

1

QUESTION BIBLE STUDY

Question No 2: Is the Holy Spirit a Person or a Mystical Force??

DIFFERENT VIEWS

- View A: The "holy spirit" is not God but rather an invisible, active force of Jehovah.
- View B: The Holy Spirit is God, the third person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is a person, not a force or energy field.
- View C: The "holy spirit" is different from the "Holy Ghost." The "holy spirit" is not God, but is an influence or electricity-like emanation from God (or "light of Christ").
- View D: The Holy Spirit is the law of God in action, the executive power of both Father and Son.

SCRIPTURES

- Isaiah 11:2; 63:10
- Luke 12:12
- John 14:17, 26
- Acts 8:29, 10:19; 11:12
- Acts 7:51
- Romans 8:26, 27
- 1 Corinthians 12:11
- 1 Thessalonians 1:6
- Titus 3:5
- Other scriptures?

INSTRUCTIONS

1. State your view in detail: After carefully examining the above views, in light of the scriptures, state which view you support, and why. Include the scriptures you used.
2. Explain in detail why you reject the other views.
3. Application: Explain in detail how your conclusions affect your life?
4. Send your responses to Mike Taylor at: taylorms@sbcglobal.net.
5. Check out responses of others at: www.taylornotes.info/one.

HOW TO TEST YOUR ANSWER

- Did I automatically jump to a previous view I held without carefully examining the related scriptures?
- Did I read my view into the scriptures (eisegesis) or was I careful to read out of scripture (exegesis)?
- Did I carefully examine the context of scripture verses?
- Does my view line up with the Bible's teaching as a whole?
- Did I interpret scripture using scripture?
- Did I depend completely on extra-biblical material without carefully examining related scriptures?
- Does my view agree with the consensus of other Christians? (See www.TaylorNotes.Info/one)

Abraham Irodistan
June 10, 2020

The Holy Spirit is not a force but God personal being has personality. He is an aspect of God. He is God, Romans 8:27. Holy Spirit has a mind and He intercedes in our behalf, Acts 15:8. The Holy Spirit has an emotion in Isaiah 63:10 and in Ephesians 4:30. Grief is an emotion. He communicates. He let us know what is in His mind and opinion. The entire Bible in a sense we could equate the Holy Spirit speaking as both scriptures given by inspiration of God 2 Peter 1:21., 2 Samuel 23:2.

In Psalm 110 Holy Spirit speaking to David, He communicate Acts 2:16. In John 16:13 Guide your hearing, speaking and declaring things. This is the activity of a person.

In 1 Timothy 4:1 The Holy Spirit speaks.

Hebrews 10:29 The Holy Spirit is insulted.

Romans 8:9-10 Is our relationship to the Holy Spirit.

In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit do not reside but only come upon him to Samson supernaturally, Saul, David and Gedion. Psalms 51:11 Do not take your Holy Spirit from me.

John 7:39 The Holy Spirit was not given yet because Jesus was not glorified. Joel 2:28 God says I will pour out my Spirit.....

Matthew 1:20 Jesus conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Acts 10:38 A man anointed by God.

Luke 4:1 Jesus returned in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 12:28 Casting in the Spirit of God.

Acts 1:8 Holy Spirit inhabits the church like God inhabits the temple. In fact we are the temple of God.

John 14:17 Every Christians has the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Because He lives in all Christians and unite collectively in all organism which is of course the body of Christ, 1 Corinthians 12:13, and Ephesians 4:3 No race or gender in the body of Christ.

John 16:13 Holy Spirit guides for truth.

Acts 1:5 quoting John baptized by the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:4 Speaking in tongues filled with Holy Spirit.

1 Peter 4:10-11 the gifts of giving, service to the body of Christ.

Ephesians 6:11-18 Engaged in Spiritual warfare.

Acts 1:8 Received power from the Holy Spirit.

John 20:22 after Jesus died.

Acts 10 Cornelius and his family received the Holy Spirit.

Acts 19:1-7 Receiving the Holy Spirit.

