

Who- or what – is God’s Holy Spirit, part 2

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All scriptures are NKJV unless otherwise noted.

Series: Holy Spirit

Key words: Holy spirit, spirit of God,

Summary: *Is God’s spirit just the power and force of God? Or is Holy Spirit the third person of three equal persons of the Trinity, called “the triune godhead”? Doesn’t Holy Spirit intercede for us in our prayers with groanings and words that can’t be uttered (Rom 8:26-27)? Why we baptize into the name of Jesus ONLY. Find out in this teaching. WHO is actually speaking when “the Spirit said”? WHO is “the Spirit”? What’s the normal process before we can receive Holy Spirit? What are the fatal flaws of the Trinity doctrine? ALL this and so much more in this teaching.*

Most believers want to receive, have, and use God’s Holy Spirit. You do, and I do. Do you understand God’s Holy Spirit to be

- an *EQUAL* third person to the closed group of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in a holy Trinity?
- Or do you think of Holy Spirit as simply God’s POWER?

In part 1, I began showing how BOTH views are either not true or fall short of understanding Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit includes God’s power or force – but so many other verses make it clear that Holy Spirit is so much more than just God’s power. Please be sure you’ve studied part 1 before hearing or watching this Part 2 on God’s Holy Spirit.

This teaching will likely require some of you to be **willing to UNLEARN** some views you’ve held – unless you can prove me wrong – and to **REPLACE** old ideas you held with what Scripture actually says. It’s humbling and hard to unlearn. If you think I’m wrong, after hearing both Parts 1 and 2, write me.

Greetings again everyone, I’m Philip Shields, host and founder of this website Light on the Rock. Here God the Father is Most High, and is the Head of Jesus (1 Cor. 11:2-3). Christ is our Light, Christ is our ROCK. Our website lighthouse, unknown to me when we chose it, is the one on **Split-Rock on Lake Superior** in Minnesota, USA.

Thank you to all of you from all over the world who watch or listen and read our material. Please share this site with others and check out my blogs also. We’re also working to make it easier to leave comments on the sermons **leave comments.** When you open up a Sermon, as we’ll show you – at the

top right once you click on a sermon is a way to also LIKE a sermon. That helps us a lot if you do that.

We now have almost 400 sermons as audio and video sermons and over 400 blogs, or our short articles. We'll soon have a link to an EASY LIST of all our material.

Right now you can go to the HOME PAGE, click on Sermons (audio) or Videos or Blogs and you'll be able to see every single one if you scroll down below. Here we've clicked on Sermons (meaning the audio sermons) – and this is what you'll see. If you keep scrolling, the sermons are shown one after the other. **The Series box** is supposed to show sermons by category, but it badly needs updating, which we hope to do soon.

Sermons



Yeshua/Jesus REVEALED throughout Old Testament - NEW

Sun, Jul 16, 2023

by **Philip Shields** | Duration: 1 hr 6 mins 51 secs

Be aware also our website includes other sermons on the Holy Spirit such as:

- **22 Things the Holy Spirit does in our lives.** I recommend you listen to this.
<https://lightontherock.org/index.php/sermons/message/22-things-the-holy-spirit-is-doing>
- **Bearing FRUIT of the spirit.** By the way, it says “the FRUIT IS...” though it seems so many say “The fruits (plural) ARE...” but that’s not what the Bible says. There are reasons for that.
To find my sermon on that on the website, use **the Search bar**, top right of home page, **and type in “Bearing Fruit”** and that sermon will pop up.

Let’s move on.

Remember, unless we have the spirit of God or Christ (Rom. 8:9), and are led by Holy Spirit (v.14) – we are not even considered children of God. We’re not considered “His.” And without God’s Holy Spirit it will be impossible to bear fruit of God’s spirit or ever be in the image of Christ or God. We won’t have his power or nature without the Holy Spirit.

