

## Live and In Person

**Rocco is Zoe's pet rock**, introduced in Season 30 of Sesame Street.

Though he's inanimate, in Zoe's mind, Rocco can do anything. The rock has historically been the cause of much annoyance to Elmo, who often gets flustered and constantly reminds Zoe "Rocco's just a rock!" While Elmo is driven crazy by Rocco's (and Zoe's) antics, the other characters are usually unfazed and willing to play along with Zoe's pretending.

Rocco's friends and family appear in Episode 4126, including Rocky, Rockmaninov, Uncle Rock, Aunt Rock, and Little Rock; it is unknown if he has other family members.

Time to tell the truth.... How many of you had pet rocks in the 1970's"?

For those who are younger... in 1975 California Fad...Salesman Gary Dahl **(PHOTO 1)** He decided that pets were too expensive, too messy, and too High maintenance. He decided that the perfect pet...would be a pet rock

**Photo 2** \$3.95 each....in 6 months...sold over 5 million He is the author of the Pet Rock Training Manual

He bought Rosarita Beach Stones....all a uniform size for 1 penny each He packed them in a carrying case "House" Neiman Marcus ordered 500....Newsweek did a story

He was on the Tonight Show twice... 3/4 of all newspapers in America had run stories on Pet Rocks He was shipping 10,000 pet rocks per day That is how things went "viral" before the Internet and social media Photo 3

His profit was \$1 per rock. He eventually wrote another book... "How to turn your Idea into a Million Dollars"

Pet Rocks were a fad.... No one in their right minds....could have a relationship with a rock

They don't respond...they don't share emotions...they don't have thoughts It is impossible for a rock to have a relationship with us.. Only people can have real relationships with us...

Yet so many...carry around the Holy Spirit...like a pet rock

Claiming to have a relationship.... But deep down knowing it is shallow and fake If we are going to grow a meaningful relationship with the Holy Spirit We have to understand that He is not an "it" but rather a living person

If our first thought...when we think of the Holy Spirit Is something other than the person of God living in us.. Then we will never be able to have a relationship with Him Today we are going to talk about the PERSON of the Holy Spirit.

But what picture comes to your mind when you think of the Holy Spirit?

We call Him the Holy Spirit...or the Holy Ghost... Maybe you picture a cloud..or dense fog...hovering over the waters at creation Maybe He is for you...more like a spiritual presence or power Maybe that Ghost thing freaks you out...

Some See Him like a Dove...descending from heaven We are told that the Spirit descended on Jesus "Like a Dove" But many picture the Holy Spirit as a dove...flying around

Maybe in your mind...you see fire... You picture the Holy Spirit as a burning fire That ignites and falls on you Or something you have to stir up to keep burning You picture the Holy Spirit like He was at Pentecost....fiery tongues

Maybe for you the Holy Spirit... Is a supercharged power source Like seriously amped up solar or nuclear energy Power that can recharge you and fill you up

Holy Spirit....Holy Ghost....Spirit of God.... It brings to our minds all sorts of images and while some of those images describe the work of the Holy Spirit They don't accurately define Him

In fact our inability to define Him Is the primary reason He has been the forgotten God The Holy Spirit is not an "it" or a "thing" I hear people say...The Holy Spirit..well it's like the wind.." Or the Holy Spirit...its powerful "We need more of it in our lives"

Why do so many desire that the Holy Spirit is a force and not God? Why do we change anything about God or His Word? Let me just sidetrack here a moment. Every time someone wants to redefine God or change God's truth...they do so for the same reason every time.....A desire to be in control that comes from our pride.

We want the Holy Spirit to be a force rather than God because I may be able to control, or direct, or change a force. I might be able to use a force for my purposes... I can give the force as much power as I desire... But if the Holy Spirit is God....I lose any and all control

Fortunately we are not left to speculate on our own... Fortunately the Holy Spirit wrote an autobiography Teaching us the truth about himself

When we look the the Scriptures... It becomes immediately obvious.... That the Holy Spirit is a person. The Trinity is clearly defined as One God...3 PERSONS

Why is this so critical? If you don't see the Holy Spirit as a person... You can never have a personal relationship with Him It is like trying to have a serious relationship with a Pet Rock... It is impossible and ridiculous.

We can only experience the amazing benefits and joys that come with a friendship with the Holy Spirit when we fully understand that He is a person

When you decide to relate to the Holy Spirit as a person and God It can be very scary....because it forces you... To surrender control...

Yes you have surrendered to Jesus.... But have you surrendered everything in your life to the control and guidance of the Holy Spirit?

