

Who or What
is the Holy Spirit?
Cliffs Notes Version

Who or What is the Holy Spirit? Cliffs Notes Version

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THIS BOOKLET IS NOT TO BE SOLD. The information provided is for the benefit of former members of the congregations of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), and of current and prospective members of God's Church.

Christianity continues to struggle with determining whether the holy spirit is a person or a thing. Yet, the Bible is clear on this matter if one knows where to look.

Preamble

Please Note: All comments in brackets [] or in parentheses () as well as highlighted text (bolded and/or in blue) are from the author of this study. Bible quotations are in maroon.

I think it is essential to clarify the question of the “Holy Spirit” before we begin this study. If we say that who or what is the “Holy Spirit” is the question that needs to be answered, we are starting from the assumption that there exists such a being as the Holy Spirit and that it is a separate and distinct being from God and the Word. The question which should be asked is who are the beings the Bible tell us are holy, whose composition is spirit and who have existed eternally? Either the Bible plainly tells us who are the separate and distinct beings that existed from all eternity who created all things (spirit beings and the material universe) or we have no way of getting an answer to our question.

The Holy Spirits of the God Family

The Bible tells us in Gen 1:1 that:

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The Hebrew word translated “God” is “Eloheem” which is the plural form of “Eloah which means “God”. The word “Eloheem” refers to “gods.” It is a uniplural noun like family, group, team, etc. In the beginning, there was therefore more than one God being in existence but how many were there?

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In the beginning when God created the heaven and the earth there was God and there was another being with God who was also God, the Word. How can these two beings both be God; isn't that impossible?

The word God indicates the kind of existence of these 2 beings: their nature is to be God in the same way that all human beings have the same human nature. However, having the same nature does not mean that all human beings constitute a single being; indeed, they are all separate and distinct beings with their own personalities. God and the Word have in common the same nature or, level and type of existence, but they are separate and distinct beings just like all human beings who have the same human nature are separate and distinct beings.

God the Father

We read in the Bible that God became a father when the Word became flesh (Php 2:5-8) by being born of woman after having been conceived in the virgin Mary by the holy spirit being called God (Luke 1:35). God from that point on became God the Father and the Word, who was born as the flesh-and-blood Jesus of Nazareth became God's Son or the Son of God. He was both fully God (his father was God and fully human (his mother was the virgin Mary).

Jesus was God the Father's only begotten son at the time when He was conceived in Mary's womb but He was not to be the only one begotten of the Father. God the Father is the holy spirit being in the Godhead that calls men to salvation.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

Joh 18:9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou [God the Father] gavest me have I lost none.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

God the Word and Spokesman

The Bible term for being called is to be spiritually begotten by God the Father (1Pe 1:3). When we are begotten, we become a spiritual embryo that can be born again as a glorified spirit being with eternal life. Those begotten of the holy spirit God the Father who follow their calling are then able to come to the holy spirit being called the Word and Spokesman (John 6:44; 65; 18:9) who then teaches them. The glorified Jesus-Christ as God the Father's Word and Spokesman is the holy spirit being that works in the minds of God the Father's called and chosen ones.

Joh 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Jesus had to first be glorified for it to be possible for Christians to have access to the holy spirit called the Word and Spokesman because the glorified Christ is the holy spirit being who works in the minds of God's saints (John 14:17) in the same way that Satan is the evil spirit that works in the minds of the children of disobedience (Eph2:2).

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he [Christ] dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. [On the day of Pentecost, it would be in them and in all true Christians.]

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, [Satan] the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

The holy spirit God the Father calls men and those who follow their calling are then taught by the holy spirit called the Word and God the Father's Spokesman.

Joh 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.

The Holy Ghost

The expression "Holy Ghost" used in the Bible is in error as there are no ghosts in the Godhead but rather 2 beings that are holy (John 17:11; Isa 6:3) and spirit (John 4:24).

Joh 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy**, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Joh 4:24 **God is a Spirit**: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

These 2 God beings who are holy and spirit are the holy spirit beings of the God family who existed in the beginning at the creation of all things.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

And, the Word who was with God is before all things i.e., *nothing* existed before He created them whether made of spirit or matter.

