

THE PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



Adapted from www.fustero.es

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Lesson 4 for January 28, 2017

John 14:26

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Is the Holy Spirit a force flowing from God or is He a divine Person equal to the Father and the Son? Does that question matter or does it change the way we relate to God?

→ **Jesus and the Spirit:**

** How Jesus described Him.

** Another Comforter.

** The Spirit of truth.

→ **His personal aspects.**

→ **The importance of His personality.**



HOW JESUS DESCRIBED HIM

“He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.” (John 16:14)

Jesus talked about the role of the Holy Spirit in John 14-16:

- ✚ He lives with us (14:17)
- ✚ He teaches us (14:26)
- ✚ He reminds us what we know (14:26)
- ✚ He testifies of Jesus (15:26)
- ✚ He convicts (16:8)
- ✚ He guides us (16:13)
- ✚ He tells us what the Father says to Him (16:13)
- ✚ He announces the future (16:13)
- ✚ He glorifies Jesus (16:14)
- ✚ He speaks about Jesus (16:14)

Can a power or a force do those things?

All those things are personal aspects that a force without personality cannot have.

ANOTHER COMFORTER

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever.” (*John 14:16*)

Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as “another” Comforter. The Greek word used for “another” is “allo” which means another of the same kind or class but different.

Jesus used the word “allo” to compare the Spirit with Him. He left but “another” one like Him remained on Earth: The Comforter.

The Spirit is a divine Person like Jesus is.

He comes to be our “parakletos”; Comforter, Helper, Assistant, a person who is called to stay by our side.



THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

“But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.” (John 15:26)

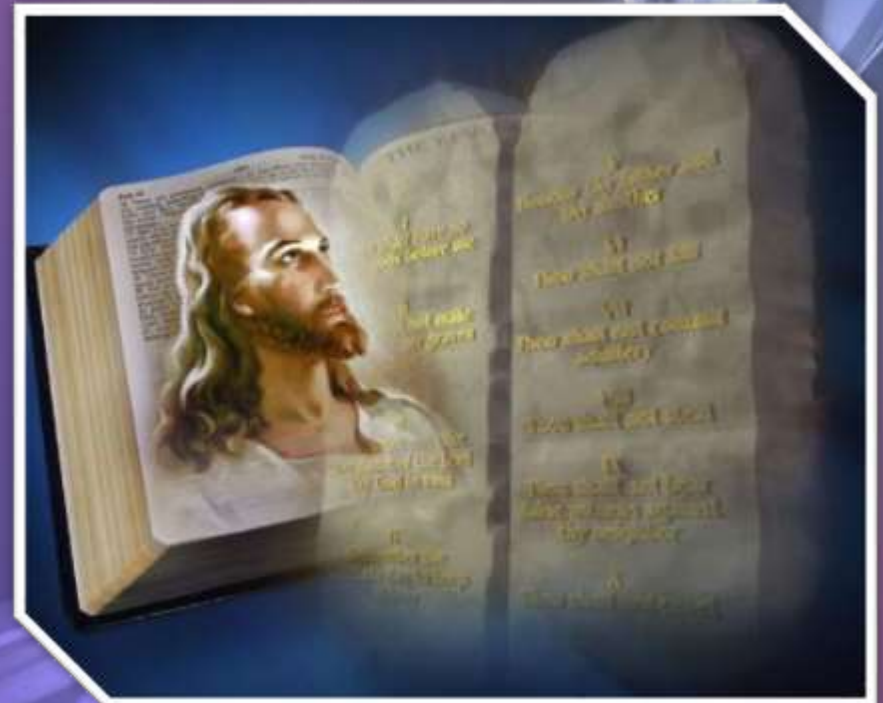
Jesus is the whole and absolute Truth (John 14:6).

The Word is truth because it testifies of Jesus (John 17:17; 5:39).

The Law is truth because it reflects His character (Psalm 119:142).

The Holy Spirit is also called the “Spirit of Truth” because his role is to exalt Jesus and to guide us to a deep and faithful relationship with Him.

When we ask for the guidance of the Spirit, we are opening our hearts to Jesus. That’s the main role of the Spirit (John 15:26; 16:13)



HIS PERSONAL ASPECTS

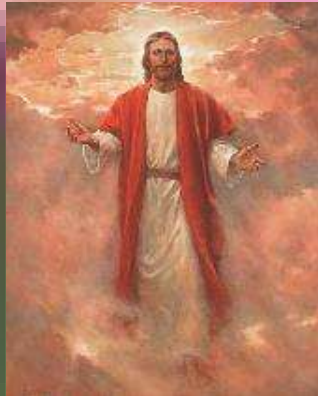
Acts 15:28	“For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit”
	He has His own opinion
Romans 8:26; 8:27	He “makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be
	He intercedes and groans
1 Corinthians 12:11	“distributing to each one individually as He wills”
	He has His own will
Romans 8:16	“The Spirit Himself bears witness”
	He testifies
Romans 15:30	“the love of the Spirit”
	He loves
1 Corinthians 2:10	“the Spirit searches all things”
	He searches diligently
Acts 8:29; 10:19	“the Spirit said to Philip”
	He speaks
Ephesians 4:30	“do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God”
	He can be saddened
Acts 5:3	“to lie to the Holy Spirit”
	He can be lied to



“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 15:13)

HIS PERSONAL ASPECTS

The Bible clearly teaches that the Holy Spirit is a person. Nevertheless, it's hard for us to see Him as one.



