Does the Bible tell us to pray to the Holy Spirit? No. "Never do we find in the Scriptures prayers to the Spirit, but for the Spirit."(M. C. Wilcox). **Jesus taught us to pray to His Father** to ask for the Holy Spirit.

- Luke 11:11-13 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? 12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him? -Jesus
- <u>John 16:23</u> ... Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. -Jesus
- <u>Galatians 4:6</u> And because ye are sons, **God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your** hearts, crying, Abba, Father. -Paul

So, if we ask His Father, in Jesus' name, for the Holy Spirit, we will receive it. And, what is "it"? The Spirit of His Son - Jesus Christ.

Is the Holy Spirit a person, like the Father and the Son are? In John, chapters 14-16, Jesus personified(represented with the attributes of a person) the Holy Spirit as "the Comforter" and "the Spirit of Truth", using the pronouns, "he," "him," and "whom." When we study deeper into that, we find that Jesus was speaking of Himself, or rather His spirit(words - <u>Jn6:63</u>) in 3rd-person language. Since Jesus is "truth"(<u>Jn14:6</u>), then the spirit of truth must be the spirit of Jesus. See <u>http://sidnash.org/docs/parakletos.html</u> for more information. But, in most cases, the Holy Spirit is referred to in ways that would not be used to talk about a literal person. Here are some examples =>

- <u>Acts 10:45</u> And they of the circumcision(the Jews) which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles(non Jews) also was **poured out** the gift of the Holy Spirit.
 - Have you ever heard of a person being "poured out"?!
- <u>Romans 5:5</u> And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is **shed abroad** in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us.
 - How could a person be "shed abroad"?!
- <u>Luke 3:22</u> And the Holy Spirit **descended** in a bodily shape **like a dove** upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.
 - Have you ever seen a person descend "like a dove upon" another person?!
- <u>Acts 2:3-4</u> And there appeared unto them **cloven tongues like as of fire**, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

 Is it possible for a person with "cloven tongues like as of fire" to sit on another person?! Of course not!

In <u>Rev. 1:4 3:1 4:5 5:6</u>, we read of "**the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth**." This must be another designation of the Holy Spirit, using the number 7 to show perfection and completeness. But, **surely this can't be a reference to person**. **The Bible never talks about seven Gods or seven humans in this way.** We learn from this language that when we speak of the Spirit of God we are really speaking of the mind - the thoughts of God and His "beloved" Son, Jesus Christ, usually through the ministry of their holy angels. So, the Holy Spirit is certainly not another person like the Father and the Son are persons.

JACOB'S LADDER EXPLAINED BY THE BIBLE

<u>Genesis 28:10-13</u> And Jacob... 11 ... lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set... and lay down in that place to sleep. 12 And he dreamed. And behold, **a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God ascending and descending on it**(the ladder). 13 **And, behold, Jehovah stood above it**, and said, I am Jehovah, the God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac...

<u>John 1:51</u> And he[Jesus] saith unto him[Nathanael], Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter **ye shall** see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.

So, **Jesus is the ladder of Jacob's dream**. But, why is that? What does it mean? And, what about those angels? What are they doing?

<u>1 Timothy 2:5</u> For there is **one God**(see <u>1Cor8:6</u>), and **one mediator** between God and men, the man **Christ Jesus**;

Dictionary Meanings:

MEDIATOR: "One that interposes between parties at variance for the purpose of reconciling them."

INTERCESSOR: "A mediator... one who pleads in behalf of another."

ADVOCATE: "in its primary sense, signifies, one who pleads the cause of another..."

<u>Romans 8:26-34</u> Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but **the Spirit** itself maketh **intercession** for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ... 34 ... It is **Christ** that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, **who also maketh intercession for us**.

 Since Jesus is our only mediator(<u>1Tim2:5</u>)/intercessor, then it must be the spirit of Jesus that is referred to as "**the Spirit**" in the text above.

<u>1 John 2:1</u> ... if any man sin, we have an **advocate** with the Father, **Jesus Christ** the righteous:

 By definition, we see the word "advocate" equates with the word "mediator". It is also interesting to note that the Greek word translated "advocate" above is "parákletos", which was also translated "Comforter", which Jesus equated to "Holy Spirit" and "**Spirit of Truth**". So, all three words/phrases are references to the spirit of Jesus, our Messiah. Here is a study on the word "**parákletos**" => <u>http://sidnash.org/docs/parakletos.html</u>

Here we see Jesus as our mediator/intercessor/advocate, pleading the merits of His blood, shed on Calvary, on our behalf, with His Father, Jehovah.

