

Loris First Baptist Church
“52 Vital Doctrines of The Bible”

Doctrine #14: “God the Holy Spirit: His Personality”

Note: Most information based on pages 87-90 of the book “Major Bible Themes” by Lewis Sperry Chaffer.

Some Important Facts:

1. The Holy Spirit is a part of the Holy Trinity with the Father and Son. In the Old Testament the Hebrew word רוּחַ (ruwach, pronounced roo'-akh) was used when talking about the Spirit. This word literally means **WIND**, even the wind associated with a **BREATH!**
2. In the New Testament the Greek word πνεῦμα (pneuma, pronounced pnyoo'-mah) was used which means the **BREATH** or a **BREEZE!** We can literally think of the Holy Spirit as the **“Breath of God!”**
3. Most Christians today understand Jesus the Son, and God the Father as two very distinct Persons within the Godhead; however, there has been much confusion over the identity of the Holy Spirit. Perhaps some of this dates back to the King James translation of the Bible where the word “Spirit” or “Ghost” was used instead of “Breath” or “Wind” of God. In any case, many people throughout the ages have thought of the Holy Spirit more as a thing than a Person. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact, 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 the Son.
4. Although the word Trinity is not mentioned in the Bible, we know God is three in one. There are three very distinct Persons that make up the Godhead. They are all equal in every way.
5. They (The Father, Son and Holy Spirit) are all:

a. **Omnipotent** – All powerful.

Luke 1:35 “*And the angel answered and said to her, The Holy Spirit shall come upon you, and THE POWER OF THE HIGHEST SHALL OVERSHADOW YOU: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of you shall be called the Son of God.*”

b. **Omnipresent** – At all places at once.

Psalms 139:7 “*Where shall I go from your Spirit? or where shall I flee from YOUR PRESENCE?*”

c. **Omniscient** – All knowing.

1 Corinthians 2:10 “*But God has revealed them to us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yes, THE DEEP THINGS OF GOD.*”

d. **Eternal** – Always existing and has always existed.

Hebrews 9:14 “*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?*”

- e. **Equal** – The Third Person of the Trinity, The Holy Spirit, is totally “Divine” and is co-equal in all attributes and ability with the other two persons of the Trinity.

Acts 5:3-4 “*But Peter said, Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart TO LIE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT, and to keep back part of the price of the land? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own power? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? YOU HAVE NOT LIED TO MEN, BUT TO GOD.”*

The Importance of His Personality

1. In teaching the fundamental truths as relating to the Holy Spirit, special emphasis should be made of the fact of His personality. This is because the Spirit does not now speak from Himself or of Himself; rather, He speaks whatsoever He hears:

John 16:13 “*But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on His own; HE WILL SPEAK ONLY WHAT HE HEARS, and He will tell you what is yet to come.”*

And He is said to come into the world to glorify Christ:

John 16:14 “*HE WILL GLORIFY ME because it is from Me (i.e. Jesus Christ) that He (i.e. Holy Spirit) will receive what He will make known to you.”*

2. In contrast to this, Scripture represents both the Father and the Son as speaking from Themselves; and this, not only with final authority and by the use of the personal pronoun *I*, but presenting them as being in immediate communion, cooperation, conversation—the one with the other. All this tends to make less real the personality of the Holy Spirit who rarely speaks from or of Himself. But, as proof of His equality with God “AND” His personality, we have this verse in the book of Acts:

Acts 13:2 “*While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, ‘SET APART FOR ME Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I HAVE CALLED THEM.’”*

3. Accordingly, in the history of the church, the personality of the Spirit was for some centuries slighted; only after the doctrine of the Father and the Son was defined as in the Nicene Creed (A.D. 325) was the Spirit recognized as a personality in the creeds of the church.
4. As the orthodox doctrine was later defined, the scriptural truth that the Godhead subsists or exists in three persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—became generally recognized.
5. Scripture is entirely clear that the Holy Spirit is just as much a person as God the Father and God the Son, and yet, as seen in the study of the doctrine of the Trinity, the three persons form one God not three Gods.

The Personality of the Holy Spirit in Scriptures

1. The Spirit is said to do that which is possible only for a person to do.

a. He convicts the world:

John 16:8 “When He (i.e. the Holy Spirit) comes, HE WILL CONVICT THE WORLD of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment...”

b. He teaches the believers:

John 14:26 “But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, WILL TEACH YOU ALL THINGS and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

Nehemiah 9:20 “You gave Your good Spirit TO INSTRUCT THEM. You did not withhold your manna from their mouths, and you gave them water for their thirst.”

John 16:13-15 “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, HE WILL GUIDE YOU INTO ALL TRUTH. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify Me because it is from Me that He will receive what HE WILL MAKE KNOWN TO YOU. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from Me WHAT HE WILL MAKE KNOWN TO YOU.”

