

# Who – or What - IS God’s Holy Spirit? Part 1

## Is it just God’s power, or part of the Trinity? Or much more?



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*All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.*

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**Summary:** *On Pentecost in Acts 2, God’s children were immersed into His Holy Spirit, with many more later. We think of Pentecost every time we think of receiving the Holy Spirit. What exactly is God’s Holy Spirit? Is it the third person of the Trinity? Or is Holy Spirit just God’s power, or is God’s spirit separate from Him? Or is there much more to it? But why so often is Holy Spirit described as having personality? Is the Holy Spirit an “it” – or much more? WHY does scripture say, “the Lord is the Spirit” – 2 Cor. 3:17.*

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Good day everyone. We’re here on the **feast of Pentecost 2023** and most people know two big things about this day – the giving of the Law at Mt Sinai, and the **giving of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2** on Pentecost. But there’s so much more than this. Check out the many other sermons we’ve posted about Pentecost. It would also help you to **follow along with full notes in this message especially**. Please use the notes. They will clarify so much of what is said. So please print out the notes and then listen. I also say things not in the notes.

And be sure to listen to Part 2, where I will do some further explaining and glorifying God. We must never become so bogged down on doctrine that we miss the glories of God.

**Today I’m going to focus on God’s Holy Spirit.** That was the primary result of Acts 2 when God immersed his children into His Spirit – along with strong wind, tongues of fire and speaking in other languages. In the Old Covenant, God thundered his law, the “ten words” or ten commandments from Mt Sinai in Arabia.

I’ve posted or re-posted several other audio sermons related to Pentecost and hoping you will check some of them out. If you’re unsure of the connection of the **book of Ruth** to Pentecost, and the goel- redeemer- for example, I recommend that one. Or the one on **ONE BODY** would be good too. Many have appreciated the “Pentecost, it’s five-fold meaning”.

**In Acts 2, God immersed his children into His Holy Spirit.**

**I’m Philip Shields.** Welcome to Light on the Rock, where God Most High is in charge, and we are building on the Rock that is Jesus Christ. HE is the Rock, and HE is our light.

Feel free to invite everyone to this website. It's free, it's loaded with hundreds of audio and video sermons and hundreds of short articles and blogs.

I'd love to talk more about Pentecost itself today but I have so much more to say about Holy Spirit. Just remember first about Pentecost:

- **Pentecost means 50<sup>th</sup>, the 50<sup>th</sup> day from the Wavesheaf offering**, and Pentecost is correctly always on a Sunday. Not Sivan 6. That's one reason we have to count, instead of a fixed date like Sivan 6.

Pentecost is when the early believers experienced the Holy Spirit – wind, fire, the noise, the speaking in other languages. It was a most unusual day. Today we don't experience the windstorm, fire over our heads and all that, and so maybe Holy Spirit is not as REAL to us as it was to the early believers, when God immersed his children in his spirit and nature.

- Pentecost marks the end of the barley harvest and the beginning of wheat harvest, and was **called the FEAST of Firstfruits**. That's what you and I are (James 1:18). Paul mentioned a lot of his helpers as first fruits.
- Pentecost **continued to be kept** by the early church. **Acts 20:16** – Paul wanted to be in Jerusalem if at all possible. **1 Cor. 16:8** – “I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost”.
- Remember we collect a **holyyday offering** on this day, also called Feast of Weeks/sabbaths. Deut 16:16-17. Three times in a year (not seven). Give that to those who are feeding you from the gospel (1 Cor. 9:13-14) – a command from the Lord.
- **It was also on Pentecost when God and Israel were betrothed**; and when **Ruth and Boaz** were married after the barley harvest, and when God gave the guarantee – the *arrabon* in Greek – of finishing what He started. Today in Greek, the word for engagement ring is *arrabona*, God's promise to marry us.
- See my sermons on **Wedding of the Lamb**. You'll be amazed when it is, where it is, and who will be in it.

**TODAY I want to focus on the Holy Spirit of God.** When I ask people what the Holy Spirit is, and how they'd define Holy Spirit, there's hesitation. I understand that. I've spent many hours re-studying it. I think many, many people don't really understand Holy Spirit. Is it God's power? Is it the third person of the trinity? I am sure that over the coming years I will grow in my own experience and understanding too. Holy Spirit guides us into all truth.

**Just before the Pentecost of Acts 2**, after the resurrection of the Messiah, Messiah told his apostles to wait in Jerusalem as they would be immersed (baptized) with Holy Spirit and receive POWER when this Holy Spirit comes upon them (Acts 1:5, 8). They were but a few in number and they sure needed the power of God working in them to go to all the world. We do too.

**Acts 1:4-5**

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have

heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but **you shall be baptized (immersed) with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now."

**Acts 1:8**

"But **you shall receive POWER when the Holy Spirit** has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Also **Luke 24:49**).