How does one receive the Holy Spirit? We normally would receive God's spirit after we respond to God's call, REPENT deeply first, then are **baptized** by immersion, and then have the **laying on of hands** where we ask God to send his Holy Spirit to the one just newly baptized. **Acts 2:38-39** explains this well. I have sermons on repentance and baptism.

CORNELIUS: That's the normal sequence with the exception of when God wanted to be super clear that **He was calling Gentiles also now to be included in His chosen people.** So in **Acts 10**, we can read how God's spirit descended on Cornelius' gentile household *before* they were baptized, to make that point clearly to Peter. This was the exception to the rule.

But in every other time we read that Holy Spirit came after baptism and laying on of hands – as in the case in **Acts 19:4-5**. Also for **Acts 8**, when **Philip baptized in Samaria**, he waited for men ordained to the ministry to lay hands on the Samaritans. So Jerusalem apostles sent Peter and John out for that, and the Samaritans received God's Holy Spirit when the apostles' hands were laid on them. (**Acts 8:14-17**).

BAPTIZED into the name of Jesus ONLY

And notice they were baptized into the name of Jesus only, EVERY SINGLE TIME – and NOT baptized into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, **as Matthew 28:19** says. *EVERY case of baptism, without a single exception, says they were baptized into Christ only.*

The words “in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit” were added in the fourth century by the new Catholic church seeking to please Constantine, confirmed by historian **Eusebius**. What Jesus actually had said in Matthew 28:19 was to “make disciples of all nations *in my name...*”

And we KNOW that is true, because in every single instance of how baptisms were described, it was always about being baptized in to Jesus. We become a part of HIM, and HIS body.

So now when I baptize, which means “IMMERSE,” I always do it **just in the name of Jesus ONLY as per these examples: Acts 2:38; 8:12, 16; Acts 10:48; Acts 19:4-5; Romans 6:3.**

For some of you, this will take some UNLEARNING of the errors of the past and replacing it with the truth we see now.

So a favorite verse of those who insist on the 3-person Trinity is Matt 28:19, but the words there about “Father, Son and Holy Spirit” were not in the original, according to historian **Eusebius** and according to what the apostles and ministers actually did.

When we receive Holy Spirit – we are immersed into the very BODY of Christ by God’s presence, by His Set-apart, holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13).

1 Corinthians 12:13

“**For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body** – whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free – and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”

Romans 12:4-5 says God’s Holy Spirit makes us all one body in Christ, just as you have different members or “parts” of your own body – arm, hand, mouth, nose, legs, etc. – but they together form your one body, so we also are many, but form ONE BODY, one BRIDE, who will marry Christ.

So the Holy Spirit – as I showed in part 1 – is how God and Christ come to LIVE inside us to lead and beget us into the family of God. Holy Spirit is God’s extension *of himself* inside 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.**"

1 John 4:13

“**By this we know that we abide in Him, and HE in us, BECAUSE He has given us of His SPIRIT” .**

YES, we can refer to Holy Spirit as “he, him, his” because as I showed in part 1, God’s spirit is God’s presence. “The LORD is the Spirit” – 2 Cor. 3:17a. Holy Spirit is God or Christ. I showed many examples of that. Many examples that seemed to give personhood to the Holy Spirit were actually pointing to God and Christ. See Part 1.

More examples of Holy Spirit actually being God himself working through his extension.

WHO LEADS US? Holy Spirit or God THROUGH his Holy Spirit? We are led by God’s spirit (Romans 8:14) – but scripture is CLEAR: The LORD is our shepherd *who leads us* to still waters and in the paths of righteousness (Ps 23:1-3).

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Holy Spirit is also our comforter or Helper

John 14:16-18

“And I will pray the Father, and **He will give you another Helper, 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.”

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

“**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.”**

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BONUS POINT not in the audio: CREATION. God certainly used his Spirit during creation, but the Creator is defined as being God himself, working THROUGH Jesus Christ (Ephesians 3:9b; Hebrews 1:1-2). Sometimes Trinitarian use the argument that Holy Spirit as a third Person created all things.

