

# The Holy Spirit

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Knowledge of who the Holy Spirit is and what He does is vital to our Christian life. This study is an aid to help us understand more. To live the Christian life it's not just about understanding who the Holy spirit is and what He does, it is essential that we know Him personally in our lives.

## QUALITIES OF A PERSON

If the Holy Spirit is a person then **He** (gender of the Holy Spirit to be discussed at a later time in these studies) **must** therefore possess the qualities of a person.

- ✦ **Mind** - Romans 8:27 *Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*
- ✦ **Knowledge** (therefore intelligence) - 1 Corinthians 2:11 *For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.*
- ✦ **Will** - 1 Corinthians 12:11 *But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*
- ✦ **Love** (affections and feelings) - Romans 15:30 *Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me.*

## Things only a person can do

- ✦ **He spoke to Philip** - Acts 8:29 *Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot."*
- ✦ **He commands Peter** - Acts 11:12 *The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them.*
- ✦ **He calls into ministry** - Acts 13:2 *While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."*
- ✦ **He sends** - Acts 13:4 *The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and sailed from there to Cyprus.*
- ✦ **He forbids** - Acts 16:6-7 *Paul and his companions travelled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. <sup>7</sup> When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.*
- ✦ **He speaks to the Church** - Revelation 2:7,11 *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*
- ✦ **He invites** - Revelation 22:17 *The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!"*
- ✦ **He strives** - Genesis 6:3 *Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever.*

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## Suffers as a person

- ✦ **Grieved or vexed** – Isaiah 63:10 *but they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; So He turned Himself against them as an enemy, And He fought against them.*
- ✦ **Greived** - Ephesians 4:30 *And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*
- ✦ **Insulted** - Hebrews 10:29 *How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?*
- ✦ **Lied to** - Acts 5:3 *Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?"*
- ✦ **Tested** - Acts 5:9 *Peter said to her, "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord?"*
- ✦ **Resisted** - Acts 7:51 *You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit!*

We have seen from the study of these scriptures that the Holy Spirit is a real person. He is not a thing or an influence.

## THE DIVINITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We are now going to look at His Divinity. We do not mean that He is merely God-like but fully Divine. In other words **He is God**, just as the Father is God and the Son is God. One way to show the Holy Spirit's Divinity is to examine how He is addressed. Here are some of the titles He is addressed with:

- ✦ **My Spirit** – Genesis 6:3 *Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever.*
- ✦ **The Spirit of God** -Exodus 31:3 *and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts.*
- ✦ **The Breath of the Almighty**- Job 32:8 *But it is the spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him understanding.*
- ✦ **The Spirit of the Lord** - Judges 6:34 *Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon.*
- ✦ **The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord** - Isaiah 61:1 *The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me.*
- ✦ **The Spirit of your Heavenly Father** - Matthew 10:20 *for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.*
- ✦ **The Spirit of Truth** - John 14:17 *the Spirit of truth.*
- ✦ **The Spirit of God's Son** - Galatians 4:6 *Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts.*

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- ✦ **The Spirit of God, The Spirit of Christ** - Romans 8:9 *You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.*
- ✦ **The Spirit of the Living God** - 2 Corinthians 3:3 *.. the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.*

## The word SPIRIT

In the Hebrew the word **RUACH** has one specific meaning – Spirit. In the Greek we have the word **PNEUMA** which can mean Spirit, wind or breath. The study of the person and work of the Holy Spirit is called **Pneumatology**. The Holy Spirit is not **an it**, an impersonal force or power, but He is a Divine person. The Greek word for Spirit is neuter, but always refers to the Spirit as He.

In Genesis 1:1-2 right at the beginning of the Bible we have these words *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup> Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.* The Jehovah Witnesses for example interpret this scripture as a mighty wind hovering over the waters. But how can a wind hover. Right at the beginning of scripture we are introduced to the person of the Holy Spirit, who is God, and takes part in the creation of the world.

## THE ATTRIBUTES (qualities) OF GOD

- ✦ **OMNISCIENT** (knowing all things) - 1 Corinthians 2:10 *but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.*
- ✦ **OMNIPRESENT** (Being everywhere) - Psalm 139:7-8 *Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.*
- ✦ **OMNIPOTENT** (Being All Powerful) - Psalm 104:30 *When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.*
- ✦ **ETERNAL** (Having no Beginning or End) – Hebrew 9:14 *How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!*

## THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Although the personality of the Holy Spirit is not fully revealed on the Old Testament, we do find reference to how He is equated with God's power and personal presence.

### The work of The Holy Spirit

- ✦ **Revelation / correcting.** The Holy Spirit revealed to Nathan the prophet, David's adultery. The Holy Spirit then used Nathan to correct David. (2 Samuel 12:1-3)

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- ✦ **Enabling.** The Holy Spirit enabled Bezaleel and Aholiab to craft God's designs. (Exodus 31:1-9)
- ✦ **Instruction / Teaching.** Prophets directed the people as the Holy Spirit inspired them. To generalise for example: Moses with the Ten Commandments at Sinai.
- ✦ **Meeting people's needs.** The Holy Spirit worked through people like the prophetess Deborah as people came to her with their needs. (Judges Chapters 4 and 5.)

## The promise of the future outpourings of The Holy Spirit

Joel 2:28-29 *And afterwards, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. <sup>29</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.*

From this wonderful scripture we have a promise that the Holy Spirit will no longer be confined to a few chosen people, such as Moses, David and Gideon. The promise here is a future outpouring of the Holy Spirit on **ALL** flesh. There will no longer be restrictions with regard to ages or social class, and also no restriction to Jews alone as in ancient history. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit will no longer be temporary, as with Moses' 70 elders, or intermittent, as with Bezaleel and Aholiab. No this will be continuous for all who will receive.

## Prophecies of the work of the Holy Spirit

**Present** - The Holy Spirit is a Sovereign counsellor, Isaiah 40:13 *Who has understood the mind of the LORD, or instructed him as his counsellor?* The Holy Spirit is seen to be the inspirer of the word of God. Isaiah 59:21 *As for me, this is my covenant with them, says the LORD. My Spirit, who is on you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will not depart from your mouth, or from the mouths of your children, or from the mouths of their descendants from this time on and forever says the LORD.*

**Future** - The Holy Spirit will continue to do as He does at present. In Isaiah 32:15 *till the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the desert becomes a fertile field, and the fertile field seems like a forest.* Here we are foretold of the future outpourings of the Spirit from heaven, which will make the wilderness a fruitful field. Implied here is a transformation of both land and people, with the whole world enjoying something far better than it has known before.

## APPLICATION

We must learn from people such as King Saul not to resist the Holy Spirit. Taking the prophets Elijah and Isaiah are two examples; they willingly yielded themselves to the Holy Spirit, working in co-operation with Him. As God's consecrated people we must learn to listen to the Spirit and be obedient to Him. To rely on Him to teach, correct, direct and empower us, allowing Him to have full control of our life.