**WHY do we need this topic of delving into God's Holy Spirit?\***

- There is so much said in the Bible about God's spirit, spirit of God, Holy spirit – that we certainly won't understand much of the New Testament correctly if our understanding of God's spirit is limited or wrong.
- We're told the Holy Spirit is *inside* God's children – you and me – and we certainly want to know what or who that is, don't we? See my sermon posted on "22 Things the Holy Spirit does" for more ideas. **But just imagine it: GOD is in you** when you have God's Holy Spirit! God chose YOU, and purposely the "unqualified" of the world, the least of the world – so He could qualify you and make us great when He's done with us.

You'll enjoy my teaching about cherishing our first fruits calling:

<https://lightontherock.org/index.php/sermons/message/6-reasons-to-cherish-your-calling-as-firstfruits-pentecost-2019?highlight=WyJjYWxsaW5nIlo=>

- What God's Spirit *does* -- will become so much clearer once you understand what God's spirit IS.

**If you were asked to define the Holy Spirit, what would you say?**

- Most professing Christians would say it's the 3<sup>rd</sup> person of the holy trinity of the godhead. I don't teach trinity, usually defined as *Three persons who are not each other, but who are equal to each other and somehow together make up one God*. Or 3 manifestations of one God. But early believers never discussed the trinity. It wasn't an issue!

Even in the Council of Nicaea, 325 AD, there was some discussion on the nature of God, nature of Jesus, but not the Trinity. That didn't happen til almost the end of the 300's, late 4<sup>th</sup> century under Athanasius, a bishop from Alexandria. And it's hard to find theologians who will say they really understand the Trinity.

- Many of you who don't profess the Trinity would say **Holy Spirit is simply the POWER of God as Jesus said in Acts 1:8** – and yes, many other verses support the idea of Holy Spirit = God's power. But does that completely define Holy Spirit? Or is there much more to it?

The **difficulty** we have is that **we're flesh trying to explain spirit**. We've never BEEN a spirit being. **We see only in part, through a glass darkly**, as Paul said. It would be like asking a **blind man to explain** to other blind men what the color blue looks like. Then the nuances of light blue, sky blue, aquamarine, navy blue, Phthalo blue, cobalt blue, etc. We have God's spirit, and that helps a lot to understand, but we're still flesh.

**SPIRIT IN MAN is not Holy Spirit**

**We know GOD is spirit (John 4:24) and HE is holy.** And angels are ministering spirits (Heb 1:14), and there are demons, fallen angels, called “evil spirits” (Luke 7:21; 8:2). And there is something called “spirit” also in mankind – **the spirit in man.** I have a whole sermon on that, just use Search Bar.

**When we die, our spirit in man goes back to God who gave it (Ecc 12:7; 3:21).** Every human has it, and that is what makes us have a mind and be different from animals. (1 Cor. 2:9-11). But the spirit in man is not the holy spirit. God's spirit couples with our spirit in man, making us children of God. (We're building up to the Holy Spirit itself)

**Romans 8:14-16**

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you **received the Spirit of adoption\*\*** by whom we cry out, **"Abba, Father."** 16 The Spirit Himself *bears witness with OUR spirit* that we are children of God,” – and it goes on to say we are HEIRS of God, therefore.

**Galatians 4:6-7**

“And because you are sons, God has sent forth **the Spirit of His Son** into your hearts, crying out, **"Abba, Father!"** 7 Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.”

But nowhere are we told that the spirit in man is eternal. And we know all life came from God the Father through Christ. *God alone has inherent immortality* and he alone can give spirit qualities to others like angels and to us when resurrected. He has always pre-existed and always will continue to exist (**1 Tim. 6:16**). *We will be given spirit life and immortality –going forward – when our flesh is changed to spirit (1 Cor. 15:53-54; Romans 2:7)* at the first resurrection. God's children will never die again. No second death (**Rev 20:6**) for us.

**But keep in mind: God is spirit (John 4:24); he's HOLY, so He is Holy Spirit.**

And **Eph 4:4** says there is only one spirit, one Holy Spirit. Ephesians 2:18 says we all have access to the Father by the one spirit. Be sure to read **1 Cor. 12:4-11** how God distributes the gifts of the spirit, but they are all working *by the same spirit*.

**Not “holy Ghost”**

**Let's** deal with one annoying translation of God's holy spirit. The **KJV says “Holy Ghost”**. Those of you who believe you can preach and study only from the KJV, well, here's one example where translating this as “holy Ghost” is not good. *My father always preached “holy ghost” when I was young.* To a small child as I was, I didn't like hearing about a GHOST, any ghost, whether holy or not. It terrified me.

**The Greek word for “SPIRIT” is “pneuma”,** a male gender word. In Hebrew the word for spirit is “**ruach**”, in feminine gender. So go figure! Both can be translated “**breath, wind or spirit**”. The only place where the Greek word for GHOST is used in scripture is when the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water and were terrified by seeing this “phantom”, this “Ghost” (**Matt 14:26: Mark 6:49**) – from the Greek phantasma,

meaning ghost, apparition, phantom or specter. And then “the Ghost” spoke to them saying “Cheer up! It’s me!”

So please, I hope if you say, “Holy Ghost”, that you see now you should be saying Holy Spirit. The Greek word is “pneuma” meaning wind or spirit, definitely not ghost. God’s Holy spirit is not a ghost or a phantom.

