

The Personality of the Holy Spirit

I. Attributes of personality ascribed to the Holy Spirit:

A. Intellect

I Corinthians 2:10,11: knows and searches the things of God

Romans 8:27: possesses a mind

I Corinthians 2:13: teaches

B. Emotions

Ephesians 4:30: can be grieved

Romans 15:30: can love

C. Will

I Corinthians 12:11: distributes gifts

Acts 16:6-11: directs Paul in his ministry

Acts 15:28: "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit"

II. Use of personal pronouns when describing the Holy Spirit:

A. John 16:14, 15:26, 16:7-8; I Corinthians 12:8-11; Romans 8:16,26; Ephesians 1:14

B. Though the Greek work for "spirit" is neuter, a masculine pronoun is used to describe the Holy Spirit in each of these passages.

III. He performs acts proper to personality. (Refer to Scriptures listed above for references which include these acts of the Holy Spirit.)

He searches, knows, speaks, testifies, reveals, convinces, teaches, commands, strives, moves, helps, guides, creates, recreates, sanctifies, inspires, makes intercession, orders the affairs of the church, performs miracles, raises the dead, reproves, guides into truth, restrains, directs man in his service, calls man into service, glorifies Christ, works . . .

IV. He is affected as a person by the acts of others.

A. He is resisted, tempted, insulted, grieved, blasphemed, lied to, obeyed and revered. (Refer to Scriptures listed above for references which include these acts of the Holy Spirit.)

B. If He was only an influence He would not be susceptible to such treatment.

The Deity of the Holy Spirit

I. He is called God. Acts 5:3,4; I Corinthians 3:16

II. Attributes of God are ascribed to Him.

Life-giving: Romans 8:2

Truth: John 16:13; I John 5:6

Love: Romans 15:30

Holy: Ephesians 4:30

Eternal: Hebrews 9:14

Omnipresent: Psalm 139:7-10

Omniscient: John 14:26, 16: 12,13

Omnipotent: Luke 1:35; Job 33:4; Zechariah 4:6

III. Works of God are ascribed to Him:

Creating: Genesis 1:2

Regenerating: Titus 3:5

Inspiring Scripture: II Peter 1:21

Raising the dead: Romans 1:4

Begetting Christ: Luke 1:35

Sanctifying: II Thessalonians 2:13

IV. Words and works of the Holy Spirit are considered words and works of God.

Compare Isaiah 6:8-10 with Acts 28: 25-27

Compare Exodus 16:7 and Psalm 95:8-11 with Hebrews 3:7-9

Compare Genesis 1:27 with Job 33:4

Compare Jeremiah 31:31-34 with Hebrews 10:15-17

V. The Holy Spirit is associated with other persons of the Trinity as an equal.

In instructions about baptism: Matthew 28:19

In a benediction: II Corinthians 13:14

In a salutation: I Peter 1:2

We believe that materials such as these are always "in process" and able to be improved. We will be grateful to receive any feedback you have to share with us. Please send any comments and/or suggestions to:

Worldwide Discipleship Association
(Attention: Margaret Garner)
P.O. Box 142437
Fayetteville, GA 30214
E-mail: mgarner@disciplebuilding.org

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NOTES: In the interest of editorial brevity and simplicity, these documents treat gender-neutral and gender-plural references with the masculine pronoun "he" rather than "she," "he or she" or other constructions. When clarity is better served by other words, we follow whatever usage seems to aid readers best. Worldwide Discipleship Association follows Scripture in joyfully recognizing that God created man and woman in His image as equal recipients of His grace and mercy.

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Knowing God, Pocket Principles, Laying Foundations

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Worldwide Discipleship Association
P.O. Box 142437
Fayetteville, GA 30214 USA
(770)460-1337 Fax: (770)460-1339
E-mail: mgarner@disciplebuilding.org
Web Site: www.disciplebuilding.org

Development Team:

Bob Dukes
Margaret Garner
Jack Larson
Margo Theivagt

Writing Team

Bob Dukes
Margaret Garner
Jack Larson
Jon Long
Jeff Mares
Frank Mashburn