

# *The Forgotten Truth*

## OUR GREAT TEST.

'To stand in defense of truth and righteousness when the majority forsake us, to fight the battles of the Lord when champions are few -this will be our test'.(Review and Herald, Jan.11, 1887) {5T 136.2}

## WHAT SHOULD ALWAYS BE DONE WHEN A DOCTRINE IS PRESENTED THAT DOES NOT MEET OUR MINDS?

When a doctrine is presented that does not meet our minds, we should go to the word of God, seek the Lord in prayer, and give no place for the enemy to come in with suspicion and prejudice. We should never permit the spirit to be manifested that arraigned the priests and rulers against the Redeemer of the world. They complained that He disturbed the people, and they wished He would let them alone; for He caused perplexity and dissension. The Lord sends light to us to prove what manner of spirit we are of. We are not to deceive ourselves. {GW 301.3}

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If a brother differs with you on some points of truth, do not stoop to ridicule, do not place him in a false light or misconstrue his words, making sport of them; do not misinterpret his words and wrest them of their true meaning. This is not conscientious argument. Do not present him before others as a heretic, when you have not with him investigated his positions, taking the Scriptures text-by-text in the spirit of Christ to show him what is truth. You do not yourself really know the evidence he has for his faith, and you cannot clearly define your own position. Take your Bible, and in a kindly spirit weigh every argument that he presents,

and show him by the Scriptures if he is in error. When you do this without unkind feelings, you will do only that which is your duty and the duty of every minister of Jesus Christ. 12MR 376.1

### Hear Before You Condemn—

When new light is presented to the church, it is perilous to shut yourselves away from it. Refusing to hear because you are prejudiced against the message or the messenger will not make your case excusable before God. To condemn that which you have not heard and do not understand will not exalt your wisdom in the eyes of those who are candid in their investigations of truth. And to speak with contempt of those whom God has sent with a message of truth, is folly and madness. If our youth are seeking to educate themselves to be workers in His cause, they should learn the way of the Lord, and live by every word that proceedeth out of His mouth. They are not to make up their minds that the whole truth has been unfolded, and that the Infinite One has no more light for His people. If they entrench themselves in the belief that the whole truth has been revealed, they will be in danger of discarding precious jewels of truth that shall be discovered as men turn their attention to the searching of the rich mine of God's word.—Counsels on Sabbath School Work, 32, 33 (1892). CW 51.1

### BUT WHAT IS BEING DONE BY MANY OF THE TEACHERS IN THE CHURCHES TODAY?

This many of the teachers in the churches are doing today. They propagate error by teaching for doctrine the commandments of men. In no way do their lives honor God or the Scriptures. Falsehoods which have been handed down from century to century are taught as the Word of God. If these are questioned, those who advocate them do not say, "Let us search the Word of God, which is the test of all doctrine; let us compare scripture with scripture, for the Word of God is the treasure-house of all knowledge." Instead, they utterly refuse to make unprejudiced investigation. {ST, March 1, 1899 par. 4}

### WHO IS THE GREAT DETECTOR OF ERROR?

The word of God is the great detector of error; to it we believe everything must be brought. The Bible must be our standard for every doctrine. We must study it reverentially. We are to receive no one's opinion without comparing it with the Scriptures. Here is divine authority which is supreme in matters of faith. It is the word of the living God that is to decide all controversies. It is when men mingle their own human smartness with God's words of truth in giving sharp thrusts to those who are in controversy with them, that they show that they have not a sacred reverence for God's inspired word. They mix the human with the divine, the common with the sacred, and they belittle God's word. We must in searching the Scriptures be filled with wisdom and power that is above the human, which will so soften and subdue our hard hearts that we will search the Scriptures as diligent students, and will receive the ingrafted word, that we may know the truth, that we may teach it to others as it is in Jesus. {1888 201.1}

## MY NOTES

## ARE ALL AGREED OPINIONS IN ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCILS ALWAYS RIGHT THAT NO HONEST CHRISTIAN OR CHURCH MEMBER SHOULD QUESTION IF ANY?

Ellen G White, Great Controversy page 595.1

The opinions of learned men, the deductions of science, the creeds or decisions of ecclesiastical councils, as numerous and discordant as are the churches which they represent, the voice of the majority--not one nor all of these should be regarded as evidence for or against any point of religious faith. Before accepting any doctrine or precept, we should demand A PLAIN "THUS SAITH THE LORD" in its support. {GC 595.1}

## AGAIN, ARE EXPOSITIONS OF OTHERS INFALLIBLE?

Jesus has said, "Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life, and they are they which testify of me." The Lord would not have any of you rest satisfied with the expositions of others, with the current, popular opinions of those who are termed the leading men. their expositions are not infallible, and you are not to accept their ideas until you have compared scripture with scripture, and know for yourself that they harmonize with the living oracles. You are to know for yourselves what saith the Scripture. The Lord has revealed his will in his precious word; he has laid out his truth in clear lines, that we all may become familiar with the plan of salvation and its object, and become workmen who need not to be ashamed, but able rightly to divide the word of truth. {SSW, October 1, 1892 par. 2}

Satan is constantly endeavoring to attract attention to man in the place of God. He leads the people to look to bishops, to pastors, to professors of theology, as their guides, instead of searching the Scriptures to learn their duty for themselves. Then, by controlling the minds of these leaders, he can influence the multitudes according to his will. GC 595.2

Allow no one to be brains for you, allow no one to do your thinking, your investigating, and your praying. This is the instruction we need to take to heart today. Many of you are convinced that the precious treasure of the kingdom of God and of Jesus Christ is in the Bible which you hold in your hand. You know that no earthly treasure is attainable without painstaking effort. Why should you expect to understand the treasures of the word of God without diligently searching the Scriptures? FE 307.1

## CREED

"the first step of apostasy is to get up a creed, telling us what we shall believe. The second is to make that creed a test of fellowship. The third is to try members by that creed. The fourth is to denounce as heretics those who do not believe that creed. And fifth, to commence persecution against such." (Loughborough/ Review and Herald, October 8, 1861)

BRO. LOUGHBOROUGH. It may with equal propriety be said that we are patterning after the churches in building meeting-houses. We call the churches Babylon, not because they covenant together to obey God. I am still of the opinion I advanced sometime since through the Review: **The first step of apostasy is to get up a creed, telling us what we shall believe. The second is, to make that creed a test of fellowship. The third is to try members by**

that creed. The **fourth** to denounce as heretics those who do not believe that creed. And, **fifth**, to commence persecution against such. I plead that we are not patterning after the churches in any unwarrantable sense, in the step proposed. {October 8, 1861 UrSe, ARSH 149.7} Advent Review, and Sabbath Herald, Vol. 18 (1861) RH VOL. XVIII. - BATTLE CREEK, MICH., THIRD-DAY, - NO. 19 **DOINGS OF THE BATTLE CREEK CONFERENCE, OCT. 5 & 6, 1861**

Do not carry your **creed** to the Bible, and read the Scriptures in the light of that creed. If you find that your opinions are opposed to a plain "Thus saith the Lord," or to any command or prohibition He has given, give heed to the Word of God rather than to the sayings of men. Let every controversy or dispute be settled by "It is written." {RH, August 13, 1959 par. 2}

### WHERE IS OUR SAFE GUARD?

Scripture our safe guard!

