

## *The controversy: Is the Holy Spirit real?*

### **Controversy?**

Have you ever flicked the channels on your TV when all of a sudden you're transfixed by what you see? There is a man or woman standing on a stage with their hands raised to the heavens. In front of them is a sick or disabled person crying out to the Lord in heaven for mercy. You hear the person with their hands raised call out for the Holy Spirit of God to heal the person before them. They press their hands upon the needy and (Boom) they are healed. A scene like this has caused controversy over this entity called The Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost.

Who is this brooding apparition that appears to have as much power as God himself? Many people call on the Holy Spirit to heal them, talk to God for them, or save them from certain destruction. Is this Holy Ghost real? I was reading an article by a Rabi who felt that the Holy Spirit is alive and well in the Old Testament. She did however caution the readers on making God's Spirit a person. In Christianity the Spirit is one of three people who make up what is called the Godhead. Is this Spirit a person and equal with Jesus and God the Father?

In the first 6 centuries the discussion over the purpose of the Spirit rages on. Some said the Spirit is a person while others said no. There seems to be no question something exists spiritually with God but what? There is plenty of controversy. Is the Spirit from God or from Jesus? Can humans wield the power of this Spirit? Does the spirit speak through people? Was this spirit here on earth the whole time? There are so many questions about this Holy power of God.

There are churches that are built on the assumption the Holy Spirit is alive and well within us. They exist by signs and wonders performed by the Spirit of God. Some say you are known by your gifts of the spirit. Do we get spiritual gifts from a Holy Ghost? Do miracles come

from the Spirit? They say this Spirit sits inside a Christian forever. One of the biggest controversies is that this spirit claims to be sealed within those who believe in God, is that true? This Spirit seems to cause trouble and healing all at the same time. There are plenty of controversies here. What do you believe?

### **Maybe?**

To say “Maybe” the Spirit of God exists; let’s take a quick look at the history of this Spirit. In the first verse of the Bible we have our first intro and controversy over the Spirit of God. Gen 1:1 **“In the beginning, God created the universe. When the earth was as yet unformed and desolate, with the surface of the ocean depths shrouded in darkness, and while the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.”** Right from the beginning the Spirit of God seems to be in the picture. Moses in Exodus 35 says a man was filled with the divine spirit. Later in Judges, Samson had the Spirit come upon him and it made him powerful. Maybe we have history that this Spirit exists.

Throughout the centuries people have claimed to have the power of God on their side. They get this idea from chapters in the Bible like John 14. This Chapter has Jesus putting himself, God the Father, and this Holy Spirit as one. Jesus goes on to say that when he leaves that he will send the Holy Spirit to us as a helper. People have called on this Spirit to heal people, give advice, and even smite vengeance on enemies. This Spirit seems to be powerful like God.

The Pentecostal Church is founded on the assumption that the Spirit of God is real. They believe that this Spirit speaks through them in a Godly language. It’s called Speaking in tongues. These Christians use the power of the Spirit to heal others by laying hands on them. They call on the Spirit to help people believe in God. Many Christians believe that the Spirit administers Special Godly gifts (a talent or function) to be used by God in this world. Maybe we can see

Christians helping others through their gifts to make this world a better place like Samaritans purse, the Salvation Army, or your local church.

They say the Spirit drives Christians to do the will of God. Is it this same Spirit that changes people to be kinder and nicer? Maybe this Spirit does exist because we have witnessed people changed by Christianity. Even in the Old Testament the Spirit came upon people and they were empowered by this Holy Ghost. Sometimes people are moved by God. It appears he uses a power, force, or Spirit to get the job done. Jewish people call it Gods essence. Either way something drives some people to do things for a God we cannot see. Maybe it's the unseen Holy Ghost. What do you believe?

### **Yes?**

I asked God one night to help me in my marriage troubles. Since that night my world has changed. My view on life has also changed. What did that? Several times I have had small visions of things and they have come true over time. Maybe I was dreaming and made them happen? Maybe the Holy Spirit gave me insight of things I was supposed to do? I believe I have witnessed the Spirit moving in my life. Yes, I believe there is something called the Spirit of God existing on this earth.

Yes there are good reasons to believe the Spirit is real. Everyone says "Thank God" or "I'll pray for you." Why do we say those things? People believe in miracles, De Je vu, and Murphy's Law. Isn't there something going on behind the scenes that we can't see? There are several massive religions in the world. Why do they survive? If I made up a religion would that become a million people strong in time? I'm thinking that the Spirit working on the hearts and minds of people to do Gods will is not so farfetched.

The Bible tells a lot about the Spirit. Right from verse one in Genesis we have this Spirit appearing over the waters. In the New Testament we have a deeper understanding of this Spirit. John 14 gives us a lot of insight into how this relationship between God and the Spirit works. In later books Paul and others tell us about what that Spirit does in our lives. I look at this Spirit as having it's moment in time to do Gods will. Yes I think the Spirit has a bigger role to play these days.

Jesus came down to earth for about 33 years. God the Father has been here at times, but it's been far and few between (with the data we have). They say the Spirit has been here all the time from the beginning. I do think this Spirit has the toughest job? They always say that we are not as holy as God. The Spirit; however, is holy but works inside the lives of sinners. It would be tough to work in a place you find hard to handle. I like to see the Spirit as the love God the Father has between himself and Jesus his son. This Spirit is that essence. The cool part is that many have felt that love. That feeling or witness made people believe that the Spirit is real. What do you believe?

**No?**

**Romans 8:16 “It is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God.”**

Now that seems like a crazy statement. First of all, we have a Spirit? I thought we were just animals closely related to monkeys. You have to admit we act like monkeys on this planet much of the time. We climb stuff, play in the dirt, and eat bananas. Monkeys live with their family, and they defend their tribe. We are similar inside and outside to monkeys aren't we? Can monkeys have a spirit that guides them? They say we monkeys do.

How can a spirit be within us? How could a ghost and flesh work together? How could they be attached? There is a story of two people who died. One lost his head and the other lost his body. A smart doctor put the two together and revived them. Who now exists? Which one of these people is still alive: both? It seems hard to believe that a Spirit lives in our heart or head. Why do we gravitate towards the spiritual like astrology or church? Why do we get funny feelings about people we can't explain? How did you know to do something out of the ordinary? Is it possible something else besides blood and guts is inside you? Maybe it's your Spirit.

I know there are many people who don't believe in God. That is hard to do because we can't see him. It would be equally hard to see the Spirit as well. I know some Ghosts are portrayed as visible. This Holy Ghost seems to be invisible. Is that why people don't believe in the Spirit of God because of the eye test? Maybe the actions of some people who call themselves Christians make a great eye test. They act badly and real children of God are not supposed to act like that. I can clearly see why some would chose to disbelieve.

In practical terms Spirits and demons don't exist because they are invisible. We sure spend a lot of time worshiping invisible things. People love evil and devil movies and shows on TV. Why do they love to see things that they say do not exist? The Spirit is said to do a lot of its work through Gods Bible. You read it and God speaks to your heart through the Spirit. If the Bible is the same as all other books then why are people changed by it and not by Stephan King? Some people just have to say "No" the Spirit is imaginary. If that's true then this 4000 year old Christian Jewish thing just won't last. What do you believe?