

## Dr Mutiso : Notes of a lecture given at the pastors conference, Sept 2008

### WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE HOLY TRINITY

#### OUTLINE

Part One: THE UNITY and THE DEITY OF THE FATHER, OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Part Two: THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Part Three: THE DEITY AND HUMANITY OF THE SON

Part Four: THE PERSON AND DEITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Part Five: THE WORKS AND GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Part Six: CONCLUSION

#### Part One: The Unity and Deity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

##### The Unity of God

The fact that there is only one God is taught directly and indirectly throughout Scripture. One of the clearest references of the unity of God is Deuteronomy 6:4; *"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one"*. This passage is quoted in Mark 12:29; This teaching is also part of the Ten Commandments: *"You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water below."* (Exodus 20:4)

The New Testament has many verses that teach that God is ONE; to mention but a few:

- *"You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that and shudder."* (James 2:19)
- *"We know that an idol is nothing at all in the world and that there is no God but one"*. (1Corinthians 8:4b)
- *"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."* (1Timothy 2:5)

"One" in mathematics signifies single, without others; in the Bible there is a plural "one". This is found in Genesis 2:24 where we read that *"the two, husband and wife; become one."* The word for "one" in Genesis 2:24 is the same word in Deut. 6:4. This is not a mathematical "one"; it is a special "one", for the husband and wife are two and yet the Bible calls them one. In the same way, the word for "one" in Deut. 6:4 is a special "one"; it is a plural "one". At this stage we do not know how many it represents, but we know it is a plural one.

##### The Deity of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

In addition to the unity of God, the Bible also teaches the Deity of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament, the Deity of the Son and the Holy Spirit is implied; in the New Testament, however, it is clearly taught.

Evidences of the teaching of the Holy Trinity in the Old Testament are:

#### 1. The use of the plural nouns and pronouns for the names of God in the Bible

- **ELOHIM** is one of the most commonly used names of God in Old Testament. It is translated "God" in the New International Version of the Bible (NIV). This name is in the plural form but usually uses singular verbs and pronouns. In Genesis 1:26, however, it uses the plural personal pronouns. Then God (Elohim) said, **"Let us** make man in our image, in **our** likeness."

- **ADONAI** is another singular name for God translated “Lord” in the NIV. Sometimes the plural pronoun “us” is also used (Isaiah 6:8).
- **YHWH** is the covenant name of God, which is written but not uttered for reverence to God. YHWH is translated LORD in the NIV. The name is in the singular, but sometimes the plural pronoun “us” is used (Gen. 3:22; Gen. 11:7.) The use of the plural “us” and “our” is evidence that God is plural. From these passages we can only say that God is more than “one”.

## **2. The name “Lord” is used for more than one person in the Bible**

- *“Your throne, O God, will last forever and ever.” (Psalms 45:6)*
- *“The LORD says to my Lord: ‘Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet’” (Psalms 110:1)*
- *“Yet I will show love to the house of Judah; and I will save them-not by bow, sword or battle, or by horses and horsemen, but by the LORD their God.” (Hosea 1:7)*

In the above passages we notice that the Lord is speaking about the Lord. In the New Testament we are told that these passages were about Jesus Christ the Son of God. (Heb. 1:8; Mat. 22: 42-46; Titus 3:4-6)

## **3. The Bible teaches that Jesus is God and the Holy Spirit also is God**

Besides the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit have attributes of God.

- a) Jesus Christ: The majority of the references to the deity of Jesus Christ are in the New Testament but there are Old Testament references which are clarified in the New Testament.

*“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isa 9:6)*

*“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”-which means, “God with us.”(Matt 1:23)*

*“Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever.” (Ps. 45:6)*

*But about the Son he [God the Father] says, “Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom. (Heb 1:8)*

*“The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.” (Ps. 110:1)*

*“What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?” “The son of David,” they replied. He said to them, “How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him ‘Lord’? For he says, “The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet.” If then David calls him ‘Lord,’ how can he be his son?” No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.” (Matt 22:42-46)*

*“Yet I will show love to the house of Judah; and I will save them-not by bow, sword or battle, or by horses and horsemen, but by the LORD their God.” (Hosea 1:7)*

*“But after that the kindness and love of God our Savior toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of*

*regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior” (Titus 3:4-6)*

In the New Testament we find Jesus making claims that he was God. In fact, the chief accusation against him was that he claimed to be God (see Gospel of John, especially the tenth chapter; also Phil. 2:5-11; Heb. 1:2-3, 8.)

In Matthew 26:63-65 Jesus could have told them that he was not God and in John 20:28 he did not correct or rebuke Thomas for calling him “My Lord and My God,” but rather accepted it.