**A FEW ISSUES I have about the Trinity Doctrine**

I’m very short on time, but we need to hit a few reasons why the Trinity teaching can’t work:

1. **Trinity wasn’t even discussed or taught** for the first 200-300 yrs. The word “trinity” is nowhere in the Bible. Paul and Peter never discuss Holy Spirit as a trinity. This concept was unknown to early believers.
2. **Holy Spirit gets snubbed** in most of the greetings in the epistles. Father and Son are mentioned, but not Holy Spirit. Paul usually opens up with greetings “from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” and never mentions Holy Spirit. (See Romans 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:3; 2 Cor. 1:2; Gal. 1:3; Eph 1:2; Phil 1:2; Col 1:2, 1-2 Thess. Jude 1 – and more.) If it’s a trinity, you’d expect Holy Spirit to be mentioned with Father and Son. **John 10:30** Jesus says, “My father and I are one”. Why doesn’t he say, “my father, the Holy Spirit and I are all one”? That would be quite a snub if all 3 are co-equal.
3. The main verses Trinitarians use to try to prove the trinity, were verses that had words added to the original. **Matthew 28:19** – “**baptizing them in the name of the Father, son and Holy Spirit**”. **That entire phrase was added.** Here’s a link you can check to verify that.

[Is the original wording of Matthew 28:19 the same: What is the original wording of Matthew 28:19? \(matthew2819-blog.blogspot.com\)](http://matthew2819-blog.blogspot.com)

In actual fact, Jesus originally just said, “make disciples of all nations **in my name**”. So those of you still baptizing “in the name of the Father, son and holy spirit” – should really look into this. Check out my sermon “Into Whom are we baptized?”. In every single case of New Testament baptisms, they always baptized ONLY into the name of Jesus. (See Acts 2:38; Acts 8:16; Acts 10:48; 19:5). This proves what Jesus actually said. We’re baptized and buried into Christ at baptism (Romans 6:3-6).

<https://lightontherock.org/index.php/sermons/message/into-whom-are-we-baptized-new?highlight=WyJpbmRvIiwid2hvbSIsImFyZSIsInlvdSIsImJhcHRpemVkiIo=>

The other scripture Trinitarians sometimes use is **1 John 5:7. But only KJV and NKJV have 1 John 5:7-8 with the added words that support the Trinity. Scholars all say those were added words.** It’s one instance where all the modern translations have it right, to leave that section out.

**Here’s NKJV – and I’ve crossed out the added words, not in most translations 1 John 5:7-8**

“For there are three that bear witness ~~in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. 8 And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one.~~”

So the two main scriptures that seem to teach the trinity, have had the significant words ADDED and were not in the original (Matthew 28:19; 1 John 5:7-8).

4. **CO-EQUAL? One way** to refute the trinity is this concept of three persons **being co-equal** with each other, but are not each other, but all three are God. **There is no way Jesus is co-equal with God the Father.** Jesus repeatedly said his Father was greater than he (**John 14:28**).

**“The HEAD of Christ is GOD” – 1 Cor. 11:3.** He is subject to God the Father (1 Cor. 15:28). Everything Yeshua did or said was what Father asked him to do or say. (John 14:10, 28b; 12:49). That's definitely NOT co-equal.

5. God is building a family, but the trinity doctrine which came about 350-375 years after the resurrection of Christ, has God all closed up. But I read how we are children of God, even now (1 John 3:1) and Father is the source of all family!

**Ephesians 3:14-15**

“For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the **whole family in heaven and earth is named..**”

I won't spend any more time on Trinity doctrine in this sermon. But one thing they do is show all the verses that treat the Holy Spirit **as a person** – with activity only a person can do. How can we explain that? I'll definitely examine those too and we who do not believe in the Trinity will need to adjust our understanding of those verses, which I'll get to.

**Repentance and accepting Yeshua/Jesus as the Promised Messiah to receive Holy Spirit and understand the scriptures**

**Remember the Holy Spirit was given to thousands in the New Covenant, but only to a relatively few men and women in the Old Covenant.** We're told specifically that the prophets had the spirit of CHRIST in them, telling them what to say (**1 Peter 1:11**). And David pleaded “Take not your Holy Spirit from me” (Psalm 51:11). Joseph (Gen 31:48), Daniel (Daniel 5:14), Moses, Joshua, Caleb, Gideon and Samson all had God's spirit. Sometimes Holy Spirit is shown as coming upon them – as in Samson's case. Sometimes Holy Spirit came to give knowledge of how God wanted his ark of the covenant and tabernacle designed and built, so 2 men Bezalel and Aholiab received all that by the Holy Spirit (Exodus 31:1-11).

But starting on Pentecost in Acts 2, God immersed his children with His power **and nature**, a definition of His Holy Spirit.

