

A man with short brown hair and a beard, wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt, is singing into a black microphone. He is looking upwards and to the right. The background is a stage with purple and blue lighting. In the upper right, there is a screen with text that is partially visible. The main title is overlaid in large white letters.

THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

CLG

EPHESIANS 4:30

PS CHRIS BOOTH

More Than a Feeling: Rediscovering the Person of the Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit is not simply a force or an abstract concept, but a divine Person.
- The Holy Spirit is a vital part of the Trinity, alongside the Father and the Son.
- As part of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit is fully God, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Son.
- The Holy Spirit has always existed and will always exist, working in perfect harmony within the Trinity.
- In much of contemporary Christianity, there is a tendency to reduce the Holy Spirit to a mere experience—such as a warm feeling during worship or a dramatic encounter.
- Scripture presents a much richer view: the Holy Spirit is not a fleeting feeling or an impersonal force but a divine Person—intelligent, relational, and active—worthy of worship and trust.

1. The Holy Spirit is a Person, Not a Force

 John 14:16–17 EXB

“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper [Counsellor; Advocate; Comforter; to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept [receive] him, because it does not see him or know him. But you know him, because he lives with you and will be in you.”

- **The Holy Spirit speaks**

 Acts 13:2 NIV

“While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.””

- **The Holy Spirit Teaches**

 John 14:26 EXB

“But the Helper [Counsellor; Advocate; Comforter] will teach you everything [all things] and will cause you to remember [remind you of] all that I told you. This Helper is the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name.”

- **The Holy Spirit Grieves**

📖 Ephesians 4:30 EXB

“And do not make the Holy Spirit sad [do not grieve the Holy Spirit]. The Spirit is God’s proof that you belong to him [or God’s seal/mark of ownership], and he will make you free [bring you to redemption] at the final day.”

- **The Holy Spirit can be resisted**

📖 Acts 7:51 NIV

“You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit!”

These are not the traits of a feeling or of a force—they are the traits of a person.

Non-Trinitarian Doctrines and the Biblical View of the Holy Spirit

Comparative Table of Beliefs

| Group | View of God | Jesus | Holy Spirit | Spiritual Gifts | Authority Structure | Notable Beliefs |
|-----------------------------|--|---|--|---|------------------------------------|---|
| Trinitarian Christianity | One God in three Persons: Father, Son, Holy Spirit | Fully God and fully man | Fully God, a distinct Person | Active, varying practices | Bible as final authority | Salvation by grace through faith in Christ |
| Jehovah's Witnesses | One God: Jehovah | Created being, Michael the Archangel | Impersonal force | Ceased, Spirit helps and guides via Watchtower | Watchtower Bible and Tract Society | 144,000 go to heaven, Holy Spirit is not God |
| PMCC 4th Watch | One God: Father only | Emptied divinity in incarnation (kenosis) | Spirit of God who guides, teaches, comforts, etc... Personal traits | Active under apostolic leadership. Gifts of the Spirit refer to 5 Offices in Eph 4:11 not 1 Cor 12:1-11 | Authority under "Apostle" | Father, Son, Spirit are God but not a Trinity, Jesus returns in 4th Watch, Living Apostle is the Goodman of the house, True Church, Salvation Requires PMCC4W baptism and preaching |
| Oneness Pentecostals (UPCI) | One God manifested as Father, Son, and Spirit | Same Person as Father and Spirit | Another form of Jesus | Active, tongues as sign | Modalist theology | Baptism in Jesus' name only, anti-Trinitarian |