- b) The Holy Spirit: The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is God. (Acts 5:3-4; 1Cor. 3:16-17; 6:19-20; Heb. 10:15-17; Jer. 31:33, 34)

We will have one section later for the deity and humanity of Jesus and other sections for the personality, deity, works, and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

#### **4. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are mentioned together in the Bible**

Color Coding **Red = Father; Blue = Son; Green = Holy Spirit**

- Isaiah 48:16 "And now the Lord God has sent Me, and His Spirit." (verses 12-13 actually identify the speaker in v16 "ME" as being the creator YHWH. Jesus what actually was sent, is called the creator in the New Testament: Jn 1:3; Col 1:16; Heb 1:10-12. The natural reading of Isa 48:16, is that the sender is the Father. The Jews simply had no way to explain how both the sender and the one sent (ME) could both be YHWH. This is a good example of **doctrinal development between the Old and New Testament**. Christians can easily make sense of the passage! So Isa 48:16 has YHWH sending another who is also YHWH. Of course Trinitarians know that all three members of the Godhead are called "YHWH". Anti-Trinitarians, can do no better than the Jews in explaining how the send and the one sent are both called YHWH in Isa 48:16! Combined with Isa 61:1, it is clear that the ME is Jesus!)
- Isaiah 61:1: "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, Because the Lord (YHWH) has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners;" (This is a certified triadic passage because Jesus applied the text to Himself in Luke 4:18-30)
- Isaiah 63:8-10: "For He said, "Surely, they are My people, Sons who will not deal falsely." So He became their Savior. In all their affliction He was afflicted, And the angel of His presence [lit: face] saved them; In His love and in His mercy He redeemed them, And He lifted them and carried them all the days of old. But they rebelled And grieved His Holy Spirit" (The angel of His face is YHWH himself not a created angel: Ex 23:14-15, 20-23; 14:19; Num 20:16; Ex 33:12. Trinitarians expect to find this kind of passage in the Old Testament, that would not be fully understood until the mystery was revealed about the Trinity in the New Testament.)
- Matthew 3:13-17; Luke 3:21-22: After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."
- Matthew 28:19: "baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit"
- Luke 1:35: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. "
- Luke 4:1-12: "Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, ... Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.'"
- John 14:16: "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever"

- John 20:21-22: "So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."
- Acts 1:7-8: "He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority ;but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you
- Acts 2:33: "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear."
- Acts 2:38-39: "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."
- Acts 5:30-32: "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross... "And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him."
- Acts 7:55: "But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God"
- "So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase." (Acts 9:31)
- Acts 10:38: "You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power"
- Acts 10:44-48: "While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message ... and exalting God ... And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.
- Acts 11:15-17: "the Holy Spirit fell upon them ... Therefore God gave to them the same gift as He gave to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ?"
- Acts 15:8-11: "And God, who knows the heart, testified to them giving them the Holy Spirit ... we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus"
- Acts 20:27-28: "For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God." "Be on guard ... for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. "
- Acts 28:25-31: "The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers ... this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles ... preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ"
- Romans 1:1-4: "Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning His Son, ... who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord, "
- Romans 5:5-6: "the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. "
- Romans 8:2-4: "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ... God ... sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh ... walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. "
- Romans 8:9 "indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. "
- Romans 8:14-17: "For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ... you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ"

- Romans 8:26-30: "In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness ... the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words... God causes all things to work together for good ... predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son"
- Romans 15:16: "to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, ministering as a priest the gospel of God, so that my offering of the Gentiles may become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit."
- Romans 15:30: "Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me,"
- 1 Corinthians 2:2-5: "For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified... in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would ... rest on the power of God."
- 1 Corinthians 6:11: "inherit the kingdom of God. ... you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God."
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-6: "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons. "
- 1 Corinthians 12:11-12, 18: "But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. ... But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired."
- 2 Corinthians 1:21-22: "Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge."
- 2 Corinthians 3:3-4: "written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God ... Such confidence we have through Christ toward God."
- 2 Corinthians 13:14 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all."
- Galatians 3:1-5: "Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified ... does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you"
- Galatians 3:14: "The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith ... in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."
- Galatians 4:4-6: "God sent forth His Son ... God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"
- Ephesians 1:3-13: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, " ... "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace " ... "In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, "
- Ephesians 2:18: "for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father."
- Ephesians 2:19-22: "God's household ... Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone ... a holy temple in the Lord ... dwelling of God in the Spirit."
- Ephesians 3:16-17: "that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith"
- Ephesians 4:4-6: "one Spirit ... one Lord ... one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all."
- Ephesians 4:30-32: "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption ... forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you."
- Ephesians 5:18-20: "be filled with the Spirit ... singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father"

- 1 Thessalonians 1:3-6: "hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father ...in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction ... with the joy of the Holy Spirit"
- 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14: "always give thanks to God ... beloved by the Lord ... sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth ...the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."
- Titus 3:4-6: "the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, ... according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior"
- Hebrews 2:3-4: "salvation first spoken through the Lord ... God also testifying ... gifts of the Holy Spirit"
- Hebrews 9:14: "how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God"
- Hebrews 10:29-31: "trampled under foot the Son of God ... has insulted the Spirit of grace ... It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God."
- 1 Peter 1:2: "according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood"
- 1 Peter 3:18: "For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; "
- 1 Peter 4:14: "If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you."
- 1 John 3:23-24: "we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ ... He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us."
- 1 John 4:2: "By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God"
- 1 John 4:13-14: "He has given us of His Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. "
- Jude 20-21: "praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life." (www.biblia.ca)

Many people have tried to give analogies to simplify the teaching of the Holy Trinity. Some have used water, parts of an egg, etc. But the Lord has already said: "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal" (Isa. 40:25) which means that we cannot compare him with anyone for there is no one like him.