Col 1:15 **[Christ]** Who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature:

Col 1:16 For by him [the Word who became Jesus-Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

In the beginning before anything either physical or spiritual was created, there was God and the Word who existed before all things and no other being is mentioned as having existed with them. There is no bib-

lical evidence that there ever existed a third, separate and distinct personage in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit” who dwelt in eternity with God and the Word.

God is a Family

Throughout the Bible we can find many verses which clearly indicates the existence of family relations between God and the Word and God’s called, chosen and faithful.

Mat 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Mat 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Joh 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but o to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

God is clearly a family in which many can be ultimately born again by a resurrection from the dead to eternal, glorified spirit life in God’s Kingdom.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he [\[God’s Son\]](#) might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Col 1:18 And he [\[the glorified Christ\]](#) is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Christ was the first to be born again by a resurrection from the dead to be followed by many brethren.

Bible Writing Convention

The practice in the Bible has been to simply use the expression “the Holy Spirit” without indicating which God personage in the Godhead the expression represents. Over time, because of this practice, just about everybody has come to believe that the Holy Spirit is a separate and distinct God being in the Godhead but, there is no single verse or group of verses in the Bible that prove the existence of such a third being in the Godhead. The words “holy” and “spirit” are adjectives that describe the nature of

God the Father and of God the Word i.e., they are holy beings made of spirit.

Whenever we encounter the expressions the “Holy Spirit” or simply the “Holy Spirit” in the Bible we must look at the context to determine of which holy spirit being of the Godhead the Bible is talking about: the holy spirit, God the Father or the holy spirit, the Word and Spokesman.

The Word is the holy spirit being in the Godhead who carries out the instructions and wishes of the holy spirit, God. He is the faithful son who seeks to do his father’s will in all things. He is the member of the God family that did the work of creating the heaven and the earth, who ruled over ancient Israel through Moses and his human successors, He is the one who became a man who suffered and died to be God the Father’s perfect sacrifice for sin and make the salvation of mankind possible, etc. and He came to reveal the Father to those who follow the Father’s calling.

Making Things Clearer

In this study, when referring to God’s spirit who, depending on the circumstances can be the holy spirit personage called God the Father or the holy spirit personage called God the Word and Spokesman, I will not capitalize either of the adjectives “holy” and “spirit”. This is in order to not perpetuate the false impression in the minds of readers that there is a 3rd being in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit.” Instead, I will refer to either of the holy spirits in the God family as being God’s spirit without capitalizing the word “spirit” to make it plain that we are not referring to a third God being in the God family called the “Holy Spirit” but to one of the 2 God beings in the Godhead.

God’s family is presently made up of 2 holy spirit beings to which are to be added thousands and possibly millions of other holy spirit beings when God’s plan of salvation for mankind has reached its end. The saints that endure in the faith until the end of their natural human life, will be resurrected as individual holy spirit beings in God’s Kingdom when it is established.

There are two studies which you can read regarding what is the “Holy Spirit” and decide for yourself in light of the Bible-based evidence offered if such a being exists in the Godhead. These studies are: [What is the Holy Spirit? Cliff Notes Version](#) and [Who or What is the Holy Spirit?](#)

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The following is an effort to explain as briefly as possible who or what is the holy spirit. As a result, not all Bible references are provided for each subject mentioned to keep this document as short as possible. Also, this document is written for those who already have a knowledge of the Scriptures and for whom it should not be necessary for me to prove out in detail the basic doctrines mentioned in this document.

