

IS THE HOLY GHOST AN ACTUAL PERSON OR IS IT SOME KIND OF INFLUENCE?

For the record, the “Holy Ghost” and “Holy Spirit” are one and the same. He is a person, not an “it.” The Holy Spirit is DEITY, one of three members [personalities] of the “Godhead.” We read of the Godhead in Acts 17:29, “...we ought not to think that the **Godhead** is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s device.”

Making up the Godhead are:

- **God the Father** (John 6:27; Rom. 1:7; 15:6),
- **God the Son** (John 5:18; Titus 2:13; 2 Peter 1:1)
- **God the Holy Spirit** (Matt 3:16; Acts 5:3-4; Eph. 4:30).

All three personalities are “God,” i.e., they each possess the divine nature and attributes of “deity.”

The Holy Spirit is not simply an influence or some mystical phenomenon. He is as real as God the Father and God the Son.

The Bible is the word of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 6:17; 2 Peter 1:21). It was given by the direction of God the Father (John 16:13; 2 Tim. 3:16-17).

The Bible will be used to judge all mankind in the “last day” (John 12:48-50; Rev. 20:12). All must obey His word in order to be saved from their sins.

In Acts 5:3-4, the Holy Spirit is called “God.”

- He is **eternal** — everlasting (Heb. 9:14),
- **Omniscient** — all knowing (1 Cor. 2:10-11),

- **Omnipotent** — all powerful (Gen. 1:1-2,26),

- **Omnipresent** — everywhere (Psa. 139:7-11).

The Spirit is spoken of as having many other attributes, some of which are:

- He **speaks** (1 Tim. 4:1),
- Has **knowledge** (1 Cor. 2:11),
- Has **affections** (Rom. 15:30),
- Can be **grieved** (Eph. 4:30),
- Can be **blasphemed** (Matt. 12:31-32),
- Can be **resisted** (Acts 7:51),
- Can be **lied to** (Acts 5:3).

Through the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit produces:

- **Faith** (Rom. 10:17; John 20:30-31),
- **Gives understanding** (Psalm 119:104),
- **Converts** (1 Peter 1:23),
- **Saves** (1 Cor. 15:1-2),
- **Sanctifies** (John 17:17),
- **Cleanses** (John 15:3),
- **Purifies** (1 Peter 1:22),
- **Quickens** (John 6:63; Psa. 119:50),
- **Enlightens** (Psalm 119:130),
- **Leads** (Psalm 73:24; 119:105),
- **Comforts** (Rom. 15:4),
- **Produces fruit** (Col. 1:5-6),
- **Strengthens** (Rev. 12:11),
- **Regulates our lives** (1 Tim. 3:14-15),
- **Warns** (1 Cor. 4:14),
- **Guards and Makes wise** (2 Tim. 3:13-15),
- **Stirs up** (2 Peter 1:12-13),
- **Exhorts** (1 Peter 5:12).

— Garland M. Robinson