

Christian Doctrine

The Holy Spirit (Part 1)

Who Is the Holy Spirit?

Understanding the Holy Spirit

We will begin our study by first looking at who the Holy Spirit is. Some people think of the Holy Spirit as being merely a force or a power that God uses to accomplish His will in the world. However, Scripture describes the Holy Spirit in a much different light.

The Holy Spirit Is a Person

He has all of the qualities of personhood:

- He has intelligence (Rom. 8:27; I Cor. 2:10-11).
- He has feelings (Eph. 4:30).
- He makes decisions (Acts 13:2; I Cor. 12:11).

He relates to people as a person:

- He guides (John 16:13), speaks (Acts 8:29), convicts of sin (John 16:8), intercedes for believers (Rom. 8:26-27), and loves (Rom. 15:30).
- He can be obeyed (Acts 10:19-21), lied to (Acts 5:3), resisted (Acts 7:51), blasphemed (Matt. 12:31), grieved (Eph. 4:30), and insulted (Heb. 10:29).

Furthermore, the Scriptures refer to the Holy Spirit with the pronoun “he” (John 15:26; 16:13-14; etc.), making it clear we should view Him as a person.

The Holy Spirit Is Divine

Scripture makes it clear that the Holy Spirit is divine. He has attributes that only God possesses and has performed actions that only God can do:

- He is omniscient (Is. 40:13-14; I Cor. 2:11), omnipotent (Job 33:4; Ps. 104:30) and omnipresent (Ps. 139:7-10).
- He was involved in creation (Gen. 1:1-2), the writing of Scripture (II Pet. 1:21), and the virgin birth of Jesus Christ (Luke 1:35).

Further proof is seen in Acts 5:3-4. When Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit, Paul said that he had lied to “God.” Other Scriptures also equate the Holy Spirit with the Father and the Son, make His divinity clear (Matt. 28:19; II Cor. 13:14).