

THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!

Compiled by Rick Henwood – January, 2020.

NOTE: - All Bible texts are taken from the King James Version; and the compiler has supplied all emphasis throughout this Bible Tract.

Post Office Box 138;
Nanango, Queensland,
4615.
Australia.

Copyright 2019 - <http://lookingforthelosttruthsofjesus.org>

THE ISSUE TO BE EXAMINED: -

There has arisen over the last twenty to twenty five years, a tremendous controversy within some sections of Christendom, over the Godhead. The World-wide Web is full of sites promoting what is called “the One True God” movement beliefs. These beliefs have been aggressively promoted and have been made into test issues in many fellowships and Bible study groups.

The main teachings of this movement can be summarized as follows: –

- 1.] There is only one God – The Father.
- 2.] They believe that our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ had an origin, a beginning sometime in eternity, when God the Father created or begat him as the literal Son of God. If they view Jesus as being equal with the Father, this equality is in a restricted or limited sense. They also believe that the Father alone is Jehovah, and also, that the Father is the only true God. In reality, they deny the full Deity and Eternal existence of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3.] And the other belief that generally accompanies this downgrading of Jesus Christ, denies the Personhood of the Holy Spirit.
- 4.] They believe that the commonly held belief of the Three Person Godhead, which is known as the Trinity doctrine, is erroneous, and that it had its origins at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD, through Roman Catholic influence. Any professed Christian who still believes in the Trinity doctrine, is viewed as following in the footsteps of the Roman Church.

As the position and deity of God the Father is not questioned by all sides in this controversy, I will not spend any time on this point.

In this Study Document I will examine Point 3 above. I will **NOT** be examining Points 1, 2 & 4.

- ***The Scriptures reveal the Divinity of the Holy Spirit.***

The Holy Spirit had a vital role to play in the creation of the heaven and the earth.

Genesis 1:1 & 2: - "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. **And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.**"

NOTE: - The Hebrew word that is translated as "MOVED" is the word רָחַף - "rachaph" – See Strong's Concordance; Hebrew, No. 7363. The following comment concerning this verse is very illuminating: -

"When the heavens and the earth were created, and all was yet dark and void, it is written that "the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." The record implies much more than is indicated by our word "moved." It means brooding or hovering, as a bird over her eggs to quicken them into life. It indicates the formative process by which order and beauty were brought out from confusion and chaos. And thus, from the very beginning of God's revelation of himself to man, to his Holy Spirit is ascribed the office of quickening and vivifying all things." ¹

Job 26:13: - "**By his spirit he hath garnished the heavens;** his hand hath formed the crooked serpent."

The Spirit of God had a vital role to play in humanity's creation.

Job 33:4: - "**The Spirit of God hath made me,** and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life."

The Holy Spirit is Omnipresent.

Psalms 139:7 & 8: - "**Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?** If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there."

The Holy Spirit is Omniscient.

Isaiah 40:13 & 14: - "**Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counsellor hath taught him?** With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and showed to him the way of understanding?"

NOTE: - I have highlighted in this passage the use of the personal pronouns referring to the Spirit of the Lord, that is, "he", "him", and "his".

The Holy Spirit is described as being "*the eternal Spirit*".

Hebrews 9:14: - "How much more shall the blood of **Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God,** purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

NOTE: - This verse clearly distinguishes between God [the Father], Christ and the eternal Spirit.

Lying to the Holy Spirit is lying to God.

Acts 5:1 - 4: - "But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, and kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it, at the apostles' feet. **But Peter**

¹ From the article entitled "*The dispensation of the Spirit*"; taken from "Life Sketches of James White and Ellen G. White" – 1888 Edition, p. 408.

said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back *part* of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? **thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.**"

Paul writing to the Corinthians stated that they were the temple of the living God.

2nd Corinthians 6:16: - "And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? **for ye are the temple of the living God**; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

Paul had previously written to the Corinthians, that they were the temple of the Holy Ghost.

