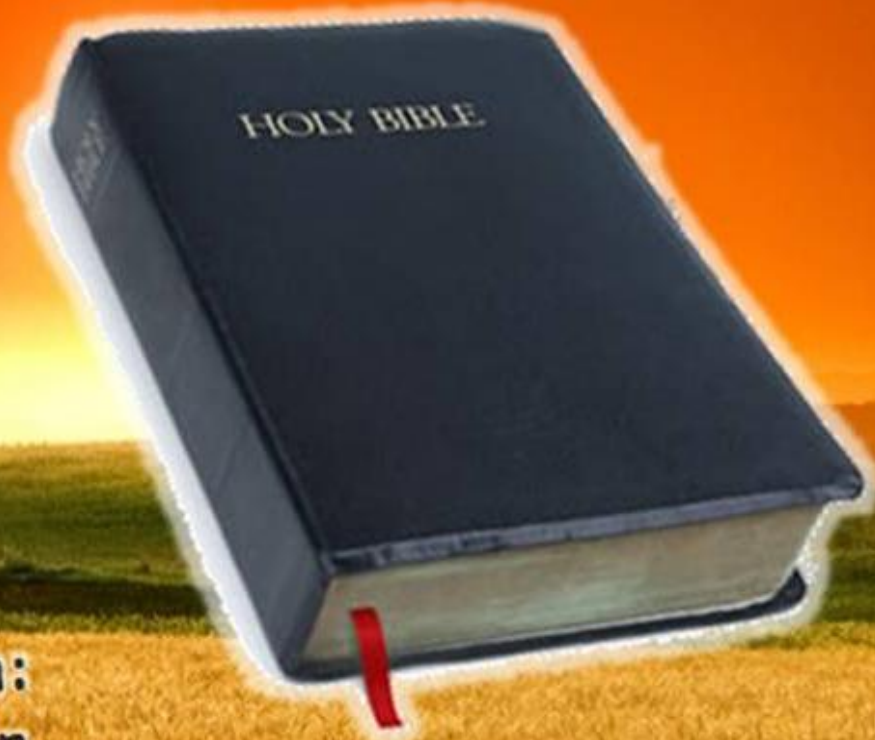


THE GOD OF THE BIBLE



Studies on:
the Father,
Son and
Holy Spirit

First angel's message
Revelation 14:6-7

by Reuben Warjri

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*"To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this
mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."
Colossians 1:27*

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WHO IS GOD?

What does it mean to say that we are Christians? Without a hint of doubt, a “Christian” is one who claims to be a follower of Christ. But before becoming His follower, one has to believe that the Bible is the true word of God and eventually leads one to believe in Christ. However, believing in Christ is more than just saying “I believe in Him”. It also includes believing in His words and teachings. To a Christian, His words are true and trust worthy. He occupies an influential place in our lives and minds as the Teacher of the Gospel.

Keeping this fact in mind, in this study we shall look to Christ and see what He had taught about the God of the Bible and see if what He had taught was also taught by the others, particularly the prophets of the Old Testament and the apostles of the new.

According to Christ, how many true Gods are there?

*Mark 12:28-32,34 And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? (29) And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear O Israel; **The Lord God is one Lord:** (30) And*

*thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. (31) And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. (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:** (34) And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question.*

Here is a record, in the gospel of Mark, of the conversation that Jesus had with one of the scribes. Now a scribe was one who's occupation was to make hand written copies of the Old Testament Bible since the printing machine was yet to be invented. He would have made many such copies which gave him a thorough knowledge of what the Scriptures taught about God and things concerning Him. The answer that Jesus gave was well received by the scribe who knew in his heart that what Jesus spoke was the truth and affirmed that there was only one God. In fact, Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6:4,5; 10:12; Leviticus 19:18. This is evidence that even in Moses' time, the

common belief was that there is one God.

Isaiah confirms this belief and teaching for us as well.

Isaiah 45:5,18 I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me. (18)For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; there is none else.

We find in the Bible that this same teaching was still taught by the apostles after Jesus ascended unto heaven.

1Corinthians 8:4 As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one.

1Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

James 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe and tremble.

So, who is this one and only God? Is it the Father, the Son or the Holy Spirit? or the amalgamation of these

three? As far as the 1st century Jews were concerned, they believed and taught that the one and only true God is the Father.