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|-------------------------|--|--|---|--|--|---|
| Christadelphians | One God: Father only | Created | Impersonal power | Generally not practiced | Lay leadership | Reject hell and immortal soul |
| Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) | One God: Father only | Glorified man, not divine | Not a Person | Minimal or unclear | Centralised church leadership | Only INC members saved |
| The Way International | One God | Jesus not God | Active force | Ceased | Independent scriptural reinterpretation | No Trinity, unconventional exegesis/interpretation of Scripture |
| Unitarian Universalists | No personal God | Moral teacher | Symbolic/metaphorical | Irrelevant | Pluralistic leadership | Universalism – all go to heaven, pluralism-multiple paths to God |
| MCGI (Ang Dating Daan) | One God: Father only | Not God, Son of God | Often undefined or impersonal | Active under leadership | Authority under preacher | True Christianity has been lost or corrupted, and they will restore the true Christianity |
| Islam | One God: Allah, absolutely singular (Tawhid) | Prophet, not divine; born of virgin Mary; not crucified; will return | Often interpreted as Angel Gabriel or God's power | Not emphasized as “gifts”; focus on guidance, prayer, and revelation | Decentralized; scholars, imams, and schools of thought | Jesus is Messiah but not God; Quran is final revelation; rejection of Trinity |

Biblical Refutation of Non-Trinitarian Claims About The Holy Spirit

 Matthew 28:19 EXB

“So go and make followers [disciples] of all people in the world [all nations]. Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

 2 Corinthians 13:14 NIV

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”

 John 14:16–17 EXB

“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper [Counsellor; Advocate; Comforter—the Holy Spirit] to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it does not see him or know him. But you know him, because he lives with you and will be in you.”

Holy Spirit: Person, Not a Force or a Feeling

1. The Spirit of Truth Leads, Directs and Guides, He is not just an Emotion

📖 John 16:13 EXB

“But when the Spirit of truth comes, he will lead [guide] you into all truth. He will not speak his own words [on his own authority], but he will speak only what he hears and will tell you what is to come [declare/reveal the things that are coming].”

2. The Holy Spirit is our Refiner, Not Just the Comforter

📖 Malachi 3:2 NIV

“But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap.

3. The Holy Spirit is our Sanctifier and Transformer, Not a mood booster

 2 Corinthians 3:18 NIV

“And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”

4. The Holy Spirit is Our Empowerer for Mission

 Acts 2:1-4 EXB

“ When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a noise like a strong, blowing wind [violent wind] came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw something like flames [tongues] of fire that were separated and stood over [came to rest on] each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak different languages [other tongues] by the power [as the Spirit gave them ability; or as the Spirit enabled them] that the Holy Spirit was giving them.”

5. The Father worked with the Spirit and the Word in Creation

📖 Genesis 1:1-3 NIV

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.

- **The Father spoke the Word, and the Spirit created**

🌟 Hebrew Terms in Genesis 1:1–3

| English Phrase | Hebrew Word | Transliteration | Meaning / Notes |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|--|
| God | אֱלֹהִים | Elohim | Plural form used with singular verbs—often interpreted as a majestic plural. |
| Spirit | רוּחַ | Ruach | Means “breath,” “wind,” or “spirit”; contextually refers to divine presence. |
| Spirit of God | רוּחַ אֱלֹהִים | Ruach Elohim | Literally “Spirit of God”; interpreted as God’s active presence or power. |

John 1:1-2 EXB

In the beginning there was the Word [the Word already existed; the Word refers to Christ, God's revelation of himself]. The Word was with [in the presence of; in intimate relationship with] God [the Father], and the Word was [fully] God. He was with [in the presence of; in intimate relationship with] God in the beginning

a. God's Role in Creation:

- i. In the very beginning, the Holy Spirit was there, moving over the water (Genesis 1:2).
- ii. The Holy Spirit participated in creation, alongside God the Father (who speaks) and Jesus (the Word).


b. The Holy Spirit Through the Bible:

- i. The same Holy Spirit that was there in the beginning is the same one that fills, gives power, and comforts people in the New Testament.
- ii. The Holy Spirit isn't a New Testament revelation of God, but has always been around and active since the beginning.

c. One God, Three Parts:

- i. "God" in Hebrew (Elohim) is plural, even though it's used with singular verbs. He is one God in three persons, the Trinity
- ii. Genesis 1:26 ("Let us make man in our image...") suggest this idea of a divine plurality

6. The Holy Spirit Enables Us To Worship

 John 4:23–24 NIV

“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

7. The Holy Spirit's Role in the Trinity



John 4:24 also says “God is spirit,” which speaks about God’s nature, and on the Trinitarian relationship:

| Person of the Trinity | Role in Worship |
|-----------------------|--|
| Father | The One we worship |
| Son (Jesus) | The Truth we worship through |
| Holy Spirit | The One who enables and empowers our worship |

- The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son and glorifies Christ.



