

THE HOLY SPIRIT

What was the source of the miraculous power?

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Compiled by Rachel Cory-Kuehl, 1996

Scripture is from New King James Version unless otherwise noted.

Acts 1:4 “And gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, ‘Which,’ He said, ‘you heard of from Me, for John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” (Luke 24:49)

Acts 2:33 “Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He [Christ] poured out this which you now see and hear” (NAS).

John 20:21-22 “So Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’ And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”

Christ received the Holy Spirit from His Father.

This enabled Him to pour out His Spirit upon His disciples.

John 14:16 “And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever.”

John 15:26 “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who (or which) proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me” (John 15:26).

Luke 11:13 “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?” (NKJ)

Ephesians 3:14-18 “For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.”

The Spirit of the Father - flowing through His Son, enables Christ to dwell in us. Both the Father and the Son live in us. We partake of their nature - and we are thus changed - and healed.

Romans 8:11 “But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”

The Father raised Christ from death (1Peter 1:3; Galatians 1:1; Ephesians 1:17-20).

1 John 4:12-13 “No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.”

No man has seen the Father (John 6:46).

1 John 3:23-24 “And this is his [the Father’s] commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who keep his commandments abide in him, and he in them. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit which he has given us.” (RSV)

1 Corinthians 8:6 “Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.”

CONCLUSION: The Holy Spirit originates from God the Father.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS CALLED A “GIFT” FROM THE FATHER

James 1:17-18 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”

Romans 8:32 “He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things [including the gifts of the Spirit]?”

Would not “all things” include the “spirit of Christ” which is given to us by the Father?

Ephesians 5:20 “. . . giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Conclusion: The Holy Spirit is the gift. This gift originates with the Father, and is given to us by the Father, through the medium of Christ His Son.

1 John 4:12-13 “No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.”

*The one “no man has seen”
abides in us by the Spirit which He has given.
“This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior” (Titus 3:6 NRS).
“No man has seen the Father”(John 6:46).*

FROM THE FATHER - THROUGH CHRIST - TO MEN

Titus 3:6 “This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.” (NRS)

Acts 2:33 “Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He [Christ] poured out this which you now see and hear.”

John 15:26 “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who [or which] proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.”

*The Spirit of truth proceeds from the Father.
Christ would send this “Helper” - from the Father.
The presence or power of this “Helper” would “testify” of Christ.
It would be proof of the resurrection and identity of Christ.*

Matthew 3:11 “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me [Jesus] is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire” (Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33).

*Anything repeated four times in Scripture is absolutely foundational !!!
Jesus would baptize His followers with the Holy Spirit.
He would “receive” this Spirit from His Father.*

John 20:21-22 “So Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’ And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”

Conclusion: The Holy Spirit is given to us by the Father, through His Son.

WHAT FORM OR PERSONALITY DOES THIS SPIRIT TAKE?
WHOSE PRESENCE DO WE EXPERIENCE?
WHOSE VOICE DO WE HEAR?

Galatians 4:6 “And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’” (NAS)

Ephesians 3:14-18 “For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.”

The Spirit of the Father dwelling in, and flowing through His Son, enables Christ to dwell in us. This is why Paul said, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Phil. 4:13).

Romans 8:9 “But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”

The Spirit of God [our Father] dwells in us, and we experience the presence of Christ.

Philippians 1:19 “For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.”

John 17:23 [Jesus prayed to His Father:] “I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.”

Romans 8:10-11 “And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

The Father raised Christ from the dead (Gal. 1:1, 1Pet. 1:3).

It is His Spirit which “dwells in” us. That Spirit comes to us “through” Christ Jesus.

It flows from the Father, thru the Son to us!

The Spirit is life (Romans 8:).

Jesus will raise the dead because

“the Father has given to the Son to have life in Himself” (John 5:26).

The dead will come forth when they hear “the voice of the Son of God” (John 5:25).

HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES

The words of each message are the words of Christ.

To the church of Ephesus:

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” “These things says He who walks in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks.” “To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life...” (Rev. 2:7, 1).

*It is the Son of Man, who walks in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks (Rev. 1:12-13).
He is our High Priest. This is ancient Tabernacle imagery.*

To the angel of the church of Smyrna:

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” “These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life:” “Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life” (Rev. 2: 11, 8, 10).