Colossians 1:15-17 is SO clear on this. Everything was created by Christ and everything continues to be sustained by him. So God used his spirit, no doubt, but the one actually called Creator is the Word of God, following the orders of God Most High.

Colossians 1:15-17 Holman Bible

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation;
16 because by Him everything was created, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—
all things have been created through Him and for Him.

17 **He is before all things, and by Him all things hold together.”**

**** **

Holy Spirit is the SEAL and guarantee of our calling being finished to the end, and Phil 1:6 says GOD is faithful and will finish what HE started in us.

SO those and many more were given. Holy Spirit IS GOD himself moving, acting, living and being THROUGH his spirit. We'll see more of these today.

Let's briefly look at some of the fatal flaws in the Trinity doctrine, developed by the Catholic church in early fourth century.

TRINITY

The DOCTRINE of the trinity didn't really come about until the early 300's in the Catholic church. There was no real discussion of it in the New Testament, among the early brethren, but it became a rallying point to unite Catholic Christianity under Constantine, the pagan emperor who wasn't baptized (by sprinkling in his case) by Arian bishop Eusebius on Constantine's death bed.

The main scripture used by Trinitarians is Matthew 28:19 – where the words “name of the father, son and Holy Spirit” were added at about the same time. In reality, there is no basis here for Trinity.

CO-EQUAL?

The Trinity doctrine requires Father, Son and Holy Spirit to all be EQUAL to each other, right in their definition. But that's so easily shown to be unbiblical.

God the Father is the GOD of Jesus (Eph 1:3, 17; John 20:17). Jesus said his father is “GREATER than I” and said repeatedly that Father sent him. God the Father and Yeshua/Jesus clearly are not equal in authority.

Ephesians 1:3A

“Blessed be the GOD and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...”

Ephesians 1:17a

“that The GOD OF OUR LORD Jesus Christ, the Father of glory...”

John 14:28b

'I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I.”

1 Corinthians 11:3

“But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.”

God and Jesus are equal only to being the same KIND of Being – of the God kind. But Jesus definitely is under the authority of God the Father.

I recommend you listen to the sermons on our “Breathtaking Destiny” we have with God. Search bar “Breathtaking destiny.” If this is a new concept to you, it will blow you away to see what God is planning for mankind who come to believe in Jesus and have God as our father. A closed Godhead, such as the Catholic trinity, does not allow for what God has in mind.

And one more problem with Trinity: Holy Spirit gets LEFT OUT .

John 1:1-3 – in the beginning was the Word who was God and with God. There’s no mention of the Holy Spirit in this description.

John 10:30 “I and my father are ONE.”

Why didn’t Jesus say, “I and my Father and the Holy Spirit are one.” He didn’t.

John 17:22b – “that they may be ONE just as you and I are one.” Again, Holy Spirit is totally left out of the descriptions of oneness.

Also in the Epistles, though the churches are extended greetings from God the Father and Jesus Christ, no mention is made of the Holy Spirit. Here are a couple examples of many:

Ephesians 1:2

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” [No Holy Spirit mentioned]

Colossians 1:2

To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

WHAT is “Holy” all about?

HAGIOS/QADOSH (or Kadosh): means “set-apart for God’s divine and sacred use; perfectly pure.”

Holy Spirit is God’s “SET-APART spirit.” HOLY in Greek “hagios” – meaning SET APART, sanctified, for God’s use, often translated as “Saint” or holy ones. It has to do with God’s use, never for just common use. That’s also where the idea of “set apart” comes in.

The Hebrew word for HOLY is “qadhosh” -- or “Qodhesh” for HOLINESS. Again, set apart for God’s use. Someone or something is holy, set-apart, only when God’s own presence is on it and it’s dedicated solely for God. If used for common use, then what was holy, set-apart, no longer is but is profaned. This applies to our lives and our bodies as well.

