

The Third Person of The Godhead

THE HOLY SPIRIT

“God the eternal Spirit was active with the Father and the Son in Creation, incarnation, and redemption. He is as much a person as are the Father and the Son. He inspired the writers of Scripture. He filled Christ’s life with power. He draws and convicts human beings; and those who respond He renews and transforms into the image of God. Sent by the Father and the Son to be always with His children, He extends spiritual gifts to the church, empowers it to bear witness to Christ, and in harmony with the Scriptures leads it into all truth.”

Seventh-day Adventist Biblical Belief #5

DECODING THE DECEPTION

The Third Person of The Godhead



Acts 7:55 (NKJV) “But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.”

In every age, God’s people have been tested on their loyalty to truth.

- Israel faced the challenge of recognizing the Father’s authority.
- The disciples had to accept the divinity of Jesus as the Son of God.
- And in our day, the great controversy presses upon a question just as vital: Who is the Holy Spirit?

Since the word “**Trinity**” doesn’t appear in Scripture, some believe the doctrine must be a human invention. While the word “**Trinity**” isn’t in the Bible, the **concept is** clearly taught. Likewise, terms like “**omniscient**” or “**incarnation**” are not in Scripture, yet **their truths are plainly revealed**.

Matthew 28:19 shows the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit named together in unity and equality. **Absence of a term doesn’t mean absence of truth.**

Many regard The Holy Spirit as merely an impersonal power –a divine current flowing from God, or an influence to be used at will.

But the verse does not describe the Spirit as “it” to be wielded, but as “He” who leads, speaks, comforts, convicts, and gives life.

Jesus also spoke of The Holy Spirit as “**another Helper**” – **another of the same nature and essence as Himself (John 14:16).** Denying the Holy Spirit’s personhood and divinity **is not a harmless theological slip; it strikes at the heart of salvation.**

For if the Spirit is not God:

- He **cannot be omnipresent** to dwell in every believer.
- He **cannot be omnipotent** to transform the heart.
- He **cannot be the One who searches** the deep things of God.

1 Corinthians 2:10 (NKJV) “But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.”

As we open the Word, we will see that **the Bible leaves no ambiguity:**

The Holy Spirit is eternal, all-knowing, all-present, and all-loving – possessing **mind, will, and emotion.** He is **not a lesser divine helper, but the Third Person of the Godhead, equal with the Father and the Son, working in perfect unity for our redemption.**

How can the Holy Spirit be an ancillary, secondary, subordinate, force, when the Bible repeatedly describes Him as the active convicting Divine agent in the transformation and conversion of the Christian?

If the Holy Spirit was **impersonal and unnecessary** in **the plan of salvation,** Jesus would not have described Him as the book of John records:

John 16:7-8 (NKJV) “Nevertheless 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 depart, I will send Him to you. (8) And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.”

The words of Jesus in John bring us to the first truth about the Holy Spirit.

POINT #1 – THE PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

The Holy Spirit has characteristics of **a person,** not a force or impersonal power.

The Holy Spirit has a mind: Romans 8:27 (NKJV) “Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”

The Holy Spirit has a will: 1 Corinthians 12:11 (NKJV) “But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.”

POINT #2 – THE HOLY SPIRIT SPEAKS AND TEACHES:

Only a divine Person can fulfill the role to speak, teach, and guide in a divine capacity.

John 14:26 (NKJV) “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 things that I said to you.”

This passage is insightful about an earlier statement made by Jesus.

John 16:12-13 (NKJV) “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. (13) However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”

- Why would Jesus leave a divine mission to a non-divine entity?
- Jesus trusted His mission to the Holy Spirit because He is divine.

The Holy Spirit speaks: Acts 8:29 (NKJV) “Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go near and overtake this chariot.’”

POINT #3 – THE HOLY SPIRIT IS CALLED GOD:

We cannot lie to a force. We can only lie to a person: Acts 5:3-4 (NKJV) “But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? (4) While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.’”

Ananias and Sapphira did not lie to a bystander, they lied to God.

Peter’s statement is direct and without qualification. He does not say the Spirit merely represents God – he says lying to the Spirit is lying to God. This is an **unmistakable affirmation of the Spirit’s full divinity.**

- **Proof of Personhood** – Only a person can be lied to.
- **Proof of Deity** – Peter equates lying to the Holy Spirit with lying to God.
- **Proof of Role** – The Spirit is not an influence but an active divine agent.

The Holy Spirit is not a “**power**” to be used, **but God to be obeyed**. When we resist Him, **we are not merely ignoring a feeling or influence – we are resisting the presence and authority of the living God Himself**.

Before Stephen was stoned to death, he revealed a generational sin that shows the Holy Spirit was active in the Old and New Testament.

Acts 7:51 (NKJV) “You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.”

The **Holy Spirit** has **always been active in OT and NT Times**:

Ezekiel 37:1 (NKJV) “The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones.”

The “**Spirit of the Lord**” that anointed Ezekiel is the same “**Holy Spirit**” that anointed Jesus at His baptism.

