

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE
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“WHAT WE BELIEVE ABOUT GOD, THE HOLY SPIRIT”

SERIES: The Foundations on Which We Stand – Why We Believe What We Believe!

John 14:16-17; 16:7-14

As we continue this series on “**Foundational Truths – Why We Believe What We Believe**”. Today we are going to examine what the Bible teaches about the third person of the trinity who is **God the Holy Spirit**. There is much confusion about the Holy Spirit, and I hope and pray that we can clarify the truths about this important subject. The King James Version translates **Holy Spirit** as **Holy Ghost**. This has really messed up people’s perceptions of God. I will always use **Holy Spirit** not **Holy Ghost**. Strong’s Dictionary says the word means “a *current* of air, i.e. *breath (blast)* or a *breeze*” the word in Hebrew and Greek therefore, means – “**wind or spirit**”. You cannot see it, but you can feel the effects! He is a Spirit not a ghost like Casper the friendly ghost, nor is He a force as we see in Star Wars. The Holy Spirit part of the trinity of the God-head, and He is not a “**it**” as we see in some places in the KJV, because He is a person.

Now, I want to divide this discussion into four sections:

- 1) The Personality of the Holy Spirit
- 2) The Properties of the Holy Spirit
- 3) The Purpose of the Holy Spirit
- 4) The Presence of the Holy Spirit

I. THE PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

I want to read from our Statement of Faith: under article **III – Of The Holy Spirit**. (copies are available in the vestibule). The Holy Spirit is not an influence but He is a Person. I think we often view the Holy Spirit as some kind of cosmic force from too much Star Wars.

He is a person and has personality.”

As a Person the Holy Spirit can be:

- **Grieved – Ephesians 4:30**
- **Quenched – 1 Thessalonians 5:19**
- **Resisted – Acts 5:7**

II. THE PROPERTIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Now **PROPERTIES** is speaking about His Characteristics and let me name a few of them.

- ◇ First the Holy Spirit has **intellect** – **1 Corinthians 2:10-12**
- ◇ Secondly, the Holy Spirit has **Knowledge** – **1 Corinthians 2:10**
- ◇ Thirdly, the Holy Spirit has a **mind** – **Romans 8:27**
- ◇ Fourth, the Holy Spirit has **emotions** – **Ephesians 4:30**
- ◇ Fifth, the Holy Spirit has a **will** – **Acts 16:16**

The Holy Spirit is a **personality** – **He is God the Holy Spirit - Acts 5:1-4**

III. THE PURPOSE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

So, we know the Holy Spirit is a Person and the Holy Spirit is God. But the question now is what does the Holy Spirit do? This is where we get into the meat of this important theology. He is **The Change Agent**. If God the Father is the Source of all things and the Son is the Channel of all things, the Holy Spirit is the Agent of all things. The Holy Spirit as God is the Divine Change Agent in the world.

IV. THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit’s work in the lives of unbelievers.

Let’s read from Jesus’ words in **John 16:8-11**. He shares the purpose of the Holy Spirit in the world. The Holy Spirit convicts’ unbelievers of their sin of unbelief.

The Spirit’s Work in Believers

The spirit is not just at work on unbelievers, but he’s at work in believers.

Wares commanded to be **FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT** in **Ephesians 5:18**.

- The Holy Spirit **EMPOWERS** – **Acts 1:8**
- The Holy Spirit **regenerates** – **Titus 3:5**
- The Holy Spirit **teaches** – **John 14:26**
- The Holy Spirit **guides** – **Romans 8:14**
- The Holy Spirit **intercedes** in our prayers – **Romans 8:26**
- The Holy Spirit **baptizes** us Into the Body of Christ – **1 Corinthians 12:13-14**
- The Holy Spirit **seals** us – **Ephesians 1:13**
- The Holy Spirit is involved in the process of **sanctification** – **2 Thessalonians 2:13**
- The Holy Spirit guides us in displaying the **Fruit of the Spirit** – **Galatians 5:22-23**

We can fake the fruits, but real fruits are a work the Spirit does in us. On the flipside, we can’t change people. I, as a pastor can’t change a single one of you. As a father, I can’t change a single one of my children. The Spirit must change them. Isn’t that a relief? Now, we exhort and encourage and love and disciple and teach and preach. We do all those things. But you and I cannot change a single soul only the Blessed Holy Spirit can do that. And we say, Amen and Amen!