

The Holy Spirit

I. WHO OR WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- A. Some people or groups believe that the Holy Spirit is merely a force or an influence, not a person.
- B. But the Bible calls the Spirit "he" not "it". -- John 14:26; 16:13-14. (In the Greek text the definite masculine article *ekeinos* is used.)
- C. The Bible speaks of the Holy Spirit as a person -- possessing mind, feeling and a will of His own. For example, observe the following:
- He has intellect and understanding -- 1 Corinthians 2:10-13
 - He has a mind -- Romans 8:27; Acts 15:28
 - He has a will -- 1 Corinthians 12:11
 - He searches and knows -- 1 Corinthians 2:10-11
 - He can be grieved -- Isaiah 63:10; Ephesians 4:30
 - He speaks and commands -- Acts 13:2,4; 16:6
 - He teaches -- John 14:26



These are all characteristics of a person, not a force.

II. IS THE SPIRIT GOD?

- A. 2 Corinthians 3:17 says, "*Now the Lord is the Spirit... just as from the Lord, the Spirit.*"
- B. Acts 5:3,4 -- "*lied to the Holy Spirit*" = "*lied to God*".
- C. John 14:16,18,23 shows an identification between the Spirit, Jesus, and God the Father.
- D. A person can "*blaspheme*" against the Spirit -- Mark 6:29 (In the New Testament, this Greek word almost always refers to speech against God.)
- E. Matthew 28:19 says: "*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*" Note the use of "*the name*" singular, not "*the names of.*" This shows a tri-unity between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- F. Special qualities which only God possesses are applied to the Spirit:
- He is omnipotent -- Micah 3:8; Acts 1:8; Romans 15:13,19
 - He is omniscient -- 1 Corinthians 2:10
 - He is omnipresent -- Psalm 139:7
 - He is the giver of life -- Job 33:4; 1 Peter 3:18

III. WHAT DOES THE SPIRIT DO?

- A. He Creates -- Genesis 1:2; Job 33:4; Psalm 104:30
- B. He Inspired Men to Communicate God's Word:
 - In speaking -- 1 Peter 1:12; 2 Peter 1:21
 - In writing -- 2 Timothy 3:16; Revelation 1:10-11; 1 Corinthians 7:10
- C. He Gives New Birth To (Regenerates) People -- John 3:1-8; Titus 3:5.
- D. He Bears Witness With the Spirit of Each Christian That He Is a Child of God -- Romans 8:16-17.
- E. He Assists in the Prayer Life of Christians -- Romans 8:26-27.
- F. He Bestows Gifts (*charisma*, singular; *charismata*, plural) Upon Christians -- 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.
- G. He Baptizes & Fills Christians -- Matthew 3:11, John 1:33; 7:37-39; Acts 4:31; 6:3,5; 11:16; Ephesians 5:18.
- H. He Seals Believers -- Ephesians 1:13; 4:30.
- I. He Teaches & Gives Understanding -- 1 John 2:27; 1 Corinthians 2:14.
- J. He Leads and Guides -- Mark 1:12; Acts 16:6.
- K. He Resurrects -- Romans 1:4; 8:11; 2 Corinthians 4:14.
- L. He Brings About Maturity in the Believer's Life -- 2 Corinthians 3:15-18; Galatians 5:22-25.
- M. He Convicts the World -- John 16:8-11.

The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is a person, a member of the Trinity. The Spirit is actively involved in the world and in our relationship with God the Father through Jesus Christ!