

# **MODULE 1 – THE GOD OF THE BIBLE**

**Week 1 (7<sup>th</sup> March 2024): The Doctrine of God**

**Week 2 (14<sup>th</sup> March 2024): The Doctrine of Christ**

**Week 3 (21<sup>st</sup> March 2024): The Doctrine of The Holy Spirit**

**Week 4 (28<sup>th</sup> March 2024): The Doctrine of The Trinity**

## **The Person of the Holy Spirit**

1. The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Triune Godhead, who wants to be our Counsellor and lead us to Jesus and to God the Father.
2. The Holy Spirit is the source of power available to believers, to enable them to do God's will and be what God wants them to be.
3. Through the Holy Spirit we can have the power and character of Jesus.
4. We need to learn to always acknowledge the Holy Spirit.
5. He directs us to Jesus and helps us understand the works of Christ. He also draws us closer to the Father and helps us to understand the love of God.

## **The Person of Christ**

1. Jesus is God from the beginning
2. He is the Second Person of the Trinity
3. He is the Word of God
4. He is the High Priest and the only Mediator between us and the Father
5. He was the ultimate sacrifice
6. He gave His life and no one could take it away from Him
7. Salvation is found only in Jesus
8. He is our Teacher
9. He is building His Church where He is the Head and we are His body
10. Jesus is our Prophet, Priest and King

## **Uniqueness of our God**

- ✓ God is our Creator
- ✓ God is our Provider
- ✓ God is our Sustainer
- ✓ Our God is a God of Love
- ✓ Our God is a God of Mercy
- ✓ Our God is a God of Justice
- ✓ Our God is a God of Order

- ✓ Our God is an Unchanging God
- ✓ God Himself has No Beginning or End
- ✓ Our God is Not Bound by Space or Time
- ✓ Our God doesn't have an idol or an image. He is a Jealous God
- ✓ God is "all-powerful, all-knowing, and everywhere present." He is Omnipotent, Omniscient, and the Omnipresent God.
- ✓ God is Spirit.
- ✓ God has a personality.
- ✓ He is addressed as a Person and possesses all the attributes of personality.
- ✓ He is an intelligent and moral Being whom we can trust, love and praise.
- ✓ There is none to control Him.
- ✓ He is not capable of the limitations and imperfections of our humanity.
- ✓ There is no other like Him who is "glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders".
- ✓ And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

# The Doctrine of The Trinity

*(Referring the Book by Herbert Lockyer, titled  
"All the DOCTRINES of the Bible")*

A perfect understanding of this infinite and wonderful theme is not possible to man in his present, finite state. As two natures in Christ yet but one Person is a wonder, so three Persons yet but one Godhead cannot be perfectly defined.

## What do we know about Trinity?

The word 'Trinity' is derived from the Latin, 'Trinitas', from the adjective 'Trinus' meaning 'Threefold' or 'three in one'.

While the term Trinity is not found in the Bible, the truth of it is covered across from Genesis to Revelation.

It is affirmed that the word Trinity itself was first formally used at the Synod held at Alexandria, in A.D. 317, and took its place in the language of Christian theology for the first time in a Biblical work of Theophilus, Bishop of Antioch, in Syria, from A.D. 168 to 183.

The Godhead is a Trinity in Unity seeing there are three inner distinctions but a single divine life. The three Persons are equal but one Essence.

Father God, Son of God, The Holy Spirit of God

One makes Three/ Three makes One

Trinity in Unity (*They are always in unity*)

Co-Eternal

Co-Equal

Let us see how all three are inter-related from the Scriptures.

Jesus said in John 14:11, "I am in the Father and the Father is in Me."

He said in verses 16 & 17 that I will ask the Father and He will give you the Holy Spirit.

### **John 15:26**

*Amplified Bible*

"But when the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengthener, Standby) comes, whom **I will send to you** from the Father, *that is* the Spirit of Truth **who comes from the Father, He will testify and bear witness about Me.**

### **2 Corinthians 3:17**

*New King James Version*

Now **the Lord is the Spirit**; and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty.

### **Galatians 4:6**

*New Living Translation*

And because we are his children, **God has sent the Spirit of his Son** into our hearts, **prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father."**

## Similarities to the Trinity

Man: tripartite being, composed of spirit, soul and body

### **1 Thessalonians 5:23**

*New Living Translation*

Now may the God of peace make you holy in every way, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again.

