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Faith Bible Church
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<http://fbcweb.org/doctrines.html>

JEWISH APOLOGETICS (49)
ANSWERING JEWISH OBJECTION #40
(DDR #668)

Objection #38: The Holy Spirit is not the so-called Third Person of the Trinity.

Brown's short response to this objection:

Rather than discuss the Trinity again (see 3.1 above), let's focus on one question: Is the Holy Spirit only a "what," or are there dimensions in which the Spirit is a "who"? From Scripture it can be demonstrated that God's Spirit is more than just an abstract power. The Holy Spirit is part of God's very essence and clearly has personality. The New Testament simply expands on these established, biblical truths, which, interestingly enough, are treated in a similar way in some later Rabbinic traditions.¹

Following this discussion, Brown lists passages and Jewish scholars to demonstrate that the Holy Spirit is a Person. Consider all the activities of the Holy Spirit in both the Old Testament and New Testament. He is a Person of the Godhead who can be grieved, who teaches, and who indwells believers—in both the Old Testament and New Testament:

Isaiah 63:10 But they rebelled And **grieved** His Holy Spirit; Therefore, He turned Himself to become their enemy, He fought against them.

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

¹Michael L. Brown, *Answering Jewish Objections to Jesus: General and Historical Objections—Volume 2*, (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Books, 2000), 52-59. In his book, Brown lists the objection and then gives a short response that is followed by a more developed response. This DDR series, for the most part, tracks the objection and his *short* response, after which you will find my comments. I highly recommend his book if you are interested in his longer responses (there is far too much material to include in the DDRs).

