**The Trinity of God**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQLfgaUoQCw**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQLfgaUoQCw)

There are three persons in the Trinity but there is only one God. Most Christians believe and confess That God is ‘a trinity’ (three-in-one) yet all have their own different ways of explaining it. This is mainly because nowhere in Scripture is this teaching specifically stated.

Some examples include

* Some try to compare God to water that has three forms: Liquid, Solid and Vapor stating that God is not three separate persons but exist in three forms.
* We can try and compare God to the Sun where you have a star that gives of Heat and Light but that is called Arianism which states that Jesus and the Spirit are creations of the father and not one in Nature with the father (The star produces light & heat)
* We can try and compare God to a 3-leaf clover but that is called Partialism where the father, Son and holy spirit are not district persons of the God head but all separate parts of it

The word Trinity is never used in the bible but was developed later on by theologians to represent the different “characters” of God mentioned in the bible. Most Christians believe in God the Father who reveals himself through his Son Jesus and speaks to us through his Holy spirit.

God is greater than anything we can fathom. Trying to put Him into a box that we humans can understand will always limit how we think of Him. So when we try to understand the concept of God as being one God or as Father, Son and Holy Ghost we can easily get lost so we need to understand what the bible says about this subject keeping in mind God is complex and we will never fully understand who He is until we meet him in the end.

For the Jews and even Muslims it all starts with this:

* **Deut**  6:4 🡪 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!”

This is the Muslim & Jewish profession of faith called the SHEMA

The Hebrew word for ’one’ used here is the word ‘echad”. This word can be used to mean an absolute unity (1), a compound unity or first among others. It is also used in Genisis2:24 where it says a man and woman shall be joined to make one (echad) flesh. This meaning two components but one unified person like saying “we are one team”. This has been the focus of many debates.

We do find several places in the Bible were “one” can be defined by two or more “people” coming together.

* Jesus said in John 17:22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be **one** even as we are one,
* Genesis 2:24 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become **one** flesh.
* **OLD Testament – overview of the Trinity**

Can we find the three members of the Trinity in the Old Testament?

We can see references to all three members of the trinity in the Old Testament

* “In the beginning [Elohim] created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).
	+ The word most often used for God in the Hebrew Bible is Elohim. Elohim is the plural form of EL which means God. Elohim allows for plurality in the Godhead (Father Son and holy Ghost)
	+ The name Elohim occurs over 2,500 times in the Tanakh (source for the [Christian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity) [Old Testament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Testament).)
* **Gen. 1:26**- 🡪 God said, ‘Let **us** make man in Our image, in our likeness (Plural) ” … “So God created man in His own image (Singular)
* **Gen 3:22** 🡪 “Man has now become like one of **us** (Plural)
* **Exodus 20:3** 🡪 "You shall have no other gods before **me**. (Singular)
* **Isa. 48:16** 🡪 The Lord **God and His Spirit** have sent Me
* **Daniel 7:13** 🡪 I was watching in the night visions, And behold, **One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days**, And they brought Him near before Him? (The Son of man, Jesus, is seen coming before the ‘Ancient of Days’ who is, obviously, God the Father.)
* Ezekiel 36 🡪 And **I will put my Spirit within you**, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.
* **Isaiah 48: 16-17** 🡪 “Come near to Me, listen to this: From the first I have not spoken in secret,From the time it took place (Creation of the earth - Vs13), I was there. And now the **Lord God** has sent **Me**, and His **Spirit**.” Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel (Father Son and Spirit)

# Defense for the Trinity in the Old Testament?

# The Bible states that no one has or can see God

* **Exodus 33:20** 🡪 ," he (GOD speaking to Moses) said, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."
* **John 1:18** 🡪 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him. **(also, 1John 4:12)**
* **1 Timothy 6:15-16 ...**God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, *whom no one has seen or can see*. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

# But The Bible mentions several people who saw God. So who did they see? Are there different aspects or characters of God that you can see?

* **Genesis 3:8** 🡪 and they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.
* **Gen 18:1-3 18** 🡪 And **the Lord appeared to him** by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, **three men** (May also Point to the Trinity) were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth and said, “O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant
* **Genesis 32:30** 🡪 So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, “For I have **seen God face to face**, and yet my life has been delivered.”
* **Exodus 24:9-11**🡪 Then Moses went up with Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and **they saw the God of Israel**;
* **Exodus 33:11** 🡪 So the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle

We also find, In these verses, God with human characteristics such as eating and standing, walking and Talking. As **John 1:8** said it was not God himself they saw but Christ that declared him.

