

## The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

**Introduction: Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty, All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea. Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity.**

We as evangelical christians know and believe that God is a triune God. Although the word Trinity is not mentioned in the Bible, scripture is very clear that this is the true nature of the God we know and worship.

- A. **“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.” 1 cor 13:14**
- B. **“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” matthew 28:19-20**

Most Christians today understand Jesus the Son, and God the Father as two very distinct Persons within the Godhead; however, there has been much confusion over the identity of the Holy Spirit.

### The Importance of the Doctrine.

It is so Important from the standpoint of worship that we decide whether the Holy Spirit is a divine person worthy to receive our adoration, our faith, and our love, or simply an influence flowing from God, or a power that God imparts to us. If the Holy Spirit is a divine person and we do not act upon him, we are robbing a divine being of the love and adoration that are due to Him.

It is so important that we decide whether the Holy Spirit is a power that we in our weakness and ignorance are somehow to get a hold of and use or whether the Holy Spirit is a personal being infinitely wise, infinitely holy, who is to get a hold of us and use us.

- see the difference?
- The one conception is heathenism, the other Christian.
- The one conception leads to self exaltation, the other to self-humiliation, self-emptying, and self-renunciation.

### i. The Person of the Holy spirit.

#### A. He is a person.

- A. The Holy Spirit of God is not an impersonal force, influence or just divine power. He is a person.
- B. Many people throughout the ages have thought of the Holy Spirit more as a thing than a Person. Nothing could be further from the truth, and in fact as we begin to know the Person of the Holy Spirit we will want to have a closer relationship with Him just as we would the Father or Son.

#### B. Proofs of his personage.

##### A. Personal pronouns are used of Him.

- A. Though the greek word for spirit is neuter (meaning gender neutral) Jesus used the masculine demonstrative pronoun “He” of the Holy Spirit.
  - A. John 14:26 **“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.**
  - B. John 16:13 **“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”**
  - C. The Holy Spirit is not an it; He’s a person.

##### B. Personal characteristics are ascribed to Him.

###### A. The holy spirit has three essential elements of personality.

- A. Intellect. -1 corinthians 2:11 **“For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.”** The Spirit of God has intellect; He knows the things of God.
- B. Emotions. The spirit has emotional capacities -Romans 15:30 **“Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of**

**the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me” - Romans 8:27 “Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”** The Spirit of God loves, He searches, and He makes intercession.

- C. Will. - 1 corinthians 12:11 **“But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.** The Spirit of God has a will; he is not indifferent as a force or power would be. The spirit of God is not like gravity.
- D. **He is susceptible to personal treatment.**
  - A. He can be lied to (acts 5:3)
  - B. Tempted (acts 5:9) ananias and saphira
  - C. Resisted (acts 7:59) (stephen and the sanhedrin)
  - D. Grieved (eph 4:30) (when we sin, or walk according to the flesh, we grieve the spirit)
  - E. Insulted (heb 10:29) (when we go back to the Law)
  - F. Blasphemed (matt 12:31) (attributing the work of God to the devil)

All of these things prove that the Holy Spirit is a person and not just an impersonal force, influence, or divine power. This is important because of cults like the Jehovah’s witnesses.

**D. He is deity. The Holy Spirit is not just a person, but He is, in fact, a Divine person; He is God.**

**D. Proofs of divine personage.**

**d. Attributes of Deity are affirmed of Holy Spirit.**

- d. Eternal. He is called the Eternal Spirit. (Heb 9:14)
- di. Omniscient (1 Cor 2:10) **“For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God”**. -, (John 14:26) **“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things”** -
- dii. Omnipotent (luke 1:35) **“And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.”**
- diii. Omnipresent (psalm 139:7-10) **“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.”**

**di. Works of Deity are ascribed to Holy Spirit.**

- d. Creation (Genesis 1:2) **“The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.**
- di. **Regeneration (John 3:5) “Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”**
- dii. Inspiration of the scriptures (2 peter 1:21) **“for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”**
- diii. Raising of the dead (romans 8:11) **“But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”**

**dii. The way in which He is associated with the Father and the Son.**

- d. Baptismal formula -matt 28:19 **“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”**
- di. The apostolic benediction - 2 cor 13:14 **“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**

- dii. And the administration of the church - 1 cor 12:4-6 **“There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.”**
- diii. **Lastly, He is called God.** Acts 5:3-4 **“But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”**
- di. **We should be pretty clear in our understanding, the Holy Spirit, is a person, a divine person, He is the third person in the Blessed Holy Trinity.**

## II. The work of the Holy Spirit.

- II. The Father, son and Holy Spirit are equal in nature but distinct in role and relationship. The distinct roles have the Father authoring, the Son accomplishing, and the Spirit applying the work of the Son. The Spirit has been at work in the key events throughout the history of salvation, including the creation, Christ’s incarnation, Christ’s resurrection, human regeneration, the inspiration of the scriptures, and the believers sanctification.
- III. The work of the Holy Spirit is so great, and so vast; if we were to try to cover it in one sitting we would walk away confused and overwhelmed, I think it will be better for us to focus on the two main aspects of the Holy Spirits work which concern us; His work in the believer, and His active role in the Church.

### IV. The Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

- II. The work of the Holy Spirit is so important in the life of the christian; in fact it is vital. Christ Jesus has completed and won our salvation for us, it is a finished work, even as He said; But it is the Holy Spirit that applies that work to those who believe in the finished work of Christ. There are four things the spirit does in the work of salvation.

