

# GODHEAD COURSE

## Lesson 18

### Who is the Holy Spirit?

According to the Trinity, God the Holy Spirit is not the Father, neither is he the Son. He is the third person in the Godhead. A different and separate person than the Father and the Son. However, this cannot be because it has been established that the One God of the bible is the Father, not a committee of three.

Is the Holy Spirit a different person than the Father and the Son? Consider these questions:

- What does the term spirit mean in the bible?
- Is the Spirit of Jesus a different person than Jesus?
- Is the spirit of the Father a different person than the Father?
- Who is referred to as "The Holy spirit"

#### 1. What does the word "spirit" mean?

The scriptures teach that the word "Spirit" means wind (Isa 7:2, Gen 3:8, John 3:8) breath (Isa 42:5, Matt 27:50) Spirit - life force of a person including the psyche or mind (Prov 18:14, Jud 15:18,19; Luke 1:46,47).

When the term "spirit" is used in reference to a person, it always refers to the nonphysical aspect of the person themselves. It is their own life. Spirit, mind and person.

For example, When Jesus raised the ruler's daughter the bible says

*"And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and he commanded to give her meat." Luke 8:55*

What came back into her? It was her own spirit or life.

*"And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him."*

*Daniel 2:1* (see also Acts 17:16 and 2 Cor 7:13)

"his spirit was troubled" means Nebuchadnezzar was troubled. His thoughts, his mind, his heart was troubled, hence he could not sleep. To understand the term "his spirit" to refer to someone else other than Nebuchadnezzar himself is neither logical nor scriptural.

So, in the bible, the spirit of a person is the nonphysical & nontangible aspect of that person. It is not a different person than themselves. My spirit is not someone else other than me. It is me.

Even though most if not all Christians agree on this, because of preconceived trinitarian thinking, when the term "spirit" is used in reference to God and Christ, Christians interpret it to mean a different person other than them.

This is neither biblical nor logical.

## **2. Is the Spirit of Jesus a different person than Jesus?**

The bible presents the relationship between Jesus and His spirit in the same way as the relationship between man and his spirit.

Notice these verses:

*“And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, why reason ye these things in your hearts?” Mark 2:8*

Obviously, it is Jesus who perceived, not someone else called “His spirit”.

*“And he sighed deeply in his spirit, and saith, Why doth this generation seek after a sign? verily I say unto you, There shall no sign be given unto this generation.” Mark 8:12*

The same for this verse, it was Jesus who sighed deeply, not someone else called His spirit.

When the bible says, “*Jesus perceived in his spirit*”, and “*sighed deeply in his spirit*” we are to understand it in the same way as when referring to Paul the bible says “*his spirit was stirred in him*” (Acts 17:16)

When the bible talks about the spirit of Jesus, it is not talking about someone else other than Him. It is talking about Jesus Himself, about His own person and life; it is the nonphysical, non-tangible aspect of Jesus.

Just like Nebuchadnezzar spirit is Nebuchadnezzar himself, and the ruler’s daughter spirit is her own life. In the same way Christ’s spirit is who He is., it is Christ’s life and person.

Notice also this verse:

*“Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last.” Luke 23:46*

When Jesus died on the cross, He committed His own spirit or life into the Father’s hands. He did not commit someone else named “my spirit”. That will be silly to believe. Jesus committed His own life and spirit to the Father.

Logic and consistency demand that Jesus’s prayer to the Father be understood the in the same way Stephen’s prayer is understood:

*“And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Acts 7:59*

Neither Stephen, nor Jesus were referring to another person called “my spirit.”

The spirit of Stephen is Stephen himself, and the spirit of Jesus is Jesus Himself.

Biblically speaking, whenever the authors of the bible refer to the spirit of Jesus or the spirit of the Son of God, they are referring to the life or person of Jesus Christ Himself, not someone else.

With this in mind, please note what God sends into the heart of the believer:

*“And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.” Gal 4:6*

This verse is clearly saying that God sends the spirit, life, or person of His Son into our hearts, and that is why the bible repeatedly says, Christ in you the hope of Glory. (Eph 3:17, Rom 8:10, Col 1:27, 1 John 4:4, 2 Co 13:5, Rev 3:20, Gal 2:20)

When the bible refers to the spirit of Jesus, it is referring to Jesus Himself, not to a third entity different than Jesus Himself. This is a foundational truth on which the understanding of the holy spirit will be built.