1st Corinthians 6:19: - "What? **know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you**, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"

NOTE: - The Temple of the Living God = the Temple of the Holy Ghost. Thus, the Holy Spirit **IS** God.

There are a number of Old Testament passages where the Lord or God is recorded as speaking. In the New Testament scriptures, we find that these same Old Testament passages are quoted by the apostles of Christ, with the Holy Spirit now being given the attribution as the One who originally spoke these passages in the Old Testament writings. Thus giving additional confirming evidence to the Divinity of the Holy Spirit.

The prophet Jeremiah in recording the original promise of the New Covenant provisions, indicates that it is the LORD, that is, Jehovah who is speaking the terms of this covenant.

Jeremiah 31:33 & 34: - "But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, **saith the LORD** ["Jehovah" – compiler], I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the **LORD** ["Jehovah" – compiler]: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, **saith the LORD** ["Jehovah" – compiler]: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

In the Book of Hebrews, the apostle Paul attributes these New Covenant terms as being spoken by the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 10:15 – 17: - "*Whereof* **the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord**, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more."

NOTE: - In these passages, the Holy Spirit is the LORD, that is, Jehovah.

The Psalmist records God as speaking concerning the history of the rebellious children of Israel during their long wanderings in the wilderness.

Psalms 95:7 – 11: - "**For he is our God**; and we *are* the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will **hear his voice**, harden not your heart, as in the provocation, *and as in* the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted **me**, proved **me**, and saw **my** work. Forty years long was I grieved with *this* generation, and said, It *is* a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known **my** ways: Unto whom I swear in **my** wrath that they should not enter into **my** rest."

In the Book of Hebrews, the apostle Paul attributes this passage as being spoken by the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 3:7 – 11: - "Wherefore (**as the Holy Ghost saith**, To day if ye will **hear his voice**, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted **me**, proved **me**, and saw **my** works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in *their* heart; and they have not known **my** ways. So I swear in **my** wrath, They shall not enter into **my** rest.)"

NOTE: - The Holy Spirit is God.

The prophet Isaiah has recorded the voice of the Lord speaking concerning the people of Israel's being dull of heart and heavy of hearing [that is, spiritually dull of heart and heavy of hearing], to respond to the gospel call to conversion.

Isaiah 6:8 - 10: - "Also I heard **the voice of the Lord, saying**, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here *am* I; send me. **And he said**, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed."

In the Book of Acts, the apostle Paul attributes this prophecy to have been spoken by the Holy Spirit. Acts 28:25 - 27: - "And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, **Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers**, saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive: For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and understand with *their* heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."

NOTE: - The Holy Spirit is Lord.

David recorded the truth that the Spirit of the Lord put his words into David's tongue. It was the God of Israel who spoke to David.

2nd Samuel 23:1 - 3: - "Now these *be* the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man *who* was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said, **The spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was** in my tongue. **The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me**, He that ruleth over men *must be* just, ruling in the fear of God."

NOTE: - In this passage, the Spirit of the Lord is the God of Israel.

The apostle Paul informed the Corinthian church that the Holy Spirit bestows spiritual gifts in the church to different individual members, according to **his** will. Later on within the same chapter, the apostle records the truth that God has set or appointed certain ones in the church to the exercise of certain spiritual gifts.

1st Corinthians 12:8 - 11 & 28: - "**For to one is given by the Spirit** the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another *divers* kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and **the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will**. ... **And God hath set some in the church**, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues."

NOTE: - The Holy Spirit is the God who gives spiritual gifts to individual members within the congregation.



The Holy Spirit is God!

- **The sin against the Holy Spirit.**

Jesus taught that a person can speak against the Son of man – that is, they can speak against himself, and that sin can be forgiven unto them. But, the person who speaks against or blasphemes the Holy Spirit, that sin shall not be forgiven unto them. This passage clearly demonstrates that there is a clear distinction between our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. According to Jesus' own words, he is **NOT** the Holy Spirit!

