



Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church

Rev. Dr. David G. Latimore, Pastor

# The Church's Life and Power



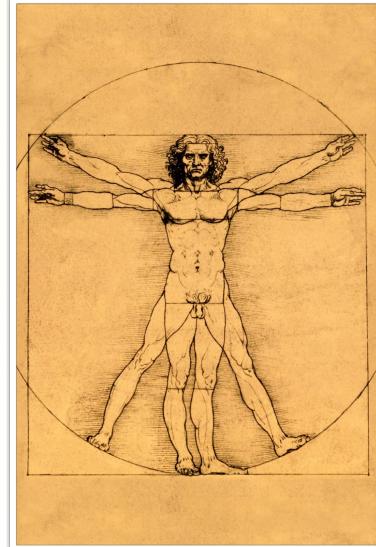
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**Personality of the Spirit  
Deity of the Spirit  
The Spirit's Work in the Old Testament**

# The Personality of the Spirit

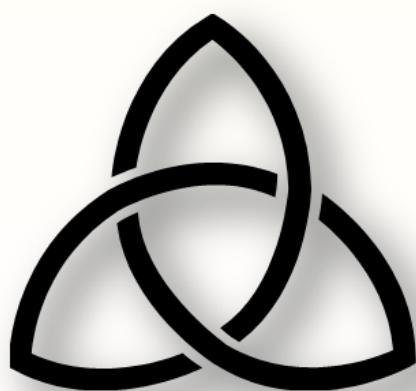
- What does it mean to be a “person”? It is not necessarily the same as being “human.”
  - Personality involves:
    - Intellect
    - Emotions
    - Will



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# The Personality of the Spirit

- Though the Spirit shares the same substance as the Father and Son, he is a distinct Person.



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# The Personality of the Spirit

- The Holy Spirit has the elements of personality:
- Intellect:
  - He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. Rom. 8:27



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# The Personality of the Spirit

- The Holy Spirit has the elements of personality:
- Emotions:
  - “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” Eph. 4:30



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# The Personality of the Spirit

- The Holy Spirit has the elements of personality:
- Will:
  - “They passed through the Phrygian and Galatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia” Acts 16:6



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# The Personality of the Spirit

- The Holy Spirit has individual identity:
- Self-Awareness:
  - “While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.’”  
Acts 13:2



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# The Personality of the Spirit

- The Holy Spirit has individual identity:
- Self-Determination:
  - “But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.”  
**1 Cor. 12:11**



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# The Personality of the Spirit

- The Holy Spirit's activities indicate personhood:
- He teaches:
  - “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**



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# The Personality of the Spirit

- The Holy Spirit's activities indicate personhood:
- He convicts:
  - "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment." John 16:8



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# The Personality of the Spirit

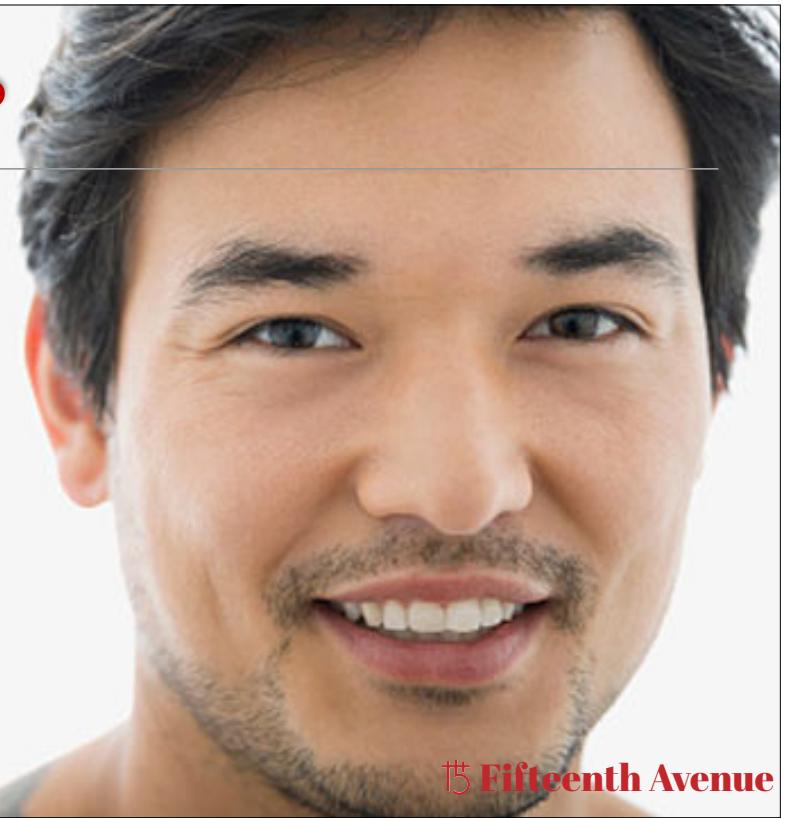
- The Holy Spirit's activities indicate personhood:
- He intercedes:
  - "We do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." Romans 8:26



