

Ghost Stories-1
“Who is the Holy Ghost?”
John 14:15-17 (NIV)

Hey Newsong!

I want to take a moment and welcome all of our first-time guests and those watching with us online! Take a second and let us know where you're watching from!

Today we're starting a new series called “Ghost Stories”. It's all about the Holy Ghost a.k.a the Holy Spirit...

And one of the reasons we're teaching this series is because we received a lot of questions asking about the Holy Spirit. Who is He? What does He do? I'm excited because the truth is, we need to get to know Him!

Now for some people that kind of freaks you out a little...because you've seen some things...

You've seen people who talked a lot about the Holy Spirit, and His power and His gifts but you know...they were kind of...well...weird.

Maybe you walked away scratching your head thinking...I'm not sure about "that"

What I'm going to ask you to do is put whatever "that" is on the shelf for a couple of weeks. Let's go to the Bible together and investigate who The Holy Spirit is...and you know what we're going to find?

We're going to see that He's all through the Bible at least 90 times in the O.T. and over 200 times in the N.T.

Okay so let's get into our first "Ghost Story shall we?" On the night that Jesus was betrayed, He had a very intimate dinner and conversation with His disciples...During that convo He said this...

15 “If you love me, keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. Jn 14:15-17 (NIV)

Pray

The Holy Ghost is a **PERSON**

He's not an “it”

He's not an “impersonal force”

He's not some kind of “cosmic consciousness”

Notice that Jesus uses personal pronouns to describe the Holy Spirit... “He & Him”

Jesus doesn't say “you will know it”...He says you will know “Him” there's personhood...

And as we read through the Bible, we see that He has the characteristics of a person...

He has a mind...He thinks

27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.-Ro 8:27 (NIV)

2 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—Is 11:2 (NIV)

He makes decisions...

11 It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have-1 Co 12:11. (NLT)

He has emotions...He feels joy...**6 So you received the message with joy from the Holy Spirit in spite of the severe suffering it brought you. In this way, you imitated both us and the Lord-1 Th 1:6 (NLT)**

He feels sorrow

30 And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption-Eph 4:30 (NLT)

What I'm trying to show you is that the Holy Spirit is a Person...It's easy to think of Him as an "it" or a "thing" because sometimes the Bible uses words like "wind" "fire" or "dove" to describe Him...But He's a Person!

He Speaks...**2 One day as these men were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Appoint Barnabas and Saul for**

the special work to which I have called them.”-Ac 13:2 (NLT)

He Teaches...***12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what needs to be said.”***
-Lk 12:12 (NLT)

Now why is it so important to understand that the Holy Ghost is a Person? Because Jesus said that you will *know* the Holy Spirit...

This speaks of friendship, this speaks of intimacy, these things you can only develop in a personal relationship...

You can't develop a personal relationship with someone who you refer to as an it...

Listen to how the Apostle Paul ends his letter to the Corinthian Churches...

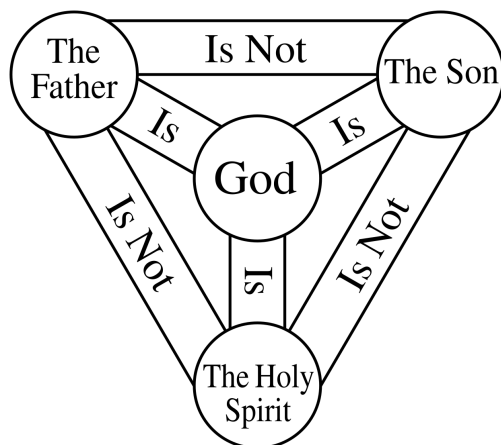
***14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God, and the fellowship of the
Holy Spirit be with you all.-2 Co 13:14 (NLT)***

You can only fellowship with the Holy Spirit if
He's a Person!

The Holy Ghost isn't just a person...

The Holy Ghost is GOD

The Holy Spirit is part of what is called The
Trinity. The doctrine of the Trinity is how
Theologians describe that there is One God
who eternally exists in Three distinct Persons:
Father, Son & Holy Spirit...



Now the Trinity can be hard for us to understand...but just because something is hard to understand doesn't mean that it's not true...

Math is very hard for me to understand...When they started putting letters in my math problems I was done...anyone else suffer with math anxiety because of those algebra questions?

My palms are getting sweaty just thinking about it!But I can't deny the existence of algebra just because it's difficult for me to understand...

So although the word "trinity" isn't found in the Bible...And Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, Oneness Pentecostals, Unitarians and Muslims all deny it...we see the idea of the Trinity all through the Bible...

First of all there's only one God

4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.-Dt 6:4 (NIV)

And yet we see three distinct Person's

The Bible tells us that the Father is God...

27 But don't be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man can give you. For God the Father has given me the seal of his approval."-Jn 6:27 (NLT)

The Bible tells us that the Son is God...

1 In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He existed in the beginning with God. 3 God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. 4 The Word gave life to everything that was created, and his life brought light to

everyone. 14 So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.-Jn 1:1-4; 14 (NLT)

The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit is God...

3 Then Peter said, "Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself. 4 The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was also yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren't lying to us but to God!"-Ac 5:3-4 (NLT)

One God Three Persons...