Matthew 12:31 & 32: - "Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but **the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men**. And whosoever speaketh a

word against **the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.**"

NOTE: - The blasphemy or sin against the Holy Spirit is an extremely solemn and serious matter. It is a salvation issue. Do **NOT** sin against the Holy Spirit, by confusing the person of Jesus with the person of the Holy Spirit.

- ***The Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in a bodily shape at his baptism.***

The gospel of Luke records the truth, that the Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in a bodily shape at his baptism.

Luke 3:22: - "**And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove** upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased."

It was this tangible, visible descent of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus at his baptism, that confirmed to John the Baptist, that Jesus was the Son of God.

John 1:32 - 34: - "And John bare record, saying, **I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.** And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, **Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.**"

- ***The prophet Ezekiel saw in vision the Person of the Spirit of the Lord.***

Ezekiel 8:1 – 3: - "And it came to pass in the sixth year, in the sixth *month*, in the fifth *day* of the month, as I sat in mine house, and the elders of Judah sat before me, that **the hand of the Lord GOD fell there upon me. Then I beheld, and lo a likeness** as the appearance of fire: from the appearance of **his loins** even downward, fire; and from **his loins** even upward, as the appearance of brightness, as the colour of amber. **And he put forth the form of an hand, and took me by a lock of mine head; and the spirit lifted me up between the earth and the heaven,** and brought me in the visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the inner gate that looketh toward the north; where was the seat of the image of jealousy, which provoketh to jealousy."

NOTE: - In VS. 2 the personal pronoun "**his**" is used twice by the prophet, in describing the "*loins*" of the **likeness** that he saw in vision. Above and below "*his loins*", there is the appearance of fire, of the colour of amber.

In VS. 3, the pronoun "**he**" is used referring to this **likeness** that is seen by the prophet, which has "**the form of an hand**". This hand grabs the prophet by a lock of his head, and **the Spirit** lifts up the prophet [by the lock of his head] between the earth and heaven.

The prophet was shown in holy vision the likeness and form of the Spirit of the Lord's hand. He saw the Person of the Holy Spirit.

- ***God and angels are described as "spirits", yet they are real persons.***

Jesus revealed that God is a Spirit.

John 4:24: - "**God is a Spirit:** and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth."

Jesus himself indicated that his Father has a shape, even though he is Spirit .

John 5:37: - “And **the Father** himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen **his shape**.”

Moses, Aaron, Nadab, Abihu and seventy of the elders of Israel, saw the God of Israel on Mount Sinai, where it is recorded in the Scripture account that he had feet.

Exodus 24:9 & 10: - “Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel: **And they saw the God of Israel**: and *there was under his feet* as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in *his clearness*.”

When God talked to Moses, God was clearly revealed to Moses, as a Divine Person who has a face, hands and back parts.

Exodus 33:20 – 23: - “And he said, Thou canst not see **my face**: for there shall no man see me, and live. **And the LORD said**, Behold, *there is* a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cliff of the rock, and will cover thee **with my hand** while I pass by: And I will take away **mine hand**, and thou shalt see **my back parts**: but **my face** shall not be seen.”

In holy vision, the prophet Daniel saw the Ancient of Days, sitting upon his throne. He has a head, and hair like pure wool.

Daniel 7:9: - “I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and **the Ancient of days did sit**, whose garment was white as snow, **and the hair of his head like the pure wool**: his throne *was like* the fiery flame, *and* his wheels as burning fire.”

NOTE: - Let us not forget that humanity was made in the image and likeness of the Godhead – “**us**” – “**our**” - Genesis 1:26: - “And God said, Let **us** make man in **our** image, after **our** likeness.”

We also have the example of the Holy Angels who are described in the Scriptures as being ministering spirits.

