

The Holy Trinity

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Introduction:

The Bible is God's complete and final revelation of Himself to man. The Scriptures fully reveal His triune Godhead as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is coequal in deity, in presence, in substance, and in attributes, yet He is manifested distinctly different in the ministry of each office. This manifold revelation of God is everything man needs to prepare for eternity.

Of all the chapters in this study course, **The Holy Trinity** is surely the *Holy of Holies*. So sacred and solemn is the subject that we dare not handle it carelessly, but reverently, being mindful of the Biblical admonition to *put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground*. (Exodus 3: 5)

Bible fundamentalists are *Trinitarians*. This unwavering acceptance of the Bible doctrine of the Trinity is often misunderstood. Contrary to the claims of some religious cults, Bible believers do not worship a *three-headed* god, nor *three gods*. True Christianity believes in one God, as revealed in the Bible:

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD. (Deuteronomy 6: 4)

The Holy Trinity is an introductory study of the character, nature and person of God, and the threefold revelation of Himself through the ages:

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. (Psalms 90: 2)

1. The Trinity as Revealed in the Bible:

A. There Is Only **One True God**:

Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God. (Isaiah 44: 6)

1. Worship of *Other Gods* Is **Forbidden**:

And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. (Luke 4: 8)

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If this Scripture is true (and it is), then the view that *it really doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are sincere*, is wrong! Any *sincere* belief which denies the Bible is sincerely wrong. It does matter what you believe, and in whom you believe. If Luke 4: 8, is untrue or unimportant, then God is a *liar* and the Bible is a *lie*. However, the Bible is certainly true, and it is impossible for God to lie! (Titus 1: 2, Hebrews 6: 18)

2. The God of the Bible Will Share **His Glory** with No One:

I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images. (Isaiah 42: 8)

B. God Is a **Trinity**, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:

1. The Trinity Is Demonstrated in God's **Pluralistic Names**:

His Name Is **Elohim**:

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. (Genesis 1: 1)

The text of the King James Bible preserves a wonderful treasure in the revelation of the names of God. Wherever His name is printed **God** (capital "G," small "o," small "d"), it is the English translation of **Elohim**, and means, *The Strong One*. This rendering of His name is used 2570 times in the Bible. It is a *plural noun* which in Hebrew means *three or more*. Thus Genesis 1: 1, is written to reveal, *In the beginning God* (three or more), *created the heaven and the earth*.

His Name Is **Adonai**:

And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? (Genesis 15: 2)

The word **Lord** (capital "L," small "o," small "r," small "d"), in the Bible text is translated from the Hebrew **ADONAI**, a plural noun, meaning *Master*, or *Owner*:

Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. (1 Corinthians 12: 3)

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When printed **lord** (all small letters), it may also refer to the position of *man toward slaves* (Genesis 24: 9-10), or as *husband toward wife*. (Genesis 18: 12, 1 Peter 3: 6)

His name is **JEHOVAH**:

These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.
(Genesis 2: 4)

JEHOVAH means *The Self-Existent One*, and is the personal, sacred name of the Father. It appears in the King James Bible 6823 times, and it describes God as *The Redeemer*. Wherever the Bible text is printed GOD, or LORD, or LORD GOD (all capital letters), the translation is from the Hebrew JEHOVAH.

2. The Trinity Is Demonstrated in God's **Pluralistic Compound** Names:

The Compound Names of **Elohim**:

El-Elyon: *The Most High God* (Genesis 14: 18)

El-Olam: *The Everlasting God* (Genesis 21: 33)

El-Shaddai: *The Almighty God* (Genesis 17: 1)

The Compound Names of **JEHOVAH**:

JEHOVAH - Jireh: *The Lord Will Provide* (Genesis 22: 14)

JEHOVAH - Rapha: *The Lord That Healeth* (Exodus 15: 26)

JEHOVAH - Nissi: *The Lord Our Banner* (Exodus 17: 15)

JEHOVAH - Qadash: *The Lord That Doth Sanctify* (Leviticus 20: 8)

JEHOVAH - Shalom: *The Lord Our Peace* (Judges 6: 24)

JEHOVAH - Tsidkenu: *The Lord Our Righteousness* (Jeremiah 23: 6)

