

# Holy Spirit is God 1

## ***Who Is He: Person or Power?***

(preached 1/9/22)

BARNA POLL. In 2021 a poll came out conducted by Barna of Arizona Christian University, who interviewed 2000 professing Christians about the Holy Spirit and the response was fascinating:

- 62% said the Holy Spirit wasn't a Person, but rather a vague representation of Father God's characteristics.
- 61% said "all faiths were of equal value."
- 60% believed they earned their way to Heaven by being good.
- 9% have a Biblical worldview.

WHO/WHAT IS HE? As a young Christian, I purposefully read books, listened to sermons, and watched video teachings on the Holy Spirit because I didn't understand Him and wanted to.

- Is He a Person, a power, or a set of Godly characteristics as 62% of "Christians" believe?
- What is His role—what purpose does He serve?
- What is our relationship with Him and Him with us?

DID I PREACH TRUTH? One day I will stand at the Bema Seat Judgment, where all Christians will stand before Jesus to have our eternal rewards or lack thereof decided (*1 Corinthians 3:13-15*). As for me as a Pastor, one thing the Lord will be looking at is whether I exalted Him and preached Biblical truth to you from this pulpit.

***My hope, my prayer, is that we at Gateway (and everyone who watches on FB live) can be far superior to the heartbreaking statistics taken by Barna that I just read to you.***

- If you don't have a Biblical worldview, I hope my preaching makes you squirm in your seat.
- If you're rolling your eyes saying that I really push the Scriptures as the written Truth and the Word of God, then I'm doing my job.
- If you often feel the dividing cut of God's Sword between what the Bible says vs. what you feel and believe, then my response is "hallelujah!"
- If, by the end of this current sermon series, you feel you have a more firm grasp of the Holy Spirit, then I will raise my hands into the air and rejoice!

**The Holy Spirit is a Person. (He's not an "it.")**

**He's part of the triune Godhead of God the Father and God the Son Jesus.**

## **He is God the Holy Spirit.**

### **Genesis 1:1-2 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

<sup>2</sup> The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

TRANSLATION. The Hebrew word spirit translates to “wind, breath, mind” and further denotes “a violent exhalation like a blast, but only of a rational being with a function.” (Strong’s H7307 & 7306).

LOTS OF SPIRITS. There are LOTS of spirits out there and I would even say there are more of them than there are physical human beings. So please notice that verse 2 qualifies WHICH Spirit is being referred to here: the Spirit of GOD. I have my own spirit and so do you—this body is an avatar, a suit we put on to operate here in the material world with our spirit living inside. Angels are spirits and so are demons.

IN HIS IMAGE. Just as we have a spirit so does God, because we are made in His likeness. The Holy Spirit has a will, feelings, consciousness, and has an amazing purpose and without Him you and I couldn’t be in covenant with Jesus, we wouldn’t have Grace, wouldn’t be able to understand the Bible, or be the Light of Christ here on earth!

## **He helped Father God create everything, just like Jesus did.**

SPOKEN INTO BEING. The material world was SPOKEN into being by Father God. When you and I speak we need 2 things other than ourselves for a total of 3. 1) we need words and 2) we need breath.

*Jesus is God’s Word, the Holy Spirit is God’s breath.*

*Jesus is a Person, the Holy Spirit is a Person.*

## **THEY ARE NOT 3 GODS. THEY ARE 3 PARTS OF ONE GOD.**

HOLY. The Holy Spirit is also set apart from the billions of other spirits by calling Him “Holy.” Just like Father, He is eternally holy, righteous, and glorious! He cannot be corrupted or defiled in any way. Remember what 4 living creatures are declaring in the throne room right now: “Holy! Holy! Holy! Is the Lord God Almighty!” (Revelation 4:

OTHERS CAN BE CORRUPTED. Angels are created holy but can be tempted and fall into corruption. Human spirits start out in sin and have the opportunity to be Saved by Christ and become holy...or not. God the Holy Spirit is forever Holy!

PHARAOH & JOSPEH. In Genesis 41 the Pharaoh of Egypt had a dramatic dream about his country and needed an interpretation. He heard of a man named Joseph who could accurately interpret dreams and called upon him. Joseph showed up, interpreted the dream, and Pharaoh was impressed. Look at his response:

**Genesis 41:37-38 (ESV)**

<sup>37</sup> This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants.

<sup>38</sup> And Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?”

NOT EGYPT’S GODS. Pharaoh wasn’t referring to the Egyptian gods, but the Hebrew God because he knew Joseph worshipped Him. Even pagan Pharaoh understood Who dwelled upon and empowered Joseph.

MOSES’ TENT. During the Exodus, God commands Moses to build the earthly Tabernacle—a large tent—that was meant to be an earthly copy of God’s throne room in Heaven. Look what happens:

**Exodus 35:30-31 (ESV)**

<sup>30</sup> Then Moses said to the people of Israel, “See, the LORD has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah;

<sup>31</sup> and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship,

CO-LABORED WITH HS. The people didn’t just act on their own, because the Lord wanted the Tabernacle to be JUST RIGHT, so He sent His Spirit to make sure everything was done with excellence. It was the Holy Spirit Who provided skill, intelligence, and knowledge for the labor.