And to the angel of the church in Pergamos:

“These things says He who has the sharp two-edged sword (1:13,16):” ... He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give some of the hidden manna ...” (Rev. 2:12, 17).

A sharp two-edged sword comes from the mouth of the Son of Man (Rev 1:13-16).

And to the angel of the church in Thyatira:

“... “These things says the Son of God” ...I am He who searches the minds and hearts. ... He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” (Rev. 2:18, 23, 26, 29).

And to the angel of the church in Sardis:

“These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God. ... He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father ... He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” (Rev. 3:1, 5, 6).

And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia:

“He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God ... He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” (Rev. 3:7, 12, 13).

And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans:

“To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. . . hear what the Spirit says to the churches” (Rev. 3:14, 21, 22).

Conclusion: To hear the Holy Spirit is to hear the voice of Christ!!

THERE IS ONE SPIRIT

Ephesians 4:4 “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you are called in one hope of you calling”

Ephesians 2:18 “For through Him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.”

THAT SPIRIT IS CALLED “THE ETERNAL SPIRIT.”

Hebrews 9:14 “How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”

John 4:24 Jesus said, “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Jesus said, “God is Spirit” but He had just explained that “the Father is seeking” those who would worship Him “in Spirit and in truth.” God the Father is Spirit. (Yes - He also manifests in visible form sitting on a throne. He has hands and a face with eyes.) Jesus did NOT say that men would “worship” the Spirit. He said they would worship the Father.

Ephesians 4:6 “One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

How is The Father “in” you? Answer: Through His Son.

ONE GOD - WHO IS SPIRIT

And Jesus called Him “Father.”

John 8:29 “And He who sent me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.”

John 16:32 “I am not alone, because the Father is with me.”

John 15:15 “All things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.”

John 17:21 “You, Father, are in Me ...”

John 14:10 “Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? . . . The Father who dwells in Me, He does the works.”

So then: That Spirit which WAS the Father, which dwelt in Christ, which was given to Christ without measure, is then given to us through Christ, and we experience Christ with us and in us. We are thus made “one” with them. As Jesus prayed, “that they also may be one in Us” (John 17: 21).

This is how we abide in the Father and the Son (1John 1:24).

This is how “we have fellowship with the Father and with the Son” (1 John 1:3).

John 14:23 [Jesus said] “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.”

THE RIVER OF LIFE FROM THE THRONE OF GOD AND OF THE LAMB

Revelation 22:1 “Then he showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb.” (RSV)

John 7:38 “He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.’ Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” (RSV)

We are “baptized” in water, and we are baptized with the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:8).

Christ gives to us “living water” which cleanses our heart

and then flows out from us (John 7:38).

We are washed and made spiritually clean by “water and the word” (Ephesians 5:26).

The “early rain” and “latter rain” symbolize the outpouring of the Spirit (Hosea 6:3).

Water for Israel flowed from the smitten rock (Exo. 17:6).

We drink of the “water of life” (Revelation 21:6).

The “river of life” flows from “the throne of God and the Lamb” (Revelation 22:1).

The “river of life” is a symbol of the Holy Spirit, which flows from the Father through the Son.

DIFFICULT PASSAGES CONCERNING THE HOLY SPIRIT

1 Corinthians 15:45 “And so it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being. The last Adam [Christ] became a life-giving spirit.”

This passage is not puzzling, when we know that the Spirit of the Father, given to us through Christ, comes to us as the Spirit of Christ.

2 Corinthians 3:17 “Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

Ephesians 4:10 “He that descended [into the grave] is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that He might fill all things.”

ANOTHER COMFORTER

John 14:16-18 "Jesus said, 'I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Comforter, .'"

Let's look at the entire passage:

John 14:16-18 "And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Helper [Comforter], that He may abide with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him for He dwells with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."

First: Jesus asked the Father.

He did not ask the Spirit (as if the Spirit were a third divine being).

Second: It's pretty obvious that Jesus was speaking of Himself as the Comforter who would come. He said, "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."

This is why Jesus could say, "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them" (Matt. 18:20).

Third: There are two Greek words, which are both translated into English as "another." One is "allos," (#243) meaning another exactly like the first - a duplicate (two dines). The other is "heteros" (#2087) meaning another which is not of the same class, kind, or nature (two coins). The word in John 14:16 is "allos." God the Father would send another Jesus.