John 8:41 Then said they to him, we have one Father, even God.

Jesus confirms this for us in verse 54 of the same chapter: *Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; for whom ye say, that he is your God. (John 8:54)*

It matters not what the 1st century Jews believed and taught then. What matters is whether or not Christ taught the same thing as they. So according to Jesus, who is the one God of the Bible?

John 6:27 – Labour not for the meat that perisheth, but that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

In His prayer to the Father, Jesus clearly spells out who the true God really is:

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

Christ Himself acknowledged that the Father is the one God of the Bible. The one who said that He is LORD

and there is no other, is none other than the Father. God is not a combination of the so called three beings of the Godhead as the trinitarian doctrine teaches. Interestingly enough, we find that the apostles taught the same thing Jesus taught:

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.

Notice that in the above passage, a distinction is made by Paul between the Father and the Son. The Father is not only the one God but He is also the source of all things (the “of whom”) whereas, Christ, is the channel (“by whom”) through whom all things flow.

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

2 Peter 1:17 – For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

2 John 3 – Grace be with you, mercy and peace from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

Jude 1 – Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called.

Now let us look at another verse found in Ephesians 4:6 and see what it has to say about God the Father.

Ephesians 4:6 – One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

We have looked from the Bible and the teachings of Christ Himself as to the identity of this one God. It is therefore, safe to conclude that the “one God” in Ephesians 4:6 refers to the Father. But notice something else. According to this passage, the Father is the “God and Father of all”. So, a question arises: Is the word “all” inclusive of Christ as well? Is this the same God of Jesus? At the cross, we notice that Jesus addressed the Father as His God.

Matthew 27:46 – And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? That is to say, My God, my God why hast thou forsaken me?

On the day of resurrection Jesus also had this to say to Mary Magdalene:

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.

Even long after His resurrection, Jesus in His admonition to the church of Philadelphia through His devout disciple, John, referred to the Father as His God:

Revelation 3:12 – Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

Notice Jesus said that He would write, upon any who overcomes, the name of His God. In Revelation 14:1, we find that the 144,000 will have the name of the Father written on their foreheads.

Revelation 14:1 – And I looked and lo a Lamb stood on the mount of Zion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written on their foreheads.

Comparing these two verses in Revelation, it is plain to see that it is the Father who is the God of Jesus. Hence, according to Jesus, the Father is definitely His God. Let's see what

the apostles have to say concerning this.

Ephesians 1:3 – Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.

Colossians 1:3 – We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you.

1 Peter 1:3 – Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

In the verses given above, it is very clearly understood that the early church believed and taught that the Father is the Father and God of Christ and this is explicitly expressed by the apostles through their letters to the different churches.

As per the teachings of Christ, all true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in 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.

The teaching that the Father alone is God is a sure and a firm teaching of

Christ and His church. Concerning His doctrines and words, this is what Christ had to say:

“My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.” – John 7:16

Who sent Jesus?

John 3:34 says: “For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him”

Jesus continues to state in John 12:49,50 – For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. (50) And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.

The teachings of Christ are not His, but God's. Hence, all the more reason for us to believe that the Father ALONE is THE GOD. If we maintain the teachings of the Trinity concept of God, we would directly or indirectly concur that the Father, who is the true God of the Bible, is so weak and powerless that He requires two other beings or persons to make up the one God. He, on His own cannot be the source of all things which is in direct contradiction to the teaching that He is “of all things” (1 Corinthians 8:6).

WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

If the Father is the one and only God of the Bible, the questions that arise are – What about Jesus? What do the Scriptures imply when they refer to Him as God? Again, we shall first look to Christ Himself, through the revealed word of God, for the answers.

*Matthew 16:13-17 – When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? (14) And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist; some, Elijah; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. (15) He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? (16) And Simon Peter answered and said, **Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.** (17) And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.***

The Bible speaks for itself. It is clear that from the account given in the passage above that Jesus is the Christ and that He is the Son of the living God. This fact was impressed upon the mind of Peter by none other than the Father who is God Almighty Himself. In other words, God was using Peter in this particular occasion

as a mouthpiece to reveal the sonship of Jesus.