These are some of the text that the Holy Spirit is actively involve into a believers life as a person of a triad God. Even in the beginning in Genesis, it says the Spirit of G

Question No 2:

Is the Holy Spirit a Person or a Mystical Force?

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After carefully examining the four viewpoints proposed in Question Two of Mike Taylor's class, I have selected the view "The Holy Spirit is God, the third person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is a person, not a force or energy field." I believe this viewpoint follows the Holy Bible. In this paper in section: **I. DIFFERENT VIEWS PROPOSED**, I have listed the four viewpoints and explained in detail what faith I believe they line up with and why I rejected three of the viewpoints which did not follow the Holy Bible. I identified the viewpoint that I believe does follow the Holy Bible. In section **II. TEST MY ANSWER** I responded to each question in order to test my viewpoint selected. In section: **III. MY VIEWPOINT SUPPORTED** I have supported the viewpoint selected and used scriptures from the Holy Bible provided and added additional scriptures from my own research to support my viewpoint. In summary the last section: **IV. APPLICATION** describes how I have in the past and I pray I will in the future walk forward applying the application of this viewpoint in my life.

DIFFERENT VIEWS

View A: The "holy spirit" is not God but rather an invisible, active force of Jehovah.

From my research this viewpoint follows the beliefs of the Jehovah's Witnesses. Reading directly from the Jehovah Witness website (www.jw.org), it is written:

"The King James version of the Bible includes at 1 John 5:7, 8 the words "in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth. However, researchers have found that those words were not written by the apostle John and so do not belong in the Bible."

<https://www.jw.org/en/bible-teachings/questions/what-is-the-holy-spirit/>

To begin with, the Jehovah's are specifically identifying a scripture being a direct quote from the Holy Bible with the words "Holy Spirit" in the scripture and yet, "they" have decided "researchers have found that those words were not written by the apostle John and so do not belong in the Bible" even though it is in the Bible. This seems hard to understand when you later read in Section III. MY VIEWPOINT SUPPORTED how many more Bible scriptures there are that clearly describe the Holy Spirit. It's not as if it was just this one scripture the decide to not accept.

In addition, later on their website they went on to use such things as a masculine noun requiring a masculine pronoun according to the rules of Greek grammar. In actuality with the little that I am aware each particular instance requires the knowledge of whom the writing was being spoken to and what faith the people being spoke to in order to deduce if this was true or not. I am not an expert in this field but from the time I have taken to research this paper I have found countless scriptures which support the Holy Spirit being a person that something as small as a gender specific rule would not eliminate the possibility of the Holy Spirit being what it is referred to in the Bible.

"Similarly, when the apostle John quoted Jesus, he personified the holy spirit as a "helper" (paraclete) that would give evidence, guide, speak, hear, declare, glorify, and receive. He used masculine personal pronouns such as "he" or "him" when referring to that "helper." (John 16:7-15) However, he did so because the Greek word for "helper" (pa-ra'kle-tos) is a masculine noun and requires a masculine pronoun according to the rules of Greek

grammar. When John referred to the holy spirit using the neuter noun pneu'ma, he used the genderless pronoun "it."—John 14:16, 17."

<https://www.jw.org/en/bible-teachings/questions/what-is-the-holy-spirit/>

I cannot express in the words to say how I feel, when I read print words like this. This website plainly states they "do not accept the written words from the Holy Bible" which very clearly tells me their beliefs are not directed from the Holy Spirit or God, but from man. From my own small experience in life doing my best to use exegesis (to interpret a text by way of a thorough analysis of its content) it is very clear that the quote above used eisegesis (a process where one leads into study by reading a text on the basis of pre-conceived ideas of its meanings.) I have not ever seen this so clearly.

View A: This does not line up with the Biblical Christian viewpoint.

View B: The Holy Spirit is God, the third person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is a person, not a force or energy field.

This is the view which I believe follows the Holy Bible. I will provide scriptural support after the five views have been reviewed in **Section III. MY VIEWPOINT SUPPORTED** of this paper.

View C: The "holy spirit" is different from the "Holy Ghost. "The "holy spirit" is not God, but is an influence or electricity-like emanation from God (or "light of Christ").