**In the New Covenant, a pre-condition to receiving the Holy Spirit of God** was repentance and baptism (Acts 2:38) of course, (Except family of Cornelius Acts 10) but also an acknowledgement that you accept Jesus as your Savior, confessing he died for you and washed away your sins in his blood, and then God resurrected him to live again in your behalf (**Romans 10:8-13**). The resurrection power of Jesus on us. **This is the same word for Gentiles EQUALLY as it is to Israelites.**

*Without that prior acknowledgement of Christ (anointed), the Word of God remains closed to people. HE IS the Word, so we have to acknowledge Yeshua, Jesus – as God's*

Anointed Son before scripture will open up for us. I hope any of you of the Jewish faith are reading. Some of you like to say He is the living Torah, but scripture says, "the Word".

Much of the Old Covenant -- and certainly the New Covenant -- points to the Savior. And until people accept Yeshua/Jesus as the promised Messiah (anointed one), there's a VEIL over their eyes. They don't "get" what they read.

Like the **Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8:26-40**, reading **Isaiah 53**. The Spirit told Philip to go speak to the eunuch, who didn't "get it", didn't understand the scripture until Philip explained Jesus the Christ to him. In the same way, Holy Spirit opens up the Bible to us and opens up the way to see Jesus, our Savior the Son of God. (This next scripture is extra)

**1 Corinthians 2:9-12**

But as it is written:

"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man  
The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

**10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.**

11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so **no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.**"

*So my spirit in man makes me understand human things but this spirit in man is not a separate person or being from me. In the same way, the spirit of God opens up our understanding to the things of God; to spiritual insight. But in the same way the Holy Spirit is not a separate person or being from God. But his Spirit is from God.*

12 "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, **but the Spirit who is from God**, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God."

When we accept Jesus -- the whole Bible is unveiled and our understanding opened.

**2 Corinthians 3:14-18**

"But their minds were blinded. For until this day the **same veil** remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ. 15 But even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart.

16 Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

**17 Now the LORD IS the SPIRIT**; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."

**Remember 2 Cor. 2:17 -- the Lord -- that is Jesus Christ, "IS the Spirit" as we just read.** So much of what we'll read about the Holy Spirit is identified -- often within the same verses -- as being Jesus Christ or his power and nature given to us, as you'll see.

*I'm going to show you today that in the New Testament, the Holy Spirit is primarily the means that God uses to reveal HIMSELF to us through Jesus Christ especially. God is spirit. So this is part of Himself, his spirit. NOT separate from God. We'll see the Holy Spirit is the manifestation of God and mostly of Jesus Christ, Yeshua the Messiah, as sent by the Father.*

In fact, **Jesus, who is the Lord, IS the Spirit (2 Cor. 3:17 again)**. In the New Testament, “the Lord” is so often identified as “the Lord Jesus” in many cases especially starting in Acts 9, except the last chapters of Revelation. “The Lord” is identified as God the Father in 2 Cor. 6:16-18, but most places “the Lord” is speaking of Christ.

Remember we're told there **is one God the Father, ONE Lord Jesus Christ, and one spirit (Eph 4:4-6)**. In the New Testament, when GOD the Father is meant, we will read “God”. After Acts 9, when we read “Lord”, it will usually (not always) be referring to Jesus.

**Ephesians 4:4-6**

“There is one body and **ONE Spirit**, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 **ONE LORD**, one faith, one baptism; 6 **ONE GOD and Father of all**, who *is above all*, and through all, and in you all.”

Other scriptures showing “the Lord” is Christ in the New Testament almost always: **Acts 2:36; Philippians 2:11** –“every tongue will confess Jesus Christ is Lord”.

**1 Corinthians 8:6**

“yet for us there is **one God, the Father**, of whom are all things, and we for Him; **and one Lord Jesus Christ**, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.” [Why is the Holy Spirit not mentioned or included here if there's a trinity?]

**Holy Spirit is God's very being and presence.** Holy Spirit is God's divine **power** and God's divine **nature** coming into us, sent by Father.

By God's “nature” I mean what God is like. Like God is LOVE, God is the embodiment of all the Fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness etc. So his nature bears his fruit and we should have God's **power** to implement God's nature to overcome and become more and more like Him.

When we **understand the Holy Spirit is God's very presence plus his divine POWER combined with God's divine NATURE**, wow – **The Holy Spirit is GOD in us! GOD, but NOT a 3<sup>rd</sup> person God** like trinity teaches starting late 300's, but not before then.

**2 Peter 1:2-4**

“Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of **Jesus our Lord**, 3 **as His divine POWER** has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be **partakers of the divine NATURE**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

What a wonderful way to start to define and describe **God's Spirit: It is about GOD and Christ: God's very presence, and DIVINE NATURE backed up by God's divine POWER**. “God is love” (1 John 4:8, 16), so his divine nature is love, his Holy Spirit is love also. Frankly all the listed fruit of the Spirit is defining GOD's nature: love, joy, peace, etc.