## Part Two: The Attributes of God

We have seen that the Bible teaches the "Unity of God" and the "Deity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit". In this section we shall see some of the attributes of the Father.

The attributes of God are countless so we will not be able to mention and write all that needs to be said about them, but we shall mention few of them in four categories:

### I. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT THE BEING OF GOD

- **God is Spirit**

*"God is spirit and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24)*

*"Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen." (1Tim 1:17)*

*"No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known." (John 1:18)*

God in his essential nature is spirit. God is not physical or material although in Christ He chose to take on the limitations of human flesh. God is Invisible, except as He chose to reveal Himself in Christ.

- **God is Eternal**

*"Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God" (Psalm 90:1-4)*

God is from everlasting to everlasting; he is now, always has been and will be forever. He has no beginning and no end.

- **God is Unique**

*"To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?" says the Holy One. (Isa. 40:25)*

*"How great you are, O Sovereign LORD! There is no one like you, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears." (2 Sam 7:22)*

Jer. 10:6 says: *"No one is like you, O LORD; you are great, and your name is mighty in power."*

There is no one like God; He is without equal, exalted above all His creation. God alone is great and Powerful.

- **God is Infinite**

*"But will God really dwell on earth? The heavens, even the highest heaven, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!" (1 Kings 8:27)*

God is free from any limitations; He has no restrictions. His attributes cannot be exhausted.

- **God is Self-Sufficient**

*"The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. (Acts 17:24-25)*

God eternally exists in and of himself and is therefore independent, self-sufficient and has no need of anyone or anything. God is not obligated to nor does he owe anyone anything. When God uses us in His service it is because he chooses to do so.

- **God is immutable**

*"I the LORD do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed." (Mal. 3:6)*

God cannot change for better or for worse; nothing can be added to or subtracted from God.

- **God is Transcendent**

*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. (Isa. 55:8-9)*

God is higher than and above all his creation. Except that God chooses to reveal himself he is incomprehensible and unapproachable. God's ways and thoughts are higher and different from man's.

- **God is Creator, Sustainer of all**

*"You alone are the LORD. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you."*(Neh. 9:6)

God is creator, owner and sustainer of everything in heaven and earth.

## II. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT THE POWER OF GOD

- **God is Omnipotent**

*"Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you. (Jer. 32:17)*

There is nothing God cannot accomplish. All power is derived from God. God sustains all things by his power.

For God to exercise his power he needs only to speak.

- **God is Sovereign**

*"Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. 10 I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please."* (Isa. 46:9-10)

God has authority right and power to rule over and control all things accordance with His perfect will. God is in absolute control of all things. God uses all things both good and bad to accomplish his purpose.

- **God is Omnipresent**

*"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? 8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there." (Psalm 139:7-8)*  
*"Am I only a God nearby," declares the LORD, "and not a God far away? 24 Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the LORD. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the LORD". (Jer. 23:23-24)*

Everywhere is in the presence of God. There is nowhere we can go where God is not. God is always present with us

## III. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD

- **God is Omniscient**

*"Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit." (Ps 147:5)*

God knows and understands all things, events and people past, present, future possible that have been, are now, will be might be. God perfectly knows everything; nothing is beyond his knowledge. God cannot be surprised, shocked; God is always prepared in advance. God's omniscience does not cause things to happen therefore people are responsible for what they do.

- **God is Truth**

*"A faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time" (Titus 1:2)*



Everything God says and does conform perfectly to ultimate reality. What God says is absolutely correct, and reliable.

- **God is Wise**

*"Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his." (Dan 2:20)*

God alone understands all things and knows how to skillfully perfectly and appropriately apply that knowledge to life in order to accomplish the desired results.

#### IV. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT THE GOODNESS OF GOD

- **God is Love**

*"...God is love. "(1 John 4:8-12)*

God's love is God's character by which he voluntarily gives himself to always seek the highest good of others. God's love is unending, unending, immeasurable and undeserved.

- **God is Good**

*"Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him." (Ps 34:8)*

God is inherently good and always acts for the right motive seeking to accomplish that results which is beneficial profitable useful and appropriate from His perspective.

- **God is Patient**

*"You warned them to return to your law, but they became arrogant and disobeyed your commands. They sinned against your ordinances, by which a man will live if he obeys them. Stubbornly they turned their backs on you, became stiff-necked and refused to listen. For many years you were patient with them. By your Spirit you admonished them through your prophets. Yet they paid no attention, so you handed them over to the neighboring peoples. But in your great mercy you did not put an end to them or abandon them, for you are a gracious and merciful God." (Neh. 9:29-31)*

Patience is God's self-restraint from judging sin because of his desire for men to repent and be saved. The patience of God is sometimes described as "slow to anger"; God's patience can be exhausted.

