

The Holy Spirit

Deity & Personality

Very Brief Introduction

Genesis 1:1–2 (ESV)

1 In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. **2** The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. **And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.**

Why Is The Spirit Avoided?

- 1) Mystery
 - Not because of lack of text
 - Not studied or ever taught
- 2) Fear
 - H.S. abused by charismatics
 - Don't want to be seen the same
- 3) Ignorance
 - Led to believe not as important
 - Told a more “advanced” study

Very Brief Introduction

Ephesians 4:4–7 (ESV)

**Old Testament =
90 times**

**New Testament =
260+ times**

⁴ There is one body and **one Spirit**—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ **one Lord**, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ **one God and Father of all**, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Deity of the Holy Spirit: Attributes

- **Omnipresent – Psalm 139:7–8**

⁷ Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!

- **Omniscient – 1 Corinthians 2:10–11**

¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

- **Omnipotent - Acts 1:8**

⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

- **Eternal - Hebrews 9:14**

¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Deity of the Holy Spirit: Resume

- **Played his part in Creation:**

- Job 33:4 The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.
- Psalm 33:6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host.

- **Involved in life & death physically & spiritually**

- Genesis 2:7 then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.
- Isaiah 40:6–7 All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass.
- John 3:5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

Deity of the Holy Spirit: Resume

- **He Inspired the Writers of the Old Testament**

- 2 Peter 1:21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 28:25–26 And disagreeing among themselves, they departed after Paul had made one statement: “The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet: ²⁶ “ ‘Go to this people, and say, “You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.”

- **He Guided the Apostles into all Truth**

- John 14:26 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 have said to you.
- John 16:13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

Deity of the Holy Spirit: Called God

Acts 5:3–4 (ESV)

³ But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart **to lie to the Holy Spirit** and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? ⁴ While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? **You have not lied to man but to God.**”

2 Corinthians 3:17–18 (ESV)

¹⁷ **Now the Lord is the Spirit**, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. **For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.**

Deity of the Holy Spirit: Called God

Matthew 28:18–19 (ESV)

¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them **in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**

But what is the Spirit? A Being?
Or a Mystical Force?

Personality of the Holy Spirit

- “It is of the One Spirit we write. Now according to the Scriptures (1) He possesses such qualities as a person only can possess: (2) He performs such actions as a person only can perform: (3) He is capable of suffering such injuries as a person only can suffer: and (4) He is expressly called another Comforter, and is designated by the use of masculine pronouns, though the noun itself, Spirit, is neuter.”

- Edward Henry Bickersteth. “The Holy Spirit: His Person & Work” Pp. 41.

(1) Qualities only a being can possess

- Knowledge Of the Spirit

- 1 Corinthians 2:10–11 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.
¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.
- Romans 8:27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

(1) Qualities only a being can possess

- Divine Love of the Spirit
 - Romans 15:30 I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf,
- The Will of the Spirit
 - Acts 16:6–7 And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia.
⁷ And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.
 - 1 Corinthians 12:11 All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

(2) Actions only a being can possess

- He Created The Worlds and Gives life to Those who Live (Psalm 33:6)
- He strives with the ungodly (Genesis 6:3)
- He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8)
- He performs miracles (Acts 2:4; Romans 15:19)
- He caused the Virgin Mary to Conceive (Luke 1:35)
- He inspired the Sacred Writers (2 Peter 1:21)
- He speaks expressly of events in latter times (1 Timothy 4:1)
- He spoke to the churches the messages of the Son of Man (Revelation 2-3)
- He appoints ministers in the church (Acts 20:28)

(2) Actions only a being can possess

- He commands and forbids (Acts 8:29; 11:12; 13:2; 16:6-7)
- He creates the soul anew (John 3:5-8; Titus 3:5)
- He intercedes for us in prayer (Romans 8:26)
- He teaches, comforts, and guides us into all truth (John 14:26)
- He sheds abroad the love of God in the heart (Romans 5:5)
- He seals the soul till the day of redemption (Ephesians 4:30)
- He cries in our heart, teaching us to cry Abba Father (Galatians 4:6; Rom. 8:15)
- He testifies as personal witness (John 15:26-27)
- He approves and gives counsel (Acts 15:28)
- He invites with personal messengers (Revelation 22:17)
- He repeats a beatitude pronounced on those who die in the Lord (Rev. 14:13)

(3) Suffering as only a being can

- **He Can Be Grieved**

- Isaiah 63:10 But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them.
- Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

- **He Can Be Blasphemed**

- Mark 3:29 but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”

(3) Suffering as only a being can

- **He Can Be Lied To & Tested**

- Acts 5:3 But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?”
- Acts 5:9 But Peter said to her, “How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.”

- **He Can Be Insulted**

- Hebrews 10:29 How much worse punishment, do you think, will be deserved by the one who has trampled underfoot the Son of God, and has profaned the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified, and has outraged the Spirit of grace?
- Acts 7:51 “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you.

(4) The Spirit is a Comforter

- John 14:16–17 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.
- “The very name Comforter implies a personal advocate, helper, consoler. None but an intelligent, loving person, who could discriminate and sympathize, and minister timely aid, could fulfil the office of a Comforter. Such Jesus Christ promises the Spirit of truth shall be.”

- Bickersteth. “The Holy Spirit” Pp. 45.