

How do we know the  
Holy Spirit is God?

---

# Contents

---

## **How do we know the Holy Spirit is God?**

- I. Proofs of the divinity of the Spirit
- II. The Spirit being sent, and the Spirit coming
- III. Other background
  - a. When did the Holy Spirit come to dwell on the earth?
  - b. What do we know about His character?
  - c. What is 'spiritual'?

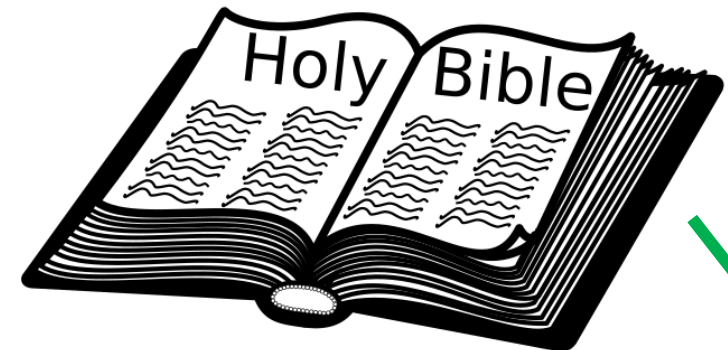
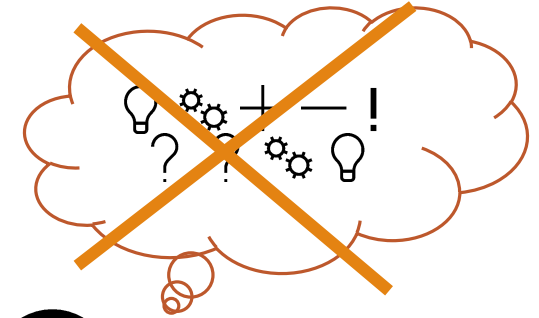
# I. *Divinity of the Spirit ?* - How can we answer questions about God?

---

Can we find answers about God by logical conclusion or deductions of our own mind and intelligence? No, we can't.

Is it our personal feelings and our "experiences" that teach us about God? No, it isn't.

God can be known because He has revealed Himself, it is in His word that we can learn about Him.



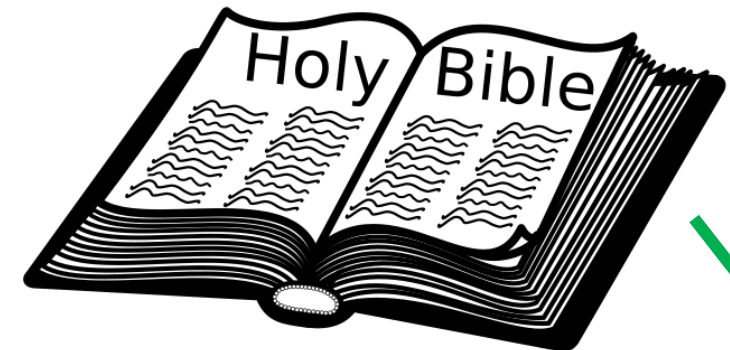
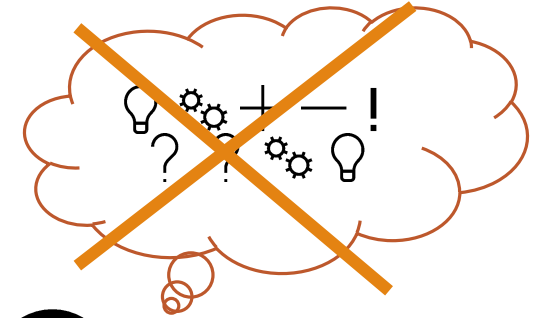
# I. *Divinity of the Spirit ?* - How can we answer questions about God?

---

It is always good to stay close to scripture in the way we express ourselves, but in questions concerning God Himself it is absolutely vital that we do so.

When God revealed Himself to Moses as the '*I am*' in Exodus 3 it was said to him: '*Draw not nigh hither: loose thy sandals from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.*'

Only this attitude of reverence is appropriate when we speak about God and who He is.



