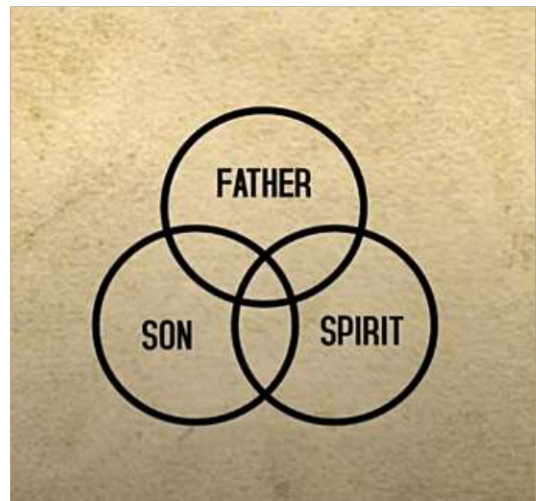


# Trinity or no!

There is a saying the devil is in the detail but rather we find God or the truth about God when we look at some details. The lack of detail leaves us with the devil's nonsense. The truth is in the detail and yet where that detail ends so also should our speculation on the subject end, for how can I define eternity or comment on something I cannot understand such as no beginning or an eternity before anything was created? We have not been told nor can we pretend to know something that is above our minds to understand.

'Why try to be more minute than is inspiration on the vital questions of righteousness by faith?' and we can equally ask the question why try to be more minute than is inspiration on the vital questions of the God head? Pre-existence, begotten? In what way was He begotten? Co-equal? 3 persons? Is this representation of divinity so often portrayed, correct? Is it important that we arrive at the truth?



John 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 4:24 God [is] a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship [him] in spirit and in truth. The scripture allows important truths to be revealed about ourselves, salvation and with salvation knowing God and who He is.

The Father seeks those that would worship Him in Spirit and with His Spirit comes a revelation of Himself. God is wanting to reveal Himself and empower His children.

Let the Bible speak for itself:

1 Corinthians 11:3 the **head of Christ [is] God.**

1 Corinthians 8:6 But to us [there is but] **one God, the Father**, of whom [are] all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom [are] all things, and we by him.

1 Corinthians 15:28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the **Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him**, that God may be all in all.

Psalms 2:7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou [art] my Son; this day have I **begotten thee.**

Heb 1:4 Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. 1:5 For unto which of the angels said he at any time, **Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee?** And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? 1:6 And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

Zech 3:8 I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH. "**A Son begotten in the express image of the Father's person**" ST May 13 1895

Before the entrance of sin among the angels: Christ the Word, the only-begotten of God, was one with the eternal Father, --one in nature, in character, and in purpose,--the only being in all the universe that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God. By Christ, the Father wrought in the creation of all heavenly beings.--The Great Controversy, p. 493.

We really don't need the council of Nicaea to solve this issue!

### Let the Jesus speak for Himself

Mark 12:32 And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he:

12:33 And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love [his] neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.

12:34 And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God.

John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

John 5:26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath **he given to the Son to have life in himself;**

John 16:27 For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.

16:28 I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.

John 14:28 If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for **my Father is greater than I.**

John 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, **I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and [to] my God, and your God.**

### Concerning the Holy Spirit

- Eternal—unknown quantity and unfathomed by mortals. This 20th century revealed some of this in the exploration of space
  - Self-existent— It is God who supplies the daily needs of all His creatures. . . . {1MCP 247.4} he needs no other to supply his existence for life is in Himself
  - Pre-existent- He lived before all creation existed
  - Begotten- given some rendering of the meaning by came forth
- Came forth- came from the Father. Waggoner says He is begotten, not created. As to when he was begotten is not for us to inquire nor could our minds grasp it if we were told. John 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath de-clared [him]... But the point is that Christ is a begotten Son and not a created subject. Christ and His Righteousness by E J Waggoner p29

Christ came forth from the Father and yet was since eternity, so what was before the creation of the universe and all the heavenly beings? Was the Father just spinning around by Himself in endless infinity before creation? Or was the Father, Son and Holy Spirit just conversing with one another through eternity if we are to take the simplistic but false view that they are all coequals from eternity, end of story. So, the point is we are told certain information but to understand and speculate beyond what is revealed will lead to error and such is beyond human understanding. God can transcend time and space which is evident by the revelation of prophecies before they come to pass.