- **God is Merciful**

*"Remember, O LORD, your great mercy and love, for they are from of old. Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways; according to your love remember me, for you are good, O LORD." (Ps 25:6-7)*

Mercy is God's compassionately withholding what we rightfully deserve because of our sin.

- **God is Gracious**

*"He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and compassionate." (Ps. 111:4)*

Grace is God freely and generously giving us what we do not rightfully deserve.

- **God is Forgiving**

*"No longer will a man teach his neighbor or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD." For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more." (Jer. 31:34)*

Forgiveness is God not holding us responsible for the penalty for our sins because Christ has paid the penalty for us. Confession and repentance are necessary for the forgiveness of sins. The shed blood of Jesus Christ allows God to forgive sins and still be just. Faith in the finished work of Jesus on the cross makes forgiveness available to sinners.

- **God is Faithful**

*"God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful." (1Cor. 1:9)*

God's actions and attitudes are always consistent with his character and he always keeps his promises.

God is equally faithful to his promise of blessing and his warnings of judgments. God is dependable, trustworthy, will never fail you.

- **God is Holy**

*"There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God." (1 Sam 2:2)*

God is morally excellent perfectly pure absolutely separated from sin. God cannot look on sin with approval.

- **God is Perfect**

*"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." (Mat. 5:48)*

God is complete in all respects and is lacking in nothing. God is totally flawless. God exists in a state of absolute excellence. God is completely correct and accurate. His works are perfect. Dt. 32:4; His ways are perfect 2 Sam. 22:31; His words are perfect, Ps. 18:30; His laws are perfect, Ps. 19:7.

- **God is Just**

*"He has caused his wonders to be remembered; the LORD is gracious and compassionate. God is always right and always acts perfect accord with His holy character." (Deut. 32:4)*

God always deals impartially with all men by holding them accountable to him and to the same standards while rewarding the righteous and punishing the wicked.

- **God is Wrathful**

*"Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and that day that is coming will set them on fire," says the LORD Almighty. "Not a root or a branch will be left to them. But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall." (Mal. 4:1-2)*

Wrath is God's righteous anger against sin and wicked men. God's anger is different from human anger. "Human anger...is mostly very unrighteous. It is an irrational and uncontrollable emotion, containing much vanity, animosity, malice and the desire to revenge...The wrath of God, then, is almost totally different from human anger. It does not mean that God loses his temper, flies into a rage, or is ever malicious, spiteful or vindictive. The alternative to 'wrath' is not 'love' but 'neutrality' in the moral conflict. And God is not neutral. On the contrary, his wrath is his holy hostility to evil, his refusal to condone sin or come to terms with it, his just judgment upon it." (Stott 71-71)

## Part Three: The Person of Jesus Christ

In part one; we saw that the Bible teaches “The Unity of God” and “The Deity of the Three”: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God. In part two we saw some of the attributes of the Father. In this section we shall be looking at the person of Jesus Christ.

Two thousand years ago, Jesus asked his disciples two questions (Mat. 16:13-16):

- “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”
- “Who do you say I am?”

People, religious systems, philosophers, etc. have suggested various answers to the first question. To some Jesus Christ is a **prophet**, to others a **great teacher** and to still others simply a **good, moral man** whose exemplary life is worth to be imitated. The answer to the second question is of far greater significance. For how people respond to it affects not only their eternal destiny, but it will also affect the quality, meaningfulness and fruitfulness of their life here and now because Jesus in John 3:36 said: “*Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him.*” And in John 10:10 Jesus said: “*I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*”

Therefore, there can be no more important doctrine to study than the Doctrine of Christ. For Jesus took the form of a man to explain to men not only who God is and what God is like; but also to demonstrate who man is and what God intends man to be like. So, a proper doctrinal study of Christ will reveal much about God and much about man; and how man can properly relate to God and other men. We shall look at the Person of Jesus Christ in two major subheadings: The Deity of Jesus Christ and the Humanity of Jesus Christ.

### I. THE DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST

- **Jesus Christ is Eternal (Rev. 1:17-18)**

*“When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. **I am the First and the Last.** 18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”*

*“This is what the LORD says--Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: **I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God.** (Isa. 44:6)*

What does to be “first and last” mean? Suppose I run the marathon and I am the first and the last; what does it mean? It means that I was the only one running. It means that whether we go back in history or to its end Jesus will be there. Jesus Christ did not begin when he was born of Mary. He became man but was God before that. There was no time when the Father was not the Father and there was no time when the Son was not the Son.

The Son is now, always has been and will be forever the Son. He has no beginning and no end. (Jn. 1:1-2; 30; 6:38; 17:5; Isa. 9:6, John 8:58; Heb. 13:8; Rev. 1:17; 2:8; 22:12-13)

- **Jesus Christ is God (John 1:1; John 20:28)**

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the **Word was God.**”

“Thomas said to him, “**My Lord and my God!**”

Jesus and the Father are one in essence. (Jn. 10:30). Jesus Christ was fully God and embodied all the divine nature and essence. (Phi. 2:6; Col. 1:15; Col. 2:9; Heb. 1:2-3). Jesus is the "Lord" "Adonai"; Jesus is God "Elohim" (2 Pet 1:1, 11); Jesus means "the Lord saves" (Mt. 1:21); Jesus is Immanuel "God with us" (Mt. 1:23); Jesus is the "I Am" which means YHWH (Jn. 8:58) Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah) which means the anointed one of God, (Mt. 16:16).