**But God will have a people upon the earth to maintain the Bible, and the Bible only, as the standard of all doctrines and the basis of all reforms.** The opinions of learned men, the deductions of science, the creeds or decisions of ecclesiastical councils, as numerous and discordant as are the churches which they represent, the voice of the majority--not one nor all of these should be regarded as evidence for or against any point of religious faith. **Before accepting any doctrine or precept, we should demand a plain "Thus saith the Lord" in its support.** {GC 595.1}

**The track of truth lies close beside the track of error,** and both tracks may seem to be one to minds which are not worked by the Holy Spirit, and which, therefore, are not quick to discern the difference between truth and error. - 1SM 202.2

### HOW SHOULD CONTROVERSIES BE SETTLED?

Do not carry your creed to the Bible, and read the Scriptures in the light of that creed. If you find that your opinions are opposed to a plain "Thus saith the Lord," or to any command or prohibition He has given, give heed to the Word of God rather than to the sayings of men. **Let every controversy or dispute be settled by "it is written."** ...{OHC 207.3}

### WHAT THEN IS THE QUESTION?

**The question is, "What saith the Scriptures?"** Human lips may utter perverse things, lying doctrines that have no foundation in God's word, and souls may be sincere in accepting these erroneous doctrines; but will their sincerity save them from the sure and disastrous result? **The Bible is the standard of truth and holiness. If they were carefully and prayerfully living by this word, they would not be deceived.** {ST, October 29, 1885 par. 6}

### WHAT GREATER DANGER WAS FORESEEN IN MODERN ISRAEL?

**Modern Israel are in greater danger of forgetting God and being led into idolatry than were His ancient people.** Many idols are worshiped, even by professed Sabbath keepers. God especially charged His ancient people to guard against idolatry, for if they should be led away from serving the living God, His curse would rest upon them, while if they would love Him with all their heart, with all their soul, and with all their might, He would abundantly bless them in basket and in store, and would remove sickness from the midst of them. {1T 609.1}

“In the future, deception of every kind is to arise, and we want solid ground for our feet. We want solid pillars for the building. ***Not one pin is to be removed from that which the Lord has established.*** The enemy will bring in false theories, such as the doctrine that there is no sanctuary. This is one of the points on which there will be a departing from the faith. Where shall we find safety unless it be in the truths that the Lord has been giving for the last fifty years?” (Ellen White, *Review & Herald*, May 25, 1905) {RH, May 25, 1905 par. 28}

"Many of our people do not realize how firmly the foundation of our faith has been laid. My husband, Elder Joseph Bates, Father Pierce, Elder [Hiram] Edson, and others who were keen, noble, and true, were among those who, after the passing of the time in 1844, searched for the truth as for hidden treasure. I met with them, and ***we studied and prayed earnestly. Often we remained together until late at night, and sometimes through the entire night, praying for light and studying the Word.***" (Selected Messages, book 1, p. 206) {ISM 206.4}

### LET PIONEERS IDENTIFY TRUTH

“**Let Pioneers Identify Truth.—***when the power of God testifies as to what is truth that truth is to stand forever as the truth.* No after-suppositions, contrary to the light God has given are to be entertained. Men will arise with interpretations of Scripture which are to them truth, but which are not truth. The truth for this time, God has given us as a foundation for our faith. He Himself has taught us what is truth. One will arise, and still another, with new light which contradicts the light that God has given under the demonstration of His Holy Spirit. {CW 31.2}



A few are still alive who passed through the experience gained in the establishment of this truth. God has graciously spared their lives to repeat and repeat till the close of their lives, the experience through which they passed even as did John the apostle till the very close of his life. ***And the standard-bearers, who have fallen in death, are to speak through the reprinting of their writings.*** I am instructed that thus their voices are to be heard. They are to bear their testimony as to what constitutes the truth for this time. *Preach the Word*, p. 5.” (Ellen White, 1905, *Counsels to Writers and Editors*, pages 31, 32) {CW 32.1}

Let us see what Ellen White says about doctrines that are brought into the church privily.

“*Modern spiritualism*, resting upon the same foundation, is but a revival in a new form of the witchcraft and demon worship that God condemned and prohibited of old.... Peter, describing the dangers to which the church was to be exposed in the last days, says that as there were false prophets who led Israel into sin, so there will be false teachers, “who **privily** shall **bring in damnable heresies**, even denying the Lord that bought them.... And many shall follow their pernicious ways.” 2 Peter 2:1, 2. *Here the apostle has pointed out one of the marked characteristics of spiritualist teachers. They refuse to acknowledge Christ as the Son of God.* Concerning such teachers the beloved John declares: “Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father.” 1 John 2:22, 23. Spiritualism, by denying Christ, denies both the Father and the Son, and the Bible pronounces it the manifestation of antichrist.” (Ellen White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, page 686) {PP 686.1}

“2. **The doctrine of the Trinity** which was established in the church by the council of Nice, A. D. 325. **This doctrine destroys the personality of God, and his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.** The infamous measures by which it was forced upon the church which appear upon the pages of ecclesiastical history might well cause every



believer in that doctrine to blush.” {March 6, 1855 JWe, ARSH 185.34} (1854-1855) Ellen White’s husband, James White, wrote, RH VOL. VI. - ROCHESTER, N.Y., THIRD-DAY - NO. 24

“"The way spiritualizers have disposed of or denied the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ is first using **the old unscriptural Trinitarian creed viz., that Jesus Christ is the eternal God**, while we have plain scripture testimony in abundance that he is the Son of the eternal God." (James White, Jan 24 1846, The Day Star)

## MY NOTES

"As fundamental errors, we might class with this counterfeit sabbath other errors which Protestants have brought away from the Catholic Church, such as *sprinkling for baptism, the TRINITY, the consciousness of the dead and eternal life in misery*. The mass who have held these fundamental errors, have doubtless done it ignorantly; but can it be supposed that the church of Christ will carry along with her these errors till the judgment scenes burst upon the world? We think not."(James White, Review and Herald, Sept. 12, 1854, vol. 6, no. 5, page 36, par. 8) {September 12, 1854 JWe, ARSH 36.7} RH VOL. VI. - ROCHESTER, N.Y., THIRD-DAY - NO. 5

Catholic Church claims this doctrine as the central doctrine of all her false doctrines.

"The mystery of the Trinity is the central doctrine of the Catholic Faith. Upon it are based all the other teachings of the church. The church studied **this mystery** with great care and, after **four centuries** of clarification, decided to state the doctrine in this way: *in the unity of the Godhead there are three Persons,--the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit...*" (Handbook for Today's Catholic, p. 11.)

## CATHOLIC CHALLENGE.

"Our opponents [Protestants] sometimes claim that no belief should be held dogmatically which is not explicitly stated in Scripture (ignoring that it is only on the authority of the Church we recognize certain Gospels and not others as true).**But the Protestant churches have themselves accepted such dogmas as the Trinity for which there is no such precise authority in the Gospels...**" (Life Magazine, October 30, 1950).

## CURRENT CHURCH ADMISSION.

William G. Johnson, Editor of the Adventist Review stated the following:

"Adventist beliefs have changed over the years under the impact of 'present truth'. Most startling is the teaching regarding Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Many of the pioneers, including James White, J N Andrews, Uriah Smith and J H Waggoner, held to an Arian or semi-Arian view.....that is the Son at some point in time before the creation of our world was generated by the Father ...**the Trinitarian understanding of God, now part of our fundamental beliefs was not generally held by the early Adventists. Even a few today do not subscribe to it**" Adventist Review, January 6, 1994 page 10

George Knight, Andrews University Seminary professor made the following statement in Ministry, the official Seventh-day Adventist journal for ministers:

**"Most of the founders of Seventh-day Adventism would not be able to join the church today if they had to subscribe to the denomination's Fundamental Beliefs. More specifically, most would not be able to agree to belief number 2, which deals with the doctrine of the trinity."** Ministry, October, 1993, page 10

<http://ellenwhite.org/content/file/trinity-doctrine-ellen-g-white#document>

### FIRST PRINCIPLES OF OUR FAITH.

"Those who seek to remove the old landmarks are not holding fast; they are not remembering how they have received and heard. Those who try to bring in theories that would remove the pillars of our faith concerning the sanctuary or concerning the personality of God or of Christ are working as blind men. They are seeking to bring in uncertainties and to set the people of God adrift without an anchor." (Ellen White, MS 760) {MR760 9.5}

"One thing it is certain is soon to be realized, the great apostasy, which is developing and increasing and waxing stronger, and will continue to do so until the Lord shall descend from heaven with a shout. **We are to hold fast the first principles of our denominated faith and go forward from strength to increased faith.** Ever are we to keep the faith that has been substantiated by the **Holy Spirit of God** from the earlier events of our experience until the present time. We need now larger breadth, and deeper more earnest, unwavering faith in the leadings of the Holy Spirit. **If we needed the manifest proof of the Holy Spirit's power to confirm truth in the beginning**, after the passing of the time, we need today all the evidence in the confirmation of the truth, when souls are departing from the faith and giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. There must not be any languishing of soul now." (Ellen White Special Testimonies, Series B, no. 7, p57. 4 December, 1905). {SpTB07 57.1} Special Testimonies, Series B, no. 7, p57. (4 December, 1905, Sanitarium California).