After all, Jesus became human like us and the Father has been shown as a human in some visions (John 1; Isaiah 6; Daniel 7). However, the Spirit has been shown as a dove or as fire (Luke 3:22; Acts 2:3).

But the Holy Spirit is not a “power” or a “force”, that’s illogical. How can we talk about “the power of the Spirit” if He already was a power (Romans 15:13)? How could He agree if He was a force, not a person (Acts 15:28)? Can we be baptized in the name of two Persons and a power (Matthew 28:19)?



THE IMPORTANCE OF HIS PERSONALITY

“For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.” (Ephesians 2:18-19)



If the Spirit is a power

How much power can I have?

I can own it

It's something impersonal for me

I can use it according to my plans

The power lives in me

If the Spirit is a Person

How much of me can He have?

He can own me

He is a friend who loves me

He uses me to fulfill His plans

I am a temple of God

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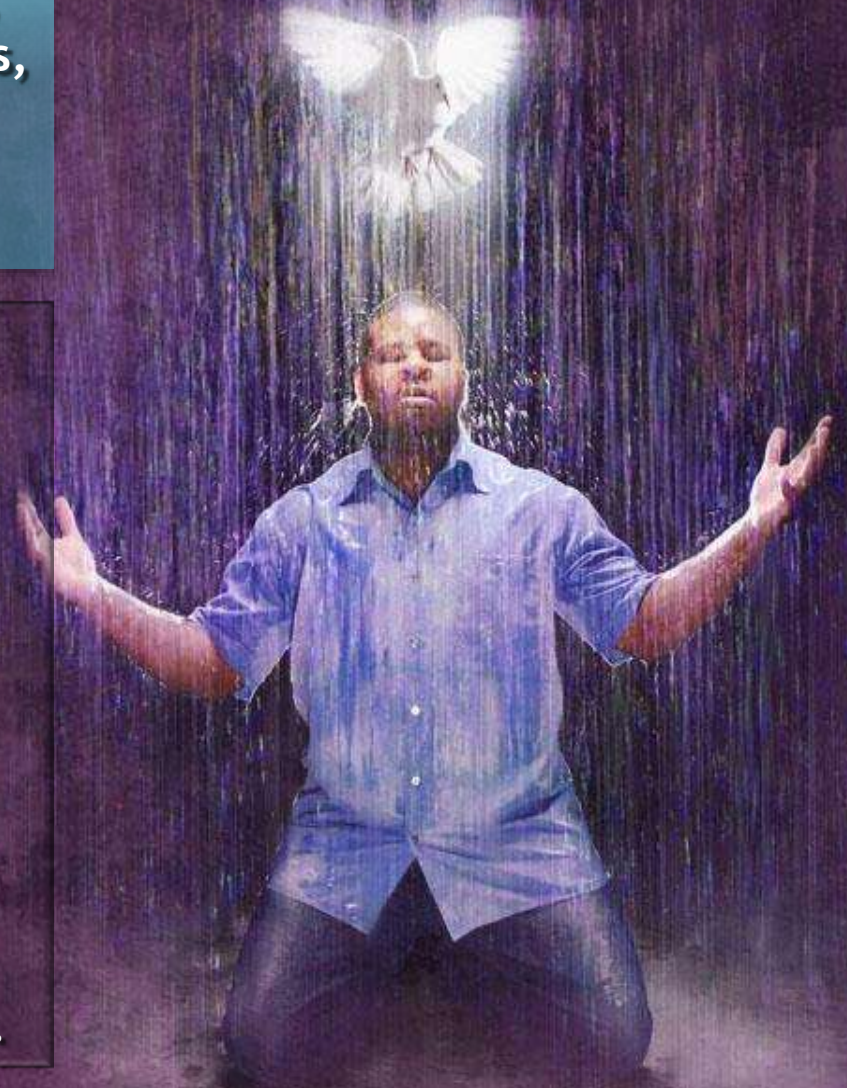
(Ephesians 2:18-19)

God lives in us as the Person of the Holy Spirit. If we accept that, then we'll allow Him to prepare us to do His work, to transform our minds and to make us more similar Jesus every day.

The Spirit is the link between the Father and the Son, and us.

Since we are sinners, we must fully surrender to Him.

Put your life in the hands of He who loves you, guides you, groans for you and longs for seeing you face to face for all eternity.



“The Father is all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and is invisible to mortal sight...

The Son is all the fullness of the Godhead manifested...

The Comforter that Christ promised to send after He ascended to heaven, is the Spirit in all the fullness of the Godhead, making manifest the power of divine grace to all who receive and believe in Christ as a personal Saviour. There are three living persons of the heavenly trio; in the name of these three great powers—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—those who receive Christ by living faith are baptized, and these powers will co-operate with the obedient subjects of heaven in their efforts to live the new life in Christ.”