THE HOLY SPIRIT

Introduction:

We believe that the Holy Spirit is God and hence to be loved, worshipped, and obeyed. He is the agent who, through the Word of God regenerates men. He indwells the bodies of believers teaching, comforting, chastening, imparting gifts and producing the fruits of the Spirit. We believe in the enduement of power for the purpose of winning the lost to Jesus Christ. Acts 1:8; John 14:16; Ephesians 4:30.

I. The Deity of the Holy Spirit
   1. The Holy Spirit is God
      a. Although He isn't given formal title, such as the Lord Jesus Christ, the identity of the Holy Spirit is clearly revealed in scripture. Here are a few of the names or descriptions the Bible gives for the Holy Spirit.
         i. The Spirit of God.
            - **Genesis 1:2** *"…And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."*
            - The Spirit is described as belonging to God.
            - The Hebrew word translated as "Spirit" is rûach (roo-akh) which means "wind, or breath."
            - The word "moved" means "to brood, flutter, or hover."
            - God, in his Spirit, hovered over the waters.
         ii. Holy Spirit
            - **Luke 11:13** *"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"*
            - The name Holy Spirit is the Greek *Hagios pneuma* which means, "sacred or consecrated breath."
            - The Holy Spirit is the breath of God that goes forth into all the world to accomplish his purposes.
         iii. Spirit of Jesus Christ
            - Philippians 1:19 *"For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ."*
            - In the same way He is the Spirit of God he is also the Spirit of Jesus Christ.
         iv. Holy Ghost
            - **Mark 3:29** *"But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation:"*
            - The name "Holy Ghost" is translated from the same Greek words as the name "Holy Spirit".
            - Notice that it is possible to blaspheme, or speak evil, against the Holy Ghost, and such blasphemy is a grave sin in the eyes of God. This is another indication of the deity of the Holy Ghost.
         v. The Comforter

- **John 14:26** *"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."*
- "Comforter" comes from the Greek word paraklētos (*par-ak'-lay-tos)* which means, "An intercessor, consoler, advocate, or comforter."
- The Holy Spirit performs these ministries in relation to the believer bringing comfort and consolation through his intercessory work and advocacy on the behalf of the believer.

b. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead and coequal with the Father and the Son.
   i. The Holy Spirit is God and therefore is coequal with the Father and the Son.
      - **Matthew 28:19** *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"*
      - New converts to Christianity are baptised in the name of the three persons of God; Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
   ii. The Holy Spirit, as God, is omnipresent.
      - **Psalm 139:7-10** *"Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me."*
   iii. The Holy Spirit is Omniscient
      - **1 Corinthians 2:10-11** *"But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God."*

II. The Personality of the Holy Spirit
1. The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force
   a. The Holy Spirit is not just an abstract force for good in the world.
      i. It is unfortunate that many people don't see the Holy Spirit as a person but only as a sort of force for good, the antithesis of the force of evil.
      ii. We could call the this "Star Wars mentality." The Holy Spirit is not the force in Star Wars which is an impersonal energy that men harness and use to their own will and purposes.
   b. The Spiritual realm cannot be harnessed and bent to our own will and purposes.
      i. The Holy Spirit accomplishes the will of God in the world, not the whim of man. These false teachers online who claim to

command the Holy Spirit to do things are charlatans, fakes, blasphemers!

- The Holy Ghost is not subject to the whims of man. In fact, the Bible teaches us that we are supposed to bring our will into subjection to the will of God which he reveals to us by His Spirit.

ii. The demonic realm isn't subject to man either. When God created the world, he placed all of nature under man's control, but the angelic realm was never placed under man.

- There have been many in the past who thought they could obtain control over the demonic world and use spiritual power for their own purposes, but they found they were wrong. These fallen angels, we call demons, always end up controlling the individual.
- For the Christian, while we can never be controlled by a demon, since the Holy Spirit indwells us, it is wise never to meddle with the demonic world. Yes, we need to be aware of its presence and the dangers there, but we need to be careful not to meddle in things God doesn't intend for us to experience.
- Even Michael the archangel did not presume to have power over the devil.
  Jude 1:9 *"Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee."*

2. The Holy Spirit is a Person
   a. The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force which means he is a person who has the traits of personality and can be known through a personal relationship with him.
      i. He can be grieved
         - **Ephesians 4:30** *"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."*
         - The Holy Spirit who indwells us can be grieved by our sinful behaviour.

      ii. He can be lied to (Acts 5:3-4)
         - **Acts 5:3-4** *"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 lied to. You cannot be found guilty of lying to an impersonal force which cannot understand your lie. (To say I lied to a stone is really meaningless.)

