



# The Nature of the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit series (Part 1)

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# INTRODUCTION

For the majority of Christian denominations, the **Holy Spirit**, or **Holy Ghost**, is the third person of the Trinity: the Triune God manifested as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit; each entity itself being God. *Nontrinitarian* Christians, who reject the doctrine of the Trinity, differ significantly from mainstream Christianity in their beliefs about the Holy Spirit. In Christian theology, pneumatology refers to the study of the Holy Spirit. Due to Christianity's historical relationship with Judaism, theologians often identify the Holy Spirit with the concept of the Ruach Hakodesh in Jewish scripture, in the belief Jesus (who was Jewish) was expanding upon these Jewish concepts. Similar names, and ideas, include the Ruach Elohim (Spirit of God), Ruach YHWH (Spirit of Yahweh), and the Ruach Hakmah (Spirit of Wisdom). In the New Testament it is identified with the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of Truth, the Paraclete and the Holy Spirit.



# Holy Spirit in the early church

► Ignatius (30-107)

Since, also, there is but one unbegotten Being, God, even the Father; and one only-begotten Son, God, the Word and man; and one Comforter, the Spirit of truth...

*The Epistle of Ignatius to the Philadelphians Chapter IV.—Have but one Eucharist, etc.*



# Holy Spirit in the early church

► Tertullian (145-220)

If the Holy Ghost took upon Himself so great a concern for our instruction, that we might know from what everything was produced, would He not in like manner have kept us well informed about both the heaven and the earth, by indicating to us what it was that He made them of, if their original consisted of any material substance, so that the more He seemed to have made them of nothing, the less in fact was there as yet made, from which He could appear to have made them?

*Against Hermogenes. Chapter XXII.—This Conclusion Confirmed by the Usage of Holy Scripture in Its History of the Creation. Hermogenes in Danger of the Woe Pronounced Against Adding to Scripture*




# Holy Spirit in the early church

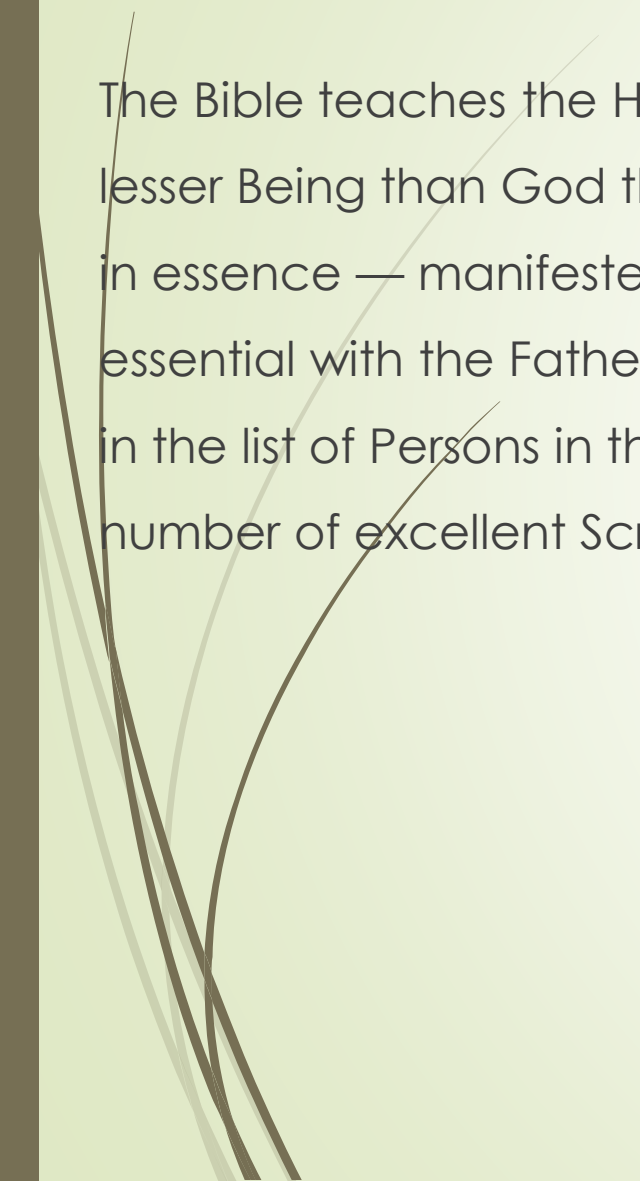
- ▶ *Symbolum Apostolorum*

- ▶ Believed that each of the the 12 apostles contributed one article in the creed. So it is dated as far back as the origin of the church.

1. I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
2. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
3. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
4. Under Pontius Pilate, He was crucified, died, and was buried.
5. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.
6. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
7. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
- 8. I believe in the Holy Spirit,**
9. the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints,
10. the forgiveness of sins,
11. the resurrection of the body,
12. and the life everlasting.