Psalms 104:4: - “Who maketh **his angels spirits**; his ministers a flaming fire.”

The Angels of God are clearly revealed in the Bible as being real persons, having hands, feet and faces.


Numbers 22:31: - “Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw **the angel of the LORD standing** in the way, and his sword drawn **in his hand**: and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face.”

Isaiah 6:6: - “Then flew **one of the seraphims** unto me, having a live coal **in his hand**, *which* he had taken with the tongs from off the altar.”

Matthew 28:2 & 3: - “And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for **the angel of the Lord** descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. **His countenance was like lightning**, and his raiment white as snow.”

Acts 6:15: - “And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been **the face of an angel**.”

Revelation 22:8: - “And I John saw these things, and heard *them*. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before **the feet of the angel** which showed me these things.”

 Where is the consistency, if we acknowledge that God, and the holy angels who are all described in the Scriptures as being “*spirits*”, and are recognized as intelligent, personal beings, yet we refuse to accept the truth that the Holy “**Spirit**” is an intelligent, Personal Being?

- **Plain Bible texts which clearly distinguish between the three members of the Godhead.**

At the baptism of Jesus, Christ was baptized; the Spirit of God descended upon him from heaven; and the Father spoke from heaven with an audible voice concerning his beloved Son.

Matthew 3:16 & 17: - “And **Jesus**, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw **the Spirit of God descending like a dove**, and lighting upon him: **And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**”

Christ issued his gospel commission to his disciples, to baptize in the **name** [singular] of the three members of the Godhead.

Matthew 28:19: - “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them **in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.**”

In the following verse, all three members of the Godhead are clearly distinguished. Jesus does the praying, to his Father [God], who will send **another** Comforter to the disciples, the Spirit of truth. Also notice, the personal pronoun “**him**” that Jesus’ uses three times when referring to the Holy Spirit; and he also uses the pronoun “**he**” twice.

John 14:16 & 17: - “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you **another Comforter**, that **he** may abide with you for ever; *even the Spirit of truth*; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth **him** not, neither knoweth **him**: but ye know **him**; for **he** dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

On the Day of Pentecost, the disciples were filled with the Holy Ghost upon earth; while God the Father was in heaven, and Jesus had been exalted by God’s right hand.

Acts 2:1 – 4, 32 & 33: - “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. **And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.** ... This **Jesus** hath **God** raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. **Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted**, and having received of **the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost**, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.”

God the Father anointed Jesus with the Holy Ghost.

Acts 10:38: - “How **God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost** and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.”

This anointing of Jesus with the Holy Spirit by God the Father, is predicted in the following prophecy from Isaiah. In this prophecy, the Spirit [the Holy Spirit] of the Lord God [the Father] is to be upon the Messiah [the Christ]. Jesus in the synagogue at Nazareth proclaimed that this prophecy had been fulfilled.

Isaiah 61:1: - **"The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are bound.*"**

Luke 4:17, 18 & 21: - "And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, **The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor;** he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, ... **And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears."**

The following passages clearly distinguish between the three members of the Godhead – God the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:30: - "Now I beseech you, brethren, **for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake**, and for the love of the **Spirit**, that ye strive together with me in *your prayers to God* for me."

1st Corinthians 12:4 - 6: - "Now there are diversities of gifts, but **the same Spirit**. And there are differences of administrations, but **the same Lord**. And there are diversities of operations, but it is **the same God** which worketh all in all."

2nd Corinthians 13:14: - "The grace of **the Lord Jesus Christ**, and the love of **God**, and the communion of **the Holy Ghost**, be with you all. Amen."

Ephesians 2:13 & 18: - "But now in **Christ Jesus** ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. ... **For through him** [that is Christ Jesus – compiler] **we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.**

Ephesians 4:4 – 6: - "*There is one body*, and **one Spirit**, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; **one Lord**, one faith, one baptism, **one God and Father of all**, who *is above all, and through all, and in you all.*"

- ***The Scriptures record the fact that the Holy Spirit manifests the characteristics of a Person.***

The Holy Spirit has a mind.

