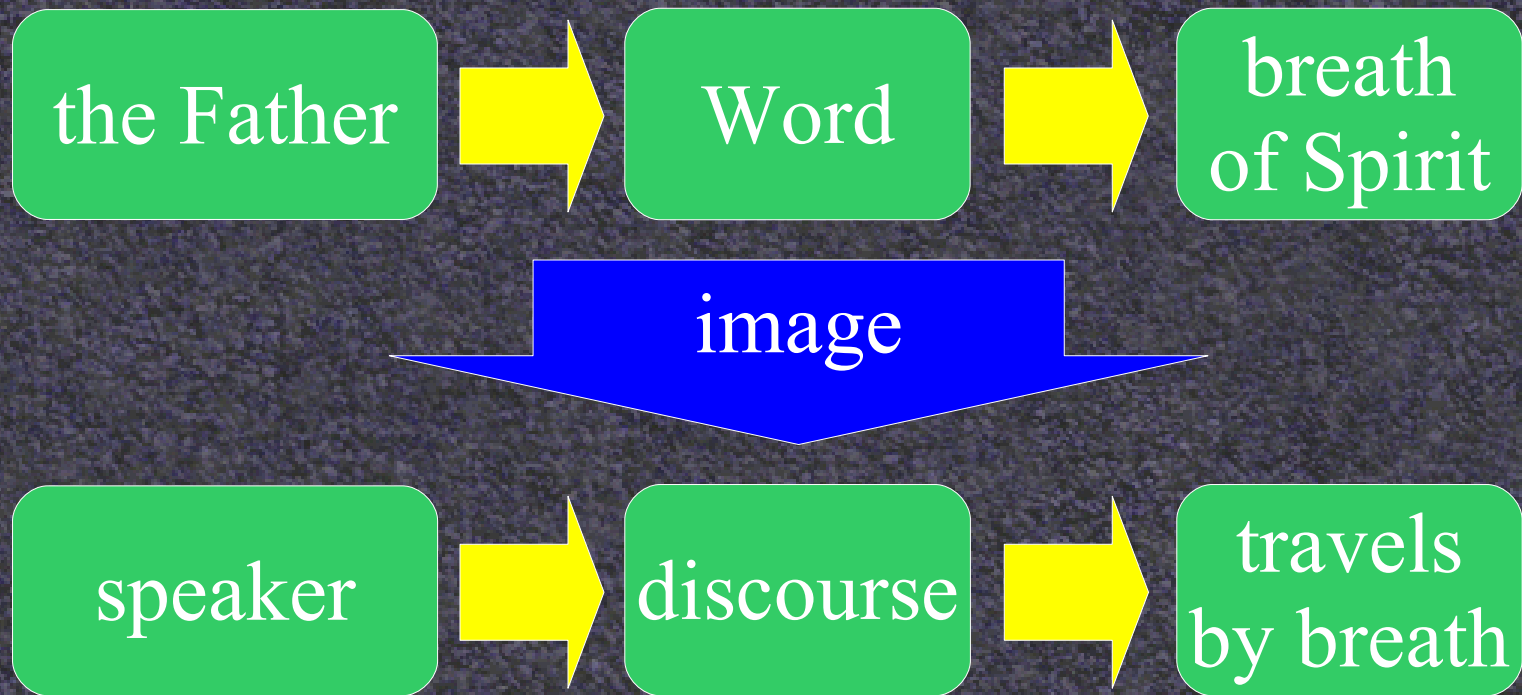
the Father



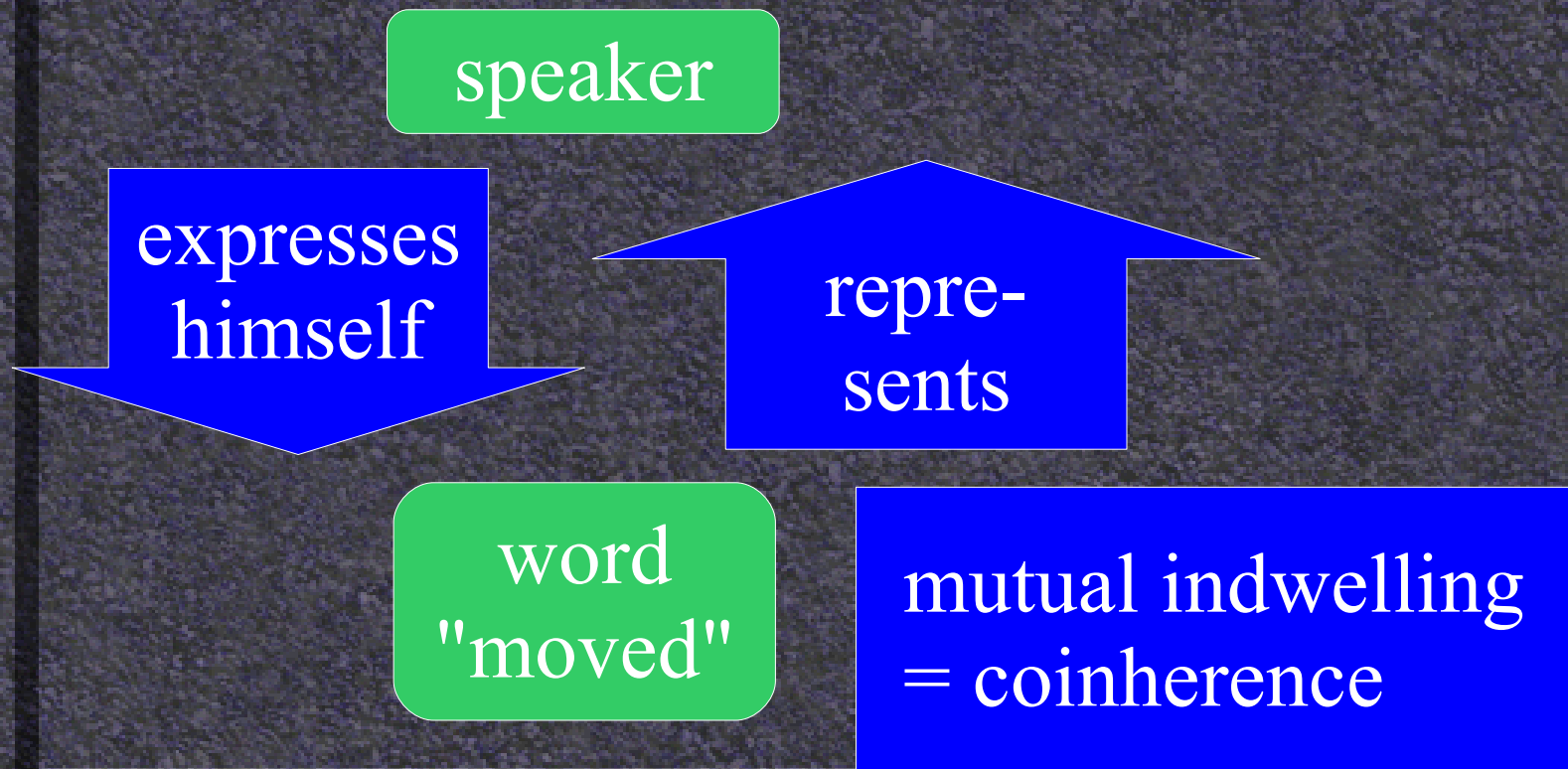
Word

mutual indwelling
= coinherence

Human Language as Trinitarian