### PIONEER STATEMENT OF BELIEF

**A Declaration of the Fundamental Principles Taught and Practiced by the Seventh-day Adventists, 1872 (Fundamental Principles of Seventh-day Adventists)**

- I -

**That there is one God, a personal, spiritual being,** the creator of all things, omnipotent, omniscient, and eternal, infinite in wisdom, holiness, justice, goodness, truth, and mercy; unchangeable, and **everywhere present by his representative, the Holy Spirit.** Psalm 139:7. {1872, FP1872 4.2}

- II -

That **there is one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Eternal Father,** the one by whom God created all things, and by whom they do consist; that he took on him the nature of the seed of Abraham for the redemption of our fallen race; that he dwelt among men full of grace and truth, lived our example, died our sacrifice, was raised for our justification, ascended on high to be our only mediator in the sanctuary in Heaven, where, with his own blood, he makes atonement for our sins; which atonement, so far from being made on the cross, which was but the offering of the sacrifice, is the very last portion of his work

as priest, according to the example of the Levitical priesthood, which foreshadowed and prefigured the ministry of our Lord in Heaven. See Leviticus ch. 16, Hebrews 8:4, 5; 9:6, 7. {1872, FP1872 4.3}

## Testimonies About God.

### GOD IS A SUPREME BEING.

#### *Who is the God of the Bible?*

*1- What important question does the Bible ask about God?*

*Job 11:7 Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?*

– We cannot of ourselves find out God. God Himself must tell us about Himself.

#### *2- What does God say about Himself?*

*Isaiah 40:26 Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth.*

– He is a creator of infinite power. Not only is He creator but He also upholds and maintains *all His creation*.

*Isaiah 46:9, 10 Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure*

– God is all knowing or omniscient.

#### *3- How many true gods does the Bible reveal?*

*Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD*

– God told the Israelites that He is ONE, as opposed to the heathen nations around them which worshiped multiple gods.

*Deuteronomy 4:35 Unto thee it was shewed, that thou mightest know that the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him.*

– There is none other besides Him. It is on this basis that God gave the first commandment which prohibits multiple gods.

*Jeremiah 10:10 But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king; at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.*



**4- Who is the most qualified person to tell us about the true God?**

**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 declared him.**

– Jesus, the Son of God is the highest authority on this topic.

**John 3:10 - 11** Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **We speak that we do know**, and testify that **we have seen**; and ye receive not **our witness.**

– In speaking of God Jesus tells us what He knows and has seen. That was His mission in coming down from heaven; to tell us of heavenly things.

**5- According to Jesus, who is “the only true God”?**

**John 17:1, 3** Father... And this is life eternal, that they might know **thee the only true God**, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

– The only true God, according to Jesus, is the Father. Knowing the only true God and Jesus is the key to eternal life. A correct understanding of God is an issue that affects our eternal life.

**6- Who is the Lord of heaven and earth, according to Jesus?**

**Matthew 11:25** At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, **O Father, Lord of heaven and earth**, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.

– The Father is the Lord of both heaven and earth (see also Luke 10:21).

**7- Who will the true worshippers worship?**

**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.**

– True worshippers worship the Father, the only true God, in spirit and in truth.

**8- Who did Jesus say we should pray to?**

**Matthew 6:9-13** **Our Father** which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven ... For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

– The Father’s will is done in heaven. The kingdom, power and glory belong to the Father.

**9- Which is the first commandment of all?**

**Mark 12:28-32** 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? And **Jesus** answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; **The Lord our God is one Lord**; 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. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. 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.

– Knowing God is required before we can love Him. A correct knowledge of God is vital for our relationship with Him. The scribe agreed that there is only one God, and none other but He.

**10- Did Jesus correct the scribe?**

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

– The belief of the scribe reflects the faith of the entire Jewish nation. The Jews believed in one God only.

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

**11- Did Jesus identify who is the one God of the Jewish nation?**

**John 8:54** Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God.

**12- Is He the God of the Jews only?**

**Romans 3:29** Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? **Yes,** of the Gentiles also.

**13- Did the apostles of Christ teach the Gentiles the same truth about God?**

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

– James taught that there is only one God. Even the devils know that!

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

– Paul taught that there is only one God. Jesus is the only link between us and God. We can only know God through Jesus.

**14- Who is this one true God?**

**1 Corinthians 8:4-6** We know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one. For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) 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.

– The one God is the Father.

**James 3:9** Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

**Romans 15:6** That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

**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.

– The Apostles of Christ taught that the one God is only the Father. We do not read about different persons making up one God. It is simply the Father.

### 15- Who is the living and true God?

**1 Thessalonians 1:9, 10** For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

– The “living and true God” is the Father.

### 16- Did the early Christian church maintain this belief of the Apostles?

**Acts 2:42** And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

### 17- Who is the creator of all things?

**Revelation 4:9-11** And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

**Acts 17:24** God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands.

– We saw earlier that the Lord of heaven and earth is God the Father. It is God the Father who created all things.

### 18- How did God the Father create all things?

**Ephesians 3:9** And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ.

**Colossians 1:16** For by him [Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.

**Hebrews 1:2** Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.

**John 1:3** All things were made by him [the Word]; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

### 19- Who is the head of all things?

**1 Corinthians 11:3** But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

– The head of Christ is God, who is His Father.

### 20- Does Christ have a God?

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

**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.

**Ephesians 1:17** That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him.

**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.

**Hebrews 1:9** Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

Note: This teaching was clearly revealed in the Old Testament, not just the New (see Psalm 45:7). The Father has always been, and will always be, the God of Jesus Christ our Lord.

### 21- Who does Christ belong to?

**1 Corinthians 3:23** And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.

### 22- When we get to heaven, who are we going to serve?

**Revelation 21:22, 23** And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

**Revelation 22:3** And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him.

— We shall serve and worship God and the Lamb, for this is eternal life. To know them both throughout eternity will be our theme.

### 23- Do we wait till we get to heaven or can this fellowship begin sooner?

**1 John 1:3** That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

— This fellowship can begin now as we read and learn about the Father and the Son.

## S.O.P

**“Our Father** which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. **Matt. 6:9. {AG 94.1}**

To hallow the name of the Lord requires that the words in which we speak of the Supreme Being be uttered with reverence. "Holy and reverend is his name" (Ps. 111:9). We are never in any manner to treat lightly the titles or appellations of the Deity. In prayer we enter the audience chamber of the Most High; and we should come before Him with holy awe. The angels veil their faces in His presence. The cherubim and the bright and holy

seraphim approach His throne with solemn reverence. How much more should we, finite, sinful beings, come in a reverent manner before the Lord, our Maker!" {AG 94.2} ... "The name of the Lord" is "merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, . . . forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin" (Ex. 34:5-7). Of the church of Christ it is written, "This is the name wherewith she shall be called, The Lord our Righteousness" (Jer. 33:16). This name is put upon every follower of Christ. It is the heritage of the child of God. **The family are called after the Father.** The prophet Jeremiah, in the time of Israel's sore distress and tribulation, prayed, "We are called by thy name; leave us not" (Jer. 14:9). {AG 94.3} *Amazing Grace*

## **HE IS THE RULER OF THE UNIVERSE**

*He pointed His hearers to the Ruler of the universe, under the new name, "Our Father."* He would have them understand how tenderly the heart of God yearned over them. He teaches . . . that "like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him" (Ps. 103:13). Such a conception of God was never given to the world by any religion but that of the Bible. Heathenism teaches men to look upon **the Supreme Being** as an object of fear rather than of love--a malign deity to be appeased by sacrifices, rather than **a Father** pouring upon His children the gift of His love. Even the people of Israel had become so blinded to the precious teaching of the prophets concerning God that this revelation of His paternal love was as an original subject, a new gift to the world. . . . {RC 72.5}

## **HE IS THE KING OF THE UNIVERSE**

*King of universe* summoned heavenly hosts **before Him**, that in their presence **He** might **set forth true position of His Son** and show relation He sustained to all created beings. Son of God shared Father's throne, and **glory of eternal, self-existent One encircled both.** {PP 36.2}

The plan of salvation had been laid before the creation of the earth, for Christ is "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8); **yet it was a struggle with the King of the universe to yield up His Son to die for the guilty race.** But "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16. O, the mystery of redemption! the love of God for a world that did not love Him! {EP 31.3}

## **HE IS THE ONE GOD.**

Let them be thankful to God for His manifold mercies and be kind to one another. **They have one God and one Saviour; and one Spirit--the Spirit of Christ--is** to bring unity into their ranks. {9T 189.3}

## **CHRIST IS NOT THE LORD GOD ALMIGHTY YET ONE WITH GOD.**

There is no one who can explain the mystery of the incarnation of Christ. Yet we know that He came to this earth and lived as a man among men. **The man Christ Jesus was not the Lord God Almighty, yet Christ and the Father are one.** The Deity did not sink under the agonizing torture of Calvary, yet it is nonetheless true that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." {5BC 1129.7}