The Sovereign of the universe was not alone in His work of beneficence. He had an associate--a co-worker who could appreciate His purposes, and could share His joy in giving happiness to created beings. "In the beginning was the Word,

and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God." John 1:1, 2. Christ, the Word, the only begotten of God, was one with the eternal Father--one in nature, in character, in purpose--the only being that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God. "His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6. His "goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." Micah 5:2. And the Son of God declares concerning Himself: "The Lord possessed Me in the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I was set up from everlasting. . . . When He appointed the foundations of the earth: then I was by Him, as one brought up with Him: and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him." Proverbs 8:22-30. {PP 34.1} Note the true representation of God the Father and the Son.

Proverbs 8:22 The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. 8:23 I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. 8:24 When [there were] no depths, I was brought forth; when [there were] no fountains abounding with water. 8:25 Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth:

The SON came forth from the Father

The Father gave to the SON

The SON took to give to all creation by whom all things in heaven and earth were created 1 Corinthians 1:16

The SON breathed forth

The Holy Spirit is given to us

We are given repentance, discernment, sealed for salvation by the Holy Spirit

We gained what Christ lost in laying down His divinity

We are brought into close connection with divinity through the Holy Spirit

His Spirit is our salvation.

Only begotten. "one of a kind" - i.e., "unique" or "incomparable." No one else has been given the power to have 'life in Himself,' underived, unborrowed, self-sustaining.

### **The Great Controversy was over the question of Christ's divinity**

It was Christ's position as one with God, that is in counsel with the Father and with His power over and in creation that Lucifer envied for "In Him was life," and He says, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." He is "a quickening spirit. 1 Corinthians 15:45

Satan would destroy the works of creation in his envy. Isaiah 14:12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! [how] art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! 14:13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: 14:14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. 14:15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

## **Overcoming by the Spirit of God**

Men are not saved by being delivered utterly from the flesh; but by receiving power to conquer and rule over all the evil tendencies and the desires of the flesh. Men do not develop character (in fact, they never could) by being delivered into a realm of no temptation; but, by receiving power, in the field of temptation exactly where they are, to conquer all the temptation.

"If men were to be saved by being delivered utterly from the flesh just as it is, then Jesus need never have come to the world. If men were to be saved by being delivered from all temptation, and set in a realm of no temptation, then Jesus need not have come into the world. But never, by any such deliverance as that, could man have developed character. Therefore, instead of trying to save men by delivering them utterly from the flesh, just where they were, Jesus came to the world, and put himself IN THE FLESH, just where men are; and met that flesh, JUST AS IT IS, with all its tendencies and desires; and by the divine power which he brought by faith, he "conquered sin in the flesh," and thus brought to all mankind that divine faith which brings the divine power to man to deliver him from the power of the flesh and the law of sin, just where he is, and to give him assured dominion over the flesh, just as it is.

Instead of Jesus' trying to save men in a way in which they would be limp and characterless, by setting them in a realm of no temptation, he came to man, just where man is, in the midst of all his temptations. Jesus came in the very flesh such as man has; and in that flesh, he met all the temptations known to that flesh, and conquered every one of them; and by that conquest brought victory to every soul in the world. Bless his name.

And every soul can have in its fullness that victory, who will receive and keep 'the faith of Jesus.' For 'this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.'" {September 18, 1900 A.T. Jones, ARSH 600}

## The sealing

The Old Testament high priest would trim the wicks of the oil lamps every day in the first apartment but there comes a time that the recipient is ready for the full endowment and union with God. The oil represents the Spirit of God. The first apartment experience or 'the daily and the second apartment experience 'atonement.' The day of atonement is met in each person's life as a final reckoning for eternity for most at death at which time the thoughts and feeling are fixed for eternity or at the close of probation.

Christ's own divinity is shared with humanity in lifting mankind's fallen nature. As Christ came with hereditary weakness but overcame so we are to do.

Revelation 5:6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.





Without the seal of God no man or woman can enter heaven and humanity is lost, this is why in Revelation John wept for no man was found to open the scroll until ..The lamb appears slain with 7 eyes- divinity which He laid down for humanity represented by the 7 eyes and takes the scroll; meaning the world, so long under the sway of the powers of evil, is to be repossessed and given back Christ the creator. So, when the seals are opened, we see in the first four seals the four horsemen of Revelation.

