

**John 14:16-29; 15:26-27; 16:5-15 and related Scriptures****INTRODUCTION**

I think it would be fair to say that of the three persons of the Divine Trinity, the Holy Spirit often gets the least attention. God the Father is the overarching protector and provider of all, and He is the one to whom Jesus taught us to address our petitions. God the Son is the one mediator between God and man, having earned that designation by His coming to earth as man, dying for our sins in our stead, and raising from the grave to lead His host of followers into eternal life. God the Holy Spirit, however, is equally active all the way from Genesis to Revelation. In fact, I hope to show that it is God the Holy Spirit that is the person of the Trinity that has the most intimate contact with us, His creation.

**Acts 17:28** *“For in Him we live and move and exist ...”*

Today, may we learn and know well the person and ministry of the Holy Spirit, that we might be able better to communicate His mysterious and marvelous work to our contemporaries.

**HOLY** - perfect; set apart for a godly purpose (i.e. “sanctified”)

i.e. the third person of the Trinity is not “Holy” as opposed to the Father and the Son, but rather, the emphasis seems to be that He is set apart for a special purpose – specifically the church of God. Also, “Holy” Spirit as opposed to just any spirit in influence, but the “Holy” = perfect God Spirit.

**SPIRIT** – from the Hebrew word “ruh” for “wind” or breath.” Many of the historical confessions of our faith indicate that the Holy Spirit “proceeds” from the Father and the Son, indicating this third person of the Trinity is the active agent of God’s intentions. Also, “Spirit” as opposed to a corporal body – like the wind that moves freely as it wills (Jesus to Nicodemus). Also, the first translation of the Bible was into German, called the Septuagint. The Holy Spirit was translated as “Heilige Geist” or “Holy Ghost.” “Ghost” not in the sense that He is “scary” but that He is mysterious, coming and going as He pleases.

**OLD TESTAMENT CONSIDERATION**

Most of our consideration of the Holy Spirit for this study will be in the New Testament, for it is there that His person and ministry is most revealed. Yet it is helpful to reference a few places in the Old Testament where He is mentioned.

In fact, did you know that the Holy Spirit is referenced in the first verse of the Bible ?

**Genesis 1:1** *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

Though He is not mentioned specifically, we note that the Hebrew word for “God” is “Elohim” which is a plural word. Just as “cherubim” is plural with “cherub” being the singular, so “Elohim” is the plural with “El”, meaning God, being the singular. So the first verse of the Bible, and multiple references to “God” thereafter, indicate a plurality within the Godhead.

In fact, do you recall in Genesis 1:26 that God says “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness” – here emphasizing the plurality of Deity. Most every culture believed in a plurality of Gods, and yet this One True God is One in three persons. So it is that in

the passage of Scripture that the Jews call the “Shama” – the ultimate declaration of their faith, Deuteronomy 6:4, Moses declares:

**Deuteronomy 6:4** *Hear, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!*

To break this down, he is saying: Jaweh is our Elohim, Jaweh is one! Yes, Elohim is a plurality in the sense of being three persons, but our God is one – not a plurality of gods.

Now the Holy Spirit is more clearly mentioned in the second verse of the Bible.

**Genesis 1:2** *“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.”*

The Holy Spirit was there at the beginning of creation “moving over the surface of the waters.” And in a metaphoric sense, the Spirit of God is still moving over all the waters of our lives – watching, guarding and influencing as He will. This should be a great source of comfort – whatever our circumstance, the Holy Spirit is moving there still.

In our brief mention of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament, let us look at a verse from the oldest and first written book of the Bible – Job.

**Job 33:4** *“The Spirit of God has made me and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.”*

Even in something like 2500 B.C., when it is believed that Job was writing, there was belief in the person of the Holy Spirit of God, influencing our life, even in our creation.

And in Isaiah 11:1-2 we have a prediction of the Messiah coming forth from the “root of Jesse” – Jesse being the father of king David. And notice the clear mention of the Holy Spirit’s role in Jesus’ ministry and note the 7-fold influence listed (underlined), indicating the perfection of the Spirit’s influence.

**Isaiah 11:1-2** *Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.*

And these are all things that God the Spirit gives to us, His children, as well. Think of it!

## NEW TESTAMENT CONSIDERATION

Yes, the Spirit of God is throughout the Old Testament, but He is dramatically revealed in both person and ministry in the New Testament. This is particularly true because the “mystery of the ages” is revealed in the Holy Spirit – that is, the church of God. The church of God, as well as each individual believer becomes a “temple of the Holy Spirit.”

**1 Corinthians 3:16** *Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?*

As we read through our New Testament, Matthew to Revelation, we find that the mention of the Holy Spirit is prolific. In fact, the only 3 books that do not mention the Spirit are the short books of Philemon, 2 John and 3 John. It is when we come to the gospel of John that we find the most specific teaching on the Holy Spirit, and so we will focus our attention there, and then use related Scriptures.

## NICODEMUS

It is early in Jesus' ministry that Nicodemus, a member of the Pharisees, comes to Jesus at night time acknowledging Him as a teacher clearly sent from God, and wants to know more. This account is uniquely told to us in John, chapter 3.