I love how apologist Nabeel Qureshi breaks down the Trinity...

“God is One in Being and Three in Persons”

What's the difference between a being and a person?

A being is that quality, essence or substance that makes you what you are...

A person is that quality, or essence that makes you who you are...

What kind of being am I? (I'm a human being)
Who am I as a person? (Mike Tolone)

What I am is my being...

Who I am is my person...

The two are not the same thing...

We are all human beings...that's what we are
But we are not all the same person...that's who we are...So we are made up of one being with one person...God is made up of One Being with Three Persons...Father, Son & Holy Spirit

Is there anything else like that on the earth?
No...Is it a mystery to us? Yes it is...But that
doesn't mean that God can't be Three in One!

What I'm trying to show you is that you can trust
the Holy Spirit, the same way you trust The
Father, and the same way you trust The Son...

He's not weird...He's God! Let's look at Jesus'
words a little closer

***16 And I (Jesus; God the Son) will ask Who?
the Father, and he will give you another
advocate to help you and be with you
forever—Who is that? 17 the Spirit of truth.
(God the Holy Spirit) The world cannot
accept him, because it neither sees him nor
knows him. But you know him, for he lives
with you and will be in you. Jn 14:15-17
(NIV)***

The Holy Spirit is a Person...He has a mind, He
has a will...He speaks...He has emotions...

He can be grieved...He can be quenched...He's a Person...

The Holy Spirit is God...He's infinitely Holy...
He's infinitely wise...He's infinitely powerful...

Yet He's wonderfully tender...wonderfully sensitive...and wonderfully compassionate
Get this...

The Holy Ghost is here to **HELPS US**

God Who knows all things, and can do all things, is here to help us accomplish God's purposes and plans on the earth!

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—17 the Spirit of truth.

Jesus says I'm going to send you "another" advocate or some translations say "helper" or "comforter"...

Jesus is saying...I'm going to send you another Person Who's just like Me...He's going to be your Advocate just like I am...

He's going to help you just like I help you...He's going to comfort you just like I do...

Our English word Advocate comes from the Greek word **paráklētos (par-ak'-lay-tos)**

It means to come alongside and help...It was used to describe a personal counselor or coach...it was also used to describe a lawyer who would plead a person's case...

John uses the same word to describe Jesus

My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous.-1 Jn 2:1 (NLT)

A para is someone who stays very close by and helps...

This is amazing...Because I don't know about you...but I need help! I need God's help every single day!

What I want you to understand is that the Holy Spirit is our divine Para...And it's time that you get to know Him! He's here to help you! You've got to keep the Holy Ghost Close!

There's so many things that we could talk about and we will...but for now...know this...

He's a **PERMANENT** Helper

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him.

But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. Jn 14:16-17 (NIV)

He is working on the earth...

He draws people to Jesus...He moves unbelievers towards salvation...If you're not saved you don't have the Holy Spirit as your helper...

But every time you hear the Word of God preached...every time your conscience tells you that you shouldn't have done that...That's the Holy Spirit at work...He's drawing you...

When a person gets saved...He comes and lives inside of them...Now we get to know Him...We get to have a relationship with Him...

He's a **RELIABLE** Helper

17 the Spirit of truth.

He will never lead us away from God...

He teaches us...He will never lead us to do something that is contrary to God's Word!

He helps us understand and apply the Word of God to our life...He corrects us...He prays for us...He empowers us to carry out God's mission...He gives us spiritual gifts...He gives us a spiritual prayer language...He molds and shapes us into the image of Jesus!

Family, what I want you to know is that the Holy Spirit is your para...And we all need to start working with Him...

We need to learn how to walk with Him...

We need to learn how to listen to Him...

We need to learn how to obey Him...

As we close today I want you to know that...

He's an **EXCLUSIVE** Helper

He's only available to those who are born again...To those who have accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior...

14 The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.-1 Co 2:14 (NIV)

The unsaved person doesn't belong to God...He or she belongs to the world...Their not led by the Spirit of God...but by their own instincts and ultimately the spirit of the world...

So an unsaved person can't understand the ways of God...You're going to church again? "You're on another 21 days of prayer? What are you a monk? Wait, you get up early and serve at your church? For Free? Wait you tithe?

They can't understand it because they haven't met the Holy Ghost yet!

You go out on the town, get drunk and up sleeping with a stranger...the world will call you normal...

You go to church...get filled up with the Holy Ghost, and start walking with Jesus, people will call you weird...I'd rather be weird in a God way then normal in a world way!

Jesus said...

15 *"If you love me, keep my commands. (We can't do that without the Holy Ghost) 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—17 the Spirit of truth.*

As we close today I want to talk to you if you're far away from God...

The Holy Spirit is drawing you right now...He's calling you to come to the cross and be forgiven...

He's calling you to receive God's gift of salvation...He's calling you to run to the open arms of the Father!

Pray

I want to talk to you today if you know and love the Lord...Would you admit that you could get to know the Holy Spirit a little bit more? Could you use His help a little bit more? If that's you today can I pray for you?

You don't need more of the Holy Spirit...The Holy Spirit needs more of you!

Altar Time

