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Steven Ritchie · Feb 1, 2017 · 15 min read

### The Father Is The Holy Spirit

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Our Heavenly Father never said that He exists as three coequally distinct God Persons of an alleged trinity as Roman Catholic theologians and later Protestant theologians have falsely alleged. The crux of the Trinity doctrine alleges that “the Holy Spirit is not the Father” and “the Father is not the Holy Spirit.” Yet if the Bible itself proves that the Holy Spirit is the self-same Spirit of the Father and the Spirit of the Father is the self-same Holy Spirit, then the entire Trinity Doctrine collapses.

#### THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE SPIRIT OF THE FATHER

Jesus said that “God is a Spirit” in the context of saying, “the Father seeks true worshipers to worship Him in Spirit and in truth (*John 4:23-24*).” Since “God is a Spirit” and since the Father alone seeks true worshipers to worship Him in Spirit and in truth, the Father must be that “One Spirit” (*Ephesians 4:4-6*, “one Spirit ... One God and Father above all, through all, and in you all.”) who is to be worshiped.

If the Holy Spirit was truly another true God Person beside God the Father that we are to worship, then why are there no scriptures which say so? For if the Holy Spirit as an alleged coequally distinct third God the Spirit Person was truly coequal as another true God Person beside the Father, then the scriptures should unmistakably state that we are to worship the Holy Spirit as a distinct Person in Spirit and in truth along with the Father. Yet Jesus plainly declared that only “the Father seeks ... true worshipers” to worship Him in Spirit and in truth (*John 4:23-24*). No text of sacred scripture ever states that we are to worship the Holy Spirit in Spirit and in truth as a distinct third God the Spirit Person. This alone should raise a red flag to all those who have been duped into believing that the Holy Spirit of God is a third true God Person of a three person deity.

In like manner, no text of scripture ever states that we are to worship the Father in Spirit and in truth through God’s Holy Spirit as an impersonal “active force.” Jehovah’s Witnesses teach that the Holy Spirit is an impersonal “active force” (*The JW Publication, Awake 2006* says, “...an accurate translation of the Bible’s Hebrew text refers to God’s spirit as God’s active force.” *‘Is The Holy Spirit a Person?’ Awake 2006*). But how can Jehovah’s Witnesses explain how an alleged impersonal “active force” could personally speak (“While they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” - *Acts 13:2 NASB*; “for it is not you who speaks, but it is the Holy Spirit.” - *Mark 13:11*) while existing as the same “One Spirit” of our “One God and

Father" (*Ephesians 4:4-6 states that there is "One Spirit" of "One God and Father above all, through all, and in you all."*) residing in all true Christians (*"it is not you who speaks, but it is the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you."*- *Matthew 10:19-20*) According to John 12:49, God the Father gave Jesus the commands to speak to his disciples (*"For I did not speak on my own, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken."*- *John 12:49 NIV*) while Acts 1:2 states that Jesus "had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen (*Acts 1:2 ESV*)." Since John 12:49 states that the Father gave Jesus the commands to speak, but Acts 1:2 states that the Holy Spirit gave those commands, the Holy Spirit must be the Spirit of the Father who indwelt Jesus (*"the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwells in me, He does the works"* – *John 14:10 KJV*), led Jesus (*"Jesus was led by the Spirit"*- *Matthew 4:1*), and gave him the commandments to speak (*"the word which you hear is not mine, but the Father's"* – *John 14:24*). Thus, inspired scripture proves that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the Father who gave the man Christ Jesus the words and commandments to speak to his disciples.

"Then Jesus was **LED BY THE SPIRIT** into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil." *Matthew 4:1*

"Jesus, **FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**, returned from the Jordan and was **LED AROUND BY THE SPIRIT** in the wilderness." *Luke 4:1 NASB*

Like all true prophets, Jesus was so fully human that he was "full of the Holy Spirit" and "led around by the Spirit" of God." These scriptural facts prove that Jesus as a child born and son given was not "God with us" as God, but rather, "God with us" as a true man who had the capacity to pray, be led by God, and be tempted by the devil. For the God who "shared in our humanity" to "partake of flesh and blood" (*Hebrews 2:14*) was also made "fully human in every way" (*Hebrews 2:17*) just like all humans are made.