## **THEY ARE ONE IN SPIRIT.**



*This is a love the depth of which no sounding can ever fathom. As the disciples comprehended it, as their perception took hold of God's divine compassion, they realized that there is a sense in which the sufferings of the Son were the sufferings of 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.** {YI, December 16, 1897 par. 5}*

## **GOD IS THE FATHER OF CHRIST.**

***God is the Father of Christ; Christ is the Son of God.** To Christ has been **given an exalted position.** He has **been made equal with the Father.** All the counsels of God are opened to His Son. {CCh 76.5}*

***God is the Father of Christ; Christ is the Son of God. To Christ has been given an exalted position. He has been made equal with the Father.** All the counsels of God are opened to His Son. {8T 268.3}*

## **THE FATHER ORDAINED HIS SON TO BE EQUAL WITH HIMSELF.**

*"The great Creator assembled the heavenly host, that He might in the presence of all the angels confer special honor upon His Son.... **The Father then made known that it was ordained by Himself that Christ, His Son, should be equal with Himself;** so that wherever was the presence of His Son, it was as His own presence. The word of the Son was to be obeyed as readily as the word of the Father. **His Son He had invested with authority to command the heavenly host.** {SR 13.2}*

## **CHRIST RECEIVED ALL THINGS FROM THE FATHER INCLUDING THE FATHER'S LIFE.**

*"**All things Christ received from God,** but He took to give. So in the heavenly courts, in His ministry for all created beings: **through the beloved Son, the Father's life flows out to all; through the Son** it returns, in praise and joyous service, a tide of love, to **the great Source of all.**" {DA 21.2}*

## **THE FATHER IS GREATER THAN THE SON.**

**The revelation between Father and Son** (Pnr. Prescott, William Warren 1855-1944) the doctrine of Christ)

*"We may conceive the Father existing from eternity and possessing infinite powers, simply because he wills so to exist, without any cause external to himself, eternal and infinite and underived; and of the Son existing with the Father from eternity, and possessing to the full the Father's infinite powers, but these received from the Father, existing because the Father wills him so to exist, eternal and infinite and derived. This conception will account for the entire language of the New Testament about the Son of God." {1920 WWP, TDOC 20.5}*

*"The Son is equal to the Father in everything except that which is conveyed by the terms Father and Son. He is equal to the Father in that he shares to the full the Father's existence from eternity and his infinite power and wisdom and love. **But inasmuch as the Father possesses these divine attributes from himself alone, whereas the Son possesses them as derived from the Father, in this real sense and in this sense only, the Father is greater than the Son.**" {1920 WWP, TDOC 20.6}*

"Evidently in an eternal Father and an eternal Son the ideas of older and younger can have no place. As we lift up the conception of son ship out of time into eternity, these elements of it, ever present in human fathers and sons, at once disappear. When they fall away, does {1920 WWP, TDOC 20.7}

any conception essential to our idea of son ship remain? Yes; there still remains the chief idea, viz., personal existence and powers derived from another person. And this idea is plainly embodied in John 5:26, and in other express assertions from the lips of Christ describing his own relation to God." {1920 WWP, TDOC 21.1}

*"The Father was greater than the Son in that he was first. The Son was equal with the Father in that he had received all things from the Father."* ( *The Review & Herald*, January 4, 1881).

## MY NOTES

"Some have difficulty in reconciling Christ's statement in John 14:28, "My Father is greater than I," with the idea that he is God, and is entitled to worship. Some, indeed, dwell upon that text alone as sufficient to overthrow the idea of Christ's divinity; but if that were allowed, it would only prove a contradiction in the Bible, and even in Christ's own speech, for it is most positively declared, as we have seen, that he is divine. There are two facts which are amply sufficient to account for Christ's statement recorded in John 14:28. **One is that Christ is the Son of God. While both are of the same nature, the Father is first in point of time. He is also greater in that he had no beginning, while Christ's personality had a beginning.** Then, too, the statement is emphatically true in view of the position which Christ had assumed. He "emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men." Phil. 2:7, Revised Version. He was "made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death." Heb. 2:9. In order to redeem men, he had to come where they were. **He did not lay aside his divinity, but he laid aside his glory, and veiled his divinity with humanity.** So his statement, "My Father is greater than I," is perfectly consistent with the claim, made by himself as well as by all who wrote of him, that he was and is God. {October 1, 1889 EJW, BEST 298.3}

### **Conclusion:**

We have seen that the word of God clearly tells us there is only one God. That one God is none other than the Father. This one God is the source of ALL life and power. The only way for us to know God is through His Son Jesus, who came to bring to us a true knowledge of God.

*If there is only one true God, the Father, then what of Jesus Christ? Who is He?*  
*The next lesson will examine this question.*

# Testimonies About The Jesus Christ.

## CHRIST IS GOD'S BEGOTTEN SON.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God

### 1- Who did Jesus say that He was?

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

**John 5:18** Therefore the Jews sought 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.

– Jesus said that God was His Father. His claims to equality of God were based on His Sonship. This was the highest claim of Jesus.

### 2- What did the Father testify regarding Jesus?

**Matthew 3:16, 17** And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

**Matthew 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.

### 3- What was the understanding of the disciples about who Jesus was?

**Matthew 16:15, 16** He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

– Peter expressed the faith of the 12 disciples. They knew that Jesus was the Son of the Living God.

**John 11:27** She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

**Matthew 14:33** Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.

### 4- Did Satan and his demons know who Jesus was?

**Luke 4:3** And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread.

– Satan, before his fall from heaven, knew that Jesus was the Son of God. In the wilderness of temptation the devil challenged this fact.

**Luke 8:28** When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not.

**Mark 5:7** And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.

– Even the demons, or fallen angels, knew the identity of Christ.

### 5- Is there anyone else referred to as the 'son of God'?

**Luke 3:38** Which was the son of Enos, which was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God.

– Adam was the son of God by creation (Genesis 5:1). Also the angels (Job 38:7)

**1 John 3:1** Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

– We are sons of God by adoption (Romans 8:15)

### 6- With what special term does the Bible describe Christ?

**1 John 4:9** In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

– Jesus is the 'Only begotten Son'. He is not a son by creation, as was Adam; nor is He a son by adoption, like us; but He is a Begotten Son.

**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.

– God gave His only begotten Son. It is clear that God must have had a Son before He could send Him.

**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.

– The Word that was made flesh is Christ. The only begotten of the Father became a man. The Son of God became the Son of man.

**Hebrew 1:5** For unto which of the angels said he at any time, thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? Again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?

– Contrary to angels who were created, the Son of God is the only begotten, his nature is divine.

### 7- When did Jesus become the Son of man?

**Galatians 4:4** But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law.

**Luke 1:31** And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

### 8- Did Jesus become the Son of God at Bethlehem, or was it before?

**Proverbs 8:22-30** 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.

– Christ is the wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:24, 30; Colossians 2:3). Here we see Christ speaking of His birth before anything was ever created. It was at the very beginning of all things, way beyond our grasp.

**John 1:1, 2** 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.

– Jesus is the Word, who was with God in the beginning of all things, for He made all things.

**Micah 5:2** But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

– ‘Goings forth’ also means ‘origin’. The Son of God was brought forth in the days of antiquity, or from everlasting (margin: the days of eternity).

**Proverbs 30:4** Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?

– Only the Father and the Son were involved in the act of creation. Clearly the Son was born/begotten before the creation of anything took place.

Note: Christ is not here acting or pretending to be a Son. He is a real and literal Son, by birth. Else he would be lying.

**9- The Father loved us so much that He gave His Son. How much does the Father love the Son?**

**John 3:35** The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.

– God’s love to His Son is beyond measure.

**10- By virtue of His divine birth, what did the Son of God inherit?**

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

– The Son of God inherited the name of His Father.



**Exodus 23:20, 21** Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared. Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him.

– The Son of God had His Father’s name long before Bethlehem, thus teaching that He was begotten of His Father long before the incarnation.

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

– The very same life that the Father has was given to His Son by inheritance. This is immortal, original life that the Son can give to those who believe (**John 17:2**). This was done at creation as well, when the Son gave life to all creatures. The Father’s life flows out to all through the beloved Son.

### 10- What name did Christ have in heaven before He came to earth?

**Revelation 12:7** And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels.

– ‘Michael’ means ‘one who is like God’. The only one who is like God is His Son.

**Isaiah 40:18** To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?

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

– The Son of God is the express image and likeness of His Father. He is so for He was brought forth (begotten) from the Father.