However, God Himself also proclaimed that Jesus is His Son, without using a man or an angel as a medium of communication. There are two instances recorded in the Bible where God Himself proclaimed with a loud voice that Jesus was His Son. The first one was at the baptism (Matthew 3:17) in the Jordan and the second, on the mount of transfiguration where Moses and Elijah descended to earth to meet with Jesus (Matthew 17:5). The sonship of Christ is so important for us to consider, that God chose Himself to reveal it to us and the people living back then in the days of Jesus.

*Matthew 3:17 – And lo a voice from heaven, saying, **This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.***

*Matthew 17:5 – While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, **This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.***

Jesus also emphatically declared that He was God's Son in multiple occasions.

*John 9:35 – 38: Jesus heard that they had cast him out (the blind man Jesus healed); and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? (36) He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? (37) And Jesus said unto him, **Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.** (38) And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.*

*John 10:36 – Say ye of him, whom the Father has sanctified, and sent into the world, **Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?***

How is Jesus the Son of God?

Many in His day took Jesus to be a man like any other and that His family descent was from Joseph. This was one of the reasons that He was not received as the promised Messiah. The gospel of Luke puts it in this way:

*And Jesus himself began to be about thirty years of age, being **(as was supposed) the son of Joseph,** which was the son of Heli, - Luke 3:23*

And whenever Jesus preached that He was the promised Messiah, the most common reaction of the people would be, “Isn’t he the carpenter’s son?” And some even tried to kill Him because they accused him of blasphemy. This is recorded in a

number of places in the Gospels. Here are a few examples:

*Luke 4:17 – 19, 21, 22 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, (18) The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken hearted, to preach the deliverance of the captives, and recovering the sight of the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, (19) to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. (21) And he began to say unto them, This day this scripture is fulfilled in your ears. (22) And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words that proceeded out of his mouth. **And they said is this not Joseph’s son?***

*Matthew 13:54 – 55 And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in the synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works? (55) **Is not this the carpenter’s son? is not his mother called Mary? and his bretheren, James, Joses, and Simon and Judas?***

*John 6:42 – And they said, **Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?***

*John 10:36 – Say ye of him, whom the father has sanctified, and sent into the world, **Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?***

*John 5:18 – **Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the Sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.***

An interesting point has to be noted here. The Jews also claimed that they had God as their Father. In other words, they considered themselves the sons and daughters of God. There was nothing wrong or sinful if anyone said that he or she was a child of God. But these same people (Jews) who went about saying that they were God's children, accused Jesus of blasphemy and tried to kill Him for the same "crime" they supposedly committed. This was so because when Jesus said that He was the Messiah, He also meant to say that He was a Son of God in a special way. No other being in the entire universe is a Son of the living God in the way that Jesus was and still is today. In John 8 is recorded an incident where Jesus was speaking to the Jews in the temple where He pressed on the fact that He was the Messiah. This is what the Jews had to say in response to Jesus' claim:

John 8:41 – Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication, we have one Father, even God.

Here the Jews also considered themselves to be sons of God. They insisted that Jesus was a man like any other and that He was God's son in the same manner as they were. Hence, they tried to insinuate Him by alluding to the circumstances of His birth. In other words, to them, He was simply a son of Joseph and Mary. In response to their sayings, this is what Jesus said:

*John 8:42 – Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me; **for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.***

To put it in a simple way, Jesus was telling them, "Well you suppose that I descended from the line of Joseph? The truth is, I am the Son of God because I 'proceeded forth from the Father'. In other words, the Father Himself gave birth to me!"

Jesus had gone on to say in verse 58 of the same chapter that he existed even before Abraham came into existence. To a 1st century Jew, the only human who had the right to say such things was the Messiah whom they were waiting for. And in the next verse, the Jews who heard what He said took up stones to stone Him.

To an overwhelming majority of Christians, this teaching comes as a shocker. It is an anathema to the Christian world. We were all driven by the thought and belief that Christ is and has always been a co-eternal being with the Father so much so that anyone who teaches this thing is considered a heretic and many follow the example of the Jews – ready to throw stones at the messenger. But many fail to acknowledge that this is the teaching of the very person they claim to be followers of.