Man himself is a trinity being composed of spirit, soul and body.

Man is attacked by a trinity – the world around, the flesh within, the devil below.

Man is guilty of a sinful trinity – lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, pride of life.

Man can only be saved and sanctified by the heavenly Trinity – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Universe: presents itself to view as earth, sky and sea

Atmosphere: is made up of light, heat and air

Matter: is solids, liquids and gases

Water: found as liquid, ice and vapor

Sun: emits light, heat and chemical effects

These comparisons may be termed as faint and are suggestive, and no perfect comparison or illustration can be found.

This doctrine is a scriptural revelation of the Godhead consisting of –

The Father: the Great Upholder and Purpose of all things

The Son: the One and Only Redeemer of Mankind

The Holy Spirit: the Indispensable Sanctifier and Enlightener

Each having their own distinct spheres of operation yet found acting together in perfect unison.

THEY ARE EQUAL IN POSITION

THEY ARE EQUAL IN POWER

Elohim (Genesis 1:1) – plural noun, used about 500 times by Moses, and about 5000 times in the New Testament accompanied continually by a verb in the singular. This reveals the Oneness of Deity and the plurality of Persons in the Godhead.

*Let us make man... after our likeness (Gen 1:26)*

*The man is become one of us (Gen 3:22)*

*Let us go down (Gen 11:7)*

“So God created man in His own image”: compare this with Paul’s statement concerning Christ in Hebrews 1:2. It shows a unity of operation.

### **Hebrews 1:1-3**

*Amplified Bible*

<sup>1</sup>God, having spoken to the fathers long ago in [the voices and writings of] the prophets **in many separate revelations** [each of which set forth a **portion of the truth**], and **in many ways**, <sup>2</sup>has in these last days spoken [with finality] to us in [**the person of One who is by His character and nature**] His Son [namely Jesus], whom He appointed heir *and* lawful owner of all things, **through whom also He created the universe** [that is, the universe as a space-time-matter continuum]. <sup>3</sup>**The Son is the radiance *and* only expression of the glory of [our awesome] God [reflecting God’s Shekinah glory, the Light-being, the brilliant light of the divine], and the exact representation *and* perfect imprint of His [Father’s] essence, and upholding *and* maintaining *and* propelling all things [the entire physical and spiritual universe] by His powerful word [carrying the universe along to its predetermined goal]. When He [Himself and no other] had [by offering Himself on the cross as a sacrifice for sin] accomplished purification from sins *and* established our freedom from guilt, **He sat down [revealing His completed work] at the right hand of the Majesty on high [revealing His Divine authority],****

### **All Three are called “God”**

#### **John 8:54**

*New Living Translation*

Jesus answered, “If I want glory for myself, it doesn’t count. But it is **my Father** who will glorify me. You say, ‘**He is our God,**’

#### **John 1:1**

*Amplified Bible*

In the beginning [before all time] was the **Word (Christ)**, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God Himself.**

#### **Acts 5:3-4**

*New Living Translation*

<sup>3</sup>Then Peter said, “Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? **You lied to the Holy Spirit**, and you kept some of the money for yourself. <sup>4</sup>The property was yours to sell or not sell, as you wished. And after selling it, the money was

also yours to give away. How could you do a thing like this? **You weren't lying to us but to God!**"

## **Unity of God**

### **John 17:3**

*Amplified Bible*

Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, **the only true [supreme and sovereign] God, and [in the same manner know] Jesus** [as the] Christ whom You have sent.

### **1 Timothy 2:5**

*Amplified Bible*

For **there is [only] one God, and [only] one Mediator** between God and mankind, the Man Christ Jesus,

God the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit appear as "the joint objects of all adoration and the constant source of all divine operations." Divine names and titles are given to each of the three Persons, divine works are accomplished by each, divine worship is given and commanded to be given to each, and divine attributes are ascribed to each.

While there is no 'definition' of the Trinity in the Bible, it does say that each Person in the Trinity is really and truly God, and is to be worshipped. The Three are coeternal, and coequal in power and glory. God, in His Fatherhood, is supreme; the Son was begotten of the Father; the Holy Spirit proceeded from the Father and the Son.

The Holy Spirit is referred to as 'The Third Person of the Trinity': not in order of time, or dignity of nature, but in order and manner of existing (the way they were revealed to us first as the Father, then as the Son, and then as the Holy Spirit).

