

removing obstructions, opening the understanding, and making all things plain and clear. He leads in the way we should go in all spiritual things. Without such a guide, we would be apt to fall into error.

"The Holy Spirit Brings Conviction and Takes Up Residence"



He does a work in the hearts of all people everywhere. Jesus told the disciples that He would send the Spirit into the world to **"convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment"** (John 16:7-11). Everyone has a **"God consciousness,"** whether or not they admit it. The Spirit applies the truths of God to

minds of men to convince them by fair and sufficient arguments that they are sinners. Responding to that conviction brings men to salvation. Once we are saved and belong to God, the Spirit takes up residence in our hearts forever, sealing us with the confirming, certifying, and assuring pledge of our eternal state as His children. Jesus gave the Spirit as a **"Compensation"** for His absence, to perform the functions toward us which He would have done if He had remained personally with us.

"Be Familiar With God's Word"

One of the most important ways to recognize the Holy Spirit's guidance is to be familiar with God's Word. The Bible is the ultimate source of wisdom about how we should live. **"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."** (2 Timothy 3:16-18), and believers are to search the Scriptures, meditate on them, and commit them to memory. The Word is the **"Sword Of The Spirit"** **"And take the helmet of salvation, and the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God"** (Ephesians 6:17), and the Spirit will use it to speak to us (John 16:12-14) to reveal God's will for our lives; He will also bring specific Scriptures to mind at times when we need them most. **"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."** (John 14:26). Knowledge of God's Word can help us to discern whether or not our desires come from the Holy Spirit. We must test our inclinations against Scripture—the Holy Spirit will never prod us to do anything contrary to God's Word. If it conflicts with the Bible, then it is not from the Holy Spirit and should be ignored. Being in tune with God's will, turning from and confessing sin, and making a habit of prayer and the study of God's Word will allow us to recognize—and follow—the Spirit's leading.

"The Holy Spirit Is God"



There are many misconceptions about the identity of the Holy Spirit. Some view the Holy Spirit as a mystical force. Others understand the Holy Spirit as the impersonal power that God makes available to followers of Christ. What does the Bible say about the identity of the Holy Spirit? Simply put, the Bible declares that the Holy Spirit is God. The Spirit of God

was present at and involved in the creation; **"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."** (Genesis 1:2) The Holy Spirit moved the prophets of God with the words of God; **"For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."** (2 Peter 1:21)

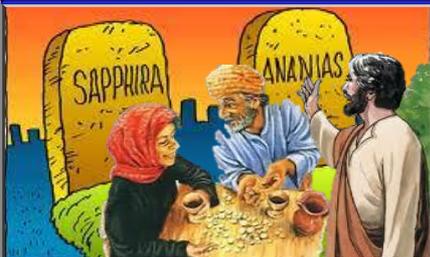
"The Holy Spirit Is A Person That Lives Within"



The bodies of those in Christ are described as temples of God because the Holy Spirit is in us; **"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit Who is in you, Whom you have from God, and you are not your own?"** (1 Corinthians 6:19) Jesus was clear that to be **"Born Again,"** to become a

Christian, one must be born **"Of The Spirit;"** "Jesus answered, **"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."** (John 3:5) The Bible also tells us that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, a Being with a mind, emotions, and a will. The Bible describes **The Holy Spirit as A Person, not a mere force. He can be grieved; "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by Whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."** (Ephesians 4:30) **He has a will;** "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." (1 Corinthians 12:4-7) **He uses His mind** to search the deep things of God; **"But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God."** (1 Corinthians 2:10) And **He has Fellowship** with believers; **"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all, Amen."** (2 Corinthians 13:14) Clearly, the Spirit is A Person, just as the Father and the Son are persons.

"Lying To The Holy Spirit Is Lying To God"



The fact that the Holy Spirit is God is clearly seen in many Scriptures, including Acts 5:1-11. In these verses Peter confronts Ananias and Sapphira as to why they lied to the Holy Spirit and tells Ananias that he had **"not lied to men but to God."** "But a certain man named,

Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet. 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 5:1-4) The verses go on to say that after hearing these words, Ananias and Sapphira fell down and breathed their last breath. And they were buried side by side. The Word of God tells that great fear came upon the church who heard the story about Sapphira and Ananias. This a clear declaration that lying to the Holy Spirit is lying to God.

"Like God, The Holy Spirit Is Omnipresence"



We can also know that the Holy Spirit is God because He possesses the characteristics of God. For example, His omnipresence is seen in Psalm 139:7-8, **"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there."** Then in 1 Corinthians 2:10-11, we see the characteristic of omniscience in the Holy Spirit. **"But God has revealed it to**

us by His Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God." The Spirit intercedes for us (Romans 8:26-27). **He makes decisions according to His will** (1 Corinthians 12:7-11). **The Holy Spirit is God, The Third Person of the Trinity.** As God, the Holy Spirit can truly function as the **Comforter and Counselor** that Jesus promised He would be (John 14:16, 26, 15:26).

"The Day Of Pentecost"



When the Holy Spirit descended upon believers at Pentecost, it was not a quiet event, but a powerful one. **"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like**

the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them" (Acts 2:1-4). Immediately afterward, the disciples spoke to the crowds gathered in Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost. These people hailed from a variety of nations and therefore spoke many different languages. Imagine their surprise and wonder when the disciples spoke to them in their own tongues (verses 5-12)! Clearly, this was not something the disciples could have accomplished on their own without many months—or even years—of study. The Holy Spirit's power was made manifest to a great number of people that day, resulting in the conversion of about 3,000 (verse 41).

"We Will Receive Power"

The Holy Spirit works within us to make us gradually more and more like him.



Jesus promised the Spirit as a permanent guide, teacher, seal of salvation, and comforter for believers. **"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of Truth, Whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."**

(John 14:16-18). He also promised that the Holy Spirit's power would help His followers to spread the message of the gospel around the world: **"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth"** (Acts 1:8). The salvation of souls is a supernatural work only made possible by the Holy Spirit's power at work in the world. **The Spirit's presence within us enables us to understand and interpret God's Word. He reveals to our minds the whole counsel of God as it relates to worship, doctrine, and Christian living. He is the ultimate guide, going before, leading the way,**