

2E

The Holy Spirit & No Personal Name?

Reasoning from the Scriptures states:

The Holy Scriptures tell us the personal name of the Father – Jehovah. They inform us that the Son is Jesus Christ. But nowhere in the Scriptures is a *personal* name applied to the holy spirit.¹

Following this logic, the angels Michael and Gabriel must be pretty busy fellows. They are the only angels specifically named in the Bible and since, according to the WTBTS, a personal name is required for personality, no other angels exist as personal beings. One must also conclude that since the vast majority of unclean spirits mentioned in the Bible are not specifically named, they aren't personal beings, either.

But wait! There's more.

Following Hebrew custom, John the Baptist wasn't named until his circumcision eight days after his birth:

Luke 1:59, 60

[59] *And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father. [60] And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called John.* (KJV)

[59] *And it happened that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to call him Zacharias, after his father. [60] And Mary stayed with her about three months, and then returned to her home.* (NASB)

[59] *On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, [60] Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.* (NIV)

[59] *And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the young child, and they were going to call it by the name of its father, Zech·a·ri´ah. [60] But its mother answered and said: "No, indeed! but he shall be called John."* (NWT)

Since he wasn't named until he was eight days old, following WTBTS logic, John the Baptist wasn't a person until his eighth day. Nor was any Hebrew male a person until the eighth day after his birth, for that matter. Which is, of course, ridiculous. This argument is not only fallacious, but just plain silly.

The fact that the Bible does not indicate a personal name for the Holy Spirit does not demand that the Holy Spirit is an impersonal being.

The fact that the Bible does not indicate a personal name for the Holy Spirit does NOT demand that the Holy Spirit **has** no personal name. It means only that God, in the inspired Scriptures, chose not to reveal a personal name to us.

**Absence of evidence does not demand that evidence does not exist,
only that the evidence has not been revealed to us.**

[1] Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc. "Entry for 'Trinity.'" Reasoning from the Scriptures, 1985. P. 407.