From my research this viewpoint lines up with the Mormons or also called the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Looking directly at their main website I found the following:

"The Holy Ghost is a personage of spirit and a member of the Godhead. Elder Joseph Fielding Smith taught that "the Holy Ghost should not be confused with the Spirit [the Light of Christ] which fills the immensity of space and which is everywhere present. This other Spirit is impersonal and has no size, nor dimensions; it proceeds forth from the presence of the Father and the Son and is in all things. We should speak of the Holy Ghost as a personage as 'he' and this other Spirit as 'it,' although when we speak of the power or gift of the Holy Ghost we may properly say 'it.'"

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/ensign/1989/06/i-have-a-question/what-is-the-difference-between-the-holy-ghost-the-spirit-of-christ-and-the-light-of-christ?lang=eng>

The Rose Publishing (Hendrickson Publishing) website defines clearly how the Mormons differ from Biblical Christianity.

“Mormons and Christians talk reverently about God and Jesus, but their definitions are completely different. For example, Christians believe that God is eternal, but official Mormon teaching says he was once a man, and that men today can progress to godhood. As you can see, Christianity and official Mormon teachings are vastly different in the most basic and important beliefs. Mormonism does not follow the essential doctrines of Christianity.

<https://blog.rose-publishing.com/2011/10/11/mormon-vs-christian-beliefs/#.XuJ5P25ID0c>

I do find it interesting that when I searched for “**influence or electricity-like emanation from God**” on the Mormon website I did not find it anywhere. My thoughts are that this has been a highly questioned viewpoint of the Mormons and they are careful with their words on the website. Although, as you can see in the quote above directly from their website they do differentiate between the Holy Spirit and the Holy Ghost which was the first part of Viewpoint C.

View C: does not line up with the Biblical Christian viewpoint.

View D: The Holy Spirit is the law of God in action, the executive power of both Father and Son.

From my research this viewpoint lines up with a faith called Unity. A definition of their belief I found on their website (<https://www.unity.org>) says:

“The teachings in Unity bring together ancient wisdom with new interpretations of what it means to be alive and human. Unity inspires different ways to think about the force of love and intelligence that many people call God.”

<https://www.unity.org/about-us/what-unity>

Specifically related to their understanding and belief of the Holy Spirit, I was able to find this section that explains their understanding of the Holy Spirit.

“The Holy Spirit is the energy of God, the activity of God, in all creation. It is an energy that embraces and supports us as we work to more perfectly express our own unique Oneness with God by allowing our true Christ nature to be the source for all our choices. Sometimes that Expression of God flows directly from Divine Mind; sometimes it expresses through us as we exercise our creative power and express the Christ of God into our mortal experiences.”

<https://www.unity.org/resources/bible-interpretation/trinity-father-son-and-holy-spirit>

“Metaphysically, we understand the trinity to represent the aspects of Mind, Idea and Expression that help us define and work with the totality of God. God is all that is. There is nothing but God in existence.”

<https://www.unity.org/resources/bible-interpretation/trinity-father-son-and-holy-spirit>

Looking at each of these two quotes, what stands out the most to me is that there was NO reference to the Holy Bible. Either in their beliefs or to substantiate their beliefs came from. The words sound pretty to some, yet there is no substance behind them let alone a quote above and beyond a man's view.

View D: This does not line up with the Biblical Christian viewpoint.

