

26 QUESTIONS YOU SHOULD BE ASKING!

QUESTION #19: WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit is the third member of the tri-une Godhead, fully God yet a distinct Person, who is integral in the starting, sustaining and finishing of our walk with God.

1. HIS NAME

In the Old Testament, he is usually referred to as “Spirit” without qualification (Num. 11:25) or simply as “the Spirit of God” (Gen 1:2) and “the Spirit of the Lord” (Judg. 3:10).

In the New Testament, he is called “the Spirit of God” (Matt. 3:16), “the Spirit of your Father” (Matt. 10:20), “the Spirit of Christ” (Rom. 8:9), “the eternal Spirit” (Heb. 9:14), “the Spirit of truth” (John 14:17), and the “Counsellor” / “Comforter” (John 14:16).

2. HIS PERSONHOOD

It is incorrect to think of the Holy Spirit as some kind of impersonal force and to speak of him as an “it.” He is a Person. He is an intelligent, voluntary, living being, with understanding and will.

A. THE BIBLE USES PERSONAL PRONOUNS TO REFER TO HIM

Acts 13:2 – While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

B. THE BIBLE DESCRIBES HIM AS HAVING PERSONAL PROPERTIES

1 Corinthians 12:11 – All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

John 14:16-17 – And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (Jesus calls the Holy Spirit the Helper. Not merely Help but the Helper.)

C. THE BIBLE SPEAKS OF HIS PERSONAL ACTIVITIES

Revelation 2:7 – He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Romans 15:30 – I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf...

3. HIS DEITY

We have already studied the Tri-unity of God: God is three persons; each Person is fully God; there is one God. The third member of the Tri-une Godhead is the Holy Spirit. He is as much God as are the Father and the Son (Jesus).

A. THE HOLY SPIRIT POSSESSES DIVINE ATTRIBUTES...

I. ETERNALITY

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.

II. OMNIPRESENCE

Psalms 139:7-10 – Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

III. OMNISCIENCE

1 Corinthians 2:10-11 – These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

B. THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES DIVINE WORK...

I. CREATION

He was active in creation with the Father (“And God said...”) and Son (“all things were created through Him”).

Genesis 1:1-2 – In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 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.

II. INCARNATION

Matthew 1:18 – Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

Luke 1:35 – And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.”

III. INTERCESSION

Romans 8:26-27 – Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

C. THE HOLY SPIRIT RECEIVES DIVINE DESIGNATIONS...

Acts 5:1-4 – But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the

proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”

D. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS IN DIVINE COMPANY...

Matt 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...

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.

4. HIS ROLE

A. IN OUR SALVATION...

I. REGENERATION

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. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ 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.”

II. BAPTISM / SEALING

1 Corinthians 12:13 – For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

Ephesians 4: 30 – And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

B. IN OUR SANCTIFICATION...

I. MORTIFICATION

Romans 8:12-13 – So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

C. IN OUR DAILY LIFE...

I. LEADING

Romans 6:14 – For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Galatians 5:25 – If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

II. FILLING

Ephesians 5:18 – And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit...

III. ASSURANCE

Romans 8:15-17 – For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

5. APPLICATION

A. HUMILITY

Paul wrote the Corinthians, “The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned” (1 Corinthians 2:14). This explains why all people reject the Gospel until God’s Spirit causes them to live. Without the Holy Spirit, no one would “become” a Christian.

Not only that, but since the Holy Spirit is a Person, He can be offended, even grieved (Ephesians 4:30). How often do we consider the collateral damage of our sin against a brother or sister?

Moreover, the fact we need Someone to teach us, lead us, fill us, help us, give us words to speak, etc is further proof of how profoundly needy we are! All of this ought to deeply (and happily) humble us.

B. FREEDOM

Any New Testament passage that speaks of our freedom in Christ includes our dependence upon the Holy Spirit. We are free to depend! And in that dependence we discover true freedom. Any notion of freedom apart from being led by the Spirit is nonsense.

C. DELIGHT

The Spirit is the direct agent of communication between the Christian and God. There is no delight apart from the Holy Spirit and He is divinely suitable for this role. Any joy we feel is a direct result of the Spirit, who dwells in us, making us to feel that joy. We can be sure that we are “connecting” with God because of the indwelling Spirit and His desire to glorify Christ and the Father.