

**FOUNDATION OF FAITH!**  
**THE HOLY SPIRIT**  
**PART 2**

This morning we are in part 2 of our study on the Holy Spirit in our series Foundation of Faith. And as I said last time, this is an important study for us, we need to understand who the Holy Spirit is and what the Holy Spirit has for our lives, what the Holy Spirit's role is in the Holy Trinity! Listen to what Lloyd Pulley wrote regarding the Holy Spirit,

J. Oswald Sanders points out that a correct understanding of who the Holy Spirit is and the relationship that He desires to have with us is essential if we truly want to witness the power of God at work in our lives. As we learn about Him through the pages of Scripture, we observe His divinity – that He is God. We also discover that the key to living an exciting Christian life is not found by trying to “obtain” His power for our purposes, but rather by willingly yielding our lives to His powerful influence.

A few years ago, I was asked to perform a wedding ceremony while wearing white gloves. The couple wanted to observe a cultural tradition, so I agreed. But as I was preparing for the ceremony, I began to think about how those gloves really were a good illustration of our relationship with the Holy Spirit. For instance, if I laid those gloves down on the table and commanded them to begin clapping, they would not be able to respond. If I were to ask them to move something from one place to another, they would be helpless to do so regardless of how precise I made the instructions. It is only by putting my hands inside the gloves that they have the power to do even the most basic tasks.

This is a simplistic illustration; however, it is an accurate comparison of the amount of strength that we have to live a victorious Christian life apart from the Holy Spirit. Our expectation of being able to live righteously without His indwelling Presence is equivalent to expecting an inanimate pair of gloves to be able to move about in their own strength. The Holy Spirit in our lives is like the hand inside the glove. Only through Him can we have the power to live the Christian life.

Some people today have the mistake notion that the Holy Spirit is a “force” that can be harnessed and used for their own purposes. I always relate that mentality to the movie, Star Wars: “May the force be with you!” But the Holy Spirit is not a force, He is not an “it,” and He is not a power that we can wield [manipulate] at our own discretion. He is a distinct Person – the third Person of the Trinity. He is God, and as such, possesses all the divine attributes of the Father and the Son.

Scripture reveals that the Holy Spirit, among other things, searches, selects, reveals, leads, teaches, comforts, guides, inspires, forbids, convicts, and reproves. He can be loved, obeyed, grieved, quenched, resisted, blasphemed, and sinned against. He is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. But nowhere in the pages of Scripture will you find even one instance where He is referred to as “it” or anything less than God Himself. Indeed, when Ananias and Sapphira tried to fool the apostle Peter in Acts chapter 5, he confronted them, saying, “*Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit? . . . You have not lied to men but to God*” (Acts 5:3-4).

- Lloyd Pulley, *Under His Influence*, pp. 35-36

I am sorry to say that today many Christians have a warped idea of who the Holy Spirit is and thus, my desire as we continue in this study is that you would see clearly what the Scriptures have to say regarding the Holy Spirit. Now, in our last study on the Holy Spirit we saw that the Holy Spirit is not some impersonal force, like the wind or electricity, but is a Person. We saw that the Holy Spirit is spoken of with personal pronouns like “He,” “Him,” and “His.” We saw that the Holy Spirit is treated as a person in that He can be grieved, He can be lied to, He can be blasphemed, He can be insulted, He can be quenched, He can be resisted, and we can rebel against Him. Not only that but we saw that the Holy Spirit has the characteristics of a person in that He has intelligence, He has a will, He has emotion, He testifies of Jesus and exalts the Father and the Son over Himself, and He helps us. And lastly, we saw that the Holy Spirit has personal acts that have been attributed to Him, such as, the Holy Spirit speaks, He strives with man, He guides, He teaches, He intercedes, He works miracles and He communes with us.

Now as you look that over, there is no way you can come to the conclusion that the Holy Spirit is just some impersonal force or power, He is a Person, the third Person of the Holy Trinity! I think that point is settled upon unless you want to negate what the Scriptures are teaching and then you have an even bigger problem!