# I. *Divinity of the Spirit ?* - Why can we say that the person of the Spirit is divine, is God?

	God is ...	The Holy Spirit is ...
Eternal	Hab. 1:12 Rom. 1:20	<i>Christ, who by the eternal Spirit offered himself spotless to God (Heb. 9:14)</i>
Omnipresent	Ps. 139:7-10 Jer. 23:23,24	<i>Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? and whither flee from thy presence? (Ps. 139:7)</i>
Omniscient	1. Chr. 28:9 Isa. 42:8,9 Rom. 8:29,30 Heb. 4:13	<i>God has revealed to us by [his] Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who of men hath known the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? thus also the things of God knows no one except the Spirit of God. (1 Cor. 2:10–11)</i>
Omnipotent	Job 24:1 Matt. 19:26	<i>only God can create 'The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.' (Job 33:4) or raise up: 'made alive in [the] Spirit' (1 Pet. 3:18).</i>

# I. *Divinity of the Spirit ?* - Why can we say that the person of the Spirit is divine, is God?

---

Acts 5 gives a direct reference where the Holy Spirit is declared to be God:

Acts 5.3-4 *'But Peter said, Ananias, why has Satan filled thy heart that thou shouldest lie to **the Holy Spirit**, and put aside for thyself a part of the price of the estate?*

*While it remained did it not remain to \*thee\*? and sold, was [it not] in thine own power? Why is it that thou hast purposed this thing in thine heart? Thou hast not lied to men, but **to God**.'*

# I. *Divinity of the Spirit ?* - Equality in the Godhead

---

We have seen that the Holy Spirit is a **distinct person** in the previous session.

In **no** sense is He **inferior** to the Father and the Son.

All are **co-equal** and **co-eternal**.

Two examples of verses where this is clearly seen:

*'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

*'Go [therefore] and make disciples  
of all the nations, baptising them  
to the name of the Father, and of  
the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.'*

Matt. 28:19

# I. *Divinity of the Spirit ?* - We have already established that the Holy Spirit is a person

---

Why is it significant, that **the Holy Spirit is a person**, rather than merely an influence or a power?

*What difference does it make for my life, my practical walk with God?*

It makes all the difference for our practice: If He is only a power working in me, then I can make and carry out my own plans making use of this power. If He is a divine person though, then it must be Him who gives direction for every plan and how it is being carried out.

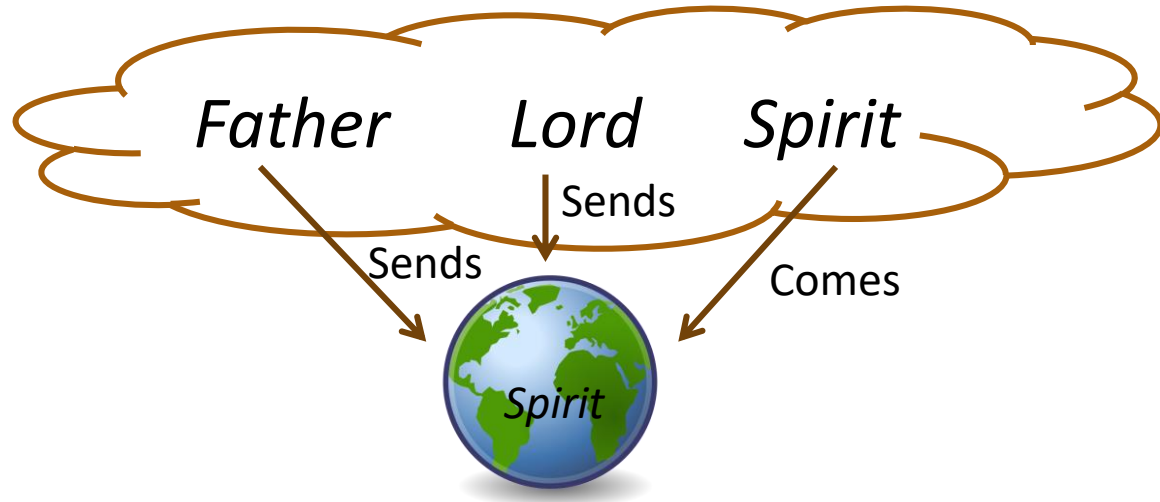
*What a difference if I, as a creature, want to use the creator for my plans rather than the Almighty God bending down to the creature, to use it in His grace to carry out His will. The first case will lead to self-confidence and independence, the second case to humility and dependence –but also the wonderful consciousness of walking in God’s way and having His approval.*

HL Heijkoop



## II. The Spirit being sent, the Spirit coming

---



*'the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will **send**'* (John 14:26);  
*'whom I will **send** to you'* (John 15:26);  
*'I will **send** him to you'* (John 16:7);  
*'when he, the Spirit of truth, is **come**'* (John 16:13).

