

PNEUMATOLOGY (8)

One very powerful verse of Scripture that associates this attribute with the Holy Spirit is Hebrews 9:14 . We may carefully observe that in this one verse, all three persons of the Godhead are named. The fact that the Holy Spirit is the one identified as “eternal” is clear evidence that He is God. Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer writes: “The term eternal, which with all propriety can also be assigned to God the Father or God the Son, is here assigned to the Holy Spirit. Since of God alone this attribute may be predicted, the Spirit is to be understood as God” (Vol. 6, p. 23).

Attribute #2 - The attribute of omnipotence .

This attribute means that the Holy Spirit is unlimited in power. He is all powerful and therefore can and may do anything with His power. We must always remember that God cannot ever use His power to do something contrary to Himself. God the Holy Spirit does have unlimited power, but He will never use that power in a way contrary to the character and plan of the Godhead.

The Holy Spirit is omnipotent. From the opening verses of the Bible, we learn that the Spirit of God demonstrated His omnipotent power in God’s work of creation (i.e. Gen. 1:2). We may also observe that it was the Spirit’s power that brought Christ back to life from the dead (I Pet. 3:18). This is a very important verse, for it may be demonstrated from the N.T. that only members of the Godhead, classified as God, had the power to raise Jesus Christ from the dead. Christ was raised by God the Father (Act 2:23; Gal. 1:1). Christ raised Himself as God the Son (John 2:19; 10:18). Here the emphasis is on the Spirit—proving He is God.

It will be seen that all the works done by the Holy Spirit demand that He is omnipotent. When we analyze His work, we will certainly conclude that the Holy Spirit is unlimited in power. This is just one of the many evidences that the Holy Spirit is God.

Attribute #3 - The attribute of omnipresence .

This attribute means that the Holy Spirit is everywhere present. He is all places at the same time; He is everywhere present at the same time. This is obviously an attribute only found in God. All other living beings are restricted to one location at one time.

A very powerful text that proves this attribute is Psalms 139:7-10 . The implications of these verses are staggering. There is no place one can go, whether in or out of this world, to escape the presence of God’s Spirit. One cannot escape the presence of the Holy Spirit at any time, in any life, or at any place. The Spirit of God is in all places actual and possible at the same time. This remarkable attribute clearly establishes that the Holy Spirit is God.

Attribute #4 - The attribute of omniscience .

This is the attribute of God which means God is completely and totally unlimited in knowledge . He knows all things past, present and future, things possible and things actual. This is an ability only found with God. He alone has knowledge at this level. One passage that connects this important attribute to the Holy Spirit is I Cor. 2:10-11 .

PNEUMATOLOGY (9)

In this passage, we, who are human, do not even know what “the deep things of God” or the “depths of God” even mean. Dr. Chafer said of this text, “Beyond what may be meant by the deep things of God, human imagination cannot function. The text definitely declares that unaided man cannot know the things of God (cf. vs. 14), but the Spirit knows all things. Reference is made to the outmost bounds of omniscience, and none can deny that, if the knowledge which the Spirit possesses reaches the deep things of God, all else would likewise be comprehended by Him. He who thus plumbs the deepest ocean of truth and understanding is able as well to discern the thoughts and intents of the human heart. Those tempted to sin in secret may well remember that nothing is hidden from the Spirit of God” (Vol. 6, p. 24).

Another passage that certainly implies the omniscience of the Holy Spirit is Isaiah 40:13. The clear implication of this text is that the Spirit of God is at a very unique knowledge level, one only found in God !

This attribute as well as the others does prove the Holy Spirit is God.

Attribute #5 - The attribute of holiness .

As with all attributes, this one is essential to the person of God , and by its very title is extremely important to the “ Holy Spirit.”

The word “holy” means to be separate , to be set apart . When it is used of God, it not only means He is totally set apart in His character from things which are sinful , but He is also totally set apart in His character to that which is divinely pure . In other words, God’s character is majestic in that He is completely set apart from any and all evil and He is completely set apart to that which is always pure .

From an examination of the Bible, we may conclude that God wants to be specifically known as having this attribute. Both the O.T. and N.T. stress this fact: Lev. 11:44; Josh. 24:19; Ps. 99:3, 5, 9; Is. 40:25; Habakkuk 1:12; John 17:11; I Pet. 1:15; Rev. 4:8. These are just a few of the passages that reveal the fact that the attribute of holiness is one God specifically has.

In Pneumatology, it may be observed that this title “Holy” is specifically assigned by the Godhead to the third member of the Trinity. This very title, as Chafer observes, testified to the “solemn reality” that He has the identical sanctity and purity of God (*Ibid.*, p. 25).

When we examine passages such as Acts 5:3-11 or Matt. 12:31-32 , we observe that this attribute carries with it some very special applications. We will demonstrate later in this doctrinal study that one of the works of the Holy Spirit is to directly deal with the sin nature of the believer, by convicting it and pointing it in the direction of holiness.

