

## Is the Holy Spirit a Person?

What does Jesus say about the Holy Spirit? What do you observe in each passage? How does the Bible refer to the Holy Spirit? What qualities of a person does the Holy Spirit have?

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 that I have said to you. (John 14:26, ESV)

But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. (John 15:26, ESV)

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. (John 16:7-14, ESV)

“You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. (Acts 7:51, ESV)

And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. (Acts 16:6-7, ESV)

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. (Rom 8:26-27, ESV)

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 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. (1 Cor 2:10-11, ESV)

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills. (1 Cor 12:4-11, ESV)

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (Eph 4:30, ESV)

## Is the Holy Spirit a Person? Teacher Notes

What does Jesus say about the Holy Spirit? What do you observe in each passage? How does the Bible refer to the Holy Spirit? What qualities of a person does the Holy Spirit have?

There are several methods of corporately observing these nine biblical passages:

1. Present each passage as a PowerPoint slide observe the text together, or
2. Divide the class into small groups and assign 2-3 passages to each group for study and presentation to the class, or
3. Assign each student 1-2 passages for personal study and presentation to the class.

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 that I have said to you. (John 14:26, ESV)

How does Jesus refer to the Holy Spirit? The Helper.

What qualities of a person does the Holy Spirit have? He can teach you all things and remind you of Jesus' words

But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will **bear witness** about me. (John 15:26, ESV)

How does Jesus refer to the Holy Spirit? The Helper and the Spirit of Truth.

What qualities of a person does the Holy Spirit have? He can bear witness of Jesus Christ.

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, **I will send him** to you. And when he comes, he will **convict** the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will **guide** you into all the truth, for he **will not speak on his own authority**, but whatever **he hears he will speak**, and he will **declare** to you the things that are to come. He will **glorify** me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. (John 16:7-14, ESV)

How does Jesus refer to the Holy Spirit? The Helper and Spirit of Truth.

What qualities of a person does the Holy Spirit have? He can be sent by Jesus Christ, convict the world concerning sin, the righteousness of Jesus Christ, and the judgment of Satan. He can guide you in the truth, speaks only by the authority of God, prophesize of the future, and glorify Jesus Christ.

"You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always **resist** the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. (Acts 7:51, ESV)

What quality of a person did the church deacon Stephen reveal about the Holy Spirit? You can resist the Holy Spirit.

And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been **forbidden** by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus **did not allow** them. (Acts 16:6-7, ESV)

How does Luke refer to the Holy Spirit? The Spirit of Jesus.

What qualities of a person does the Holy Spirit have? If you listen to God, the Holy Spirit can forbid you to speak or deter you from traveling.

Likewise the Spirit **helps** us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself **intercedes** for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit **intercedes for the saints according to the will of God**. (Rom 8:26-27, ESV)

How does the apostle Paul refer to the Holy Spirit? The Spirit.

What qualities of a person does the Holy Spirit have? He helps in our weakness and prays / intercedes for us according to the will of God.

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 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. (1 Cor 2:10-11, ESV)

How does the apostle Paul refer to the Holy Spirit? The Spirit and Spirit of God.

What qualities of a person does the Holy Spirit have? He knows and comprehends the thoughts of God, which He reveals to us according to the will of God.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are **empowered** by one and the same Spirit, who **apportions** to each one individually as he wills. (1 Cor 12:4-11, ESV)

How does the apostle Paul refer to the Holy Spirit? The Spirit.

What qualities of a person does the Holy Spirit have? He allocates and empowers each Believer with spiritual gifts.

And do not **grieve** the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. (Eph 4:30, ESV)

How does the apostle Paul refer to the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit.

What qualities of a person does the Holy Spirit have? The Holy Spirit can feel grief.

Summary: The Holy Spirit is distinguishable from God and Jesus, referred to with a personal pronoun and is a distinct personality with supernatural power.

The Holy Spirit has essential qualities of a person: a) **He has moral knowledge** (convicts, has knowledge of God), b) **He has a mind and intelligence** (knows truth and thoughts of God), c) **He has emotion** (glorifies, grieves), and d) **He acts and is treated like a person** (teaches, reminds, bears witness, can be resisted, speaks, prophesizes, is sent, intercedes and prays for Believers, can approve of / forbid some activities, gives / distributes gifts).