"But if I **cast out demons BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD**, then the kingdom of God has come upon you." *Matthew 12:28*

Since Jesus was able to "cast out demons BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD," we know that the Holy Spirit of God not only filled and led him as a true man, but also did the mighty works in his ministry as a true man. Jesus clearly identified the Holy Spirit that led him, filled him, and did the mighty works in his ministry as our Heavenly Father Himself when he said, "... the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but **THE FATHER THAT DWELLS IN ME, HE DOES THE WORKS** (*John 14:10*)." *Matthew 12:28* says that the Holy Spirit of God did the mighty works, but *John 14:10* says that that Spirit is "the Father" who dwelt in Jesus to do "the works."

Let us now harmonize the scriptural data to identify who the Holy Spirit of God inside of Jesus really is. *Luke 4:1* says that Jesus was "full of the Holy Spirit."

*Matthew 12:28* says that Jesus "cast out demons by the Spirit of God."

Yet *John 14:10* says, "the Father that dwells in me, he does the works."

Jesus was "full of the Holy Spirit" and he cast out demons by that "Spirit of God" within him. Yet Jesus said that it was "the Father" who dwelt in him that did "the works" in *John 14:10*.

So who led Jesus Christ of Nazareth? The only scriptural answer is the Holy Spirit of our Heavenly Father. And who did the mighty works through Jesus? The only scriptural answer is the Holy Spirit of the only true God the Father.

Jesus clearly identified the indwelling Holy Spirit as the indwelling Spirit of the Father.

"But when they hand you over, do not worry about how or what you are to say; for it will be given you in that hour what you are to say. **For IT IS NOT YOU WHO SPEAKS, BUT IT IS THE SPIRIT OF YOUR FATHER WHO SPEAKS IN YOU...**" *Matthew 10:19-20*

But Jesus informs us in *Mark 13:11* that the indwelling Spirit of the Father is the Holy Spirit.

"When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; **For IT IS NOT YOU WHO SPEAKS, BUT IT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT.**"

Notice that both *Matthew* and *Mark* record Jesus as saying essentially the same words. The only exception is that *Matthew* recorded Jesus saying, "...it is the Spirit of your Father (*Matthew 10:20*)," while *Mark* recorded Jesus saying, "...it is the Holy Spirit" (*Mark 13:11*). Hence, just like Jesus as our perfect example was "full of the Holy Spirit," "led around by the Holy Spirit," and depended upon the Spirit of his Father to give him "the words to speak" and do the miracles through him, so Christ's true disciples must follow his perfect example to be "full of the Holy Spirit," to be "led by the Spirit," and to depend upon the indwelling Holy Spirit of the Father to give us the words to speak and to do the miracles through our faith and dependence upon His Spirit.

#### **GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT IS THE SPIRIT OF THE FATHER RATHER THAN A THIRD GOD PERSON**

*JOHN 4:24*, "GOD IS A SPIRIT and they that worship HIM must worship HIM in SPIRIT and in truth."

*EPHESIANS 4:3-6*, "Endeavoring to keep the unity of **THE SPIRIT** in the bond of peace. 4 *There is* one body and **ONE SPIRIT**, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 **ONE LORD**, one faith, one baptism; 6 **ONE GOD AND FATHER** of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

Since "God is a Spirit" (*John 4:23-24; Jeremiah 23:24*) and since there is only "One Spirit" of "One Lord," we must believe that God is One Divine Spirit Person rather than a plurality of Spirit Persons of an alleged three person deity. For it is nonsensical to believe that a distinct divine person can be a distinct divine person without having his own distinct Mind, Heart, Soul, and Spirit. If God is One Spirit, with One Heart, One Mind, and One Soul, then he cannot be more than one distinct divine person while only having a single Spirit, Heart, Mind, and Soul.

#### **THE SCRIPTURES ONLY SPEAK OF ONE SPIRIT OF GOD WHO CREATED ALL THINGS**

*Job 33:4*, "**THE SPIRIT OF GOD has made me**, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life."

Genesis 1:2-3, "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**. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light."

