

Deity of the Holy Spirit By Greg Rangel

Throughout the last series we studied the deity of Jesus, and the importance of believing in the one and only true Jesus Christ of Scripture. I now find it necessary to dedicate this article to the third person of the Godhead which is the Holy Spirit.

Quite too often there are gross misunderstandings and false teachings that relate to the Holy Spirit. Some cults believe that He is not a person but only a force that God created. Others don't know what they believe about the Holy Spirit. While many within the Christian camp cannot give a very well reasoned argument in support of the deity of the Holy Spirit.

Scripture does teach that God has revealed Himself in three distinct persons. And that is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This is known as the Holy Trinity. This is the One and True God. There are not three gods, but one. Remembering that the word "God" is a title and not a name, it is still applied to the three persons of the Godhead.

One of the arguments that cults will usually make is, „you show me the word Trinity in Scripture and I will believe it.“ Even though the word Trinity is not in Scripture, the teaching is. Just like the word Rapture is not in Scripture, but the teaching is. Trinity and Rapture are words that identify the teaching itself, and in this case, what Scripture teaches. To say that just because the word itself is not found in Scripture the Bible doesn't teach it is erroneous and unscholarly.

We will be dealing with the teaching of the Trinity once we finish with the deity of the Holy Spirit. But for now, one of the essential teachings that has existed throughout Christian history, and was taught by the Apostles themselves is the fact that the Holy Spirit is deity. That is, He is the third person of the Godhead.

One of the ways to accept the fact that the Holy Spirit is a person, we must look at how Scripture speaks about Him. First we see that Scripture applies personal pronoun to the Holy Spirit.

Jesus Himself said that; *“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he (the Holy Spirit) may abide with you forever;...But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he (the Holy Spirit) shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you”* (John 14:16, 26, emphasis mine. See also John 15:26, 16:13). Since He, the Holy Spirit, is a person, He performs personal acts. For example; He teaches (see John 14:26, 1 Corinthians 2:13, 1 John 2:27), He bears witness (see John 15:26), He convicts (see John 16:9-11), He guides into truth (see John 16:13), He calls men into service (see Acts 13:1-4), and He intercedes (see Romans 8:26).

Another act that a person does is speech. It is said in Scripture that the Holy Spirit speaks as well. Act 21:11 says *“... Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem*

bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.” These are acts that only a person, and not a force can do.

To further see the personality of the Holy Spirit, we must admit that He has the three essential elements of personality. For example; He is intelligent: *“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...Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual”* (1Corinthians 2:11, 13, see John 16:9-11, 16:13). He has sensibilities: *“Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me;”* (Rom 15:30). And He has a will. *“But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will”* (1Corinthians 12:11, Acts 15:28, Acts 13:1-4).

One cannot deny the fact that the Holy Spirit is a person and the third person of the Godhead. We will continue to see further helpful information regarding this topic.