HE WILL GLORIFY ME

John 16:13 "However, when He the Spirit of truth has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority; but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine, and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you."

How could this "Spirit of Truth" be Christ Himself? Christ said, "He will glorify me" and "He will testify of me."

First: Jesus spoke of Himself in third person more than once, calling Himself "He, the Son of Man." (See Matt 13:41; Mark 8:38; Luke 18:31-33.)

Second: "I do not speak of my own authority" Jesus said (Jn 12:49; Jn 5:30; Jn 14:10). So... If Jesus did not speak on His own authority, we would not expect the Spirit to do this, IF we experience the Spirit as the voice of Jesus.

Third: He will "take of what is Mine," Jesus said. He (Christ) had received the Spirit of the Father without measure. Therefore all of the knowledge and power of the Father now flow through Christ the Son - including prophetic knowledge. He could then tell us "things to come" - things which He did not Himself know before He was glorified. This He did when He spoke to the prophet John as "the voice of the Spirit."

Fourth: In John 7:39, we read that "the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Christ was not yet glorified." "Father, glorify me," Jesus said in His last public prayer (John 17:5). How did the Father glorify Christ? - He filled Him with His Spirit - which Christ then poured out upon the believers - and they went out preaching and teaching with power - working miracles.

The Bible says "many wonders and signs were done by the apostles (Acts 2:43). And these miracles testified to/ or verified the truth of Christ's resurrection. Romans 15:19 says, "Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ."

A witness (or that which testifies) may refer to a piece of evidence, not necessarily to a person (or divine being). "... the very works that I do-bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me" (John 5:36). He means that the "works" are evidence of His heavenly mission.

THE SPIRIT MAKES INTERCESSION FOR US

As Peter said, Paul wrote some "things hard to understand."

Romans 8:26-27 "Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind [intent and purpose] of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God."

First: Jesus said, "I am He who searches the minds and hearts" (Revelation 2:23).

Second: Jesus knows the Father. "...no one know the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him" (Mat. 11:27).

He knows the mind of God the Father - who IS Spirit (John 4:24).

Third: Jesus is the ONLY mediator/intercessor between God and men (1 Timothy 2:5). If you say that the Spirit is a third divine being, who is making intercession for us, then you have just introduced another mediator.

We have already said that the Father has filled Christ with His Spirit (given without measure). Christ then shares that Spirit with us. This puts Christ in between the Father and man. He is the mediator.

Christ - inspires our prayers, so that we will pray for that which is best (Eph. 6:18, Jude 20-21). He knows the mind of God. Thus inspired, we will pray "according to the will of God."

The intercession of Christ does not change the mind or will of the Father. His intercession helps us to pray for those things which the Father may gladly give.

Galatians 4:6 "And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba Father!'"

THE SPIRIT SEARCHES THE DEEP THINGS OF GOD

1 Corinthians 2:10-11 "But God has revealed them [the good things He has prepared] to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, even the deep things of God. For what man knows the things [thoughts] of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God."

Only the man himself knows his own deep thoughts, so only God knows His own "deep things." God the Father is Spirit (John 4:24), therefore the Spirit knows the deep things because the Spirit is God Himself.

Obviously this is not a proof text. But it does suggest that God is NOT three co-equal divine beings. Jesus once said, concerning the end of the age, "of that day and hour no man knows, not even the angels, but My Father only" (Matthew 24:36). If the Spirit is a third coequal divine being, wouldn't He know? But Jesus said, "My Father only."

GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

James 1:17-18 "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning."

Ephesians 5:20 "He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things [including the gifts of the Spirit]?"

Ephesians 5:20 “. . . giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons . . . But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He [God] wills.” (NAS)

Note: The “He” in this text might refer to the Spirit or to the “God who works all things.” “God is Spirit” - therefore I believe they are one and the same. Because this verse may be understood in more than one way - it is not a proof text.

Hebrews 2:4 “God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?”

Note: The Father’s will is supreme (Matt. 6:9-10).

Ephesians 4:7-8 “But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore He says: When He [Christ] ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.”

Conclusion: The “gifts of the Spirit” are given to us from the Father - by and through Christ.

SEVEN SPIRITS BEFORE HIS THRONE

Revelation 1:4 “John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne.”