Jesus did not mention this fact only once. To drive the point home to the disciples and anyone reading the scriptures in the 21st century, He chose to repeat it to His disciples and even in His prayer to the Father.

John 16:27,28 – For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God. (28) I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again I leave the world, and go to the Father.

In His prayer to the Father, Jesus had this to say:

John 17:8 – For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.

In His conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus also affirmed that God had sent Him who was “the only begotten son of God”.

John 3:16 – For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

If Jesus had not been the only begotten of God, it would be accounted to Him as a lie and therefore sin. Hence, His death on the cross would have not been a perfect, unblemished sacrifice and He would have not resurrected because His resurrection was a strong evidence that he conquered Satan, sin and death.

The apostle John also had this to declare concerning Christ, the Word:

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

So, when was Jesus begotten of the Father? The answer is found in Proverbs 8:22-30 where Jesus declared about Himself through Solomon under the name of Wisdom –

“The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his

works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth. While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: 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)

One might argue that this passage in Proverbs is not Jesus who speaks but rather it is wisdom, that is personified, that is the speaker here. However, Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians says,

“But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, . . .”(1Corinthians 1:30)

Hence, Jesus was born of God somewhere before time in human scale was even computed, that is, some time in eternity. How long ago in eternity this event took place, we

cannot say but the Bible says that it did.

From the passages given in the Bible, particularly the words of Christ Himself, there is ample evidence regarding the nature of Christ and who He really is. What made Him God was the fact that He was the literal Son of the God.

Being the Son of God, what did Christ inherit from the Father?

- **Jesus inherited God’s form. In other words, His body was in the shape, form and nature of His Father.**

Philippians 2:6 – Who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God.

Hebrews 1:3 – Who being in the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding everything by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.

- **Christ inherited divinity from the Father.**

Because the Father is God, He gave birth to another Being who is divine by nature. This principle is seen in nature. A human being gives birth to a human being who possesses the same humanity of its parents. Similarly,

Christ is fully divine because divinity is part and parcel of His Father's nature. HENCE CHRIST IS GOD BY NATURE.

Colossians 2:9 – For in him (Christ) dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead (divinity) bodily.

Colossians 1:19 – For it pleased the Father that in him (Christ) should all fulness dwell.

- Christ inherited the life of God. That is to say, the life that He has, was given to Him by God.

1John 5:11 – And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

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

- Christ inherited the name of the Father.

Hebrews 1:4 – Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they [the angels].

Exodus 23:20 – 21 – Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee in the place which I have prepared. (20) Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not

pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him.

(The “Angel” mentioned in Exodus 23:20 is Christ. Hence the capital “A”. Christ was enshrouded in the pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night that guarded and guided the Israelites to the promised land.)

The name that Christ inherits from the Father is akin to the family name that we as humans inherit from the family we belong. But the name that Christ inherits also connotes power and authority and character.

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

Who gave Him this power? It is none other than God Himself.

John 17:2 – As thou (Father) hast given him (Son) power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

Mark 12:36 – For David himself said by the Holy Ghost, The LORD said to my Lord, Sit on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool.

Jesus Himself said that He would sit at the right hand of the Father in Matthew 26:64 and also in Luke 22:69. But notice that in Hebrews 1:13, the Father does not invite any of

the angels who are also children of God to sit at His right hand. This is so because the angels are children of God by virtue of being created by God and not begotten.

Hebrews 1:13 – But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

Hebrews 1:5 – For to 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 a Son?

- Hence we can also conclude that Jesus has by inheritance become a ruler over all the universe by virtue of His divine birth from the Father.

- Christ also inherited the Glory of the Father. And this glory was His even before the creation of the world.

Hebrews 1:3 – Who being in the brightness of his (the Father's) glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding everything by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.

John 17:5 – And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self

with the glory which I had before the world was.

- The right to be worshipped is Christ's by inheritance.

Hebrews 1:6 – And again, when he bringeth in the first-begotten into the world, he saith, And let all angels of God worship him.

1Peter 3:22 – Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

John 5:23 – That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

John 9:38 – And he said, Lord I believe. And he worshipped him.

Matthew 8:2 – And behold there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

Did Jesus object when anyone worshipped Him? Definitely not. However, there are evidences shown in the Bible that when a man or woman worshipped an angel, the man or woman concerned was immediately reproved by the angel. We have just read one such verse denouncing the worship of an angel in Hebrews 1:6. Let's look at another.

