

Holy Spirit

For Christians, the Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost is the third person of the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As such he is personal and also fully God.

Most Christians today understand Jesus the Son, and God the Father as two very distinct Persons within the Trinity; the Holy Spirit is also a part of the Holy Trinity and there is a dynamic relationship of love between the three persons of the Trinity. However, there has been much confusion over the identity of the Holy Spirit.

Perhaps some of this dates back to the King James translation of the Bible where the word "Holy Ghost" is used to describe the Spirit. In any case, many people throughout the ages have thought of the Holy Spirit more as a thing than a Person. Nothing could be further from the truth, and in fact as we begin to know the Person of the Holy Spirit we will want to have a closer relationship with Him just as we would the Father or Son.

In the Old Testament the Hebrew word (ruwach, pronounced roo'-akh) is used when talking about the Spirit. This word literally means 'wind', even the wind associated with a breath. In the New Testament the Greek word (pneuma, pronounced pnyoo'-mah) is used which means breath, breathe or a breeze. In other parts of Scripture, the Holy Spirit is described using picture language and he is portrayed as a dove, water, fire and light.

In the book of Galatians Paul writes about of the Fruit of the Spirit, indicating the way in which the Holy Spirit helps to form the life and character of Jesus within Christians. Likewise, at a number of points in his letters Paul writes about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. These gifts equip Christian believers to carry on the work of Jesus.

The Holy Spirit plays a crucial role in helping Christian to read and understand the Bible. The Spirit also works in numerous ways to help Christians discern God's will for their lives.

Four important principles to remember

- 1)** The Holy Spirit is God, but He is a distinct Person within the Trinity, not a force, a thing, or an "it".
- 2)** The Holy Spirit's mission is to reveal Jesus.
- 3)** The Holy Spirit transforms us to be more like Jesus.
- 4)** The Holy Spirit gives gifts for use in service of others and empowers effective ministry.



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