

=THE HOLY SPIRIT=

Lesson 2

A Real Person

INTRODUCTION: One of the most usual mistakes that Christians make in referring to the Holy Spirit is to refer to Him as an “it” instead of “Him.” The Holy Spirit is not an influence, He is not our conscience; He is a real person. In Genesis 1:26 we read, “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness....” Notice the plurality of the persons in the Godhead. God did not say, “I will,” or “Let Me make man in My own image.” He said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.” The three persons in the trinity are found in the first three verses in the Bible, and especially in this passage, which means the Holy Spirit is a person. Let us notice the attributes that He has that only people can have.

- I. HE LOVES. Romans 15:30, “Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ’s sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me.” Notice the words, “for the love of the Spirit.” Here is a wonderful thought. It teaches that the Holy Spirit is not a mere blind influence or power, but He is a person loving us with the most tender love. If He loves us, we should love Him as a person and tell Him that we love Him.
- II. HE POSSESSES INTELLIGENCE AND GOODNESS. Nehemiah 9:20, “Thou gavest also thy good spirit to instruct them, and withheldest not thy manna from their mouth, and gavest them water for their thirst.” Notice the word “instruct” and the words, “gavest them water.” ’Twas the Holy Spirit Who instructed the people and provided for them. Here He is given as a person Who can actually give things to God’s people.
- III. HE CAN BE GRIEVED. Ephesians 4:30, “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.” Notice the words, “grieve not the Holy Spirit.” A person can be grieved. The Holy Spirit is a person; hence, He can be grieved. Notice the things that grieve Him. Ephesians 4:31, “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice.” Here we see that bitterness grieves Him, wrath grieves Him, anger grieves Him, clamour grieves Him, evil speaking grieves Him, malice grieves Him. Notice how we can please Him. Ephesians 4:32, “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” Kindness, tenderheartedness and forgiveness please the Holy Spirit. Hence, the Holy Spirit can be grieved as a person can be grieved.
- IV. HE PRAYS. Romans 8:26, “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.” Here the Holy Spirit is represented as doing what only a person can do and that is praying. The Holy Spirit prays for us. Ah, I like that! He prays for God’s people.
- V. HE TEACHES. John 14:26, “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” An influence cannot teach. The Holy Spirit is a teacher.
- VI. HE IS ANOTHER LIKE JESUS. John 16:7, “Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.” Jesus is a person. Just as really as Jesus is a person, so the Holy Spirit is a person. When Jesus left, He sent another Jesus, as it were, to do for us what Jesus did for us while He was here.
- VII. AN INDIVIDUAL CAN BLASPHEME THE HOLY SPIRIT. Matthew 12:31, “Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.” In other words, as a person, He can be cursed. As a person, He can be blasphemed.
- VIII. HE CAN BE RESISTED. Acts 7:51, “Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.” (Teacher, tell how people can resist the Holy Spirit.

He wants to save someone, but the person resists Him. He wants to call a man to preach, but he resists Him.)

- IX. HE CAN BE INSULTED. Hebrews 10:29, “Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?” The word “despite” literally means “to insult.” (Teacher, think of ways the Holy Spirit can be insulted.)
- X. HE CAN BE QUENCHED. I Thessalonians 5:19, “Quench not the Spirit.” The word for “quench” is the same word which means “turning off a faucet.” The Holy Spirit wants to work through us; He wants to lead us; He wants to guide us, but we “turn Him off.” We quench Him.

CONCLUSION: The right attitude toward the Holy Spirit is to yield to Him—in constant willingness—to do what He says that we are to do. We are to accept Him as a person. We are to talk to Him, follow Him, let Him speak to us, and recognize Him as an individual.