

Understanding the Holy Spirit

Part 1: The Being & Behavior of the Holy Spirit

INTRODUCTION

1. Who is the Holy Spirit of God?
 - Jehovah's Witnesses: "God's Radar Beam"
 - One of Many Manifestations of God
[Manifestation = How God Appears or Operates in the World]
 - Part of God Himself

So, Which "View" Is Scripturally Correct?
2. In this study, we will show from the Holy Scriptures that the Holy Spirit is a Living Spiritual Being – not an idea, a thing, or just a *part* of the Father. The Holy Spirit has intelligence, feelings, and behavior consistent with a sentient, rational being and must be correctly recognized as who He is.
 - a. Sentient Being - Conscious, aware, Having senses,
Able to experience by feeling & perception
 - b. Rational Being = Thinking Being - Perception and Cognition
Comprehension, understanding, memory
Reason, judgment, decision, action
3. Bible proofs in this lesson:
 - a. The Holy Spirit has –
Traits of...
Emotions of...
Behaves (acts) like... a Sentient Being
 - b. The Holy Spirit can be – *Sinned Against*
 - c. The Holy Spirit has the power of God...showing clearly that the Holy Spirit *is God*
4. Some Preliminaries: consider using the term *Holy Spirit* not Holy Ghost!
Consider using the terms *being* or *spirit being* to describe the Holy Spirit, not *person*. The dictionary indicates that the first 3 definitions of person pertain to humans, so use of "person" for the Holy Spirit can be confusing to people.

A. The Holy Spirit has the traits of a rational being:

1. He has awareness or a mind (Romans 8:27)
2. He has understanding and knowledge (1 Corinthians 2:11)
3. He demonstrates intent and will (1 Corinthians 12:11)

A Living, Thinking, Rational BEING!!

B. The Holy Spirit has the emotions of a rational being:

1. He feels love and affection (Romans 15:30)
2. He can feel sorrow and grief (Isaiah 63:10, Ephesians 4:30)
3. He can cry (Galatians 4:6)

A Living, Feeling, Rational BEING!!

C. The Holy Spirit behaves & acts like a sentient being:

1. He can speak - (1 Timothy 4:1; Matthew 10:20; Acts 2:4, 8:29, 10:19;
Hebrews 10:15-16)
2. He can teach – (John 14:26)
3. He testifies (witnesses) - (John 15:26)

4. He guides, hears, and declares – (John 16:12-13)
5. He lead the apostles in the early church – (Acts 8:29, 16:6-7)
6. He intercedes with God for God's children (Romans 8:26-27)
7. He can strive with mankind – (Genesis 6:3)
8. He searches all things – (1 Corinthians 2:10)
9. He has fellowship with Christians – (Philippians 2:1-2, 2 Corinthians 13:14)
10. He comforts the servants of the Lord – (Acts 9:31, cf. 1Thessalonians 4:18)

Conclusive evidence of the mind & will of a rational Being!

D. The Holy Spirit can be sinned against:

1. Man can blaspheme the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:31-32, Mark 3:28-30)
[Note: blasphemy is a sin committed against Deity only.]
2. Man can lie to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3)
3. Man can resist the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:51)
4. Man can despise the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 10:29)

E. The Holy Spirit has and shares the character of Deity (God)

1. The Holy Spirit was present and active in creation
(Genesis 1:1-3, Job 26:13, 33:4, John 1:1-3)
2. He is all-knowing (*omniscient*) (1 Corinthians 2:11)
3. He exists everywhere (*omnipresent*) (Psalm 139:7-10)
4. He is all-powerful (*omnipotent*) (Job 26:13, 33:4; Genesis 1:2)
5. He regenerates through baptism- (John 3:5)
6. He was active in the resurrection of Jesus – (Romans 8:11)
7. He was active in miracles (Matthew 12:28, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11)
8. Jesus was begotten by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:20)
but He is called the Son of God (Luke 1:35)
9. Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3) and to God (Acts 5:4) indicating that the Spirit is God.

CONCLUSIONS

Who (no, not *what*) is the Holy Spirit? He ---

- Has the traits, emotions, and behavior of a living, reasoning Being
- Can be sinned against by mankind
- Possesses the powers of God

The Holy Spirit is a living spiritual Being who is part of Deity – the Godhead!