# New Testament – overview of The Trinity

In the New Testament, we just need to look at Jesus baptism to see all three persons of the Trinity

* **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 **a voice from heaven**, saying, This is **my beloved Son**, in whom I am well pleased.

# Jesus is the Word

So Where does “THE WORD” come in?

In the bible the term used for “Word” is logos, which basically means “the expression of a thought.” The Logos was God’s message to man. Jesus was the embodiment of that message, and that is why He is called the “Logos,” or “Word,” of God

* **Colossians 1:19-20** 🡪 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

The New Testament introduces us to the concept of Christ being the living breathing Word of God

* **John 1:1-3, 14** 🡪 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made **through him**, and without him was not anything made that was made… The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.
* **1 Corinthians 8:6** 🡪 yet for us there is one God, the Father, **from whom** are all things and **for whom** we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, **through whom** are all things and **through whom** we exist.
* **Revelation 19:13** 🡪 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the word of God

We see from these two verses that all things come **from** God the Father **through** Jesus Christ who is the Word of God. We see that the spoken Word of God was an extension of his nature and an expression of his will.

But do we find “The Word” used only in the New Testament? Not at all. (over 250 times in the old testament)

* **Psalm 107:19** 🡪  Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. **He sent out his word** and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction.
* **Isaiah 55:11** 🡪  so shall **my word** be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it **shall accomplish that which I purpose**, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
* **Genesis 15:1** 🡪 After these things the **word of the Lord came** to Abram **in a vision**, saying, “Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; Your reward shall be very great.”
* [**1 Samuel 3:21**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Samuel+3:21&version=ESV) 🡪 And the **Lord appeared** again at Shiloh, for the Lord revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh **by the word of the Lord**.

The Word tends to describe something more than writing in a book. The Word is how God choses to communicate with us and reveals himself and the Word was made flesh in Christ Jesus.

Note: The Aramaic translation of the ancient Hebrew Scriptures, written before Christ, often translated the presence of God before his people to the Memra (The Word) of God to account for how God could be with and seen by his people

# The Holy Spirit

# The Bible speaks of God’s interaction with mankind through his Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit teaches and instructs us in the ways of God the Father

# Jesus explains this in John

* **John 14:26**🡪 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.
* **John 16:13** 🡪  When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

# Jesus referees to the Spirt as Water & Wind

* **John 3:1-21** 🡪 On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive
* **John 3:5** 🡪Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God
* We must begin to live anew by having a new nature, new principles, new affections, and new goals.
* by the power of the Holy Spirit, something is done in us, and for us, which we cannot do for ourselves.
* The new birth which is brought by the Spirit, and signified by baptism, will bing us to the kingdom of heaven.
* Does this say we must be baptized? Or maybe willingness to be baptized?
	+ We see men like the criminal on the cross was told he will be in heaven without baptism.
	+ We also see Jesus refers to the spirit as Living Water in John 4:14
* **John 3: 8** 🡪The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”
* The same Greek word means both wind and spirit
* the Spirit of God is a free agent; he works how, and where, and when he pleases; he acts freely
* We cannot predict what God or the spirit of God will do. God’s blessings and objectives are only known to him
	+ He may call some of you to be missionaries others to be top executives but either way he calls to to represent Christ.

# The Spirit in the Old Testament

* **Nehemiah 9:30** 🡪  Many years you bore with them and warned them **by your Spirit** through your prophets. Yet they would not give ear. Therefore you gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands.
* **2 Samuel 23:2** 🡪 The **Spirit of the Lord** spoke through me, and **his** word was in my tongue
* **Psalms 51:10-11** 🡪 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy **holy spirit** from me.
* Job 16:19-21 Even now my witness is in heaven; my **advocate** is on high. My **intercessor** is my friend as my eyes pour out tears to God; on behalf of a man, he pleads with God as one pleads for a friend. (Who is Job talking about? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?)
* **Isaiah 63:10** yet they rebelled and grieved his **Holy Spirit**. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them. (See Matthew 12:32)

# We see in the Bible God the Father who sits on the Throne in heaven, separated from this world due to sin. On the other hand, we find him intimately involved in people’s lives and in our midst. This is accomplished through the Holy Spirit.

