

17 – THE HOLY SPIRIT: HIS NATURE AND WORK - PART 1

I. The Nature of the Holy Spirit

A. The Holy Spirit is a Person

- It must be understood that the Holy Spirit is a person.
- In the Christian world, he is often described incorrectly in ways that reflect non-personality.
- The Holy Spirit has personal attributes such as intellect, sensibility and will.

Scripture 1 Corinthians 2:11 (ESV)

For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

- The Holy Spirit is described as the Helper.

Scripture John 14:16 (ESV)

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,

B. The Holy Spirit is Deity

- The Holy Spirit is God because the attributes of God affirmed of him.
- He is eternal, omniscient, omnipotent and omnipresence.
- He is expressly called God in the scripture.

Scripture 2 Corinthians 3:17 (ESV)

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

II. The Holy Spirit and the World

A. Creation and Preservation

- Creation is ascribed to all three persons of the Trinity.
- The Old Testament demonstrates the active involvement of the Holy Spirit.

Scripture Genesis 1:2 (ESV)

The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

- While the Holy Spirit was involved in creation, he is involved in its preservation.

Scripture Psalm 104:30 (ESV)

When you send forth your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground.

The Call to Believe: Discovering Answers to Your Questions About God and His World

B. In the Affairs of Non-Believers

- The Holy Spirit is active in the non-believing world in three areas.
- The Spirit works actively through individuals to accomplish his purposes.
- The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin and the need of salvation.
- The Holy Spirit restrains and controls the direction of evil.

Scripture John 16:8-10 (ESV)

⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer;

III. His Relationship to Scripture

- The Holy Spirit is both the author and interpreter of scripture.
- The Holy Spirit guided the writers of the scriptures into all truth and showed them things to come.

Scripture 2 Peter 1:21 (ESV)

For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

- The Holy Spirit is the interpreter of scripture and guides all believers in truth.

Scripture 1 Corinthians 2:12 (ESV)

Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.