**When we receive the Holy Spirit, we are immersed into God's very NATURE – if we'd focus on HIM. See my Constant Contact sermon.**

**WE MUST be excited if we understand that out of the BILLIONS in the world, God chose YOU to be his dwelling place; where his NATURE, PRESENCE and POWER come – to YOU. If they have God's spirit and are led by his Spirit, they are children of God, no matter where they attend (Romans 8:9, 14).**

Holy Spirit is what makes **overcoming** possible when we harness the POWER of God for godliness. Then his NATURE can be seen more and more in us, if we focus on God through Christ and the SPIRIT. We have to fight sin, using God's spirit. *We're saved by grace through faith, not of ourselves (Eph 2:8-9), but are called to do good works (v. 10).* We're called to really, really fight sin, and to be strong in the power of HIS might (Eph 6:10). When we're not overcoming – it's because we're not focusing on God and His Son constantly or the Holy Spirit.

God's Presence, God's power, God's Nature, Jesus Christ in us, GOD in us.

**If you're grasping this, you should be feeling very excited now knowing that very God himself chose you, and wants to be inside you as John 14:23 says.** And again, Jesus says Father and I will come and make our home in you, but in that verse he never even mentions Holy Spirit. Because they ARE the one Holy Spirit.

But don't forget we also **still have the bad carnal nature**, so we sometimes don't act like God. Or as some would say, "not living like you're converted". But we do have all the power we need now for overcoming and for godliness. We still have the old deceitful heart – but now we also have the new heart from God, which loves God and wants to obey him.

### **SPIRIT OF GOD OR SPIRIT OF Christ?**

Remember as we read earlier, there is but ONE Holy Spirit (Eph 4:4). **So these various terms – spirit of God, spirit of Christ, Holy spirit – are all one and the same holy spirit.** Romans 8:9 shows us this spirit is one and the same spirit.

**Ephesians 4:4 – "There is one body and one spirit..."**

#### **Romans 8:9**

"But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the **Spirit of God** dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have **the Spirit of Christ**, he is not His."

**So Spirit of God is the same as spirit of Christ. ONE spirit of God.**

In the Old Testament, God gave his Spirit individually to prophets and others. Remember David pleaded that God not take His spirit from him (Ps 51:11).

Back to God's Holy Spirit. I grew up in a church that referred to Holy Spirit as "it" and almost solely as "God's power" – but now I understand how far short those fell in talking about God's Spirit.

### **Holy Spirit is much more than just God's power**

I know Jesus himself used the description of "power" to describe the Holy Spirit. Even *Jesus used other words to describe God's spirit – like Comforter or Helper, for example.*

But certainly saying God's spirit is God's power is also Biblical, but just not complete. But true, Jesus told the *disciples they'd receive power from on high* (Acts 1:8).

Mary was told she would be able to conceive because "The **Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you;** therefore, also, *that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.*" (Luke 1:35).

The Holy Spirit – which includes the nature (2 Pet 1:4) and SEED of God (1 Peter 1:23), impregnated her, and yet the **Holy Spirit is not the father of Jesus.** Ponder that. The father was God Most High. The Holy Spirit was the seed of God.

We also know Timothy received power from the Holy Spirit when Paul laid his hands on him (read **2 Timothy 1:6-7**) at Timothy's ordination.

**But be aware that the phrase "Power of God" is used for so many other things too!**

- The **gospel** (Romans 1:17) is called the Power of God
- **The cross** ("it is the power of God to those who are perishing")- 1 Cor 1:18;
- **Christ** himself is called "the power of God" in 1 Cor. 1:24.
- The Spirit is also referred to as the power of the Highest –overshadowing Mary and conceiving in her the son of God (Luke 1:35).

And true enough, we may feel inadequate to do the things God has called us to do. I sure do, quite often, until I go back to God thanking him that *He has given me power, courage and authority and everything I need – just like he did Zerubbabel.* Just like he did those guys making the things for the Tabernacle. Just like he did to once-fearful Gideon!

So when you hear God telling you – like he did to Solomon, to Joshua, to Gideon – BE STRONG and do what I told you to do.... Just have faith and start doing, and the power and strength will come! Just like it did for them.

In fact, when he comes, he will reward those servants who are BUSY "SO DOING" when he returns! A faithful servant is busy doing and working the work of God.

**Luke 12:43-44**

*"Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes.  
44 Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has."*

So I hope those of you who would think to define Holy Spirit as "the power of God" are seeing there's so much more. Holy Spirit is the PRESENCE, the GLORY, The POWER, The DIVINE NATURE, The COMFORTER/ HELPER – ALL OF WHICH IS GOD.

Now let's kick it up a notch.

**The HOLY SPIRIT EVIDENCING AS A PERSONALITY**

One of the concepts I found difficult to grasp, even as a teenager 55 years ago, was trying to show the Holy Spirit of God was an "it" or just a power, when there were scriptures that gave it personality. Trinitarians of course use the personality verses to show God is made up of 3 persons as one, but the nameless Holy spirit somehow is supposed to be a person.

The Trinitarians believe Holy Spirit is God, is a person, a 3<sup>RD</sup> person of the Godhead. **I can believe Holy Spirit is a person – the person of GOD himself, but not a 3<sup>rd</sup> person.**

God can appear to us through the Word or Christ if he wishes, as he did to Abraham in Genesis 18 or to Samuel in **1 Samuel 3:10**, or he can do it by the Holy Spirit dwelling in us. Either way, it's God himself. God is a real "person", a real being, with personality.