I believe the “seven spirits” are mighty angels, who are called “spirits sent forth to those who shall be heirs of salvation” (Hebrews 1:7; Psalm 104:4).

Revelation 8:2 “I saw the seven angels who stand before God.”

Through these mighty angels, Christ directs His war against the forces of Satan on the earth.

THE SPIRIT AT CREATION

Genesis 1:2 "The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters."

Note: Many read in this verse the action of a third divine being. Your understanding of this verse depends upon your viewpoint. The text says, "the Spirit of God." It does NOT say "God the Spirit."

"You send forth Your Spirit. The are created; and You renew the face of the earth" (Ps 104:30).

The Son of God was the creator, acting as the agent of His Father (Hebrews 1:1-3 & 8-10; 1 Cor. 8:6; Rev. 4:9-11; Eph. 3:14-15; Eph 3:9; John 1:3&10; Col. 1:12-16).

Before He incarnated into human form and nature, the Son of God existed in the "express image" of His Father. God is Spirit, therefore Christ also was Spirit - prior to His incarnation. Christ - as Spirit - was "hovering over the waters."

THE GLORIOUS DOVE

Luke 3:22 (John 1:32) "And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased"

Note: Your understanding of this scene will depend upon whether you believe that the Spirit at the time of the baptism was the manifest presence of the Father - a third separate divine being, or a third manifestation of one divine being. It is therefore not a proof text.

The dove was the symbol of the Spirit. The Spirit is the "seal" of God. Ephesians 1:13 says, "having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise". Just so, God the Father set "His seal" upon His own Son.

John 6:27 "Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."

Continued next page.

“THE LORD GOD AND HIS SPIRIT HAVE SENT ME.”

Isaiah 48:16 “Come near to Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; From the time that it was, I was there. And now the Lord God and His Spirit Have sent Me.” (NKJ)

ONLY the KJV and NKJV arrange the words to say "the Lord God and His Spirit have sent Me." This is the ONLY version which could be used to support the concept of a Trinity of three divine persons.

[Compare.]

“And now the Lord God has sent me and His spirit” (*Isaiah 48:16*). ASV, NAS, RSV, NRS

Note: In the newer translations, God is noted as the sender of both “Me” [Christ] and “His Spirit.” When the Son of God incarnated, the communion between the Father and mankind was restored. With His Son, the Father sent His Spirit.

[Compare.] “And now the Lord God has sent me, endowed with His spirit.” TANAKH

Isaiah 42:1 “Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.”

Other passages make it very clear, just Who sent Jesus.

John 6:57 “As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me.”

John 5:37 “And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form.”

John 6:44 “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.”

NOTE: Jesus DID NOT SAY “the Spirit who sent me”.

John 8:16 “And yet if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent Me.”

John 8:18 “I am One who bears witness of Myself, and the Father who sent Me bears witness of Me.”

TWO WITNESSES: The Father AND The Son

John 12:49 "For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak."

John 17:21 "that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me."

NOTE: This verse also tells us just WHO the Spirit was that indwelt Christ. "You, Father, are in Me." And then there is John 14:10 "the Father who dwells in Me does the works".

John 17:25 "O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me."

John 20:21 "So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

1 John 4:14 "And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world."

NOT ONE of these verses says that the Father AND the Spirit sent the Son.

THE UNPARDONABLE SIN

Matthew 12:31-32 "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come."

Mark 3:29 "He who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation."

Note: If God is three coequally divine beings, then blasphemy against the Father or the Son should be equally as serious as blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. Speaking against the Holy Spirit must involve something more. The Spirit is the means by which we have fellowship with the Father and the Son (1John 1:3, John 14:23). To reject the Holy Spirit is to turn a deaf ear to the only source of saving conviction and power. To reject the Holy Spirit is to reject the Father and the Son.

RESISTING THE SPIRIT, GRIEVING THE SPIRIT, QUENCHING THE SPIRIT

Acts 7:51 "You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you."

Ephesians 4:30 "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed [aorist tense: are being sealed] for the day of redemption"

1 Thessalonians 5:19 “Do not quench the Spirit.”

Note: From the fall of Adam to the incarnation of Christ, the Holy Spirit was the presence of the Son of God (1 Pet. 1:11). He has always been the “one mediator” between God and man (1 Tim. 2:5).