Jesus is the Son of God this does not mean that he became the Son of God at some point in time; such as at his birth, at his baptism, or after his resurrection. No! He was the Son of God from eternity, and is the Son of God for eternity. The Bible says: Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever" Heb 13:8. "Son of God" describes the relationship Jesus enjoyed with the Father. It means he was with the Father.

*But when the time had fully come, **God sent his Son**, born of a woman, born under law, 5 to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Gal 4:4-6*

*The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus Christ replied. Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?" "He is worthy of death," they answered. Matt 26:63-66*

We cannot believe in the Bible and say that Jesus Christ is not God. Some had to have their own translation of the Bible and remove all the teaching of the divinity of Jesus Christ and others had to say that the Bible we have has been changed but they cannot tell us when where it has been changed.

- **Jesus Christ is Creator (John 1:3; Col 1:16)**

**Through him all things were made;** without him nothing was made that has been made. "For **by him all things were created;** things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

- **Jesus Christ is Holy (Heb. 7:26)**

*Such a high priest meets our need-one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.*

- **Jesus Christ is Omnipotent (Matt. 28:18)**

*"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."*

Jesus Christ has power to forgive sin. Mat. 9:1-7

- **Jesus Christ is Omniscient. (John 21:17)**

*"The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you."*

Jesus knows and understands all things, events and people.

- **Jesus Christ is Omnipresent (Matt. 28:20)**

*"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

- **Jesus Christ is Love (Rev. 1:5-6)**

*"Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, 6 and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father-to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen."*

*"May have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." Eph 3:17-19*

- **Jesus Christ is Immutable (Heb. 13:8)**

*"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."*

- **Jesus is worshiped (Matt. 28: 17)**

*"When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted"*

**The Holy Spirit is mentioned alongside the Father and the Son (see Part One, No. 4)**

## **II. THE HUMANITY OF JESUS CHRIST (John 1:18)**

### **1. Jesus Christ was born yet had no human father (Mat. 1:18-25)**

Scripture tells us that Jesus Christ was conceived in the womb of Mary by a miraculous intervention of the Holy Spirit, without a human father. Mary is not the mother of God. God is not born and does not have a mother.

The Virgin birth of Jesus shows that:

- a) a)The Virgin birth of Jesus shows that Salvation is entirely the work of God.
- b) b)The Virgin birth of Jesus enables the uniting of divinity to humanity.
- c) c)The Virgin birth makes possible for Jesus to be born without sin.

### **2. Jesus Christ lived a human life yet without sin (Heb. 4:15)**

#### **A. Jesus Christ had a weak and limited human body just like us, Mt. 26:41**

- **He was tired** (John 4:6).  
*Jacob's well was there, and **Jesus, tired as he was from the journey**, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour.*
- **He was thirsty** (Jn. 19:28).  
*Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, "I am thirsty."*
- **He was hungry** (Mat. 4:2).  
*Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, [**Jesus**] **he was hungry**. 3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."*
- **He slept** (Mark 4:38)

*“Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”*

- **He was tempted** (Heb. 4:15)

*“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been **tempted in every way, just as we are**—yet was without sin.”*

- **He knew joy, sorrow, anger and love** (Matt 26:38, John 2:13-17, 13:1)

**JOY: John 15:11-12**

*I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.*

**SORROW: Matt 26:38;**

*“Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed **with sorrow to the point of death**. Stay here and keep watch with me.”*

**ANGER: John 2:13-17**

*“When it was almost time for the Jewish Passover, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 in the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at tables exchanging money. 15 So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. 16 To those who sold doves he said, “**Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father’s house into a market!**” 17 His disciples remembered that it is written: “Zeal for your house will consume me.”*

**LOVE: John 13:1**

*It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. **Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love.***

## **B. Jesus Christ was known as a human being:**

- **By the people in Nazareth**

**Matt 13:53-57**

*When Jesus had finished these parables, he moved on from there. 54 Coming to his hometown, he began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. “Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?” they asked. 55 “Isn’t this **the carpenter’s son**? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary, and aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? 56 Aren’t all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?” 57 And they took offense at him.*

**Mark 6:2-3**

*“Isn’t **this the carpenter**? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him”*

- **By his own brothers** (John 7:5)

*“For even his own brothers did not believe in him.”*

## **C. Jesus Christ was different from all human beings, he was without sin. (Heb 4:15)**

*“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been **tempted in every way, just as we are**—**yet was without sin.**”*

Jesus never committed sin in his life time and no sin was found in him. Some have objected and said: "if Jesus Christ never sinned, then he was not truly human, because it is human to sin." "To sin is human is true only after the fall of Adam and Eve, but Adam and Eve were true humans and did not have sin. No one was ever able to accuse Jesus Christ of any sin (Jn. 8:46). Even Pilate testified "I find no crime in him" (Jn. 18:38). In the book of Acts Jesus Christ is called "the Holy One", "the Righteous One."