The horsemen represent the fiery trials which God's New Testament church will face. Through trial man will overcome himself and the evil one by the grace of God. Revelation 2:10 be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.



## The Trinity of Scripture

Luke 11:15 How much more shall [your] heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

**The divine Spirit that the world's Redeemer promised to send, is the presence and power of God.** Signs of the Times, November 23, 1891

The sealing of God's people brings us into total union with Him through His Spirit.

John 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 4:24 God [is] a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship [him] in spirit and in truth.

John 14:21 He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. 14:22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and **my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.** The Holy Spirit is the spirit of the Father and the spirit of Christ. This is His omnipresence.

We note that God abides with us through His Spirit. Although we have mentioned 7 spirits (as found in Revelation) which is the number of perfection or divinity it says Ephesians 2:18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

From eternity there was a complete unity between the Father and the Son. They were two, yet little short of being identical; two in individuality, yet one in spirit, and heart, and character. {Youth Instructor December 16, 1897, par. 5.}

**Holy Spirit is the Comforter, as the personal presence of Christ to the soul.** Manuscript 143, 1901. {CTr 365.5} The gift of divinity comes through Christ great sacrifice in which man is brought into the circle. Psalms 82:6 I have said, Ye [are] gods; and all of you [are] children of the Most High.

The Holy Spirit communicates with a million perhaps greater than we could contemplate minds personally in conversation. The Spirit came forth from the Father and the Son to create and communicate with creation. **If the Spirit was not a person, how could He thus converse with us.** While Christ laid aside His divinity, He did so to share it with us for our uplifting, therefore He said 'I will pray the Father that he may send you another comforter.'

Is the Holy Spirit a person? **Yes. He is the personal presence of God in which the Father and the Son make their abode with us. A separate individual? Yes and yet no. We picture things as people, persons, individuals but understanding God as a Spirit is hard to comprehend. He can be in a million places and more. As the Son proceeded forth from the Father so the Spirit proceeds forth from the Father and the Son, this is the means by which the Father and the Son, communicate with all creation. John 15:26 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: This is what makes God omnipresent, and omnipresent makes Him God. God's spirit is personally speaking to hearts not just a force of nature. As the Son proceeded forth from the**

Father so the Spirit also proceeded forth so in this respect the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead. As Christ referred to my Father He also referred to my Spirit. As the Son directs us to the Father, so the Holy Spirit points away from Himself to Christ.

We are Spirits with a body and scripture says James 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead.....

God is a Spirit. John 4:24 God [is] a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship [him] in spirit and in truth. God is called spirit because He is unseen, can be immaterial and not bound by place but we are not directed to the Holy Spirit for worship but to the Father Himself. Job 34:14 If he (that is God) set his heart upon man, [if] he gather unto himself his spirit and his breath; 34:15 All flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust.

The breath of God, in other words, His Spirit keeps everything alive and without this we perish. But it is more than just life sustaining, He can search the heart and communicate with the mind. More than just a power, His Spirit is communicating with ours.

Angels are called ministering spirits. Hebrews 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation? The real interaction between God's Angels and the Spirit of God is not certain but we know that Holy Angels and Holy Spirit are both part of the plan of salvation.

The Holy Spirit is a person, for He beareth witness with our spirits that we are the children of God. When this witness is borne, it carries with it its own

evidence. At such times we believe and are sure that we are the children of God.  
... {Ev 616.6}

The Holy Spirit has a personality, else He could not bear witness to our spirits and with our spirits that we are the children of God. **He must also be a divine person, else He could not search out the secrets which lie hidden in the mind 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."--Manuscript 20, 1906. {Ev 617.1}

The Holy Spirit searches the mind of God - what does that tell you? He is part of God's mind and He searches the minds of men. What does that tell you? That while He is a part of God and yet He has an independent mind. Truly a mystery.

**Is there a trinity?** Remember that 'trinity' is nowhere found in the Bible and that the word is a catholic origin first from Tertullian. The trinity is more than just a belief in 3 persons of the Godhead. It says that Mary was immaculately conceived and Jesus was born of Holy flesh. The idea is a pagan one that says that Father, Son and Holy Ghost are one being.

