

John 16:4b "I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵ But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷ Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

¹² "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you."

Theme: The Nature and Role of the Holy Spirit...

I. What is the Holy Spirit? (vv. 7-8; 13-15) **He is Spirit, 3rd person of Trinity**

II. What is the Spirit's role in the World? (vv. 8-11) **Conviction, Prosecutor**

- Sin
- Righteousness
- Judgment

III. What is the Spirit's role for Christians? (vv. 7; 12-15) **Guide, glorify Jesus**

Q: What do you think of the following idea about the Holy Spirit?

Historically, the Trinity has been articulated as One God in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit. This is hard for many to wrap their minds around because we do not want to believe in three gods (or Tri-theism). And we need to be careful not to think of the Trinity as morphing from God the Father into God the Son into the Holy Spirit, because we see the Trinity interacting throughout Scripture. Yet, this interaction is not a kind of schizophrenia as if God is One Person with three personalities. Rather, we read in Scripture that Jesus interacts with the other two members of the Trinity as if they are individuals working for unity. For example, when Jesus was baptized the Spirit descended like a dove and the Father spoke, "This is my Son with whom I am well pleased." (see Matthew 3:16-17) Similarly, Jesus said, "I will ask the Father and He will send you the Helper, the Spirit of Truth" (John 14:16-17) and "I will send Him to you" (John 16:7). We see interaction between three Beings that are ascribed individual personhood: the Father, the Son, and the Spirit (described as "He/Him" 12 times in John 16). Look at what A.W. Tozer says about the Holy Spirit:

"He is a Person. ...the Holy Spirit is not only a Being having another mode of existence, but He is Himself a Person, with all the qualities and powers of personality. He is not matter, but He is substance. The Holy Spirit is often thought of as a beneficent wind that blows across the church. If you think of the Holy Spirit as being literally a wind, a breath, then you think of Him as nonpersonal and nonindividual. But the Holy Spirit has will and intelligence and feeling and knowledge and sympathy and ability to love and see and think and hear and speak and desire the same as any person has." – A.W. Tozer, *Life in the Spirit*, 7

Take the above one step further, matter cannot penetrate matter. Matter is made of molecules, which has weight, density, and an outline. This is one mode of being, which the physical possesses. But Spirit does not have these same boundaries and thus can penetrate the physical. Spirit can be inside the physical, even penetrate your thinking. This is why it is said that the Holy Spirit regenerates and cleanses you within (Titus 3:5-6). Now, consider this mind-blowing concept: God being Spirit can penetrate not only the physical, but also the spiritual. This is why it is said the Father, Son, and Spirit are One. All three interact as separate persons, yet are made of the same subsistence (having the same essence or Divine state of being) and can therefore penetrate one another, overlapping as One. Mind-blowing. What are your thoughts on this and what difference does this make in your life?