- Since the Holy Spirit is a person with intellect and understanding, he can be lied to in a meaningful way. (Lied to, but not deceived)
- Notice also that lying to the Holy Spirit is equated with lying to God, (*Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.)* which further establishes the fact that the Holy Spirit is God.

iii. He has a will
- **1 Corinthians 12:11** *"But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will."*
- **Acts 13:2** *"As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them."*
- The Holy Spirit has a plan for your life. There are certain things that are within His will for your life and there are things that are outside of His will for you. It is important that you seek to know and understand God's will for you as an individual.
- When you know that you are in the will of God it gives you great peace because you will be confident of God's blessing upon your life. There is no better place for you to be than right in the centre of God's will.

iv. He is empathetic to our needs (Romans 8:27-28)
- **Romans 8:26-28** "*Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."*
- These verses detail how that the God who knows our hearts also knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit expresses his will for us through prayer unto the Father, according to the will of God for us. This is why *"all things work together for good to them that love God."*

III. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

1. Through the Word of God, He regenerates men sealing them unto the day of redemption. (Ephesians 4:30)
   a. The Holy Spirit indwells everyone who is saved by faith in Jesus Christ.
      i. **1 Corinthians 6:19** *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"*
      ii. **Titus 3:5-6** *"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of*

regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;"

b. The Holy Spirit regenerates those who he indwells, producing new life in them through the new birth.
   i. The word "regeneration" is the same Greek word translated "restitution" in Acts 3:21 and refers to a type of renovation or new birth.
   ii. **Acts 3:20-21** *"And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."*
c. It is the Holy Spirit who renovates us, reviving us spiritually so that we can perform the work of servant and priests unto God.
   i. **Ephesians 2:1** *"And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;"*
d. The Holy Spirit places his seal upon us, confirming us as his possession until the day of redemption.
   i. **Ephesians 4:30** *"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."*
   ii. In old days, wax would be placed on a letter to seal it and an official symbol would be pressed into the wax to identify the authority of the one sealing the letter. Ephesians tells us that the Holy Spirit is the one who seals us with the authority of God until the day of redemption. Once we are saved, we can never be lost because the Holy Spirit will never leave us.
   iii. **Ephesians 1:14** *"Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory."*
   iv. The Holy Spirit is the earnest, or downpayment, of our eternal inheritance. The Holy Spirit has been given to us in confirmation that we will one day receive the full inheritance that is ours in Christ.

2. He indwells the bodies of believers teaching, comforting, chastening, imparting gifts and producing the fruit of the Spirit. (John 14:16)
   a. He teaches us
      i. **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."*
      ii. The Holy Spirit is our teacher who guides us into all truth. The Holy Spirit illuminates our minds so we can correctly understand the Word of God.
      iii. The Holy Spirit impresses his will upon our hearts so that, if we are walking close with the Lord and feeding upon His Word, His will for us will be made clear by the Holy Spirit in us.
   b. He comforts us

i. **John 14:16** *"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;"*
ii. The word translated "Comforter" in the Greek is paraklētos (par-ak-lay-tos) which means, "An intercessor, consoler, advocate, comforter."
iii. The Holy Spirit comforts us through His presence and advocates for us in heaven through the work of intercession.

c. He chastens us
i. **Revelation 3:19a & 22** *"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten : be zealous therefore, and repent... He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."*
ii. The Holy Spirit comforts us in our grief but he also chastens us in our sin and rebellion.
iii. The purpose of chastening is to bring us to repentance so our close fellowship with God can be renewed.

d. He imparts gifts to us
i. **1 Corinthians 12:4-5** *"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord."*
ii. While we do not believe that the sign gift have continued (Cessationism = Gifts such as prophetic utterances or speaking in tongues have ceased), we do believe that the Holy Spirit gives us gifts of service for the edification of the body of Christ.
iii. These gifts of service or edification are as follows:
- Teaching | Explaining and applying scripture
- Serving | Meeting practical needs
- Exhortation | Encouraging & strengthening others
- Giving | Sharing generously – time / resources
- Administration | Guiding / Organising diligently
- Mercy | Caring for those in need / suffering
- Prophecy | Forthtelling the Word (Not foretelling)

e. He produces fruit in us
i. **Ephesians 5:9** *"(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)"*
ii. **Galatians 5:22-23** "*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."*
iii. Notice: It is the fruit (singular) of the Spirit, not the fruits (plural) of the Spirit. Each of these characteristics are all part of the same fruit.
iv. The Holy Spirit doesn't produce one portion of the fruit without the other portions being present in some way. You can't say, "The Holy Spirit is producing love in me so I don't need to worry about developing faith, meekness, or temperance." It is all part of the one fruit that the Holy Spirit WILL produce in you if you walk in the Spirit.

v. **Galatians 5:16** *"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."*

3. We believe in the enduement of power for the purpose of winning the lost to Jesus Christ. (Acts 1:8)
   a. The power to win the lost is in the ministry of the Holy Spirit, not in the efforts of men.
      i. **Acts 1:8** *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."*
      ii. It was in the power of the Holy Spirit that the early church was commanded to go and preach the gospel. We have no power in ourselves to change people's hearts and lives.
      iii. We are totally dependent upon the work of God through the Spirit to convince the lost "of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:" (John 16:18)

Summary:

1. We believe that the Holy Spirit is God, being the third person of the Godhead and coequal with the Father and the Son.
2. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person, not an impersonal force. As such, he has a will, an intellect, can be grieved, can be lied to, and yet He also is empathetic to our needs, since he indwells us and intercedes for us with the Father.
3. The Holy Spirit performs numerous ministries in relation to men including, but not limited to, convicting the lost of sin, regenerating the repentant sinner, teaching and instructing believers in the Word, empowering believers for service, empowering believers for witnessing.