

## PNEUMATOLOGY (5)

Satan realizes that the Holy Spirit is “the” spiritual power source for spiritual development. Satan is very much interested in keeping believers as ignorant as possible because he realizes a believer can become very strong and powerful as he develops according to the Holy Spirit. We may be absolutely certain that Satan has done his best to conceal any and all systematic instruction concerning the Holy Spirit.

It is very evident that systematic teaching is needed concerning the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. Dr. Chafer said, “Pastors and teachers would do well to measure the amount of emphasis that should be given to this theme in accord with the extent to which it appears in the New Testament text...” (Vol. 6, p. 5).

**QUESTION #4** – Does the Bible teach that the Holy Spirit is God?

Does the Bible actually and factually teach that the Holy Spirit is Deity? If we carefully study Scripture, will we conclude that the Holy Spirit is as much God as the Father and the Son?

In our study of Theology Proper, we discovered that there were certain biblically revealed attributes and facts which caused us to form certain theological beliefs and concepts about God. In our study of Christology, we discovered that Jesus Christ had those same attributes and met the same standards, thus biblically establishing that He was God.

As we come to this study, we are out to discover whether or not biblical data will cause us to conclude that the Holy Spirit is God because He meets the same criteria. As we journey through this, we shall answer the question with an emphatic yes, the Holy Spirit is God !

There are at least four biblical evidences that prove the Holy Spirit is God: 1) The evidence of His divine names ; 2) The evidence of His divine attributes ; 3) The evidence of His divine work ; 4) The evidence of His divine associations .

**Evidence #1** - The evidence of the Holy Spirit’s divine names .

It needs to be remembered when studying names that pertain to God, that God , Himself, is the one who revealed and invented these names. Names of God are not an invention from the imagination of humans . God gave certain titles to Himself in order to reveal certain things about Himself to His created beings. Therefore, names tell us much about the divine person.

Under this category, we may offer at least six proofs:

**Proof #1** - He is specifically identified as holy . Matthew 1:18

This is not just an isolated reference to a positive part of His character, this is His character—He is holy! Only God has the complete character of being holy; therefore, by giving this name to the Spirit, He is God.

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**Proof #2** - He is specifically identified as God. Acts 5:3-4; I Cor. 2:10-11; Eph. 2:22

This proof is, in itself, enough to settle the issue once and for all.

**Proof #3** - He is specifically identified as the Spirit of God. I Cor. 6:11

The testimony of this fact is overwhelming in the Bible. He is called the Spirit of God (Gen. 1:2; Matt. 3:16); He is called the Spirit of Jehovah (Judges 3:10); He is called the Spirit of your Father (Matt. 10:20); He is called the Spirit of the Living God (II Cor. 3:3); He is called the Spirit of the Lord God (Is. 61:1). These titles clearly identify the Holy Spirit as being the Spirit of God.

**Proof #4** - He is specifically identified as the Spirit of Christ. Romans 8:9; I Peter 1:11

The testimony of this fact is also overwhelming. He is called the Spirit of Jesus Christ (Phil. 1:19); He is called the Spirit of Jesus (Acts 16:7); He is called the Spirit of His Son (Gal. 4:6); He is called the Spirit of the Lord (Acts 5:9).

Since we have already doctrinally established that God the Father is God, and that God the Son is God, the Spirit of the Father and the Spirit of the Son must be God. Therefore, these titles prove that the Holy Spirit is, in fact, God.

**Proof #5** - He is specifically identified as God by His titles.

There are several different names and titles given concerning the Holy Spirit which inform us of His deity and His work:

1. He is identified as one Spirit in the context of one Godhead (Eph. 4:4-6).
2. He is identified as seven Spirits, implying perfection and plural works (Rev. 1:4; 3:1).
3. He is identified as the eternal Spirit, taking Him beyond the boundaries and limits of time (Hebrews 9:14).
4. He is identified as the Spirit of glory, which would be the same glory as that of the Father and the Son (I Peter 4:14).
5. He is identified as the Spirit of life, a prerogative which only belongs to God (Romans 8:2).
6. He is identified as the Spirit of holiness (Romans 1:4).
7. He is identified as the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge and fear of the LORD (Is. 11:2).

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8. He is identified as the Spirit of truth (John 14:17).
9. He is identified as the Spirit of grace (Hebrews 10:29).
10. He is identified as the Spirit of adoption (Romans 8:15).
11. He is identified as the Spirit of faith (II Cor. 4:13).

These titles certainly reveal that the Holy Spirit is truly God.

**Proof #6** - He is specifically identified with God the Father and God the Son. Matt. 28:19

Notice very carefully that the word “name” is singular, not plural. This is extremely important for it indicates that all involved, who are mentioned here, are treated as coequal. Even though there is clearly a plurality among persons, they are viewed by God’s Word as one. This is a very powerful verse, which along with many others establishes the doctrine of the Trinity.

All of these names which are given to the Holy Spirit authoritatively and clearly establish that the Holy Spirit is Deity. These titles indicate that He is to be exalted as God and anything less is a rejection of God’s revealed Word.

**Evidence #2** - The evidence of the Holy Spirit’s divine attributes.

It is well to remind ourselves that an attribute of God are those intrinsic qualities which make up and characterize the person of God, Himself. Attributes are the essence of God, those qualities that make God, God.

When it comes to the study of divine attributes, generally speaking, there are two types:

1. Incommunicable attributes - Those attributes which are only found in God.
2. Communicable attributes - Those attributes which, to a limited degree, may be found in humans and angels.

If a being has the incommunicable attributes which are only found in the person of God, then that being must be classified as God. When careful study is made of this doctrine, this is precisely the case with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has certain attributes which are only found in the person of God, thus establishing that He is God!

**Attribute #1** - The attribute of eternity.

This attribute means that the Holy Spirit is unlimited in time. He has no beginning nor ending. He is not conditioned or limited by time in any way, yet He works in and within time.

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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 .