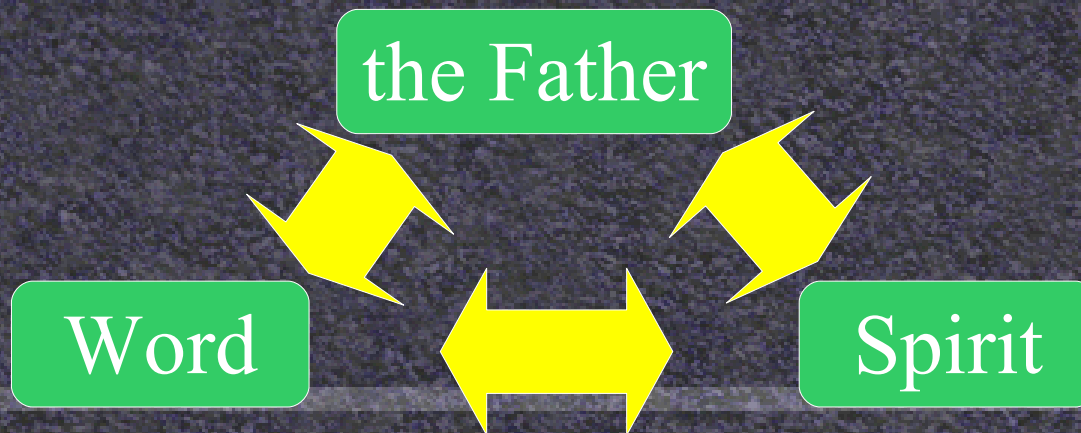
Indwelling in Human Speech



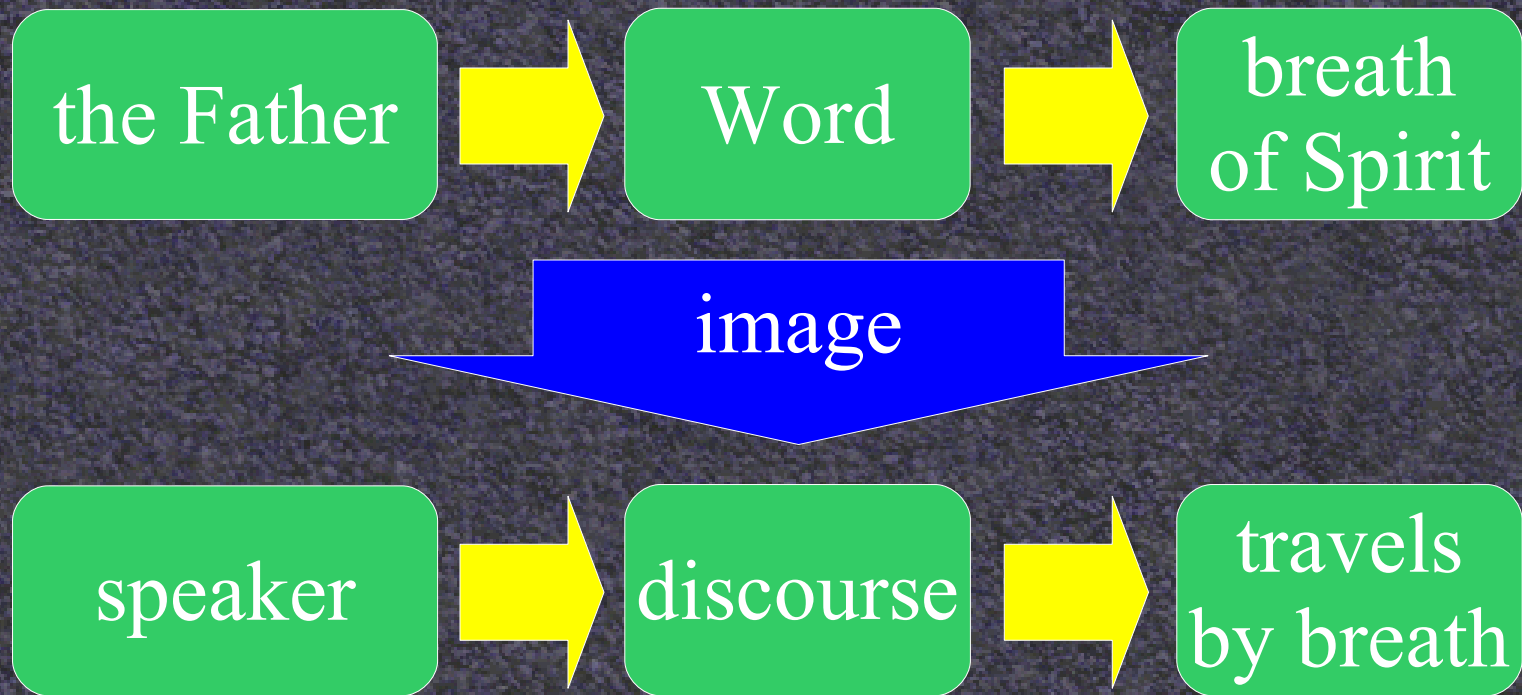
Indwelling in the Trinity (2)

You will know him [Holy Spirit], for he dwells with you and will be in you. --John 14:17

In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. --John 14:20



Human Language as Trinitarian



Indwelling in Human Speech (2)