In this study this morning we are going to be looking at the deity of the Holy Spirit or that the Holy Spirit is God, the third Person of the Holy Trinity, including the Father and the Son. Again, this is important for us to understand. We need to lay this foundation regarding the Holy Spirit before we start talking about the gifts of the Spirit, the empowerment of the Spirit in our lives. If you don't have a strong foundation, then the whole structure will be weak! You can read Paul's letter to the church in Corinth and see that fact, they had the gifts but there was no foundation and everything was a mess!

Now, in regards to the Holy Spirit, the Jehovah witnesses teach, "The Holy Spirit is not a person and it is not part of a trinity. The Holy Spirit is God's active force that He uses to accomplish His will. It is not equal to God but is always at His disposition and subordinate to Him." Again, we will see this morning that the Jehovah Witnesses are wrong; the Holy Spirit is God, not because I have said it, but because that is what the Scriptures teach us.

Also, there is the "Jesus only" sect that is mostly seen in the southern part of the United States, and they deny the separate identities of the Godhead, that is the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They believe that Jesus is all three at the same time. And once again we must let the Scriptures speak for themselves in regards to the Trinity, and specifically in this study, that the Holy Spirit is God. When we speak of the Trinity or probably and more correctly, the Tri-unity or our Triune God, we are speaking of God manifesting Himself in three distinct persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Yes, there is only One God, that is what the Scriptures teach, and yet, this One God manifests Himself in three distinct persons.

That is a problem for us because we can't understand that and yet, the Bible does not say we have to understand this, but we are to believe it by faith. In fact, G. Campbell Morgan speaks of this issue when he said: "the idea of one essence subsisting after a threefold manner and in a trinity of relationships finds nothing in the phenomenon of nature upon which it can fashion as a sufficient symbol." In other words, we have a hard time understanding the Trinity because we have nothing to compare it to in the physical world.

But just because we don't understand something with our finite minds, doesn't mean it isn't true. Thus, because we have nothing to compare it to in the physical world, our only understanding must come from the Scriptures. And, of course, that is always the best and safest place to go to for truth.

Before we begin looking at the Scriptures, let me give you the Westminster Confession on this subject. I think it speaks very clearly and understandably on what we will be speaking on. It reads: "There is but one living and true God. In the unity of the Godhead there are three persons. One God of one substance, power and eternity. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit."

Now I do realize that some of you might not see this as important. Does it really matter if we know or recognize the Holy Spirit as God? Like it or not, it is important, because the way we view the Holy Spirit will affect the way we live out our faith, it will be seen in the things we do, the things we say. You can't live out your faith believing that the Holy Spirit is just a person, He is also God! J. I Packer lays this out for us as he wrote,

Do we honor the Holy Spirit by recognizing and relying on his work? Or do we slight him by ignoring it, and thereby dishonor, not merely the Spirit, but the Lord who sent him? In our faith: do we acknowledge the authority of the Bible, the prophetic Old Testament and the apostolic New Testament which he inspired? Do we read and hear it with the reverence and receptiveness that are due to the Word of God? If not, we dishonor the Holy Spirit. In our life: do we apply the authority of the Bible, and live by the Bible, whatever men may say against it, recognizing that God's Word cannot but be true, and that what God has said he certainly means, and will stand to? If not, we dishonor the Holy Spirit, who gave us the Bible. In our witness: do we remember that the Holy Spirit alone, by his witness, can authenticate our witness, and look to him to do so, and trust him to do so, and show the reality of our trust, as Paul did, by eschewing [shunning] the gimmicks of human cleverness? If not, we dishonor the Holy Spirit. Can we doubt that the present barrenness of the Church's life is God's judgment on us for the way in which we have dishonored the Holy Spirit? And in that case, what hope we have of its removal till we learn in our thinking and our praying and our practice to honor the Holy Spirit?

- J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*, p. 63

Thus, it is important for us to understand who the Holy Spirit is because it is the work of the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Holy Trinity that brings to us the Gospel of Salvation, brings us to saving faith in Jesus and it is out of that our lives are changed! So with the remainder of our time this morning, let's look at the deity of the Holy Spirit, what the Scriptures have to say and not what man may say, or what you think is right, but what God has told us in His Word!