I don't accept the Trinity at all. But saying **the Holy Spirit is the manifestation of God himself, is PART of God, and his presence, and his power, and his NATURE, and his glory** – throughout the universe and inside me and you, to me that makes a lot of sense. And it explains all these scriptures I'm about to give you that show a person, a Being, is ultimately being referenced when we read of the work of the Holy Spirit.

And that Being is God himself, or Christ himself. The one and the same Spirit.

Yes, you will see clearly when I'm done, the Holy Spirit is God or Jesus. And many times within a couple verses the scripture bounces from Holy Spirit to mentioning God.

**Holy Spirit is God's very essence, presence, nature and power. God is spirit (John 4:24), remember and "the Lord IS the Spirit" (2 Cor 3:17). THIS IS WHY the Holy Spirit is shown to us with personality because God has personality. The spirit is Christ. The Spirit is God. The Lord is the spirit. When God appears to people or speaks directly – we are told "GOD did" such and such or appeared. Otherwise He spoke through His Spirit.**

I believe many times in the Old Testament where we're told "then the word of the Lord came to me and said..." – that is probably the manifestation of the Word himself, visibly seen. Just a thought. But when speaking without being seen, He uses his extension of himself, his Holy Spirit, to do that. So we're sometimes told "the Spirit said" – but it is GOD speaking THROUGH his spirit.

**So therefore I can speak of Holy Spirit as HE, where appropriate, and not always as "it" – because we're talking directly about GOD himself in so many places as I'll show. GOD is not an "it". But there are other cases where a description is made that warrants "it" as our pronoun about the Spirit.**

*I'm just saying, don't be reticent to use "he" when referring to Holy spirit. In fact, in Greek grammar, the word for spirit is "pneuma" – and it is in the MASCULINE gender. But go figure, in Hebrew, the word for "spirit" is "ruach" – and that's in the feminine.*

**These verses from here on out show Holy Spirit TO BE GOD himself, a part of what God is. But not a 3<sup>rd</sup> person! I hope this thrills you.**

**Acts 5:1-4**

"But a certain man **named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife**, sold a possession. 2 And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet.

3 But Peter said, "Ananias, **why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit** and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? 4 While it remained,

was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart?

**You have not lied to men but to GOD.**"

**Notice he does not say "you have lied to God's power" or to "it". We can only lie to a PERSON.** Peter speaks of lying to the Holy Spirit. *Peter sees it as the same as lying directly to the person of GOD himself. By lying to the Holy Spirit, he says they lied to God.*

***Based on our old understanding that Holy Spirit is just God's power, how do you lie to a power, or to an "it"? You can't. But it doesn't require Holy Spirit to be a 3<sup>rd</sup> person – just the person of God and Jesus. "The Lord is the spirit".***

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**The SPIRIT is identified in 2 Cor. 3:17 –"Now the Lord IS the spirit." The Lord is not merely a power or an 'it'. The Lord is the Spirit. The Spirit is the Lord.**

\*\*\* \*\* (Extra point here)

**GRIEVING The Holy Spirit. How can you grieve a power or an "it"? We can only grieve a person.**

**Ephesians 4:30**

**"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."**

So when we grieve the Holy Spirit, we are grieving GOD (Psalm 95:10), not an "it".

**Psalms 78:40**

**"How often they provoked Him in the wilderness,  
And grieved Him in the desert!"**

**\*\*\*\*\* Now I want to start showing also how the Holy Spirit so often really was pointing to Jesus the Messiah, the son of God.**

**For example: What/who gives us LIFE – Christ, or Holy Spirit? Or Jesus through his Holy Spirit?** I've already shown how Jesus IS the Spirit as well as SON of God. These aren't contradictions, but just showing that Holy Spirit is GOD.

The Spirit gives life, as God's spirit puts God's SEED in us so we can be born again of spirit, begetting us into the very family of God. We must be born again (John 3:5-8), of SPIRIT.

**John 6:63**

**"It is the SPIRIT who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life."**

**John 14:6**

**"I am the truth, the way, and the LIFE."**

**John 5:39-40**

**"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. **40 But you are not willing to come to ME that you may have LIFE**."**

Remember John 6:63 says, "the spirit gives life" but Jesus is telling us that HE gives everlasting life. *It's not a contradiction. The Lord is the spirit, remember (2 Cor. 3:17).*

**John 6:27**

"Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to **everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you**, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."

You can also check 1 John 5:11-12 – GOD gives us eternal life in his SON. And if we have the Son in us, we have life. And Romans 6:23b – "...the GIFT of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord".

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**Holy Spirit SPOKE to individuals and to small groups. Does power or an 'it' do that? God's spirit can talk to us in plain language, not just nudges or urges. God has not gone silent. Maybe WE are the ones who must learn to hear better.**

**Acts 10:19**

"While Peter thought about the vision, ***the Spirit said to him***, "Behold, three men are seeking you." (Very clear, specific commands).

**Acts 13:1-3** Holy Spirit speaking to a group; all got the same message.

"There were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. **2 As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul** for the work to which I have called them." **3** Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.

