

The Holy Spirit is a Distinct, Divine Person

The Holy Spirit is distinct from the Father and Son:

1. He was responsible for the miracle of the conception of Christ (Matthew 1:18,20; Luke 1:34,35);
2. He is one of three distinct beings mentioned in the baptismal formula (Matthew 28:19);
3. He is referred to as "another Comforter", distinct from Christ (John 14:16);
4. He is spoken of by Christ in the third person (Mark 13:11; John 14:26; 15:26; 16:7-15; Acts 1:8);
5. He was present with Father and Son at Christ's baptism (Matthew 3:16,17);
6. He drove Christ into the wilderness; it was not by Christ's own initiative (Matthew 4:1; Mark 1:12);
7. He may be sinned against in a manner distinct from sin against Christ, a distinction which could not be if Christ and the Holy Spirit were one and the same being (Matthew 12:31,32);
8. He is sent by the Father and by Christ as a being distinct from both (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:7,13-14);
9. He is distinguished from the Father by John in his Gospel (1:18; 6:46; c.f. 1:32);
10. He is identified as distinct from the Father and from Jesus by Luke in Acts (1:1-5; 10:36-38);
11. He is set forth by Paul as one of the three distinct members of the Godhead (Romans 15:30; 1 Corinthians 12:3-6; Ephesians 2:18;4:4-6; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; Titus 3:4-6; Hebrews 10:9-15);
12. He is distinguished from the other two divine beings by Peter (1 Peter 1:1-3);
13. He is confirmed by John as a member of the Godhead (1 John 3:21-24; 4:1-3; 4:13-16; 5:1-7);
14. He is testified by Jude as part of the three-member Godhead (Jude 1:19-21);
15. He is mentioned in Revelation with the Father and Jesus (1:4,5; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6; 2:7,11,17,29;3:6,13,22)

The Holy Spirit exhibits attributes of a person:

1. He has an intellect ("the Spirit searcheth all things", 1 Corinthians 2:10);
2. He has knowledge (the Holy Spirit understands the mind of God, 1 Corinthians 2:11);
3. He has a mind (the Father knows the mind of the Spirit, Romans 8:27);
4. He has emotions ("Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God", Ephesians 4:30);
5. He has a will (the Holy Spirit can choose and make decisions, Acts 15:28; 16:6,9; 1 Corinthians 12:11).

The Holy Spirit does things that provide further evidence that He is a person:

1. He testifies ("He shall testify of Me, John 15:26);
2. He helps ("another Comforter", John 14:16);
3. He teaches ("He shall teach you all things", John 14:26; "the Holy Ghost shall...teach you what you ought to say", Luke 12:12);
4. He guides ("He will guide you into all truth", John 16:13);
5. He convinces and convicts ("reprove the world" of sin, righteousness, and judgment, John 16:8; "convince all that are ungodly", Jude 1:15);
6. He exhibits humility ("he shall not speak of himself", "He shall glorify [Jesus]", John 16:13,14)
7. He regenerates ("renewing of the Holy Spirit", Titus 3:5; Ezekiel 36:25,27);
8. He intercedes (Romans 8:26,34; Hebrews 7:25);
9. He commands and instructs (Acts 8:29;13:2; 1 Timothy 4:1; Nehemiah 9:20);
10. He sends out (Acts 13:2-4);
11. He forbids and prohibits (Acts 16:6,7);
12. He has influence ("no one can say 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit", 1 Corinthians 12:3);
13. He communicates verbally (John 16:13; Acts 1:16; 8:29; 10:19; 11:12; 13:2; 16:6; 20:23; 21:11; 28:25-27; 1 Timothy 4:1; Hebrews 3:7-11; 10:15-17; 1 Peter 1:11; Revelation 2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13,22; 14:13; 22:17);
14. He communes and fellowships (2 Corinthians 13:14; Philippians 2:1);
15. He loves ("the love of the Spirit", Romans 15:30; c.f. 5:5).

Certain things can be done toward the Holy Spirit which could not be done if He did not have a personality:

1. He can be obeyed (Acts 10 - Peter obeyed the Holy Spirit's command to go to the house of Cornelius);
2. He can be resisted (Stephen told the Jews that they were "always resisting the Holy Ghost", Acts 7:51);
3. He can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30; Isaiah 63:10);
4. He can be blasphemed (Leviticus 24:10-16; Mark 3:29);
5. He can be insulted (Hebrews 10:29);
6. He can be lied to (Peter told Ananias and Sapphira that they had lied to the Holy Spirit, Acts 5:3-12);
7. He can be cooperated with ("It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us...", Acts 15:28).

The Bible always speaks of spirits as distinct beings with a personality and character, never a depersonalized force, influence, or essence emanating from another being:

1. God is a Spirit (John 4:24);, and He is no less a Person;
2. The last Adam (Christ) was made a quickening spirit (1 Corinthians 15:45), and He is a Person;
3. The angels are spirits (Hebrews 1:7,14), and they are persons;
4. Fallen angels are called unclean and evil spirits (Luke 8:29; Acts 19:15,16), and they are persons;
5. Satan is called a spirit (Ephesians 2:2), and he is a person;
6. It follows that the Holy Spirit is also a distinct, individual Person.

The Holy Spirit has the attributes of divinity:

1. He is Omniscient (1 Corinthians 2:10-12; Romans 11:33);
2. He is Omnipotent (Genesis 1:2; Job 33:4; 1 Corinthians 12:11);
3. He is Omnipresent (Psalm 139:7-10; John 14:17);
4. He is Eternal (Hebrews 9:14);
5. He is Holy (Matthew 12:32; John 3:4-6);
6. He is Love (Galatians 5:22);
7. He is Truth (John 14:17; 15:26).

Additional evidence that the Holy Spirit is divine:

1. He is called God (Acts 5:3,4; 16:6-10 RV);
2. He was involved in creation (Genesis 1:2; 2:7; Job 33:4; Psalm 33:6; 104:30)
3. He inhabits the body temple as the divine presence (Acts 2:4; 1 Corinthians 3:16,17; 6:19);
4. He causes men to be born again, something only possible with God (John 3:5-9; 16:8-11; Matthew 19:23-26);
5. He is eternal, and we know that only God is eternal (Hebrews 9:14; c.f. Deuteronomy 33:27);
6. He raised Jesus from the dead, and only God can raise the dead to life (Romans 8:11; 1 Peter 3:18; c.f. John 5:25,28);
7. He is the Author of prophecy (Mark 12:36; Acts 1:16;28:25; 2 Peter 1:21; c.f. 2 Timothy 3:16);
8. He is equal to the Son, even as the Son is equal to the Father (John 14:16,17; c.f. vss. 9,10);
9. He is mentioned together with the Father and Son, making Him equal in nature and rank, though not in function (Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:1,2);
10. The name Jehovah, the highest Hebrew term for Deity, applies equally to the Holy Spirit as it does to the Father and the Son (Hebrews 10:15-17; Jeremiah 31:31-34; c.f. 1 Corinthians 3:17);
11. He reveals the Son, even as the Son reveals the Father, and as the Representative of divinity He must also Himself be divine (Matthew 11:27; John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13-15).