So for example, God put his presence in the seventh day at creation and set it apart, made it holy, from the other days. This is never said of Sunday or other days except the annual holy days.

Genesis 2:3 Holman Apologetics

“God blessed the seventh day and *declared it holy*, for on it He rested from His work of creation”

So in the fourth commandment we are told to *keep* it set-apart as HOLY time, remembering when God stopped what he was doing and rested. To rest is the main meaning behind “shabbat”: stop the regular things and rest. It is not even to stay locked up in church services for 7-8 hours or more as some do.

ONLY God’s presence makes something holy or set-apart for God’s use. This was said to MOSES at the burning bush:

Exodus 3:5

Then He said, "Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground."

Yep, when God’s there, even *dirt* becomes holy. Mankind is made of dirt. In God’s presence, shoes come off as a symbol of being in servitude to His Holiness. (ONLY GOD should ever be referred to as “His Holiness.”) So this is why priests served barefooted in the tabernacle and temple because they were on holy ground and it showed their complete subordination to God.

Even when we sin and repent, even the big, ugly, most awful of sins, when Holy God accepts us – yes even we, dirty we – are now washed and cleansed of every sin in the blood of Christ and can become holy saints, set-apart for God’s purpose because of His presence in us. He can make you holy if he makes dirt holy.

GOD is holy because he is set apart from anything else called “God” and in him is nothing common, evil, dark, or profane. You and I become set-apart/holy, because we are coming out of Babylon, set-apart as God’s special, chosen people. And yes, we still stumble, sometimes awfully, but we get back up in Christ and start again on our SET-APART HOLY LIFE.

We are called to come out of the world. We are the “ekklesia” – Greek word meaning “called out” of the world, and translated “church”. Church is composed of those called out from the world.

Ek = “out.” Kaleo = “to call.”

The Latin form is ecclesia. Greek – ekklesia.

It is God in us, by His Spirit – that makes us a NEW CREATION in Christ as 2 Cor. 5:17 says. We should no longer look at each other the way we used to be.

2 Corinthians 5:16-17

“Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer.

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

I know when you or I sin, we feel anything but holy – but we repent and please realize that Paul explains in **Romans 7:14-21** that it is the “old you” – the part that still has the carnal fleshly nature that sins. “Therefore it is no longer I who sins, but sin that dwells in me” (Romans 7:21-25, please read it).

The REAL Paul, he explains, stands uncondemned (Rom 8:1), and the real you and I are **NOT “in the flesh but in the spirit” (Romans 8:9)**. So that’s hard for us to accept because we are sure aware how imperfect we still are. But we still remain “holy ones” – or “saints” – as even the very imperfect Corinthians were called “saints” (1 Cor. 1:2).

So the real you and me is NOT the old you that *still exists* and that we sometimes still succumb to, as Paul explains in Romans 7.

The real me and you is the one that is now “in Christ” – a NEW creation. HE is the new me, the life that God sees. “Christ who is our life...” **Col 3:3-4**. We aren’t even supposed to think of *one another* the way we used to be (**2 Cor. 5:16-17**) even if or when we still slip back into sin, but not as our way of life. We are new creations now, new lives now, even though we still sometimes fall down. The new creation is made possible by *this wonderful Holy Spirit we have in us*, which really is Christ himself in us.

The spirit part of us now, by God’s Holy Spirit and presence of Christ, is now the real you and me.

We put Christ on as our covering, including the armor of God. Every single point of that armor really is Christ.

UNDERSTANDING SPIRIT

We mortals simply cannot understand the things of the SPIRIT or someone who is spirit unless GOD opens our mind (1 Cor. 2:11) by giving us of Himself.

Again, what IS Holy Spirit:

Holy Spirit is God's very own set-apart MIND, PRESENCE, his divine POWER, his divine NATURE, his holy SEED. Holy Spirit is GOD himself showing his presence in us. Remember 2 Cor. 3:17a "The Lord IS the Spirit".

