

Major Bible Themes

52 Vital Doctrines of the Scriptures Simplified and Explained

Adapted from the book *Major Bible Themes*
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God the Holy Spirit: His Personality

- The Importance of His Personality
 - The Holy Spirit speaks whatever He hears (John 16:13) and has come into the world to glorify Christ (John 16:14) whereas the Father and the Son speak for themselves.
 - This tends to make us less aware of the personality of God the Holy Spirit.
 - The personality of the Holy Spirit was slighted for centuries, but was recognized after the Nicene Creed (A.D. 325) defined the doctrine of the Trinity.
 - The Scriptural truth of the Godhead in three persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) is generally recognized today.
- The Personality of the Holy Spirit in Scriptures
 - The Holy Spirit is said to do only that which is possible only for a person can do.
 - ✦ He reproves (John 16:8).
 - ✦ He teaches (John 14:26; 1 John 2:27).
 - ✦ He speaks (Ac 8:29; 10:19; 13:2-4; Gal 4:6).
 - ✦ He intercedes (Rom 8:26).
 - ✦ He leads (Ac 16:6-7; 20:23; Gal 5:18; Rom 8:14).
 - ✦ He has ministries...
 - He regenerates (John 3:6).
 - He seals (Eph 4:30).
 - He baptizes (1 Cor 12:13).
 - He fills (Eph 5:18).
 - The Holy Spirit is affected as a person by other beings.
 - ✦ The Father sends Him into the world (John 14:16, 26) and the Son sends Him into the world (John 16:7).
 - ✦ Men may grieve the Spirit (Isa 63:10; Eph 4:30), quench (resist) Him (1 Thess 5:19), blaspheme Him (Matt 12:31), speak against Him (Matt 12:32), lie to Him (Acts 5:3), insult Him (Heb 10:29).
 - All Bible terms related to the Spirit imply His personality.
 - ✦ He is called “another Helper” (John 14:16) which indicates that He is as much a person as Christ.

- ✦ The word “spirit” in the Greek is a neuter noun. Some pronouns referring to the Holy Spirit use the neuter form as the Greek language requires, but many others are masculine in gender emphasizing the fact of the personality of the Spirit.
- As a Person of the Godhead the Holy Spirit is Co-equal with the Father and the Son
 - He is called God (Isa 6:8-9 cp. Ac 28:25-26; Jer 31:31-34 cp. Heb 10:15-17; Ac 5:3-4).
 - He has the attributes of God (1 Cor 2:9-11; Heb 9:14).
 - He performs the works of God (Job 33:4; Ps 104:30; Luke 12:11-12; Acts 20:28; 1 Cor 6:11; 2 Pet 1:21).
 - He is presented in Scripture as an object of faith (Ps 51:11; Matt 28:19). As an object of faith, He is also One to be obeyed (Acts 10:19-21).
 - The believer in Christ, walking in fellowship with the Spirit, experiences His power, His guidance, His instruction, and His sufficiency.
- Questions
 - Why is it necessary to emphasize the personality of the Holy Spirit?
 - What are some of the important works of the Spirit which demonstrate His personality?
 - To what extent does Scripture indicate that the Holy Spirit is affected as a person by other beings?
 - What biblical terms imply the personality of the Holy Spirit?
 - How does the fact that the Holy Spirit is called God demonstrate His equality with the Father and the Son?
 - What evidence supports the conclusion that the Holy Spirit has the attributes of God?
 - How do the works of the Holy Spirit demonstrate His deity?
 - How do the personal pronouns used of the Holy Spirit affirm His personality?
 - To what extent does Christian experience in which the Holy Spirit is the object of faith and obedience support His equality with the Father and the Son?