### 3. Jesus Christ died yet he rose from the dead (Luke 23:46; 1Cor. 15:1-4)

*"Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, **into your hands I commit my spirit.**" When he had said this, **he breathed his last.**"*

*"Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, that **he was buried**, that he was **raised** on the third day according to the Scriptures."*

## Part Four

### The Personality and the Deity of the Holy Spirit

In Part One, we saw that the Bible teaches "The Unity of God" and "The Deity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. In Part Two, we saw some of the attributes of the Father. In Part Three, we saw the deity and humanity of Jesus Christ.

Someone rightly said: "Many Christians are confused about the Holy Spirit. Some almost ignore Him while others exalt the Holy Spirit's work over the redeeming work of Christ on the cross. Some fear He will leave them under certain circumstances, while others feel (spiritually) inferior unless they practice particular spiritual gifts. Dr Denis J. Mock in his book on Bible Doctrine made a correct observation when he said: "Many studies of the Holy Spirit focus on His power, work and gifts to the exclusion of His Deity and Personhood." The focus of this section will be on the personhood and deity of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is not "a power" or "a force" only as some think and treat Him to be. A piano is not a person, a chair is not a person, but John is a person. What makes a person a person is his ability to think, know, decide, feel and act or do. In other words, a person has intelligence, will and emotions. A person does not necessarily need to have a physical body because God the Father is a person but does not have a physical body.

#### I. The Holy Spirit is a Person

- **The Holy Spirit has intelligence** (*"And who searches our hearts knows **the mind of the Spirit**, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. (Rom. 8:27)*
  1. *"God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. **The Spirit searches all things**, even the deep things of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one **knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.**" 1 Cor 2:10-11*
- **The Holy Spirit has a Will**

*"All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as **he [The Holy Spirit] determines [wills]" (1Cor. 12:11)***

Prevents (Act. 16:7) Appoints (Acts 20:28); Calls (Act. 13:2)

- **The Holy Spirit has Emotions (Eph. 4:30)**

*"And do not **grieve** the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."*

- **The Holy Spirit does Personal functions (John 15:26)**

The Holy Spirit speaks (John 15:26)

The Holy Spirit Prays (Rom. 8:26)

The Holy Spirit Guides (John 16:13)

The Holy Spirit Teaches (1Cor. 2:13)

The Holy Spirit Leads (Rom. 8:14)

- **The Holy Spirit has Personal qualities**

The Holy Spirit can be lied to (Ac. 5:3)

The Holy Spirit can be Insulted (Heb. 10:29)

The Holy Spirit can be Resisted to (Act. 7:51)

- **The Holy Spirit is referred as "he" and not "it"**

*"The Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept **him [Holy Spirit]**, because it neither sees **him [Holy Spirit]** nor knows **him [Holy Spirit]**. But you know **him [Holy Spirit]**, for he lives with you and will be in you. **John 14:17***

*But when **he [The Holy Spirit]**, the Spirit of truth, comes, **he [The Holy Spirit]** will guide you into all truth. **He [The Holy Spirit]** will not speak on **his [Holy Spirit] own**; **he [The Holy Spirit]** will speak only what **he [The Holy Spirit]** hears, and **he [The Holy Spirit]** will tell you what is yet to come. **He [The Holy Spirit]** will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you. **John 16:13-15***

- **The Holy Spirit is one like Jesus (John 14:16)**

*"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you **another Counselor to be with you forever.**" **John 16:13-15***

The Holy Spirit is referred as "**another**" of the same kind and "**Counselor**" means Comforter, Advocate, Go-between or Helper. The Holy Spirit is Counselor, Comforter, Advocate, Go-between, and Helper. Jesus has been all these things to his disciples. Now Jesus is telling his disciples that the Holy Spirit will be to them, **not to anyone**, what Jesus has been to them not only for three years but **forever!** The world cannot accept the Holy Spirit.

## II. The Holy Spirit is God

- **The Holy Spirit is Eternal (Heb. 9:14)**

*"How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through **the eternal Spirit** offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!"*

- **The Holy Spirit is Omniscient (1Cor. 2:10)**



*“But God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit **searches all things**, even the deep things of God.”*

- **The Holy Spirit is Omnipotent (Zech 4:6)**

*“This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the LORD Almighty.*

- **The Holy Spirit is Omnipresent (Ps. 139:7)** *“Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? “*

- **The Holy Spirit is Truth (John 14:16-17)**

*“...The Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”*

- **The Holy Spirit is Love (Rom. 5:5)**

*“And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”*

- **The Holy Spirit is Holy**

### **III. The Holy Spirit is mentioned alongside the Father and the Son (see Part One, No.4)**

#### **Part Five: The Works and Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

In Part One, we saw that the Bible teaches both “The Unity of God” and “The Deity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.” In Part Two, we saw some of the attributes of the Father. These attributes of the Father also apply to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. In Part Three, we saw that Jesus is fully God and fully human. In Part Four, we saw that the Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is both a person and God.

