

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

UBC BIBLE STUDY

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WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- ▶ Opening Assumptions:
- ▶ If we are to understand Biblical principles, we must make some presuppositions (to assume beforehand; take for granted in advance)
 1. God is not an unconscious ground of all things. He is not an unintelligent “force”; not a name for the moral order of the universe; not just causality.. GOD IS SPIRIT. He is a self-conscious, intelligent, voluntary agent who has all the attributes of our spirits without limitation, and to an infinite degree.
 2. God is the creator of the world, and exists before and beyond, and independently of it. He is not its soul, life, or animating principle; but the maker, preserver, and ruler of all creation.

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

3. AS a Spirit, He is everywhere present, and everywhere active, preserving and governing all His creatures and all their actions.
4. In both the external and the world of the mind He generally acts according to fixed laws and through secondary causes, He is free to act, and often does act immediately, or without the intervention of such causes, as in creation, regeneration, and miracles.

AS we engage these presuppositions, we begin to understand the nature, ability, and operation of God. It is essential that we have this understanding to affix our attention on Who the Holy Spirit is...

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- ▶ When you think of the Holy Spirit, what comes to mind?
- ▶ **He is NOT**, an influence emanating from God, or a power or illumination that God Imparts to us.
- ▶ **He is NOT**, a mysterious and wonderful power that we, in our weakness and ignorance, somehow get a hold of and use as a cosmic bell hop.
- ▶ **He IS**, a **Divine PERSON**, worthy to receive our adoration, faith, love and entire surrender to Himself.
- ▶ **He IS**, a **REAL PERSON**, infinitely holy, infinitely wise, infinitely mighty and infinitely tender, **who is to get hold of and use us.**
- ▶ So the question is, **How can He get more of me????**

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- ▶ Self-exaltation and self-sufficiency...
- ▶ Those who attempt to “use “ the Spirit as an empowering “Force”, or Divine “influence”, become wrapped up in spiritual pride, and become “Super Christians”, beyond and above “others”, who have not yet “arrived”...
- ▶ Humility and Service...
- ▶ When we perceive Him as a Divine Person, of infinite majesty, glory, holiness, and power, who stooped low to come into our presence and take possession of our lives and use them, we become dust that has kissed the Divine, and are grateful to be used by Him.

The Personality of the Spirit

▶ There are distinctive marks of personality, which make one a Person:

1. **Knowledge**
2. **Feeling / Emotion**
3. **Will**

If an entity can think, feel and will it is a PERSON.

The Personality of the Spirit

- ▶ **KNOWLEDGE:**
- ▶ **1Cor. 2:10-11**
- ▶ ***¹⁰ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. ¹¹ For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.***
- ▶ Knowledge is an attribute, or characteristic of personhood. The Holy Spirit has knowledge. He is not an influence to illuminate our mind to the truth, but a PERSON or being who KNOWS the truth.

The Personality of the Spirit

- ▶ **WILL:**
- ▶ 1Cor. 12:11
- ▶ ¹¹ But **one and the same Spirit** works all these things, distributing to each one individually **as He wills**.
- ▶ The Will of the Holy Spirit means that He is not a power to get a hold of and use as we want; but He is a PERSON containing sovereign majesty who uses us according to His will.
- ▶ This truth allows us to establish a right relationship with the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ Our problem is to accept this truth, and not seek to control the Spirit, but to fully embrace His control of our lives... let's talk about that...

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- ▶ **MIND:**
- ▶ **Romans 8:27**
- ▶ ***²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.***
- ▶ **Mind** in Gk. Includes the ideas of thought, feeling, and purpose. Rom. 8:7 Because the carnal **mind** is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.
- ▶ The Holy Spirit has all the distinctives of personality shown in 8:27

The Personality of the Spirit

- ▶ The Spirit of God loves us, just as the Father loves us, and just as The Son, Jesus Christ loves us. He is the 2nd PERSON of the Eternal Godhead.
- ▶ **Romans 15:30**
- ▶ ***Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me,***
- ▶ If it had not been for His patient, never tiring love that opened our blinded eyes to see the Savior, who sent Him to us to lead us into a life with God through our receiving Jesus as Lord, we all would have been in a burning Hell. Thank God for this Divine PERSON who loves us still...