



17) The Person of the Holy Spirit (John 14:26)

Section 4: Christian Doctrine Handout

Most Christians today understand Jesus the Son and God the Father as two very distinct Persons within the trinity. However, there has been more confusion over the identity of the Holy Spirit. Many people throughout the ages have thought of the Holy Spirit to be more as a thing (a force) than a person. Nothing is further from the truth as the Holy Spirit is the full being of God rather than man and is completely holy. As we begin to know the person of the Holy Spirit we will want to have a closer relationship with Him just as we would the Father or Son.

A) Holy Spirit, a Force or a Person? (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 said to you” (John 14:26).

- “The Helper, the Holy Spirit” (14:26) stands by our side in lieu of Jesus. As spirit, the Holy Spirit, unlike Jesus being subject to an earthly body, can be in multiple places at once, bringing wisdom, strength, knowledge, etc. to all of God’s people all at once rather than only with those there in Jesus’ presence.
- The Bible provides for us many ways that the Holy Spirit is truly a person—that He is a personal being, rather than an impersonal thing. In Greek, the word “Spirit” (pneuma) is neuter. However, in many verses, the pronoun “he” is used instead of “it”. These verses include John 14:26, John 15:26, John 16:8, John 16:3-5.
- Matt 28:19 teaches us to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This a collective reference to the Triune God.
- Just like a person, the Holy Spirit can be grieved (quench) (Eph 4:30), sinned against (Isa 63:10), lied to (Acts 5:3).

Actions that grieve / quench Holy Spirit (Eph 4:17-5:5)	Instead believers are to...(Eph 4:25-32)
• Living like pagans (Eph 4:17-19)	• Speak the truth (Eph 4:25)
• (4:25)	• (4:26)
• (4:26-27)	• (4:28)
• (4:28)	• (4:29)
• (4:29)	• (4:32)
• (4:31)	
• (4:32)	
• (5:3-5)	

- Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Eph 5:1-2)

Summary: The Holy Spirit is a person, as it is made clear in the Bible. He is to be revered as God and serves in perfect unity with the Father and Son to lead us in our spiritual lives.

B) Attributes of the Holy Spirit (John 3:8)

“The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit” (John 3:8).

- Old Testament, the Hebrew word ruwach (roo-akh) = wind was used when talking about the Spirit. In the New Testament, the Greek word pneuma (pnyoo-mah) = breathe was used.
- This shows some different attributes of the Holy Spirit. He is omniscient; Spirit knows the thoughts of God (1 Cor. 2:10-11) and omnipresent (Psalm 139:7).
- The Holy Spirit also has life (Rom 8:2), will (1 Cor. 12:11), and is eternal (Heb 9:14). A mere force could not possess all of these attributes.

Summary: The attribute of the Holy Spirit is affirmed by His role as the third person of the Godhead. Only a being who is equal to God and possesses the attributes of omniscience, omnipresence, and eternity could be defined as God.

C) The Personal Nature of the Holy Spirit

- The personal nature of the Holy Spirit is affirmed through His divine works. What are some characteristics that show the personal nature of the Holy Spirit? Each one of these works requires the involvement of a person rather than a mere force, things, or idea.

- Gen 1:2 creation
- Zech 4:6 _____
- Rom 8:14 _____
- John 14:26 _____
- John 16:8 _____
- John 16:13 _____
- Isa 59:19 _____
- Acts 8:29 _____

Summary: The personal nature of the Holy Spirit is evident in His title “Comforter” or “Helper”. Jesus said he will send the Comforter, who will take His place as His disciples’ helper. An impersonal force could never provide comfort as Jesus did. The Holy Spirit must be personal in order to fulfill this most personal ministry.

Final Summary:

The Holy Spirit is not some mystical force or substance that penetrates the universe like a fog. Rather He is the third part of the trinity and is able to give us new life and unites us to Christ and all of his benefits. The Holy Spirit indwells and seals the believer. As the Holy Spirit lives in the believer, he produces growth in grace and holiness of life. He empowers the Christian for service by giving different gifts.

Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to commune with the Holy Spirit? Are you doing it on a regular basis?
- What attribute of the Holy Spirit most amazes you?
- Share an experience where you personally grieved the Spirit of God. How did you work it through?