What about the Spirit of God the Father?

### **3. Is the spirit of the Father, the Father Himself?**

*“For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.” 1 Cor 2:11*

In this verse Paul is comparing man's relationship with his spirit, with God's relationship with His spirit. He is saying, no one knows what I am thinking except my spirit. And in the same way, no one understands the thoughts of God except His spirit.

God's spirit is to God, the same as man's spirit is to man. It is His own person, life and presence, not someone else.

At Jesus's baptism, the bible says *“the spirit of God descended on Jesus”* not God the spirit, it was the spirit of God.

Later in the gospels Jesus says “the Father is in me” (John 10:38; 14:10, 11)

Another example is at the conception of Jesus, the angel told Mary says:

*“The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.” Luke 1:35*

The Holy Ghost in this verse refers to the spirit of the Father. That is why Jesus is called the Son of God, and that is why God the Father is called the Father of Jesus Christ.

The holy Ghost that came on Mary was not someone else other than the Father. Otherwise, there is a problem. The one who fathered Jesus should be called the Father of Jesus.

According to the trinity **The First Person of the Trinity is Jesus' Father but the Third Person of the Trinity Fathered Jesus**

This does not make sense. To maintain the harmony of the scriptures one must believe that the spirit that came on Mary was the spirit of God the Father.

This example exemplifies that the spirit of the Father is the Father Himself, not someone else. It is His very life, person and presence.

- The spirit of man is the life and person of the man himself
- The spirit of Jesus is the life and person of Jesus Himself
- The spirit of God is the life and person of God the Father Himself.

#### **4. Who is referred to as “Holy Spirit”?**

Some believe the Holy Spirit to be the third member of the trinity referred to as God the Holy spirit. Others believe the Holy Spirit is just a power or an influence from God. But What does the bible have to say?

Who does the term Holy spirit refer to?

*“Knowing this first, that no prophecy of scripture is of private interpretation.”  
2 Peter 1:20*

*“For no prophecy ever came by the will of man: but men spake from God, being **moved by the Holy Spirit.**” 2 Peter 1:21*

Peter states that the prophets in the Old Testament spoke as they were moved by the Holy spirit. Who was this holy spirit that inspired them to speak?

*“Concerning which salvation the prophets sought and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:” 1 Peter 1:10*

*“Searching what time or what manner of time **the Spirit of Christ which was in them** did point unto, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glories that should follow them.”*

*1 Peter 1:11*

The same author, Peter, in his first letter says that it was the spirit of Christ that moved the prophets of old to prophecy and write about the sufferings of Christ.

Peter uses the term “holy spirit” to refer to the Spirit of Christ.

Yet comparing the following two verses shows something different. Notice how Mark records the words of Jesus:

*“But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but **the Holy Ghost.**” Mark 13:11*

Matthew's record of the same account:

*"But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but **the Spirit of your Father** which speaketh in you." Matt 10:19, 20*

This shows that Bible authors also used the term "Holy Spirit" to refer to the spirit of the Father.

Biblically, the term Holy spirit refers to the spirit of the Father, or the spirit of the Son. Never anyone else! The context of the verse should help us understand whose spirit is being referred to. However, the underlying principle in understanding this term is very simply. The term "Holy spirit" describes what type of spirit it is. IT is a HOLY spirit because it belongs to someone holy.

Since the Father and the Son are holy, the bible refers to Their spirit as "Holy Spirit".

The spirit of a person, is the person himself, not someone else. In the same way, the spirit of the Lord, is the Lord Himself, not someone else.

Notice how Paul interpreted the word "spirit" to mean "mind" when referring to the Lord. The following is the original verse:

*"Who hath directed the **Spirit** of the LORD, or being his counsellor hath taught him?" Isa 40:13*

*"For who hath known the **mind** of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?" Rom 11:34*

Paul understood that the spirit of the Lord, is the Lord Himself; His own mind and person, not someone else.

### **Recap:**

1. The term spirit refers to the nonphysical & nontangible aspect of the person. It is not a different person than themselves
2. The spirit of Jesus is the life, mind, presence and person of Jesus
3. The spirit of the Father is the life, mind, presence and person of the Father  
The holy spirit is a term used to refer to the spirit of the Father and the Spirit of the Son