I. TEST MY ANSWER

- Did I automatically jump to a previous view I held without carefully examining the related scriptures?
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I did not jump to a previous view held about the Holy Spirit. My research provided a means of visiting this viewpoint I do believe with fresh eyes and heart.
- Did I read my view into the scriptures (eisegesis) or was I careful to read out of scripture (exegesis)?  
~~~~~  
I took each step and each scripture one step at a time.
- Did I carefully examine the context of scripture verses?
~~~~~  
YES
- Does my view line up with the Bible's teaching as a whole?  
~~~~~  
I would have to say from all honesty I am taken back after finding firmly held viewpoints of the Holy Spirit that do NOT follow the Holy Bible and yet give the idea that they are Biblically held viewpoints. I have experienced living and believing faiths that were not Christian. At that time, I had no idea that the viewpoints taught to me and I that believed at that time did not support themselves but were from a person and not from God. Since I have accepted Jesus Christ as my Savior, I have made extra efforts in my life to use the Holy Bible as my "source" and I am shocked to read that is it OK, to even bluntly hear a group discredit the Bible. So, my answer is that I do make extra efforts so that my view does line up with what the Bible teaches.
- Did I interpret scripture using scripture?
~~~~~  
Yes, this is necessary to logically go from step to step theologically.
- Did I depend completely on extra-biblical material without carefully examining related scriptures?  
~~~~~  
I looked at outside sources from the internet. This time I did change. once I determined what faith most closely lined up with that viewpoint I looked directly at their specific faith's website. I felt this provided me with an even clearer understanding of what they believed rather than what others interpreted they believed. I was surprised to find in the one example that I found

many sources that referred to “electricity-like emanation from God” being a belief from the Mormons when in actuality those words were nowhere on their website. I explained why I think this may have happened in my critique of Viewpoint C above.

Does my view agree with the consensus of other Christians?

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There are so many people who believe they are Christians and there are many Christian denominations that call themselves Christians and they technically are not, it would be impossible for me to answer yes or no.

After my research this week, I am even more aware that there are faiths which express views from man as a religion or “the answer.” As explained earlier because of my background I take extra efforts to NOT choose a man’s view and seek for my answer through prayer, the Holy Spirit and the Word. From what I have researched myself of Christianity I do believe that my viewpoint I chose does line up with the bible and Christianity.

## MY VIEWPOINT SUPPORTED

The view which I believe follows the Holy Bible is:

**View B: The Holy Spirit is God, the third person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is a person, not a force or energy field.**

In Question 1 of this series, the question of how God, could be God, a man and the Holy Spirit all at the same time was addressed. I will begin with the premise that “**The Holy Spirit, or the 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.**” has been shown through Biblical research to be proven Biblically sound. The question of this paper, is more specifically is:

**If the Holy Spirit is a person, not a force or energy field.**

My research has been done not by seeking other “human beings” answers. We would not be taking a true look at the question. We would be looking at this from a human perspective. By looking at this question through The Word, left by God, for us through the Holy Spirit, our approach will be fresh and hopefully - awakening. The book is called the Holy Bible or the Scriptures. I will approach the question proposed, void of human interpretation and seek my answer from the Bible as my reference.

In the account of creation at the very beginning of the Bible, we are told:

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters” (Gen. 1:1-2). The Hebrew word translated as “Spirit” here is *ruach*, which also can mean “breath.” The *ruach elohim*, “the Breath of the Almighty,” is the agent in creation. It is not the immateriality of the Spirit that is in view here, but rather His power and energy; the picture is of God’s energy breathing out creation, as it were, speaking the worlds into existence, putting the stars into space. Thus, when we read Isaiah 40:26 and the question is asked, “Who created these?” we have the answer in Genesis 1:2—the Spirit is the irresistible power by which God accomplishes His purpose.”

Ligonier Ministries, <https://www.ligonier.org>, 1971, <https://www.ligonier.org/blog/five-truths-about-holy-spirit/>

I will begin by identifying **where** the Holy Spirit is referred to in the Holy Bible. **How** the Holy Spirit is spoken of which will lead to the answer **what** the Holy Spirit is.

The words “Holy Spirit” are found throughout both the Old Testament and the New Testament of each translation selected. Because the number of translations is numerous I have chosen a small selection below identifying the number of times in the Holy Bible it shows the words “Holy Spirit” and “Holy Ghost” with the translation to the left. As you can see it is written in all translations selected in either the Holy Spirit or the Holy Ghost, and all Bible we have selected.

