

Doctrine of the Holy Spirit Simplified

1. God the Holy Spirit is a person and not merely courage, energy, good qualities personified or enthusiasm. This truth has been affirmed by the church throughout the centuries in the creeds of Christendom.
 - Apostles' Creed. *I believe in God the Father, Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary: Suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead and buried: He descended into hell: The third day he rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead: I believe in the Holy Ghost: I believe in the holy catholic church: the communion of saints: The forgiveness of sins: The resurrection of the body: And the life everlasting. Amen.*
 - The Nicene Creed concludes, “*And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of life who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified...*”
 - The Athanasian Creed says, “*For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Spirit. But the godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, is all one, the glory equal, the majesty co-eternal.*

Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Spirit. The Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, and the Holy Spirit uncreated. The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible, and the Holy Spirit incomprehensible.

The Father eternal, the Son eternal, and the Holy Spirit eternal. And yet they are not three eternals, but one Eternal. As also there are not three incomprehensibles, nor three uncreated, but one Uncreated, and one Incomprehensible.

So likewise the Father is Almighty, the Son Almighty, and the Holy Spirit Almighty. And yet they are not three almighties, but one Almighty.

So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. And yet they are not three gods, but one God.

So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son Lord, and the Holy Spirit Lord. And yet not three lords, but one Lord.

For as we are compelled by the Christian verity to acknowledge each Person by Himself to be both God and Lord, so we are also forbidden by the catholic religion to say that there are three gods or three lords.

The Father is made of none, neither created, nor begotten.

The Son is of the Father alone, not made, nor created, but begotten.

The Holy Spirit is of the Father, neither made, nor created, nor begotten, but proceeding.

So there is one Father, not three fathers; one Son, not three sons; one Holy Spirit, not three holy spirits.

And in the Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another, but all three Persons are co-eternal together and co-equal.

So that in all things, as is aforesaid, the Unity in Trinity and the Trinity in Unity is to be worshipped.

He therefore that will be saved must think thus of the Trinity.

2. More importantly the *Scriptures* teach the Holy Spirit is a person.

- The Spirit is God for only God can claim omnipresence. *Psalms 139:7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence?*
- The Spirit has power to create. Only God can create. *Job 26:13 By his spirit he hath garnished the heavens; his hand hath formed the crooked serpent.*
- The Spirit is called the Lord. *2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*
- Equality of the Spirit as God is found in the baptismal formula. *Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*
- There is the benediction in *2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.*

3. Because the Holy Spirit is a Person He can be sinned against.

- The Holy Spirit can be blasphemed. Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit takes place when the works of the Spirit are ascribed to Satan. *Matthew 12:31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. 32 And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.*

- The Holy Spirit can be lied to. The Holy Spirit is lied to when a promise is made to Him and then broken. *Acts 5:3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? And after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.*
 - The Holy Spirit can be resisted. The Spirit is resisted when the gospel message is rejected. *Acts 7:51 Ye stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.*
 - The Holy Spirit can be grieved. The Spirit is grieved when there is unconfessed sin in the heart. *Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*
 - The Holy Spirit can be quenched. The Spirit is quenched when the heart is stubborn and persistent in a given sin. There is no sensitivity to the Spirit's corrections. *1Thes 5:19 Quench not the Spirit.*
4. Every believer is given the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation.
 - *1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*
 5. The Holy Spirit is given to the church as a gift of divine grace.
 - *John 14:15 If ye love me, keep my commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. 18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.*
 6. The Holy Spirit has many ministries.
 - The Holy Spirit testifies to the validity of the person and work of Jesus Christ. *John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:*
 - The Holy Spirit will guide the believer into all spiritual truth. *John 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

- The Holy Spirit will supervise the writing, transmission and preservation of the Bible. *2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 2 Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*
- The Holy Spirit supplies the believer with inner fortitude or strength when it is needed most. *Phil 1:19 For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,*
- God the Holy Spirit gives the Christian the capacity to love. *Colossians 1:8 Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.*
- The Holy Spirit will distribute spiritual gifts. *1 Corinthians 12:7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; 9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; 10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: 11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.*