

The Biblical Unitarian Podcast - by Dustin Smith, PhD

Episode 377—"The Holy Spirit is God's Power"

"The podcast that aims to start conversations about the oneness and unity of God and about the humanity of Jesus."

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Introduction

We spent a lot of time talking on this show about God and about Jesus (the Father and the Son). But what about the Holy Spirit? I often get asked about the Holy Spirit and what I think it refers to. For those transitioning away from Trinitarianism, having come to the understanding that Jesus is the son of God, not God the son, where does that leave us regarding the Holy Spirit? Most apologists don't even talk about the Holy Spirit, because they are desperate to affirm the phrase "Jesus is God." This raises some good questions.

If God is one person, the Father alone, and if Jesus is the human son of the one true God, then what are we to make of the Holy Spirit?

This week's episode will begin to scratch the surface in defining what the Bible says about the Holy Spirit. We will look at the powerful effects of God's Holy Spirit, also known as the Spirit of Yahweh.

1. The Holy Spirit is God's Power to Create

- a. The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. (Gen 1:2-3)
- b. Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, That hovers over its young (Deut 32:11)
- c. You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the ground. (Ps 104:30)
- d. "Then you will know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves and caused you to come up out of your graves, My people. I will put My Spirit within you and you will come to life, and I will place you on your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken and done it," declares the LORD." (Ezek 37:13-14)

2. The Spirit Empowering Old Testament Figures

- a. "Then I will come down and speak with you there, and I will take of the Spirit that is upon you, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, so that you will not bear it all alone. (Num 11:17)
- b. When they came to the hill there, behold, a group of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him mightily, so that he prophesied among them. (1 Sam 10:10)
- c. Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. (1 Sam 16:13)
- d. Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, And He will not judge by what His eyes see, Nor make a decision by what His ears hear; But with righteousness He will judge the poor, And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, And faithfulness the belt about His waist. (Isa 11:1-5)

3. The Holy Spirit Empowering the Human Jesus

- a. Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness (Luke 4:1)

- b. And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district. (Luke 4:14)
 - c. "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. (Matt 12:28)
 - d. You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. (Acts 10:38)
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- 4. The Holy Spirit Empowers Christians
 - a. For I will not presume to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me, resulting in the obedience of the Gentiles by word and deed, in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit (Rom 15:18-19)
 - b. that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man (Eph 3:16)
 - c. So then, does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? (Gal 3:5)
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Thanks for listening to this week's episode!

Join us next week as we continue our exploration of the Holy Spirit, examining how the Spirit functioned as the personal presence of God.

Please look forward to our next episode.

If you enjoyed the podcast, please consider supporting us as we promote sound truths about God's oneness and unity and Jesus' humanity!

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Producer and Editor: Dustin Williams | Host: Dustin Smith