The persons of the Godhead act in unison of counsel (they are of the same mind and they work together) but undertake different tasks and activities in fulfilling a common objective. The Spirit voluntarily takes the subject place of being sent (as does the Son — see John 3:16; 6:38, Phil 2,7 etc.). Yet there is no question of inferiority and both are absolutely on the same level ('coequal') with the Father.

# II. The Spirit being sent, the Spirit coming

---

This truth is not just a technical point, but also one of great beauty – It shows the pure unity and interdependency of Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Comforter would come, sent by the Son, but from the Father. Yet again, He would of Himself come from the Father. The Son sent Him (ch.10:7); the Father sent Him (ch.14:26); and it is just as true that He proceeded of His own volition . Precious unity indeed!

“How blessedly the unity of the Godhead shines out in the coming of the Holy Spirit as spoken of by the Lord in [John 15:26](#). The Spirit comes, but He is sent by the Son from the Father to His disciples. Of His own volition the Spirit comes to do what He has deep pleasure in; but even as the Son had come as the Sent One from the Father, so the Spirit delights to come as the Sent One of the Son and the Father.

As being sent from the Father, and as proceeding from with the Father, it surely conveys to our hearts and minds that He is acting for the Father in His interests, and in unity of mind and purpose to give effect to all that lies in the Father's will and counsels. He comes to testify of the Son, to tell of His present place of acceptance and glory in the Father's presence, the answer to all that He sustained on the cross, and the measure of the Father's delight in all that He is and what He has done.” From “An Outline of Sound Words”

# III.a When did the Holy Spirit come to dwell on the earth?

---

We find the Holy Spirit mentioned already in the first verses of the Bible, and then throughout the Old Testament.

He was working on earth and yet He did not dwell permanently here then.

We have just seen that the Holy Spirit was sent/came only **after the Lord had returned into glory.**

The Holy Spirit could only come once Christ had suffered, died, was risen and been glorified. Why? Because He was to testify of the glory Christ had received.



*In the last, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried saying, If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He that believes on me, as the scripture has said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. But this he said concerning the Spirit, which they that believed on him were about to receive; for [the] Spirit was not yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.'*

John 7:37-39

# III.a When did the Holy Spirit come to dwell on the earth?

---

The Spirit actually came **on the day of Pentecost** (a Jewish feast – Acts 1:5; 2:1–4, 33). Since then the Holy Spirit has been dwelling on earth : in the believer and in the church

The collective aspect 

As already mentioned the Apostle Paul explains in 1 Cor. 12:13 what had happened in Acts 2 - the baptism with the Spirit: *'For by one spirit are we all baptised into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free'*. In the assembly there is **no more national distinction** (Jew or Gentile), and **no more social distinction** (bond or free), but a wonderful **unity** that cannot be destroyed. All believers are one body.

Paul mentions the same truth in Ephesians 2 in connection with the house of God: *'For through him we both (Jew and Gentile) have access by one Spirit unto the Father ... built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets ... a holy temple in the Lord ... an habitation of God through the Spirit'* (Eph. 2:18-22). Therefore Paul could ask the believers: *'Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?'* (1 Cor. 3:16).

# III.a When did the Holy Spirit come to dwell on the earth?

---

The personal aspect



Scripture is no less clear in stating that the Spirit also dwells in each individual believer: *'But ye are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you ... But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his spirit that dwelleth in you'* (Rom. 8:9-11). So Paul could again ask the Corinthians a very similar question to the one mentioned above: *'What! Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you?'* (1 Cor. 6:19).