Romans 8:27: - "And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is the mind of the Spirit*, because **he** maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God.*"

The Holy Spirit has a will.

1st Corinthians 12:11: - "But all these worketh that one and **the selfsame Spirit**, dividing to every man severally as **he will.**"

The Holy Spirit has foreknowledge.

John 16:13: - "Howbeit when **he, the Spirit of truth**, is come, **he** will guide you into all truth: for **he** shall not speak of **himself**; but whatsoever **he** shall hear, *that shall he speak*: and **he will show you things to come.**"

NOTE: - The personal pronoun "**he**" is used six times, and the pronoun "**himself**" is used once.

Acts 21:11: - "And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, **Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.**"

1st Timothy 4:1: - “**Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times** some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.”

The Holy Spirit can speak, and uses the first person pronouns when referring to himself.

Acts 1:16: - “Men *and* brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, **which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before** concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.”

Acts 8:29: - “**Then the Spirit said unto Philip**, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.”

Acts 10:19 & 20: - “While Peter thought on the vision, **the Spirit said unto him**, Behold, three men seek thee. Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for **I** have sent them.”

Acts 13:2: - “As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, **the Holy Ghost said**, Separate **me** Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto **I** have called them.”

Ezekiel 11:1 – 5: - “Moreover **the spirit lifted me up**, and brought me unto the east gate of the LORD'S house, which looketh eastward: and behold at the door of the gate five and twenty men; among whom I saw Jaazaniah the son of Azur, and Pelatiah the son of Benaiah, princes of the people. **Then said he unto me**, Son of man, these *are* the men that devise mischief, and give wicked counsel in this city: Which say, *It is* not near; let us build houses: this *city is* the caldron, and we *be* the flesh. Therefore prophesy against them, prophesy, O son of man. **And the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and said unto me, Speak; Thus saith the LORD**; Thus have ye said, O house of Israel: for I know the things that come into your mind, *every one of them*.”

NOTE: - The Spirit of the Lord spoke to the prophet Ezekiel - he fell upon the prophet, and told the prophet what to say. We also notice that in VS. 2, the prophet Ezekiel has used the personal pronoun “**he**” when referring to the Spirit of the Lord.

Revelation 14:13: - “**And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me**, Write, Blessed *are* the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: **Yea, saith the Spirit**, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”

NOTE: - In the Book of Revelation the apostle John actually heard a voice speaking to him from heaven, which commanded him to write down the words that he heard. The voice that he was hearing was the Holy Spirit speaking from heaven.

The Holy Spirit can be vexed and grieved.

Isaiah 63:10: - “But they rebelled, and **vexed his holy Spirit**: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, *and* he fought against them.”

Ephesians 4:30: - “**And grieve not the holy Spirit of God**, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

The Holy Spirit can work miracles.

Acts 8:39: - “And when they were come up out of the water, **the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip**, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.”

Romans 15:19: - “**Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God**; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.”

The Holy Spirit can be insulted or despised.

Hebrews 10:29: - "Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and **hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?**"

The Holy Spirit can love.

Romans 15:30: - "Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for **the love of the Spirit**, that ye strive together with me in *your* prayers to God for me."

The Holy Spirit intercedes for us.

Romans 8:26: - "Likewise **the Spirit** also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but **the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.**"

The Holy Spirit is a teacher.

Luke 12:12: - "**For the Holy Ghost shall teach you** in the same hour what ye ought to say."

Jesus talks of the Comforter as a separate teacher from himself.

John 14:26: - "But **the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost**, whom the Father will send in my name, **he shall teach you all things**, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

The Holy Spirit bears witness.

Acts 5:32: - "And we are **his witnesses** of these things; **and so is also the Holy Ghost**, whom God hath given to them that obey him."