When we speak of the Holy Spirit as a power or "it" – we're *not* expecting clear instructions, in plain language like this. In the next one we're not told how Paul was blocked from going somewhere, but they knew it as God's spirit.

**Acts 16:6-7**

"Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, they **were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia**. **7** After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but **the Spirit did not permit them**."

**Whose voice would they have heard? 2 Cor. 3:17** says "the Lord is the Spirit." Yeshua/Jesus said, "My sheep hear **MY** VOICE, and I know them, and follow me". (John 10:27). Remember, the Spirit is the Lord – 2 Cor. 3:17.

There are times when I've heard in my head very specific words. One time many years ago, "Call Jim now, right now" – and I put down my spoon of breakfast cereal and called Jim. He had been praying I'd call him because he was so ashamed of something bad he had just done and was sure God wasn't hearing him anymore. I told him, I was told to call him. Of course God was still hearing him. I've had quite a few examples like that. Sometimes very clear words, sometimes just strong urges. (More of the story on the video) (I also plan to say more in a part 2, that will make more of this clearer)

**\*\* The FRUIT OF The SPIRIT. Or does that mean the fruit of CHRIST working through the Holy Spirit?**

We've all heard of the fruit of the spirit – love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. etc. (Gal.5:22-23). It's called fruit of the Spirit. But more specifically, where is that coming from? Holy spirit is God's power, nature, presence. Holy Spirit shows GOD to us. *We must not separate out Holy Spirit – or we end up making our own version of a "trinity" – God, Jesus and the Power. The power of the spirit points back to God and Christ.*

**Didn't Jesus say if we abide in HIM, that we will bear much fruit? WE can't bear any fruit apart from him, he says.**

**John 15:4-5**

"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

**5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing."**

**Philippians 1:11**

"being filled with the **fruits of righteousness which are BY Jesus Christ**, to the glory and praise of God."

**So which is bearing fruit? The Holy Spirit or Jesus? *It's one and the same. The Lord is the Spirit (2 Cor. 3:17). Therefore the Spirit is the Lord. And therefore the fruit of the spirit is the fruit of Christ's life living in us.***

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**The COMFORTER, HELPER, The PARAKLETOS (masculine gender in the Greek)**

**John 14:16-18**

"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper [**Comforter**], that He may abide with you forever — **17 the Spirit of TRUTH**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, **for He dwells with you and will be IN you.** 18 I will not leave you orphans; **I will come to you.**"

**But compare that now to 2 Cor. 1:3-4 (which was told to me while I was speaking. See the video). WHO is actually comforting us when we're in pain and trials? He's one and the same. He's the Spirit of God, the Parakletos. And He is GOD. One and the same. A power by itself doesn't comfort. An "it" doesn't comfort. But GOD does, and Holy Spirit – His extension of himself -- does. BUT NOT, not, not a 3<sup>rd</sup> person of God.**

**2 Corinthians 1:3-5**

**"Blessed be the GOD and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and GOD of all COMFORT, 4 WHO COMFORTS US in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."**

**Our Comforter is GOD**, working through his spirit in us. Same person. Same Being. The Lord is the spirit (2 Cor 3:17). So the Spirit is the Lord. The Helper or Comforter is GOD himself, using His Holy Spirit.

**John 15:26**

"But when **the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of TRUTH** who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me."

**WHO IS TRUTH?** Jesus says HE is truth.

"**I** am the way, the **truth** and the life" (John 14:6a).

Are you getting it? When Christ went back to Father, he promised that **He** would come live in us, **and be our life** as I often quote Galatians 2:20 and Col. 3:3-4. Didn't he promise that Father and Christ **BOTH will live in us?**

**John 14:23**

Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; *and My Father will love him, and WE will come to him and MAKE OUR HOME with him.*"

When we have the Holy Spirit in us, this also allows us to be IN GOD. Not something we often speak about – being IN HIM, IN God. That's another sermon. But note these next verses carefully.

**1 John 4:12-16**

"No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, **God abides in us**, and His love has been perfected in us.

13 By this we know **that WE abide in HIM, and He in us**, because He has given us of His **Spirit**. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world. 15 Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, **and he in God**. 16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, **and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.**"

(More on the video about being "in him" and how that happens.) I can be in God the Father through perfect Jesus. "...Your life is hidden in Christ, in God".

**John 16:7**

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the **Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.**"

**"I will send HIM" – because the word "comforter" (Parakletos) in Greek is in the masculine tense.** So is "spirit" (pneuma), so the translators have translated those words as "he" or "him". We don't use masculine or feminine tenses when speaking of powers, but we do of persons.

This can make Comforter sound like a separate being, and the Trinitarians play on this verse a lot. So often even people who do not believe in the trinity often make the Comforter or Power of God, to be separate from God. In effect, that's making the Comforter a separate person who speaks, guides, and interacts with us.

**But the Comforter is another way of speaking of God's Holy Spirit – which is GOD'S presence, for HE is the Comforter.** HE is the one who speaks as I showed

earlier. HE – Jesus in this case – is TRUTH (**John 14:6**). It's not a contradiction but speaking of God and God's "extensions".

