

BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLES II

Numbers 1-5 can be found on the sermon handout on the June 17, 2018 Pastor's Blog at GrantsPassChurch.com.

6. Truth is progressive. John 16:12

In Deuteronomy 6:4 God's people were told God was one LORD. Then we learned the Godhead had two distinct personages (John 1:1, 29, 10:30, 33). Then Jesus and His disciples taught that there were three (John 3:5, 16:13, 14; 1 John 5:6-8) When this seems contradictory we refer back to principle #2.

7. Examine the Context.

"A text without a context is a pretext." Without carefully noting the context we will most often deviate from the intent. We need to closely examine the immediate context as well as the larger context of scripture and so *rightly divide the Word of Truth*.

IS THE HOLY SPIRIT GOD?

I did not start out on this journey to defend a Triune Godhead or to make the Holy Spirit the third person of the Godhead. I have listened to the reasoning of those who are opposed to a Godhead made up of three personages. To discover the truth for myself I did go through every verse in the Bible that contains *spirit, ghost, and comforter*.

he & Spirit	141 verses
he & Comforter	3 verses
he & Ghost	33 verses
Holy Ghost	89 verses
Holy Spirit	7 verses

In all these scripture passages I found at least 24 times that the Spirit exhibits personage, or engages in activities that would be attributed to a being possessed of mind and reason. For example, the Holy Spirit has a mind, can be grieved, teaches, speaks and inspires etc. (I have posted that list with the Biblical references on the July 15, 2018 Pastor's Blog at the GrantsPassChurch.com website).

In Genesis 1:1 we are introduced to "God". This word in the Hebrew language is *elohiyim*, grammatically a **plural** noun. In Hebrew, the ending *-im* normally indicates a masculine plural. In the very next verse, Genesis 1:2, we are introduced to a part of that plurality, the "Spirit of God"

The prophetic word endorses the scriptures that uplift the personhood of the

Holy Spirit.

There are three living persons of the heavenly trio. *Bible Training School, 03-01-06 EGW*

Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer. *Lift Him Up, p. 191*

We need to realize that the Holy Spirit, who is as much a person as God is a person, is walking through these grounds.--Manuscript 66, 1899. *From a talk to the students at the Avondale School.*

It is true that the entire OT never refers to the Holy Spirit as a person, but Jesus did (see Joh 14:16, 26 and Bible Study Principle #6). In fact, Jesus told us to baptize in the names of the three persons of the Godhead (see Mat 28:19). Repetitively the Bible talks about all three persons of the Godhead in the same verse (see Mat 3:16, 17; Act 10:38; 2 Cor 13:14; Eph 4:4-6; 2:18).

In our search for the truth about the Holy Spirit let us remember that we can only go as far as direct revelation leads us. And due to our dull perceptions (see 1 Cor 13:12) "The Lord speaks to human beings in imperfect speech, in order that the degenerate senses, the dull, earthly perception, of earthly beings may comprehend His words." *The Faith I Live by 10.4*

Because of this, the prophetic pen again gives us this caution.

The nature of the Holy Spirit is a mystery. Men cannot explain it, because the Lord has not revealed it to them. Men having fanciful views may bring together passages of Scripture and put a human construction on them; but the acceptance of these views will not strengthen the church. Regarding such mysteries, which are too deep for human understanding, silence is golden. *The Faith I Live By p. 54*

So, is the Holy Spirit the divine third person of the Godhead? The sacred pen of inspiration says yes!

Christ determined that when He ascended from this earth He would bestow a gift on those who had believed on Him and those who should believe on Him. What gift could He bestow rich enough to signalize and grace His ascension to the mediatorial throne? It must be worthy of His greatness and His royalty. He determined to give His representative, **the third person of the Godhead**. This gift could not be excelled. He would give all gifts in one, and therefore **the divine Spirit**, converting, enlightening, sanctifying, would be His donation. *Signs of the Times, December 1, 1898 par. 2*

So, what are you going to do with that most precious gift? Ask for it (see Luk 11:13)! Covet it (see 1 Cor 12:31)! Be in the Word of God daily seeking a relationship with the same Spirit that inspired it. It is that Spirit that makes alive (see Joh 6:63; Heb 4:12). If you want to live, live as never before, be in the Word. There is life in the Word, and no life outside the Word.

by Pastor Charles Byrd – PastorByrd@grantspasschurch.com