

The Foundation of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is one of three persons of the Trinity, who is completely and fully God. Each person of the Holy Spirit has the whole fullness of God's being in himself, and especially in the church. I think it may be harder for us to think of the Holy Spirit as being a real person, because we can't visualize the Holy Spirit in a physical way, like we can of the God and Jesus. How do you picture God? What about Jesus? However, he is equally a person with the Father and Son. The Holy Spirit functions as a distinct person in the Godhead, and embodies the fundamental perfections that define God's nature. These divine qualities unique to God in both kind and extent, confirm the Spirit's full deity. The Holy Spirit possesses divine personhood in the same manner. The Holy Spirit is God, possessing divine attributes such as: Eternality, Holiness, Omnipresence, and Omniscience, Truth, and Omnipotence. I'm going to go over each one., and explain a little bit about them.

The Spirit Possesses Seven Divine Core Attributes:

1. Eternality- God has actually existed for all of eternity. He's the beginning and the end, the one" who is and who was and who is to come." He is outside of time, but yet also acts within time, as we know it. God makes things happen at just the right time, and not when we may want it. We can't see the whole span of time, because we are limited. But God can see it all and because of that, He is worthy of being trusted, when it comes to our plans.

II Pet. 3:8 tells us, But, do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

Example of God making a good thing happen at just the right time:

Chris getting a check from the side jobs he has had, exactly when we need it.

Example of bad thing that happened when we didn't want it, but was for our good:

All the obstacles that we faced on the trip to Chattanooga for the Karate tournament.

2. Holiness- Holiness characterizes the Spirit's nature, which operates on a fundamentally different level

than holiness in created beings. The Spirit is sanctity itself meaning the state of being holy, sacred. Not someone who achieves holiness through effort or progress, but the very source and embodiment of it. In the Trinity, holiness from the Spirit represents the disclosure of love existing between the Father and

the Son, described by Paul as the bond of perfectness. A critical distinction separates the Spirit's holiness

from that of created beings. For the holy powers, being made holy comes from participation, whereas for the Spirit, holiness is nature. The Holy Spirit is the source of holiness. Just as the

Father is holy by nature, and the Son is holy by nature, so too is the Spirit of truth holy by nature. Creation's nature is to have holiness as the prize for its progress and for becoming pleasing to God, and by nature it employs self-determination and is capable of moving itself toward either direction by choosing the good or the bad. The Spirit transcends this entirely- holiness isn't something the Spirit pursues, or acquires, but something the Spirit eternally possesses and communicates to others. Since the Spirit comes from God, and discloses His holy character, and is the instrument of God's holy purposes in the world, the Spirit also is absolutely holy. The common title, "Holy Spirit", underscores the ethical perfection of the third person of the Godhead.

Example: Luke 1:35- the Holy Spirit descends on Mary, and the child born will be called the Son of God.

3. Omnipresent- The prefix "Omni", originates in Latin, and means "all". The Spirit is existing everywhere at the same time. He's attentively present to those that call upon His name, who intercede for others, who adore God, who petition, and those who pray earnestly for forgiveness. Supremely he is present in the person of His son, the Lord Jesus Christ, and mystically present in the universal church that covers the earth, and which against the gates of hell will not prevail.

Ps. 139: 7-10 says, where can I go from your spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and

dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

4. Omniscience means complete knowledge of all things, and belongs to the Spirit. God knows our thoughts, and motives, ? and they can be both convicting and comforting at the same time. He has perfect knowledge about everything, and what is true. Only those with God's spirit can understand the truths revealed by God, Including Christ who was crucified for human sinfulness.

I Cor. 2:10-11- These are the things God has revealed to us by his spirit. The Spirit searches all things

and even the depths of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of God within them? In the same way, no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

There is no place hidden from Him anywhere.

5. Truth- The Spirit serves as the "Spirit of truth," dwelling within believers permanently, while teaching all things and bringing Christ's words to remembrance. The Spirit guides believers into complete truth and announces future events. He intercedes for believers in their weakness, even when they lack words to pray, communicating their deepest needs to God.

John 14:16-17 and I will ask the father, and he will give you another advocate to help you, and be with you forever- the Spirit of truth. The world cannot except him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

6. Omnipotence- God is in total control of Himself and His creation. God has no limits, and He has unlimited power to create, sustain, and control things, and nothing is too hard for Him.

Looking up at the stars, reminds us that He can create something as big as the whole universe, and

something as small as a cell, or an atom that can't be seen with the naked eye.

Jer. 32:17- Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.

7. Omnibenevolence- It means perfectly just, all-loving, fully merciful, or any number of other qualities, depending on precisely how "good" is understood. Since love constitutes God's essential nature, and God is infinite in being, his love extends infinitely-it cannot be constrained any more than his nature itself can be bounded. Divine love operates independently of human merit or worthiness. He demonstrated that his love was eternal through Christ's sacrificial death.

Ex. 34:6 says, The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth.

Symbols of the Holy Spirit

1. Fire- representing purification and passion.

Example- Ex. 14:24 tells us that sometimes we see the Holy Spirit Himself often in a flame, like the

Pillar of fire in the desert guiding Israel, and in Acts 2:1-4, when the tongues of fire that was

on each disciple, when they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

2. Water- representing refreshing and spiritual life. The Holy Spirit is rivers of living water, he quenches

your thirst.

Example: John 6:35, says, Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever believes in me shall

never thirst.

3. Wind/breathe- represents life and divine power.

Example: John 3:8, says, the wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell

where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the spirit.

4. Dove- representing peace and purity. The Holy Spirit came down in bodily form.

Example: John 1:32, says, Then John gave his testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a

dove, and He remained on Him".

Example Matt. 3:16-17 says, when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and

behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and

Coming to rest on Him.

The Qualities of a Dove Versus Pigeons

Dove

Pigeon

Don't fight

Known to fight

Doesn't like loud noises

Doesn't mind noise

Not territorial

Very territorial

Mate for life

Can have several mates.

1. The Spirit of God calls us to peace. Peace is an inner quiet that comes from the Holy Spirit, assuring us

that all will be well. We can let go of anxiety and stress and rest in God's goodness.

Ex. Col. 3:15 says, Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one

body.

2. The Spirit of God is not territorial. We are not called to be pigeons, fighting and marking our territory.

We are called to be peacemakers, particularly with fellow believers. Don't let differences of opinion

sever the bond of Christ or talking bad about others, and gossiping.

3. The Spirit of God reminds us that we are wed to Christ- our mate for life. When the Holy Spirit fills us,

he reminds us that our allegiance is to Christ, and to stay centered on our first love. Seek to know the

presence of Christ in your life every day.

Rev. 2:4-5 says, "Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love. Remember

therefore, from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you

quickly and remove your lampstand from its place-unless you repent."

Col. 3:14- Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony.

Strive to be a Dove!