1John 2:27 “As for you, the anointing you received from Him (i.e. the Holy Spirit) remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as His anointing TEACHES YOU ABOUT ALL THINGS and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in Him.”

c. The Spirit speaks:

Galatians 4:6 “Because you are His sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, THE SPIRIT WHO CALLS OUT, ‘Abba, Father’...”

d. The Spirit intercedes:

Romans 8:26 “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but THE SPIRIT HIMSELF INTERCEDES FOR US through wordless groans.”

e. The Spirit leads: “led of the Spirit”

Galatians 5:18 “But if you are LED BY THE SPIRIT, you are not under the law.”

Acts 8:29 “THE SPIRIT TOLD PHILIP, ‘Go to that chariot and stay near it.’”

Acts 10:19 “While Peter was still thinking about the vision, THE SPIRIT SAID TO HIM, ‘Simon, three men are looking for you.’”

Acts 13:2 “While they were worshiping 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 16:6-7 "Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but THE SPIRIT OF JESUS would not allow them to."

Acts 20:23 "I only know that in every city THE HOLY SPIRIT WARNS ME that prison and hardships are facing me."

Romans 8:14 "For those who are LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD are the children of God."

f. The Spirit appoints men to specific service:

Acts 13:2 "While they were worshiping 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 20:28 "Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the HOLY SPIRIT HAS MADE YOU OVERSEERS. Be shepherds of the church of God, which He bought with His own blood."

g. The Spirit is Himself subject to appointment

John 15:26 "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth WHO GOES OUT TO THE FATHER—He will testify about Me."

h. The Spirit ministers:

1) He regenerates

John 3:6 "Flesh gives birth to flesh, BUT THE SPIRIT GIVES BIRTH TO SPIRIT."

Titus 3:4-6 "But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of REGENERATION and renewing of the Holy Spirit..."

2) He seals

Ephesians 4:30 "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with WHOM YOU WERE SEALED for the day of redemption."

2Corinthians 1:21-22 "Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, SET HIS SEAL OF OWNERSHIP ON US, and put HIS SPIRIT in our hearts as a deposit, GUARANTEEING WHAT IS TO COME."

3) He baptizes

1 Corinthians 12:13 "For we were all BAPTIZED BY ONE SPIRIT so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink."

4) He fills

Ephesians 5:18 *“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT.”*

2. He is affected as a person by other beings.

a. The Father and Son sends Him into the world

John 14:16 *“And I will ask the Father, and HE WILL GIVE YOU ANOTHER ADVOCATE to help you and be with you forever...”*

John 14:26 *“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, WHOM THE FATHER WILL SEND IN MY NAME, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”*

John 16:7 *“But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I WILL SEND HIM TO YOU.”*

b. Men may vex the Spirit

Isaiah 63:10 *“But they rebelled, and VEXED HIS HOLY SPIRIT: therefore He was turned to be their enemy, and He fought against them.”*

1) They may grieve Him

Ephesians 4:30 *“And do not GRIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”*

2) They may quench (resist) Him

1 Thessalonians 5:19 *“Do not QUENCH THE SPIRIT.”*

3) They may blaspheme Him

Matthew 12:31 *“And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but BLASPHEMY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT will not be forgiven.”*

4) They may lie to Him

Acts 5:3 *“Then Peter said, ‘Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have LIED TO THE HOLY SPIRIT and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?’”*

5) They may disrespect Him

Hebrews 10:29 *“How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has INSULTED THE SPIRIT OF GRACE?”*

6) They may speak against Him

Matthew 12:32 *“Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who SPEAKS AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.*

3. All Bible terms related to the Spirit imply His personality.

- a. He is called “another Comforter” (Advocate), which indicates that He is, as much, a person as Christ:

John 14:16-17 *“And I will ask the Father, and He will give you ANOTHER COMFORTER to help you and be with you forever...”*

John 14:26 *“But the ADVOCATE, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”*

John 16:7 *“But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, THE ADVOCATE will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.”*

1John 2:1-2 *“My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have AN ADVOCATE with the Father—JESUS CHRIST, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”*

- b. He is called a Spirit and in the same personal sense as God is called a Spirit:

John 4:24 *“GOD IS SPIRIT, and His worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”*

- c. The pronouns used of the Spirit imply His personality. In the Greek language the word “spirit” is a neuter noun which would naturally call for a neuter pronoun, and in a few instances the neuter pronoun is used:

Romans 8:16 *“The Spirit HIMSELF testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.”*

Romans 8:26 *“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit HIMSELF intercedes for us through wordless groans.”*

- d. But often the masculine form of the pronoun is used, thus emphasizing the fact of the personality of the Spirit:

John 14:16-17 *“And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH. The world cannot accept HIM, because it neither sees HIM nor knows HIM. But you know HIM, for HE lives with you and will be in you.”*

John 16:13-15 "But when HE, the Spirit of truth, comes, HE will guide you into all the truth. HE will not speak on HIS own; HE will speak only what HE hears, and HE will tell you what is yet to come. HE will glorify Me because it is from Me that HE will receive what HE will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is Mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from Me what HE will make known to you."