Romans 8:9, "But you are not in the flesh but in **THE SPIRIT**, if so be that **THE Spirit of God** dwells in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."

Notice that the inspired texts only speak of One Spirit of God by saying, "The Spirit of God" as a single Spirit. Hence, our Heavenly Father as God has to be "a Spirit" ("*God is a Spirit*" - *John 4:23-24 KJV*) as a single identity who is to be worshiped "in Spirit and in truth." For only our Heavenly "Father seeks" true worshipers to worship Him" (*John 4:23*), but no text of scripture ever states that another true God Person called "the Spirit of God" also seeks true worshipers to worship him as another true God Person beside our Heavenly Father.

If the Father is a Spirit and the Holy Spirit is the same Spirit of the Father then there could not be two Spirits of God, but only one. And if the Father is the same Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit is the same Spirit of the Father, then there could not be two and three distinct God Persons, but only One. For what kind of a true God Person could exist without having His own distinct Spirit?

When we compare Malachi 2:10 with Job 33:4, we find clear evidence to prove that the Spirit of God is the Spirit of our Father who created all things. "Have we not ONE FATHER? Has not ONE GOD CREATED US (*Mal. 2:10*)?" Job 33:4 states that the Spirit of God made man, "THE SPIRIT OF GOD has made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life." Isaiah 64:8 identifies that Spirit as the Father, "You are OUR FATHER, we are the clay, you are our potter, we are all the WORKS OF YOUR HANDS."

Here we can clearly see that our Heavenly Father is the sole creator as "we are all the works" of His hands (*Isaiah 64:8*). The context proves that we are all the works of the Father's hands. Yet Job 33:4 and Psalm 33:6 states that it was "the Spirit of God" who had made man by His own "breath" ("*THE SPIRIT OF GOD has made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life*" - *Job 33:4* / "*By the word of Yahweh were the heavens made and all the hosts of them by the breath of His mouth*" - *Psalm 33:6*). These are the words that proceed forth out of the Mouth of a single Individual called God as our Heavenly Father. It is hard to imagine that any of the Hebrew prophets could have believed in more than one true God Person while only speaking of One Individual as their Creator.

Hebrews 2:7 cites Psalm 8:5-6 to inform us that it is the Son who is "appointed" to rule "over the works of His hands" (*Hebrews 2:7-NASB- "YOU HAVE MADE HIM FOR A LITTLE WHILE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS; YOU HAVE CROWNED HIM WITH GLORY AND HONOR, AND HAVE APPOINTED HIM OVER THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS"*). The immediate context of Psalm 8:5-6 and Hebrews 2:7 prove that the Son is appointed to rule over the works of the Father's hands. Therefore our Heavenly Father alone is the sole creator who created all things "all alone" and "by Myself" ("*I, the LORD, am the maker of all things, Stretching out the heavens by Myself And spreading out the earth all alone*" - *Isaiah 44:24-NASB*) as the only Invisible and Omnipresent Holy Spirit of God the Father.

New Testament scriptures that speak of the Son as the Creator, simply speak of Christ as Yahweh God the Father Whose Invisible Holy Spirit created all things before also becoming a human son (*Hebrews 3:3-4 KJV says, "For this man was counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as he who hath builded the house hath more honour than the house. For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God."* / *Hebrews 1:10 BSB says, "In the beginning, Lord, You laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands"*).

#### YAHWEH GOD THE FATHER IS ONE SPIRIT BEING WHO PROMISED TO POUR OUT HIS OWN SPIRIT UPON ALL FLESH

Joel 2:17, 28: "And you shall know that **I am in the midst of Israel, and that I am Yahweh your God**, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed ... And it shall come to pass afterward, that **I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh ...**"

