

The Holy Spirit IV

The Godhead is a term denoting the Divine Nature; it is comprised of three united, but separate beings. The best section of scripture that illustrates this is Matthew 3:16-17. At the baptism of Jesus one has each person of the Godhead present. Christ is in the water, having been immersed by John. The Father is in Heaven stating that he is well pleased with his Son. The Holy Spirit is in the form of a dove suspended between the Father and the Son. Those that deny a Triune Godhead cannot explain this verse away. The Bible presents the Holy Spirit as a real person with a distinct personality. Notice what John states in 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 show you things to come." The Scripture presents Him with attributes of personality. He has a mind (Romans 8:27). He possesses knowledge (I Corinthians 2:11). He has the capability to love (Romans 15:30). He has the power to will (I Corinthians 2:10-11). He has goodness (Nehemiah 9:20). He can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30). He can be despised (Hebrews 10:29). He can be resisted (Acts 7:51). He can be lied to (Acts 5:3). He has the ability to teach (John 14:26). He can testify (bear witness) (John 15:26). He has the ability to lead (Acts 16:6). He can forbid (Acts 16:6-7). He has the ability to speak (I Timothy 4:1). He can intercede for God's people (Romans 8:26). Yes, the Holy Spirit is a person just like the Father and Son. He is equal with them in his nature.

How does the Holy Spirit influence men? The word of God presents the Spirit as an active, powerful member of the Godhead. But how does he exert influence over the lives of men? How does he influence the alien sinner to become a child of God? How does he move Christians to do their duty? Most people think the Spirit does his work through miraculous means, directly and supernaturally bringing his influence to bear on human beings. Next time, we will examine this position and see what the Bible says about it.

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