

# The Person of the Holy Spirit

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- "There is no subject more important in religion than that of the Holy Spirit. Unless this be properly understood, a large portion of the Bible, and especially the NT, must remain unintelligible. On the other hand, a just view of it will do more than a knowledge of any other particular topic to give harmony, clearness, and consistency to what may be learned to all other matters presented in the Word of God."  
*(The Office of the Holy Spirit, Richardson)*

# The Person of the Holy Spirit

- Despite its importance to understanding the Scriptures, there is much confusion and superstition in the minds of many people about the Holy Spirit.
- A good starting place is to consider Who, not what, the Holy Spirit is:
  - Is the Holy Spirit a person, One Who possesses personality?
  - Or is the Holy Spirit simply an influence or an impersonal force that emanates from God?

# The Person of the Holy Spirit

- Jehovah's Witnesses believe "As for the 'Holy Spirit', the so-called 'third person of the trinity', we have already seen that it is, not a person, but God's active force." (*The Truth That Leads To Eternal Life, Watchtower Bible & Tract Society*)
- However, the Bible reveals the Holy Spirit to be an Individual Being, possessing every trait of what we call personality, and not some impersonal force that emanates from God.

# The Holy Spirit's Works Manifest Personhood

- The Holy Spirit speaks.
  - 1Tim. 4:1 - “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.”
  - Acts 8:29 - “Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go near and overtake this chariot.’”

# The Holy Spirit's Works Manifest Personhood

- The Holy Spirit speaks.
  - Acts 10:19-20 - “While Peter thought about the vision, the Spirit said to him, ‘Behold, three men are seeking you. 20 Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them.’”

# The Holy Spirit's Works Manifest Personhood

## ■ The Holy Spirit speaks.

- Acts 13:2-4 - “As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’ 3 Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away. 4 So, being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus.”

# The Holy Spirit's Works Manifest Personhood

## ■ The Holy Spirit teaches.

- John 14:26 - “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”
- John 14:16-17 - “And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever-- 17 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.”



# The Holy Spirit's Works Manifest Personhood

## ■ The Holy Spirit bears witness.

- John 15:26-27 - “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. 27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.”
- Rom. 8:16 - “The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”

# The Holy Spirit's Works Manifest Personhood

- Holy Spirit guides, hears, speaks, and tells.
  - John 16:12-13 - “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 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.”

# The Holy Spirit's Works Manifest Personhood

## ■ The Holy Spirit forbids.

- Acts 16:6-7 - “Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia. 7 After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them.”

# The Holy Spirit's Works Manifest Personhood

## ■ The Holy Spirit intercedes.

- Rom. 8:26 - “Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”
- Rom. 8:34 - “Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”

# The Holy Spirit Possesses Personal Characteristics

## ■ He has a mind.

- Rom. 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.”

## ■ He has knowledge.

- 1Cor. 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.”

# The Holy Spirit Possesses Personal Characteristics

- He possesses affection.

- Rom. 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.”

- He has a will.

- 1Cor. 12:11 - “But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”

# The Holy Spirit Suffers Sights And Injuries Against His Person

## ■ He can be grieved.

- Eph. 4:30 - “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

## ■ He can be blasphemed.

- Matt. 12:31-32 - “Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. 32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.”

# The Holy Spirit Suffers Sights And Injuries Against His Person

## ■ He can be insulted.

- Heb. 10:29 - “Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?”
- Heb. 10:26 - “For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins”



# The Holy Spirit Suffers Sights And Injuries Against His Person

## ■ He can be lied to.

- Acts 5:3 - “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?’”

## ■ He can be resisted.

- Acts 7:51-53 - “You stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. 52 Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, 53 who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it.”

# Have You Considered Your Relationship To The Holy Spirit?

- What has He done for you in God's scheme of redemption?
- How does He view your reception or rejection of the Word He revealed?

# Have You Considered Your Relationship To The Holy Spirit?

- Are you guilty of resisting the Holy Spirit?
  - 1Peter 1:12 - “To them it was revealed that, not to themselves, but to us they were ministering the things which now have been reported to you through those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven--things which angels desire to look into.”

# Have You Considered Your Relationship To The Holy Spirit?

- Are you guilty of resisting the Holy Spirit?
  - Acts 2:36-38 - “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. 37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Men and brethren, what shall we do?’ 38 Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”