<u>Matthew 26:28</u> For this is my[Christ's] blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

<u>Romans 5:6-10</u> For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ... 8 But God[Jehovah] commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. 10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his(Christ's) life.

<u>Hebrews 2:18</u> For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he **is able to succour[help] them that are tempted.**

<u>Hebrews 4:15</u> For we have an high priest[Jesus] which was touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

This is why Jesus can help us overcome our sins. Now, let's put this all together to betterunderstand Jacob's dream about the ladder:

- The ladder that stretches from Earth to Heaven is Jesus Christ. How so? Jesus was tempted in all the same ways we are tempted, yet without sin. So, he understands our weakness, is able to help us overcome, and intercedes with His Father, on our behalf(<u>Hebrews 2:18; 4:15</u> above). Christ's spirit is also the Spirit that helps with "our infirmities" and "makes intercession for us"(<u>Romans 8:26-34</u>) So, with His humanity, He touches the Earth; with His divinity, He reaches His "Father which art in Heaven"(<u>Lk11:2</u>). Therefore, Christ certainly is the "ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven"(<u>Genesis 28:12</u>).
- We, the people of God, are at the bottom of the ladder.
- Jehovah, the Sovereign God of the universe, is at the top of the ladder.
- The "angels of God [are] ascending and descending upon [Jesus]"(<u>John 1:51</u>) the ladder.

Next, we will consider the work of the "angels of God..." and of the angels of satan...

ANGELS AND SPIRITS

<u>Acts 19:13-16</u> A group of Jews was traveling from town to town casting out evil spirits. They tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus in their incantation, saying, "I command you in the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, to come out!" 14 It was the seven sons of Sceva, a leading priest, that were doing this. 15 But one time when they tried it, the evil spirit replied, "I know Jesus, and I know Paul, but who are you?" 16 Then the man with the evil spirit leaped on them, overpowered them, and attacked them with such violence that they fled from the house, naked and battered.

So, what are these evil spirits? I'm pretty sure we can all agree that these "evil spirits" are satan's fallen angels. Does the Bible also talk about "holy spirits"?

<u>Matthew 25:31</u> When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the **holy angels** with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: -Jesus

<u>Hebrews 1:14</u> Are they[angels(verse 13)] not all **ministering spirits**, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Now, **angels** are not "The Holy Spirit", but **they are holy** because they stand in the presence of Almighty God and only holy beings can do that without being consumed by the glory of Jehovah! The **angels** are also referred to as "**spirits**". So, it seems to me that we have **satan's** "**evil spirits**", because they are fully surrendered to **the father of evil** and we have **God's holy spirits**, because they are fully surrendered to the Almighty Creator.

It is the "ministering spirits", the holy angels of God, that are constantly "ascending and descending" (<u>Gen 28:12; Jn 1:51</u>) between heaven and earth, ministering to us who are surrendering ourselves to God and seeking God's will. Their jobs are many, but the context of this lesson is about the Holy Spirit. Since the "angels do always behold the face of my[Christ's] Father which is in heaven", according to Jesus in Matthew 18:10, they know the will of The Father. They know His words. Remember that Jesus said that His words are spirit(<u>Jn6:63</u>). So, it is angels that descend to us to bring us the words and the will of Jehovah -- His Spirit. And, His Spirit is Holy because Father Jehovah is Holy. That's why the Bible translators called it the "Holy Sprit". Remember, "Holy Sprit" is NOT the name of a person! Rather it is a description of the teachings from the mind of the Sovereign God of the universe, delivered to us by God's holy angels and by other humans. Here is a Bible example of how this works:

<u>Revelation 1:1-2</u> The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God[Christ's Father] gave unto him[Christ], to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he[Christ] sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: 2 Who[John] bare record of the word of God[Christ's Father], and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he[John] saw.

So, here we see that Jehovah gave this Revelation to His Son, who gave it to "his angel", who gave it to John, who gave it to us. In short, it looks like this: **Jehovah => Christ => angels => the prophets => us**. According to the vision of the ladder, this is the typical way that information flows to us from Father Jehovah.

It is also interesting that Peter said something similar in:

<u>1 Peter 1:10-11</u> This salvation was something even **the prophets** wanted to know more about when they prophesied about this gracious salvation prepared for you. 11 They(**the prophets**) wondered what time or situation **the Spirit of Christ within them** was talking about when he(**Christ, thru His angels**) told them in advance about Christ's suffering and his great glory afterward.

Desiring to live by every word that comes from the mouth of Jehovah (<u>Deut8:3; Matt4:4</u>) -<u>Sid Nash</u>: 12/06/2024. Latest version: <u>http://sidnash.org/docs/HolySpirit&Angels.html</u>