THE PROPHECY: Isaiah 61:1 (NKJV) “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound.”

THE FULFILLMENT: Luke 4:18-19 (NKJV) “The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; (19) To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”

Spirit of the LORD: The Hebrew phrase here is (***Ruach Yahweh***). This phrase is **never used in reference to any entity that is not God**.

Who anointed Jesus and how was Jesus anointed?

Acts 10:38 (NKJV) “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”

If the **Holy Spirit is not of the Godhead**, then God the Father anointed Jesus with a **power of lesser value** and **lower quality**. **God would not trust** the guidance of Prophecy and the formation of the Bible to a lesser power than the Father and The Son shares.

4. New Testament Confirmation of the Holy Spirit active in the Old Testament:

The **New Testament confirms** that the “**Spirit of the LORD**” in **the Old Testament** is the **Holy Spirit**: 2 Peter 1:21 (NKJV) “For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

2 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV) “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”

This is the same Holy Spirit that moved on the Scribes to write the scrolls:

Genesis 1:2 (KJV) “And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”

The same Holy Spirit worked through the Old Testament Prophets.

Acts 28:25 (NKJV) “So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: “The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers.”

The Patriarch David confirms the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament:

Psalms 51:11 (NKJV) “Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.”

What did Jesus mean?: John 7:39 (NKJV) “But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”

The Greek text literally says: *“for the Spirit was not yet”* – meaning *not yet given in this new way*. The change was from **local impact to global impact**.

Before Glorification: The Holy Spirit worked “On/With people” from outside.

After Glorified: The Holy Spirit “worked in and through believers.”

Joel 2:28 (NKJV) “And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions.”

Jesus prophesied of the Change: John 14:17 (NKJV) “The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”

5. WITHOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT WE CANNOT BE SEALED:

Ephesians 4:30 (NKJV) “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

6. THE HOLY SPIRIT INTERCEDES FOR US:

Romans 8:26 (NKJV) “Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”

Hebrews 7:25 (NKJV) “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”

What's the difference? How can Jesus and the Holy Spirit Intercede for us?—

—The Holy Spirit's intercession is internal — He works from *inside the believer* to shape our prayers and present them to God in perfect harmony with His will. **He helps us pray, His “groanings” are not human words, but deep spiritual communication to align our prayers to the Father's will.**

—Jesus' intercession is external — He works *in heaven before the Father* as our representative, securing our standing with God. **He stands between us and the Father as our advocate (1 John 2:1–2), ensuring our salvation is secure.**

7. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS INCLUDED IN THE GREAT COMMISSION:

Matthew 28:19 (NKJV) “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Without the Holy Spirit the church is powerless to share the gospel and unqualified to carry the gospel to the world.

Acts 1:8 (NKJV) “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

The Holy Spirit would not be included unless He shares equal authority.

8. BLASPHEMY AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT IS UNFORGIVABLE:

Matthew 12:32 (NKJV) “Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.”

This shows the Holy Spirit is **divine and personal**, not lesser than the Father or the Son. **Seven separate references in Revelation** reveal the role the Holy Spirit fulfills in **directing of the Christian Church: Revelation 2:7 (NKJV) “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”**

The Holy Spirit has mind/will/emotions, He Speaks/Teaches, He Can be lied to, He Intercedes, He is Called God, He is Named with Father & Son, He was present at Creation, He Inspired Scripture, His power Raised Jesus, without The Holy Spirit we cannot be sealed for salvation, and Blasphemy against Him is unforgivable.

Closing: From **Genesis to Revelation**, the Bible reveals the Holy Spirit **not as a mere force or influence, but as a living, divine Person — eternal, omni-present, all-knowing, and all-loving.**

- The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force but the living God, the Third Person of the Godhead, sent to dwell in the believer forever.
- To reject Him is to reject the One who brings Christ's presence and power into your life; to receive Him is to receive heaven's greatest gift.
- Today, open your heart, yield to His voice, and let the Spirit of God fill you with life, truth and victory.
- Through the Holy Spirit the final invitation for salvation will be extended.

Revelation 22:17 (NKJV) “And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.”

Summary:

- The Holy Spirit is not a vague power or distant influence — He is the living, eternal God, working in perfect harmony with the Father and the Son. From creation's dawn when He hovered over the waters (Genesis 1:2), to Christ's baptism where He descended in power (Matthew 3:16), to Pentecost when He filled the church with boldness (Acts 2:4), the Spirit has always acted in divine unity.
- Jesus promised, “I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper” (John 14:16). That word “another” means one of the same kind — divine, personal, eternal. The Spirit does not speak of Himself, but glorifies Christ (John 16:13–14), applying to our hearts the Father's saving plan.
- To deny the Spirit is to deny the God who longs to dwell within us. To receive Him is to experience the fullness of God's presence — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit united in the work of redemption.
- So let us rejoice that our God is not divided, but One. One in purpose. One in power. One in love. And through the Spirit's indwelling, heaven's Godhead makes its home in the heart of every believer (John 14:23).

