

## THE IDENTITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

TEXT: Matthew 28:18-20

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. There is a reign of confusion regarding the subject of the HS in religious world - need not be!
- B. Bible clear about this as other subjects -- Problem: *speculation, theorizing, opinionizing, reliance upon "feelings" rather than the teachings of the Word of God.*
- C. Led to Pentecostalism, neo-pentecostalism, charismatic movement, and all sorts of *absurd heresies* related with and attributed to H.S.

TS: Consider THE IDENTITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

### I. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSONAL BEING: PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

\* "Person" = "a being characterized by conscious apprehension, rationality, and moral sense" - used of God:  
Heb. 1:3, *Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person...*

#### A. In WORKS

1. Speaks – 1 Tim 4:1, *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly...*
2. Teaches – John 14:26, *...he shall teach you all things*
3. Guides – John 16:13, *... when he, the Spirit of truth..., he will guide you...*
4. Searches – 1 Cor. 2:10, *... the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God*
5. Bears witness – 1 John 5:6, *... is the Spirit that beareth witness...*
6. Makes intercession – Rom. 8:26, *... the Spirit maketh intercession for us...*
7. Leads – Matt 4:1, *Then was Jesus led of the spirit into the wilderness...*
8. Strives – Gen 6:3, *My spirit shall not always strive with man...*
9. Glorifies – John 16:14, *He shall glorify me...*
10. Gives – 1 Cor. 12:7-11, *...the manifestation of the Spirit is given to...profit withal*

#### B. In CHARACTERISTICS

1. Has a mind – Rom. 8:27, *he that searcheth the heart knoweth ...the mind of the Spirit*
2. Has knowledge– 1 Cor. 2:11, *...the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God*
3. Has a will – 1 Cor. 12:11 *Spirit...dividing to every man severally as he will.*
4. Has affections – Rom. 15:30, *Now I beseech you...for the love of the Spirit...*
5. Can be grieved – Eph. 4:30, *And grieve not the holy Spirit of God...*
6. Can be insulted – Heb. 10:29, *... done despite unto the Spirit of grace*
7. Can be lied to – Acts 5:3, *...why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost*
8. Can be tempted – Acts 5:9, *...ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord*
9. Can be resisted – Acts 7:51, *...ye do always resist the Holy Ghost*
10. Can be vexed– Isa. 63:10, *But they rebelled, and vexed his holy spirit...*

#### C. In DESCRIPTION

1. Personal *characteristics* are attributed; personal pronouns are used in the masculine gender: "he" (John 14:15-16, 26; 15:26-27; 16:7-14)
2. Personal *titles*: "the Comforter" – "the Advocate" (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7)
3. Thus the Holy Spirit is not a mysterious power or impersonal force, not some mystical, indefinite, undefinable, ethereal-like substance that permeates the universe like a fog or the atmosphere, not simply "power", *but a personal Being*

## II. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS DEITY. HAS CHARACTERISTICS OF DEITY

### A. The nature of God: Father, Son, Holy Ghost

#### 1. There is one God:

- a. Deut. 6:4, Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord
- b. 1 Kgs. 8:60, . . .the Lord is God and there is none else
- c. Gal. 3:20, Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one.
- d. 1 Tim. 2:5, There is one God...
- e. Jms. 2:19, Thou believest that there is one God; thou does well
- f. 1 Cor. 8:4.6. . .there is none other God but one ... there is but one God...

#### 2. The one God exists as three persons: *Father, Son, Holy Ghost*

- a. Matthew 28:18-20
- b. Matthew 3:16-17
- c. 2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all.
- d. Ephesians 4:4-6. There is one body, and *one Spirit*, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; *one Lord*, one faith, one baptism, *One God and Father* of all who is above all, and through all, and in you all.
- d. 1 Peter 1:2 Elect according to God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ:
- e. 1 John 5:7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one

#### 3. Thus, the Bible speaks of the **GODHEAD**: (“fullness of God; state of being Deity”)

- a. Acts 17:29. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s device
- b. Romans 1:20, ...his eternal power and Godhead
- c. Col. 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily

B. Three persons are the ONE GOD:

1. The Father is GOD: Ephesians 4:6 (John 6:27, “God the Father”)
2. The Son is GOD: John 1:1-2, 14; 8:58; 20:28; Matthew 1:23; Isaiah 9:6; Hebrews 1:8; 1 Timothy 3:16
3. The Holy Spirit is GOD: Acts 5:3-4

C. The Holy Spirit has the attributes of Deity

1. Eternal: Heb. 9:14
2. Omniscient: 1 Cor. 2:10
3. Omnipresent: Psalms 139:7 ff.

CONCLUSION:

A. Always remember: THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD.

B. Within the nature of the One True God there is the Father, Son, Holy Ghost.

C. So what the Bible teaches: *The Holy Spirit as one of three persons who compose the nature of the One True God, who make up the Godhead.*

1. “Person” = “a being characterized by conscious apprehension, rationality, and moral sense”
2. “Person” used of God: Heb. 1:3, *Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person...*

D. We shall see as we continue our study that the Holy Spirit is the *person within the Godhead who accomplishes the Work of Deity.*