

Theology 2
The Person of the Holy Spirit
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*Because the Holy Spirit is not systematically described in Scripture, the doctrine of the third Person of the Trinity has been controversial. But the doctrine of the Holy Spirit is of **vital importance** since it is He who provides contact between the believer and God.*

The Importance of the Doctrine

1. The Holy Spirit is the point at which the Trinity becomes **personal** to the believer.
2. The work of the Holy Spirit is **more prominent now** (dispensation of the church) than that of the other members of the Godhead.
3. The ministry of the Holy Spirit stresses the **experiential**, and it is primarily through the Holy Spirit that we experience God.

Difficulties in Understanding the Holy Spirit

1. We have less explicit revelation in the Bible regarding the Holy Spirit.
2. There is a lack of concrete imagery. (First Person – Father, Second Person – Son)
3. Most people tend to “**unofficially**” **subordinate** the Spirit to the Father and the Son.

The Deity of the Holy Spirit

1. Various references to the Holy Spirit are **interchangeable** with references to God. (see Acts 5:3-4, 1 Cor. 3:16, 6:19)
2. The Holy Spirit possesses the **attributes** or qualities of God (omniscience – 1 Cor. 2:10-11, omnipotence – Luke 1:35, Rom. 15:19, eternity – Heb. 9:14, cf. 1:10-12).
3. The Holy Spirit performs **tasks** that are commonly ascribed to God. (creation, regeneration, inspiration of Scripture, etc.)
4. Throughout Scripture, the Holy Spirit is routinely **linked** with the Father and the Son (Matt. 28:19, 2 Cor. 13:14, 1 Pet. 1:2).

The Personality of the Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit is a **He** – not an *it*; a **Person** – not a “life force” (pantheism)
 1. The use of the masculine pronoun for the Holy Spirit throughout Scripture.
 2. The Holy Spirit possesses certain personal characteristics.
 - Intelligence – John 14:26
 - Will – 1 Cor. 12:11
 - Emotions – grief (Eph. 4:30) among others
 3. In addition to these, the Holy Spirit can be lied to, quenched (1 Thess. 5:19), resisted (Acts 7:51), and blasphemed (Matt. 12:31, Mark 3:29). He even works to intercede (Rom. 8:26) and convict (John 16:8) among many other things.

Implications of the Person of the Holy Spirit – p. 274