

The Spirit of God is also 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.

B. The Deity of the Spirit

By this is meant that the Spirit is God. But having said this, we must ask what this implies.

One very useful definition of the nature of God is found in the *Westminster Shorter Catechism*. incidentally, a "catechism" is simply a teaching tool consisting of questions and answers and frequently used with children or adolescents or new believers.

Question 4 of the 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."

Upon analysis, we discover that this statement says that God is an infinite, eternal, and unchangeable Spirit; and that He is an infinite, eternal, and unchangeable Spirit in His being, in His wisdom, in His power, in His holiness, in His justice, in His goodness, and in His truth.

Now 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).

We are also saying that the Holy Spirit is an infinite, eternal, and unchangeable spirit.

And we are saying that the Spirit of God is a spirit who is infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His being, His wisdom, His power, His holiness, His justice, His goodness, and His truth.

But does the Bible teach these things about the Holy Spirit?