

Cosby

Church of God

The Identity of The Holy Spirit
Week Three

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The Holy Spirit is personal.

Many believers imagine the Holy Spirit to be like a mist in the air or an electric current that moves through the body or a hyped atmosphere felt during a church service.

- ★ While the presence of the precious Holy Spirit can produce power, it's important to remember that we mustn't, in our minds, reduce him to a mere experience, feeling, or supernatural power.
- ★ the Holy Spirit is not just a force or a feeling, He can be known as a friend.
- ★ Paul, the apostle wrote of the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.
- ★ How can you fellowship with a feeling?
- ★ How can you communicate with a force? Surely He is more than that.
- ★ It's time that we have the body of Christ be reminded that totally and convinced of this essential truth: the Holy Spirit is a personal being.
- ★ When you believe that the Holy Spirit is an it, you'll want to use him.
- ★ When you know, the Holy Spirit is a person, you'll say "Holy Spirit use me."
- ★ Indeed He is not just a power, He's a person by that, of course,
- ★ I do not mean that He is human, fallible, or of the material world. I simply mean that He has a mind, a will, and a feelings

some might ask, "why then do we refer to him using the as in the Holy Spirit" consider this verse:

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

the use of the word that does not diminish the personhood of the Holy Spirit, just as it does not diminish the personhood of the Father or the Son.

- ★ To understand this more practically consider how we referred to the specific roles or titles
- ★ We speak of the teacher, the doctor, or the police officer.
- ★ Using “the” in these cases does not reduce the individuals to mirror, objects, or abstract concepts.
- ★ Similarly, the Holy Spirit is a title that points to a distinct person. It does not make the Holy Spirit any less personal or relational.
- ★ Throughout the New Testament, the Holy Spirit is referred to as He.
- ★ **John 15:26** But wHen the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of me:
- ★ **John 16:13-14** Howbeit wHen He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever He shall Hear, *that* shall He speak: and He will shew you things to come.
- ★ He shall glorify me: for He shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you.
- ★ **1 John 5:6-8**
- ★ **6** This is He that came by water and blood, *even* Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.
- ★ **7** For there are three that bear record in Heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.
- ★ **8** And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

the Holy Spirit speaks

Acts 8:29

- ★ **29** then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

the Holy Spirit has a will

1 Corinthians 12:11

- ★ **11** But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will.

And yes, the Holy Spirit has feelings. He can be grieved by our disobedience.

EpHesians 4:30

- ★ **30** And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, wHereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

So the Holy Spirit has a voice, a will, feelings, and is referred to as a He in the New Testament.

Clearly, the Holy Spirit is a person.

- Again, I don't mean material or mortal.
- I mean, He is personal.
- Remembering his personhood will change everything about your Christian walk.

When you read the word, you'll realize that you're not just reading a book.

- Understand that you're sitting with the author himself, the one who inspired the scripture.
- He sits by ready to teach you.
- He doesn't just impart bits of information to memorize but regulatory truth to receive in the depths of your soul.
- Bible reading takes on a supernatural element.

When you pray, you'll pray with the awareness of his presence.

- you'll know that you're not just whispering words toward the ceiling, but that's your fellowship with someone very real and present with you. Someone who can see and hear and feel.
- Prayer will become less of a ritual and more of a conversation.
- You'll approach prayer with excitement. The kind of excitement you might feel when looking forward to spending the day with a loved one whose company you enjoy.
- when you're tempted to sin, you'll remember that your disobedience can hurt him.
- When you are mindful that He is in the room with you, you will not want to offend him or break his Heart.
- temptation will become easier to fight, because you'll be motivated by your love for the precious Holy Spirit.

Knowing the Holy Spirit is a person will change the way you read the Word, the way you pray, the way you respond to sinful temptations, and so much more.

- The Holy Spirit has a voice. You can listen or ignore him.
- The Holy Spirit has a will you can obey or disobey him.
- the Holy Spirit has feelings you can hurt or please him.

the Holy Spirit is God

Just because the Holy Spirit is personal and friendly toward us, doesn't mean that we should become inappropriately familiar with him.

- Though close to him, we must honor him as God. Now what's interesting is that some Christians have reservations when it comes to the Holy Spirit's deity.
- We have no problem saying that Jesus is God, and He certainly is.

- We have no issues saying the Father is God, and He certainly is so.
- Why then do some cringe wHEN someone states that the Holy Spirit is God?
- This is because of all three, the Holy Spirit is often the most overlooked and misunderstood.
- Granted, one of his primary roles is to glorify Jesus, however, the Bible reveals that the Holy Spirit is also God.

Paul the apostle refers to the Holy Spirit as the Lord.