## **2. THE DEITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

### *THE GODLY ATTRIBUTES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT*

When we studied the deity of God the Father and God the Son we looked at the Godly attributes that were ascribed to them, pointing to the fact that they are God. And we are going to do that as we look at the Holy Spirit. You see, these Godly attributes can only be attributed to God. Man does not possess any of them. Man does not have the capacity or the ability to do any of these attributes, to manifest them in his life. Thus, if we see these attributes in the Holy Spirit, it points to the fact that He is God. So let's look at four attributes that are attributed to the Holy Spirit and, as you remember from our previous studies, these attributes were also seen in God the Father and God the Son!

***ETERNAL***

We will begin looking at the fact that the Holy Spirit is eternal, that He has no beginning and no end, a Godly attribute, something that cannot be attributed to man or some force or power. In Hebrews 9:14 we are told, **“how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”**

Notice that Paul speaks of the **“eternal Spirit”** and I think that is pretty clear! We are not eternal folk’s. We were born, we had a time when our life began, but the Holy Spirit has no beginning and no ending, which is an attribute of God! In other words, there was never a time that the Holy Spirit was not, He has always been and will always be, He is eternal!



*OMNISCIENT – ALL KNOWING*

The second Godly attribute we will be looking at in regards to the Holy Spirit is that He is omniscient or all knowing. In I Corinthians 2:10-14 we are told, **“But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”**

Please don't miss the point that Paul is making here. You see, as a member of the Holy Trinity, as a member of the Triune God, the Spirit knows the mind of God perfectly! Thus, He knows all things. And think about it. You can never know the mind of another person as well as you know yourself. Yes, even husbands and wives who have been married for years don't know each other better than they know themselves. Now let's apply this to God. Only God's own Spirit can know Him intimately and thus, He reveals His own wisdom to those who believe, to you and me!

Not only do we see that here in I Corinthians, but also in John 14:26 where we are told, **“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 things that I said to you.”** In other words, there is no limit to what the Holy Spirit can teach us because He knows all things and yes, even the deep things of God!

We see this again in John 16:13 where Jesus tells us, **“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”** Not only does the Holy Spirit know all truth but He will also tell us things that have not come to pass yet because He is omniscient or all knowing! This is another attribute of God and thus, if it is seen in the Holy Spirit it must mean that He is God and He is.

### ***OMNIPRESENT – PRESENT EVERYWHERE***

Another Godly attribute is that God is present everywhere. Now in making this point that God is present everywhere, please don't come to the conclusion that I am teaching a pantheistic viewpoint here. First of all, what is Pantheism? Very simply, Pantheism is the view that God is everything and everyone and that everyone and everything is God. Pantheism is similar to polytheism (the belief in many gods), but goes beyond polytheism to teach that everything is God. A tree is God, a rock is God, an animal is God, the sky is God, the sun is God, you are God, etc. Pantheism is the supposition or belief behind many cults and false religions (e.g., Hinduism and Buddhism to an extent, the various unity and unification cults, and “mother nature” worshippers).

That is not at all what I am saying or what the Scriptures are teaching. You see, His presence fills the universe and it cannot contain God! Now, let me show you how this attribute of God is seen in the Holy Spirit!

In Psalm 139:7-10 we are told, **“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning, And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Even there Your hand shall lead me, And Your right hand shall hold me.”** In other words, you can’t escape from the presence of God’s Spirit, because it fills the universe. No matter where you go, God’s Spirit is there!

Obviously this attribute can’t be applied to man or even a force like electricity because their presence does not fill the universe. Man is limited to one place at a time and electricity can only go where the impulse is sent. But the Spirit of God is everywhere, His presence is everywhere. You see, the Holy Spirit is everywhere; He is omnipresent because He is God!

### ***OMNIPOTENT – ALL POWERFUL***

Another Godly attribute is that God is omnipotent or all powerful and once again we see that with the Holy Spirit. In Luke 1:35 we are told, **“And the angel answered and said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.’”**

You see, as Mary heard from this angel that God had chosen her to be the vessel that would bring forth the Messiah into this world, Mary could not figure out how this could be because she was a virgin. And the angel explained to her that the Holy Spirit, the One with the utmost, the highest power will do this work in her and out of that the Messiah would come forth from the virgin! You see, the Holy Spirit is omnipotent or all powerful and because of that He must be God!