**John 16:13-14**

"However, when **He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth**; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you"

**\*\* GOD is EVERYWHERE, BY HIS SPIRIT – But it's GOD'S presence. It's GOD who is everywhere through his spirit.**

**In Psalm 139:1-5**, David says "YOU know everything about me. YOU have searched me and known me."

**Now notice the wording carefully associated with God's Spirit.**

**Psalms 139:7-8**

**Where can I go from Your SPIRIT? (God's spirit is everywhere)**

Or where can I flee **FROM YOUR PRESENCE?**

8 If I ascend into heaven, **YOU** are there;

If I make my bed in hell (*sheol* – grave), behold, **YOU** are there."

Every translation I checked says "from your PRESENCE". The Holy Spirit is God himself. But not a separate being. Holy Spirit is GOD. God IS holy spirit.

**Remember again and again 2 Cor 3:17 – The LORD IS The SPIRIT".**

God is on his throne, but by his Holy Spirit he is everywhere in the universe.

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**Doesn't the Holy Spirit guarantee our salvation? Or does GOD, of course do this himself by USING his extension, His spirit?**

**Ephesians 1:13b-14**

"...you were **sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the GUARANTEE of our inheritance** until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."

**Philippians 1:6 (Context is GOD).**

"being confident of this very thing, **that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it** until the day of Jesus Christ;"

The one who began a good work in you and me – by calling us – and then having his Son continuing to work in us—WILL complete our salvation. **GOD seals us. GOD guarantees our salvation.** God is not just a power. God is not an "it". GOD IS SPIRIT (John 4:24) and holy.

Are you getting the idea how the Holy Spirit is the PRESENCE, The ESSENCE, OF GOD HIMSELF. Holy Spirit is not an IT. Not JUST a power.

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**ARE YOU SEEING IT? Holy Spirit IS GOD. Is Christ. So when we speak of the Holy Spirit helping us overcome for example, is it some POWER, or an IT?**

The one overcoming in us is Jesus, who is now our life. Like Paul says in Gal 2:20 – I was crucified with Christ. I no longer live... but Christ is my life.

**Colossians 3:3-4**

**“For you died, and *your life is hidden with Christ in God.* 4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.”**

**1 John 4:4b**

**“... because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world”.**

**John 16:33**

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; **but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.**”

**MAKE OVERCOMING personal. *In my Constant Contact program,* I now say several times a day now, directly to Jesus Christ:**

“Lord, don't stand outside my door knocking anymore, like you do to Laodiceans. I'm opening my door to you. COME IN, Master. Come in to my life. Sit with me, have dinner with me. Teach me. Correct me, but please correct me in your gentleness.

“Teach me your word. Give me YOUR righteousness, give me your clean mind so I never desire wrong thoughts again. Let this mind be in me, Lord, that was in YOU, as you say in Phil 2:5. BE my LIFE, my King....I repent of stepping away from you. Transform my mind with your presence; don't let me be conformed to the world, but transformed by YOU. ....”

**Romans 5:20-21**

“Moreover the law entered that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, 21 so that as sin reigned in death, **even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**”

**Titus 3:4-7**

“But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and **renewing of the Holy Spirit,** 6 **whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,** 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

\*\*\*\* \*\*

**So the Holy Spirit IS the person of Jesus Christ or God, a person. But NOT a third separate person of a trinity. NO, the Holy Spirit is the PERSON of GOD the Father and Christ the Son of GOD - - OR how they EXTEND themselves within us and in the universe. But Holy Spirit is GOD, not a 3<sup>rd</sup> person of God.**

**All these verses I've been reading are about a person, not an "it" or just a power. It's all about God the Father working through His son, working through their Spirit in us.**

\*\*\*\* \*\* Let's see one more case of the PERSON qualities.

**We're called the Temple of the Holy Spirit. But we're also told we are the temple of the Living God the Father.** Is that a contradiction, or is it explaining clearly: *the Holy Spirit is the person of GOD himself being extended into us.* NOT a third person, but GOD himself. Imagine, YOU are now the dwelling place of GOD, who chose you.

**1 Corinthians 6:19**

**"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?"**

**2 Corinthians 6:16-18**

**"And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the TEMPLE of the LIVING GOD. As God has said:**

**"I will dwell in them And walk among them.  
I will be their God, And they shall be My people."**

17 Therefore

"Come out from among them and be separate," says the Lord.

"Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.

**18 'I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters', says the Lord Almighty."**

**So I hope THIS has been helpful and inspiring to you. Holy Spirit is God. God is Holy Spirit. The Lord is the Spirit. Temple of God is the same as temple of Holy Spirit.**

**YOU'RE the temple. You're receiving very GOD HIMSELF. You become the house of God and His presence.**

Now I feel I can understand all those verses that spoke of God's spirit like a person or personality – like lying to the spirit, grieving the spirit, hearing the spirit, being led by the spirit and so on.

God bless you all and may God work mightily more and more in us by His presence, his spirit.

Closing prayer.