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JEHOVAH - Shammah: *The Lord Is There* (Ezekiel 48: 35)

JEHOVAH - Sabaoth: *The Lord Of Hosts* (1 Samuel 1: 3)

JEHOVAH - Raah: *The Lord My Shepherd* (Psalms 23: 1)

3. The Trinity Is Revealed in the **Old Testament:**

The Trinity Is Demonstrated in the Creation of Heaven and Earth:

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. (Genesis 1: 1)

That the name **God** (*Elohim*), used in Genesis 1: 1, means the *Three in One God* (the Trinity), rather than *three or more gods*, is taught clearly by the LORD Himself:

Hear, O Israel: The LORD (JEHOVAH), our God (Elohim), is one LORD.(JEHOVAH). (Deuteronomy 6: 4)

God declares Himself to be one Lord, using *both* His *pluralistic* (*Elohim*), and *personal* (*JEHOVAH*) names to reveal His triune nature.

The Trinity Is Seen in the Creation of **Man:**

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.
(Genesis 1: 26-27)

The Trinity Is Revealed in the **Creator:**

In using the plural pronouns *Us*, and *Ours* (vs. 26), for the name *God (Elohim)*, interchangeably with the singular pronouns *He*, and *His* (vs. 27), the Scriptures again illustrate the *three in one God*. (read also Genesis 3: 22)

The Trinity Is Revealed in the **Creature:**

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And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5: 23)

God said, *Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.* Man's own triune nature, *body, soul and spirit*, reflects the image of the triune Godhead.

4. The Trinity Is Declared in the **New Testament**:

The Trinity Was Manifested at the *Baptism of Christ*:

And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

(Matthew 3: 16-17)

The Trinity Is Honored in the **Baptismal Formula**:

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (Matthew 28: 19)

In the Great Commission above, the baptismal formula does not say *In the names of*, but rather *In the name of*. The expression is one name, but *three* persons; *Father, Son, and Holy Ghost*.

The Trinity Is Referred to in the **Apostolic Benediction**:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen. (2 Corinthians 13: 14)

The Trinity Is Illustrated in the Promised Coming of the **Comforter**:

But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me. (John 15: 26)

5. The Bible Ascribes **Deity** to Each Person of the Trinity:

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The **Father** Is Declared to Be God:

To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 1: 7)

The **Son** Is Declared to Be God:

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ. (Titus 2: 13)

But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. (Hebrews 1: 8)

The **Holy Ghost** Is Declared to Be God:

But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. (Acts 5: 3-4)

2. The Trinity in Bible Doctrine:

A. The Doctrine of the **Father**:

1. The **Divine Attributes** of the Father:

He Is **Omnipotent** (*All-powerful*):

To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth. Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. (Isaiah 40: 25-26, 28)

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He Is **Omniscient** (*All-knowing*):

For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. (1 John 3: 20)

He Is **Omnipresent** (*Everywhere Present*):

Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.

(Psalms 139: 7-12)

He Is **Immutable** (*Eternally Unchanging*):

For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. (Malachi 3: 6)

2. The **Divine Nature** of the Father:

Just as God's *Divine attributes* manifest His glorious presence and power, His Divine nature describes His being, or *who He is*:

He Is **Eternal**:

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. (Psalms 90: 2)

He Is **Infinite**:

O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! (Romans 11: 33)

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He Is a **Spirit**:

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. (John 4: 24)

He Is **Light**:

God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. (1 John 1: 5)

He Is **Love**:

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. (1 John 4: 8, 16)

He Is a **Consuming Fire**:

Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire. (Hebrews 12: 28-29)

He Is a **Trinity**:

For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. (1 John 5: 7)

3. The **Divine Character** of the Father:

Of all that man knows about God, it is His *Divine character* that is understood best. It is manifested most clearly in His *relationship* to man:

The Scriptures Show His **Great Love**:

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5: 8)

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He Shows **Great Mercy**:

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort. (2 Corinthians 1: 3)

He Is Most **Gracious**:

The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy. (Psalms 145: 8)

He Is **Long-suffering**:

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. (2 Peter 3: 9)

He Is **Patient**:

Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus. (Romans 15: 5)

He Is **Compassionate**:

But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth. (Psalms 86: 15)

