

# **THEOLOGY AND MINISTRY**

## **WORKING STATEMENTS ON**

### **THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

#### **I. THE PERSON OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD**

Persons are moral and spiritual beings who have a distinct existence and the faculties of intellect, emotion, will, and self-consciousness.

The Spirit of God is a person. He does not have a physical body (He is incorporeal), but He is a person. He does not have physical substance, but He does have substance. His substance is spiritual. Thus He is a spirit, and He is spirit. Both are true.

The Holy Spirit thinks, He feels, He wills, He is conscious of Himself as a distinct self. He is a person.

This may be seen in Scripture. We are told that the Spirit of God knows the things of God (I Corinthians 2:10-11); that He can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30); and that He bestows gifts upon human beings as He wills (I Corinthians 12:11). He possesses the intellectual, the emotional, and the volitional faculties.

Throughout Scripture He is shown to be capable of personal relationships - interrelationships with other persons. He has personal relationships to created persons as well as to other persons of the godhead.

Thus Scripture teaches, and we acknowledge, that the Spirit of God is a person. He is not simply a power, or an influence, or an attitude; He is a living person.

Question 4 of the Westminster Shorter Catechism asks "What is God?" The answer states: "God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth."

When we say that the Spirit of God is God, we are saying all of these things (and more) about Him! We are saying that the Spirit of God is a spirit, i.e., a person (and in this case a person with no physical substance or body).