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# Who is the Spirit?

- No.
  - He is not a “person” exactly like us.



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# Who is the Spirit?

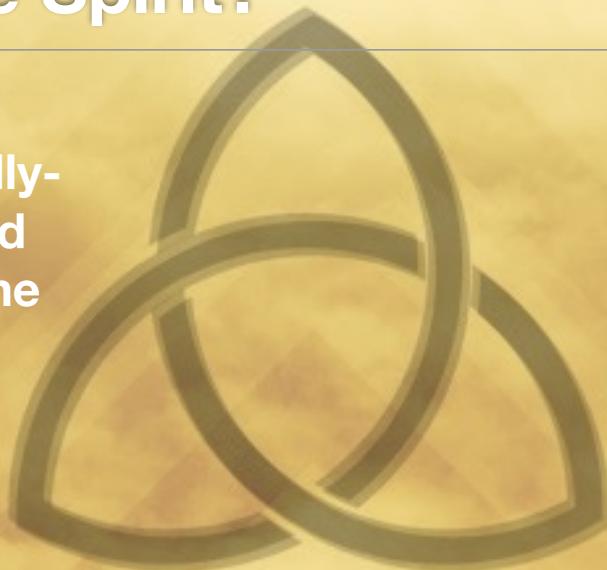
- NO
  - He is not an impersonal cosmic “force.”



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# Who is the Spirit?

- YES
  - He is the fully-divine Third Person of the Trinity.



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## What is the Gender of the Spirit?

- Some feminists today suggest the Spirit is female.
- The Hebrew noun for Spirit (**ruach**) is feminine.
- The Spirit is neither male nor female, but genderless. However, He is revealed in the metaphor of masculinity.



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# What is the Gender of the Spirit?

- The Greek word **pneuma** is neuter.
- Scripture uses masculine pronouns!
  - “But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth.” Jn. 16:13



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# The Deity of the Holy Spirit

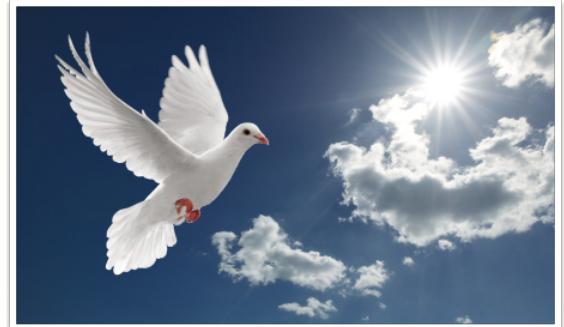
- He is included within the Trinity
  - “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.” Mt. 28:19



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# The Deity of the Holy Spirit

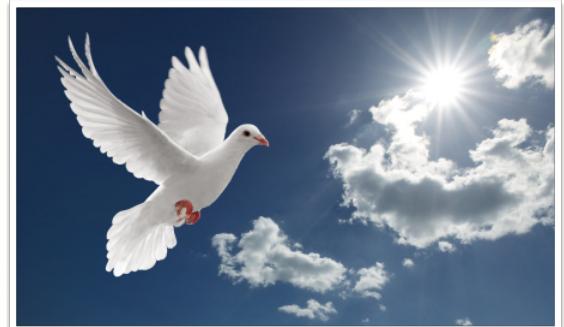
- He is included within the Trinity
  - “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.” 2 Cor. 13:14



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# The Deity of the Holy Spirit

- He is included with the Father individually
  - “You were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.” 1 Cor. 6:11