Notice that Yahweh our God is the speaker in verse 17. Then in verse 28, Yahweh God goes on to say, "**I will pour out MY SPIRIT upon all flesh**." Some may allege that the speaker is not God the Father in Joel chapter two. Yet there can be no doubt that the speaker of Joel chapter two is the Father based upon the words of Jesus himself in Luke 24:49. For Jesus said, "I am sending **the promise of my Father**" ("*And behold, I am sending the promise of My Father upon you.*" - *Luke 24:49 BSB*). Since Jesus himself said that he sends the promise of the Father (*the Father's promise*), we know that the Father is the speaker in Joel 2:28 who promised to pour out His Spirit upon all flesh: "**I will pour out MY SPIRIT upon all flesh** (*Joel 2:28*)." Hence, God the Father is clearly the One who said that the Holy Spirit is "My Spirit" and that Jesus is the one who sends or pours out the Father's Holy Spirit upon all flesh because His true identity is Emmanuel God the Father with us in authentic human existence. For how could someone who is not God the Father ("*I am sending the promise of the Father*" *Luke 24:49*) be the one who sends or pours out the Father's Spirit when God the Father Himself had said in Joel 2:28, "**I will pour out MY SPIRIT upon all flesh**?" (*Note: Jesus "sends" or "pours out" the Father's Spirit because he is that Father incarnate as a man: John 10:37-38, "If I am not doing the works of My Father, then do not believe Me. But if I am doing them, even though you do not believe Me, believe the works themselves, so that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me..." / Matthew 3:11, John said of Jesus, "he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit." Since Jesus is the Father incarnate as a man, Jesus himself pours out the Spirit on all flesh" to fulfil the Father's promise, "I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh" in Joel 2:28*).

The natural reading of inspired scripture speaks of the Holy Spirit as our Heavenly Father's Holy Spirit rather than as an alleged coequally distinct third God the Spirit Person of a three person deity. How can we say that the Holy Spirit is a third divine person of a three person deity when the Father says that the Holy Spirit is "My Spirit?" Trinitarians who follow the Catholic Creeds are forced to add too and detract from the Words of God by declaring that the Spirit of God the Father is a third divine person rather than accepting the plain scriptural fact that the Holy Spirit is the One Spirit of God the Father Himself.

Genesis 6:3 says, "And Yahweh said, My Spirit shall not always strive with man ..."



The Bible never says that “the Holy Spirit” or “the Spirit of God” is another divine person of a three person deity, nor does the Bible ever list any instances of an alleged third divine person called the Holy Spirit ever communicating with the Father or the Son. Trinitarians can point to post incarnational instances of “the Spirit” making “intercession for the saints according to the will of God” the Father (Romans 8:26-27 shows that the indwelling Spirit of Jesus prays and intercedes to the Father on our behalf), but these passages are clearly speaking about Jesus being the indwelling Spirit “who intercedes for us” (*Romans 8:34 - Christ Jesus is the one who died ... who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us*) because Jesus is the Holy Spirit who became a man through the virgin (*Luke 1:35 - “the Holy Spirit shall come upon you”; Matthew 1:20, “the child who has been conceived in her is out of the Holy Spirit”; 2 Cor. 3:17, “the Lord is the Spirit”*).

Moreover, if all three divine persons are coequal in power and authority, one would think that Jesus would have commonly prayed to the alleged non incarnate third divine Spirit Person called the Holy Spirit rather than just praying to his Father alone (*“Father ... that they may know You, the only true God...” – John 17:1-3 NASB*). It is a scriptural fact that we never find our Heavenly Father ever actually dialoguing with His Holy Spirit or with His Son in the Hebrew Bible before the virgin conception because the Son of God had his beginning by his virgin begetting by being “given” a “life in himself” by the Father (*John 5:26 BLB, “For as the Father has life in Himself, so also He gave to the Son to have life in Himself”*). God clearly “loved” His future Son (*“Father ... you loved me before the foundation of the world (John 17:24-NASB)”*) before the foundation of the world within His foreknowledge (*but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world” – 1 Peter 1:19-20 ESV*) but no verse of scripture ever says that the Son of God was a living Son who could have had the capacity to love his Father before his virgin begetting. Wherefore, it is the man Christ Jesus who “ascended far above all the heavens that he might fill all things” (*Ephesians 4:10*) who now “intercedes for the saints” (*Romans 8:27*) as “the Spirit of His Son in our hearts, crying, Abba Father” (*Gal. 4:6*). For the scriptures affirm that One distinct God who is “the only true God (*John 17:3*)” our Father also became one man with a distinct human “life in himself” (*John 5:26*) in the incarnation through the virgin.</spa