Note: it is falsely understood that attributing the name Michael to Christ makes Him a mere angel, or a created being. This is not so, because Christ is the Son of God, and thus is the Prince of heaven. Consequently, He is the commander and chief of all the angels (He is the archangel). It was He who commanded the angels in the war in heaven. He is the prince of the angels, as well as the prince of His people on earth. (See **Daniel 12:1**, **Jude 9**, **1 Thessalonians 4:16**, it is Christ in every case)

### 11- Does that make Jesus a divine being, worthy of our praise and worship?

**Hebrews 1: 8, 6** But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

– Jesus inherited the name of His Father. He is God by nature. Just like a human being who has a son, that son would also be a human being. So the Father who is divine (God) has a divine Son. He calls the Son God and commands all to worship Him.

**Colossians 2:9; 1:19** For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell.

– The fullness of the Godhead, or divinity, dwells in the Son. He is fully divine because His Father is God.

**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.

– We honour and worship the Son as much as the Father. They are both of the same divine nature. We pay supreme honour to God when we honour and reverence His Son.

### **12- How important is it for us to understand that Jesus is the real and literal Son of God?**

**1 John 2:22, 23** Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.

– If we deny that Jesus is the Son, we have the spirit of Satan (antichrist). In so doing we also deny the Father.

**1 John 5:10, 11** He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself; he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

**John 3:36** He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

**John 20:31** But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

**13- Some are confused regarding the word ‘begotten’ thinking it means the same thing as ‘created’. The difference between ‘begotten’ and ‘created’ is clearly seen when we compare Christ with Lucifer (before his fall). What is the difference between Christ and Lucifer?**

**Proverbs 8:24, 25** 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.

- Twice we are told that Christ was “brought forth” or “begotten.”

**Ezekiel 28:13, 15** Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.

- Twice we are told that Lucifer was “created.” Christ was “brought forth” while Lucifer was “created.” There is a world of difference between these two words. To say that “begotten” means the same thing as “created” is to equate Christ with Lucifer! People should be careful before they dishonour Christ in such a way.

#### 14- What important question did Jesus ask the blind man?

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

– Believing on the Son of God is our life-line.

#### 15- Why did the Jews kill Christ?

**Matthew 26:63-65** But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy.

– Jesus' answer "thou hast said" means 'you have said right/correctly'

**John 19:7** The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, **because** he made himself the Son of God.

– They refused to accept Jesus was indeed the Son of God. They knew that such a claim made Him equal with God. (John 10:33)

#### 15- What great promise is given to those who believe?

**John 1:12** But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

## S.O.P

"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.**" {PP 34.1}

### HE IS NOT AN ADOPTED OR CREATED.

*"Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Savior, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins." A complete offering has been made; for "God so loved the world, that **he gave his only-begotten Son,**"-- not a son by creation, as were the angels, nor a son by adoption, as is the forgiven sinner, but a Son begotten in the express image of the Father's person, and in all the brightness of his majesty and glory, one equal with God in authority, dignity, and divine perfection. In him dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. (The Signs of the Times - 05-30-95) {ST, May 30, 1895 par. 3}*

## HE IS THE FIRST BORN OF HEAVEN

*The dedication of the first-born had its origin in the earliest times. God had promised to give the First-born of heaven to save the sinner.* This gift was to be acknowledged in every household by the consecration of the first-born son. He was to be devoted to the priesthood, as a representative of Christ among men. *DA 51.1*

*Christ is the only literal Son of God. "The only begotten of the Father." John 1:14. He is God because he is the Son of God; not by virtue of His resurrection. If Christ is the only begotten of the Father, then we cannot be begotten of the Father in a literal sense. It can only be in a secondary sense of the word (The Review & Herald, October 12, 1869).*

## MY NOTES

## HE IS THE FIRST BORN OF GOD

*"He was born of the Holy Ghost. In other words, Jesus Christ was born again. He came from heaven, God's first-born, to the earth, and was born again. But all in Christ's work goes by opposites for us: He, the sinless one, was made to be sin in order that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. He, the living One, the Prince and Author of life, died that we might live. He whose goings forth have been from the days of eternity, the first-born of God, was born again in order that we might be born again (Christian Perfection, paragraph 53 "The Sermon. Christian Perfection" 1 The Advent Review and Sabbath Herald 76, 31, pp. 487, 488. A. T. JONES). (This is also found in Lessons on Faith, p. 154.) {August 1, 1899 ATJ, ARSH 487.2}*

## BORN IN THE FORM OF GOD

*"He who was born in the form of God took the form of man (The General Conference Bulletin, 1895, p. 449). {March 4, 1895 ATJ, GCB 448.7}*

## BORN IN THE DAYS OF ETERNITY

*The Scriptures declare that Christ is "the only begotten son of God." He is begotten, not created. As to when He was begotten, it is not for us to inquire, nor could our minds grasp it if we were told. The prophet Micah tells us all that we can know about it in these words, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from the days of eternity." Micah 5:2, margin. There was a time when Christ proceeded forth and came from God, from the bosom of the Father (John 8:42; 1:18), but that time was so far back in the days of eternity that to finite comprehension it is practically without beginning. But the point is that Christ is a begotten Son and not a created subject. He has by inheritance a more excellent name than the angels; He is "a Son over His own house." Heb. 1:4; 3:6. And since He is the only-begotten son of God, He is of the very substance and nature of God and possesses by birth all the attributes of God, for the Father was pleased that His Son should*

be the express image of His Person, the brightness of His glory, and filled with all the fullness of the Godhead. (E.J. Waggoner, Sermon in 1888, also in *Christ and His Righteousness*) {1890 EJW, CHR 21.2}

***“In arguing the perfect equality of the Father and the Son, and the fact that Christ is in very nature God, we do not design to be understood as teaching that the Father was not before the Son. It should not be necessary to guard this point, lest some should think that the Son existed as soon as the Father; yet some go to that extreme, which adds nothing to the dignity of Christ, but rather detracts from the honor due him, since many throw the whole thing away rather than accept a theory so obviously out of harmony with the language of Scripture, that Jesus is the only begotten Son of God. He was begotten, not created. He is of the substance of the Father, so that in his very nature he is God; and since this is so “it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell.” Col. 1:19 ... While both are of the same nature, the Father is first in point of time. He is also greater in that he had no beginning, while Christ’s personality had a beginning (E. J. Waggoner, The Signs of the Times, April 8, 1889). {October 1, 1889 EJW, BEST 298.2}***

### **SATAN WAS TRYING TO OBSCURE THIS TRUTH FROM HEAVEN.**

Angels were expelled from heaven because they would not work in harmony with God. They fell from their high estate because they wanted to be exalted. They had come to exalt themselves, and they forgot that their beauty of person and of character came from the Lord Jesus. **This fact the [fallen] angels would obscure, that Christ was the only begotten Son of God, and they came to consider that they were not to consult Christ.** TDG 128.2

### **Conclusion:**

Jesus Christ is the only-begotten Son of God. He was begotten of the Father in the ages of eternity past. He was not created out of nothing, as Lucifer was, but was brought forth from the substance of His Father. This is the evidence and proof of His divinity and deity. This was His consistent teaching while here on earth, and this is the testimony of the Scriptures.

**If there is only one true God, the Father, who has a begotten Son, Christ, then what of the Holy Spirit? Who is He?**

The next lesson will examine this question.

## *Testimonies About The Holy Spirit.*

### **The Holy Spirit of God**

#### **1- What is the Biblical definition for “Spirit”?**

**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?

– Here we learn the plain Bible definition for “spirit”. Spirit = mind. Spirit of the Lord = mind of the Lord. Note: the use of capital letters does not exist in the original Hebrew and Greek texts.

## 2- What is another Biblical definition for “Spirit”?

**John 6:63** It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

– Jesus plainly taught that His words are two things: spirit and life. Thus teaching that spirit = life. This spirit/life is in his words. Words express our thoughts/mind. God’s words express His divine mind. Now we can build this formula: spirit = mind = life.

## 3- Many people are confused over the ‘Holy Spirit’. How does God clarify the matter for us?

**1 Corinthians 2:11** 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.

– God’s spirit and man’s spirit are comparable to each other. We can learn about the Spirit of God by looking at the spirit of man. That is simple, since man was made in the image and likeness of God.

## 4- Is the spirit of man a different individual to the man?

**Daniel 2:1** And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him.

– Who was troubled here? Is it the king himself or someone else? It is certainly the king. His spirit, which is his mind, was troubled. His spirit is not a different individual to him!

## 5- What did Jesus promise before He left?

**John 14:16, 17, 26** And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him; but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

– Jesus will send a Comforter. The Comforter is the Spirit of truth. It is the Holy Ghost, or Holy Spirit.

