

The Holy Spirit: Who He Is

"Life Foundations: Christian Faith Essentials", Part 6

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THE BIG IDEA: THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE THIRD PERSON IN THE TRINITY OF GOD WHO ENTERS OUR LIVES WHEN WE FIRST EXPERIENCE SALVATION!

"It is the [Holy] Spirit who gives life." (John 6:63a, NASB)

I) THE PERSONHOOD OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: NOT AN IMPERSONAL FORCE

(adapted and modified from C. Ryrie, "A Survey Of Bible Doctrine", p.67-88)

1) The Holy Spirit is a person because He is REFERRED TO as a person.

"And I [Jesus] will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth..." (John 14:16-17a, NKJV)

2) The Holy Spirit is a person because He ACTS LIKE a person.

a) He has intelligence. (1 Cor. 2:10-11,13, Rom. 8:27)

b) He shows feelings. (Eph. 4:30)

c) He possesses a will. (1 Cor. 12:11, Acts 16:6-11)

d) He hears, speaks and shows truth. (John 16:8,13, Rom. 8:26)

3) The Holy Spirit is a person because He is COMPARED TO other persons.

"For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these essentials..." (Acts 15:28, NASB)

II) THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: FULL DEITY AND EQUALITY IN THE TRINITY

1) The Holy Spirit is God because He has the ATTRIBUTES of God.

"For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of a man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God." (1 Corinthians 2:11-12, NASB)

"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?" (Psalm 139:7, NIV)

2) The Holy Spirit is God because He does the ACTIVITY of God.

(see point IV) below)

3) The Holy Spirit is God because He is ASSOCIATED EQUALLY to the Father and the Son.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."
(Matthew 28:19, NASB)

III) THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

1) The Holy Spirit was involved in the CREATION of the world, particularly "life-giving".

"The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life." (Job 33:4, NIV)

2) The Holy Spirit was the inspiration behind the PROPHETS speaking for God.

"For no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."
(2 Peter 1:21, NASB)

3) The Holy Spirit was SELECTIVE and not PERMANENT in indwelling people.

"As he {Samson} approached Lehi, the Philistines came toward him shouting. The Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power. The ropes on his arms became like charred flax, and the bindings dropped from his hands."
(Judges 15:14, NIV)

"Then she [Delilah] called, 'Samson, the Philistines are upon you!' He awoke from his sleep and thought, 'I'll go out as before and shake myself free.' But he did not know that the Lord had left him." (Judges 16:20, NIV)

IV) THE PROCESSION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: MAKING HIS WAY INTO OUR LIVES

1) The Holy Spirit shows us the TRUTH. ("convicting")

"And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged."
(John 16:8-11, NASB)

2) The Holy Spirit gives us a NEW LIFE. ("regenerating")

"He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit."
(Titus 3:5, NASB)

3) The Holy Spirit lives WITHIN US. (“indwelling”)

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?”
 (1 Corinthians 6:19a, NIV)

4) The Holy Spirit joins us into GOD’S FAMILY. (“baptizing”)

“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.”
 (1 Corinthians 12:13, NASB)

5) The Holy Spirit ETERNALLY SECURES US in God. (“sealing”)

“In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation— having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.” (Ephesians 1:13-14, NASB)

6) The Holy Spirit equips us with GIFTS to serve. (“gifting”)

“It is the one and only Holy Spirit who distributes these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.”
 (1 Corinthians 12:11, NLT)

New Testament Lists of Spiritual Gifts		
1 Corinthians 12:8-10	1 Corinthians 12:28	1 Corinthians 12:29-30
Word of wisdom	Apostleship	Apostleship
Word of knowledge	Prophecy	Prophecy
Faith	Teaching	Teaching
Healing	Miracles	Miracles
Miracles	Healings	Healings
Prophecy	Helps	Tongues
Distinguishing of Sprits	Administrations	Interpretation of tongues
Tongues	Tongues	
Interpretation of tongues		
Romans 12:6-8	Ephesians 4:11	1 Peter 4:11
Prophecy	Apostleship	Speaking
Serving	Prophecy	Serving
Teaching	Evangelism	
Exhortation	Pastor-Teacher	
Giving		
Leading		
Showing mercy		

SUMMARY THOUGHT: BECAUSE THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD IN ME, I WILL SUBMIT MYSELF TO HIM AND STRIVE TO BE FILLED WITH HIS PRESENCE!

V) QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION IN GROUPS OR FOR PERSONAL REFLECTION

- 1) Before this session, what were your conceptions of the Holy Spirit? Was He a person or simply a force? Did you see Him as very God or as something less? Explain how your view was changed or strengthened.

- 2) What aspects of the Holy Spirit were new to you in this session? What ones were familiar? Discuss your thoughts

- 3) Look through the sub-points in "IV) The Procession Of The Holy Spirit". Do you see the progression or chronological order in them? Please explain.

- 4) What are some ways you can thank the Holy Spirit for coming into your life? Find two or three ways in which you can apply this session to your life.