Biblical Characteristics of the Holy Spirit

The Deity of the Holy Spirit

- The Spirit is rightly called God according to Acts 5:3-4
- The names of the Spirit make clear the Deity according to 1 Cor. 2:11-14, 2 Cor. 3:17-18
- Scripture attests the Spirit as:
  - Eternal according to Hebrews 9:14
  - All knowing according to 1 Cor. 2:11 and Isaiah 40:13
  - Life Giving according to Romans 8:2
  - The Incomparable One according to Ephesians 4:4
  - Of one essence with God according to 2 Corinthians 3:18
- Jesus uses a Personal Pronoun for the Holy Spirit in John 16:7
- Matthew 12:21-ff, Luke 12:10-ff and Mark 3:28-ff: “These passages at least imply beyond cavil the personality of the Holy Spirit, for sin and blasphemy can be committed only against persons.”

The Works of the Holy Spirit according to the Gospel of John

- He is our Counselor (14:16)
- He is our Teacher (14:26)
- He Reminds us of Scripture (14:26)
- He Testifies about Christ (15:26)
- He Convicts us (16:8)
- He Guides us (16:13)
- He Brings Glory to Christ (16:14)

A Person Receives the Holy Spirit When They Believe the Gospel Message

- Ephesians 1:3
  - In Christ you have all Spiritual Blessings including the Holy Spirit
- Ephesians 1:13-14
  - Heard the Word of Christ
  - Having Believed
  - You were marked in Him with the promised Holy Spirit
- Galatians 3:2
  - One receives the Spirit by simply believing what they hear (Gospel News)
- Acts 10:44
  - Heard the Words (Gospel)
  - Received the Holy Spirit
- One could say that, “The Word is the Wagon that the Holy Spirit Travels In.”

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2 Geoffrey W. Bromiley (General Editor), The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia: VI (Eerdmans Publishing, 1979), 522
3 Dr. E. Boe, Systematics III (Lutheran Brethren Seminary, Fall of 2003)
4 Ibid.

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