

## GREAT BIBLE TRUTHS



### 17. Person of the Holy Spirit

#### An Introduction

Some people think the Holy Spirit is a power coming from God. Just as God is a person, so is the Holy Spirit. We will see how the Scriptures show us this.

#### 1. HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON

Just as God the Father has a personal and spiritual relationship with other personal, spiritual beings, so does the Holy Spirit. We will look at the teaching Jesus gave on the Holy Spirit, which is found in John 14.

##### (a) Personal pronouns used for the Holy Spirit

Although the word 'spirit' is in the neuter, Jesus uses the personal pronoun when referring to the Holy Spirit. So we should say 'he' and 'who'. John 14:16-17, 16:13-14

##### (b) Personal relationships within the godhead

The way Jesus spoke of his relationship with the Holy Spirit shows that he is speaking about a person just like himself.

- Jesus says that he will send another, just like himself. John 14:16
- The Holy Spirit was promised by Jesus and sent by the Father and Son. John 14:26, 15:26

##### (c) Personal relationships with people

Notice the degrees of this relationship in John 14:16-17.

- V17a 'dwells with you', or 'lives with you'. The disciples had spent 3 years alongside Jesus and so knew the Holy Spirit through his life.
- V16 'with'. The Holy Spirit was the advocate, the one called alongside to help us.
- V17b 'in you'. This indicates a closer relationship, as he is dwelling within us and we can have constant close communion with him.

##### (d) Person separate from his power

We shouldn't speak of him as a power, but as a person with power.

##### (e) Person who wills, feels and thinks



*Why was it necessary to send another Counsellor? In what ways was Jesus a 'counsellor'? Discuss.*

*Since the Holy Spirit is a person he can be grieved. What grieves him? Ephesians 4:30-32*

#### 2. HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD - THIRD PERSON OF GODHEAD

##### (a) Divine works attributed to Holy Spirit

- Creation: Genesis 1:2, Job 26:13, 33:4, Psalm 104:29-30
- Inspiration of prophecy: 2 Peter 1:21
- Inspiration of scripture: Acts 1:16, 2 Timothy 3:16
- Regeneration: John 3:5-6 We are born from above by the Holy Spirit
- Incarnation of Jesus: His birth, baptism, life and death.

**(b) Divine nature attributed to Holy Spirit**

What three names are used for Jesus in John 14:16, 17, 26? What can we learn from these names?

1) **Counsellor**

The Greek word is 'paraclette', and it means: helper, comforter, someone called alongside to help. This word was used for someone summoned to help an accused in court of law, and it could be a friend, not necessarily a legal person. So when Jesus left, he sent the Holy Spirit to support us in our weakness, counsel us in times of difficulty and console us in affliction.

2) **Spirit of Truth**

God alone is truth. Jesus said, 'I am the truth' and the Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of truth. He is the one who illumines and guides us into the truth about God, through Jesus. John 14:26, 16:13-15, 1 John 5:6

3) **Holy Spirit**

Holiness is an attribute of God alone and signifies all that God is in himself. We need to reverence and honour the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is also called the Spirit of the Lord (Isaiah 61:1) and the Spirit of the Living God. 2 Corinthians 3:3

**(c) Divine attributes**

- He is everywhere Psalm 139:7-11
- He has all power Romans 8:11, 15:19
- He knows all things 1 Corinthians 2:10
- He is sovereign 1 Corinthians 12:11
- We have already seen the Holy Spirit has the divine attributes of truth and holiness.

**(d) What is said of God in Old Testament, is said of Holy Spirit in New**

- Compare Isaiah 6:8-10 with Acts 28:25-27
- Compare Exodus 17:7 with Hebrews 3:7-9
- Compare Jeremiah 31:31-34 with Hebrews 10:15-17

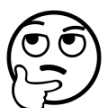
**(e) Divine honour is given to him**

- To lie to the Holy Spirit is to lie to God. Acts 5:3-5
- To obey the Holy Spirit is to obey God. Galatians 5:16-24
- Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is the worst sin. Matthew 12:31-32, Mark 3:28-29

**(f) Presence of Holy Spirit means presence of Father and Son**

- The promise of the Holy Spirit in John 14:15-17 means the promise of the presence of the Triune God.

So we can see that the Holy Spirit is God, not separate from the Father and Son, but together with them. The presence of the Spirit, also means the presence of the Father and Son. John 14:20



*What do you think it means to blaspheme the Holy Spirit? Discuss*

*If God's Spirit is holy, how can we distinguish between his work and that of evil spirits?*



**The Triune God is living in us! We have God, but how much does God have us?**

**Since the Holy Spirit is a person, we can have a close relationship with him.**