

Understanding the Holy Spirit

There is a lot misunderstanding in the religious world concerning the nature of the Holy Spirit. -

e.g., "... God's holy spirit is not a God, not a member of a trinity, not coequal, and is not even a person... It is God's active force... may be likened to a radar beam" (The Watch Tower [Jehovah's Witnesses]. July 15, 1957. 432-3)

The Holy Spirit is a individual person, equal to the Father and the Son, not a force or an emanation of God to do His Will

The Holy Spirit IS NOT A FORCE like GRAVITY!

1. He is spoken of by Christ as a separate Person. *John 14:26* "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you. *John 15: 26* "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, *Luke 12:10* "And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him. **Jesus and Holy Spirit are SEPARATE like Jesus and the Father.** (Son, Dove, "My Son")

2. Holy Spirit possesses the characteristics of a person. unlike a force such as **GRAVITY**

a. **knowledge** - *1 Corinthians 2:11* For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

b. **love** - *Romans 15:30* Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me...

c. **will** - *1 Cor. 12:11* But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

3. He performs the actions of a person.

a. **speaks** - *1 Timothy 4:1* But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith...

b. **teaches** - *1 Corinthians 2:12* Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, 13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit...

c. **guides** - *John 16: 13* "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth

4. He suffers the slights and injuries of a person with feelings & emotions

a. **grieved** - *Ephesians 4: 30* Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

b. **spited (insulted)** - *Hebrews 10:* sinning willfully and trampling the Son and insulting the Spirit?

c. **lied to** - *Acts 5:3* But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit...?"

d. **The Holy Spirit knows how we feel.** *Rom. 8:26* In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words...

HOW DO THREE SEPARATE, EQUAL PERSONS EXIST AS ONE GOD? Bob = Father Son Brother = ONE BOB

Father is the source, the authority, the Provider... **Son** is the Image, the Revealer of the Father, the Word Spoken...

Brother is the CONNECTING ASPECT **Brethren TOGETHER** give the TOTAL picture of the **Life from the Father**

John 6:63 "It is the Spirit who gives life... Jesus said "**I AM LIFE**" therefore **How does the Spirit give it?**

Ephesians 4:3 **being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit...** The Holy Spirit is the **CONNECTING Person** of God.

EXAMPLE: The BREATH that connects the THOUGHT to the SPOKEN WORD revealing that thought

Romans 8:11 **But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.**

1 Cor 3:16 **Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?**

1 Cor 6:19 **Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you? How did that happen?**

Acts 2:38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. He PERSONALLY becomes ONE with your Spirit, just like Jesus & the Father.

How? by obeying dead sinners? Or obeying the Living God?

by dead sinners sincerely believing they are suddenly alive? Or by dead sinners admitting they are dead & helpless?

by dead sinners trusting in their own convictions & faith? Or by dead sinners trusting in God's Promise thru Peter?

Anyone who has sinned at least ONE TIME in any way has become **separated** from the source of all Life. (**Like an EMBER**)

NOTHING they ever do can reconnected them to the source of all life. *Eph 2:1* **And you were dead in your trespasses and sins**

ONLY the Holy Spirit being joined to them can reconnect them to the source of all Life. (One Lord One Faith One Baptism)

He then begins TEACHING those He is ONE with how to be ONE with themselves, with others & with God. = LOVE

An apple tree does NOT have to be taught how to bear apples; it does so naturally.

A Child of God does not have to be TAUGHT how to bear Fruits of the Spirit, IT SHOULD COME NATURALLY! uh-oh.....