Revelation 22:8,9 – And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which showed me these things. (9) Then he saith unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellow servant, and for thy bretheren the prophets, and of them that keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

Christ's unique position as the begotten Son of the Almighty God is the basis of his inheritance. And in turn these are the things that make Him equal with God. But at the same time Christ's equality with God does not include rank. That is to say that God the Father is the head of Christ. Earlier in this study, we quoted Ephesians 4:6 that God is "above all" which is applicable to Christ, as are given in the following texts.

1Corinthians 11:3 - ... the head of Christ is God.

John 14:28 - ... I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.

1Corinthians 15:24-28 – Then cometh the end, when he shall have

delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith, All things are put under him, it is manifest that he is expected, which did not put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

In *John 5:30*, Jesus confessed that He does everything in accordance with the will of the Father. The verse reads: "*I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.*" In other words, Christ subjects Himself to the will of the Father. But one will never find any trace in the Bible that He subjects Himself to the will of a human or an angel – fallen or un-fallen.

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

If the Father is THE GOD, Jesus is the Son of THE GOD (Father), then what about the Holy Spirit? So let us examine the Scriptures to learn who or what the Holy Spirit is.

- **The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God (the Father).**

*Luke 3:22 – And **the Holy Ghost** descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him , and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.*

*Matthew 3:16 – And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw **the Spirit of God** descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:*

The Gospel according to Luke records that it was the Holy Spirit that descended in bodily form like a dove whereas, Matthew, in bearing the same record of Jesus' baptism, explains that it was the Spirit of God that descended like a dove. These two passages confirm that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. Further, Paul also says that the Spirit is the Spirit of God.

*Romans 8:9 – But ye are not in the flesh, **but in the Spirit**, if so be that the **Spirit of God** dwell in you.*

The Old Testament also teaches that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God.

*Genesis 1:2 – And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the **Spirit of God** moved upon the face of the waters.*

The Spirit is of God, in part, because it comes out from God: *John 15:26 – But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, **even the Spirit of truth, which proceeded from the Father**, he shall testify of me.*

- **The Holy Spirit is also the Spirit of Christ (the Son).**

*Philippians 1:19 – For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of **the Spirit of Jesus**.*

*Romans 8:9 - ... Now if any man have not **the Spirit of Christ**, he is none of his.*

*Galatians 4:6 – And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth **the Spirit***

of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba Father.

The Spirit also comes out from Christ, which makes it His Spirit also: *John 20:22 – And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:*

If the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ, how many Holy Spirits are there?

Ephesians 4:4 – There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling.

Ephesians 2:18 – For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

There is only one Holy Spirit

Then how can the Spirit of God be the Spirit of Christ at the same time?

John 16:15 – All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine and show it unto you.

John 17:10 – And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.

We have learned that Christ receives everything from God which includes the Spirit as well. So Christ receives the Spirit of the Father and in turn He

(Christ) gives that same Spirit to us all who believe. And all that the Father has are Christ's by inheritance. This is how the Spirit is the Spirit of the Father and the Son.

- **The Holy Spirit is the mind of God/Christ.**

Isaiah 40:13 – Who hath directed the spirit of the Lord, or being his counsellor hath taught him?

Romans 11:34 – For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?

1Corinthians 2:16 – For who hath known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Paul in these passages in Romans and 1Corinthians, was simply quoting the text found in Isaiah 40:13. He, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, understood that the Holy Spirit is the mind of God and of Christ.

- **The Holy Spirit is the life of God and this same life is also the life of Christ because Christ receives it from the Father.**

Romans 8:10 – And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

John 6:63 – the words I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

In John 6:63, Jesus said that His words are spirit and also life. In other words, the Spirit and life are one and the same thing.

- **The Holy Spirit is the power of God and Christ.**

Judges 14:6 – And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him (Samson), and he rent him (lion) as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done.

Judges 15:14,15 – And when he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him: and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him (Samson), and the chords that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from off his hands. (15) And he found a new jawbone of an ass, and put forth his hand, and took it and slew a thousand men.

