

GF 101: Understanding the Trinity

Lesson 5.2 (sermon, “The Personality of the Holy Ghost”)

1. What are we apt to forget about the Holy Spirit?

That He is truly a person.

2. What is the “first proof” that the Holy Spirit (or Holy Ghost) is a person?

Christian’s are to be baptized in the name—note, “in the name,” not “names”—“of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”

3. What is the “second proof” or “second argument” that the Spirit is a person and provide an example?

A second argument arises from the fact that the Holy Spirit has actually made different appearances on earth. The Great Spirit has manifested himself to man: he has put on a form, so that, while he has not been beheld by mortal men, he has been so veiled in appearance that he was seen, so far as that appearance was concerned, by the eyes of all beholders. An example of this is when, at the baptism of Jesus, the Spirit descends in the form of a dove. (Another examples is when the Spirit appeared visibly to the disciples in the upper room as tongues of fire.)

4. What is a third proof that the Spirit is a person?

Scripture ascribes to the Spirit personal qualities.

5. What prominent role does the Spirit have in the process of personal salvation?

It is the Holy Spirit who quickens, or makes alive, the dead soul. “You hath he quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins” (Gal. 2:1 KJV). It is the Holy Spirit who imparts the first germ of life, convincing us of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment to come. And it is the same Holy Spirit, who, after that flame is kindled, fans it with the breath of his mouth and keeps it alive. The Spirit is its preserver.

6. Why do unregenerate sinners, or the world, reject the Holy Spirit?

Many laugh at the idea of the existence of the Holy Ghost—because they see him not.

7. What word of caution does Spurgeon have for people in the final paragraph of his sermon regarding the seriousness of speaking against the Spirit?

Be careful how you speak of the Holy Ghost. I do not know what the unpardonable sin is, and I do not think any man understands it; but it is something like this: “He that speaketh a word against the Holy Ghost, it shall never be forgiven him” (Matt. 12:31–32; Luke 12:10). Be very careful. O, there is no crime on earth so black as the crime against the Holy Spirit! Ye may blaspheme the Father, and ye shall be damned for it, unless ye repent; ye may blaspheme the Son, and hell shall be your portion, unless ye are forgiven; but blaspheme the Holy Ghost, and thus saith the Lord: “There is no forgiveness, either in this world nor in the world which is to come.”