But Holy Spirit is NOT a third separate person working co-equally with God and Christ. God the Father is "God MOST High." He's the Head of Christ.

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."

God's spirit also begets us into the family of God, as we read earlier, by the SEED of God.

1 Peter 1:22-23

"Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23 **having been born again, not of corruptible SEED but incorruptible**, through the word of God which lives and abides forever..."

The Holy Spirit is the PRESENCE of God inside us. Where can I go from your presence, O GOD..." (Psalm 139:5).

That Spirit of God couples with our spirit in man, **to make us ONE SPIRIT with Christ (1 Cor. 6:17)**, just as when Adam and Eve came together, they became one flesh. This verse is very deep and requires focus.

1 Corinthians 6:17

“But he who is joined to the Lord is ONE SPIRIT with Him.”

The Holy Spirit is God’s divine **presence**, God’s **DIVINE NATURE** and God’s divine **POWER**, and God’s divine **SEED** -- now inside us.

Holy Spirit IS NOT SEPARATE FROM GOD

BUT, Holy Spirit is not separate from God. It’s not that there is the Father and the Son but then some of you see God’s spirit as separate from God. NO. Think now, about what I’m about to say:

If you or I make the Holy Spirit a separate entity in any way, apart from GOD, have you not just made your own version of trinity now? By doing that, you’re showing God the Father, Jesus the SON of God – and over there is the Holy Spirit. No. Holy Spirit is NOT separate.

God’s Holy Spirit is God’s very own presence. “WHERE can I go from your Presence, O GOD?” – **Psalm 139:7-12**

Psalms 139:7-8

“Where can I go to escape Your Spirit? Where can I flee from **Your presence?**

8 If I go up to heaven, **You** are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, **You** are there.”

Notice that David equates the Spirit, with “Your presence,” with God himself. Now here next is another favorite of Trinitarians who use Rom 8:26-27 to try to prove Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead.

WHO IS “the Spirit” who INTERCEDES for you when you pray?**Romans 8:26-27**

“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”

This passage was both heartwarming as well as a bit nebulous. How could this Spirit power, this spirit “IT,” make intercession for our prayers if it wasn’t a person? Another favorite of the Trinitarians, but let’s keep reading.

The One who really understands humanity would be Jesus Christ. Shouldn’t it be clear that HE intercedes?

Just SIX verses later in fact, Paul clarifies who is actually interceding, but yes – using the agency and extension of himself, the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:33-34

33 “Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

34 Who is he who condemns? **It is CHRIST who died, and furthermore is also risen,** who is even at the right hand of God, ***who also makes INTERCESSION FOR US.***”

Once AGAIN, the Holy Spirit prays for us, with us, with groans – and remember this: The LORD IS The SPIRIT (2 Cor. 3:17). JESUS is the SPIRIT who makes intercession for us. God is PRESENT inside us (John 14:23) along with Christ, -- and we find out this is done by their powerful Holy Spirit, which I don’t think most of us even begin to tap, use or understand completely. Or to completely grasp. I’m sure I still also have a lot to learn about how God comes inside us by His spirit. How does that work?

Anyway, in this same chapter, 6 VERSES later, we’re told Paul was talking about Jesus himself. It certainly is more fitting that it be Christ who intercedes and prays with us, because:

- He the One who came down from heaven to be simply a man, though also Son of God. Phil 2.
- He absolutely knows what it’s like to be human
- HE was the one tempted in all points, yet without sin.
- He went through unbelievable rejection from his own people.
- He was abandoned, betrayed and denied EVEN by most of his closest disciples.
- Then he went through excruciating crucifixion. He died so you wouldn’t have to face the second death.

So HE understands! Jesus is the BEST one who can intercede for us. So why does it say *the Holy Spirit* makes intercession? Because again, “The Lord is the spirit” (2 Cor. 3:17 again). But here it’s ultra clear who the intercessor is, and it’s NOT the so-called third person of the godhead. I hope this is becoming clear to you now.

