



# The Holy Spirit – Session 1

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## John 16:7

*“But I say the truth to you,  
It is profitable for you that I go away;  
for if I do not go away,  
the Comforter will not come to you;  
but if I go I will send him to you.”*

## Two questions

1. Why be occupied with this subject?
2. Does the Bible really teach that the Holy Spirit is a Person?



# Why be occupied with the subject? Counter Argument 1:

“The Spirit does not speak about Himself, so we shouldn't speak about Him.”

- This is based on a misunderstanding of John 16:13

“He shall not speak of himself” (KJV)

“He shall not speak from himself” (JND)



## Counter Argument 1 (cont'd)

► Let's look at this:

*“For he shall not speak from himself; but whatsoever he shall hear he shall speak” (JND)*

1. Preposition ('apo') → means from
2. Context: it continues to say:
  - “...but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak”
  - I.e. not independently (of the Father and the Son)
3. This very verse – and the whole passage, as well as many others – prove the contrary



## Counter Argument 2

“Christ is the object of our faith ('objective'). The Spirit works within us ('subjective').”

- The statements are true, the inference isn't
  - Yes, Christ is the object of our faith
  - Yes, the Spirit carries out a work within us
  - But: this does NOT imply that we should not know about the Spirit, or his work!
  - Examples
    - Grieve not the Spirit
    - Quench not the Spirit
    - Be filled with the Spirit



## Counter Argument 3

“Over-occupation with the Spirit is dangerous”

- True – but we’re not advocating over-occupation
- Occupation with one Person of the Godhead does not detract from another
- Teaching on the Spirit (and all subjects) must be:
  - In line with (Spirit breathed) Scriptures
  - Balanced
  - To the glory of Christ.



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## Positive Reasons (1)

### ➤ Joh 16:7

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- How can this be true?
- The Lord’s presence was an immense privilege!
- But, although they had a divine Person before them, they were limited in taking things in
- The Holy Spirit would be a divine Person within them
- He would give capacity to receive these things





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## Positive Reasons (2)

The presence of the Spirit on earth is a **central feature of the Christian dispensation**

- The Spirit formed the church
- Dwells on earth, dwells in believers
- Guides the sons of God
- Has come from the glory of Christ to reveal it to us
- Characterizes the house (habitation of God by the Spirit)
- Helps us enjoy being children of God, and our relationship with the Father
- Seals our belonging to God
- Guarantees our inheritance
- Gives spiritual gifts
- Etc., etc.



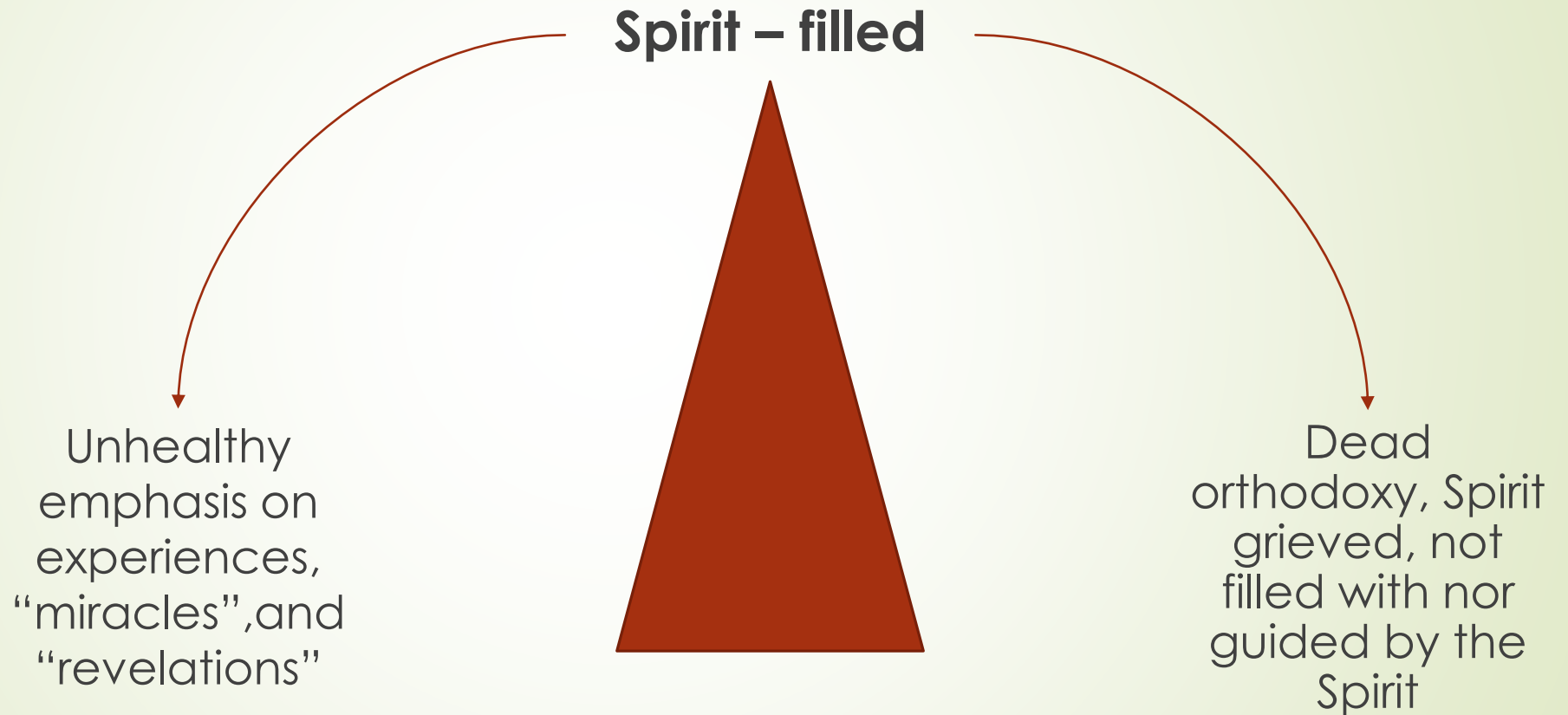
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## Positive Reasons (3)