## **At the birth of Jesus, we see this undeniable association of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

**Luke 1:35,37**

*Amplified Bible*

<sup>35</sup> Then the angel replied to her, “**The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you** [like a cloud]; for that reason the holy (pure, sinless) **Child shall be called the Son of God.** <sup>37</sup> For **with God** nothing [is or ever] shall be impossible.”

## **At the baptism of Jesus, each of the Trinity is presented as a distinct Person.**

**Luke 3:21-22**

*Amplified Bible*

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, **Jesus was also baptized**, and while He was praying, the [visible] heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and **the Holy Spirit descended on Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came from heaven, “You are My Son, My Beloved, in You I am well-pleased and delighted!”**

## **All the teachings of Jesus are Trinitarian in nature. He often dwelt upon, not only His own work, but His Father’s work, and the work of the Holy Spirit.**

**Luke 10:22**

*Amplified Bible*

All things have been transferred *and* turned over to Me **by My Father** and **no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son**, and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal Him.”

**Luke 12:12**

*New King James Version*

For **the Holy Spirit will teach you** in that very hour what you ought to say.”

The Father sent the Son, and both the Father and the Son sent the Holy Spirit. Perhaps the most striking illustration of the grouping of the three Persons of the Trinity as equals is that to be found in our Lord Jesus’ teaching on the promise of the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-26).

## John 14:16-26

*Amplified Bible*

<sup>16</sup> And **I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper** (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengthener, Standby), to be with you forever—

<sup>18</sup> **“I will not leave you** as orphans [comfortless, bereaved, and helpless]; **I will come [back] to you.** <sup>19</sup> After a little while **the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me;** because I live, you will live also. <sup>20</sup> On that day [when that time comes] you will know for yourselves that **I am in My Father,** and you *are* in Me, and I *am* in you. <sup>21</sup> The person who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who [really] loves Me; and **whoever [really] loves Me will be loved by My Father,** and I will love him and reveal Myself to him [I will make Myself real to him].” <sup>23</sup> Jesus answered, **“If anyone [really] loves Me, he will keep My word (teaching); and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our dwelling place with him.** <sup>24</sup> One who does not [really] love Me does not keep My words. And **the word (teaching) which you hear is not Mine, but is the Father’s who sent Me.**

<sup>26</sup> But the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengthener, Standby), **the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name** [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you.

All the Three Persons act, each as a distinct person, and yet they are in a deep, underlying sense, one! Jesus was not just sent to represent God, but He is God Himself. The Holy Spirit whom the Father and Son sent, is also God Himself.

## The Great Commission

**Matthew 28:19**

*New King James Version*

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them **in the name** of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

When Jesus taught about baptism, the unity of the Godhead is recognized in the use of the singular – “In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.” It does not say in the ‘names’, but only one name for all three as if there are three designations of one Person. Using ‘the name’, the disciples came to realize that the mighty Jehovah of old was now to be known as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



## **The gifts and administrations of the church are ascribed to God, Christ and the Holy Spirit.**

### **1 Corinthians 12:4-6**

*Amplified Bible*

<sup>4</sup> Now there are [distinctive] varieties of *spiritual* gifts [special abilities **given by the grace and extraordinary power of the Holy Spirit** operating in believers], but it is the same Spirit [who grants them and empowers believers]. <sup>5</sup> And there are [distinctive] varieties of ministries *and* service, but it is **the same Lord [who is served]**. <sup>6</sup> And there are [distinctive] ways of working [to accomplish things], but it is **the same God who produces all things** in all *believers* [inspiring, energizing, and empowering them].

### **1 Thessalonians 1:2-5**

*Amplified Bible*

<sup>2</sup> We give thanks to God always for all of you, *continually* mentioning you in our prayers; <sup>3</sup> recalling unceasingly before **our God and Father** your work energized by faith, and your service motivated by love and unwavering hope in [the return of] **our Lord Jesus Christ**. <sup>4</sup> Brothers and sisters beloved by God, we know that He has chosen you; <sup>5</sup> for our good news [regarding salvation] came to you not only in word, but also in [its inherent] power and **in the Holy Spirit** and with great conviction [on our part]. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your benefit.

Dr. Winnington Ingram said, “We have instances in which each Person, standing by Himself is an aspect of fear. The Father we see clothed with thunders on Sinai; the Son as the falling stone that grinds to powder; and the sin against the Holy Ghost shall never be forgiven. But there is not an instance upon record in which the Three Persons stand together without an intention of Grace. And it is a magnificent thought, that the completeness of the Deity, in all His essence and in all His operation is never mentioned but for mercy.”