|                                 | <b>Holy Spirit</b> | <b>Holy Ghost</b> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| New International Version (NIV) | 104                | 0                 |
| King James Version (KJV)        | 23                 | 89                |
| New King James (NKJ)            | 110                | 0                 |
| The Message                     | 111                | 3                 |
| English Standard Version (ESV)  | 110                | 0                 |

The “Nicene Creed, summarizes several key beliefs held by many Christian denominations as “a Christian statement of faith which is the only ecumenical creed (relating to, or representing the whole of a body of churches “Miriam Dictionary”) Because it is accepted as authoritative by the Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Anglican, and major Protestant churches.

**Wikipedia Website, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page), Copyright Act of 1976, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicene\\_Creed](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nicene_Creed), edited on 9 June 2020**

The Holy Spirit is spoken of multiple times alone in the Nicene Creed. Earlier it was noted that there are denominations that do not accept or believe in the Holy Spirit. Although this creed is accepted as authoritative by many. I believe this is a critical beginning step to identify the fact that the Holy Spirit is recognized as a “the Holy Spirit, the Lord, and “the giver of life” in something as widely accepted in Christian faiths to substantiate the research for the Holy Spirit.

## **The Nicene Creed**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father [and the Son],  
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

As it is written, in the Nicene Creed the Holy Spirit is clearly referenced as the “Lord, the giver of life” and he came down from heaven, and The Lord came by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. This is a dramatic proof of the Christian faith believing in the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is referred to by many different symbols listed below, to name a few and their scriptures referenced below:

|               |                                                                                       |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Giver of Life | John 6:63, Exo 15:26,<br>Ruth 4:15, the Nicene Creed                                  |
| comforter     | John 14:26                                                                            |
| water         | Acts 2:2, Isaiah 44:3<br>Genesis 1:2                                                  |
| powerful wind | 1 Kings 19:11<br>Isaiah 28:2                                                          |
| cloud         | Exodus 24:15-18<br>2 Chronicles 5:13-14<br>Matthew 17:5-6<br>Acts 1:9<br>Luke 9:34-35 |
| oil           | Exo 30:31<br>Exo 37:29                                                                |
| dove          | Matthew 3:13-17<br>Luke 3:22<br>John 1:32<br>Mark 1:10                                |
| fire          | Matt 3:11<br>Luke 3:16<br>Revelation 2:11                                             |
| voice         | Matthew 3:11<br>Luke 3:22<br>Hebrews 3:7                                              |

The Holy Spirit is most widely known is as our “comforter” and our guide. As described in the Holy Bible the Holy Spirit was sent to be with us here on earth when Jesus left the planet earth. It must be mentioned that it is incomprehensible to the human mind and it is through our faith that each step we take helps us understand. Although as much as we acknowledge that it is incomprehensible, the Bible also tells us clearly that if you are not a believer, you will not “read” the scriptures the same as a believer:

25 Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The works I do in my Father's name testify about me, 26 but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. 27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. 28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all[c]; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one."

John 10:25-30 (NIV)

"For many, clarification of the distinct role each member of the Godhead plays in giving gifts to mankind is helpful. Foundationally, of course, our existence – human life – is given by the Father (Genesis 2:7, Hebrew 12:9), who also gave His only begotten Son as the Redeemer for mankind (John 3:16). Redemptively, Jesus is the giver of eternal life (John 5:38 – 40; 10:27, 28): He gave His life and shed His blood to gain that privilege (John 10:17, 18; Ephesians 5:25-27). Further, the Father and Son have jointly sent the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:17, 33) to advance the work of redemption through the church's ministry of worship, growth and evangelism."

**The New Spirit Filled Life Bible, Executive Editor Jack W. Hayford, Litt.D. Copyright 2002 by Thomas Nelson Inc., p 1854**

At this point the foundation has been laid and we have the background to begin looking specifically at the Holy Spirit from the perspective of the question at hand – "Is The Holy Spirit a person, or a force and an energy field?" The very first observations are that in all the scriptures, noted He is spoken of as "He," not as "it." I did not come across one scripture where the Holy Spirit was referred to as it.

