

THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS A PERSONALITY

Acts 8:9; 10:19-20; 13:1-4

(Not entirely original with me)

Introduction: No doubt the Holy Spirit is one of the most important subjects mentioned in the Bible for His presence and workings are mentioned throughout God's Word. There is a lot of confusion as to just who or what the Holy Spirit is. Is the Holy Spirit a person or some sort of influence or some kind of force from God? The Holy Spirit is a "third" person of the trinity therefore the Holy Spirit, as revealed throughout the Bible, does have a personality just as the Father and the Son do. How does the Holy Spirit exhibit a "personality?"

I. WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES REVEALS A PERSONALITY

1. The Holy Spirit speaks:
 - "He" expressly SAYS that some will depart from the faith - 1 Timothy 4:1
 - The Holy Spirit spoke and gave directions to Philip - Acts 8:29
 - The Holy Spirit spoke to Peter and put him in charge of the Gentiles - Acts 10:19-20
 - The Holy Spirit spoke to the Antioch church concerning Paul and Barnabas - Acts 13:1-4
2. The Holy Spirit teaches:
 - Jesus said that the Holy Spirit was to teach the apostles all things - John 14:26
 - Jesus also refers to the Holy Spirit as "HE", not "it," therefore showing that the Holy Spirit is a personal being, not some kind of force - John 14:16-17
3. The Holy Spirit bears witness:
 - The Holy Spirit was to testify of Jesus - John 15:26-27
 - Just as the apostles (real, personal beings) would bear witness, so also would the Holy Spirit.
4. The Holy Spirit guides, hears, speaks and tells:
 - The Holy Spirit was to carry on and complete the work Jesus started - John 16:12-13
 - Jesus again referred to the Holy Spirit as "HE."
5. The Holy Spirit forbids:
 - The Holy Spirit prevented Paul and his companions from going into certain areas - Acts 16:6-7
 - The Holy Spirit forbid them refused to allow them, despite their efforts at first.
6. The Holy Spirit intercedes:
 - The *"Spirit Himself makes intercession for us..."* wrote Paul in Romans 8:26
 - Just as Jesus Christ makes intercession for the believer, so does the Holy Spirit - Romans 8:34

II. THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

1. The Holy Spirit has a mind:
 - *"the mind of the Spirit..."* - Romans 8:27
 - With a mind, the Holy Spirit can think on His own.
2. The Holy Spirit has knowledge:
 - He *"knows the things of God"* - 1 Corinthians 2:11
 - Just as a regular human being knows certain things, so does the Holy Spirit.

3. The Holy Spirit has affection:
 - Paul speaks of ***"the love of the Spirit"*** - Romans 15:30
 - Impersonal forces do not have nor show affection but the Holy Spirit does.
4. The Holy Spirit has a will:
 - ***"the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills..."***
 - It was the Holy Spirit who decided./decides what person received/s which gift.

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT SUFFERS PERSONAL HURT FEELINGS AND INJURIES

1. The Holy Spirit can be grieved:
 - ***"do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God..."*** - Ephesians 4:30
 - The Holy Spirit can be made sorrowful though the Christian's neglect.
2. The Holy Spirit can be blasphemed:
 - To blaspheme is to speak evil of.
 - Blaspheming the Holy Spirit is the "unforgivable sin" - Matthew 12:31-32
3. The Holy Spirit can be insulted:
 - One who has ***"trampled the Son of God underfoot"*** has also ***"insulted the Spirit of grace"*** - Hebrews 10:29
 - Insulting the Holy Spirit is done by sinning WILLFULLY - Hebrews 10:26
4. The Holy Spirit can be lied to:
 - Ananias and His wife Sapphira were guilty of lying to the Holy Spirit.
 - ***"...why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit...?"*** - Acts 5:3
5. The Holy Spirit can be resisted:
 - Stephen charged the Jewish leaders of resisting the Holy Spirit - Acts 7:51
 - The Jewish leaders resisted the Holy Spirit by resisting the message and persecuting the messengers who were inspired by the Holy Spirit - Acts 7:52-53

CONCLUSION:

1. The Bible makes it very clear that the Holy Spirit is a personal being and is referred to as "HE!"
2. What is YOUR own personal relationship to the Holy Spirit?
 - Have you considered how the Holy Spirit feels for you?
 - Have you thought about what He has done, and is doing for you in line with God's plan for you?
 - Have you thought about how the Holy Spirit reacts to your attitude about God's Word?
3. Are you guilty of resisting the Holy Spirit?
 - By resisting the commands of the Apostles and the Prophets?
 - Those ***"...who have peached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven?"***
1 Peter 1:12; Acts 2:36-38