

THE THIRD PERSON OF THE GODHEAD

THE PERSON OF THE HOLY GHOST

*"... the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name,
he shall teach you all things..."*

~ John 14:26

1. One God in Three Persons

- a. Bible: 1) there is one God; 2) three are equally God; 3) three are distinct in person
- b. A person known by distinct interaction, witness, testimony, born responsibility.
 - i. God was personal before we ever existed. A person is not defined by a man.
- c. 1 John 5:7 teaches that "there are three that bear record in heaven" (not one, two...)
 - i. 1) The Father, 2) the Word (Son, Jesus, Christ), and 3) Holy Ghost (KJB)
 - ii. Removal of 1 John 5:7 from ESV, NIV, NLT, partly due to this issue of persons.

2. Misunderstanding the Holy Ghost

- a. The Holy Ghost helps us learn, understand, know God's love/joy, walk in God's power
- b. It is no surprise that struggling Christians have misunderstand the Holy Ghost
- c. 62% of "self-identified born-again Christians" say the Spirit is not real being, but power
- d. He is not an impersonal power, influence, energy, a part of God – he is truly God.
- e. He does not first appear in the NT - Gen 1:2, Num 11:25, 1Sa 10:11, Ps 51:11, Isa 63:11, Acts 7:51 – He always existed (eternal Spirit - Heb 9:14)
- f. He is confused with your feelings, experiences, emotions, inner voices, flesh. Beware.
- g. He is not the only spirit (i.e. witchcraft, sorcery, divination) – 1 Cor 12:10, 1John 4:2-3
- h. He is not a divine remote control of blessing, a super power to learn to use for yourself
 - i. *"How can I get more Holy Ghost; activate the Spirit; get Him to work, bear fruit"*
 - ii. He is a not a possession, but a divine person to be worshipped, followed, heard.

3. The Divine Person of the Holy Ghost

- a. His 'name' (which is not a name) can cause people to think him impersonal.
 - i. He is described in terms of wind, light, water, fire, firstfruit, earnest, a gift.
 - ii. (Biblically – this draws less attention to him, and more to the Father and Son).
- b. Ghost vs. Spirit – does it matter? Ghost refers to a person. A spirit can be mere power.
- c. 'Holy' is necessary to differentiate between you and Him. You are not the Holy one.
- d. The Holy Ghost is a person called 'whom' and 'he' (but not Jesus/Father) – John 14:26
- e. He "himself" (← a person), comes, guides, speaks, hears, shews, receives – John 16:13
- f. He moves men to write the scripture – 2 Pet 1:21, 2 Tim 3:16
- g. He can be grieved, loves, intercedes, has a mind and will – Eph 4:30, Rom 8:26, 15:30
- h. The Spirit bears witness, the Spirit is truth (as God) – 1 John 5:6, 8
- i. He is equal to the Father and Son in deity – 1 Cor 12:4-5, 2 Cor 13:14, Eph 4:4-6
- j. He is distinct in that he proceeds from the Father and Son – John 15:26
- k. A force does not dwell, a person dwells – 1 Cor 3:16

4. The Holy Ghost Dwells in You

- a. The Holy Spirit does not dwell only in "better" Christians - Eph 1:13, Rom 8:9, 8:16, 26
- b. 1 Cor 6:19-20 – You are the temple of the Holy Ghost. (He is not you, nor your spirit.)
- c. Jesus is called Comforter, but the Holy Ghost is the Comforter that abides - Jn 14:16-17
- d. The Spirit testifies of Jesus, how do you know Jesus? - John 15:26
- e. We have fellowship with Him, and can learn from him – Phi 2:1
- f. The Spirit searches, teaches, leads us, communicates - 1 Cor 2:10-14
- g. What you know of God, Jesus, salvation, etc, is by the Holy Ghost from His words.
- h. How does this happen? Not by belly gazing, eyes rolled back, incense, and soft music.
 - i. Let the Spirit's sword be true: listen, read, learn His truth. Eph 4:17, 5:17, 6:17
 - ii. The Spirit can be your defense against lies, error, instability, hopelessness.
 - iii. You can grow to understand by the Spirit's book. You can be established by Him.