On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit, a divine person, came here to form and dwell in the assembly collectively. From that day on He also makes His dwelling place in each person who has believed the gospel of salvation (Eph. 1:13).

The gift of the Spirit is not something temporary, but He will be with us and in us forever (14:16).

# III.b What do we know about His character?

---

In a number of passages the Spirit is described with an attribute giving us a glimpse of an aspect of His character. Here are some examples:

the *Holy* Spirit  
(Acts 5:3)

God is *'of purer eyes than to behold evil'*  
Hab. 1:13

the Spirit of *holiness*  
(Rom. 1:4)

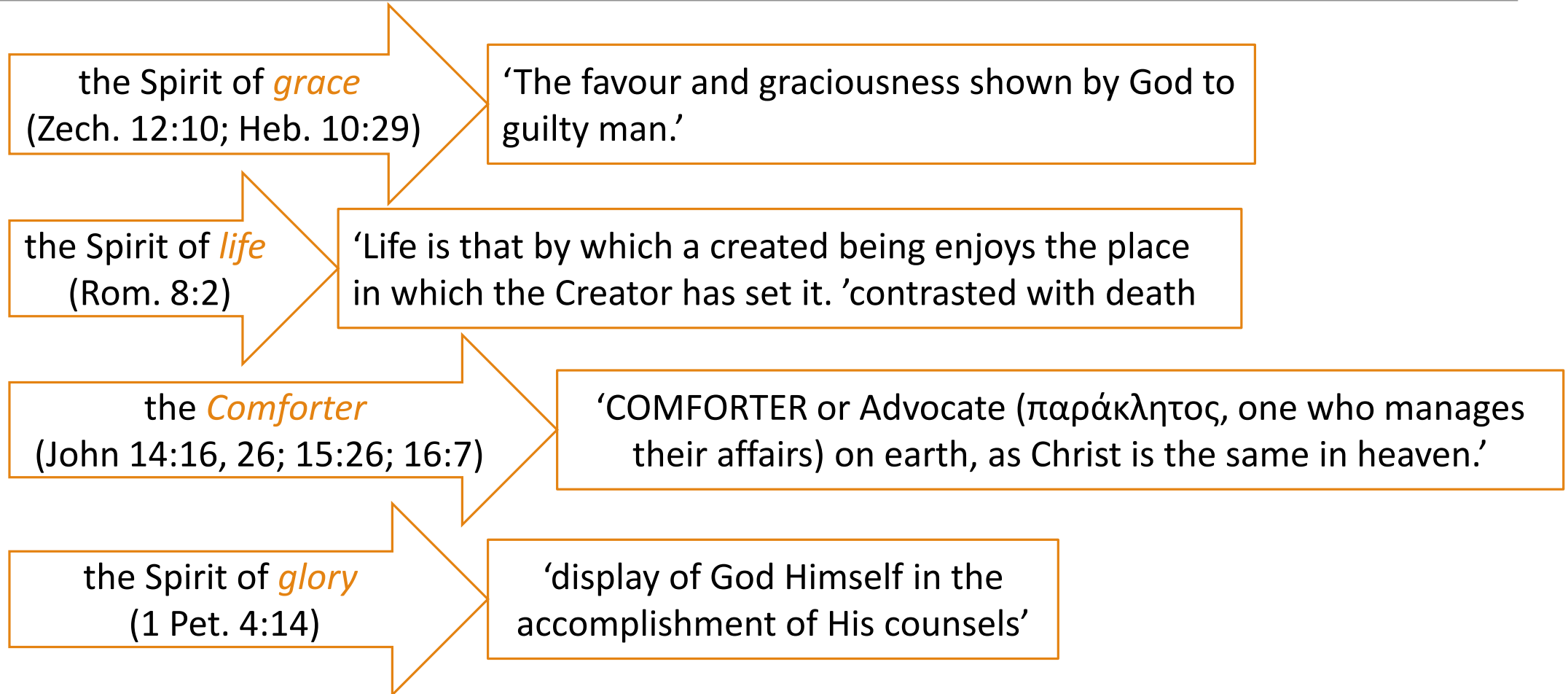
Holiness has been described as 'a nature that delights in purity, and which repels evil.' This goes much further than 'innocent' Adam before the fall

the Spirit of *sonship* or *adoption*  
(Rom. 8:15);