Romans 8:16: - "**The Spirit itself beareth witness** with our spirit, that we are the children of God."

The Holy Spirit has knowledge.

1st Corinthians 2:11: - "*For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so **the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.***"

The Holy Spirit can forbid something from being done.

Acts 16:6 & 7: - "Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and **were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia**, after they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but **the Spirit suffered them not.**"

The Holy Spirit can appoint a person to fulfill a task.

Acts 20:28: - "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, **over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers**, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."

- **The Bible writers have used the personal pronouns "he", "him", "himself" or similar pronouns when referring to the Holy Spirit.**

The Spirit of the Lord spoke to the prophet Ezekiel - he fell upon the prophet, and told the prophet what to say. I also notice that in VS. 2, the prophet Ezekiel has used the personal pronoun "**he**" when referring to the Spirit of the Lord.

Ezekiel 11:1 – 5: - "Moreover **the spirit lifted me up**, and brought me unto the east gate of the LORD'S house, which looketh eastward: and behold at the door of the gate five and twenty men; among whom I saw Jaazaniah the son of Azur, and Pelatiah the son of Benaiah, princes of the people. **Then said he unto me**, Son of man, these *are* the men that devise mischief, and give wicked counsel in this city: Which say, *It is not near*; let us

build houses: this *city* is the caldron, and we *be* the flesh. Therefore prophesy against them, prophesy, O son of man. **And the Spirit of the LORD fell upon me, and said unto me, Speak; Thus saith the LORD;** Thus have ye said, O house of Israel: for I know the things that come into your mind, *every one of them.*”

The prophet Micah has used the personal pronoun “**his**” when referring to the Spirit of the Lord.

Micah 2:7: - “O *thou that art* named the house of Jacob, **is the spirit of the LORD straitened? are these his doings?** do not my words do good to him that walketh uprightly?”

The apostle John’s gospel quotes the words of Jesus, concerning the Father’s sending of **another** Comforter, the Holy Spirit. The apostle has recorded Jesus as frequently using the personal pronouns with reference to the Holy Spirit.

John 14:16 & 17: - “And I will pray the Father, **and he shall give you another Comforter**, that he may abide with you for ever; *Even the Spirit of truth*; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him; but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

John 14:26: - “**But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost**, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

John 15:26: - “But when **the Comforter is come**, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even the Spirit of truth*, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me.”

John 16:7 & 8, 13 – 15: - “Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, **the Comforter** will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ... Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show *it* unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show *it* unto you.”

Acts 8:15 & 16: - “Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, **that they might receive the Holy Ghost**: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)”

Acts 10:19 & 20: - “While Peter thought on the vision, **the Spirit said unto him**, Behold, three men seek thee. Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for I have sent them.”

NOTE: - The Holy Spirit spoke to the apostle Peter in this passage, and he used the first person pronoun “**I**” when referring to himself.

Acts 13:1 - 4: - “Now there were in the church that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, **the Holy Ghost said**, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid *their* hands on them, they sent *them* away. **So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost**, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.”

NOTE: - The Holy Ghost spoke to the church members of the congregation at Antioch mentioned in VS.1, and used the first person pronouns “**me**” and “**I**” when referring to himself.

1st Corinthians 12:11: - "But all these worketh that one and **the selfsame Spirit**, dividing to every man severally as **he** will."

- ***The use of the word "it" examined in relation to the Holy Spirit.***

One of the main arguments put forward by those professed Christians who deny the Person of the Holy Spirit is outlined below: -

"We often refer to the Holy Spirit by the pronoun "it", and in the English language, we do not generally use the word "it" when referring to a person."

There are several solid reasons which I, shall now share with the reader, which demonstrate that the above reasoning is erroneous and contradicts the teachings of inspiration.

The word "**IT**" is defined as: - "The proper neuter pronoun of the third person singular."² Therefore, the above commonly held argument put forward by those Sabbath-keepers who deny the Person of the Holy Spirit, shows an appalling lack of understanding of the English language and grammar!

