

# THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO OR WHAT IS IT?

## INTRODUCTION

- A. This study is of great importance for a number of reasons.
  - 1. There is much confusion and misunderstanding of the nature and work of the Holy Spirit.
  - 2. Important because of the Spirit's relationship to man's salvation.
- B. Only source of information about this subject is the Bible. We cannot appeal to logic, philosophy, or science for the answers to questions about the Holy Spirit.
- C. This study will serve more or less as an introduction to other studies on the Holy Spirit

## DISCUSSION:

### I. VARIOUS NAMES ATTRIBUTED TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. Old Testament references to the Holy Spirit
  - 1. Holy Spirit Psa 51:11
  - 2. The Spirit of God Gen 1:2
  - 3. The Spirit of the Lord God Isa 61:1
  - 4. The Spirit of the Lord Isa 11:2
  - 5. Good Spirit Neh 9:20
- B. New Testament references to the Holy Spirit
  - 1. Eternal Spirit Heb 9:14
  - 2. The Spirit of Christ 1Pet 1:11
  - 3. Holy Ghost Matt 1:18
  - 4. Spirit of God Matt 3:16
  - 5. Spirit Mk 1:10
  - 6. Holy Spirit Lk 11:13
  - 7. Spirit of Truth Jhn 16:13
- C. These are not all the references in the Bible concerning the Holy Spirit, but these are sufficient to show that the Holy Spirit is referred to in many different ways.

### II. A MEMBER OF THE GODHEAD (Godhead=Deity) Col 2:9

- A. The Godhead is composed of three separate and distinct persons or personalities
  - 1. Three in beginning of time Gen 1:1,2; Jhn 1:1-3
  - 2. Three at the baptism of Jesus Matt 3:16,17
  - 3. Jesus commanded baptism in name of all three: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit Matt 28:18-20
  - 4. All three bear record in heaven 1Jhn 5:7
  - 5. God the Father anointed Jesus the Son with the Holy Spirit Acts 10:38
- B. ONE yet all three are separate beings. (Note: word "God " is sometimes used to denote Deity as is shown in Col 2:9)
  - 1. Jhn 14:26 (NKJ) shows Holy Spirit different from Father - yet Acts 5:3,4 shows Holy Spirit is God (Deity)
  - 2. Jhn 8:16 shows the Son is different from the Father - yet Heb 1:8 shows the Son is God (Deity)

- 3. Acts 10:38 shows Son and Holy Spirit not the same
- 4. The Father is Deity Jhn 20:17 - yet He is not the Son nor the Holy Spirit as has already been shown.

### III. POSSESSES CHARACTERISTICS OF A PERSON

- A. He speaks 1Tim 4:1; Acts 8:29; 10:19
- B. He testifies Jhn 15:26
- C. He teaches Jhn 14:26
- D. He guides or directs Jhn 16:12,13
- E. He leads and forbids Acts 16:6,7
- F. He manifests personality
  - 1. He has a mind Rom 8:27
  - 2. He has affections Rom 15:30
  - 3. He has knowledge 1Cor 2:10, 11
  - 4. He has goodness Neh 9:20

### IV. POSSESSES ATTRIBUTES OF A DIVINE PERSONALITY

- A. He is eternal Heb 9:14
- B. He is omnipotent (all powerful) Rom 8:11
- C. He is omniscient (all knowing) 1Cor 2:10,11
- D. He is omnipresent (ever present) Psa 139:7
- E. His association with the Father and the Son reveals His Deity Matt 28:18-20

### V. DEITY OF HOLY SPIRIT REVEALED IN HIS WORK

- A. He assisted in creation Gen 1:2
- B. He was the agent in Christ's incarnation Matt 1:18
- C. He inspired Scriptures 2Tim 3:16,17 (1Cor 2:4,5,10-13 shows the Holy Spirit as the source of inspiration)
- D. He reproves (convicts) the world Jhn 16:8
- E. He dwells in the Christian 1Cor 3:16
- F. He was the agent in the resurrection of Jesus 1Pet 3:18

## Conclusion:

- A. I think from this study it has become quite clear that the Holy Spirit is Deity or a part of the Godhead and has authority
- B. Holy Spirit is a divine power and is always referred to as "He" and not "it". He is not some impersonal power or mystical influence, but a real being dedicated to carrying out the will of God.
- C. Realizing this, we need to walk in fellowship and communion with the Spirit Phil 2:1; 2Cor 13:14
- D. Holy Spirit given only to those who obey God Acts 5:32
- E. Have you done all that God, through the Holy Spirit has commanded you to do? If not, then you do not have His Spirit abiding in you!