Here we have two examples in the Bible in the life of Samson where the strength that he had was not of his own, but God gave His Spirit to Samson which gave him the strength to accomplish mighty things that a normal human being could not have possibly done.

Luke 1:34,35 – Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? (35) And the angel answered and said unto her, the Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

When Mary received the message from the angel, she was taken aback since she was still a virgin when this happened and thought that it was only possible that by human works that a child could be conceived in the womb. However, with God all things are possible, and it was only by His power that a miracle as the one witnessed in the birth of Jesus was made possible.

Even Christ in His ministry as a man could perform the miracles after He was anointed with the Holy Spirit from God. Again, in the case of Jesus it was God's power that was working in Him and through Him.

Acts 10:38 – How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Acts 2:22 – Ye men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs,

which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know.

John 14:10 - Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

The apostles also performed miracles after they were anointed with the Holy Spirit at the day of Pentecost. Acts gives an account of how Peter and John healed a lame man who was begging for alms at the temple gate called Beautiful.

Acts 3:6 – Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

Peter and John healed this man in Jesus' name, that is, they healed him by the power bestowed upon them on the day of Pentecost, which is the power of Christ, and they were called before the leaders and teachers of the law on account of the miracle they were able to perform. This is recorded in the Bible in Acts 4.

Acts 4:5 – 10 And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes, (6) and Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas and John, and Alexander, and as many as were the kindred of the high

priests, were gathered together at Jerusalem. (7) And when they hath set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this? (8) Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, (9) if we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; (10) be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

The leaders of Israel were asking Peter and John by what POWER they performed the miracle. They said that it was by the name of Jesus or in other words, it was by the power of Jesus. And this power was manifested through the Spirit.

Before Christ ascended into heaven, He instructed His followers to do something and on the fulfilment of that task, they were to receive the Holy Spirit – “the power from on high.”

Luke 24:49 – And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

This, His faithful followers did and they were given the promise Jesus made unto them.

Acts 2:1,4 – And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all in one accord in one place. (4) And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

- **The Holy Spirit is the influence of God and Christ.**

As Christians, we appreciate the fact that the men who were chosen to write the Bible were under the inspiration or influence of the Spirit. They wrote nothing based on their human understanding, because human reason can sometimes be flawed. In other words, it is the mind of God at work in them as they penned the passages in the Bible. The Bible gives evidence of this and it is found in these verses:

2Timothy 3:16 – All scripture is given by inspiration [moved/influenced] of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

2Peter 1:20,21 – Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. (21) For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but the holy men of God spake as they were

moved [influenced/inspired] by the Holy Ghost.

- **The Holy Spirit is the breadth of God and Christ.**

Psalms 33:6 – By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

David gives an account of how God performed His act of creation. God spoke and it was so. And in Genesis chapter 1, it is recorded that each time God created something, living or non – living, He spoke. But we have to also remember that God created all things through Christ. So Christ did whatever the Father willed Him to do. Even when the earth and everything in it was made, Christ did nothing on His own will. So, apart from the creation of man, it was Christ who spoke the things into existence.

Christ teaches us that the words that He speaks are Spirit and life. In short, it is in reference to the Spirit (words of Christ) that David in Psalms 33:6 equates the breadth of God or the LORD to.

Further, Job33:4 reads: *The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.*

We read in the Bible that man was not spoken into existence as were the other living creatures. Man was

actually fashioned by the hands of Christ (Genesis 2:7). After he was moulded into a perfect shape and form, man did not immediately become a living being. God, through Christ, “breathed into his nostrils the breadth of life; and man became a living soul.” (Genesis 2:7). We already learned that the Spirit is life (Romans 8:10); and this life, Christ receives from the Father (John 5:26). So when Christ breathed into man, He was imparting man with His own life (Spirit) – the life (the Spirit) He inherited from the Father. In other words, it is the breadth (Spirit) of the Father that flows through His Son, Jesus Christ, that Adam became a living soul. This is what Job means when he says that the breadth of God has given him life.

We also have a record of Christ giving the Holy Spirit to His followers by breathing upon them. This we read in John 20:22 – *And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost.*

- **The Holy Spirit is the personal presence of God and Christ.**

1Corinthians 6:19 says that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. And if we turn to 2Corinthians 6:16, it says that our body is the temple of the living God. Then it goes on to say: *“as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be*

their God, and they shall be my people.”