Thus, as you look at these attributes that are seen in the Holy Spirit, the only conclusion you can come to is that He is God, the third person of the Holy Trinity! If God the Father and God the Son are eternal, omniscient, omnipresent and omnipotent and they are God, and we see these in the Holy Spirit, He must be God and He is! Now if that was all we have to go on, I can see where some may not believe that the Holy Spirit is God, but there is more, much more and you will see what I mean when I say there is no other conclusion that you can come to except that the Holy Spirit is God!

#### *THE GODLY WORKS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT*

Next we are going to be looking at the Godly works of the Holy Spirit. You see, there are certain works that are only attributed to God and thus, if we see this in the Holy Spirit, it must mean that He is God!

*THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN CREATION*

The first point we want to look at, and an important one is that the Holy Spirit was actively involved in creation, the creation of the Heavens and the Earth. Look at what we are told in Genesis 1:1-3 and then I will expound on it. We are told, **“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.”**

Now what we miss in our English translation is that the Hebrew word that is used for God is not EL, which means one God, but ELOHIM and it is in the plural form meaning more than 2. The dual word is ELAH and again, this is not the word that is used here, it is the word ELOHIM, or 3 or more. Thus, you can read this verse like this, “In the beginning God’s created the heavens and the earth.” Now that sounds like polytheism, but it is not. You see, the plural noun **“God’s”** is attached to a singular verb, **“created.”** In other words, we see here a hint at the Trinity being actively involved in the creation process.

And keep in mind at this point in creation the universe is a watery matrix of elements that will be assembled together. Also, keep in mind that the universe was formed but not yet energized and light is a form of energy. Thus, the Holy Spirit is moving or the Hebrew word is RACHAPH, which can be translated **“shake”** (Jeremiah 23:9) or **“fluttereth”** (Deuteronomy 32:11). Think of the Holy Spirit moving, vibrating or pouring out energy into the creation! That is what I see here, the universe needs to be energized and the Holy Spirit is the one doing it. Thus, that tells me the Holy Spirit is God and is actively involved in the creation process!

We also see the Holy Spirit spoken of in Genesis 1:26, in fact we see the Trinity spoken of here. We are told, **“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’”** Listen to how The Amplified Bible puts this verse, **“God said, Let Us [Father, Son, and Holy Spirit] make mankind in Our image, after Our likeness, and let them have complete authority over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the [tame] beasts, and over all of the earth, and over everything that creeps upon the earth. [Ps 104:30; Heb 1:2; 11:3.]”**

Now some like to say that this is speaking of the plurality of His majesty, that there is no Trinity spoken of here. First of all we don't see that used like that in the Scriptures. And, if you really look at this verse closely you will see that there are plural pronouns used here, **“Us”** and **“Our”** and that should completely wipe that concept from any interpretation. And thus, you really have to come to this verse with a preconceived idea about the Trinity to come to that conclusion. What I see here is the Godhead working together in the creation of man, in the creation process and the Holy Spirit is also involved in this because He is God, part of the Trinity!

Let me give you two more to show you that the Holy Spirit was actively involved in creation and thus, must be God. In Psalm 104:30 we are told, **“You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the earth.”** Here again we see the Holy Spirit spoken of as being actively involved in the creation process!

And the last one dealing with the Holy Spirit being involved in creation is found in Job 33:4, where we are told, “**The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life.**” Once again we see that the Holy Spirit is involved in creation, the creation of our own life. Do you see how clear that is? I hope so and if this is true, what we have seen so far in regards to the Holy Spirit, then He must be God!

*THE HOLY SPIRIT IS WORKING WITH GOD THE FATHER AND GOD THE SON IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THE CHURCH*

Here is one we might not think of in regards to the Holy Spirit but the Holy Spirit is working with God the Father and God the Son in the activities of the Church! Let me show you what I mean and you will see that there are distinct persons within the Trinity, One God manifested in three distinct persons and one of those persons is the Holy Spirit.

First of all we are told in I Corinthians 12:4-6, “**There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all.**”

Paul is speaking of spiritual gifts and we will deal with that in our study of the Holy Spirit down the road. What I want to focus on here is the working of the Trinity in our lives in regards to these gifts. We see the Holy Spirit in the diversities of gifts. We see the Lord Jesus Christ involved in the different ministries. And we see God the Father involved in the operations of these things. In other words, it is the Triune God who is involved in the working of the activities of the Church and that includes the Holy Spirit!

*THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US NEW LIFE*

The Scriptures also teach us that the Holy Spirit gives to us new life, the new life we have in Christ. Let me give you a few verses to show you what I mean. In John 6:63 we are told by Jesus that, **“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.”**

Now here’s the thing. Spiritual life comes only when the Holy Spirit imparts Christ’s life to the believer. That is what Paul said in Galatians 2:20, **“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.”** In contrast, this life does not come through “the will of the flesh” for Jesus said that **“the flesh profits nothing”** and thus, we can’t do anything to bring forth this life; it is only by God’s Word opened up to us by God’s Spirit that we can enter in. Thus, it is the Holy Spirit that brings forth this life; it is the Holy Spirit that gives to us the new life we have in Christ!

Also, in II Corinthians 3:5-6 Paul tells us, **“Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.”**



Notice what Paul is saying here. He is speaking of the Holy Spirit giving to us life, but how? Very simply, the Spirit enables us to fulfill God's law, not because of what we have done, but what God has done in us. You see, the Law is good but man is not. The Law can't save us; it can only show that we are sinners separated from God, thus, it brings death to us. But the Spirit of God brings to us the grace of God found in Jesus which gives us life. Remember as Moses went up on Mount Sinai to get the Law the children of Israel were already breaking it and God judged them for it, 3,000 men died that day when the Law was given, (Exodus 32:28). Then, on the Day of Pentecost, as the Gospel of Grace was given, 3,000 men were saved! (Acts 2:41). Thus, the Law kills but the Spirit gives life!

You see, the letter of the Law kills us because we can't keep it, but the Spirit gives us life because it has been completed in Christ and that righteousness has been imputed into our lives by faith. We can't do this or know this on our own, but the Spirit gives this to us or reveals this to us and as we accept Christ into our life, we enter into that new life in Christ! This is a work of the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit giving to us this new life that is only found in Christ!

Let's look at one more in regards to the Spirit giving to us this new life and that is found in Romans 8:10-11 as Paul tells us, "**And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.**"

Listen to how The Amplified Bible puts these verses. We are told, “**But if Christ lives in you, [then although] your [natural] body is dead by reason of sin and guilt, the spirit is alive because of [the] righteousness [that He imputes to you]. And if the Spirit of Him Who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, [then] He Who raised up Christ Jesus from the dead will also restore to life your mortal (short-lived, perishable) bodies through His Spirit Who dwells in you.**”

Listen carefully to what Paul is saying here. He tells us that it was the Holy Spirit that was the Divine agent that raised Jesus from the dead. So what does that have to do with us? Very simply, as the Holy Spirit lifted Jesus out of this physical death and gave Him life in His mortal body, it is the Spirit who dwells in every believer that gives us this new life right here and now and forever! The Holy Spirit is able to do this, to give us this new life because He is God!

#### *THE HOLY SPIRIT INSPIRED THE SCRIPTURES*

The Scriptures teach us that it was the Holy Spirit that inspired the Scriptures. Now think about that one for a minute. If the Holy Spirit was some impersonal force, how can an impersonal force inspire anything? It can't and thus, to know the beginning from the end, to tell us things that would happen hundreds and sometimes thousands of years before they took place, points to the fact that the Holy Spirit is God.

Listen to what Peter tells us in II Peter 1:19-21, **“And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”**

The Amplified Bible puts these verses like this, **“And we have the prophetic word [made] firmer still. You will do well to pay close attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dismal (squalid and dark) place, until the day breaks through [the gloom] and the Morning Star rises ( comes into being) in your hearts. [Yet] first [you must] understand this, that no prophecy of Scripture is [a matter] of any personal or private or special interpretation (loosening, solving). For no prophecy ever originated because some man willed it [to do so — it never came by human impulse], but men spoke from God who were borne along (moved and impelled) by the Holy Spirit.”**

Peter is making a powerful point regarding the Word of God and I don't want to skip over this. You see, this verse can be better translated, **“We also have the more sure prophetic word.”** In other words, God's Word is more sure, it can be trusted more than what Peter saw with his own eyes on Mount Hermon in Caesarea Philippi, the Transfiguration! Thus, experiences will come and go but God's Word will last forever. Experiences may pump us up for a time but God's Word will transform our lives!