Note: we read in **1 John 4:6** We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error. If the spirit of truth (**John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13**) is an individual being then we must also believe that the spirit of error is another individual being in his own right. On the other hand, it is clear that the spirit of truth is a reference to the Spirit of Christ Himself (Jesus said “I am the truth”), not someone else. Just as the spirit of error is a reference ultimately to Satan, not someone else!

## 6- Where does this Spirit of truth come from?

**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.

– The Holy Spirit comes from the Father. Proceeds from the Father. It means to go forth, to issue from.

### 7- What will this Spirit do?

**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.

– The Holy Spirit will give us the right words.

**Matthew 10:20** For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

– It is the Spirit of the Father. So the Father has a spirit, and that spirit is a holy spirit. The word ‘Holy’ is an adjective.

### 8- How can we hurt God?

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

– When we grieve the holy spirit of God we hurt God Himself, not someone else. We can’t hurt God physically, but we can hurt His feelings.

**Genesis 6:3, 6** And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

– God was hurt by the wickedness of man before the Flood. They grieved His Holy Spirit, they grieved Him at His heart.

### 9- If the Father has a spirit, does the Son have one too?

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

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

**1 Peter 1:11** Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

– So Jesus Christ has a Spirit as well.

### 10- How many spirits are there?

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

– There is only one Spirit, not two or three. This one spirit is shared by the Father and Son. It is both the spirit of God and the spirit of Christ.

**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. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

– So the Spirit of the Father and Christ is the same one Spirit. The Father and Son share that one spirit/life/mind.

### **11- So when we receive the Holy Spirit who do we receive?**

**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.

– In receiving the Holy Spirit we actually receive the Father and the Son, not someone else different to them. The Holy Spirit is the personal presence of Christ Himself.

### **12- Who comes to us to be our Comforter?**

**John 14:18, 19** I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

– Jesus Christ is our Comforter! It is Jesus, not another person, who comforts us in our trials on this earth.

### **13- Who will the Father send to the converted?**

**Acts 3:19, 20** Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you.

– He will send forth Jesus.

### **14- We know that Jesus was made flesh in John 1:14, but what else was he made?**

**1 Corinthians 15:45** And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

– The last Adam is Christ Himself (v.22), He was made a ‘spirit that gives life’ or a ‘life giving spirit’. So Christ was made 2 things: flesh and Spirit.

### **15- How does the Father send Jesus to us? Is it Jesus in flesh or in Spirit?**

**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 of His Son. It is the Holy Spirit of Jesus.

### **16- When we receive the Spirit of Jesus, is that someone different to Christ?**

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

– The Lord is Jesus (1 Corinthians 8:6). So if there is one Lord, and there is one Spirit, and the Lord is that Spirit it follows then that Christ comes to us as the Holy Spirit. He Himself comes as a personal Comforter, not a different individual, nor an impersonal force.

**17- What happens to us when we receive the Spirit of Christ?**

**1 Corinthians 6:17** But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.

– We become one with the Lord in the Spirit.

**18- How is this process described by Peter?**

**2 Peter 1:4** Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

– We become partakers by being joined to the Lord in Spirit.

**19- What did Christ say about His words?**

**John 6:63** The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

– In other words the Spirit is Life. We can obtain this life by taking in the word of God.

**Colossians 3:16** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

**John 15:5, 7** I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

– When the word of Christ abides in us we have life. We have the Spirit of God. Christ abides in our hearts by His words, which are spirit and life!

**20- What was the only means through which we could obtain this Life/Spirit?**

**John 10:11, 15** I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

**Luke 23:46** And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost.

– Jesus had to lay down His life for us. He had to lay down His Spirit as a regenerating agent for us.

**21- What did Jesus pray just before He went to the cross?**

**John 17:20, 21** Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

– This is done through the Spirit of the Father and the Son: the Holy Spirit. We become one as the Father and Son are one.

## **22- How are the Father and the Son one?**

**John 14:10, 20** Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father 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. At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

– Jesus and the Father are one through the Spirit which they share. This is the Spirit which the Father sends into our hearts.

## **23- How do we become the sons of God?**

**Romans 8:15** For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

– Through the Spirit that God gives us. His own spirit and life becomes ours. So we are adopted into the family of God.

## **24- What does Paul say that we, as sons of God, are?**

**1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19** Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

– God lives in us, His temple, by His Holy Spirit. This Holy Spirit is the personal presence of Christ Himself, our Comforter.

## **25- What is the invitation that Christ offers us?**

**Revelation 3:20** Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

– Christ Himself will come and live in us.

**Colossians 1:27** 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.

– This is the hope of eternal life. Only through Jesus, and no one else, is this hope realized. Christ wants to live in our hearts through His Holy Spirit.

**S.O.P**



## THE GLORY OF GOD

Jesus is seeking to impress upon them the thought that in giving his Holy Spirit he is giving to them the glory which the Father has given him, that he and his people may be one in God. Our way and will must be in submission to God's will, knowing that it is holy, just, and good. {ST, October 3, 1892 par. 4}

Never before have the angels listened to such a prayer. They are eager to bear to their loved Commander a message of assurance and comfort. But no; the Father Himself will answer the petition of His Son. Direct from the throne issue the beams of His glory. The heavens are opened, and upon the Saviour's head descends a dovelike form of purest light,--fit emblem of Him, the meek and lowly One. {DA 112.1}

Of the vast throng at the Jordan, few except John discerned the heavenly vision. Yet the solemnity of the divine Presence rested upon the assembly. The people stood silently gazing upon Christ. His form was bathed in the light that ever surrounds the throne of God. His upturned face was glorified as they had never before seen the face of man. From the open heavens a voice was heard saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." {DA 112.2}

In Christ is gathered all the glory of the Father. In Him is all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. He is the brightness of the Father's glory, and the express image of His person. The glory of the attributes of God are expressed in His character. The gospel is glorious because it is made up of His righteousness. It is Christ unfolded, and Christ is the gospel embodied. Every page of the New Testament Scriptures shines with His light. Every text is a diamond, touched and irradiated by the divine rays. {7BC 907.3}

This is the glory that Christ poured to His disciples at Pentecost immediately he received it.

Christ was God manifest in the flesh; in him dwelt "all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." All this glory he longed to pour upon the world, but men refused to receive it. They were given evidence upon evidence; but they bound themselves up in their stubborn unbelief and prejudice. Therefore they were without excuse. {YI, March 21, 1901 par. 8}

He stepped into the chariot and was borne to the holiest, where the Father sat. There I beheld Jesus, a great High Priest, standing before the Father. On the hem of His garment was a bell and a pomegranate, a bell and a pomegranate. Those who rose up with Jesus would send up their faith to Him in the holiest, and pray, "My Father, give us Thy Spirit." Then Jesus would breathe upon them the Holy Ghost. In that breath was light, power, and much love, joy, and peace.{EW 55.1}

Let's now look at the other company that was also praying to the Father for the Holy Spirit in 1844.

I turned to look at the company who were still bowed before the throne; they did not know that Jesus had left it. Satan appeared to be by the throne, trying to carry on the work of God. I saw them look up to the throne, and pray, "Father, give us Thy Spirit." Satan would then breathe upon them an unholy influence; in it there was light and much power, but no sweet love, joy, and peace. Satan's object was to keep them deceived and to draw back and deceive God's children. {EW 56.1}

## THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE LIFE OF GOD AND CHRIST.

As the divine endowment--the power of the Holy Spirit--was given to the disciples, so it will today be given to all who seek aright. This power alone is able to make us wise unto salvation and to fit us for the courts above. Christ wants to give us a blessing that will make us holy. "These things have I spoken unto you," He says, "that My joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." John 15:11. Joy in the Holy Spirit is health-giving, life-giving joy. **In giving us His Spirit, God gives us Himself, making Himself a fountain of divine influences, to give health and life to the world.** {7T 273.1}

The Holy Spirit is the breath of spiritual life in the soul. **The impartation of the Spirit is the impartation of the life of Christ.** It imbues the receiver with the attributes of Christ. Only those who are thus taught of God, those who possess the inward working of the Spirit, and in whose life the Christ-life is manifested, are to stand as representative men, to minister in behalf of the church. {DA 805.3}

All who consecrate body, soul, and spirit to God's service will be constantly receiving a new endowment of physical, mental, and spiritual power. The inexhaustible supplies of heaven are at their command. **Christ gives them the breath of His own spirit, the life of His own life.** The Holy Spirit puts forth its highest energies to work in heart and mind. {6T 306.2}

The influence of **the Holy Spirit is the life of Christ in the soul.** We do not now see Christ and speak to Him, but **His Holy Spirit** is just as near us in one place as another. It works in and through every one who receives Christ. Those who know the indwelling of the Spirit reveal the fruit of the Spirit--love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith. {TMK 57.5}

**The influence of the Holy Spirit is the life of Christ in the soul.** This Spirit works in and through everyone who receives Christ. Those who know the indwelling of this Spirit reveal its fruit--love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith.--Review and Herald, Oct. 26, 1897. {YRP 130.6}

The Indwelling of the Spirit.--The influence of **the Holy Spirit is the life of Christ in the soul.** **We do not see Christ and speak to Him, but His Holy Spirit is just as near us in one place as in another.** **IT** works in and through every one who receives Christ. Those who know the indwelling of the Spirit reveal the fruits of the Spirit--love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith (MS 41, 1897). {6BC 1112.1}

**The life of Christ in the soul is as a well of water, springing up unto everlasting life.** It leads to a constant cultivation of the heavenly graces and to a kindly submission in all things to the Lord. It enables us to reveal that Christ is abiding in the soul. . . . {UL 72.3}

This life of Christ in our soul which is as a well of water, springing up unto everlasting life is the Holy Spirit for Christ himself told us these in John.

