

What (or Who) Is the Holy Spirit?

What is the Holy Spirit

Beginning note: The more I considered and looked at the idea of our having been fashioned in the image and likeness of God, the more I was struck by the similarities that exist there. We are going to look at this in greater detail, because it will help us see and understand who the Spirit of God actually is and how He functions in the Godhead and in us!— As Human Beings

How is the Holy Spirit ‘Popularly’ Pictured in the World and in Religion?

Now, some of what we will consider here contains elements of truth; others are quite flawed understandings. So, this is what is generally out there:

- A mysterious force or entity. AA might call it a higher power.
- The Holy Spirit tells us what to do or leads us to do things; if we do what the Spirit tells us to do, we are ‘obedient’. If we do not do what he is leading us to do, we are ‘disobedient’.
- The Holy Spirit convicts us when we think or do sinful things. He brings guilt upon us so we can correct our ways and become obedient.
- The Holy Spirit empowers people to know other people’s personal business, kind of like a fortune teller.
- The main purpose of the Holy Spirit is to provide certain gifts to men.— Whereby spiritual gifts become an emphasis in our walk with God, instead of God Himself.
- The Spirit teaches (in the sense of telling us) how to live.
- Much of this is actually rooted in unbelief. Unknowingly, we are thinking, “If I saw some miraculous sign by the Holy Spirit, I could have more faith.” But miraculous signs are not why we believe.

This is the ‘what’ we believe the Holy Spirit is; now let’s look at ‘Who’ we believe the Holy Spirit is!

Who is the Holy Spirit

Now, the Holy Spirit actually does relate to our believing, but not through physical signs. He woos us unto belief by revealing Himself to us; the love and truth found in God for us leads us to believe: the Holy Spirit.

Let me give you an example of this: John 6:41-48:

The Jews murmured at him because he said, "I am the bread which came down from heaven." And they said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?"

Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, **Murmur not among yourselves.**

No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

I am that bread of life.

This is a perfect example of the Holy Spirit's work: Expound on this.

The Holy Spirit is not a part of God, just as the Father is not merely a part of God, and the Son is not merely a part of God. Each member of the Godhead, though distinct in some beautifully unique fashion (person and certain function), is **one with the others in their fullness—just as Jesus would say, "I and the Father are one," and "When you have seen me, you have seen the Father."**

The Analogy and Picture of a human being made in the image of His creator is both beautiful and revealing:

It would be like saying, Maurice has a human body, a human soul, and a human spirit; also triune in nature. Now, though all these aspects of my person have a distinct character and function, each is very much me; the makeup of my person (who I am).

Paul puts it this way in 1 Thessalonians 5:23: “May the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; I pray God your whole spirit, soul, and body be presented blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

It is the same with God, only uniquely different. No one would look at me and separate me into three distinct entities, though those entities obviously exist. But when looking at the Godhead, those distinctions clearly manifest themselves; in that Jesus, the Son of God, prayed to the His Father God, almost as if a separate person!

And yet, speaking of the Son, Isaiah says of God, when He brings His first born among the dead into the world, “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”— Here we see Isaiah speaking of the Son of God ‘as’, the everlasting Father; though distinctively, the Son!

Quite a remarkable, beautiful reality; what a marvelous God this is!!

So, with all that said, when describing the Holy Spirit, you have to describe Him as no less than God!— And if someone has the Holy Spirit, you could, in perfectly valid terms, say, ‘That person has God dwelling within him.’

[John 14:19-23:](#)

Yet a little *while* and the world does not see Me any more. But you see Me. Because I live, you shall live also.

At that day you shall know that I *am* in My Father; and you in Me, and I in you.

He who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves Me. And he who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will reveal Myself to him.

Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, Lord, how is it that You will reveal Yourself to us and not to the world?

Jesus answered and said to him, If a man loves Me, he will keep My Word. And My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him.

Now, with this in mind:

To understand the Holy Spirit we must understand the Godhead fully; the triune nature of God.

So let's go back to my earlier analogy; me, as a person, as it relates to God the person.

I possess a human soul, the mind or personhood of my being, who I actually am apart from the physical body. This soul, the mind of my person, is not my brain (though in my physical biology, they relate in some fashion); my mind goes beyond the brain in a deeply spiritual sense. But my soul/mind is the controlling influence of my whole being: it is the essence of my person, my personality; It directs my activities as a whole.— I would liken my soul/mind to the overall controlling influence of the Godhead— the Father. The Father is that from which everything emanates and functions; thus, Jesus would say, “He that loveth me keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.”

I also have a human spirit (or heart). This spirit or heart, while not separate from my soul or mind, represents the temperament of my being. It is the faith or moral influence that moves and affects every part of my being, including the soul (who I am).