- II. **The Holy spirit regenerates.** Regeneration means New- birth or rebirth. Regeneration: is the act of God by which a principle of new life is implanted in a man or woman with the result that the governing disposition of the soul is made Holy.

- II. Titus 3:4-5 **“But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit”**

- III. **The Holy Spirit indwells.** The Holy Spirit comes and lives in side the believer.

- II. John 14:17 **“the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”**

- III. The scriptures are so certain of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, that Romans 8:9 says, **“But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”**

- IV. **1 Corinthians 3:16 “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”**

- V. **1 corinthians 6:19 “Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?”**

- VI. The primary objective of the indwelling of Holy Spirit is the provision of divine power to execute the Christian way of life. This includes the attainment of all objectives of God for your life.

- IV. **The Holy Spirit baptizes. He baptizes us into Christ, into His body, “the Church”**
  - II. **Acts 1:5** “for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”
  - III. **1 Corinthians 12:13** “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.
  - IV. **Ephesians 4:5-6** “one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”
- V. **The Holy Spirit seals.** Sealing speaks of several things: security, ownership, and a guarantee.
  - II. **Ephesians 1:13** “In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise”
  - III. **2 Corinthians 1:22** “who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.”
  - IV. What sealing does is that it authenticates the fact that we are truly God’s property, he has set his seal upon us even as he did on Christ. “Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.” John 6:27
- VI. **This second section of the work of the holy spirit in the life of the believer can be classified as: The continual work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.**
  - II. **He fills.** Believers are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Eph 5:18 “**And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,**
    - II. As we saw the believer is indwelt by the Spirit at conversion; but the believer is to be continually filled with the Spirit.
    - III. We see this often in the book of acts. **Acts 4:8** w/ Peter, Paul in cyprus in **acts 13:9**.
    - IV. This signified not only being controlled by the Spirit, but also being equipped for the task at hand.
  - III. **He guides.** The believer is commanded to walk in the Spirit and to be led by the Spirit.
    - II. Galatians 5:16&25 “**I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.**” “**If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.**”
    - III. Being led of the Spirit will enable us not to fulfill the desires of the flesh (our sinful nature)
  - IV. **He empowers.** The believer is in a spiritual battle as some of you know. The flesh against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh. The indwelling of the Spirit provides victory.
    - II. Galatians 5:17 “**For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.**”
    - III. Romans 8:13 “**For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.**”
    - IV. The Spirit produces in us the Fruits of the Spirit and these combat the works of the flesh, they are: “**love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.**”

V. **He teaches.** Jesus said the the Holy Spirit would be a teacher, a helper, and that he would lead us into all truth, this is another function of the H.S.

II. 1 John 2:20 & 27 **“But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.” “But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.**

III. The very one who inspired the Holy scriptures is the one to instruct us in our understanding of the scripture. Next time you don't understand a passage ask the Holy spirit to teach it to you and to give you understanding.

VII. **Therefore we can conclude from this that we are no longer to walk according to the course of this world because we have the Spirit of the living God dwelling in us. We need to be careful about sin so we do not grieve Him. We need to be sensitive to His voice and leading so we do not quench His work in our lives. Also we must not insult him by minimizing the work of Christ's atonement, or resist Him by hardening our hearts to His conviction.**

V. **The Holy Spirit's active role in the Church.**

II. Before we close we must certainly talk about Spiritual gifts, because they are a function of the Holy Spirit, but especially because there is so much perversion and misunderstanding of them. I Do not believe that the gifts have ceased but I believe that they are as alive as the Holy Spirit; and I believe they are for today.

III. **First** let's define what we mean when we say Spiritual gifts. A Spiritual gift is any ability that is empowered by the Holy Spirit and used in any ministry of the Church.

II. **Spiritual gifts are:** Apostles, Prophet, Teacher, Pastor, miracles, healings, helps, administration, tongues, interpretation of tongues, word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, prophecy, discerning of spirits, encouragement, contribution, leadership, mercy. (1 cor 12; romans 12; eph 4)

III. **Everyone that is a believer has a spiritual gift,**

II. **“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all” and again “But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.**

IV. **What is the purpose of spiritual gifts?** To edify self?

II. Ephesians 4:11-12 **“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ”**

V. 1 Corinthians 12:6-7 **“And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all”**

VI. Scripture seems to clearly show that the purpose of Spiritual gifts is for the building up of the body of Christ; they are not to be used selfishly.

IV. **Spiritual gifts are given and administered by the Holy Spirit not by man.**

II. **“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all”**

III. **“But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”**

IV. “He does it according to His own will and understanding. You cannot dictate to Him. We must not say; “it is time that the church began to claim the gift of, healing, or of miracles or of something else” - MLJ

**III. Conclusion: How much thought or how much place have you given the Holy Spirit in Your life? Maybe you're afraid of Him because you have seen people abuse His name and office? Maybe we are so concerned about ourselves and our self importance that we are almost afraid to allow the Holy Spirit to gain control, lest we find ourselves doing or saying something, which does not fit our ideas; And so the Holy Spirit is neglected in our lives because we have resisted him, and we wonder why our worship is empty, why our commitment is weak. Have we grieved this blessed Spirit of God; or are we yielding to His voice, and walking in him, filled with the fruits of the Spirit, filled with righteousness peace and Joy, we can be, walk in the Spirit.**