

KEY QUESTIONS

The Holy Spirit



Person or Influence?

By Rev. Thomas Key *Ph.D., Th.D., Sc.D.*

Missionary at Large

There are many views being expressed today about the Holy Spirit. Some of these include:

“It is merely the impersonal influence or force of God.”

or

“The Holy Spirit is a distinct Person in the Trinity, co-equal with the Father and the Son.”

or

“She is a female deity, the spouse of God the Father, with a feminizing influence for good.”

or

“It and the Father are both merely manifestations [appearances] of the One God, Jesus.”

HOW TO FIND THE TRUTH

To determine what is true, we must search the Scriptures. Does the Bible reveal the Holy Spirit as a distinct Person, as an impersonal influence or force of God, or in some other way? Consider the following verses showing His personalities and life traits:

- *Genesis 1:2* “And the Spirit of God **moved** upon the face of the waters....”
- *Genesis 6:3* “My Spirit shall not always **strive** with man.”
- *Isaiah 63:10* “They...vexed His Holy Spirit.”
- *Matthew 10:20* “The Spirit ...**speakes** in you.”

- *Luke 12:12* “For the Holy Ghost [Holy Spirit] shall **teach** you. ..what ye ought to say.”
- *John 15:26* “...the Spirit of truth...shall **testify** of me.”
- *John 16:7-8, 13* “...the Comforter.. .the Spirit of truth...will **guide** you into all truth: for He shall not **speak** of himself, but whatsoever He shall **hear**, that shall he speak: and He will **show** you things to come.”
- *Acts 5:3* Peter asked Ananias: “Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Spirit?”
- *Romans 8:27* “...He maketh **intercession** for the saints”
- *Ephesians 4:30* “**Grieve** not the Holy Spirit..”
- *I Thessalonians 5:19* “**Quench** not the Spirit.”

See also: *Job 33:4; Matthew 1:18, 3:16, 4:1; Mark 13:11; Luke 2:26; John 15:26, ; Acts 1:2, 1:16, 5:9, 10:19-20, 13:2, 13:4, 16:16; Romans 8:11, 8:14, 8:16, 15:30; I Corinthians 2:10, 2:13, 3:16, 6:11, 6:19, 12:11; II Corinthians 1:22, 3:18, 6:4-5, 13:14; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 2:18, 3:5; Philippians 2:1; I Timothy 4:1; Hebrews 3:17, 10:15; I Peter 1:11, 3:18; II Peter 1:21; Revelation 2:7, 14:13, 22:17.*

The Bible clearly establishes that the Holy Spirit is not a mere impersonal influence or force, but a real Person. He is God the Holy Spirit, co-equal with God the Father and God the Son. The Bible reveals that, as a Person, the Holy Spirit can:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • create • be vexed • speak • teach • bring to life • reprove of sin • lead people • reveal His will • testify of Jesus • guide believers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • show the truth • have a mind • make intercession • feel grief • comfort • dwell in believers • be holy • personally fellowship with believers. • love, etc.
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MALE OR FEMALE?

Even though we may use the pronoun “He” in speaking of the Holy Spirit, rather than the impersonal “it,” the Holy Spirit is neither male nor female. If He were either male or female, He would be *incomplete* without the opposite gender. *John 4:24* says, “God is Spirit...” As spirit, He has no physical body. Because He has no **physical** body--and no reproductive organs--God does not reproduce.

“Masculine” and “Male” are not identical in Greek as well as in many other languages. The same is true of “Feminine” and “Female”

For example in Spanish “la pluma” (the pen), “la luna” (the moon), “la mesa” (the table), and numerous other nouns are assigned feminine gender. But no Spanish speaker would ever claim that they are all female. They are assigned feminine gender, but that does not in any way depict female sex. They are not the same in many other languages as well.

Likewise, in Spanish “el sol” (the sun), “el mar” (the sea), “el libro” (the book), and a vast number of other nouns are assigned masculine gender. But the Spanish never ever confuse their masculine gender with male sex when referring to such nouns.

The same sort of traits are characteristic of numerous other languages including Greek.

In English we do very little of this. e.g. we may call a ship or a nation a ship or a nation “she”. In these rare cases English speakers impute feminine gender to ships and nations, but English speakers never intend to mean that ships and nations are female sex.

The Greek designations of the Holy Spirit has “He” is the same way as the designations in Spanish and many other languages.

PROMISES OF THE SPIRIT

Dear Reader,

You can experience the following delights of the Holy Spirit in your life!

- God’s love. *Romans 5:5*
- Freedom from condemnation. *Romans 8:1*
- Comfort. *John 16:7-8*
- Guidance. *John 16:13*
- The fruit of the Spirit--love, joy, peace. *Galatians 5:22-23*

The list goes on and on--protection, assurance, help in praying, etc. But be aware that the Bible also promises:

- If you do not have the Holy Spirit, you do not belong to God! *Romans 8:9*
- “If ye live after the flesh, ye shall die; but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.” *Romans 8:13*

To receive the blessings of the Holy Spirit, we must lay our sins and guilt at the cross of Christ. Have you done that? Why not now?

DO YOU KNOW GOD?

How can you know God *personally*? Every person’s sinful, selfish rebelliousness separates him or her from God. Therefore it is vitally important that each of us must be sorry for our wrongdoing, ask Jesus to forgive us, and to believe that He does!

Consider the following verses that show how each of us comes to know God:

- “All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” *Romans 3:23* “But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags....” *Isaiah 64:6*

- “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” *I John 1:9*

“If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” *Romans 10:9-10*

- “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.” *John 3:16-17*

Do you know to “believe **on Jesus**” means to admit that Jesus **is God**, and **to put your** trust totally in **Him**? *Acts 16:31* assures us: “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved....”

WHAT YOU DO:

- Agree with God about your wrongdoing and that you need to change. *I John 1:9*
 - Believe that Jesus Christ is your Lord and risen Saviour. *Romans 10:9*
 - Receive Jesus Christ into your life. *John 1:12*
- All of this you do on the authority of God’s Word—the Bible. YOU do these things because you take God at His Word.

WHAT GOD DOES FOR YOU:

- Jesus Christ becomes your personal Saviour and Lord. *John 3:16*
- Jesus Christ forgives your sins as He said He would in His Word. *I John 1:9*
- You are now His child. *John 1:12*
- You are now a new person. *II Cor. 5:17*
- You now have the Holy Spirit in-dwelling or living inside you. *John 14:16-17*
- You now have eternal life. *I John 5:12*

All of this God does for you because you take Him at His word! You believe God means what He said!

WHAT YOU DO AS A FOLLOWER OF JESUS:

1. Read the Bible daily. *Acts 20:32, I Tim. 2:15*
2. Talk to God (pray) every day. *Heb. 4:16, John 16:24*
3. Obey the Bible’s teaching. *John 14:23*
4. Tell others about Jesus. *Romans 10:9*