2 Corinthians 3:17

17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and wHERE the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty.

Consider Isaiah the propHets' encounter with God.

- WHEN we cross reference Isaiah's encounter with Paul's words and acts, we discover that the God who spoke to Isaiah is identified as the Holy Spirit. See the two portions of scripture for yourself.
- **Isaiah 6:8-9**
- **8** Also I Heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? then said I, Here *am* I; send me. **9** And He said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not.
- **Acts 28:25-26**
- **25** And wHEN they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the propHet unto our Fathers, **26** Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall Hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive:
- furthermore, the Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of God and Genesis.

- **Genesis 1:1-2**
- **1** In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth. **2** And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

and the following text, we learned that the Holy Spirit knows God's thoughts. But God knows the Holy Spirit knows. therefore, the Holy Spirit is omniscient.

- **1 Corinthians 2:10-12**
- **10** But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. **11** For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the Spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. **12** Now we have received, not the Spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

in the book of Luke, the power of the Holy Spirit is equated with the power of the most high. therefore, the Holy Spirit is omnipotent, all powerful.

- **Luke 1:35**
- **35** And the angel answered and said unto Her, the Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

And then the book of psalms, the Holy Spirit is described as being everywhere. So the Holy Spirit is omnipresent.

- **Psalms 139:7**
- **7** Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?

The Holy Spirit is omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent, therefore the Holy Spirit is God. We must honor him as such.

The Holy Spirit is a member of the Trinity.

The Holy Spirit is the third member of the God Head, the Trinity.

- While there are volumes of wonderful scholarly works that explore the doctrine of the Trinity in depth, let's for now just appreciate the mystery.
- We serve one God who exists as three persons. Not three roles.
- Not three forms as suggested by the solid, liquid, gas analogy, not three compartments as suggested by the egg analogy.
- He is three individual and unique persons existing as one God.
- That is the Trinity mystery. Three as one. Trinity. Try – unity.

In Matthew, we see all three members of the God had mentioned together in one moment, yet simultaneously existing as three distinct persons. Jesus was being baptized, the Holy Spirit descended like a dove upon him, and then from above the Father spoke the words of affirmation.

- **Matthew 3:16-17**
- **16** And Jesus, wHen He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the Heavens were opened unto him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:
17 And lo a voice from Heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

just as an observation I have found that there are two simple truths together that lead to the doctrine of Trinity

- the first truth: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are each distinct from one another.

- the second truth: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are each equally divine as one another.
- Those two truths, each being founded upon the clear teachings of the Bible, present to us, the inescapable conclusion of the “three persons, one God.”
- Though the term of the Trinity isn't in the Bible, it's supporting biblical principles are.
- for example this verse in Hebrews, best encapsulate, both distinct personhood, and shared divinity:
- **Hebrews 9:14**
- **14** How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

We see that Christ (who is God) offered himself to God, (the Father) by the eternal Spirit.

- The word eternal emphasizes the Holy Spirit's divine nature.
- So there in Hebrews we see three distinct persons equally divine.
- Remember, we are looking for two factors – shared deity, and distinct personhood.
- Those two premises ultimately lead to the conclusion of the truth of the "the Trinity"

We see this play out in several texts:

Here Jesus ask the Father to send the Spirit

- **John 14:16**
- **16 And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever;**

Other references can be found in the following passages:

1 Peter 1:2, Jude 1:20-21, 1 John 5:7-8

Within the church, there is often debate about the Trinity mystery.

The Bible reveals the uniqueness of each member – God, the Father, God, Son, and God, the Holy Spirit.

Yet they are one God.

This can create confusion.

When we talk about the three persons being distinct, some people think we're saying that there are three separate Gods.

we talk about the three being one God, others might think we're denying that they are distinct persons.

For example, when I say the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus, some people might object saying “but the Holy Spirit is a separate person from Jesus.” And if I say the Holy Spirit is a distinct person, others might respond, “but there's only one God.”

That is why we have to remember that it's not one or the other-it's both. their oneness does not negate their distinct personhoods. Their distinct persons do not negate their oneness.

you don't have to deny one aspect of the Trinity to accept the other. Everything in God's nature works together harmoniously.

accepting both realities – three persons and one God – we avoid much useless debate and division.

all of God's children must work and Godly peace together.

we should allow the Trinity to set for us. An example of divine union – Trinity unity.

God sent his Son into the world to save the world.

Jesus did what the Father willed.

The Holy Spirit empowered him every step of the way – from his birth to his death to his resurrection. the Father. the Son performs. the Spirit and powers.

Who is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is a personal being, distinct from the Father and the Son, equally divine as the Father and the Son, and the third member of the Trinity.

And He dwells and every believer