Of course he can intercede as Jesus is the High Priest who has felt our pain, feels humanity, was tempted and tested in all points, yet without sin.

Hebrews 4:15

“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”

Hebrews 7:23-25

“Also there were many priests because they were prevented by death from continuing. 24 But He (Jesus Christ), because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood.

25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, **since HE always lives to make intercession for them.**”

And one mediator between man and God – Jesus Christ. (1 Timothy 2:5).

1 Timothy 2:5

“For there is one God and **one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus**”

We also have ONE Advocate – Jesus Christ the Righteous (**1 John 2:1**)

More examples of where Holy Spirit is described as Christ IN US

Christ is actually the one producing the FRUIT of the SPIRIT –
John 15:4-5 IF we abide in Jesus, we shall bear MUCH FRUIT.

Remember this fruit is not your fruit but the fruit of the spirit. The fruit of Christ. We BEAR and show the fruit of Jesus working in us.

It’s HIS fruit, as he works through His and God’s Spirit in us.

Philippians 1:11

“..being filled with **the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ**, to the glory and praise of God.”

Do you remember Paul saying, “I planted, Apollos watered, but GOD gave the increase” (1 Cor. 3:6).

*** **The GIFTS of the SPIRIT** – actually come from God above, through his Spirit but it is GOD choosing who gets what and sending them. Gifts are listed in 1 Cor. 12:4-11 and Romans 12 also.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 CJB

“Moreover, to each person is given the particular manifestation of the Spirit that will be for the common good.

8 To one, through the Spirit, is given a word of wisdom; to another, a word of knowledge, in accordance with the same Spirit;

9 to another, faith, by the same Spirit; and to another, gifts of healing, by the one Spirit; 10 to another, the working **of miracles**; to another, **prophecy**; to another, the **ability to judge between spirits**; to another, the ability to **speak in different kinds of tongues**; and to yet another, the ability to **interpret tongues**.

11 One and the same Spirit is at work in all these things, distributing to each person as he chooses.”

We’re told the Spirit distributes these gifts as he sees fit. V 11, and the gifts are through the spirit.

But from whom do the gifts actually come?

James 1:17

“EVERY good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”

1 Cor. 7:7b – “...each one has his own gift from GOD” (V. 17 also)

Pray and ask God to show you how to best use gifts He’s given you. If you don’t know what gifts he’s given you, pray for him to reveal them to you. If you listen to and practice my sermon on “Constant Contact” – you will grow in this ability to get and stay connected with our Father and with Yeshua and to hear God’s voice. It will also help you resist and defeat temptation as well – but you have to put it into practice.

Of course a GIFT is something you didn’t already have. Think about that. So someone might have an existing TALENT for music (singing, composing, playing instruments) and people may refer to that as “a great gift,” and you may use that gift to serve God’s people, and that’s great too. But it may not be a gift of the spirit or a gift from God. Although, to be fair, I guess we could say any talents we are born with are in their own way also definitely a gift from God. And we call those people “gifted.”

But it seems to me that a GIFT from *the Holy Spirit* is probably something we did not already have as a talent. What do you think? In any case, be sure to use

whatever talents and gifts you have – and don't bury them into the ground!
USE the gifts you receive.

The Bible LISTS the GIFTS of the Holy Spirit 1 Cor. 12:4-11 as --- the word of knowledge, increased faith, the gifts of healing, the gift of miracles, prophecy (may include public speaking generally), the discernment of spirits, speaking in other languages or tongues, interpretation of tongues. I don't know if that's the total complete list and nothing more, or if it was just meant to give us an idea of what could be gifts. We could sure use more gifts like those.

Paul goes on to say though, that **the greatest gifts of all were faith, hope and love**, and the greatest gift is to be full of God's love (1 Cor. 12:31; 1 Cor. 13:13).

