



SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Monday April 5, 2021

Scripture: Acts 5:3-4 / Genesis 1:2 / Ps. 139:7-8

TITLE: Is the Spirit God?

Francis Chan said, “If I were Satan, and my ultimate goal was to thwart God’s kingdom and purposes, one of my main strategies would be to get churchgoers to ignore the Holy Spirit.” (Francis Chan and Danae Yankoski, *Forgotten God: Reversing Our Tragic Neglect of the Holy Spirit* (Colorado Springs, CO: David C. Cook, 2009).

I think Chan is right and this strategy of Satan has been quite successful. People today are confused by the Holy Spirit. Not only that, but they don’t care about Him either. That’s why we’re going to take this week in our spiritual fitness series to understand and love the Spirit.

Some people don’t believe the Spirit exists. Some think the Spirit is a powerful force, like a Hadouken from Street Fighter. Yet some think the Spirit is actually God. So what does the Bible say about the Spirit? Let’s turn to Acts 5 for the first answer.

“Then Peter said, “Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? You lied to the Holy Spirit, and you kept some of the money for yourself. The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was also yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? You weren’t lying to us but to God!” Acts 5:3-4 (NLT)

Peter provides the first answer. When confronting Ananias and Sapphira, he says, “You lied to the Holy Spirit! You were lying to God!” The Holy Spirit is fully God.

Now, you’ve probably heard about the Trinity. The Trinity is the understanding that God is One in substance, yet Three in persons; God is One in essence, yet Three in persons. God is the Father. We’ve talked about that. God is the Son. We’ve talked about that as well. And God is the Spirit.

Now, it’s true that you won’t find the term “Trinity” in the Bible, but the reality of it is undeniable. In the Great Commission, Jesus said, “Go and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” (Mat. 28:19) This reality of God’s Spirit is not a New Testament teaching. It’s found throughout the Old Testament. You meet the Spirit on page 1 of the Bible in Genesis 1. “The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters.” Genesis 1:2, (NLT) The Spirit is God and has always existed.

David identifies the inescapable presence of God’s Spirit in Psalm 139:7-8 : “I can never escape from your Spirit! I can never get away from your presence! If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the grave, you are there.”

So the Spirit is God - fully God - and therefore not an "it", but a personal being, and always there. I don't know about you, but I think that's awesome and comforting.

So here's my challenge for you today:

Renew the relationship with God. You are never alone. You may feel alone, but God is always there. God's presence cannot be avoided. So that's why the Bible says, "[If you draw near to God, He will draw near to you!](#)" (James 4:8a, ESV)

So spend extra time with Him in His Word. Spend extra time looking out into His creation and allow the awe and wonder to overtake you. Spend time talking to Him about everything and anything. He wants to hear it all, because He is there, and He cares.

When we know God as He really is, we will win the day, and we will win it with Him by our side.