1. Jesus tells Nic that he must be "born again" in order to see the kingdom of God (vs. 3)
2. Then he adds that one must be born of both water (human birth) and the Spirit (spiritual birth) in order to enter God's kingdom (vs. 5) "Do not be amazed" He adds.
3. Then Jesus uses the analogy of wind to explain the movement of the Spirit (remember, "Spirit" comes from the same word as "wind" or "breath"). He says both the wind and the Spirit moves as it wishes – we don't see it, but we see the effect of it. (v. 8)
4. Jesus then goes on to "evangelize" Nic – speaking of God giving his only Son, and that believing on that Son and His work brings eternal life (John 3:16)

## LIVING WATER

The next specific reference to the Holy Spirit in John comes in John 7, where Jesus is speaking to the crowd in Jerusalem on the last day of the feast of Tabernacles (where so much water is poured out in symbol of the harvest).

**John 7:37-39** *Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.' " But his He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

Here we see the clear reference to the Holy Spirit emanating or "proceeding" from the Father and the Son. This also speaks of the Holy Spirit being within a believer and the Spirit showing His person "flowing" through that person like living water.

But the key teaching on the Holy Spirit from the gospel of John comes from Jesus' teaching in the upper room on his final night before the crucifixion. These teachings are found in our primary text of the day – John 14, 15 and 16. It is here that we will find the primary ministries of the Holy Spirit mentioned, to be lived out in the book of Acts when the Holy Spirit finally comes at Pentecost.

## MINISTRIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Let's discover and list the work of the Holy Spirit as Jesus revealed it to His disciples that night so long ago.

### 1. COMFORTER (Encourager)

**John 14:16** *I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever.* (See also 14:26, 15:26 and 16:7) (and "peace-giver" – v.27)

The Greek word here is "Paraketos" which means literally to "bring to one's side" with the primary idea of encouragement to comfort and lift to the Lord

New American Standard translates the word as "Helper"

New International Version translates the word as "Advocate"

King James Version translates the word as "Comforter," which I think comes closest to the meaning.

The Holy Spirit is one who "comes along side" to comfort and encourage and lifts us to the Father as advocate and helper in all our needs. This is what Jesus was to the disciples, and now the Holy Spirit is to all Christians.

### 2. INDWELLER

**John 14:17** *That is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. (Also v. 20)*

**3. TEACHER**

**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 said to you.*

**4. EVANGELIST**

**John 15:26-27** *When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.*

**Acts 1:8** *You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses ...*

**5. CONVICTER**

**John 16:7-8** *But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.*

**6. DISCERNER**

**John 16:13** *But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.*

**7. POINTER TO JESUS**

**John 16:14-15** *He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.*

**1 Corinthians 12:3b** *No one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.*

And from the teachings of the apostle Paul to the churches, we can learn other ministries of the Holy Spirit:

**8. BAPTIZER** (Membership in the body of Christ)

**1 Corinthians 12:13** *For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.*

**9. INTERCEDER**

**Romans 8:26** *The Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.*

**10. SPIRITUAL GIFT-GIVER** (Christian supernatural abilities)

**1 Corinthians 12:7, 11** *But to each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.*

**11. FRUIT-GIVER** (Christian character)

**Galatians 5:22-23** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.*

## **12. RESTAINER OF SIN**

**2 Thessalonians 2:7** For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way.

### **RUSHING WIND OR CELESTIAL BREATH?**

Earlier I said that the Holy Spirit often gets the least attention of the Divine Trinity. But there is another danger. And that is that the Holy Spirit is given too much attention – that which He has never desired. Rather, He desires to glorify the Father and the Spirit.

Many Christians want to “stir up” the Holy Spirit by some artificial means – whether it be ambiance, volume, speaking in tongues, or shaking of the voice, just to name a few of the “conjuring up” methods. They think if there is not a visible, supernatural power like was displayed at Pentecost when the Spirit came in a mighty rushing wind with fire over each head, then somehow the Spirit is not present in supernatural power.

But I want you to look at that list of 12 Holy Spirit ministries once again.

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|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>1. COMFORTER</b>  | <b>7. POINTER TO JESUS</b>      |
| <b>2. INDWELLER</b>  | <b>8. BAPTIZER</b>              |
| <b>3. TEACHER</b>    | <b>9. INTERCEDER</b>            |
| <b>4. EVANGELIST</b> | <b>10. SPIRITUAL GIFT-GIVER</b> |
| <b>5. CONVICTER</b>  | <b>11. FRUIT-GIVER</b>          |
| <b>6. DISCERNER</b>  | <b>12. RESTRAINER OF SIN</b>    |

If you have ever been comforted by God, then the Holy Spirit is present!

If you have ever felt communion with the God within you, then the Holy Spirit is present!

If you have ever been taught a spiritual truth, then the Holy Spirit is present!

If you have ever had boldness to share Jesus, then the Holy Spirit is present!

If you have ever been convicted of sin, then the Holy Spirit is present!

If you have ever been given discernment to do what is right, the Holy Spirit is present!

If you have ever been led to give glory to Jesus, then the Holy Spirit is present!

If you have ever felt a common bond of fellowship with believers, then the HS is present!

If you have ever felt the Spirit taking over in your prayers, then the Holy Spirit is present!

If you have ever spiritually encouraged, helped or taught someone, then the HS is present!

If you have ever exhibited character that is supernaturally loving, then the HS is present!

If you have ever felt the devil being held at bay, then the Holy Spirit is present!

It is seldom with a mighty rushing wind or tongues of fire that the Spirit comes. It is not by conjuring or manipulation that the Spirit comes. But He comes like a breath of celestial air, or like a fresh breeze, with a still small voice of truth that transforms the normal into the supernatural. Little by little He changes us into the image of Jesus by pruning out the wrong and planting the right. HE IS INDEED THE DIVINE COMFORTER. Worship Him!