

The Personality & Divinity of the Holy Spirit¹

1. The Holy Spirit is a person. Personal pronouns are used by the Spirit (I, me)².
2. Personal properties such as wisdom³, understanding, will⁴ and power⁵ are His.
3. Personal activities such as speaking⁶, revealing⁷, guiding into truth⁸, teaching⁹, comforting, counseling, helping, loving¹⁰, encouraging¹¹, warning¹², appointing¹³, and gifting.
4. He can be grieved¹⁴, He can be lied to¹⁵, He can be resisted¹⁶, and He can be blasphemed.¹⁷
5. The Father, the Son and the Spirit are all seen as having divine qualities/attributes: The Spirit is eternal¹⁸, He is present everywhere¹⁹, He is all powerful²⁰, and He is all-knowing.²¹
6. Many places in the NT we see the Father, Son and Spirit together: at the baptism of Jesus, the Son is being baptized, the Father is speaking His approval, and the Spirit descends upon Jesus like a dove. As Jesus gives His great commission he instructs the church to baptize in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit.²²
7. A particular incident in the book of Acts gives another specific insight to the Spirit. People are giving gifts to the Apostles and Peter receives a gift from a couple who says they have given all, while really holding some back:

Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? ⁴Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God." (Acts 5:3-4)

Belgic Confession (1561) Article 8

In keeping with this truth and Word of God we believe in one God, who is one single essence, in whom there are three persons, really, truly, and eternally distinct according to their incommunicable properties--namely, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Father is the cause, origin, and source of all things, visible as well as invisible. The Son is the Word, the Wisdom, and the image of the Father. The Holy Spirit is the eternal power and might, proceeding from the Father and the Son. Nevertheless, this distinction does not divide God into three, since Scripture teaches us that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit each has his own subsistence distinguished by characteristics-- yet in such a way that these three persons are only one God. It is evident then that the Father is not the Son and that the Son is not the Father, and that likewise the Holy Spirit is neither the Father nor the Son. Nevertheless, these persons, thus distinct, are neither divided nor fused or mixed together. For the Father did not take on flesh, nor did the Spirit, but only the Son. The Father was never without his Son, nor without his Holy Spirit, since all these are equal from eternity, in one and the same essence. There is neither a first nor a last, for all three are one in truth and power, in goodness and mercy.

¹ Adapted from Dr. Robert L. Reymond, *A New Systematic Theology of the Christian Faith* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1998) 313-314.

² John 15:26; 16:13-14; Acts 10:19-20; 11:12; 13:2.

³ Isaiah 11:2; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11.

⁴ 1 Corinthians 12:11; John 3:8.

⁵ Isaiah 11:2; Micah 3:8; Acts 10:38; Romans 15:13; Ephesians 3:16.

⁶ Mark 13:11b; Acts 13:2; 21:11; 1 Timothy 4:1; Hebrews 3:7; 10:15.

⁷ Luke 2:26; 1 Peter 1:11.

⁸ John 16:13.

⁹ Luke 12:12; John 14:26.

¹⁰ John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7; Romans 15:30; James 4:5.

¹¹ Acts 9:31.

¹² 1 Timothy 4:1

¹³ Acts 13:2; 20:28.

¹⁴ Isaiah 63:10; Ephesians 4:30

¹⁵ Acts 5:3.

¹⁶ Acts 7:31.

¹⁷ Matthew 12:31-32.

¹⁸ Hebrews 9:14; John 14:16.

¹⁹ Psalm 139:7-10.

²⁰ Psalm 104:30; Romans 15:19.

²¹ Isaiah 40:13-14; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11.

²² Matthew 28:19.