People see the Father and Son as persons... But the Spirit....they think of as an it

So why not call the Holy Spirit...Bob. If you are a formal church...Robert Informal...Bobby

Gonna spend some time with Bob getting His opinion. Let's see what Bob wants us to do.. Bob will explain it to me Bob will give me the words..

It might really help us.... Put the person back.... In our image of the Holy Spirit I am of course just joking...God certainly doesn't need my help

But why is there such confusion? The Problem is that the Holy Spirit is not a name It is a description of His role..

Each of the persons of the Trinity are called by their role... The Father...The Son...and The Holy Spirit Each with unique roles and responsibilities

People sometimes call me...Frank, the Doctor...or Frank, the Pastor...Or Frank, The Texas Longhorn fan They are describing my roles...

The Bible does the same thing.. God....The Father God....The Son God...The Holy Spirit Each described as their role

We get confused because... Father and Son naturally give us images of people The Holy Spirit does not. Yet the Holy Spirit is a person.

If we are going to develop a relationship with the Holy Spirit We must see Him as the person that He is. But How can we be sure He is a person? What does this Bible say? What is a person?

A person is a living thing...with a soul and a personality A person has his own identity or individuality as a rational being

Odd to think of God having a Soul isn't it? Yet Scriptures teach us that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit Each have souls....

God the Father speaking of Jesus

Matthew 12:18 (ESV)18 "Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased.

Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane

Matthew 26:38 (ESV) 38 Then he said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me."

The Holy Spirit of God Hebrews 10:38 (ESV)38 But my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him."

All 3 Persons of the Trinity have a soul

Soul is made up of Mind, Will and emotions A person with a soul... Has thoughts.... makes choices and has feelings

The Scriptures are filled with passages about the Mind of God We also see Scriptures about the will of God And we are going to look at Scriptures about the emotions of God

We are going to see today... That those who have surrendered to Jesus... Have God living inside of them

The Holy Spirit is fully God There is nothing that He does not know...He is omniscient  
There is no place where He does not exist...He is omnipresent There is nothing that He cannot do...He is omnipotent

The Holy Spirit of God He lives in us and He has the Mind of God The Will of God and the Emotions of God He begins to transform us from the inside out

His desire is to change us to.... Think the way God thinks.... Desire what God desires... And feel what God feels....

## 1. The Holy Spirit has Characteristics of a Person

### He has a MIND

He has a Mind, Will and Emotions He has a mind... In Isaiah 55 God the Father teaches us...

Isaiah 55:8–9 (ESV) 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

We can easily understand that God the Father... Has a mind and powerful intellect... But the Holy Spirit has the same....

John 16:13 (ESV) 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

If the Holy Spirit can teach all things... Then the Holy Spirit must know all things

Romans 8:26–27 (ESV) 26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

The Holy Spirit...the mind of the Spirit.... He is intelligent and has thoughts.

1 Corinthians 2:10–11 (ESV) 10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11 For who knows a person's

thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

The Holy Spirit clearly has a mind...He knows everything

#### He has a WILL

The Holy Spirit has a Will He makes decisions and exerts His will

Acts 13:2 (ESV) 2 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."

Set apart for Me....for the work to which I have called them.. Forces and feelings don't call...they don't speak They don't use words like I and Me

He can choose and make decisions

1 Corinthians 12:11 (ESV) 11 All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.

Acts 16:6–7 (ESV) The Macedonian Call 6 And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia.

Forbidden by the Holy Spirit Exerting His will... The Person of the Holy Spirit has a mind, a will, and.....

#### He has emotions

Love

Romans 15:30 (ESV) 30 I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf,

He experiences Sorrow and Grief

Ephesians 4:30 (ESV) 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Isaiah 63:10 (ESV) 10 But they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them.

He gives Joy

Luke 10:21 NIV 21 At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children.

1 Thessalonians 1:6 (ESV) 6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit,

As we study the Holy Spirit.... It is clear that the Holy Spirit is a living personal God. He has a mind...He has a will...and He has emotions... But to drive this point a bit further...

2. The Holy Spirit acts like a person He does what only a person can do..

#### He teaches

John 14:26 (ESV) 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

#### He Speaks

Galatians 4:6 (ESV) 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

#### He testifies...

John 15:26 26 "When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.

Romans 8:16 NIV16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

#### He Comforts

John 16:5-7 (ESV) 5 But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

#### He Leads

Romans 8:14 (ESV) 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

#### He encourages

Acts 9:31 31 Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord.