So in receiving the Holy Spirit, does it mean then that we receive the Father and the Son or someone else called God the Holy Spirit? Speaking about the Holy Spirit that was to come, Jesus had this to say in John 14:16,17.

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

Christ explains that the world does not know the Holy Spirit but the disciples know because He (the Spirit) dwells with them and shall be **in them**. The question we should ask is, who dwelled with them when Christ spoke those words and who dwells in the hearts and minds of the believers and the disciples after Christ sent the Holy Spirit? The answer is found in these verses. But we shall answer this question in 2 parts. The first one is “who dwelled with them when the words were spoken”.

John 1:14 – And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

In short, from the scriptures we can safely conclude that it is the Son,

Jesus Christ who dwells with the disciples then. But what about the Father? Is He also present with the believers living in the days of Jesus? Yes, it is so because the scripture clearly states that God was with Jesus everywhere that He went and in whatever thing He did. So when anyone came in the presence of Christ, they, by default, came in the presence of the Father also.

Acts 10:38 – How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

John 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.

Now, for the second part of the question – who shall dwell in the hearts and minds of the believers after Christ's ascension? – the answer is found in these following passages:

Ephesians 3:17 – That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

Galatians 2:20 – I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by

the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Ephesians 2:19 - 22 – Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; (20) and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone; (21) in whom all the buildings fitly framed together growth unto a holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for the habitation of God through the Spirit.

So who dwells in us? It is God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.

In the above discussion, we have discussed, from the Bible, about the “what” of the Holy Spirit. Now the all-important question that needs to be answered is: Who is the Holy Spirit? Is the Spirit a different entity or being separate from the Father and the Son? From the above discussion, it is already clear that the Spirit is none other than the Father and the Son. But let us take a closer look at different passages from the Bible and compare scripture with scripture to make sure we are not basing our theology on human reasoning and understanding.

Q. Is the mind of God another person other than Himself ?

Isaiah 40:13 – Who hath directed the spirit of the Lord, or being his counsellor hath taught him?

Romans 11:34 – For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counselor?

1Corinthians 2:16 – For who hath known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Comparing Isaiah 40:13 with the passages in Romans and 1Corinthians, it is evident that the Holy Spirit is the mind of God and Christ.

We were created in God's image or in His likeness; and when we speak of our mind, we speak of ourselves – our inner being that is non-physical and intangible. Let us look at *1 Corinthians 2:11 – For what man knoweth the things of man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.* To put it in simple words, no one knows what goes on in the mind of a man except the man himself. In the same way no one knows what goes on in God's mind except His mind which is His inner person. It is only when His mind works or is impressed in the mind of a man that the man knows the secret things of God (1Corinthians 2:10)

Q. Who is the Father of Jesus? God the Father or the Holy Spirit?

Matthew 1:18 – Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on the wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with the child of the Holy Ghost.

Matthew 16:16 – And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son [child] of the living God.

If the Holy Spirit is a being separate or different from the Father then Christ cannot be called “the Son of the living God”. If the Spirit was a different entity, then we have a major problem and that is, God is the Father of Jesus but it is the Holy Spirit that fathered Christ. This idea does not fit into the picture painted by the Bible about God and the Holy Spirit.

Q. Who brought back Jesus to life?

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

Acts 3:15 – And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; wherefore we are witnesses.

Acts 4:10 – Be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom

God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

There are many passages in the Bible that tells us that Christ was raised to life by God the Father. In order to be consistent, we cannot conclude that the Spirit is not God Himself. John 4:24 says, **“God is a Spirit”**.

Q. Who is “the way, the truth and the life”?

John 14:6 – Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth and the life: no one comes to the Father, but by me.

Ephesians 2:18 – For through him [Christ] we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

1John 5:6 – This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that bears witness, because the Spirit is truth.

Romans 8:10 – And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Q. Who will speak through us and in us when we are brought before religious leaders and men of power and position when and if we are questioned about our faith?

Mark 13:11 – But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.

Luke 21:12 – 15 – But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name’s sake. (13) And it shall turn you for a testimony. (14) Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: (15) for I will give you a mouth of wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay or resist.