John 15:26 EXB Jesus said

“I will send you the Helper [Counsellor; Advocate; the Holy Spirit] from the Father; he is the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father. When he comes, he will tell [testify; witness] about me”

- Holy Spirit applies the work of redemption to believers, making worship possible.
- Holy Spirit dwells within us, making our bodies temples (1 Corinthians 6:19).
- Holy Spirit leads us into authentic worship, the giving all of ourselves. (Romans 12:1-2)

Dangers of a Feelings-Based Theology:

- Emotionalism without truth.
- Disillusionment when feelings fade.
- Immaturity and disobedience.
- Neglect of Scripture.



2. The Holy Spirit Desires To Be Intimately Involved With Us

 Romans 8:26–27 NIV

“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.”

 Romans 8:14-16 NIV

“For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.”

The Holy Spirit as Divine Person

1. The Holy Spirit is Relational and Personal

- We access the Father through Christ by the Spirit.

📖 Ephesians 2:18 EXB

“Because of [through] Christ we all have access to the Father by one Spirit.”

- We cry “Abba, Father” by the Spirit.

📖 Romans 8:15 NIV

“The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.””

2. The Holy Spirit Has Intellect and Will

- The Holy Spirit distributes gifts “as He wills.”

📖 1 Corinthians 12:11 NIV

“All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.”

- **The Holy Spirit Convicts the world of sin.**

📖 John 16:8 EXB

“When the [Counsellor; Advocate] comes, he will prove [show; demonstrate; convict] to the people of the world the truth about sin, about being right with God [righteousness], and about judgment.”

- **The Holy Spirit Reveals truth.**

📖 John 16:13 EXB

“But when the Spirit of truth comes, he will lead you into all truth. He will not speak his own words [on his own authority], but he will speak only what he hears and will tell you what is to come [declare/reveal the things that are coming].”

3. The Holy Spirit's Divine Works

- **The Holy Spirit Raises the dead.**

📖 Romans 8:11 NIV

“And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.”

- **The Holy Spirit Causes new birth.**

📖 John 3:5–6 EXB

“Jesus answered, ‘I tell you the truth, unless one is born from water and the Spirit, he cannot enter God’s kingdom. Human life comes from human parents [What is born of the flesh is flesh], but spiritual life comes from the Spirit [what is born of the Spirit is spirit].’”

- **The Holy Spirit Grows Christlike fruit in us.**

📖 Galatians 5:22–25 EXB

“But the Spirit produces the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. There is no law that says these things are wrong. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified their own sinful selves [the flesh] with all its passions and desires. We get our new life from the Spirit, so we should follow [walk in step with; or walk in line with] the Spirit.”

- **The Holy Spirit Creates unity in the Church.**

📖 Ephesians 4:3–6 EXB

“You are joined together with peace through the Spirit, so make every effort to continue together in this way. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to have one hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, and one baptism. There is one God and Father of everything. He rules everything and is everywhere and in everything.”

3. The Holy Spirit Empowers Us for Mission and Transformation

📖 Acts 1:8 NIV

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

- The Spirit doesn't just inspire worship—He equips disciples.
- His power is not for performance but for witness.
- On Pentecost, He filled the Church not with a feeling but with fire—holy boldness, prophetic speech, and unity.
- And even today, He transforms our character (Galatians 5:22–25), gives spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:7–11), and forms us into Christ's image (2 Corinthians 3:18).



Pray with us

For “whoever calls on
the name of the Lord
shall be saved.”

ROMANS 10:13



Connect with us!



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