As a Person of the Godhead the Holy Spirit Is Co-equal with the Father and the Son

1. *He is called God.* This fact will be seen by comparing Isaiah 6:8-9 with Acts 28:25-26 and Jeremiah 31:31-34 with Hebrews 10:15-17 below.

Isaiah 6:8-9 "Then I heard THE VOICE OF THE LORD saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!' He said, 'Go and tell this people: 'Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.'"

Acts 28:25-26 "They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement: 'THE HOLY SPIRIT SPOKE THE TRUTH to your ancestors when HE SAID THROUGH ISAIAH the prophet: 'Go to this people and say, 'You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.'"

Jeremiah 31:31-34 "The days are coming," declares the LORD, 'when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,' declares the LORD. 'This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time,' declares the LORD. 'I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,' declares the LORD. 'For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.'"

Hebrews 10:15-17 "THE HOLY SPIRIT also testifies to us about this. First he says: 'This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.' Then He adds: 'Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.'"

2 Corinthians 3:18 "And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into His image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, WHO IS THE SPIRIT."

Acts 5:3-4 "Then Peter said, 'Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have LIED TO THE HOLY SPIRIT and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings BUT TO GOD.'"

NOTE: Though the judgments of God have fallen so drastically on some who have lied against the Spirit (Acts 5:3) and though men are evidently not permitted to swear in the name of the Holy Spirit and though He is called The Holy Spirit, it is certain that HE IS NOT "MORE" HOLY than the Father or the Son, absolute holiness being the primary attribute of the Triune God.

2. He has the attributes of God

Genesis 1:2 *"Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and THE SPIRIT OF GOD was hovering over the waters."*

Job 26:13 *"BY HIS BREATH (i.e. "pneuma" or "Spirit") the skies became fair; His hand pierced the gliding serpent."*

1 Corinthians 2:9-11 *"However, as it is written: 'What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived—the things God has prepared for those who love Him— these are the things God has revealed to us BY HIS SPIRIT. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God."*

Hebrews 9:14 *"How much more, then, will the blood of CHRIST, who through the eternal SPIRIT offered Himself unblemished to GOD, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death so that we may serve the living GOD!"*

a. The Holy Spirit performs the works of God

Job 33:4 *"THE SPIRIT OF GOD HAS MADE ME; the breath of the Almighty gives me life."*

Psalms 104:30 *"When You send Your Spirit, THEY ARE CREATED, and You renew the face of the ground."*

Luke 12:11-12 *"When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL TEACH YOU at that time what you should say."*

Acts 1:5 *"For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."*

Acts 20:28 *"Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS MADE YOU overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God which He bought with His own blood."*

1 Corinthians 6:11 *"And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, YOU WERE JUSTIFIED in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ AND BY THE SPIRIT OF OUR GOD."*

2 Peter 1:21 *"For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by THE HOLY SPIRIT."*

b. As indicated above, the use of the personal pronouns affirm His personality.

c. The Holy Spirit is presented in Scripture as a personal object of faith:

Psalms 51:11 *"Do not cast me from your presence or take YOUR HOLY SPIRIT from me."*

Matthew 28:19 *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them IN THE NAME OF the Father and of the Son AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT..."*

Acts 10:19-20 *“While Peter was still thinking about the vision, THE SPIRIT SAID TO HIM, ‘Simon, three men are looking for you. So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I HAVE SENT THEM.’”*

CONCLUSION:

As an object of faith, God, the Holy Spirit, is also One to be obeyed. The believer in Christ, walking in fellowship with the Spirit, experiences His power, His guidance, His instruction, and His sufficiency, and confirms experientially the great doctrines concerning the personality of the Holy Spirit which are revealed in Scripture.



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Doctrine # 14: “God the Holy Spirit: His Personality”

1. Read Pages 1-9 from the Doctrine#14 Study Guide by next Wednesday.
2. Answer the following Questions about “God the Holy Spirit” as you read:

a. Some Important Facts About The Holy Spirit:

1. When talking about the Holy Spirit, the Old Testament writers used the Hebrew word “ruwach” (pronounced roo’-ach) which literally means “what”? (page 1, top)

2. In the New Testament, the Greek word “pneuma” was used when talking about the Holy Spirit. What does this word literally mean? (page 1, top)

3. True or False. Although most people understand that Jesus (God, the Son) and God, the Father are two very distinct Persons within the Godhead; however, much confusion exists over the identity of the Holy Spirit. (page 1, middle)