I would like to begin with the reference to the Holy Spirit as our "comforter" (John 14:16 John 14:26 ; 15:26; 16:7.) which I believe is one of the most widely known.

"The word comforter means literally, "called to one's side" for help. The translation "Comforter" covers only a small part of the meaning as shown in the context. The word "Helper" would be a more adequate translation. The Spirit does a great deal for disciples besides comforting them, although to comfort was a part of His work for them. The Spirit guides into truth; indeed, He is called the Spirit of truth. He teaches and quickens the memory of disciples and glorifies Christ in them. He also has a work to do in the hearts of unbelievers, convicting the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment." (<https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/comforter/>)

The Greek word translated is "Helper" or *parakletos*. "In its technical form, it has a legal dimension; it refers to one who would be an advocate. In its wider context, it speaks of comfort, of protection, of counsel, and of guidance. Jesus also spoke of the Spirit as the Helper in John 14 and introduced Him as "the Spirit of truth"

**Ligonier Ministries, <https://www.ligonier.org>, 1971, <https://www.ligonier.org/blog/five-truths-about-holy-spirit/>**

The definition as a comforter itself denotes a personal relationship between the believer and the Holy Spirit. It would not be possible to have a person and a force be a helper. One does not have a "relationship" with an inanimate force like the wind or a cloud. The wind cannot physically or

emotionally comfort a human just as each of the physical objects mentioned above which the Holy Spirit is referred to, can of itself not be of comfort (wind, cloud, fire etc.) The Holy Spirit is though referred to as a comforter it is as if the Holy Spirit/God is the conduit through which the wind or fire is clearly acting.

It seems very clear then that the scriptures referenced express a relationship with the Holy Spirit on a daily basis who is our comforter and our guide. This relationship provides our link to Jesus Christ through the Holy Bible by way of the Holy Spirit.

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.

John 14:26

If anyone thirst, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. "

John 7:37

In the book of Luke Chapter 1, it is written that there was, in the days of Herod, the king of Judea, a priest named Zacharias, and his wife Elizabeth. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years.

13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. 14 And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. 15 For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. 16 And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Luke 1:13-17

Not only does this give an example of God's intervention in a person's life but that Zacharias "will also be filled with the Holy Spirit". Having the womb of the mother filled with the Holy Spirit! They are not referring to wind, or clouds or an object but very clearly the "spirit" being with the mother and child. In Romans it is very clear that "because the Spirit intercedes for God's people" we are not only comforted but our lives are interceded by God.

We go on to find in Romans where it is described as the "gifts given by God as Father. They seem to characterize basic "motivations," that is inherent tendencies that Characterize each different person by reason of the Creator's unique workmanship in their initial gifting."

**The New Spirit Filled Life Bible, Executive Editor Jack W. Hayford, Litt.D. Copyright 2002 by Thomas Nelson Inc. p 1854**

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27 And he

who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

Romans 8:26, 27

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⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,^[a] and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

1 Corinthians 12:11

“The gifts which the Son of God has given are pivotal in assuring that the first two categories of gifts are applied in the body of the church. Ephesians 4:7-16 not only indicates the “office gifts” Christ has placed in the church along with their purpose. The ministry of these leaders is to “equip” the body by assisting each person: 1) to perceive the place the Creator has made him to fill, by His creative workmanship in him, and the possibilities that salvation now opens to his realization of what he has made to be; and 2) to receive the power of the Holy Spirit, and begin to respond to His gifts, which are given to expand each believer’s capabilities beyond the created order and toward the redemptive dimension of ministry, for edifying the church and evangelizing the world.”

The New Spirit Filled Life Bible, Executive Editor Jack W. Hayford, Litt.D.

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⁷ But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. ⁸ This is why it says: “When he ascended on high, he took many captives and gave gifts to his people.”

⁹ (What does “he ascended” mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? ¹⁰ He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) ¹¹ So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, ¹² to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. ¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Ephesians 4:7-16 (NIV)

The example goes forward from here with more and more scriptures expressing the Holy Spirit with qualities of a person, with “deep conviction.”

⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. ⁶ You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.

