

## **The Holy Spirit Today**

### **Intro:**

1. Trend from rationalism to emotionalism has infiltrated religion. Advocates have hijacked the H.S. as they look for verification and authentication of their experiences.
2. Every *feeling* is legitimized as the voice of the H.S., every *ambition* is justified as the will of the H.S., every *coincidence* is the H.S. in action.
3. A veil of mystery and intrigue has been drawn around this Being which has served to obscure investigation and thwart scrutiny.

### **1. The Holy Spirit: A Personal, Divine Being**

A. Personal - Not an “it,” a vague energy force or God’s active influence in the world. See Jn 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-8, 13-15.

1. The same terms which identify the Father/Son as persons also describe H.S. Identified by personal, singular, masculine pronoun.
2. Functions of person: help, teach, remind, testify, convict, guide, speak, hear, tell, glorify, declare. Further, H.S. loves (Rom 15:30), can be blasphemed (Mt 12:31-32), can be lied to (Ac 5:3) and can be insulted (Heb 10:29).

3. Consider “another” (*allos* - Jn 14:16). A Helper of the same type/sort as Jesus.

B. Divine - Three personal Beings comprise the Godhead; they are co-equal in nature and all fill a unique role in the interaction of God with man.

1. H.S. is “eternal Spirit” (Heb 9:14), has intimate knowledge of God’s thoughts (1 Cor 2:10-11), authored prophecies of the future (2 Pet 1:19-21), and exercised control over natural law (Heb 2:1-4; 1 Cor 12:4-11).
2. Many passage stress the cooperative action of the Godhead: at Jesus’ baptism (Mt 3:16-17); in redemption (Tit 3:4-7); etc.

C. The H.S. is a personal divine Being who deserves equal consideration with the Father and Son for His contributions to salvation. There is no warrant for suspending our rationality when trying to understand Him or His works.

### **2. The Holy Spirit’s Main Role: Guidance and Communication**

A. Similarity of the Spirit’s work in the OT/NT:

1. H.S. was never a private possession of the masses but certain leaders were endowed to assist and serve the masses: Moses; 70 elders (Num 11); Joshua (Num 27:15-23); judges; David and the prophets. **NT** - Assisted Jesus, apostles, prophets, NT authors, various Christians in absence of completed revelation.
2. The revelations of the Spirit for **one** were the revelations for **all**. He did not give conflicting commands, tell different stories, or allow vague conclusions.
3. In neither testament do we find the Holy Spirit forcibly taking control of people or overwhelming them in emotional ecstasy. **The general rule:** *"The spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets"* (1 Cor 14:32).

B. The products of the H.S.:

1. The OT Scriptures: 2 Pet 1:21. Also David (Ac 1:16), Isaiah (Ac 28:25), Psalms (Heb 3:7ff; Ps 95:7-11), Jeremiah (Heb 10:15; Jer 31:33-34).
2. The New Testament: 1 Cor 2:10-13. The Spirit revealed the body of revelation called the word, gospel, truth, faith; therefore, *He is credited with the effects they produce within the heart and life of an individual.*
3. When we are guided by God's word, we are *"led by the Spirit"* or *"walk in the Spirit"*; when we manifest godly character we bear the *"fruit of the Spirit"*; our innermost thoughts are revealed by the *sword of the Spirit* (Eph 6:17; Hb 4:12) and when we obey the gospel we are *"by one Spirit ... baptized into one body."*

- C. Are we **limiting God**? The only limitations of God are Self-imposed. The issue is not what God **can** do but what He **decides** to do. The H.S. has done things on a temporary basis throughout human history to accomplish a specific goal. He is not now working miracles to confirm the gospel as He did in the first century.

### 3. Modern Deceptions

- A. Deceivers have played upon people's personal desires and emotional frailty. The hope of a cure, the promise of wealth, the thought of God's immediate presence is attractive and alluring.
- B. By and large, the H.S. rarely acted in a man or woman's life unto their material wealth and popularity. Those under the Spirit's guidance had responsibility which often brought opposition, poverty, rejection and even death. **But many today get rich by peddling false ideas about the work of the Holy Spirit.**
- C. Measure all claims, doctrines and promises against what the Spirit has *already said in His revealed word*. This is what we urge upon you in this series of studies.