1 John 4:2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 4:3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that [spirit] of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Jesus was born of fallen flesh and sanctifies

Himself that we also might sanctify ourselves. Every teaching other than this is antichrist and the basis for a false gospel.

Just as the gospel of Seventh Day Adventism is unique so is a revelation of God Himself, an integral part of the gospel. Unique!

Is it important to understand who God is for salvation? Yes John 17:3 A misunderstanding can lead to misconceptions about the gospel and important work necessary for salvation, attached to the day of atonement and the sealing of God's people for eternity. It makes sense that we pray to the Father through the Spirit in Christ's name and that there is only one true God the Father.

### **Omnipresence**

**How is this possible? Is not the Father on a throne seated at one place?**

**Through His Spirit God can be present in all places & see all things- that is what makes Him God!**

**Without the Holy Spirit God is not omnipresent, it is not that He could not be but He has chosen to be omnipresent by the third person of the Godhead that has proceeded forth from Him.**

**It means that He is our personal God and can be our personal friend!**

Omnipresence was given to the Son so that just as the Father has life in Himself so Jesus was given power to have life in Himself. As the Spirit moved upon the earth in the beginning life was created.

So, is the Holy Spirit a separate person or the presence of the Father & the Son? Yes the Holy Spirit is the Father's means of personal communication to all His people. To commune with the Father is by His Spirit in prayer. The Holy Spirit is working independently and is in one mind with the Father, searching and revealing the mind of God. If the Holy Spirit were not a person there would not be conversation or rather this is the Father's chosen means to communicate with us.

The Holy Spirit has a personality, else He could not bear witness to our spirits and with our spirits that we are the children of God. He must also be a divine person, else He could not search out the secrets which lie hidden in the mind 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."--  
Manuscript 20, 1906.

John 6:43 Jesus therefore answered and said unto them, Murmur not among yourselves. 6:44 No man can come to me, except **the Father** which hath sent me **draw him**: and I will raise him up at the last day.

How does the Father communicate, be present while on the throne in heaven?  
Through His representative.

## The Great Controversy Theme

John 4:22-24 Ye worship ye know not what: ..But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God [is] a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship [him] in spirit and in truth.

Our understanding of One God is not only one in thought and action but all existence is made possible through the Father. This is central to an understanding of the Great Controversy. Lucifer was envious of Jesus position as the Son of God and wanted to be brought into the council of the Father.

## Summary

There are important issues being mishandled because it is human nature to do so. Is there a third person of the God head? Yes.

This is a separate entity/person to the Father (the Spirit is also given of the Father to the Son) and makes Him God being able to communicate with everyone at once. The Holy Spirit is not a power but the person of God Himself. The Spirit proceeded forth as the Son proceeded forth and they remain in perfect harmony with each other.

Are all these people presenting the trinity view of three separate persons of the Godhead (coequals from eternity) all bad shepherds? I believe there are many good people in error because they are not looking at the issue with an open mind and melding scripture together or they do not see its significance. There has to be smoke to bring us to the fire.



Many are dancing around with semantics and things they have no idea about and not marrying the subjects together by simply stating what Jesus said of Himself, the Father and the Holy Spirit.

I found when taking closer examination of this topic that scripture plainly says that just as Christ proceeded forth from the Father so also did the Spirit. As Christ is a separate person so is the Spirit else He could not converse with us.

"The nature of the Holy Spirit is a mystery. Men cannot explain it, because the Lord has not revealed it to them. Men having fanciful views may bring together passages of Scripture and put a human construction on them, but the acceptance of these views will not strengthen the church. Regarding such mysteries, which are too deep for human understanding, silence is golden."

What is marvellous is that God the Father would entrust the work of divinity to co-workers and there is complete harmony and synthesis of mind. Liberty and unity start and continue in creation through the work of three individuals, two of whom proceeded forth from the Father.

2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord [is], there [is] liberty.

The topic of the trinity takes us back right to the beginning of church history and the controversy of the Arian and the Council of Nicaea. We have come full circle.

"Although the Goths refused to believe as the church of Rome did, and as a consequence have been branded as Arians, Romanism actually meant little to them. In fact, it meant little to Ulfilas, their great leader. The Goths refused to go along with the mounting innovations being introduced into the church of the Caesars, which church **quickly branded any competitor as Arian.**" Benjamin Wilkinson, *Truth Triumphant*, p. 141.