MOSES OVERWHELMED. Later on in the same Exodus, Moses is feeling overwhelmed—the man is in charge of hundreds of thousands of people! Look what God tells Him is the remedy:

**Numbers 11:16-17 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, “Gather for me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them, and bring them to the tent of meeting, and let them take their stand there with you.

<sup>17</sup> And I will come down and talk with you there. And I will take some of the Spirit that is on you and put it on them, and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you may not bear it yourself alone.

COME AND GO. The Spirit of God is a Being Who can “come” and “go.” He can’t just be an ambiguous set of characteristics or power. Whereas Father stays in Heaven, **THE HOLY SPIRIT COME TO EARTH AND DIRECTLY INTERACT WITH US.**

70 ELDERS. In the case of Numbers 11, the Holy Spirit descends from Heaven to equip and empower 70 elders who will help Moses bear the burden of governing God’s people. Look what happens next:

**Numbers 11:26-30 (ESV)**

<sup>26</sup> Now two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the Spirit rested on them. They were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp.

<sup>27</sup> And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.”

<sup>28</sup> And Joshua the son of Nun, the assistant of Moses from his youth, said, “My lord Moses, stop them.”

<sup>29</sup> But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD’s people were prophets, that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!”

<sup>30</sup> And Moses and the elders of Israel returned to the camp.

GOVERN & PROPHECY. Not only did these men help to govern “day to day” things like eating, drinking, and sanitation but they were given the gift of prophecy! The only way we can operate in the supernatural power of the Lord is with His Spirit!

GIDEON & 300. God raised up Gideon to stand against the Midianites who had invaded Israel and enslaved the people. Midian sent a massive army of tens of thousands, whereas Gideon only had 300. Look what happens:

**Judges 6:33-34 (ESV)**

<sup>33</sup> Now all the Midianites and the Amalekites and the people of the East came together, and they crossed the Jordan and encamped in the Valley of Jezreel.

<sup>34</sup> But the Spirit of the LORD clothed Gideon, and he sounded the trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called out to follow him.

CLOTHED GIDEON. Once the Holy Spirit “clothed” Gideon like a warm coat on a winter day, or a suit of armor for battle, Gideon rode to victory and routed the enemy once and for all! Not only did Israel have independence, but they returned to worshipping God!

SAMSON. Samson was granted miraculous strength and every movie about him portrays him as the buff muscular dude with massive biceps and six pack abs. IDK whether he looked like that or not, but please understand he was just as likely 90 lbs soaking wet because his feats of strength were completely supernatural, granted to him by God’s Spirit.

- In *Judges 14:6* Samson kills a lion with his bare hands, literally tearing it to pieces.
- In *Judges 14:19* Samson fights 30 men and wins.
- In *Judges 15:14* Samson is hogtied by the Philistines and he breaks the ropes and in verse 15 he overcomes 1000 men with nothing more than the jawbone of a donkey!

SAMUEL ANOINTS. Samuel was sent first to anoint Saul as King of Israel, and the Bible says God's Spirit came upon Saul (*1 Samuel 10:10, 11:6*). After Saul fell away from the faith, however, God chooses David to be the next king and look what happens:

### **1 Samuel 16:13 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

***Anointing with oil by a man of God is the earthly symbol of the Holy Spirit coming upon someone!***

DAVID'S LAST WORDS. 2 Samuel 23 are the last words David spoke before he died...look what he wrote:

### **2 Samuel 23:1-4 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Now these are the last words of David: The oracle of David, the son of Jesse, the oracle of the man who was raised on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, the sweet psalmist of Israel:

<sup>2</sup> "The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me; his word is on my tongue.

<sup>3</sup> The God of Israel has spoken; the Rock of Israel has said to me: When one rules justly over men, ruling in the fear of God,

<sup>4</sup> he dawns on them like the morning light, like the sun shining forth on a cloudless morning, like rain that makes grass to sprout from the earth.

**Verse 2:** The Holy Spirit talks...He's a Person!

**Verse 3:** He is God! Part of the God of Israel, Who is God the Father.

## **Understanding the Trinity isn't hard like some people think.**

1. An egg has 3 parts: the shell, the white and yolk. Three distinct parts that all make up one egg.
2. Water can take the form of liquid, solid (ice) or gas (steam)...very different expressions of the same thing: water!
3. Human beings have a body, a mind, and a heart—3 very different parts of us yet we are still one person.

David said the following in the Psalms:

**Psalm 51:11 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> Cast me not away from your presence, and **take not your Holy Spirit from me.**

**Psalm 139:7-12 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> **Where shall I go from your Spirit?** Or where shall I flee from your presence?

