

# Meet the Holy Spirit #1

## The Holy Spirit is a Person

### Introduction:

1. There is a great deal of ignorance when it comes to the Holy Spirit
  - a. Who is He?
    1. Is He a person or an influence?
    2. Is He a member of the trinity or not?
  - b. What does He do?
    1. Is there a baptism of the Spirit?
    2. Does He give believers a second blessing?
2. He is the most neglected member of the trinity
  - a. Father is prominent in the OT
  - b. Son is prominent in the NT
  - c. Many pastors haven't taught their people about the Holy Spirit
3. I don't want to just give you information about the Holy Spirit, I want to introduce you to the Holy Spirit
  - a. The success or failure of our Christian lives depends on our knowledge of and yieldedness to the Holy Spirit
  - b. When Jesus left the earth to go back to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to do and to be all that we would ever need to live victorious Christian lives.
  - c. Without the Holy Spirit there would be no creation, no virgin birth of Christ, no Bible, no Christians
4. Our lesson tonight deals with the personality of the Holy Spirit

### I. The Holy Spirit is a Person and Not an It

#### A. The Holy Spirit is Not a Force or Influence

1. In 200 AD Sabellius said that the HS was a force or law or influence
2. Arius spoke of the Spirit as the "exerted energy of God"
  - a) *His view was repudiated at the Council of Nicea in 325*
  - b) *There, Arius was pronounced a heretic*
3. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Socinius and his followers held that the Holy Spirit was merely the "externally proceeding energy" of God
  - a) *From this group came the Unitarians which are still with us today*
  - b) *They are the heretics of today*
4. There is a big difference between a person and a force
  - a) *Gravity is a force*
  - b) *Electricity*
  - c) *Magnetism*
5. Personality does not demand visibility
  - a) *The real me is invisible*
  - b) *The real person is inside this body*
  - c) *You don't have to have a body to be a person*

### **B. The Holy Spirit is a Person**

1. He is a person in the same sense that the Father / Son are persons
2. He is to be adored, loved and obeyed in the same way as we adore, love and obey the Father and the Son

## **II. The Holy Spirit Has Qualities of a Person**

### **A. He Has a Will – 1 Cor 12:11**

11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

1. Your will allows you to make choices.
2. A force (electricity / magnetism) don't have a will
3. That the Holy Spirit has a will shows that He is a person

### **B. He Has a Mind – Rom 8:27**

27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

1. In your mind you think and remember
2. A force doesn't have a mind
3. The Spirit has a mind – He can think and remember

### **C. He Has Knowledge / Intelligence – 1 Cor 2:10-11**

10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

1. The Spirit has knowledge – a force has no knowledge
2. He is the Spirit of wisdom in Eph 1:17

17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

### **D. He Has Love – Rom 15:30**

30 Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me;

1. The Spirit has love
2. An influence does not have love and cannot love

### **E. He Has Goodness – Neh 9:20**

20 Thou gavest also thy good spirit to instruct them, and withholdest not thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them water for their thirst.

1. A force does not have goodness
2. The Holy Spirit has goodness

### **III. The Holy Spirit Has the Actions of a Person**

#### **A. He Speaks – Acts 13:2; 1 Tim 4:1**

Ac 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

1Ti 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

#### **B. He Intercedes – Rom 8:26**

26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

#### **C. He Testifies – Jn 15:26**

26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

#### **D. He Commands – Acts 16:6-7**

6 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, 7 After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.

#### **E. He Oversees – Acts 20:28**

28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

#### **F. He Guides – Jn 16:13**

13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

#### **G. He Teaches – Jn 14:26**

26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

#### **H. He Convicts – Jn 16:8-11**

8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

#### **IV. The Holy Spirit Can Be Treated As a Person**

##### **A. He May be Grieved – Eph 4:30**

30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

1. Only a person can be grieved
2. Your mother loves you. You do something disappointing and you grieve her. You break her heart.
3. We can grieve the Holy Spirit.
4. You cannot grieve a force or influence.

##### **B. He Can Be Sinned Against - Isa 63:10**

10 But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them.

##### **C. He May be Tested – Acts 5:9**

9 Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.

##### **D. He May be Blasphemed – Mk 3:29-30**

29 But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation: 30 Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit.

##### **E. He May be Lied To – Acts 5:9**

9 Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.

#### **V. The Holy Spirit is Mentioned With Other Persons**

1. Mt 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
2. Ac 15:28 For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;
  - a) *Would someone list a force in a listing of persons?*
  - b) *That would be like saying, “George Washington, Ben Franklin and gravity”*

## **VI. Personal Pronouns are Used with the Holy Spirit**

### **A. “He” is Used with the Holy Spirit**

**Joh 15:26** But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, **he** shall testify of me:

**Joh 16:13** Howbeit when **he**, the Spirit of truth, is come, **he** will guide you into all truth: for **he** shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever **he** shall hear, *that* shall **he** speak: and **he** will shew you things to come. **14 He** shall glorify me: for **he** shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you.

1. Personal pronouns are used when speaking of people

### **B. The KJV Use of “IT” Confuses Matters – Rom 8:16, 26**

**8:16** The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

**8:26** Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

1. If the Spirit is a person, then why is He called “it” in the Bible?
2. In Greek, Spirit is neuter so it is appropriate

## **VII. Christ Speaks of the Holy Spirit as a Person**

1. Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.
2. Joh 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: