

WHAT IS MEANT BY THE “HOLY SPIRIT?”

The study of the Holy Spirit is one of the most misunderstood subjects in the Bible. The “Holy Spirit” and “Holy Ghost” are one and the same. The Holy Spirit is a masculine personality — not an “it.” We should refer to Him as “He.”

The Holy Spirit is **Deity**, one of three members of the Godhead. The word “Godhead” is a Scriptural term. Paul spoke of the Godhead at Mars’ Hill in Athens. *“Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s device”* (Acts 17:29). 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.” They each possess the nature and attributes of “deity.”

The Holy Spirit is not an influence or a mystical phenomenon. He is as real as the Father and the Son. The Bible is His word (Eph. 6:17; 2 Peter 1:21), given by the direction of God the Father (John 16:13; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). His word (the Bible) will be used to judge all humanity in the “last day” (John 12:48-50). The Holy Spirit is...

- **God** in Acts 5:3-4.
- **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),
- He **Makes Intercession** for us (Rom. 8:26),
- He **Bears Witness** (Rom. 8:16).

The Holy Spirit is referred to 264 times in the New Testament, using as many as 39 different words. Since there is so much said about the Holy Spirit in the Bible, why is there so much confusion and false teaching regarding Him? Let us remember that God is not the author of confusion, man is (1 Cor. 14:33)!

Men are the ones who have twisted the Scriptures unto his own destruction. Peter even mentioned that some Scriptures are harder to understand than others. It is these that the *“unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction”* (2 Peter 3:16). Don’t be one of them!

– Garland M. Robinson