

Holy Spirit in Salvation

- Matthew 19:25-26 When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" 26) But Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."
- John 3:5-8 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6) That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7) Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8) The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."



Holy Spirit and Infinite Attributes

- The Holy Spirit is eternal. If God is eternal, but the Holy Spirit is eternal, then the Holy Spirit must be God.
 - Hebrews 9:14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.



Holy Spirit and the Works of God

- Another set of Scriptures to be sought are passages that associate the Holy Spirit with the work that is unique to God.
- For example, we know that God created the heavens and the earth from Genesis 1:1.
 - Well, if Genesis 1:2 teaches us that the Holy Spirit is also responsible for the creation of the universe, then we know that the Holy Spirit is God since it is God who created the heavens and the earth.
 - The same argument is made to establish the deity of Christ.
 - Genesis 1:1-2 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2) The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.



Holy Spirit and the Works of God

- We can prove the Holy Spirit is God by the work of salvation too since salvation is the work of God.
- The Holy Spirit performs regeneration. This is the giving of new life to believers. It is making us born again.
 - Titus 3:5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit not only starts the process with regeneration, but He finishes it with the resurrection.
 - Romans 8:11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.
- The Holy Spirit is also the agent of sanctification, which is everything in-between regeneration and resurrection.
 - Philippians 1:6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Holy Spirit and the Works of God

- Another work is the inspiration of Scripture.
 - If the Bible were not inspired, then it would be the word of man.
 - However, it makes it clear it is the Word of God.
 - 2 Timothy 3:16 – All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,
- Yet, the Bible says that it was the Holy Spirit that inspired the Word.
 - 2Peter 1:20-21 – knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 21) For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
- This is basic logic. If the Bible is inspired by God, but it was the Holy Spirit that inspired it, then the Holy Spirit is God.

Holy Spirit and the Trinity

- In Theology Proper, the biblical evidence for the Trinity rendered it a doctrinal certainty.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all the One God.
- Thus, one strong argument for the divinity of the Holy Spirit is to show Him together with the other members of the Trinity.
- The Great Commission passage of Matthew 28:19 is one of the strongest examples.
 - Matthew 28:19 – Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
 - Notice that the word "name" is singular. People are to be baptized into the one name, or the one God, who happens to be three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



Holy Spirit and the Trinity

- Another example is the Pauline benediction of 2 Corinthians 13:14.
 - He is blessing the church in the name of God, and yet he mentions all three members of the Trinity.
 - 2 Corinthians 13:14 – The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- Paul also appeals to a trinitarian formula when explaining different gifts and ministries within the church.
 - 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 – Now there are varieties of gifts, but the **same Spirit**; 5) and there are varieties of service, but the **same Lord**; 6) and there are varieties of activities, but it is the **same God** who empowers them all in everyone.
- Finally, 1 Peter 1:2 shows the three members working together for our salvation.
 - 1 Peter 1:2 – according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.
- Anytime we see the Spirit mentioned in a divine context with the other two members of the Trinity, we know this proves the Holy Spirit is God.

The Personhood of the Holy Spirit

- We learned that God is a person back in Theology Proper.
- Since we just demonstrated that the Holy Spirit is God, then by default we know He is a person.
 - Often the cults deny the divinity of the Spirit and then reduce Him to an impersonal “it.”
 - Well, the two are tied together. Once it is clear the Holy Spirit is God, then it is clear that He is personal and is not some blind force.
 - Even though this is enough to establish the Holy Spirit’s personhood, this is systematic theology. We need to put together a variety of data to show this.
- We will see His personhood from Scriptures.