As I demonstrated in the previous SECTION of this Study Document, from abundant Bible testimony, the Bible writers used the personal pronouns "**he**", "**him**", "**himself**", "**I**" or "**me**" when referring to the Holy Spirit.

The Bible writers have often used the pronoun "it", and they have applied this word to persons, even applying this word to our Lord Jesus Christ. This Biblical fact in itself demonstrates beyond any doubt, that the above argument is erroneous.

The first prophecy of the gospel in the entire Bible, refers to the Promised Messiah who will bruise the serpent's head as "it".

Genesis 3:15: - "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; **it** shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise **his** heel."

Concerning the birth of Jesus, the heavenly angel referred to the Son of God who was to be born to Mary, as "**that holy thing**".

Luke 1:35: - "And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also **that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.**"

The child Moses is referred to as "it".

Exodus 2:9: - "And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her, Take **this child** away, and nurse **it** for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the woman took **the child**, and nursed **it**."

Ruth's child is referred to as "it".

Ruth 4:16: - "And Naomi took **the child**, and laid **it** in her bosom, and became nurse unto **it**."

The child that Bathsheba bore through David's sin of adultery, was referred to as "it".

2 Samuel 12:15: - "And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD struck **the child** that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and **it** was very sick."

² The Oxford Universal Dictionary Illustrated, Volume 1, p. 1052 – 1970 Edition.

The living child that King Solomon was called upon to decide to which mother the child really belonged to, was referred to as "it".

1st Kings 3:20, 21 & 26, 27: - "And she arose at midnight, and took my son from beside me, while thine handmaid slept, and laid **it** in her bosom, and laid her dead child in my bosom. And when I rose in the morning to give my child suck, behold, **it** was dead: but when I had considered it in the morning, behold, **it** was not my son, which I did bear. ... Then spake the woman whose **the living child** was unto the king, for her bowels yearned upon her son, and she said, O my lord, give her the living child, and in no wise slay **it**. But the other said, Let **it** be neither mine nor thine, *but divide it*. Then the king answered and said, Give her the living child, and in no wise slay **it**: she is the mother thereof."

All souls who sin are referred to as "it".

Ezekiel 18:4: - "Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: **the soul** that sinneth, **it** shall die."

Unclean spirits or devils are referred to as "it".

Luke 8:29: - "(For he had commanded **the unclean spirit** to come out of the man. For oftentimes **it** had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.)"

Luke 9:38 & 39: - "And, behold, a man of the company cried out, saying, Master, I beseech thee, look upon my son: for he is mine only child. And, lo, **a spirit** taketh him, and he suddenly crieth out; and **it** teareth him that he foameth again, and bruising him hardly departeth from him."

Those believers whom Jesus will raise up from the grave at the last day, are referred to as "it".

John 6:39: - "And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise **it** up again at the last day."

In the Book of Revelation, the prophecy referring to the birth of the man-child who is to rule all nations, this man-child is referred to as "it". This man-child represents our Lord Jesus Christ.

Revelation 12:4 & 5: - "And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as **it** was born. And she brought forth **a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron**: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne."

☞ Clearly in the light of all these Biblical examples of the pronoun "IT" being used by the inspired writers, when referring to intelligent, personal beings, the use of the pronoun "IT" in relation to the Holy Spirit, does **NOT** negate the truth of the Divine Person of the Holy Spirit.

- ***The gospel commission to baptize in the three fold name, of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit examined.***

Matthew 28:19: - "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them **in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.**"

Those who are promoting the One God, the Father belief, attempt to explain away the clear and unambiguous gospel commission of our Lord Jesus Christ in Matthew 28:19, with the following examples in the Book of Acts when people were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. They then assert that Jesus is the Holy Spirit, and thus to the satisfaction of their minds, they have negated the explicit teaching of Jesus in Matthew 28:19.