The Bible teaches the Holy Spirit to be the Third Person of the Trinity. This does not mean He is a lesser Being than God the Father or God the Son, for the Biblical doctrine of the Trinity asserts One in essence — manifested in three distinct Persons. The Holy Spirit is co-equal, co-eternal, and co-essential with the Father and the Son. He is God. Because the Scriptures invariably place Him third in the list of Persons in the Godhead, we use the term “The Third Person of the Trinity.” There are a number of excellent Scriptural proofs for the deity of the Holy Spirit:







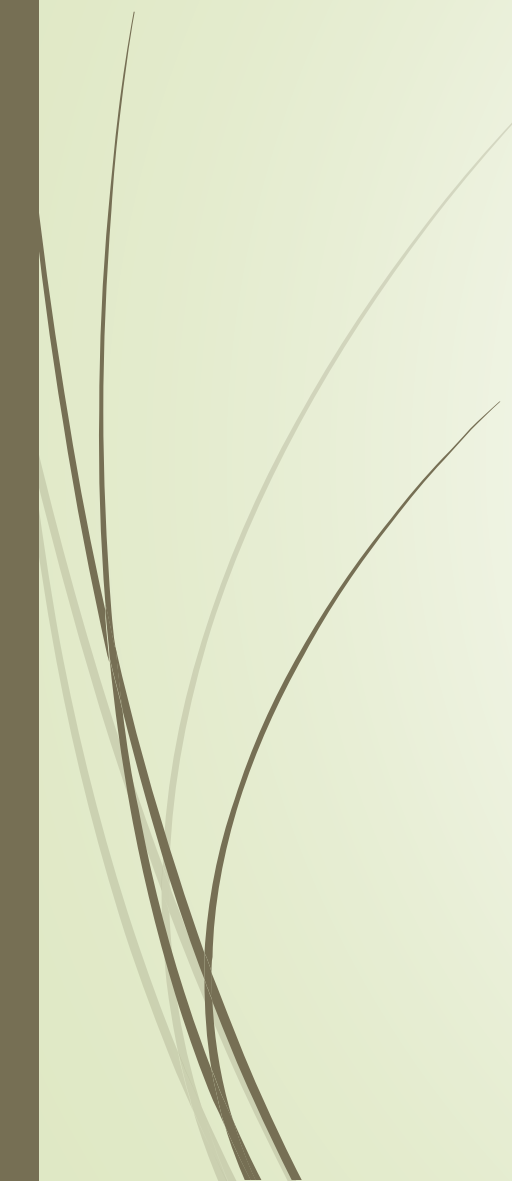
# The Holy Spirit is called “God”

- A. “The Lord is that Spirit” — II Corinthians 3:17
  
- B. B. The Account of Ananias and Sapphires. — Acts 5:3-4 A comparison of the 2 verse is interesting: verse 3 — “...to lie to the Holy Ghost...” Verse 4 — “...thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.”



# The Holy Spirit Exhibits Divine Attributes

The natural attributes of God can only belong to God. A number of Scriptures show the Holy Spirit possesses these attributes, along with the communicable attributes of God, thus demonstrating Him to be God.







# Attributes of God in The Holy Spirit

- A. Life. — Romans 8:2
- B. B. Eternality. — Hebrews 9:14
- C. C. Omnipresence. — Psalm 139:7
- D. D. Omnipotence. — Luke 1:35
- E. E. Omniscience. — John 14:26; 16:13, 14; I Corinthians 2:10, 11; Isaiah 40:12, 13
- F. F. Truth. — John 15:26; 16:13
- G. G. Holiness. — Ephesians 1:13; 4:30

*Note: Whenever the Bible uses a lower case “h” in “holy” Spirit, it is referring to His character — when it uses an upper case “h”, it is referring to His title as the Holy Spirit.*

- H. Love. — Romans 15:30



# The Holy Spirit does the Works of God

- A. He is the Creator. — Genesis 1:2, 26; Job 33:4; Psalms 104:30
- B. He is the Giver of Eternal Life. — John 3:6; Titus 3:5  
*Note: Salvation is: FROM the Father THROUGH the Son BY the Spirit*
- C. He is the Author of the Scriptures. — II Peter 1:21
- D. He is the One Who Resurrects. — Romans 8:11



# The Holy Spirit is Coupled with the Father and the Son

- A. In the Great Trinitarian Statement. — I John 5:7
- B. In the Great Commission. — Matthew 28:19
- C. In the Apostolic Benediction. — II Corinthians 13:14
- D. In the Administration of Spiritual Gifts. — I Corinthians 12:4-6 “...same Spirit...same Lord...Same God...”



# The Holy Spirit is Compared to the Old Testament Jehovah

- A. The Sender of the Prophet. Compare Isaiah 6:8-10 with Acts 28:25-27
- B. The One who was Provoked. Compare Exodus 1:7 and Psalm 95:8-11 with Hebrews 3:7-9
- C. The One who Anointed the Messiah. Compare Isaiah 61:1 and Luke 4:17, 18 with Acts 10:38
- D. The Inspirer of the Prophetic Writings. Compare Jeremiah 1:9 with II Peter 1:21
- E. The Giver of the New Covenant. Compare Jeremiah 31:31-34 with Hebrews 10:15-17
- F. The Giver of Life. Compare Genesis 2:7 with Job 33:4