In order for Him to accomplish this work, He must be as perfect and as holy as God, for only one who is Holy at God’s level is able to control and gain victory over a nature that is as corrupt as man, who is so easily influenced by the world, the flesh and the devil.

PNEUMATOLOGY (10)

There can be no doubt that the Holy Spirit's work, which promotes God's holy character and promotes change in man's sinful character, must stem from one as holy as God. For example, when we read the Apostle Paul's statement about himself—"I am the chief of sinners," and we realize that this statement was made by one of the most godly men to ever live, we realize that the holy power which brought him to realize this, was a holy power far beyond that which is human, for from a human analysis, Paul was the very best. This power was the power of God produced by the Holy Spirit, the third member of the Godhead.

These attributes clearly establish that the Holy Spirit is God. Any attempt to deny or downplay this is a failure to deal honestly with the biblical record.

Evidence #3 - The evidence of the Holy Spirit's divine works .

Under this heading, it will be observed that the Holy Spirit is involved in works and actions which only God can accomplish. Thus, this very fact proves, beyond any shadow of doubt, that He is God. As Dr. Charles Ryrie wrote, "His actions are those which only God can perform" (*Basic Theology*, p. 345).

(Work #1) - The Holy Spirit was involved in the divine work of creation .

Many passages of Scripture specifically connect the Holy Spirit to this work of God: Gen. 1:1-2; Job 26:13; 33:4; Ps. 104:30.

We may point out that the acceptance of Darwin's theory of evolution is a rejection and denial of God's Word, and a specific attack against the person and work of the Holy Spirit . Any person who holds to the theory of evolution should take a serious look at and then fearfully tremble at a text like Matt. 12:31-32.

Divine work requires a divine person; therefore, since God is the Creator and since the Holy Spirit is the Creator, the Holy Spirit is God.

(Work #2) - The Holy Spirit was involved in the divine work of inspiration .

We may recall from our study of Bibliology that the Bible claims that it is the Word of God and that it is all inspired by God. It claims it is a living book in which every Word of God is pure (II Tim. 3:16; Heb. 4:12; Prov. 30:5-6). The Bible is so dogmatic in these matters that it warns that any who add to the Bible or take away from the Bible shall be judged with a serious judgment which has serious eternal consequences (Rev. 22:18-19).

From these passages we accurately observe that the Bible is a very serious book, divinely inspired, protected and preserved. It is God's Word to man. Inspiration means that every word found in God's revelation is God-breathed. His truth is written by men, without any error.

PNEUMATOLOGY (11)

Now one text of Scripture, which clearly connects the Holy Spirit to this remarkable work of God, is II Peter 1:20-21. Dr. Chafer said of these verses: “The word prophecy as used by Peter in this passage reaches out to all utterance which is inspired by God; that is, it is not restricted to prediction. It includes forth-telling as well as foretelling. It comprehends all Scriptures” (Vol. 6, p. 32).

It is very evident from this text that the divine person responsible for the writing of the inspired document, the Word of God, was the Holy Spirit. This passage, plus many others (II Sam. 23:2; II Chron. 24:20; Acts 1:16) make it clear that in various dispensations God’s Spirit was involved in giving God’s Word to man. This critical work clearly establishes that the Holy Spirit is God.

(Work #3) - The Holy Spirit was involved in the divine work of incarnation.

To actually have the second person of the Godhead become a human is a miraculous work that is only possible as a work of God. There is nothing any human could do to produce, in human form, the Holy Son of God. As we check the biblical record found in Luke 1:35, we discover that this most sacred of events was completely the work of the Holy Spirit. This one verse is very significant for it clearly reveals that the Holy Spirit would produce the Son of God, He would be the power of God, and He would protect the holiness of God, to the extent that the baby could be proclaimed to be the Holy Son of God.

Only God can produce the birth of God’s Son. Only God has the power of the Highest. Only God can be as holy as God. Only God can produce a baby that can legitimately be called holy and declared to be the Son of God. Only God can do these things and since the Holy Spirit was involved in every one of these matters, we must conclude that the Holy Spirit is God.

(Work #4) - The Holy Spirit is involved in the divine work of conviction.

The convicting work of the Holy Spirit is described in John 16:7-11. This work can only be accomplished by God. A natural man, left to himself, will never admit that he is a sinner in need of a righteousness, which is far greater than his own; and unless he receives this righteousness he is heading for the eternal condemnatory judgment of God and the flames of everlasting fire. No unsaved person, on his own, will ever be convicted of these important matters. We know that Satan certainly would never convict one to turn from sin and condemnation and turn to righteousness and life. So we must ask and answer the question—“Who is it with enough power to convict one of sin, righteousness and judgment?” The only true answer is God! Only God can convict a person of these things. When we read that this work is accomplished by the Holy Spirit, we must conclude that the Holy Spirit is God!

(Work #5) - The Holy Spirit is involved in the divine work of salvation.

A critical passage that dogmatically establishes this reality is John 3:3-8. It is very important to observe that the precise point of contrast is something human versus something divine (3:6).