He Is **Faithful**:

Thy mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds. (Psalms 36: 5)

He Is **True**:

He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he. (Deuteronomy 32: 4)

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He Is **Holy**:

And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. (Revelation 4: 8)

He Is **Just**:

Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. (Isaiah 45: 21)

He Is **Righteous**:

For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright. (Psalms 11: 7)

B. The Doctrine of the **Son**:

1. The **Deity** of Jesus Christ:

He is revealed to be coequal with the Father in *Divine attributes, Divine nature, and holy character*:

He Is Declared to Be God **by the Bible**:

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high. (Hebrews 1: 1-3)

He Is Called God **by the Father**:

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But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. (Hebrews 1: 8)

He Is Worshiped as God **by the Apostles:**

Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. (John 20: 27-28)

He Exercises All the **Divine Attributes** of God:

Jesus Christ Is **Omnipotent:**

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. (Matthew 28: 18)

Jesus Christ Is **Omniscient:**

Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God. (John 16: 20)

Jesus Christ Is **Omnipresent:**

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. (Matthew 18: 20)

Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matthew 28: 20)

Jesus Christ Is **Immutable:**

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. (Hebrews 13: 8)

2. The **Names** of Christ **Reveal** Him to Be God:

His Name Is **Emmanuel** (*God with Us*):

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Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7: 14)

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. (Matthew 1: 23)

His Name Is **Jesus** (*Saviour*):

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. (Matthew 1: 21)

His Name Is **Christ** (*Messiah*):

Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself. (Daniel 9: 25-26)

His Name Is **Saviour** (*Deliverer*):

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2: 11)

His Name Is **Lord** (*Adonai, or Master*):

Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. (John 13: 13)

His Name Is **the Word** (*Deity*):

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth. (John 1: 1, 14)

His Name Is **I Am** (*Elohim, or "It Shall Be Because I Am He"*):

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They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. As soon then as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground.

(John 18: 5-6)

His Name Is **Alpha and Omega** (*The Eternal One*):

And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. (Revelation 21: 6)

3. The **Person** and **Work** of Jesus Christ:

a. He Is the **Creator** of All Things:

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. (Colossians 1: 16-17)

In the Scriptures, the **Son** is said to be the Creator, as is the **Father**, and the **Holy Spirit**. It may be helpful to view the Trinity in creation as **Owner** (*Father*), **Architect** (*Son*), and **Contractor** (*Holy Spirit*.)

b. He Manifested Himself on Earth **Before** His Birth in Bethlehem:

Many fundamental Bible scholars believe that the Old Testament term, *Angel of the Lord*, is actually a reference to a *Theophany*, or *Christophany*, which means a *pre-Bethlehem* appearance of Jesus Christ. Those passages in which the LORD appears to men refer, *not* to the *Father*, but to the *Son*, in light of the following truth:

No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared (revealed) him.

(John 1: 18)

Such Interpretation Derives from the Context of Certain Scripture Passages in Which:

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He Appeared to **Abraham** and **Sarah**:

And the LORD appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day; And he lift up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground. (Genesis 18: 1-2)

He Appeared to **Moses** in a Burning Bush:

And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush: and he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. And Moses said, I will now turn aside, and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt. And when the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I. And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground. Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. (Exodus 3: 2-6)

He Appeared to **Joshua** at Jericho:

And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant? And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. (Joshua 5: 13-15)

He Appeared to the Parents of **Samson**:

So Manoah took a kid with a meat offering, and offered it upon a rock unto the LORD: and the angel did wonderously; and Manoah and his wife looked on. For it came to pass, when the flame went up

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toward heaven from off the altar, that the angel of the LORD ascended in the flame of the altar. And Manoah and his wife looked on it, and fell on their faces to the ground. But the angel of the LORD did no more appear to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was an angel of the LORD. And Manoah said unto his wife, We shall surely die, because we have seen God. (Judges 13: 19-22)

He Appeared at the Call of **Isaiah**:

In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. (Isaiah 6: 1, 5)

He Appeared in a **Fiery Furnace** with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego:

Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God. (Daniel 3: 24-25)

c. The **Earthly** Ministry of Jesus Christ:

He Was Born of a **Virgin**:

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a

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son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. (Matthew 1: 21-23)

The **Virgin Birth** Is *Absolutely Essential* to the Plan of Redemption:

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. (1 Peter 1: 18-19)

Without the virgin birth, Christ would have been born of an *earthly* father, having inherited the *Adamic sinful nature*:

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. (Romans 5: 12)

The *theological implication* of demeaning or denying the virgin birth leaves the sinner to trust in a “christ” who is a *sinner* himself! Such an assertion is more than a difference of religious opinion, it is blasphemy of the highest order against God’s precious Son. Such a one *could not*, and *would not* have been permitted by a *Holy God* to be the sinless substitute and sacrifice for man at Calvary.

His Life Was **Sinless**, in Complete Fulfillment of the **Law**:

Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. (Matthew 5: 17)

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. (Romans 10: 4)

Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously.

(1 Peter 1: 22-23)

Christ Died on the Cross for the Sins **of the World**:

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God Judged Sin by His **Sacrificial** Death:

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5: 8)

For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit. (1 Peter 3: 18)

He Died as the Sinner's **Substitute**:

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. (2 Corinthians 5: 21)

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. (1 Peter 2: 24)

His Death **Satisfied** the Sin Debt:

*Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God.
(Romans 3: 24-25)*

Propitiation is the *Mercy-Seat* where our Lord Jesus Christ paid the price (*death*) for the redemption of fallen man. His death **Satisfied** the righteous judgement of a **Holy God**.

His Death Was **Sufficient** for the Cleansing of **All Sin**:

And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2: 2)

He Arose **Bodily** from the Dead:

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Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again. (Luke 24: 5-7)

d. The Present Ministry of Christ in **Heaven**:

He Is the **Great High Priest** of Believers:

Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need. (Hebrews 4: 14-16)

He **Intercedes** on Behalf of Repentant Sinners:

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. (Hebrews 7: 25)

He Is the **Advocate** of the Children of God:

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. (1 John 2: 1)

He Is the **Head** of the New Testament Church:

And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. (Colossians 1: 18)

Throughout history, believers have experienced the turbulent waters of trial and tribulation threatening to drown the soul. What a comfort it is to know that the *body cannot drown* as long as the **Head** is above water!

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C. The Doctrine of the **Holy Spirit**:

1. The **Deity** of the Holy Spirit:

a. The Scriptures **Identify** Him as God:

But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost?... thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

(Acts 5: 3, 4)

He Exercises the **Divine Attributes** of God:

The Holy Spirit Is **Omnipotent**:

And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. (Luke 1: 35)

The Holy Spirit Is **Omniscient**:

But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. (1 Corinthians 2: 10-11)

The Holy Spirit Is **Omnipresent**:

Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. (Psalms 139: 7-8)

2. The **Character** of the Holy Spirit:

Ignorance of the Bible has caused some to misunderstand the *nature* of His *being*. Some religious cults teach that the Holy Spirit is just the *influence* of God's

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righteousness. This denial of His personality and Holy character is an affront to the clear revelation of truth in the Scriptures:

The Holy Spirit Possesses **Divine Will**:

For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things. (Acts 15: 28)

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. (2 Peter 1: 21)

The Holy Spirit **Speaks**:

As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. (Acts 13: 2)

The Holy Spirit May Be **Resisted**:

Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost. (Acts 7: 51)

The Holy Spirit May Be **Grieved**:

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. (Ephesians 4: 30)

The Holy Spirit May Be **Blasphemed**:

Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come. (Matthew 12: 31-32)

3. The Historical and Theological **Ministry** of the Holy Spirit:

a. The Holy Spirit Is Seen in **Creation**:

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He Created the **Heavens** and the **Earth**:

And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. (Genesis 1: 2b, 3)

He Created **Man**:

The spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life. (Job 33: 4)

b. The Work of the Holy Spirit in the **Old Testament**:

His ministry toward man in the Old Testament was *temporal* and *transitory* in nature. Believers were not permanently indwelt, but rather *endued*, or *empowered* to accomplish specific tasks:

And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship. (Exodus 31: 3)

And the LORD came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease. (Numbers 11: 25)

This Administration of **Supernatural Gifts** Was Manifested in Many Ways:

He Imparted **Great Physical Strength** to Samson:

And when he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him: and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and the cords that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from off his hands. (Judges 15: 14)

And Samson lay till midnight, and arose at midnight, and took the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all, and put them upon his shoulders, and carried them up to the top of an hill that is before Hebron. (Judges 16: 3)

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He Endued Solomon with **Great Wisdom**:

And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment; Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee. (2 Samuel 23: 2-3)

He Anointed Isaiah to **Prophecy**:

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound. (Isaiah 61: 1)

He Even Caused an **Animal to Speak**:

And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times? (Numbers 22: 28)

c. The **New Testament** Ministry of the Holy Spirit:

Unlike His Old Testament ministry, which was *temporal* and *transitory*, the ministry of the Holy Spirit toward man in the New Testament is *personal* and *permanent*:

1. The Work of the Holy Spirit in **Salvation**:

He **Convicts** the Hearts of Sinners:

To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. (Acts 10: 43-44)

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He Is the **Author** of the **New Birth**:

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. (John 3: 6-8)

He **Baptizes** Believers into the **Body of Christ**:

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12: 13)

He Permanently **Indwells** Believers:

Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? (1 Corinthians 3: 16)

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not

your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. (1 Corinthians 6: 19-20)

He **Seals** Believers:

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. (Ephesians 4: 30)

He **Fills** Believers:

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit. (Ephesians 5: 18)

2. The Work of the Holy Spirit in the **Saints of God**:

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He **Guides** Believers into **All Truth**:

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth. (John 16: 13)

He **Teaches** Believers:

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. (John 14: 26)

Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. (1 Corinthians 2: 13-14)

He **Exalts** Not Himself, but **Christ**:

For he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. (John 16: 13-14)

He **Intercedes** When Believers Pray:

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. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. (Romans 8: 26-27)

He **Empowers** Believers for Witnessing:

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in

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Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (Acts 1: 8)

He Is the **Comforter** of the Saints:

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. (John 14: 16-17)

He Gives **Assurance** of Salvation:

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. (Romans 8: 16)

He **Imparts** True Christian **Character**:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified

the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. (Galatians 5: 22-25)

4. The New Testament **Gifts** of the Holy Spirit:

No subject in Christianity has stirred such controversy as the debate over spiritual gifts. This blessed ministry of the Holy Spirit has been so perverted that, in many so-called Bible believing churches, the glorious gospel of Christ is almost completely forsaken in a frenzied, unscriptural interpretation and misapplication of the spiritual gifts.

Did God envision the church divided and embattled over the interpretation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit? Absolutely not! The emotional bitterness caused by mishandling Bible doctrine is foreign to the will of God:

But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way. Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not

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charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth. (1 Corinthians 12: 31, 13: 1-8)

In the Scriptures, *charity* may be described as *that character which seeks the highest good for another*. It is the highest order of God's **Love**, and as such, it is the motive of the Holy Spirit in the administration of spiritual gifts. Further, as the *Divine Author* of the Bible, the Holy Spirit will *never* manifest the gifts contrary to His Word. May His saints in humility submit to those same principles while considering the following Biblical truths:

a. The **Recipients** of Spiritual Gifts:

Spiritual gifts are given to **whomever** the Holy Spirit **desires**, not as men *beg* or *choose*:

But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. (1 Corinthians 12: 18)

Every Believer Possesses at Least One Spiritual Gift:

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. (1 Corinthians 12: 7, 11)

Some Gifts Are Reserved to Men Only:

The gifts of *Pastor*, and *Ruling (deacons)*, and *Evangelism* are, by clear Bible teaching, given to men only. Does this mean that God considers women inferior to men? Not at all. Nor does it mean that women have no opportunity or privilege for

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service. However, God does have an order of service in which women are not to be placed in a position of authority over men:

But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. (1 Timothy 2: 12)

Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church. (1 Corinthians 14: 34-35)

This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. (1 Timothy 3: 1-2, 12)

Spiritual Gifts Are Given for the **Edification** of the Church:

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. (Ephesians 4: 11-12)

Spiritual Gifts Are to Be Exercised in **Decency** and in **Order**:

And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints. Let all things be done decently and in order. (1 Corinthians 14: 32-33, 40)

b. The **Nature** of Spiritual Gifts:

In the Bible, spiritual gifts may be divided into two categories: *temporal* gifts, so called because they were to cease with the completion of the New Testament Scriptures, and *permanent* gifts, so noted because they are nowhere suspended by the Bible and because they enable the spiritual ministry of the post-canon church.