- Immense practical importance
- Born of the Spirit
- Christians “walk after the Spirit” (Rom. 8:4)
- If we “walk in the Spirit”, we “shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh” (Gal. 5:16)



## 2 Dangers



1. Why be occupied with this subject?

2. Does the Bible really teach that the Holy Spirit is a Person?

# Does the Bible really teach that the Holy Spirit is a Person?

- Absolutely!
- It is true that the Holy Spirit is also spoken of as power
  - Acts 1:8
  - Luke 24:49
- ...but He is also a Person.
- The Bible describes the Holy Spirit as acting in a way only a person can.

# Why is this so important?

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We can't simply use the Spirit for our purposes

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He is not only a power, He is also a Person

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Hence He has a will

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We should be subject to the guiding of the Holy Spirit

## The Holy Spirit acts in a way only persons can:

<b>speaks</b>	Acts 13:2; Heb. 3:7
<b>gives testimony</b>	Heb. 10:15
<b>teaches</b>	John 14:26
<b>calls (chooses) to service</b>	Acts 13:2
<b>can be grieved</b>	Eph. 4:30
<b>can be lied to</b>	Acts 5:3
<b>has a will</b>	1 Cor. 12:11
<b>has a view on what is good</b>	Acts 15:28
<b>can forbid</b>	Acts 16:6–7

# Let's not confuse the Holy Spirit with the Lord's human spirit



- This would be fundamental error.
- Christ was and is God
- Christ became Man – without ever ceasing to be God
- As true Man He had (see 1. Thess. 5:23)
  - A human body (Heb. 10:5)
  - A human soul (John 12:27)
  - A human spirit (John 11:33).
- The Holy Spirit is a Person and, for that, a divine Person (→ session 2).



# One word on the Trinity

- The word 'trinity' does not occur in the Bible but the truth conveyed by the word 'trinity' does
  - What does it mean?
- God is one (1. Tim. 2:5)
  - There are three Persons who are God:
    - The Father (Eph. 1:3)
    - The Son (Rom. 9:5; 1. John 5:20b)
    - The Holy Spirit (see session 2)

## Re-cap

1. The subject of the Holy Spirit is 
  - Central to Christianity
  - Immensely important for our practical lives
  - Well worth studying
2. The Holy Spirit is a Person (as well as a power) 
  - He acts in ways only a person can
  - We should respect His will and leading

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God, and **the  
communion of the Holy Spirit**, be  
with you all.*

**2 Cor. 13:14**