4. True or False. It is “OK” and “appropriate” to refer to the Holy Spirit as an “it” or “thing” the way Jehovah Witnesses and Mormons do. (page 1, middle)

5. How many distinct “Persons” make up the Godhead as revealed in Scripture? (page 1, middle)

6. In Luke 1:35, what is a characteristic of God that is revealed about the Holy Spirit in this verse?

7. In Psalm 139:7, what is a characteristic of God that is revealed about the Holy Spirit in this verse?

8. True or False. The Holy Spirit was created by God to be His power source and instrument of force on the earth. (page 1, bottom; see also Hebrews 9:14)

9. According to Acts 5:3-4, when you are lying to the Holy Spirit, you are lying to whom?

b. The Importance of His Personality:

1. When the Holy Spirit speaks (i.e. communicates to mankind) what does He “speak”? (page 2, middle)

2. From whom does the Holy Spirit “receive” what He is to speak to mankind? (John 16:14)

3. What does the Holy Spirit say in Acts 13:2 that proves His “equality” with God and His “personality”?

4. True or False. The “church” (i.e. “born again believers”) have always fully understood the “personality” of the Holy Spirit and His “equality” with the other two members of the Godhead. (page 2, bottom)

5. Although the Holy Spirit is just as much a “person” as God the Father and God the Son, Scripture clearly reveals that these three “persons” form how many gods? (page 2, bottom)

c. The Personality of the Holy Spirit in Scripture:

1. According to John 16:8, the Holy Spirit is revealed as doing “what” which proves He is a person?

2. What is something that the Holy Spirit does for believers that is critical for their spiritual growth and proves He is a person? (page 2, top; see also John 14:26, Nehemiah 9:20, John 16:13-15, 1John 2:27)

3. What is another thing the Holy Spirit does for believers that proves He is a person?
(Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:18; Acts 8:29; Acts 10:19; Acts 13:2)

4. True or False. God the Holy Spirit has the authority to appoint believers to specific areas of service.
(page 4, top; see also Acts 13:2 and Acts 20:28)

5. As part of the “ministry” of the Holy Spirit, what is something He does “to” believers the moment they come to Christ? (page 4, middle; Titus 3:5-6 and John 3:5-7)

6. According to 1Corinthians 1:21-22, it is God who makes believers stand firm in Christ. What role does the Holy Spirit play in “guaranteeing” a believer’s salvation? (see also Ephesians 4:30)

7. What is another name for the God, the Holy Spirit that He shares with God, the Son?
(John 14:16; John 14:26; John 16:7; and 1John 2:1)

8. True or False. It is possible to “vex” and “grieve” the Holy Spirit as a true believer in Christ without losing your salvation. (page 5, middle; Isaiah 63:10; Ephesians 4:30)

9. When someone is “quenching” the Holy Spirit, what are they doing?
(page 5, middle; 1Thessalonians 5:19; 2Timothy 1:6)

10. What is the one sin that no person can ever be forgiven of? (Matthew 12:31)

11. What is something that a person can do against the “Spirit of Grace”? (Hebrews 10:29)

12. In addition to the word “Advocate”, what is another word for the Holy Spirit that God shares throughout the Trinity of the Godhead? (page 6, top; John 14:16-17; John 14:26)

13. What is a description of God that Jesus Christ uses in verse John 4:24?

14. Read John 14:16-17. What personal pronoun is used in connection with the Holy Spirit which proves the bible does not reveal Him as an “it” or “thing”? (page 6, bottom; see also John 16:13-15)

d. The Holy Spirit’s Co-Equal Position with The Father and The Son within the Godhead:

1. According to Acts 28:25-26, which person of the Godhead was speaking when Isaiah heard “the voice of the Lord” in Isaiah 6:8-9?

2. According to the writer of Hebrews in Hebrews 10:15-17, who was “testifying” to the Lord’s covenant that He made in Jeremiah 31:31-34?

3. According to Paul in 2Corinthians 3:18, “who” IS the “Lord”?

4. According to 1Corinthians 2:9-11, when it comes to the “knowledge” and “wisdom” of the Holy Spirit, what does the Holy Spirit know that no one else knows?

5. According to Elihu’s own words, to whom did he give credit for “making” (i.e. creating) him?
(John 33:4)

6. Who did Jesus say would “teach” believers what to say when they stand before their persecutors?
(Luke 12:11-12)

7. According to 1Corinthians 6:11, true believers in Jesus Christ are “washed”, “sanctified”, and “justified” by whom?

8. According to 2Peter 1:21, what did the Holy Spirit do which allowed the prophets to speak and accurately record the words of God in the Old Testament?

9. True or False. The Holy Spirit is presented equally with God, the Father and God, the Son as a personal object of our faith as believers in Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:19)

