

# BIBLICAL TRUTH ABOUT GOD THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT

## Lesson 22: The Holy Spirit is a Person

Biblical doctrine is the study of what the Bible teaches about God and other important truths. This is the second of ten lessons about the Holy Spirit. The Bible teaches that there is only one true God and He exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These three persons of the Trinity are equally divine, possess divine attributes, and accomplish divine works. In this lesson we will explore the truth that the Holy Spirit is a person, rather than an impersonal force or power.

### MAIN TRUTH, CENTRAL SCRIPTURE, AND OUTLINE

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. He is a person, just like the Father and the Son. In the first part of our lesson we will examine the personal traits of the Holy Spirit, and in the second part we will consider how the Holy Spirit relates like a person.

1 Corinthians 2:10-13; Titus 3:5-6; Hebrews 10:29; Matthew 28:19; Acts 15:28-19

1. The Holy Spirit has all the traits of a person (1 Cor. 2:10-13; Tit. 3:5-6; Heb. 10:29)

A. He possesses intellect and emotions

- He guides and counsels (Isa. 11:2)
- He intercedes and enlightens (Rom. 8:27)
- He expresses joy and love (Rom. 14:17; Gal. 5:22; 1 Thess. 1:6)
- He expresses anger, offense, and grief (Heb. 10:29; Eph. 4:30)

B. He possesses a will (the power to choose and determine)

- He contends with and convicts sinners (Gen. 6:3; Acts 7:51; Jn. 16:8-11)
- He regenerates and equips believers (Jn. 3:7-8; Tit. 3:5; 1 Cor. 12:11)

2. The Holy Spirit relates like a person (Matt. 28:19; Acts 15:28-29)

A. He relates to other members of the Trinity (Jn. 14:26; 16:14)

B. He relates to people (Matt. 28:19; Acts 15:28; 2 Cor. 13:14)

Summary: By showing us the Holy Spirit's relationships with other members of the Trinity and with people, Scripture affirms His personhood. The Holy Spirit is far more than an impersonal power or mysterious force; He is a person, just like the Father and the Son.

### MEMORY VERSES

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

**Titus 3:5** *He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.*

**Isaiah 11:2** *And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.*

## **ADDITIONAL NOTES**

The following notes were taken from John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, editors, *Biblical Doctrine*, 334-335.

Biblically speaking, there can be no doubt about the Holy Spirit's existence in that he is mentioned over 320 times. But is the Holy Spirit a person, like God the Father and God the Son? Personhood is not measured by physical elements such as body parts, flesh, blood, and bones. Rather, it is determined by the possession of three basic characteristics:

1) cognition/intellect, 2) volition/will, and 3) emotion/affection. The Bible provides more than sufficient evidence that the Holy Spirit possesses all three essentials of personhood. Thus, the Spirit can be classified as the third person of the triune Godhead.

### **Cognition/Intellect**

1. He counsels (Isa. 11:2)
2. He imparts wisdom (Isa. 11:2)
3. He inspired Scripture (Acts 1:16; Heb. 3:7; 10:15; 1 Pet. 1:11; 2 Pet. 1:21)
4. He intercedes (Rom. 8:26)
5. He knows (Isa. 11:2)
6. He possesses a mind (Rom. 8:27; 1 Cor. 2:10-13)
7. He reminds (Jn. 14:26)
8. He provides truth (Jn. 14:17, 26; 15:26; 16:13; 1 Jn. 4:6)
9. He speaks (Acts 8:29; 10:19; 11:12; 13:2; 28:25; Rev. 2:7-3:22)
10. He teaches (Lk. 12:12; Jn. 14:26; 1 Cor. 12:13; Heb. 9:8)
11. He testifies (Jn. 15:26; 1 Jn. 5:7-8)

### **Volition/Will**

1. He contends with sinners (Gen. 6:3; Acts 7:51)
2. He directs (Acts 16:6-7)
3. He distributes spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:11; Heb. 2:4)
4. He regenerates (Jn. 3:7-8; Tit. 3:5)

### **Emotion/Affection**

1. He experiences joy (1 Thess. 1:6)
2. He can be insulted (Heb. 10:29)
3. He grieves over sin (Isa. 63:10; Eph. 4:30)
4. He loves (Rom. 5:5; 15:30; Gal. 5:22)