1 Corinthians 12:31

“But earnestly **desire the best gifts**. And yet I show you a more excellent way.”

1 Corinthians 13:13

“And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

Romans 12:6-8 also lists several more gifts, though he doesn't clearly say they are from God's Holy Spirit. But he lists gifts like ministry/serving, teaching, exhorting, giving liberally, leading and so on.

God's greatest gifts to us, **have to be offering us HIS eternal life** through the resurrected life of His Son being lived in us by his Holy Spirit. But it's actually Yeshua – Jesus himself – living in us. And Yeshua – Jesus – is such a GIFT himself. God so loved us all that HE GAVE us, he gifted us with his only begotten son.

When GOD SPEAKS through His Holy Spirit (REV 2-3)

There's quite a bit more in the audio about examples of hearing God's voice and acting on it. I recommend you listen to it.

Here's ONE example I didn't use last time but let's use it now. In Revelations 2 and 3 we are introduced to **the seven churches of Asia Minor** – Ephesus to Laodicea, seven churches on a mail route. We are told after each message is given to each congregation that ALL of us are to “HEAR what the SPIRIT SAYS” to the churches. Doesn't that sound like the Holy

Spirit is the one speaking, giving it personhood, as many trinitarians would believe?

So let me compare the statements of who is actually speaking. Here's what is said to Ephesus, the busy and active church that had lost its first love:

Revelation 2:7a

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the SPIRIT SAYS to the churches."

That is repeated to each of the seven church congregations: Rev. 2:11, 17, 29; Rev 3:6, 13, 22. But WHO is actually speaking? Could it be Jesus, using the "extension" of God – his SPIRIT – to be the means to speak to us?

After all, as I covered last time, **2 Cor. 3:17 says CLEARLY, "The Lord is the Spirit."** Let me say it again: "The Lord IS the Spirit." And we're told in Hebrews 1:2 that nowadays, God speaks to us by His Son.

Hebrews 1:1-2

"God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,

2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

Now WHO was the one actually speaking to the seven churches of Revelation 2 and 3? It's so clear, even though we're supposed to hear what the SPIRIT says to the churches. Remember there were no chapter breaks in the original writings. Before our present Rev 2, ***the end of Rev 1 clearly identifies the speaker. I'll post the scripture but just summarize it.***

Revelation 1:10-14

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and **I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,** 11 saying, "**I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,**" and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and **in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the SON OF MAN,** clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

Let's jump to v 16-19 for time's sake:

Revelation 1:16-19

16 He had in His right hand **seven stars**, out of His mouth went a **sharp two-edged sword**, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. 17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. **But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. 18 I am He who lives, and WAS DEAD, and behold, I am alive forevermore.** Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death."

Now continue reading and see that the One speaking to each of the 7 churches is clearly Jesus the Christ, though we're also told to hear what the SPIRIT says to each. (And again, "The Lord is the Spirit" – 2 Cor. 3:17.)

Revelation 2:1 (this is clearly Jesus – compare Rev. 1:13, 16)

"To the angel of the church of Ephesus write,
'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:

Revelation 2:8

"And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write,
'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life..'"

So do you see this? We're told to heed what the Holy Spirit says, and yet it's clearly the Christ who is speaking, he who was dead and came back to life!

So I hope it's becoming clearer that yes, the SPIRIT of God and of Christ is one and the same spirit, and when the Holy Spirit speaks to us, it's really Christ himself dwelling inside of us who is speaking by and through his Spirit, his extension of himself, but not separate from himself. NOT a third person.

Let's leave it at that. Praise God for his wonderful Holy Spirit, Christ and Father in us.

What a wonderful gift it is to have the very presence, power, divine nature, and seed of God working inside us. We can exercise the Holy Spirit in us by letting Christ truly be our life and following His lead in us. Hallelujah, praise God.

CLOSING PRAYER.