While Christ was on earth, the Holy Spirit was the presence of the Father (John 6:44). At the incarnation, Christ had “emptied Himself” of divine power (Phil. 2:7). He must be “made like his brethren in all things” (Heb 2:17).

Now since Pentecost, the Holy Spirit is the vital presence of the Father and of Christ (Rom. 8:9-11) therefore to grieve the Holy Spirit is to refuse the pleading of God, thru His Son.

Ephesians 3:14-18 “For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.”

The Spirit of the Father is given thru Christ the Son.

THE LOVE OF THE SPIRIT

Romans 15:30 “Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me” (Romans 15:30).
Amplified Version.

Note: If the meaning of the text changes, depending upon the reader’s personal doctrinal bias, then it is not a proof text. The example above is such a text. The love of the Spirit could be understood to mean that love which the Spirit Himself feels toward us, or that love which we experience in our own hearts when they are filled with the Holy Spirit. The same could be said of “the communion of the Holy Spirit” (2 Corinthians 13:14).

SANCTIFICATION OF THE SPIRIT

1 Peter 1:2 “Pilgrims of the dispersion . . . elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.”

Note: This is not a proof text, because your interpretation will depend upon your viewpoint. “Sanctification of the Spirit” could mean sanctification by the Spirit, or it could mean sanctification through the Spirit, or sanctification by means of the Spirit.

[Compare]

Jude 1:1 “Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ.”

Note: We are sanctified by the Father and the Son, Who dwell in us by Their omnipresent Spirit.

THE HOLY SPIRIT INSPIRED OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS

2 Peter 1:21 “For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 28:25 “So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: “The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers.”

[Compare]

1 Peter 1:10-11 “Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.”

THEY LIED TO THE HOLY SPIRIT.

Acts 5:3-4 “But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”

Acts 5:9 “Then Peter said to her, “How is it that you have agreed together to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out.”

Note: Peter said, “You have lied to God.” He did NOT say, “You have lied to the third person of the Trinity.” Your understanding of this passage depends upon Whom you believe the Holy Spirit to be.

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THE HOLY SPIRIT SAID

Acts 13:2 “As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”

Acts 15:28 “For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things:”

Acts 16:7 “After they had come to Mysia, they tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit did not permit them.”

Note: Translations from older manuscripts say “but the Spirit of Jesus did not permit them.” The words of the Spirit ARE the words of Christ. (Read the messages to the seven churches in Revelation Chapter Three.) The words of the Spirit are the words of Christ Who speaks for His Father (John 16:13).

THE HOLY SPIRIT TEACHES

Luke 12:12 “For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.”

Mark 13:11 “But when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.”

[Compare a parallel passage.]

Matthew 10:19-20 “But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.”

Note: The Spirit of the Father is poured out to us through Christ, and we experience the voice of Christ. He is our Teacher.

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THE HOLY SPIRIT IS CALLED "HE."

John 16:8 "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment."

John 16:13 "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."

John 16:14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you."

*First: Christ referred to Himself many times in third person, as "He"
(See Matt. 13:37, 16:27, 16:28, 20:18).*

Second: The Comforter is Christ. Christ, not in bodily form, but in spirit, dwells with us and in us (1Cor. 15:45, 2Cor. 3:17, Eph. 4:10).

*"And because you are sons, **God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son** into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" (Galatians 4:6).*

WE ARE A TEMPLE FOR THE SPIRIT

1 Corinthians 3:16 "Do you not know that you are the temple of God
and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"

[Consider] *Christ called the Temple, "My Father's house" (John 2:16).*

Ephesians 4:6 "One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

ACCESS BY ONE SPIRIT TO THE FATHER

Ephesians 2:18 "For through Him [Christ] we both [Jew and Gentile] have access by one [and the same] Spirit to the Father."

Jesus said, "I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). I believe this applies also to prayer. We come to the Father through Christ.

Christ is the one Mediator between God and men (1 Tim. 2:5).

Because of what Christ has done, the Holy Spirit has been restored to men. The presence of God

Our Father dwells with us and in us. Christ said that both He and His Father would make Their home with the one who loves Christ (John 14:23). The Holy Spirit is not only the Son, but also the Father.

“For this reason

I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,
that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory,
to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,
that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith” (Ephesians 3:14).

*We hope this study will prove a blessing.
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