Now, when Peter speaks of the “**prophetic word**” he is not only speaking of prophecy or foretelling future events. Yes, the Bible is over 25% prophetic in nature and some of these prophecies have already come to pass. No other religious book has prophecies, as does the Bible with 100% accuracy! There are over 300 prophecies of Christ’s first coming that have been fulfilled down to the tiniest detail. The chance of that coming to pass in any one man is beyond any mathematical possibility, it is impossible and yet they were all fulfilled in Christ! And there are over 500 prophecies related to His second coming – I think we can be assured – He is coming back – it is a done deal!

But Peter’s point goes even farther, he is also speaking of forth-telling the things of God and thus, he is speaking of the entire Old Testament at this point. He is saying that the Old Testament is the inspired, infallible Word of God, it is even more sure than what he has seen with his own eyes!

Now what about those that twist the Scriptures, make them say what they want? Yes, it is true that people can take the Scriptures and twist them to say what they want. I’ve used this example before from Leviticus 13:40, which says, “. . . **he is bald, but he is clean.**” Thus, we need to shave our heads to be clean before God! No, that is not what the text is saying, but again, people can twist the Scriptures to make them say whatever they want and that is wrong. That is not beneficial and it is dangerous. As true as that is, I don’t believe that is Peter’s point here.

In the Greek, the way it is structured, Peter is speaking of the Word of God, of prophecy, that it is not from man's doing but God speaking through man. In fact, if verse 20 is confusing, verse 21 I believe clears things up for us. That phrase, "**as they were moved**" in the Greek speaks of being "continually carried" and Luke uses this word to describe how the wind blows a sailing ship across the waters, (Acts 27:15, 17).

Thus, as these men of God raised their sails you might say, as they submitted their lives to God, the Holy Spirit carried them along in the direction He wanted. God was the writer and man was the instrument He wrote with. He didn't change the character or styles of the individuals but just spoke through them. And so I think it is very clear that the Holy Spirit gave the inspiration for the writing of the Scriptures and thus, it points to the Holy Spirit as being God!

#### *THE SCRIPTURES SPEAK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BEING GOD*

Now with the remainder of the time we have left, I want to look at the specific Scriptures that speak of the Holy Spirit being God. You see, if you had any doubt, this should clear that up right away!

Let's begin in Isaiah 48:16 where we are told, "**Come near to Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; From the time that it was, I was there. And now the Lord God and His Spirit Have sent Me.**" Here we see God the Son, God the Father and God the Holy Spirit all spoken of together. In fact, it speaks of the eternal existence of Jesus and that He was sent by God the Father and the Holy Spirit. What was He sent to do? He was sent into this world to become flesh and die for the sins of the world and be raised the third day. That was what God the Father and God the Holy Spirit sent Jesus to do!

Let's look at an Old Testament Scripture and then we will see how it was fulfilled in the New Testament and see it pointing to the work of the Holy Spirit. First of all we are told in Isaiah 6:8-10, "**Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: 'Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?' Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me.' And He said, 'Go, and tell this people: "Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive." Make the heart of this people dull, And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And return and be healed.'**"

This is obviously referring to God speaking to the prophet Isaiah and telling him to go and speak to a people that are dull of hearing. And we would let it go if it were not for what the New Testament has to say regarding this verse.

Notice what we read in Acts 28:25-27 as Paul is speaking to the leaders and Jews, as he was under house arrest, **“So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: ‘The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers, saying, “Go to this people and say: ‘Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; And seeing you will see, and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.” Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!””**

Did you catch what Paul is saying here? Paul says that the Holy Spirit was speaking those words in Isaiah and thus, the Holy Spirit is identified with Yahweh, with Jehovah, He is God!

We are going to do that again as we look at Jeremiah 31:31-33, **“Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah - not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”** I think we can all agree that God is speaking here and He is making a covenant with the nation of Israel.

But Paul once again points out who is speaking there in Jeremiah, something we might have missed if Paul did not pen these words in Hebrews 10:15-17, **“But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after He had said before, ‘This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them,’ then He adds, ‘Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.’”** Who spoke those words in Jeremiah chapter 31? Paul tells us it was the Holy Spirit and thus, the Holy Spirit must be God and He is!

