
Giftings for the Christian Life

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STUDY 1

THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

This manual has been written to focus on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. In order for that focus to be complete, it is necessary for us to understand who the giver of these gifts is and how it is that we come to receive them. It is logical therefore that we look first at this study on the person of the Holy Spirit.

1. WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit is shown by Scripture to be God. We see this by the names that are attributed to Him as well as the divine attributes that are ascribed to Him, for example:

A. The Holy Spirit has Personality: The Holy Spirit is not a power or a force, as some would suggest. He has personality. Jesus, speaking of the Holy Spirit, said "I will send *Him* to you" (*John 16:7*), and "*He* will teach you all things" (*John 14:26*).

Notice that Jesus does not speak of the Holy Spirit as an "it", but uses the third person singular. As a personality, the Holy Spirit has a mind, a will and speaks.

Romans 8:27, "... the MIND of the Spirit."

1 Corinthians 12:11, "... distributing to each one individually as He WILLS."

Acts 13:2, "... the Holy Spirit SAID, 'Now separate to me Barnabas and Saul for the work which I have called them'."

B. The Holy Spirit is God

1. He is called God: We have five indisputable proofs. Nowhere is this more clearly stated than in *Acts 5:1-11*. In this story we see Ananias and Sapphira had conspired between themselves to hold back part of the proceeds from a property sale for their own use.