**John 7:38-39**

He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, **out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.** 39 (**But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.**)

**THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE PRESENCE AND POWER OF GOD AND CHRIST.**

**The Bible shows us God in His high and holy place, not in a state of inactivity, not in silence and solitude, but surrounded by ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands of thousands of holy beings, all waiting to do His will. Through these messengers He is in active communication with every part of His dominion. By His Spirit He is everywhere present. Through the agency of His Spirit and His angels He ministers to the children of men.** *MH 417.2*

The greatness of God is to us incomprehensible. **“The Lord’s throne is in heaven” (Psalm 11:4); yet by His Spirit He is everywhere present.** He has an intimate knowledge of, and a personal interest in, all the works of His hand. *Ed 132.2*

“I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you.” **divine Spirit that world’s Redeemer promised to send, is presence and power of God.** He will not leave his people in world destitute of his grace, to be buffeted by enemy of God, and harassed by oppression of world; but he will come to them. world cannot see truth; they know not Father or Son, but it is only because they do not desire to know God, they do not wish to look upon Jesus, to see his goodness, his love, his heavenly attractions. **Jesus is inviting all men to accept him; and wherever heart is open to receive him, he will come in, gladdening soul with light and joy of his presence.** *{ST November 23, 1891 Par 1}*

“Cumbered with humanity, Christ could not be in every place personally therefore it was altogether for their advantage that He should leave them, go to His father, and send the Holy Spirit to be His successor on earth. **The Holy Spirit is Himself [Christ] divested of the personality of humanity and independent thereof.** He would represent Himself as present in all places by His Holy Spirit, as the Omnipresent.” *{MSR# 1084 – 7; MS 5a, (1895)} {14MR 23.3}*

**While Jesus ministers in the sanctuary above, He is still by His Spirit the minister of the church on earth. He is withdrawn from the eye of sense, but His parting promise is fulfilled, “Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.” Matthew 28:20. While He delegates His power to inferior ministers, His energizing presence is still with His church.** *DA 166.2*

## **CHRIST IS THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH.**

The Holy Spirit is constantly at work, teaching, reminding, testifying, coming to the soul as a divine comforter, convincing of sin as an appointed judge and guide.

**Christ was the spirit of truth.** The world will not listen to His pleadings. They would not accept Him as their guide. They could not discern unseen things; spiritual things were unknown to them. But His disciples see in Him the Way, the Truth, and the Life. **And they shall have His abiding presence.** They shall have an **experimental knowledge of the only true God and of Jesus Christ whom He hath sent.** *{SW October 25th 1898.1}*

## **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE DIVINITY OF CHRIST’S PERSON**

“It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:57, 63). **Christ is not here referring to doctrine, but to his person, the divinity of character.** *{ISM 249.3}*

**"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." Christ is not here referring to his doctrine, but to his person, the divinity of his character.**" {E. G. White, *Review and Herald*, April 5, 1906 par. 12}

### THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE DIVINE MIND OF GOD AND CHRIST.

**"Now if any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of his."** This is close language. Who can stand the test? The word of God is to us a daguerreotype of the mind of God and of Christ, also of man fallen, and man renewed after the image of Christ, possessing the divine mind." {E. G. White, *Review and Herald*, June 22, 1886 par. 4} (Daguerreotype means: a picture image or exact copy)

**"You have the Bible. Study it for yourself. The teachings of the divine directory are not to be ignored or perverted. The divine mind will guide those who desire to be led.**" {E. G. White, *This Day with God*, {TDG 188.4}

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

**"The same divine mind that is working upon the things of nature is speaking to the hearts of men and creating an inexpressible craving for something they have not. The things of the world cannot satisfy their longing. The Spirit of God is pleading with them to seek for those things that alone can give peace and rest-the grace of Christ, the joy of holiness. Through influences seen and unseen, our Saviour is constantly at work to attract the minds of men from the unsatisfying pleasures of sin to the infinite blessings that may be theirs in Him."** {E. G. White, *Steps to Christ*, p. 28}

**"Character is influence. Christ's work was to draw minds into sympathy with his own divine mind."** {E. G. White, *Review and Herald*, September 29, 1891 par. 14}

### THIS DIVINE MIND IS HIS DIVINE NATURE.

**"Fallen men, in one sense, could not be companions for Christ, for they could not enter into sympathy with his divine nature, and hold communion with the world's Redeemer."** {E. G. White, *The Signs of the Times*, December 11, 1879 par. 3}

**"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." Christ is not here referring to his doctrine, but to his person, the divinity of his character.**" {E. G. White, *Review and Herald*, April 5, 1906 par. 12}

### THE HOLY SPIRIT IS REFFERED AS "IT"

#### SIGNS OF THE TIMES, September 27, 1899

We need to pray for the **impartation of the divine Spirit** as the remedy for sin-sick souls. The surface truths of revelation, made plain and easy to be understood, are accepted by many as supplying all that is essential; but **the Holy Spirit**, working upon the mind, awakens an earnest desire for truth uncorrupted by error. He who is really desirous to know what is truth can not remain in ignorance; for precious truth rewards the diligent seeker. We need



to feel the **converting power of God's grace**, and I urge all who have closed their heart against **God's Spirit** to unlock the door, and plead earnestly, Abide with me. Why should we not prostrate ourselves at the throne of divine grace, praying that **God's Spirit may be poured out upon us as it was upon the disciples?** **Its** presence will soften our hard hearts, and fill us with joy and rejoicing, transforming us into channels of blessing. {ST, September 27, 1899 par. 7}

The Lord would have every one of His children rich in faith, and this faith is the fruit of the working of **the Holy Spirit upon the mind**. **It** dwells with each soul who will receive **it**, speaking to the impenitent in words of warning, and pointing them to Jesus, the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world. **It** causes light to shine into the minds of those who are seeking to co-operate with God, giving them efficiency and wisdom to do His work. {ST, September 27, 1899 par. 8}

“**The Spirit is freely given us of God** if we will appreciate and accept **it**, and what is **it**? The representative of Jesus Christ. **It** is to be our constant helper. **It is through the Spirit that Christ fulfills His promise**, “I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.” “Verily, verily I say unto you, he that believeth on me hath everlasting life.” {The 1888 Materials, p.1538} {1888 1538.2}

## HOW MANY SPIRITS ARE IN THE WORLD.

Forty-five years ago, when I commenced my labors, we met many erroneous doctrines. One and another would say, “I have the truth, because my feelings tell me so.” Others declared that they were led of the Spirit; **but there are two spirits in the world,—the Spirit of God and the spirit of Satan**. {ST, November 24, 1887 par. 7}

## WHO IS OUR COMFORTER?

The Holy Spirit is Christ's representative, but **divested of the personality of humanity, and independent thereof**. **Cumbered with humanity**, Christ could not be in every place personally. Therefore it was for their [the disciples'] interest that He should go to the Father, and send the Spirit to be His successor on earth. No one could then have any advantage because of his location or his personal contact with Christ. **By the Spirit the Saviour would be accessible to all**. . . . {FLB 56.2}

The Holy Spirit is Christ's representative, **but divested of the personality of humanity, and independent thereof**. **Cumbered with humanity, Christ could not be in every place personally**. Therefore it was for their interest that He should go to the Father, and send the Spirit to be His successor on earth. No one could then have any advantage because of his location or his personal contact with Christ. **By the Spirit the Saviour would be accessible to all**. In this sense He would be nearer to them than if He had not ascended on high. {DA 669.2}

