

influence, or as some vague sort of attitude? Do I realize that I can hurt Him, grieve Him by my thoughts or words or actions, or that I can lie to Him? Do I enjoy a personal relationship with Him? Is He a real person in my day-to-day life?

Secondly, the Holy Spirit is a divine Person. He is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in all His perfections. Do I realize that He has all of the characteristics and all of the rights of deity? Do I grasp the fact that He is God? Is He God to me?

And thirdly, the Holy Spirit is a distinct member of the Trinity. He is equal in power and glory with the Father and the Son. Do I realize that He deserves the same adoration, worship, gratitude, obedience, and service as the other members of the Trinity?

This brings us to the second question of this lesson:

II. WHAT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT'S ROLE IN SALVATION?

A. By way of background, let us note that generally, the Holy Spirit is the member of the Trinity who implements or carries out the purposes of God

The three Persons of the Trinity are equal in their essential being, but unequal in their working. They perform different functions in the outworking of God's Plan, and in some of these functions they are involved in superordinate or subordinate working relationships.

Perhaps an illustration will help us to express these relationships.

Think of an ocean liner on which we find a captain, a chief executive officer, and a crew. The captain makes ultimate decisions and gives orders; the chief executive officer goes to execute the orders and see that they are fulfilled; and the crew actually carries out the orders and performs the tasks assigned to them. In one sense the captain, the chief executive officer, and the crew are all human beings and share the essence of humanity; yet on board they quite different things to keep the ship functioning and moving toward its intended destination.

In the application of this illustration, the captain is like the Father, the chief executive officer is like the Son, and the crew is like the Holy Spirit. The Father gives orders; the Son goes to execute the orders and see that they