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# The Deity of the Holy Spirit

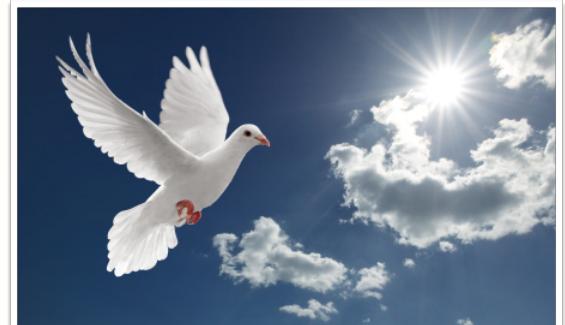
- He is included with the Father individually
  - “For it is not you who speak, but it is the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.”  
Mt. 10:20



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# The Deity of the Holy Spirit

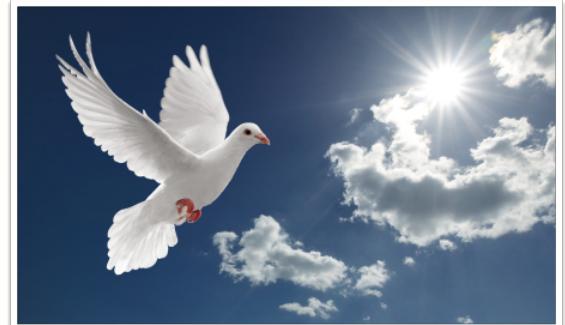
- He is included with the Son individually
  - “They were trying to go into Bithynia, and the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them.”  
Acts 16:7



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## The Deity of the Holy Spirit

- He is included with the Son individually
  - “For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.” Phil. 1:19



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## The Deity of the Holy Spirit

- The Spirit does the work of Creation.
  - “The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.” Gen. 1:2



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# The Deity of the Holy Spirit

- The Spirit does the work of Creation.
  - “By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host.” Ps. 33:6



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# The Deity of the Holy Spirit

- The Spirit does the work of Creation.
  - By His breath the heavens are cleared. Job 26:13

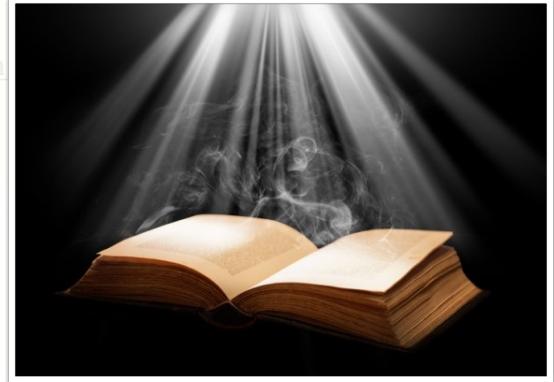


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# The Deity of the Holy Spirit

- The Spirit does the work of Inspiration of Scripture.
- “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.” 2 Tim. 3:16

The Spirit does the work of Inspiration

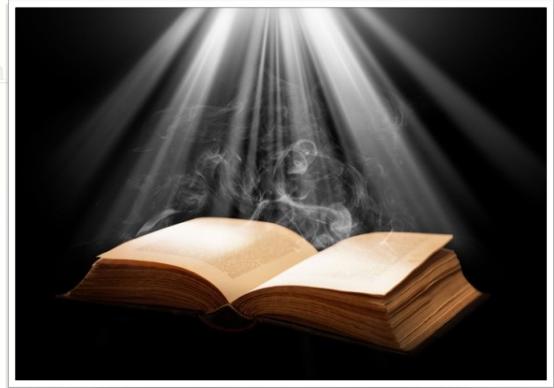


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# The Deity of the Holy Spirit

- The Spirit does the work of Inspiration of Scripture.
- “But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.” 2 Pet. 1:20-21

The Spirit does the work of Inspiration



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# The Deity of the Holy Spirit

- The Spirit does the work of Regeneration.
  - Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.