Our focus in this last section is on the works and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

#### **I. The Works of the Holy Spirit**

The Works of the Holy Spirit are many; they can be categorized into four groups.

- A. The works of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament.
- B. The works of the Holy Spirit in the Life of Christ.
- C. The works of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament to the Present.
- D. The works of the Holy Spirit in the time of the Tribulation.

There are those who do not differentiate between the ways the Holy Spirit worked during the different times mentioned above. But a careful study of the Bible shows major differences of how the Holy Spirit worked in the Old Testament, in the life of Christ, in the New Testament to the present and how the Holy Spirit will work during the time of the Great Tribulation.

In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit came temporally upon certain individuals for a specific purpose and then left them. That is why David prayed, “Do not take your Spirit from me.” (Ps. 51:11)

The way the Holy Spirit worked in the life and ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ is unique; and the way the Holy Spirit began working in the New Testament to the present is different from that of the

Old Testament time. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit will be in you forever (John 14:16-17). The Holy Spirit is in every believer forever unlike the Old Testament when he was in certain individuals for particular time.

*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor **to be with you forever**- 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for **he lives with you and will be in you.** John 14:16-18*

The way the Holy Spirit will work during the end times also will be different (2Thes. 2:7-8).

Some believe that some works of the Holy Spirit have ceased since the writing of the New Testament. They subdivide the works of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament to the Present into two parts: a) The work of the Holy Spirit in New Testament times and b) The work of the Holy Spirit at the Present. These believe that the supernatural works of the Holy Spirit were necessary only during the New Testament times and that after about 100 years of the life of the church there were no genuine God-sent supernatural works of the Holy Spirit. They believe that the Holy Spirit is God and that he gives gifts. What they do not believe is that today there are genuine gifts.

The fact that there are many counterfeit works of the Holy Spirit could not and should not be a basis for us to say that there are no genuine works of the Holy Spirit today. It should make us "weigh carefully what is said" and find out if it is genuine or counterfeit.

*Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. 1 Cor 14:29*

We should carefully examine what is said or done; accept what is genuine and expose what is counterfeit.

Let us look at the points above one by one:

#### A. **The work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament:**

We shall look only to three aspects of the work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament.

- **Creation:** The Holy Spirit was actively involved in creation (Gen. 1:2; Job 33:4)  
*The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life. Job 33:4*
- **Anointing and empowering** men for service: (Num. 11:24-30; Jug. 6:33-34).
- **Revelation of Scripture** (2Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:20; John 14:26; John 16:13-14)  
*For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. 2 Peter 1:21*

Speaking God's message: (2Sa. 23:2; Mic. 3:8; Act. 1:16)

#### B. **The work of the Holy Spirit in the Life of Christ:**

The Holy Spirit was actively involved in the Life and ministry of Jesus:

- **In the Birth of Christ (Luke 1:35-37)**
- **In the Life and Ministry of Christ (Luke 4:1-2)**
- **In the Death of Christ (Heb 9:13-14)**

*How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! Heb 9:13-14*

- **In the Resurrection of Christ (Rom. 1:4)**  
*Who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Rom 1:4*

**C. The work of the Holy Spirit in the NT to the Present:**

The work of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament at present can be divided into two, in relation to sinners and to believers.

**To Sinners:**

Three major works of the Holy Spirit toward sinners are: **Reproves, Regenerates** and **Restrains**

- **The Holy Spirit Reproves**  
*When he [The Holy Spirit] comes, he will **convict** the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment. John 16:8*

- **The Holy Spirit Regenerates:**  
*Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. John 3:5-6*

*He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. Titus 3:5*

- **The Holy Spirit Restrains:**  
*For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who **now holds it back** will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. 2 Thess 2:7-8*

**To Believers:**

- **The Holy Spirit Indwells believers fully and permanently** (John 14:17; Rom. 8:9; 1Cor. 3:16)

This is a onetime ministry of the Holy Spirit and happens at salvation [1Cor. 2:14]. There are not two kinds of Christians those who have the Holy Spirit and those who do not have the Holy Spirit. It is unbiblical to say that I received Jesus Christ in 1972 and received the Holy Spirit in 1992. The person may have been filled with the Holy Spirit in 1992. (see below for filling of the Holy Spirit).

*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever- The Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. **John 14:16-17***

*The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. **1 Cor 2:14-15***

*You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. **Rom 8:9-10***

- **The Holy Spirit Seals** believers (Eph. 1:13-14)  
This is a onetime ministry of the Holy Spirit and happens at salvation. All Christians are sealed; there are no Christians that are not sealed.

*And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory. **Eph 1:12-14***

- **The Holy Spirit Baptizes** believers into the body of Christ (Acts 1:5; 1Cor. 12:13)  
This is also a onetime ministry of the Holy Spirit. It happens at salvation. There cannot be two kinds of Christians—those who are baptized in the body of Christ and those who are not yet baptized in the body of Christ. If one is a Christian, one is also baptized into the body of Christ!