1 Thessalonians 1:4-6

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<sup>3</sup> At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. <sup>4</sup> But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, <sup>5</sup> he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, <sup>6</sup> whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, <sup>7</sup> so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:3-7

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A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—

Isaiah 11:2

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But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit;  
So He turned Himself against them as an enemy,  
And He fought against them.

Isaiah 63:10 “Jesus’ announcement that blaspheming the Holy Spirit is a sin that will never be forgiven is “hard” for two reasons. First, it seems to contradict Scriptures that tell us Christ’s blood can affect forgiveness for every sin (1 John 1:7, 9). Second, Jesus affirms that slander against Himself, the Son of Man, can be forgiven; but slander against the Holy Spirit cannot. Does this exalt the dignity of the third person of the Trinity above the second person? The saying appears in varying forms in the Gospels”

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/blasphemy-against-holy-spirit/>

Every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.

Matt. 12:31

<sup>8</sup> “I tell you, whoever publicly acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God. <sup>9</sup> But whoever disowns me before others will be disowned before the angels of God. <sup>10</sup> And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be

forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

<sup>11</sup> “When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, <sup>12</sup> for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”

Luke12:12

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“Forgiveness is possible for one who slanders the Son not because any of the three divine persons has less glory than the others. Rather, the Son’s incarnation veiled His glory in ways that obscured it from the view of many who were blinded by ignorant unbelief but were still recoverable by the Spirit.

Of two truths we may be sure: None who commits this unforgivable sin will ever trust in Christ to receive the forgiveness found in Him. And no one who flees to the crucified and risen Son of Man has committed that heinous slander of the Spirit—nor will the Savior turn away anyone who turns to Him.”

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/blasphemy-against-holy-spirit/>

“The Father would send the Spirit in the Son’s name to teach the disciples all things and bring to their remembrance all He had said to them (John 14:25–26). This is a vital text for our doctrines of the reliability and inspiration of Scripture.”

<https://www.ligonier.org/learn/devotionals/our-teacher-the-holy-spirit/>

The number of scriptures that clearly describe a “relationship” between the Holy Spirit and the believer are numerous. We are shown the Holy Spirit will come to “teach all things, remind us, speak to us as shown in the scriptures to follow:

²⁵ “All this I have spoken while still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

John 14:25-26

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<sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be <sup>in</sup> you.

John 14:17

<sup>29</sup> The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

Acts 8:29

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¹⁹ While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, “Simon, three men are looking for you.

Acts 10:19

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<sup>12</sup> The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man’s house.

Acts 11:12

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⁵¹ “You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! ⁵² Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him— ⁵³ you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it.”

Acts 7:51

“In 1 Corinthians the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit are listed. Their purpose is specific – to “profit” the body of the church. These nine gifts are specifically available to every believer as the Holy Spirit distributes them.”

The New Spirit Filled Life Bible, Executive Editor Jack W. Hayford, Litt.D. Copyright 2002 by Thomas Nelson Inc. p 1854.

12 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: 2 You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb^[b] idols, however you were led. 3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: 8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

1 Corinthians 12 (NKJV)

The gifts of the spirit are also spoken of in 1 Corinthians 14:12 and Hebrews 2:4.

From the scriptures shown I believe I have demonstrated that the Spirit of God, the third person of the Trinity, is personal. As a person, He may be grieved (Eph. 4:30), He may be quenched in terms of the exercise of His will (1 Thess. 5:19), and He may be resisted (Acts 7:51).

APPLICATION:

The application of researching and identifying with Biblical scriptures that the Holy Spirit is person has had a profound impact on my life. There are times I speak with people and we use theological ideas or even scriptures with such ease, and yet I do not “know” these scriptures I sometimes speak of. In my heart and soul before my research I believe that the Holy Spirit is a person. Because I have spent the days of research I can more easily recite or know where the scriptures are. This will help not only me in my further research but in speaking with others. Thank you for the opportunity to write this paper.