'the placing of persons in the position of sons' 'bearing witness with his spirit that he is a child of God'

# III. b What do we know about His character?

---



# III. b What do we know about His character?

---

the Spirit of *Christ* (Rom. 8:9; 1 Pet. 1:11);

the Spirit of *God's Son* (Gal. 4:6);

the Spirit of *Jesus* (Acts 16:7);

the Spirit of *God* (1 Pet. 4:14);

the Spirit of *our God* (1 Cor. 6:11)

'He shall not speak from Himself'  
We see the unity of the Trinity,  
the Spirit as the subject one,  
acting for and on behalf of the  
Father and the Son, one in their  
purpose

In this the Spirit's character is in  
line e.g. with the Lord as the  
glorified Christ, with the lowly  
Jesus and with God.



# III.b What do we know about His character?

---

the Spirit of *truth*  
(John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13)

'comprises all that may be known of God, whether declared by creation or made known by revelation'

But when \*he\* is come, the Spirit of truth, he shall guide you into all the truth: for he shall not speak from himself; but whatsoever he shall hear he shall speak; and he will announce to you what is coming.

*<sup>14</sup> He shall glorify me, for he shall receive of mine and shall announce [it] to you.*

*<sup>15</sup> All things that the Father has are mine; on account of this I have said that he receives of mine and shall announce [it] to you.*

## III.c What is “spiritual”?

---

Spiritual is contrasted with natural, the things of God cannot be discerned by the unbeliever.

*<sup>12</sup> But \*we\* have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which [is] of God, that we may know the things which have been freely given to us of God:*

*<sup>13</sup> which also we speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, communicating spiritual [things] by spiritual [means].*

*<sup>14</sup> But [the] natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him; and he cannot know [them] because they are spiritually discerned;*

*<sup>15</sup> but the spiritual discerns all things, and \*he\* is discerned of no one.’ 1. Corinthians 2:12-15*

# III.c What is “spiritual”?

---

Things or persons are called spiritual in contrast to those that are carnal, i.e. that have to do with the character of natural man. The Bible refers to a number of things as spiritual **because the Holy Spirit gives character to them:**

## gift

*‘that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to establish you’*  
(Rom. 1:11)

## the ministry of preaching or teaching

*‘for if the nations have participated in their spiritual things, they ought also in fleshly to minister to them’*  
(Rom. 15:27)

## godly believers in contrast with certain carnally minded believers

*‘And \*I\*, brethren, have not been able to speak to you as to spiritual, but as to fleshly; as to babes in Christ.’*  
(1 Cor. 3:1)

## the understanding of (spiritual) believers

*‘that ye may be filled with the full knowledge of his will, in all wisdom and spiritual understanding’*  
(Col. 1:9)

# III.c What is “spiritual”?

**the part taken by saints in  
Christian assemblies, and among  
their fellow Christians**

*'For to one, by the Spirit, is given  
[the] word of wisdom; and to  
another [the] word of knowledge,  
according to the same Spirit'  
(1 Cor. 12.8)*

**our songs**

*'speaking to  
yourselves in  
psalms and hymns  
and spiritual songs,  
singing and  
chanting with your  
heart to the Lord;'  
(Eph. 5:19)*

**the whole of our  
blessings**

*'Blessed [be] the  
God and Father of  
our Lord Jesus  
Christ, who has  
blessed us with  
every spiritual  
blessing in the  
heavenlies in  
Christ;'  
(Eph. 1:3)*

**the house of  
which we form  
constituent parts,  
and our sacrifices**

*'yourselves also, as  
living stones, are  
being built up a  
spiritual house, a  
holy priesthood, to  
offer spiritual  
sacrifices  
acceptable to God  
by Jesus Christ.'  
(1 Pet. 2:5)*

# The communion of the Holy Spirit

---

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, [be] with you all.”

2 Corinthians 13:14

Not communion **with** the Holy Spirit, but communion with the Father, the Son and the children of God that can only be produced the Holy Spirit and will always be characterised by Him.