#### He Prays...

Romans 8:26 (ESV) 26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

So the Holy Spirit is a person...With A mind, will and emotions... We see that throughout Scripture He acts like a person. And....

### 3. The Holy Spirit is treated like a person

#### He can be lied to...

Acts 5:3 (ESV) 3 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?"

#### He can be grieved...

Ephesians 4:30 (ESV) 30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

#### He can be disobeyed

Acts 7:51 (ESV) 51 "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you.

He can be loved, adored, obeyed....then He must be a person Whenever we find the Holy Spirit in Scripture, He is consistently treated as though He is a person and never as anything less

### 4. The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity

He is described as equal to the other PERSONS of the Trinity He is not a lesser Being than God the Father or God the Son The word Spirit and God are used interchangeably in the Bible

When we are forgetting about the Spirit we are forgetting about God. The Holy Spirit is eternal and Holy...a full person of the Trinity

Matthew 28:19–20 (ESV) 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

2 Corinthians 13:14 (ESV) 14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

The Relationship within the Trinity is described in Scripture Jesus described His relationship with the Father... "I and the Father are One" "Whomever has seen me has seen the Father" "He who rejects me rejects Him who sent me"

The same unity exists between Jesus and the Holy Spirit Jesus was sent by the Father to be the perfect Manifestation of the Invisible God The Holy Spirit was sent by Jesus to perfectly manifest His presence in the lives of His people

The Holy Spirit is the perfect manifestation of Jesus in the world today That is why it does not detract from Jesus to talk about the Holy Spirit The one who relates to the Spirit is relating to Jesus So the more you develop your relationship with the Holy Spirit The closer your walk with Jesus will be

The Holy Spirit is fully God and a full member of the Trinity Thus it is proper to Worship Him As we honor and attribute worth to God we recognize that the Holy Spirit.... Is worthy to receive praise...He is equal to the Father and Son in His deity And His personhood

The writers of the Bible never hesitate to give glory and honor To the Holy Spirit. In fact in Acts it seems everything was about what the Holy Spirit was doing They fully recognized Him as God and nothing has changed

So the Holy Spirit.... Has the Characteristics of a Person.. Acts like a Person... Is treated like a Person And is equal to the other persons of the Trinity

Why is this so important? Because many in the church today.... Look and act like they are in a relationship with a Pet Rock Instead of the Person of the Living God I wonder sometimes if the early Christians would even recognize... What we call Christianity?

Our version is blander.... Our version is more intellectual in nature And our version seems to lack the Holy Spirit power that was common in the early church.

I wonder how much we lose..... Because we really don't expect the Spirit... To show up as promised. Everything we read about the church of the NT Centered on the power of the Holy Spirit Working in the hearts of believers But sadly this has not really been our experience

Churches today are divided... The Holy Spirit is under-appreciated and under-preached by the twenty-first-century church.

The body of Christ is often divided into two sides. One side stresses the Word of God, separating itself from what it views as the emotional fanaticism often linked to those emphasizing the work of the Holy Spirit.

The other side is sometimes known for drifting into unbiblical manifestations and unorthodox teaching while attributing it all to the Spirit of God.

Some see these abuses...fake manifestations of the Holy Spirit And say.."I am just going to study the Word"

But it was the Holy Spirit who inspired the Bible And when you read it there are a lot of promises... Concerning the Holy Spirit and His work You can't treasure God's Word without giving the Holy Spirit his rightful place.

Those in the second group who are all about experiences, need to be reminded that everything must be tested by Scripture. The Spirit never contradicts the Word he gave us.

He also never puts the focus on the preacher, because the Holy Spirit was sent to glorify Christ alone (John 16: 14).



The church God intended.... Is somewhere in the middle of these two extremes Scripture details a church where The Word of God is honored... But there is also a child-like dependence and openness to the Holy Spirit

Only the Holy Spirit can make the things of Christ real and alive for people Christianity did not stop at the cross or the resurrection The Holy Spirit came down....and continues to work today

Look at what Jesus promised....

John 7:37–39 (ESV) Rivers of Living Water 37 On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' " 39 Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Everything about the Spirit of God speaks of powerful currents of Life That refresh us....overflow us...and pour out on others... Yet for so many today.... Their life with the Holy Spirit is not flowing currents... But rather...faint trickles or shallow pools...

No matter how many pet rocks were sold... No human ever had a real relationship with one no matter how popular false teachings are about the Holy Spirit Unless people understood Him to be a person...no one ever had a real relationship with Him