Let’s look at one more Old Testament and New Testament passage pointing to the fact that the Holy Spirit is God. First of all in Psalm 95:6-11 we are told, **“Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand. Today, if you will hear His voice: ‘Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, As in the day of trial in the wilderness, When your fathers tested Me; They tried Me, though they saw My work. For forty years I was grieved with that generation, And said, “It is a people who go astray in their hearts, And they do not know My ways.” So I swore in My wrath, “They shall not enter My rest.””**

Here we see in this portion of Scripture believers bowing down, kneeling, and worshiping before our Lord and our Maker. Then the Psalmist speaks of listening to the voice of God. Again, a very straight forward and simple portion of Scripture, God is speaking. I don’t think that is an issue, at least not yet!



But Paul does it to us again in Hebrews 3:7-11 as he wrote, **“Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: ‘Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness, Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, And saw My works forty years. Therefore I was angry with that generation, And said, “They always go astray in their heart, And they have not known My ways.” So I swore in My wrath, “They shall not enter My rest.””**”

So who was speaking in Psalm 95 according to Paul? It was God the Holy Spirit! I hope that is clear for you. You may not agree with it, you may not even like it, but you cannot deny that is what the Scriptures are teaching us, that the Holy Spirit is God!

Let me share with you two more verses and then we will rap things up this morning. First of all in Acts chapter 5 we read the story of Ananias and Sapphira who were dishonest in their money dealings with the Lord. Now listen carefully because we are told who they lied to and then specifically who this person is. We read **“But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.’”** Acts 5:3-4. Did you see that? Peter says that first of all they lied to the Holy Spirit. Not too controversial but then in verse 4 we are told that this lie that was against the Holy Spirit was a lie unto God, and thus, Peter tells us that the Holy Spirit is God! Again, it does not get much clearer than that!

And the last one we will look at this morning is found in II Corinthians 3:17-18, where we are told, **“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”** Once again we see in this portion of Scripture Paul speaking of the Lord as the Spirit and the Spirit as the Lord! You see, the Spirit gives to us freedom from sin, from death, from the condemnation of the Law and it is only the Holy Spirit of God that can lift that veil and help us to see Christ as our Savior!

I think you have clearly seen this morning that we don't have to twist the Scriptures, distort the Scriptures to make them fit our own theology, but just let the Scriptures speak for themselves.

We have seen that the Holy Spirit manifests attributes that only God can have; eternal existence, He is omniscient, He is omnipresent, He is omnipotent. We have seen that the Holy Spirit was actively involved in creation, the workings or the ministries of the Church; He gives us new life and has inspired the Scriptures. And we have seen that the Scriptures themselves call the Holy Spirit God!

Do you see how important it is to let the Scriptures speak for themselves instead of allowing preconceived ideas, or the ideas or doctrines of men cloud the picture of what God is trying to show us. As Psalm 118:8 says, **“It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.”** Do not remove the Holy Spirit from His position with the Father and the Son, part of the Tri-unity of God. All three are one God and yet they exist as three distinct persons and function in perfect harmony. As Deuteronomy 6:4 says in the Hebrew tongue, “Shema Ysrael Yahweh Elohim achad Yahweh” or **“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!”**

As I close this morning listen to these words from R. A. Torrey and what he has to say in his book “The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit”. He wrote:

To sum it all up by ascribing to the Holy Spirit all the distinctively divine attributes and several distinctly divine works, by referring statements which in the Old Testament clearly name Jehovah, the Lord, or God as their subject to the Holy Spirit in the New Testament, by coupling the name of the Holy Spirit with that of God in a way in which it would be impossible to couple that of any finite being with that of Deity, by plainly calling the Holy Spirit God - in all these unmistakable ways. God in His own Word distinctly proclaims that the Holy Spirit is a divine person.

- R. A. Torrey, The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit, p. 30

Make no mistake about it, the Holy Spirit is not only a person, but He is Almighty God, the third person of the Holy Trinity! And as we recognize that fact, as we understand that He is Almighty God, we will treat Him with the honor that He deserves and not like some kind of force or puppet that we pull His strings or call the power down for our own gain. The Holy Spirit is God, may we not forget that!