

Why Christians Believe in the Person and Deity of the Holy Spirit

When we speak of the “person” of the Holy Spirit, we must clearly state that “person” does not mean a “material body.” By “person” we mean the qualities that determine a personal nature (intelligence, emotion, will and mind) reside in the Holy Spirit.

These personal characteristics cannot be found in non-personal entities, such as a force, influence, or power. The Holy Spirit has the distinctive characteristics of personal beingness.

Intelligence: John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 2:10

Emotion: Romans 15:30 (love); Ephesians 4:30

Will: 1 Corinthians 12:11

Mind: Romans 8:27

The Holy Spirit's person in the Old Testament.

2 Samuel 23:2 – His Word was on my tongue.

Isaiah 40:13-14 – Who has taught Him?

Ezekiel 11:1-2, 5 – He, The Spirit of the Lord, spoke.

The Holy Spirit's person in the New Testament.

The Holy Spirit's person can be demonstrated by examining the pronouns applied to Him. Even though the word “Spirit” in the Greek New Testament is a neuter noun, it is often used with a masculine demonstrative pronoun. This emphasizes the personality of the Holy Spirit. Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit by using the masculine pronouns—He and Him. The Greek word “ekeinos” is used as a demonstrative pronoun throughout John 14, 15 and 16. The masculine noun “paraklete”, for Helper (Comforter, KJV), is also used throughout these chapters for the Holy Spirit. Let us examine His personal nature in these verses:

John 14:16-17 – And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Helper (parakleton), that **He** may abide with you forever-- the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees **Him** nor knows **Him**; but you know **Him**, for **He** dwells with you and will be in you.

John 14:26 – But the Helper (parakletos), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, **He** (ekeinos) will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

John 15:26 – But when the Helper (parakletos) comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father.

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