Neuter Noun with Personal Pronouns

- Holy Spirit is a Greek neuter word.
 - In Greek grammar pronouns are supposed to agree with their corresponding noun in case and gender.
 - Thus, correct grammar would force neuter (impersonal) pronouns such as “it” to be attached to the neuter word “Spirit.”
 - Yet, the authors of Scripture go out of their way to violate this rule of grammar when referencing the Holy Spirit.
 - They use personal masculine pronouns such as “he” and “I,” to refer to the Holy Spirit.
 - Bear in mind that the Holy Spirit is the one who inspired them to do this.
- John 16:13-14 – When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14) He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.
 - Personal pronouns demonstrate that the Holy Spirit is a person.

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Personal Association with Other Members of the Trinity

- Another reason we know the Holy Spirit is a person is because of His association and identification with the other two persons of the Trinity and their work.
- We know the Father is a person (since Father is a personal relational term) as well as the Son (same logic applies).
- Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as the paraclete on a number of occasions in John.
- The word simply means “helper” or “counselor” and He is sent from the Father.



Another Paraclete

- The following verses are helpful in showing this.
 - John 14:16 – And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,
 - John 15:26 – “But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.
 - John 16:7 – Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.
- We see from these passages that the Holy Spirit is the counselor who proceeds from the Father, but is sent by the Father and the Son, and His job is to teach the disciples about Christ and grant them remembrance of His words.
- Furthermore, if you combine this with the previous point about the personal pronouns, this “counselor” is referred to as a “he.”
- Finally, if the Holy Spirit replaces Jesus in the role of counselor, He (like Jesus) must be a person. In fact, Jesus called Him another paraclete.

Linked With Jesus’ Earthly Ministry

- Related to this is the Holy Spirit being linked with various elements of Jesus’ life. The Holy Spirit was at His baptism.
- The Holy Spirit also cast demons out at Christ’s command.
 - Matthew 12:28 – But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.
- In fact, when the Pharisees accused Jesus of casting demons out in the name of the devil, Jesus said that blasphemy against the Holy Spirit would not be forgiven, thus identifying what that blasphemy was.
 - Blaspheming the Spirit was compared to blaspheming the Father and the Son, who are persons.
- Hence, the Holy Spirit must be a person.



Other Indicators of Personhood

- The Holy Spirit makes decisions. Only persons make decisions.
- Sometimes, He makes decisions in conjunction with the church. The council of Jerusalem is a good example of this.
 - Acts 15:28 – For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements:
- The Holy Spirit has intellect. Only persons have intellect.
 - 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 that I have said to you.
- The Holy Spirit has a will. Only persons have wills.
 - 1 Corinthians 12:11 – All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.
- The Holy Spirit has emotion. Only persons have emotion.
 - Ephesians 4:30 – And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Affected Like a Person

- Since the Holy Spirit is a person, He can also be affected as person.
 - For example, the Spirit can be lied to as we saw with Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:3-4. You cannot lie to an impersonal force.
 - Ephesians 4:30 showed us the Spirit can be grieved.
- It is possible for the Holy Spirit to be quenched according to 1 Thessalonians 5:19.
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:19 – Do not quench the Spirit.
 - This simply means there are times where believers can stifle the fire of zeal that the Holy Spirit gives to us.
- The Holy Spirit can be resisted by men.
 - Acts 7:51 – You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you.
- The Holy Spirit can be blasphemed.
 - Mark 3:28-30 – "Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the children of man, and whatever blasphemies they utter, 29) but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin" -- 30) for they were saying, "He has an unclean spirit."
- You cannot lie to, or grieve, or quench, or resist, or blaspheme an "it."

Ego

- The Holy Spirit speaks in the first person, thus showing self-awareness.
 - 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."
- Let no one deny the Holy Spirit.



Conclusion

- After looking at the data available, we must affirm with all confidence that the Holy Spirit is a person, not a vague force.
- He is not just a person, but He is also God.
- As God, the Holy Spirit should be worshipped and accorded the same honor as the Father and the Son.
- The Holy Spirit is One with the Father and the Son, and the members of the Trinity are not in tension with one another.
- It is through the ministry of the Holy Spirit that we can say to the Christian that God is not far off, but intimately close through His indwelling of you.