God

- A family made up of 2 beings:
 - God an eternal spirit being who became God the Father when the Logos was begotten in the virgin Mary as Jesus-Christ and then became the Son of God
 - The Logos, the Word or Spokesman is also an eternal spirit being and fully a God being whose existence is separate and distinct from that of God the Father
- God is a family now composed of 2 beings which is to grow very large to become a nation and a kingdom

The God Family Structure

- God the Father is the most high in authority and the Logos,

Word or Spokesman is in perfect submission to Him

- First Resurrection saints will be the Bride of Christ; the Bride is to obey her husband
- Millennial and Last Great Day saints will be the children of the Kingdom; the children are to obey their parents

God and Mankind

- Man created in the image and likeness of God; has a mind like God (image) and in general physical appearance looks like God (eyes, fingers, hair, mouth, feet, etc.) (likeness). Christ, the Son of God said that he who has seen Him has seen His Father.
- God's purpose in creating mankind was as a means of reproducing Himself i.e., creating more God beings i.e., spirit beings with eternal life wholly sharing in the very nature of God.
- They would be God as God is God in the same way that a human being begotten of a human father is fully a human being partaking fully of the nature of its human parents

How Does God a Spirit Being Communicate Physical Men?

- A spirit essence received at the time of conception gives man's animal brain mind power (the spirit in man)
- This mind can receive another spirit which gives it the ability to know and understand spirit-level things which are invisible to man's 5 physical senses
- The holy spirit the Word and Spokesman dwelling in converted men's minds gives them the ability to understand spiritual knowledge

The Word, Logos, Spokesman

Old Testament (OT) Israel

- In the days of ancient Israel, God communicated with OT Israel through the Word

- The Word is the holy spirit God the Father's Spokesman and was the means used by God to speak to ancient Israel through Moses
- The Word spoke to Moses and Moses relayed God's message given him by the Word to Israel
- Old Testament Israel was never given access to either of the holy spirits of the God family (God the Father or God the Word and Spokesman) and it was impossible for God to communicate with them directly i.e., with thoughts from His mind to their minds

New Testament (NT) Israel

- No longer a physical, flesh-and-blood nation as was ancient Israel where to become an Israelite, one had to be born as an Israelite
- New Testament Israel is a spiritual nation made up of physical, flesh-and-blood individuals from all nations who have been spiritually begotten by the holy spirit God the Father
- The holy spirit God the Father communicates with His called and chosen ones, His spiritual nation of Israel, through the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who is responsible for teaching them all things

The holy spirit the Word

- God and the Word are both spirit beings and holy; both are holy spirits
- The holy spirit being that works in the minds of physical, flesh-and-blood individuals spiritually begotten by the holy spirit God the Father is the holy spirit called the Word and Spokesman
- The holy spirit the Word and Spokesman teaches all things to members of God's spiritual nation of Israel

Christ the holy spirit the Word and Spokesman

Before the First Coming of Christ, there was no possibility of spirit-to-spirit communication between men and God the Father and God the Word. When Christ died and was resurrected by the God the Father, He became the holy spirit of the God family who worked with the holy spirit God the Father's called and chosen ones.

Joh 7:37 In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

Joh 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

Joh 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost [holy spirit] was not yet *given*; *because that Jesus was not yet glorified.*)

The holy spirit, God the Word and Spokesman could not be made available to those that would be begotten by the holy spirit God the Father UNTIL Christ (the holy spirit the Word made flesh) was glorified.

This makes it evident that Christ, the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who became a man born of woman is the holy spirit being that works in the minds of the called and chosen by the holy spirit God the Father. It is not a third being called the Holy Spirit. If such a being existed John 7:39 could not have been written as it would not have been necessary for Christ to be glorified before the "holy spirit" could be made available to those who believed Christ.

Why?

- Neither God the Father nor God's Spokesman, Christ can dwell with sin; there had to first be a means to forgive past sin and, the future sins of those God would call and who would be chosen as it is impossible for anyone, converted or not, not to sin
- Christ was that perfect sacrifice for sin accepted by God the Father who resurrected Jesus with the glory that He had before becoming a man while He dwelt in eternity with God
- The glorified Christ is the holy spirit of the Godhead that works in the minds of the truly converted

Joh 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; [Christ was the comforter that was with them while He was a flesh-and-blood man]

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: **but ye [the disciples] know him**; for he [I, Christ] dwelleth with you,

and shall be in you. [Christ was the Spirit of truth that dwelt with the disciples and which once glorified (John 7:39) would be in them and all truly converted Christians.]

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, [the holy spirit] 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.