In Mark, Jesus said it is the Holy Spirit that would speak whereas, in Luke, He said that it is He **who would give us the words to speak.**

Q. Who teaches us how to pray?

Romans 8:26 - Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

The Holy Spirit helps us how to pray because on our own we do not have the wisdom to choose the right words in our conversation with our Maker.

In using careless and irreverent words, our prayers might not be acceptable unto God. Hence, when we come before God in prayer we should pray 'in the Holy Spirit' which implies praying with the help of the Spirit. This does not imply that we pray to the Spirit but that we should allow the Spirit of Christ to work in us and through us, teaching us how to pray. That is why in Jude 20 and Ephesians 6:18, the scriptures admonish the believers to pray in the Holy Spirit.

Jude 20 – But ye beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

Ephesians 6:18 – Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

One of the reasons that God gives us the Spirit is to help us pray in a way that is acceptable unto Him.

Galatians 4:6 – And because ye are sons, God hath send forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts crying Abba Father.

Comparing these four verses with Mark 14:36, it is clear that it is Christ who, in His prayer cries, "Abba Father".

Mark 14:36 – And he said, Abba Father, all things are possible unto

thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless, not what I will, but that thou wilt.

Christ in His ministry, also taught us how to pray. The record of this is found in Matthew 6:5 – 13.

Q. Who sets us free?

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

John 8:36 – If the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

The evidences portrayed in the scriptures clearly support the teaching that THE GOD is none other than the Father, and that Jesus is the Son of the God which is the basis that makes Him God by nature. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God which God gives it to His Son and the Son in turn gives it to us.

Here's a point to consider. One of the identification marks of the antichrist power, which we do not take into consideration is that this power denies the Father and the Son. This is found in 1John 2:22. It reads: "*Who is a liar a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.*"

In what way does the antichrist power deny the Father and the Son? It does this by introducing and promoting the

Trinitarian doctrine, in that it denies that the Father alone is the one and only true God and that He needs two other beings who are just like Him to make the one God of the Bible. It denies the Son by not admitting that He is the literal Son of God, and that when one receives the Holy Spirit, we receive someone else other than the Son and the Father.

It is Satan's plan and effort to take away Christ from the body of believers. He has achieved a lot of success in this regard so much so that the Christian world, in general, has come to believe that the Holy Spirit is someone else. They have also come to believe that they do not have direct access to Jesus, that they need another being to connect them to Christ. But the more we believe in this concept, the more we are driven farther and farther away from our Saviour, the Comforter. Satan also has a problem with Christ being the begotten Son of God because this prevents him from acquiring the right to be worshipped like God. He has done everything in his power to prevent Christians from acknowledging this fact. We have even come to consider worshipping and praying to the Spirit as we would the Father and Son, of which there is no evidence in the Bible to support this view. Satan does not care by what name we call him by as long as he

gets the praise and the worship that is due only to God and His Son.

Hence, it is for our benefit that we should search the scriptures for ourselves. We ought not to depend only on the interpretations of the pastors and theologians to mould our beliefs and our spiritual walk. The Bible is written in a plain and clear language that even a common man can understand. I pray that this review of biblical teaching has shed some light into your understanding of God and who He really is.

***Contact us:**

If you wish to receive Bible study on this subject or any other subject and if you wish to acquire other materials, feel free to contact us, we are more than willing to come to your aid.

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Like our Saviour, we are in this world to do service for God. We are here to become like God in character, and by a life of service to reveal Him to the world. In order to be co-workers with God, in order to become like Him and to reveal His character, we must know Him aright. We must know Him as He reveals Himself.

A knowledge of God is the foundation of all true education and of all true service. It is the only real safeguard against temptation. It is this alone that can make us like God in character.

This is the knowledge needed by all who are working for the uplifting of their fellow men. Transformation of character, purity of life, efficiency in service, adherence to correct principles, all depend upon a right knowledge of God. This knowledge is the essential preparation both for this life and for the life to come.

“The knowledge of the Holy is understanding.”
Proverbs 9:10.

Through a knowledge of Him are given unto us “all things that pertain unto life and godliness.” *2 Peter 1:3.*

“This is life eternal,” said Jesus, “that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent.” *John 17:3.*

Ministry of Healing, p.409