

- I. The Spirit in the Old Testament: Personhood and Divinity
- a. Establish the need: So often
 - b. Purpose: In this session we shall see look at what the Old Testament has to say concerning the personhood and divinity of Holy Spirit.
 - c. The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament
 - i. Titles and number of references of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament¹

1. The Spirit of the Lord	24
2. The Spirit	15
3. The Spirit of God	12
4. His Spirit	5
5. Holy Spirit	3
6. Your Spirit	3
 - ii. The total amount of references is 62.
 - iii. “There are actually more references to the Spirit in the Old Testament than all the references to the Father and the Son combined!”²
 - d. The personhood of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament
 - i. Most who reject the Trinity from a cult background accept the Father and Son as persons but not the Holy Spirit. We demonstrate the Father and Son as persons and then use the same methodology to show the Holy Spirit is a person. To deny any as persons is to deny them all.
 - ii. FATHER:
 1. He has a will: “*Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter.*” (Matt. 7:21)
 2. He has senses such as being able to see (Matt. 6:4) and speak (Matt. 3:17), have the ability to forgive and not forgive (Matt 6:15) or send off (1 John 4:14).
 - iii. SON:
 1. He has a will: “*And He went a little beyond them, and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as You will."*” (Matt. 26:39)
 2. The Son, namely Jesus is able to see (John 9:1), speak (Matt. 5:2), forgives (Mark2:5) or send off (Matt. 28:19).
 - iv. SPIRIT:
 1. The Holy Spirit can speak
 - a. “*“However, You bore with them for many years, And admonished them by Your Spirit through Your prophets, Yet they would not give ear. Therefore You gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands.”* (Nehemiah 9:30)
 - i. In the context this is spoken by Levites (Nehemiah 9:5) praising God and confessing the sins of the people to God.
 - ii. Here we see God is being addressed since “, *You bore with them for many years*” is referring to God’s care for the people.
 - iii. Note God “*admonished them by Your Spirit through Your prophets.*”

¹ Robert Morey, *The Trinity: Evidences and Issues* (Iowa Falls, IA: World Bible Publishers, 1996), 188.

² Robert Morey, *The Trinity: Evidences and Issues* (Iowa Falls, IA: World Bible Publishers, 1996), 188.

- iv. In order to admonish the Spirit of course would have to speak. Of course in order to speak that presupposes the Spirit is a person.
 - b. *“The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue.” (2 Samuel 23:2)*
 - i. According to **2 Samuel 23:1** what follows in the chapter is the last words of King David.
 - ii. Note here that what David spoke were words from the Spirit.
 - iii. Here *“the Spirit of the Lord”* speaks to David.
 - iv. Second line states that words of *“the Spirit of the Lord”* was on David’s lips.
 - v. Of course if *“the Spirit of the Lord”* is able to speak and have words that means the Spirit is a Person.
 - c. Other passages that record God speaking through prophets include **Numbers 24:2, Ezekiel 11:5.**
 - 2. The Holy Spirit can be grieved: *“But they rebelled And grieved His Holy Spirit; Therefore He turned Himself to become their enemy, He fought against them.” (Isaiah 63:10)*
 - a. The Spirit can be grieved by people’s sin and rebellion.
 - b. This shows He is a person and not an inanimate force.
 - 3. The Holy Spirit is patient: *““Is it being said, O house of Jacob: ‘Is the Spirit of the Lord impatient? Are these His doings?’ Do not My words do good To the one walking uprightly?” (Micah 2:7)*
 - a. God here speaks and rhetorically asks whether the Spirit of the Lord is impatient.
 - b. Of course the Spirit is patient.
 - c. Since patience is an attribute of a person therefore the Spirit is a Person.
 - 4. The Holy Spirit is associated with wisdom and knowledge: *“And He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding and in knowledge and in all craftsmanship;” (Exodus 35:31)*
 - a. In the context Moses is speaking and tells the listeners that Bezalel the son of Uri is going to receive the task of building God’s tabernacle.
 - b. To help Uri we see He is given the *“Spirit of God”*
 - c. The Spirit helps Uri to attain *“wisdom...understanding...knowledge and...all craftsmanship”*
 - d. These virtues are attributes of persons and not things, thus showing the Spirit is a Person.
 - 5. The Holy Spirit leads: *“Teach me to do Your will, For You are my God; Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground.” (Psalm 143:10)*
- e. The divinity of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament
 - i. What are the attributes of God? Gleaming from the attributes of the Father and Son we see that the Holy Spirit must be God too since He shares in these unique divine attributes.
 - ii. FATHER:
 - 1. He is called God in **Galatians 1:1, Philippians 2:11, 1 Peter 1:2**
 - 2. He is prayed to (**Matthew 6:9**), eternal (**Romans 1:20**), worshiped (**Phil. 4:20**) and we can have fellowship with anywhere (**1 John 1:3**)
 - iii. SON:
 - 1. He is called God: See **John 20:28, Titus 2:13**

2. Jesus, the Son is eternal (**John 17:5**), involved in Creation (**Colossians. 1:16**) and we can have fellowship with Him anywhere (**1 John 1:3**).

iv. SPIRIT:

1. The Holy Spirit was present during God's Creation: "*The earth was [a]formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.*" (**Genesis 1:2**)
 - a. Here in the second verse of the Bible before any creatures were created the Spirit of God was already there.
 - b. If the Spirit of God is God we would not be surprised but would expect Him to be present during Creation since being God He would have been always existent.
2. The Holy Spirit creates
 - a. "*You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the ground.*" (**Psalm 104:30**)
 - i. This is a Psalm praising God for His creation.
 - ii. Earlier before this verse the context was talking about God's creation and sustainment of creatures to live.
 - iii. Here we see God's Spirit goes forth and is able to create living creatures.
 - iv. Attribute of creating life is that of God. Thus this verse shows the Spirit is God.
 - b. "*The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life.*" (**Job 33:4**)
3. The Holy Spirit is all-present: "*Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?*" (**Psalm 139:7**)
 - a. **Psalm 139** is about the attributes of God.
 - b. Here we see the truth that no place can one go to flee the Spirit of God.
 - c. Thus the Holy Spirit is all-present and that is an attribute unique only to God and therefore the Holy Spirit is God.
4. The Holy Spirit is Sovereign: "*Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, Or as His counselor has informed Him?*" (**Isaiah 40:13**)
 - a. Note the rhetorical question of who can direct the Spirit. The answer of course is no one.
 - b. Also the second rhetorical question is who can be His counselor. As one who is Sovereign and All-Knowing it would make sense the answer is no one.
 - c. Thus the Spirit is God.

f. Application

- i. If the Holy Spirit is God do not harden your heart to God's Word (see **Zechariah 7:12**)
- ii. If the Holy Spirit is God He is Sovereign and not you; therefore do not treat Him as a force or someone you can make do things.
- iii. If the Holy Spirit is God be comforted that He is all present.