The key to harmonizing this issue correctly, so as not to explain away the plain and unambiguous command of Jesus given in Matthew 28:19, is to remember that Jesus commanded his disciples to preach repentance and the remission or forgiveness of sins **in his name**.

Luke 24:46 & 47: - "And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: **And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name** among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem."

John the Baptist prophesied that the Messiah was to baptize people with the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 3:11 & 12: - "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: **but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire**: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

☞ The following incidents in the Book of Acts, were the fulfillment of Jesus' command to preach repentance and remission of sins **in his name** as recorded in Luke 24:47, and also of the prophecy of John the Baptist, that the Messiah **shall baptize people with the Holy Ghost**. In every one of the cases below, every reference to baptism in the name of the Lord is associated with **the receiving of the Gift of the Holy Spirit**.

Acts 2:38: - "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and **be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins**, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Acts 8:15 – 17: - "Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, **that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)** Then laid they *their* hands on them, **and they received the Holy Ghost.**"

Acts 10:43 - 48: - "To him give all the prophets witness, **that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins**. While Peter yet spake these words, **the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word**. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles **also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost**. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, **which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord**. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days."

NOTE: - In this Bible story, Peter commanded the Gentiles "*to be baptized in the name of the Lord*", and **NOT** in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 19:1 – 7: - "And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, he said unto them, **Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost**. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. **When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied**. And all the men were about twelve."

- ***Is the Lord Jesus the Holy Spirit? 2nd Corinthians 3:17 examined.***

It is asserted by those who oppose the *three Person Godhead* teaching, that the following text “proves” that the Lord Jesus is the Holy Spirit.

2nd Corinthians 3:17: - “Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”

NOTE: - The last phrase of VS. 17 referring to “*where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty*”, should not be ignored. Particularly is this so, when we compare it with the following passage in the Book of Psalms.

Psalms 51:10 – 12: - “Create in me a clean heart, **O God**; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not **thy holy spirit** from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; **and uphold me with thy free spirit.**”

NOTE: - The inspired Psalmist asks God to uphold him with “*thy free spirit*”. A clear link to the phrase used by Paul, “*where the Spirit of Lord is, there is liberty*”. And clearly, the Psalmist recognized a distinction between God and “*thy holy spirit*” - “*thy free spirit*”.

We do know that God the Father is a Spirit, according to the words of Jesus.

John 4:24: - “**God is a Spirit**: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.”

NOTE: - This Scriptural truth does **NOT** make the Father the Holy Spirit.

The expression under consideration in 2nd Corinthians 3:17 - “*the Lord is that Spirit*”, indicates that the apostle Paul is referring to “*that Spirit*” to which he has mentioned previously in this same chapter. We should study the context of the chapter, and not just pluck out one phrase in a single verse, isolating it from the rest of the chapter, and just emphasize that expression to build our particular teaching on.

Paul has indeed referred earlier in this chapter to “*that Spirit*” he is describing in VS. 17, which is **the Spirit of the Living God**, who writes the promises of the New Testament upon the fleshly tables of our heart.

2nd Corinthians 3:3: - “*Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God*; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart.”

We also find that in the last verse of 2nd Corinthians 3, Paul refers again to “the Spirit of the Lord”, who helps to change us in character under the New Testament into the same image of the glory of the Lord.

2nd Corinthians 3:18: - “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, **even as by the Spirit of the Lord.**”

Also let us remember the following text, that the apostle wrote further on within the same book, which clearly distinguishes between Jesus and the Holy Ghost.

2nd Corinthians 13:14: - “The grace of **the Lord Jesus Christ**, and the love of **God**, and the communion of **the Holy Ghost**, be with you all. Amen.”

CONCLUSION: -

1st John 5:7: - “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”

NOTE: - See the Study Document entitled, “THE AUTHENTICITY OF 1ST JOHN 5:7 CONSIDERED.”