

GCA – February 11, 2024

As mentioned last week, sometimes the Spirit is treated more like a "force" than a Person. But the Holy Spirit is not an "it", but a "He". The fact that the Holy Spirit is a Person, not an impersonal force (like gravity), is also shown by the fact that He has the qualities, characteristics, and activity of a person. For instance, He:

*speaks* - **Hebrews 3:7** – Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, Harden not your hearts ...”

*reasons* - **Acts 15:28** -- “For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay upon you no greater burden than these essentials:

*thinks and understands* - **1 Corinthians 2:9-11** -- but just as it is written, “THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND WHICH HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.” For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.

*Wills and distributes according to His decisions* - **1 Corinthians 12:8-11** -- For to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, and to another the word of knowledge according to the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, and to another the effecting of miracles, and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills.

*feels* - **Ephesians 4:30** -- Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

*He gives personal fellowship* - **2 Corinthians 13:14** – The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

These are all qualities of personhood. (One God, three persons)

*The Holy Spirit gives life. Psalm 104:29-31* -- You hide Your face, they are dismayed; You take away their spirit, they expire and return to their dust. You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the ground. Let the glory of the LORD endure forever; Let the LORD be glad in His works;

*He preserves life. Job 34:12-15* -- “Surely, God will not act wickedly, And the Almighty will not pervert justice. Who gave Him authority over the earth? And who has laid *on Him* the whole world? If He should determine to do so, If He should gather to Himself His spirit and His breath, All flesh would perish together, and man would return to dust.

*He empowers the resurrection. Romans 8:11* - But if the Spirit of Him who <sup>a</sup>raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

*He gives power for service. Judges 6:34* -- So the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon; and he blew a trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called together to follow him.

**Judges 15:14-15** -- When he (Samson) came to Lehi, the Philistines shouted as they met him. And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him mightily so that the ropes that were on his arms were as flax that is burned with fire, and his bonds dropped from his hands. And he found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, so he reached out and took it and killed a thousand men with it.

**1Samuel 16:12-13** -- So he sent and brought him (David) in. Now he was ruddy, with beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance. And the LORD said, “Arise, anoint him; for this is he.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel arose and went to Ramah.

*He is overpowering, overwhelming and irresistible - 1Sam. 19:18-24* -- Now David fled and escaped and came to Samuel at Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and stayed in Naioth. And it was told Saul, saying, “Behold, David is at Naioth in Ramah.” Then Saul sent messengers to take David, but when they saw the company of the prophets prophesying, with Samuel standing *and* presiding over them, the Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul; and they also prophesied. And when it was told Saul, he sent other messengers, and they also prophesied. So Saul sent messengers again the third

time, and they also prophesied. 22 Then he himself went to Ramah, and came as far as the large well that is in Secu; and he asked and said, "Where are Samuel and David?" And *someone* said, "Behold, they are at Naioth in Ramah." And he proceeded there to Naioth in Ramah; and the Spirit of God came upon him also, so that he went along prophesying continually until he came to Naioth in Ramah. And he also stripped off his clothes, and he too prophesied before Samuel and lay down naked all that day and all that night. Therefore they say, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

*He moves people and guides them.* **Ezek. 37:1** -- The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which *was* full of bones,

Then He drives out demons, demonstrating the *dunamis* power of Jesus by the Spirit of God.

*The power of the Holy Spirit casts out devils.* **Matt. 12:24-28** -- But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, "This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons." And knowing their thoughts He said to them, "Any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; and any city or house divided against itself shall not stand. And if Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself; how then shall his kingdom stand? And if I by Beelzebul cast out demons, by whom do your sons cast them out? Consequently they shall be your judges. But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

*Then He promised power to His apostles.* -- **Acts 1:7-8** -- He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

*He empowers the word* -- **Rom. 15:18-19** -- For I will not presume to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me, resulting in the obedience of the Gentiles by word and deed, in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit; so that from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

**Matt. 3:16 – 4:1** -- And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, *and* coming upon Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.” (4:1) Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

(in all four gospels).

*He empowers the preaching of God’s word* - **Luke 4:13-15** -- And when the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time. And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit; and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district. And He *began* teaching in their synagogues and was praised by all.

**Isaiah 61:1 & Luke 4:18** – The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are* bound;

Only by the power of the Spirit can Christians persevere and live by faith.