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# The Deity of the Holy Spirit

- The Spirit does the work of Regeneration.
  - Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind (pneuma) blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going;



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# The Deity of the Holy Spirit

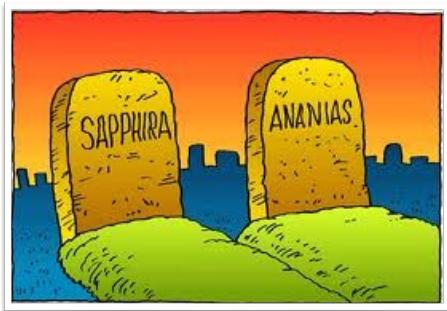
- The Spirit does the work of Regeneration.
- so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.” John 3:6



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## Key Biblical Act: Acts 5:3-5

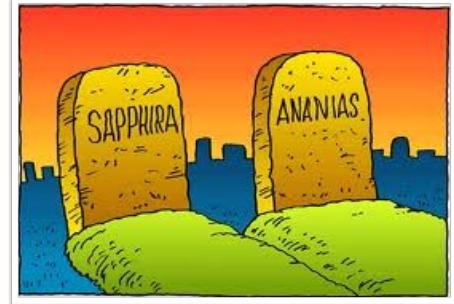
- Ananias sold some land and pretended to give the proceeds to God; but secretly he kept some money.



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## Key Biblical Act: Acts 5.3-5

- Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? ... You have not lied to men but to God."
- The Holy Spirit is clearly equated with "God"!



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## Doctrine of the Spirit's Deity

- The doctrine of the Trinity was established at the Council of Nicaea, AD 325.
- The deity of the Spirit was fully expressed in the "Nicene Creed" of 381.



Remains of the palace where the Council of Nicaea was held.

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## Doctrine of the Spirit's Deity

- We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.”



Remains of the palace where the Council of Nicaea was held.

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## The Work of the Holy Spirit in the OT

- Ruach (breath, wind, spirit) appears about 380 times in the OT.
  - Approximately 100 of those instances refer to the Spirit of God, that is, the Holy Spirit.
  - Like moving air, God’s ruach is elusive, yet present and powerful in the OT.

KEEP  
CALM  
THE  
RUACH  
IS HERE!

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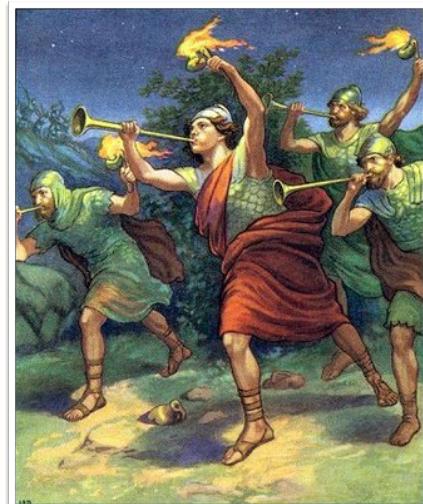
# What is God's Ruach ?

- NO
  - Not a literal truth; yet not a meaningless figure of speech.
- NO
  - Not yet recognizably the Third Person of the Trinity.
- YES
  - The beginning of a progressive revelation that will eventually be explained as the Trinity.

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# The Spirit's Work in Relation to People

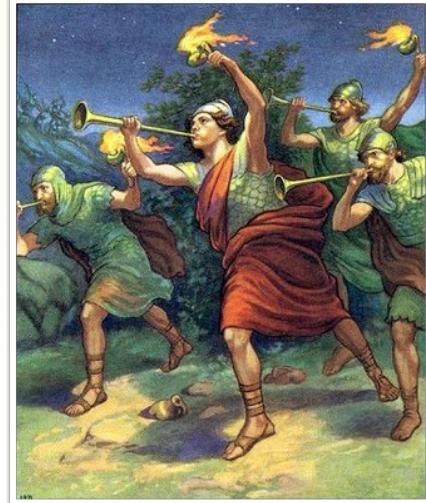
- Empowerment for service
  - Leaders
  - Prophets
  - Judges
  - Kings
  - Craftsmen



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# The Spirit's Work in Relation to People

- The Spirit's ministry in the OT was:
  - Selective: not all were empowered.
  - Temporary: people were empowered for a time, but then had the Spirit removed.
  - National: empowerment focused on the needs of the people of Israel.



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# The Spirit's Work in Relation to People

- Contrast the Holy Spirit's work in the Old and New Testaments:
  - In the Old, the Spirit came and went.
  - In the New Testament, The Spirit permanently indwells and abides



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