



# WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Because the Spirit works through our experiences, His role is often confused and misunderstood. That's why we need to begin with a solid biblical understanding of who he is and what he has come to do. Our understanding of the Spirit must be grounded in the truth of God's Word. So, let's begin by determining what the Bible says about the Holy Spirit.

## **The Holy Spirit Is a Person**

Throughout Scripture, the Spirit is referred to as a person, not a force, influence, or conscience. Scripture describes him as having intellect (1 Corinthians 2:11), emotion (Ephesians 4:30), and will (1 Corinthians 12:11). As we consider the Spirit's work, we find that he teaches (John 14:26), guides (John 16:13), and convicts (John 16:8). He can be resisted (Acts 7:51) and even lied to (Acts 5:3).

Another confirmation that the Spirit is a person is found in Scripture's grammar. In the New Testament, when the Spirit is referred to, the pronoun *he*, not *it*, is used. This is significant because in the Greek language the word *spirit* always calls for a neuter pronoun—*it*. But that's not the case when referring to the Holy Spirit. *He* is a *person*—the Third Person of the Trinity!

## **The Holy Spirit Is God**

We are introduced to the Holy Spirit in the second verse of Scripture. There we are told that the "Spirit of God was hovering over the waters" (Genesis 1:2 ESV). This verse equates the Spirit with eternal, all-powerful God who created the heavens and the earth. The psalmist speaks of the Spirit's omnipresence when he puts forth the rhetorical questions, "Where can I go from your Spirit?" or "Where can I flee from your presence?" (Psalm 139:7). And, in Acts, Peter explains that lying to God and the Spirit is one and the same (Acts 5:3–4). The Holy Spirit is God.

## **The Holy Spirit Is the Spirit of the Father and Son**

The Holy Spirit is the person in which the Father and Son meet. In his letter to the

Galatians, Paul wrote, “Because you are sons, God has sent the *Spirit of his Son* into our hearts” (Galatians 4:6 ESV, emphasis added). Writing to the Ephesians, Paul focuses on the Spirit of the Father:

*For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being.*

—Ephesians 3:14–16 NIV

The Spirit of the Father and the Spirit of the Son come together to form the Holy Spirit—the Third Person of the Trinity. Jesus explains it this way:

*If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.*

—John 14:23 ESV

The Holy Spirit is God ... and lives within us! Let’s continue our journey and determine the work that he does in our lives.