



## He or It?

*“Come near to Me, listen to this: From the first I have not spoken in secret,  
from the time it took place, I was there.  
And now the Lord God has sent Me, and His Spirit.”  
Isaiah 48:16*

Is the Holy Spirit an impersonal force, or is He in fact, God?

### ***The Holy Spirit is God.***

1. **The Holy Spirit is Described as a Person Linked in Kind with God.** In John 16:13, 14, Jesus uses a masculine pronoun in describing the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of truth) as “He” and not “it.” Secondly, the Holy Spirit is directly linked to the Father and the Son in such passages as John 14:6, where Jesus states that He will pray to the Father, who will send the disciples another (beside Himself) Helper (Gr. *paraclete*). The word for “another” in this passage is the Greek word *allos*, which means “another of the same kind.” Finally, the Holy Spirit is described as possessing characteristics commonly attributed to personality including mind (Romans 8:27), will (I Corinthians 12:11) and emotion (Ephesians 4:30).
2. **The Holy Spirit is Described as, Himself, Divine.** For instance, In Acts 5:3, 4, Peter asks Ananias why He has lied to the Holy Spirit and states that in so doing, “You have not lied to men, but to God.” In Paul’s discussion of the body as a temple of God (I Corinthians 3:16, 17; 6:19, 20), he equates the phrase “God’s temple” with the phrase, “a temple of the Holy Spirit.” For Paul, then, to be indwelt by the Holy Spirit is to be inhabited by God. Most compellingly, the Holy Spirit possesses the attributes (or qualities) of God, namely, *omniscience* (He is all-knowing, I Corinthians 2:10, 11), *omnipotence* (He is all-powerful, Luke 1:35), He is *omnipresent* (everywhere at once, Psalm 139:7-10) and *eternal* (He has no beginning and no end, Hebrews 9:14). One aspect of His divine role has been to speak the word of God to prophets and apostles (Ezekiel 2:2; 2 Peter 1:20, 21).
3. **The Holy Spirit is Described as One with the Father and the Son.** The Holy Spirit was present and active with God (the Father, Genesis 1:1, 2) and Jesus Christ (the Son, Colossians 1:13-16) in the creation of the world. Together with the Son, the Holy Spirit was also sent to the world (Isaiah 48:16). And followers of Christ have been commanded to make disciples of all men, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19, 20).

Mark DeYmaz  
© 2007