For example, one might describe someone who is angry because he is convinced deep down that everyone is against him. We would say this person has an angry spirit. Alternatively, someone with a bright, hopeful outlook on life might be described as having a 'great, positive spirit,' and that would be accurate. — Thus, Spirit influences every part of a person's attitude toward life. — I would compare the human spirit to the Holy Spirit.

Then there is the human body. The physical manifestation of our person. This body carries out and performs the functions of our person; the embodiment of the Soul (mind) and Spirit (disposition); and carries out the dictates (or movement) of both. This can be likened to the Son, the form of God, that which is seen, that which is eternally begotten of the Father, and reveals to us the fullness of the deity in bodily form. For He is the fullness of deity in bodily form.— Our Father, Friend and Brother

So let us look at the Holy Spirit and His proper functioning in us.

An Ancient Prophecy, *Ezekiel 11:19-20: Then I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within them, and take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in My statutes and keep My judgments and do them; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God.*

Ezk 36:27 I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

The ultimate revealed purpose of the Spirit is to put inside man the Spirit that is in God (His Spirit), that the fruit of God would manifest, causing us to be revealed the Sons and Daughters of God!

So what are the Statutes and Judgments of God? Is it the Ten Commandments and other Laws given by God in the Old Testament?

Remember Jesus Said, “I did not come to destroy the law or the prophets, but to fulfill them.”

So, if this is why he came, a very pertinent question would be, “In what way did he fulfill the Law the Prophets?”

This can be answered quite succinctly and clearly. Romans 13:10, “Love (implied unity) is the fulfillment of the law.”

Now this is where the Spirit foretold so long ago comes in.

- 1- The Spirit of God is the disposition of Love, Truth and Unity in the Godhead; the Glory of God found in the Godhead, which is shared in the Godhead between the Father and the Son.

2- This same Spirit (or disposition) of the Father towards the Son and the Son towards the Father is meant for us before time began.

- Ezekiel 11:19-20: “I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you. And I will remove the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh, so that they may walk in My statutes and keep My ordinances, and do them. And they shall be My people, and I will be their God.
- Ezekiel 36:24-28: “For I will take you from among the nations and gather you out of all lands, and will gather you into your own land. And I will sprinkle clean waters on you, and you shall be clean. I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from your idols.

“And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit within you.”

“I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.” “I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you shall keep My judgments and do *them*.

3- It is through the Spirit that we know and possess both the Father and the Son through Sonship. Listen, Galatians 4:1-7:

“What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he is the owner of everything.— He is subject to guardians and trustees until the date set by his father.

Even so, when we were children, we were enslaved under the basic principles of the world. But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive our adoption as sons.

And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!”

So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, you are also an heir of God through Christ.

4- He, that is God, by His Holy Spirit, brings us the very mind and disposition of God to us! Listen! 1 Corinthians Chapter 2:

Brothers, when I came to you, I did not come with eloquent speech or with wisdom, declaring you the testimony of God. For I was determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

I was with you in weakness and in fear, and in much trembling. My speech and my preaching *was* not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of *the* Spirit and of power, so that your faith should not stand in *the* wisdom of men, but in *the* power of God.

But, we speak wisdom among those who are perfect (that is, complete in understanding); yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the rulers of this world, that come to nothing. But we speak *the* wisdom of God in a mystery, which God has hidden, predetermining it before the world for our glory; which none of the rulers of this world knew (for if they had known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory).

But as it is written, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard," nor has it entered into the heart of man, "the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." But God has revealed *them* to us by His Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God.

For who among men knows the things of a man except the spirit of man within him? So also no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. But we have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit from God, so that we might know the things that are freely given to us by God.

These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches, but which *the* Holy Spirit teaches, comparing (collating) spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of *the* Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual (that possesses the Spirit and reasons by the Spirit) judges all things, yet he himself is judged by no one.

For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct Him?—
But we have the mind of Christ.

The Spirit:

Primarily, He brings the God (the whole Godhead), the Father, the Son, to us, in the Spirit He has given us!

Is our life— We are now one with of the light of life; God's Life!— Then Jesus spoke again to them, saying, I am the Light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. (John 8:12)

He teaches (reveals) all things!

He reveals truth to us!— For He is the Spirit of Truth

He enables us to see life as it truly is!

He is the Wisdom of God to and in us.

He is understanding of us, and fosters understanding in us!— And we know that the Son of God has come, and *He* has given us an understanding so that we may know Him who is true. And we are in Him that is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and the everlasting life. (1 John 5:20)

He is our strength!

He is Love, and fosters love in us, for even our enemies!— He is the Spirit of Love!

He is the Spirit of Unity; desirous in us of oneness in the Spirit.

He is our comfort at all times!

He heals us far beyond any human healing: Our Heart, Soul, and Ultimately our Bodies!

For Fun:

Time Permitting: John 14:15-29

John 16:4-15

John 17:19-26