

Who is the Holy Spirit?

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The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity who eternally proceeds from the Father and the Son (*filioque*). (Jn. 15:26, 14:26) The Holy Spirit is personal; not an "It" but a "He." (Jn. 14:15-17, Eph. 4:30) Thus, he has personality and divinity. Paul, Matthew and early church liturgies and catechisms recognized this. (2 Cor. 13:14, Matt. 28:19) In 381 A.D., the Council of Constantine formally defined the doctrine of the Holy Spirit.

He has been given an active role throughout eternity, particularly in helping God unfold His plan(s). He was the means by which God brought all things into existence at creation and the one who maintained order during the process, and human souls are the result of Him. (Gen. 1:1-2, Job. 33:4) He also fulfilled OT prophecies and inspired the Bible. (Lk. 1:15, 2 Tim. 3:16)

Though present in both Testaments, He has had somewhat different roles in each. In the OT he can be described as God's mode of activity and as a distinctive endowment of God's people, and in the NT as the mode of God's operation, and as the personal presence of God, especially as these pertain to the church and born-again believers.

After Jesus's ascension, and at the dawn of the Church Age, He began to indwell and seal all believers which he still does today. Believers are now God's "temple(s)," and the Holy Spirit is their "Paraclete" or helper/comforter. (Jn. 14:16)

