What Is Truth? The Spirit of Truth

To continue our brief word study on ***"What is Truth?"***… When it was time for the Lord Jesus to return to Heaven, He reassured His disciples that He would not leave them ***"comfortless"***. He promised them that His heavenly Father would give them ***"another Comforter … the Spirit of truth"*** (John 14:16-17; 15:26).

The Spirit of Truth is the Third Person of the Trinity:

Old Testament:

"…the Spirit [7307] **of God" (Genesis 1:2b; and others) / "…the Spirit** [7307] **of God** [410]**" (Job 33:4; and others) / "…the Spirit** [7307] **of the LORD" (Judges 3:10; and others).**

[410] = Heb. Êl: *holy … refers to God in many Old Testament proper names, such as Immanuel [God with us].*

[7307] = Heb. Rūach: *the divine, miraculous power … the Holy Spirit.*

New Testament:

"And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit [4151] **is truth** [225]**. For there are three that bear record** [3140] **in heaven, the Father** [3962]**, the Word** [3056]**, and the Holy Ghost** [4151]**: and these three are one" (1 John 5:6-7).**

[225] = Gr. Alethia: *truth as opposite to types, emblems, or shadows.*

[3056] = Gr. Lógos: *Jesus Christ.*

[3140] = Gr. Marturéō: *witness, to witness, bear witness, testify.*

[3962] = Gr. Patḗr: *the first person of the Trinity.*

[4151] = Gr. Pneuma: *with the definite article it refers to Jesus' spirit.*

"In Acts, we read that when Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit, he was guilty of lying to God" [Answers in Genesis].

The Spirit of Truth Points Us to the Person of Truth, Jesus:

"…the Spirit of truth [4151] **… shall not speak of himself; … He shall glorify me" (John 16:13-14).**

"The Holy Spirit does not speak of Himself, but always of Jesus. Anything that detracts from the person and work of Jesus Christ is not the activity of the Holy Spirit. He will never pre-empt the place of Christ in our thinking. He will always exalt our Lord" [Abide in Christ].

"Miracles … signs and wonders are performed by the Holy Spirit for the purpose of glorifying Jesus … If the Holy Spirit glorified Himself in what He did it would make Christianity spirit-centred rather than Christ-centred" [Signs That Make You Wonder].

Thus, if any spirit is drawing a person's attention away from Jesus, the Person of Truth, and on to itself, it is not the HOLY Spirit, but *another* spirit (2 Corinthians 11:4).

The Spirit of Truth is the Author of the Word of Truth, the Bible:

"[N]o prophecy of the Scripture [1124] **is of any private interpretation … holy men of God spake as they were moved** [5342] **by the Holy Ghost** [4151]**" (2 Peter 1:20-21),**

[1124] = Gr. Graphḗ: *God-breathed or inspired.*

[5342] = Gr. Phérō: *to be … actuated by the Holy Spirit.*

"The Spirit will … make sure that the Apostles remember what Jesus told them in person, and also reveal to them the further things … They will write down the teaching of Jesus, and so create the books of the New Testament" [Church Society].

"The Spirit of truth 'breathed the breath of God' into His Book and made it the Book of truth (2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). The Spirit of God, the Spirit of truth, guided over the preservation of His revelation in the Bible … [He] never contradicts revealed truth in His Word" [Abide in Christ].

The Spirit of Truth is the Divine Author of the Word of Truth; thus He isn't going to contradict the Holy Scriptures He has Himself written.

The Spirit of Truth Leads Us into All Truth:

"the Spirit of truth [4151] **… will guide you into all truth** [225]**" (John 16:13-14).**

"Hereby know we the spirit of truth [225]**, and the spirit of error** [4106]**" (1 John 4:6).**

[4106] = Gr. Planē: *fraudulence; … deceit, to deceive, delusion, error.*

"[The Spirit of truth] comes alongside us to guide us into the truth about God the Father and the Son … He is the Spirit of Christ who is the truth" [Abide in Christ].

"There are many lies of the world and many lies of the enemy, and we as well as the disciples, need a guiding force to help us reach our heavenly destination. There are lies of persuasion; lies of fear; distortions of truths trying to convince [us] of something contrary to God's word. The Spirit of truth … will guide [us] into all truth. All truth of what? All truth of Jesus!" [Word For Life].

The Holy Spirit leads us into all truth; He cannot do this if He is not Himself Truth.

To Conclude This Part of Our Mini Study…

"We have Jesus' [the One who IS Truth] assurance that such apostolic teaching [the Word of Truth] would be true to Him, because the Spirit [of Truth] *'will receive from me what he will make known to you'* (John 16:15)" [Church Society].

References:

Answers in Genesis, *What Does 'the Spirit is Truth' Mean?*, (01 October 2010),
https://answersingenesis.org/answers/biblical-authority-devotional/what-does-the-spirit-is-truth-mean/
Abide in Christ, *The Spirit of Truth*, (04 October 2006), https://www.abideinchrist.com/selah/oct2.html
James P. Smith, *Signs That Make You Wonder: False/True*, (date), p.96.
Church Society, *The Spirit of Truth*, (No Date),
https://www.churchsociety.org/resource/the-spirit-of-truth/?category=llf-resources
Word for Life Says, *The Spirit of Truth*, (15 March 2015), https://www.wordforlifesays.com

Next time, God willing, our penultimate study will be ***Worship God in Spirit and in Truth***.

May the Lord bless you this year with the comfort and guidance of His Holy Spirit of Truth,
Elizabeth McDonald
29 January 2022

(This item first appeared in the Feb-April 2022 edition of the Frindsbury Baptist Church magazine)