

Worshipping the Holy Trinity
Lesson 5: The Holy Spirit

I. The Spirit as He Seems (Distant, Cold, and Impersonal)

1. Less familiar concept
2. Less biblical data

II. The Spirit as He Is: A Divine Person Distinct from the Father and Son

1. He is a _____.
2. He is a _____ person from the Father and Son.
 - a. The language of _____
 - b. Triadic passages
3. He is a _____ person.
 - a. Deeds: he is the giver of _____ (John 6:63; Gen. 1:3)
 - b. Attributes:
 - i. _____ (Heb. 9:14)
 - ii. _____ (Psalm 139:7-10)
 - iii. _____ (1 Cor. 2:9-11; Rom. 8:26-27)
 - c. Names: he is _____ (Isaiah 6:8ff→Acts 28:25ff)

Quotes used in the lesson

“Most Christians readily respond to the description of Jesus as the Son of God not only because of his humanity, but also because the [name] ‘Son’ indicates a relational identity with which we are familiar. In addition, when, in Christ, we learn to call God ‘Father,’ that name conveys a rich kaleidoscope of images [at least for those of us who were blessed to have good fathers] which helps us to understand and respond to him as the one who governs, guides, provides for, guards, and loves his children.

But the name 'Holy Spirit,' or worse (at least at the emotional...level) 'Holy Ghost,' tends to convey a cold, even remote image. After all, what is 'Spirit'?... [In the experience of many Christians], the Holy Spirit is seen to be distant and impersonal by comparison with the Father and Son."

-Sinclair Ferguson, *The Holy Spirit*

[When Jesus added the words "and of the Holy Spirit" in Matthew 28:19]...he did not rank an angel with the Godhead; nor was it by a creature that he linked us to himself and to the Father, but by the Holy Spirit.

-Athanasius, *To Serapion on the Holy Spirit*

Therefore, angels did not make us, nor did they form us, nor, indeed, could angels make an image of God... For God did not need these [beings] to make what he had himself beforehand determined to make, as if he himself did not have his Hands. For always present with him are the Word and Wisdom, the Son and Spirit, by whom and in whom he made all things freely and of his own will, to whom he also speaks, when he says, "Let us make man after our image and likeness" (Gen 1:26)

-Irenaeus, *Against Heresies* (4:20.1)

And we believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
who spoke through the prophets.

-from the Nicene Creed