*For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. **1 Cor 12:13***

- **The Holy Spirit Fills** for empowerment of believer for ministry (Acts 1:8; 2:4; 4:8, 31; Eph. 5:18)

This ministry of the Holy Spirit is a continuous activity in the life of every believer. To have the Holy Spirit and to be filled with the Holy Spirit are not one and the same. To be filled with the Holy Spirit does not mean we had part of the Holy Spirit and now we receive the other part of the Holy Spirit. To be filled with the Holy Spirit means that the Holy Spirit has complete control of us. The reliable evidence that a person is full of the Holy Spirit is the manifestation of fruit of the Holy Spirit and not merely speaking tongues or any such gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Could someone speak in tongues when he/she is filled with the Holy Spirit? Yes! But the fact that one spoke or speaks in tongues is not a reliable sign of being filled with the Holy Spirit. The **fruit of the Spirit** are the reliable evidences of being filled with the Holy Spirit because the gifts of the Holy Spirit can be imitated but the fruits cannot.

**Acts 2:4**

*All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*

**Acts 4:31**

*After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.*

**Eph 5:18-19**

*Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.*

Note that the Apostles who were filled with the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:4 were filled again in Acts 4:3. In Eph. 5:18 believers are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit continually.

- **The Holy Spirit Assures** believers of their salvation (Rom. 8:16)  
This is a continuous ministry of the Holy Spirit to every believer.  
Rom 8:16  
*The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.*
- **The Holy Spirit Sanctifies** believers (Rom 15:16)  
This is a continuous ministry of the Holy Spirit to every believer.  
**Rom 15:16**

*“to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.”*

- **The Holy Spirit Unites** the Body of Christ (Eph. 4:3-4)  
This is also a continuous ministry of the Holy Spirit to every believer.  
**Eph 4:2-3** *“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.”*
- **The Holy Spirit Commissions** for ministry (Acts 13:1-5)  
This is a ministry of the Holy Spirit for specific times in the life of the believer.  
**Acts 13:2:** *“While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.”*
- **The Holy Spirit produces Christ like fruits** in the life of believers (Gal. 5:22-23)  
This is continuous ministry of the Holy Spirit to every believer.  
**Gal 5:22-23**  
*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.*
- **The Holy Spirit Enlightens** the believers (1Cor. 2:10)  
This is a continuous teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit for every believer.  
*This was the privilege of specific individuals in the Old Testament but in the New Testament is privilege of all believers.*  
**1 Cor 2:10**  
*God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.*

**1 John 2:27**

*As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit-just as it has taught you, remain in him.*

Note that all believers are anointed and anointed means have the Holy Spirit to enlighten, teach them

- **The Holy Spirit Leads and Guides the believers (Rom. 8:14)**  
This is a continuous ministry of the Holy Spirit to every believer.  
**Rom 8:14-15**  
*Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*
- **The Holy Spirit Intercedes for the believers (Rom. 8:26-27)**  
This is a continuous ministry of the Holy Spirit for every believer.  
**Rom 8:26**  
*In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.*
- **The Holy Spirit Determines and distributes gifts** to believers (1Cor. 12:1-11)  
This is a continuous ministry of the Holy Spirit for every believer.  
**1 Cor 12:7, 11**  
*Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 11 All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.*

## II. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

A gift of the Holy Spirit is ability the Holy Spirit gives a believer to glorify God and serve the Body of Christ, the Church.

**A. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are many:**

The apostle Paul mentions nine gifts in 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 (wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miraculous powers, prophecy, distinguishing between spirits, speaking in different kinds of tongues, interpretation of tongues.)

In the same chapter in verse 28 he mentions four additional gifts of apostleship, teaching, helping, and administration.

In Romans chapter 12, five additional gifts of serving, leadership, mercy, giving, and encouraging are mentioned. In Ephesians chapter 4, we find two more gifts. In all, we find more than 20 gifts of the Holy Spirit mentioned in the Bible. So let us not focus on only few of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

**B. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are for all believers 1Cor. 12:7, 11**

*Scripture, rather than experience, must be the final test of truth. Speaking in tongues was never intended to be a proof of spirituality — none of the gifts were ever intended for that purpose*

Note that the gifts are for all believers and not for selected individuals. There are believers who do not know what their gift(s) are but there are no believers without gifts.

**C. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit are for the edification of the Body:**

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are not a sign of spirituality (1Cor. 12:7). We have already seen that a sign of spirituality are the fruits of the Holy Spirit and not the gifts themselves. **The gifts of the Holy Spirit are for the edification of the Body of Christ, the Church, and not for commercial use as some teach “God will give healing and prosperity in exchange for contributions to their ministries.”**

**Part Six: CONCLUSION**

We have seen that the Bible teaches the Unity and the Deity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. We will never be able to fully understand and explain the teaching of the Holy Trinity this side of life, but we can be sure that the teaching of the Holy Trinity is Biblical. Without the teaching of the Holy Trinity the Bible does not make sense and anyone who says he or she does not believe in the teaching of the Holy Trinity means he or she does not believe in the Bible. God expects us to know, believe and teach what he has revealed to us in his Word. We can know this God as Father through the Son, Jesus Christ, by the Holy Spirit.