

## The Holy Spirit –Co-Equal Member of the Triune Godhead

The Triune Godhead is a mystery, presenting a *paradox* in understanding. No man in the flesh, before his resurrection (and possibly after) can explain the Triune God who is beyond human apprehension, control and explanation. Yet it is vital to not "discount" the Person and work of the Holy Spirit (HS) in teaching the existence and attributes of the eternal God.

(Matthew 28:19) declares the *triune existence of God*, along with the disputed, yet inspired text in (1 John 5:7). These Scriptures declare the Father, His Word (the Son), and Holy Ghost are ONE. The Holy Spirit is ONE with the First Member of the Godhead, the Father and the Second Member, the Son. All three Persons pre-exist creation. Unified with His *co-equal* Persons, the Holy Spirit is also distinct, in that He can be recognized in operation and influence in the world and in the life God's children. The (HS) **testifies only** and always **of Christ Jesus**, not of Himself (John 15:26).

The Bible declares it is not possible to know or be known by the Triune Godhead except that one is **born again** according to John 3:3, 5, 7. Instantly (Eph 1:13d) and eternally **sealed** by the (HS) at the moment of repentant faith, the **Spirit of Truth** (John 16:13) imparts all knowledge to the true child of God, while concealing truth from the lost man (1 Cor 2:14). Followers of Christ Jesus have the unique privilege of this indwelling Comforter (John 14:16-17). John 14:26 declares the (HS) teaches Christ's own to remember all things He told them.

**HOW the (HS) works is declared in (John 16:7-15).** We have communion with the Father because of the (HS) (2 Cor 13:14). The (HS) unifies the Body through various giftings (1 Cor 12:4-13). God's will is available to us when we *yield* to the leading of the (HS) (Romans 8:26-27). The One New Man has access to the Father by the (HS) (Eph 2:18).

The (HS) is observed "in action" in (Acts 4:20, 15:28, et al). Both the lost and the saved sin against the (HS). If the lost soul, in this life, never yields to the Spirit's convicting, wooing call to repentant faith, that soul is guilty of *blaspheming* the (HS). And the **saved soul**, having yielded to the convicting, wooing call to repentant faith, is still able to **grieve** (Eph 4:30) and **quench** (1 Thess 5:19) the (HS) by **unconfessed sin** (John 9:41, James 5:16, 1 John 1:8-9) and **continuing in sin** (Rom 6:1).

It is a sin of unorthodox belief to falsely portray the Triune Godhead without either the Father or the Spirit —focusing on the Son alone. Each member of the Godhead mutually honors and is subsumed in the unity and work of the One True God in three distinct Persons. This mystery supernaturally operates in a life by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.