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Answer to Question 2 – Is The Holy Spirit a Person or a Mystical Force??

Holy Spirit – The Holy Spirit is God, the third person of the Trinity (Isa 6:8-10, Acts 28 25-27). The Holy Spirit is a person (Acts 11:15, Eph 1:13-14, John 16:13), not a force or energy field. The Holy spirit is part of the Godhead and, like Jesus, shares in the attributes of God. The primary work of the Holy Spirit is to manifest the active presence of God in the world, especially through the church. The Holy spirit also declares and glorifies the Son (John 16:13-14) The Holy Spirit seals (Eph 1:13, 2Cor 1:22), baptizes (1Cor 12:13), and infills believers (Eph 5:18, Acts 2:4). He has all the attributes of God (Gen 1:2, Matt 28:19, John 16:13-15) and all the attributes of a person (1Cor 2:10-13, Rom 8:27).

All who come to God trusting in the person and work of Jesus to make them right with God are given the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:13-14). The presence of the Holy Spirit causes all those in whom He resides to have new holy hungers they didn't have before. They hunger, for example, for the Holy Word of God, the Bible. They have new holy longings, such as the longing to live in a body without sin and to have a mind no longer tempted by sin. Consequently, when the Holy Spirit indwells someone, that person begins to prize and pursue holiness. Heb 12:14 says that anyone who is not striving for holiness will not see the Lord. The reason they will not see the Lord in eternity is because they do not know the Lord now. Those who know Him now are given the His Holy Spirit, and all those indwelled by the Holy Spirit are compelled to pursue holiness.

Application in my Life – The Holy Trinity has profoundly changed my life and continues to do so as I study the scriptures. Believers communicate through the Holy Spirit to God. We do this through prayer. It is a lifelong process to learn to “walk in the Spirit”. God wants a personal relationship with every believer. It is through the Holy Spirit that we hear the promptings from God. My main goal during the process of sanctification is to learn to “walk in the Spirit”. When I wake each morning, I ask God to keep me in touch with the spirit that day so that I can hear God's promptings. This is hard to do all day long except through continued prayer and thanksgiving. Learning to walk in the Spirit is a life-long process. When I walk the beach, I talk to God through the Holy Spirit and express awe over his

creation. When I read scripture or books, I ask God to inspire me through the Spirit, and give me understanding about what I am reading. I ask God to guide my steps and my mouth throughout the day and open doors for opportunities to serve him. I ask God to put the words on my tongue before I speak, and when to be quiet and listen. I regularly thank Jesus for the tremendous suffering he did for me and my family while on the cross.

The main question I ask myself is what every Christian should ask. How shall I pursue holiness, the holiness without which I will not see the Lord? How can I become a more like Jesus Christ? 1Tim 4:7 states “Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness”. In other words, if your purpose is godliness, and you are filled by the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit will make godliness your purpose. Then how do you pursue that purpose? According to this verse, discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness through the Holy Spirit. So the Spiritual Disciplines are those personal and interpersonal activities given by God in the Bible as the sufficient means that believers in Jesus Christ use. The Spirit-filled, gospel-driven pursuit of godliness that is closest to Christ and in conformity to Christ that you will get.

June 12, 2020

Denise Broadwell

One question: Question No. 2 "Is the Holy Spirit a Person or a Mystical Force?"

I agree with view number D

In my attempt to answer these questions, the way I see it is that the Spirit of the Lord is our advocate, given to us by the power of God. The Holy Spirit brings me wisdom, conviction, knowledge and he leads me into all truth.

We can break the heart of God and grieve the Holy Spirit by not living right, and until we seek the forgiveness and turn from our sin we can then ask the Holy Spirit to refresh our spirit and renew us.

1 John 1:9

Titus 3:5 says he saved us not because of our righteous things that we have done, but because of his mercy he saved us

So the Holy Spirit helps us to get back into fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ

The other views seem incorrect to me, they sound foolish and or they don't make sense to me. The Trinity is three and one and they all work in unity to please the father God.

I believe that in my understanding, the Holy Spirit is a gift to me he came with great power and love and deep conviction, he grows my faith and understanding

I believe I read that 1 Thes. 1:6

We were washed by the spirit so we can hear and see what the spirit has to say.

The Holy Spirit guides my thoughts daily and set me on a guided path daily in all I say and do, and when I stray, the Holy Spirit gently correct me, convict me as I need to forgive or get right with people, and have understanding

This all happens when I continue to remain in fellowship with the Lord and seek him daily