## **The Three Persons of the Trinity repeatedly come forward together in the expression of Christian hope or the aspiration of Christian devotion.**

### **1 Peter 1:2**

*New Living Translation*

**God the Father knew you and chose you** long ago, and **his Spirit has made you holy**. As a result, you have obeyed him and have been **cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ**.

May God give you more and more **grace and peace**.

### **Jude 20-21**

*New Living Translation*

<sup>20</sup> But you, dear friends, must build each other up in your most holy faith, pray in the **power of the Holy Spirit**, <sup>21</sup> and await the **mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ**, who will bring you eternal life. In this way, you will keep yourselves **safe in God's love**.

**In all of Paul's epistles, all three Persons are brought together as Co-Sources of all saving blessings which are the heritage of all believers in Christ.**

*May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. (Rom 1:7)*

*There is only one God... (Rom 3:30)*

### **Titus 3:4-6**

*Amplified Bible*

<sup>4</sup> But when the goodness *and* kindness of **God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared [in human form as the Man, Jesus Christ]**, <sup>5</sup> He saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we have done, but because of His own compassion *and* mercy, by the cleansing of the new birth (spiritual transformation, regeneration) and **renewing by the Holy Spirit**, <sup>6</sup> **whom He poured out richly upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior**,

**The great apostolic benediction: the three highest redemptive blessings are brought together and attached (distributed) to the three Persons of the Triune God.**

### **2 Corinthians 13:14**

*New Living Translation*

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

## **Paul saturates his Ephesian letter with his concept of the Trinity. Each chapter carries its own evidence.**

**Ephesians 5:18-20**

*Amplified Bible*

<sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk with wine, for that is wickedness (corruption, stupidity), but **be filled with the [Holy] Spirit** and constantly guided by Him. <sup>19</sup> Speak to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, [offering praise by] singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; <sup>20</sup> always **giving thanks to God the Father** for all things, **in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;**

## **Summarizing the Trinity**

**The Father** is first in mode of operation. He is the Fountain Head of grace. He is the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph 3:14); and the Father of all men, as the Source of their being; and particularly the loving Father of all those redeemed by the Blood of His Son (1 Cor 6:17,18; 8:6; Eph 4:6; Luke 12:30,32).

**The Son** is second in the process of manifestation, and the Medium of all things, even Judgement (John 5:22). He came as grace personified. He appeared and died as the Redeemer of mankind. It was through Him that God manifested Himself outwardly to all men (Acts 5:31; 13:38-39).

**The Holy Spirit** is third, seeing His is the last revealed personality, and the One who came as the Agent transferring the blessings of the Father and the Son upon the redeemed (Eph 2:18). He shares the attributes ascribed to God and Christ (Ps 139:7; 1 Cor 2:10-11; Isa 40:13-14) and is especially the Helper and Sanctifier of the saved (1 Cor 6:11; Gal 5:16). As the Channel, the Holy Spirit communicates, applies and seals. The order of divine performance appears to be – From the Father; Through the Son; By the Holy Spirit.

Summarizing the repeated expressions of the Trinity assumed in the Bible we can set forth the most perfect Unity making the Three Persons One in holiness, love, wisdom, power and eternal nature.

**They are One in holiness, love, wisdom, power and eternal nature**

**There is One God existing in Three Persons**

As there is One God existing in Three Persons, may we be found giving equal reverence, love and obedience to all Three.

**All Three deserve equal reverence**

**All Three deserve equal love**

### **We need to obey all Three**

Obey God the Father, even as His own beloved Son did (John 4:34).

Obey the Son, and put your trust in Him (Ps 2:12).

Obey the Holy Spirit, upon whom we are dependent.

**They are EQUAL in POSITION AND POWER**

Dr. R. W. Dale expresses:

If you love and obey and trust and worship the Lord Jesus Christ as a divine person; if you shrink from sin lest you should "grieve" the Holy Spirit, if His care for you and His patience with you fill your heart with courage and gratitude; and if you believe, at the same time, that the Son and the Spirit are one with the Eternal Father, your life is rooted in the facts which the doctrine of the Trinity is intended to express, although you may be unable to accept the Trinitarian creed.