<sup>8</sup> If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

<sup>9</sup> If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,

<sup>10</sup> even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

<sup>11</sup> If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,"

<sup>12</sup> even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you.

EQUATED WITH GOD. In Psalm 139 the Holy Spirit is again equated with God Himself and not just an amorphous "power" or some ambiguous set of good characteristics.

COMING MESSIAH. When prophesying the first coming of Jesus, Isaiah prophesied this:

**Isaiah 11:1-2 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup> **And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,** the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

**Isaiah 42:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; **I have put my Spirit upon him;** he will bring forth justice to the nations.

JESUS DECLARES SAME. In Luke 4:18, Jesus would declare that the Holy Spirit was upon and in Him, quoting from Isaiah 61.

PARTNERSHIP. Isaiah goes on to point out the partnership between the Holy Spirit and the Bible, the written Word of God:

**Isaiah 34:16 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> Seek and read from the book of the LORD: Not one of these shall be missing; none shall be without her mate. For the mouth of the LORD has commanded, and **his Spirit has gathered them.**

UNDERSTAND BIBLE—PAUL. Paul would tell the Corinthians later that the only way we can understand the Bible is in partnership with the Holy Spirit, Who lives inside us under the New Covenant.

WHO IS HE? Look how God prophesies about Who He is through Isaiah:

**Isaiah 40:13-14 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> **Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD**, or what man shows him his counsel?

<sup>14</sup> Whom did he consult, and who made him understand? Who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding?

**Verse 13:** there's no physical limitation on the Holy Spirit, for He is God! Part b: Who gives the Holy Spirit the wisdom, knowledge, and intelligence He has? No human being!

**Verse 14:** The Person of the Holy Spirit never consulted with any human being or learned from us. He never learned justice, knowledge, or understanding from us for He is God!

OTHER SPIRITS LIMITED. Angels are not like this and nor are demons—they are limited in every way and do not have all knowledge, wisdom, or justice. The same applies to our spirits. Only God lives up to all the things in these 2 verses!

PROMISE & COMMAND. Look at this promise and command from God:

**Isaiah 59:20-21 (ESV)**

<sup>20</sup> “And a Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression,” declares the LORD.

<sup>21</sup> “And as for me, this is my covenant with them,” says the LORD: “My Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring, or out of the mouth of your children's offspring,” says the LORD, “from this time forth and forevermore.”

**This is God's covenant with us!**

- He gives us His Spirit, Who is Him!
- He gives is the same ability as Him: to speak which means both breath and words.
- God provides breath in the form of the Holy Spirit.
- He also gives us the words, which is the Word of God!
- COMMAND: it shall not depart from our mouths. This means both speaking and living it, which means we need to believe it.
- COMMAND 2: we teach it to our kids. If we don't disciple our children, the world will.

EXODUS REBELLION. When talking about the people's rebellion toward God during the Exodus, Isaiah relays this:

**Isaiah 63:10 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them.

## **Being a Person, the Holy Spirit has emotions: He can get angry and be grieved.**

EZEKIEL CALLED. Look what happens when Ezekiel is called to be God's Prophet:

### **Ezekiel 2:1-2 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> And he said to me, "Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you."

<sup>2</sup> And as he spoke to me, **the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet**, and I heard him speaking to me.

PULLED HAIR. Throughout Ezekiel's experience, the Spirit of God is always moving him around—even grabbing him by the hair—on both earth and heaven...I think he was transported more than anyone else in the Bible, lol! Ezekiel also credits the Spirit for telling Him what to say and when.

NC COMING. Ezekiel is also one of the first times we see that a New Covenant will be offered to Israel:

### **Ezekiel 36:25-27 (ESV)**

<sup>25</sup> I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

<sup>26</sup> And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

<sup>27</sup> **And I will put my Spirit within you**, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

## **Look at the various things the Holy Spirit accomplishes within us:**

- The cleansing of sin, the agent of which under the NC is the Blood of Christ.
- The "born-again" spirit we now have, a new one that's been regenerated and given eternal life.
- A new heart, meaning one of compassion, love, peace, and joy.
- **Verse 27**: righteousness—the overcoming grace to obey God's moral commands and live a holy life.

**If a Holy Spirit is truly active within us we won't ONLY prophesy and speak in tongues, but live a holy life with our words and actions.**

***We will have self-control and continually be repenting of the old self and embracing the new Christ self.***



*Without God the Holy Spirit living inside us right now, we wouldn't be in the NC.*

**We wouldn't be able to read and understand the Bible, walk out the purpose God has for us, lead holy lives, or operate in supernatural power.**

**He is a Person. He is God. We need Him!**

I end with this:

**Joel 2:28-32 (ESV)**

<sup>28</sup> “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions.

<sup>29</sup> Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

<sup>30</sup> “And I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and columns of smoke.

<sup>31</sup> The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.

<sup>32</sup> And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those who escape, as the LORD has said, and among the survivors shall be those whom the LORD calls.

**We need Him now, more than ever, as we rush toward the Last Days!!!**