

## THE HOLY SPIRIT

Text: Acts 9:31

INTRO: All we can know about the Holy Spirit is what is revealed in the Bible. As we enter into this subject let us note two reasons to proceed with caution. (1) The word “spirit” has several different meanings. Many passages that are **assumed** to be about the Holy Spirit may not be. The word is also used of the human spirit, evil spirits, prevailing attitudes, pervading influences, etc.

(2) There are many things regarding the heavenly Father, the Christ, & the Holy Spirit that our finite minds can accept by faith, but may not be able to fully understand or fully explain.

### I. THE PERSONHOOD OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

And I will pray the Father, & He will give you another Helper, that **He** may abide with you forever--the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees **Him** nor knows **Him**; but you know **Him**, for **He** dwells with you and will be in you. (John 14:16-17).

"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, **He** will **testify** of Me. (John 15:26).

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 depart, I will send **Him** to you. And when **He** has come, **He** will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. (John 16:7-8).

However, when **He**, the Spirit of truth, has come, **He** will guide you into all truth; for **He** will not speak on **His** own authority, but whatever **He** hears **He** will **speak**; and **He** will **tell** you things to come. (John 16:13).

NOTE: No less than 13 times Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit with the words, “He,” “Him,” and “His.” Jesus shows that the Holy Spirit is a Being who can testify, speak, hear, & tell. Other passages show that He can be vexed and grieved, Isa. 63:10; Eph. 4:30, etc.

NOTE also: He is sometimes called “the Spirit of God” and

“the Spirit of Christ” because He came **from** them.

## II. THE DEITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Christ... through the **eternal Spirit** offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (Heb. 9:14)

### A. The One conceived by the Holy Spirit is the Son of God.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. (MT 1:18-20).

And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. (Luke 1:35).

### B. To lie to the Holy Spirit is to lie to God.

But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to **lie to the Holy Spirit** and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not **lied** to men but to **God.**" (Acts 5:3-4).

### C. Throughout the Scriptures the Holy Spirit repeatedly is identified with the Father and the Christ.

"Come near to Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; From the time that it was, I was there. And now the Lord GOD and His Spirit

Have sent Me." (Isa. 48:16)

When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."  
(Matt. 3:16-17).

NOTE: Other passages far too numerous to mention, including Rom. 15:30; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 3:14-17; Phil. 3:3; 2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Peter 1:1; 1 John 4:13-14 and **many others**.

III. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. Many things have been attributed to the Holy Spirit that the Bible does assign to Him. We note three areas of activity specifically attributed to the Holy Spirit in the holy Scriptures.

A. He was active in Creation.

In the beginning God created the heavens & the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. (Gen. 1:1-2).

By His **Spirit** He adorned the heavens. (Job 26:13).

B. He was especially active in Revelation & Inspiration.

For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:21).

Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.  
(1 Pet 1:10-11)

But when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit. (Mark 13:11).

C. The Holy Spirit was very active in **Confirming** the Inspired Messages.

How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will? (Heb. 2:4).

There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. (1 Cor. 12:4-11).

For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word & deed, to make the Gentiles obedient--in mighty signs & wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem & round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ. (Rom.15:18-19).

**CONCLUSION:** The work of the Holy Spirit stands secure. The material universe He created has stood for thousands of years. Some-

day it will be dissolved, but when it is, the spirit of man, the crowning glory of God's creation, will be eternally conscious somewhere.

The revealed word of God is as valid & authoritative today as it was when freshly revealed -- and it will be the standard of judgment in the last day, John 12:48.

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