Joh 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

Joh 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. [Christ had to be glorified before He could start His work as the holy spirit the Word who ministers to true Christians by teaching them all things.]

- Christ had to go back to His Father, and this would occur when He would be resurrected back to His former glory as a God being that had existed in eternity with God the Father
- He could not once glorified remain with them as God the Father's plan of salvation is worked out in those called out by the holy spirit that is God's Spokesman as has been the case since the day of the New Testament Pentecost.
- How can we know this for sure?

Heb 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, [In Old Testament times God spoke to ancient Israel by the prophets]

Heb 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; [And since the glorification of Christ and His ascension to His Father, we have been in the last days of God's plan of salvation for mankind (we are now at the very end of the God's 6th day with the 7th one or the Millennium about to begin). Since Christ's return to His Father in the 3rd heaven, God the Father has been communicating with the members of His Spirit-begotten nation of Israel through His Son who

is the holy spirit who is God's Word and Spokesman to the holy spirit God the Father's called and chosen ones from the nations of the world.]

God and the Word are holy spirits

- God and the Word are holy and they are spirit beings
- The words "holy" and "spirit" are adjectives that qualify the noun "God"
- The holy spirit is not a thing that exists by itself and in separation from God and the Word; to be holy and composed of spirit describes the manner of existence of God and the Word.
- The expression "holy spirit" define who and what are God and the Word; they are holy and they are spirits; the terms "holy spirit" do not refer to a separate and distinct being in the God-head; they are qualifiers explaining who and what are God and the Word i.e., they are holy and spirit
- The holy spirit being or God personage that works in the minds of the truly converted is God the Father's Spokesman, the holy spirit the Word who was made flesh for the purpose of becoming God the Father's perfect sacrifice for sin

Joh1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth

In Conclusion

We need to realize how words are used can result in our misunderstanding what is being said. If we use the term "holy spirit" as a noun rather than treating these 2 words as two adjectives or noun qualifiers describing the nature of God then our minds picture the "holy spirit" as being a separate and distinct being from God and the Word. But this is totally contrary to what the Bible says.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In the beginning before anything was created there were God and the Word who had eternally existed with no mention whatsoever of the concurrent or simultaneous existence of another God being called the Holy Spirit.

The Bible tells us that the Word is before all things and created all things.

Col 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

Col 1:16 **For by him were all things created**, that are in heaven, [that would include any other beings whether spirit or not] and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Col 1:17 And **he is before all things**, [He existed before anything that was created] and by him all things consist.

And in Hebrews 1:2 we learn that God created all things by the Word.

Heb 1:1 God, [the Father] who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

Heb 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us **by his Son**, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, **by whom [the Word, the Spokesman] also he made the worlds;**

The Bible very clearly tells us that God and the Word existed from the beginning; that all things were made by God through the Word; that the Word existed before all things that were created; and that “....by him all things consist.” This last part of Col 1:17, make it clear that all things in existence, physical and spiritual, were created by the holy spirit the Word. It was not created by a 3rd being that existed eternally with God and the Word and who is separate and distinct from them. In John 1:1 we are told who are the God beings that existed at the beginning of the creation and which of the God beings did the creating. John 1:1 was the perfect opportunity for God to tell us that there are not 2 God beings in the Godhead but 3 and that all things were created by that 3rd God being, the “Holy Spirit.” But no, what we are told is there are only 2 God beings in the Godhead and that all things were created by God the Word.

Could anything be more clear for those who have eyes to see.

There is no justification whatsoever to be found anywhere in the Bible for the existence of a third being in the Godhead if we will allow God's Word the Holy Bible to speak to us. The Bible is Christ in writing; He is the being who inspired the prophets and the apostles who wrote the books of the Bible. The Bible though written over many centuries and by different individuals does not contradict itself in any way. Its cohesion is perfect as it is basically the words of one entity or being, the holy spirit God the Word or Spokesman, recorded in writing by men under inspiration.

Eph 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

Eph 3:5 Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; [God's Spokesman, the Word]

For a more detailed explanation of this topic, please click on the following hyperlink: [Who or What is the Holy Spirit?](#)