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The gifts identified as *temporal in no way implies* that God cannot, at His own will, bestow them, but only that the Holy Spirit, according to the Bible, no longer confers them as a *contemporary* ministry today.

1. The **Temporal** Gifts:

Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

(1 Corinthians 13: 8-10)

The Gift of **Apostleship** (Ephesians 4: 11)

This gift of personal power and authority was given to the twelve *charter members* of the New Testament church. Two criteria determined apostleship: first, he must have seen the Saviour after His resurrection, and second, there were to be only the twelve Apostles. There are no new apostles:

Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection. (Acts 1: 22)

And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

(Revelation 21: 14)

The Gift of **Prophecy**:

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith. (Romans 12:6)

The supernatural ability to receive and proclaim a *new revelation* from God. Contrary to preaching previously revealed truths, it most often involved foretelling future events.

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The Gift of **Miracles**:

And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. (Corinthians 12: 28)

The supernatural ability to suspend, for a time, the *laws of nature* to accomplish the will of God. Another temporal gift mentioned is the gift of healing, which is the supernatural ability to cure disease of a physical, mental, or spiritual nature.

The Gift of **Tongues**:

To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues. (1 Corinthians 12: 10)

The Supernatural Ability to Speak in a **Previously Unknown Human Language**:

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. (Acts 2: 4-6)

The gift of *Tongues* was given for a two-fold purpose: first, it was for **personal edification**, and second, it was for a sign to **unbelievers**:

He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church... Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe. (1 Corinthians 14: 4, 22)

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Women Were *Absolutely Forbidden* to Speak in Tongues:

Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak. (1 Corinthians 14: 34)

The gift of *Interpretation of Tongues* is also mentioned. This was the supernatural ability to interpret the sermons spoken in other tongues (*languages*.) In the church, speaking in tongues was forbidden without the presence of an interpreter:

If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church. (1 Corinthians 14: 27-28)

2. The **Permanent** Gifts:

The Gift of **Wisdom**:

For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12: 8)

The supernatural ability to *spiritually understand* and *apply* information and facts. The text also refers to the gift of *Knowledge*, which is the supernatural ability to gather and understand spiritual and secular truths.

The Gift of **Discernment of Spirits**:

To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues. (1 Corinthians 12: 10)

The supernatural ability to distinguish between *satanic* and *Divine* spirits in others.

The Gift of **Exhortation**:

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Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. (Romans 12: 8)

The supernatural ability to *stir* and *encourage* others. Included in the text is the gift of **Giving**, which is the supernatural ability to earn and cheerfully give large sums of one's wealth to the cause of Christ.

Another Is the Gift of **Ruling**, or **Government**:

And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. (1 Corinthians 12: 28)

It is the supernatural ability to organize and serve or direct the ministries of the local church. Also included in the text is the gift of **Showing Mercy**. This is the supernatural ability to care for the sick and dying.

The Gift of **Helps**:

And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. (1 Corinthians 12: 28)

In Romans 12: 7, this is identified as the gift of **Ministering**, or the supernatural ability to help others, both in a physical and spiritual sense. The text also lists the gift of **Teaching**, which is the supernatural ability to unveil and explain the spiritual treasures of God's word.

The Gift of **Faith**:

To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit. (1 Corinthians 12: 9)

The supernatural ability to **trust God** for great things.

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The Gift of **Evangelism**:

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers. (Ephesians 4: 11)

The supernatural ability to point sinners to Christ, and to burden saints to win souls. The gift of **Pastor-Teacher** is included, which is the supernatural ability to preach and teach the Bible and to shepherd the local church flock.

The spiritual gifts are not given to glorify men, but to edify the body of Christ. If every person who is seeking the *temporal* gifts would give up on his own reputation and find which of the *permanent* gifts the Holy Spirit gives to all believers without begging when they are saved, then he can truly fulfil God's perfect will for him in the church.