“When trials overshadow the soul, remember the words of Christ, remember that **He is an unseen presence in the person of the Holy Spirit**, and He will be the peace and comfort given you, manifesting to you that He is with you, the Sun of Righteousness, chasing away your darkness. “If a man love me,” Christ said, “he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.” Letter 124, 1897.” {DG 185.2}

“Christ declared that after his ascension, he would send to his church, as his crowning gift, the Comforter, who was to take his place. **This Comforter is the Holy Spirit,—the soul of his life**, the efficacy of his church, the light and life of the world. With his Spirit Christ sends a reconciling influence and a power that takes away sin.” {EGW, RH, May 19, 1904 par. 1}

How essential that we have the enlightenment of the Spirit of God; for thus only can we see the glory of Christ, and by beholding become changed from character to character in and through faith in Christ. . . . He has grace and pardon for every soul. As by faith we look to Jesus, our faith pierces the shadow, and **we adore God for His wondrous love in giving us Jesus the Comforter.** . . . {SD 124.4}

**There is no comforter like Christ,** so tender and so true. He is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. His Spirit speaks to the heart. Circumstances may separate us from our friends; the broad, restless ocean may roll between us and them. Though their sincere friendship may still exist, they may be unable to demonstrate it by doing for us that which would be gratefully received. But no circumstances, no distance, can separate us from the heavenly Comforter. Wherever we are, wherever we may go, He is always there, one given in Christ's place, to act in His stead. He is always at our right hand, to speak soothing, gentle words, to support, sustain, uphold, and cheer. **The influence of the Holy Spirit is the life of Christ in the soul.** This Spirit works in and through every one who receives Christ. Those who know the indwelling of this Spirit reveal its fruit--love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith. {TMK 171.5}

Let them study the seventeenth of John, and learn how to pray and how to live the prayer of Christ. **He is the Comforter.** He will abide in their hearts, making their joy full. His words will be to them as the bread of life, and in the strength thus gained they will be enabled to develop characters that will be an honor to God. Perfect Christian fellowship will exist among them. There will be seen in their lives the fruit that always appears as the result of obedience to the truth. {RC 200.2}

"I will pray the Father, and He shall give **you another Comforter**, that He may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you" [John 14:16, 17]. **This refers to the omnipresence of the Spirit of Christ, called the Comforter.** Again Jesus says, "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth is come, He will guide you into all truth" [John 16:12, 13]. 14MR 179.2

**"I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you."** **divine Spirit that world's Redeemer promised to send, is presence and power of God.** He will not leave his people in world destitute of his grace, to be buffeted by enemy of God, and harassed by oppression of world; but he will come to them. world cannot see truth; they know not Father or Son, but it is only because they do not desire to know God, they do not wish to look upon Jesus, to see his goodness, his love, his heavenly attractions. **Jesus is inviting all men to accept him; and wherever heart is open to receive him, he will come in, gladdening soul with light and joy of his presence.**{ST November 23, 1891 Par 1}

## **WHY ARE OUR CHURCHES WEAK?**

**The reason why the churches are weak and sickly and ready to die,** is that the enemy has brought influences of a discouraging nature to bear upon trembling souls. **He has sought to shut Jesus from their view as the Comforter,** as one who reproves, who warns, who admonishes them, saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it." Christ has all power in heaven and in earth, and he can strengthen the wavering, and set right the erring. He can inspire with confidence, with hope in God; and confidence in God always results in creating confidence in one another. {RH, August 26, 1890 par. 10}

## **GENESIS 1:26-27 LET US MAKE**



And I saw that when God said to his Son, Let us make man in our image, Satan was jealous of Jesus. He wished to be consulted concerning the formation of man. He was filled with envy, jealousy and hatred. He wished to be the highest in heaven, next to God, and receive the highest honors. Until this time all heaven was in order, harmony and perfect subjection to the government of God. {1SG 17.1}

After the earth was created, and the beasts upon it, the Father and Son carried out their purpose, which was designed before the fall of Satan, to make man in their own image. They had wrought together in the creation of the earth and every living thing upon it. And now God says to his Son, "Let us make man in our image." As Adam came forth from the hand of his Creator, he was of noble height, and of beautiful symmetry. {1SP 24.2}

## **HIERARCHY OF HEAVEN BEFORE AND AFTER THE FALL THE SON OF GOD WAS NEXT TO HIS FATHER IN AUTHORITY AND HONOR**

"The Son of God was next in authority to the great Lawgiver." {2SP 9.1}

## **LUCIFER BEFORE HIS FALL WAS NEXT TO CHRIST IN HONOR, GLORY AND AUTHORITY.**

Lucifer in heaven, before his rebellion, was a high and exalted angel, next in honor to God's dear Son. His countenance, like those of the other angels, was mild and expressive of happiness. {The Story of Redemption p 15.1}

Lucifer ... , before his rebellion, was a high and exalted angel, next in honor to God's dear Son. {FLB 67.2}

"Speaking of Satan, our Lord says that "he abode not in the truth." He was once the covering cherub, glorious in beauty and holiness. He was next to Christ in exaltation and character." {RH, October 22, 1895 par. 1}

"Was not Satan the light-bearer, the sharer of God's glory in heaven, and next to Jesus in power and majesty?" {RH, November 17, 1891 par. 3}

"Sin originated with him, who, next to Christ, stood highest in the favor of God, and highest in power and glory among the inhabitants of Heaven. Before his fall, Lucifer was the covering cherub, holy and undefiled." {4SP 316.3}

"Christ's humiliation is not understood and not appreciated. Forty days and nights Jesus was subjected to the temptations of the enemy--the one who was once an angel next to Christ in majesty and glory in the heavenly courts. It is stated, Thou wast exalted because of thy beauty, et cetera. But he wanted to have the place of Christ, and Christ was one with the Infinite God; and because this was not accorded him, he became jealous, and he was the originator of sin." {16MR 180.1}

## **AFTER THE FALL.**

The words of the angel, "I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God," show that he holds a position of high honor in the heavenly courts. When he came with a message to Daniel, he said, "There is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael [Christ] your Prince." Daniel 10:21. Of Gabriel the Saviour speaks in the Revelation, saying that "He sent and signified it by His angel unto His servant John." Revelation 1:1. And to John

the angel declared, "I am a fellow servant with thee and with thy brethren the prophets." Revelation 22:9, R. V. Wonderful thought—that the angel who stands next in honor to the Son of God is the one chosen to open the purposes of God to sinful men. **DA 99.1**

### **HOW MANY BEINGS ARE WE SUPPOSED TO EXALT?**

"And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him." "And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them." "And Jesus increased his wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man." Let the brightest example the world has yet seen be your example, rather than the greatest and most learned men of the age, who know not God, nor Jesus Christ whom he has sent. **The Father and the Son alone are to be exalted.** {YI, July 7, 1898 par. 2}

It is not men whom we are to exalt and worship; it is God, the only true and living God, to whom our worship and reverence are due. According to the teaching of the Scriptures, it dishonors God to address ministers as "reverend." No mortal has any right to attach this to his own name, or to the name of any other human being. It belongs only to God, to distinguish Him from every other being. . . . "Holy and reverend is his name." We dishonor God when we use this word where it does not belong. . . . **The Father and the Son alone are to be exalted.** {SD 58.5}

**1 Corinthians 8:4-7** We know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one. For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) 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. Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled.

**Matthew 16:13-18** 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, Elias; and others, Jeremias, 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. **(1Corinthian 3:11 (11-17))** 18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. **(Ephesians 2:19-22) Colossians 1:19; 2:9, John 5:23, 1John 4:15, John 3:36, John 20:17, Hebrews 2:17, Galatians 3:20, Luke 24:49 H/S Acts 1:4-5, John 1:32-34, John 7:38-39, John 17:4-5, John 16:12-14, Isaiah 40:13, Romans 11:34, Romans 15:4-7, 3John 9**

### **Conclusion:**

We have seen the Bible testimony regarding the Holy Spirit of God. It is God's own mind and character; His very own person. It is His own life which He pours on us through His precious Son. The Holy Spirit of God is not an individual being as God the Father and His Son Jesus. This Biblical truth unmasks the deceptive theory of the trinity.

We are thankful to our Father in heaven for not leaving us in the dark regarding who He really is. We have one God, the Father, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, and one spirit – the spirit of Christ- which brings us into the unity of the faith. Amen.