# The Son of God - Is Jesus the Son of God?

We find in Isaiah the prophesy of the virgin Birth

* **Isaiah 7:14** 🡪 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign: Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel (God with Us).

Then in Luke Angel Gabriel announced to Mary (A Virgin) she would have a son

* **Luke 1:35** 🡪 …`The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the **Son of God**.”

If Jesus was truly born of a virgin (Supported by Christian and Muslims) Then God truly was his father making Jesus the son of God. So the question is more about his deity. Is he God in the flesh?

We find in the gospel of Mark

* **Mark 1:1** 🡪The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the **Son of God**.
* **Mark 15:39** 🡪 When the centurion, who was standing right in front of Him, saw the way He breathed His last, he said, “Truly this man was the **Son of God**!”

We also find Jesus referring to himself as the son of man.

* **Mark 8: 31** 🡪 He began to teach them that the **Son of Man** must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.
* **Mark 14:61-64** 🡪 But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?” “I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.” The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked.

We see here that Jesus says “I Am” this is more than just an agreement this was the name God gave Moses at the burring bush. We can tell that Jesus is saying he is God here by the high priest action ( “The high priest tore his clothes”). The judges in a Jewish trial for blasphemy were bound to tear their clothes when blasphemous words were uttered but the high priest was not allowed to tear his clothes according to Leviticus 21:10. Apparently the High priest was so outraged My Jesus statement that he tore them anyway. Jesus then continues to quote a line from Daniel.

* **Daniel 7.13-14 🡪** I was gazing into the vision of the night, when I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven as it were a **son of man**. He came to the One most venerable and was led into his presence. On him was conferred rule, honor and kingship, and all peoples, nations and languages became his servants. His rule is an everlasting rule which will never pass away, and his kingship will never come to an end.

This shows he was higher than just a mere human

**Other places we find the term “Son of God**

We find Angels referred to as Sons of God

**Genesis 6:4** There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the **sons** **of** **God** came in to the daughters of men and they bore *children* to them. Those *were* the mighty men who *were* of old, men of renown.

[**Job 1:6**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Job%201%3A6&version=NKJV) Now there was a day when the **sons of God** came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.

We also find Christians referred to as Sons of God

**Matthew 5:9** Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

**Luke 20:36** for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.

[**Galatians 3:26**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Galatians%203%3A26&version=ESV) for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith.

In Exodus God refers to Israel and its kings as his sons

* **Exodus 4:22-23** 🡪 Then you shall say to Pharaoh, ‘Thus says the Lord, Israel is my firstborn son, and I say to you, “Let my son go that he may serve me.” If you refuse to let him go, behold, I will kill your firstborn son.’”

The following verses where believed to be written about Davidic Kings (descendants of David) but pointed to Christ as the ultimate king and identified him as Gods son

* **2 Samuel 7:13-14** 🡪 I will be to him a father (King Solomon), and he shall be to me a son…
* **Psalm 2:6-7** 🡪 “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.” I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, “You are my Son; today I have begotten you.
* **Psalm 89:27-28**🡪 Also I will make him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth. My mercy wills I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him.

**The Trinity**

# We can clearly see the bible makes reference to each member of the Trinity: Gods Glory, His Spirit and His Word represented in Christ Jesus. We can also see they are referred to as One

* **1 John 5:7 & 11** 🡪7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. …..11 And this is the record that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.
* **John 17:10-11** 🡪 All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.
* **John 10:29-30** 🡪 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one.

Could this mean; God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are of the same mind, : having the same thoughts, ideas, opinions, desires and all represent the character of the one true God or is it that they are one and the same being?

# John 17:20-22 🡪“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one,

In John 10 Jesus is speaking to the Jewish leaders and does not claim to be merely a messenger or prophet of God, but to have the authority of God. This power was given to him by God as we see in Matthew 28

* Matthew 28:18-19 🡪 And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost

# We need to ask if all members of the Trinity are equal? This is a matter of much contention. Several verses in the bible show that there is a hierarchy

Are all members of the trinity equal?

* John 14:6 🡪Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
* **John 14:9 🡪**Jesus \*said to him, “Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?
* **Ephesians 1:22** 🡪 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him (Christ) to be head over everything for the church.
* **John 10:30** 🡪 I and the Father are one.”
* [**1 Corinthians 8:6**](http://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Corinthians-8-6/) **🡪** But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.
* **1 Corinthians 15:27-28 🡪** Scripture says that God “has put everything under his (Christ) control.” (Psalm 8:6) It says that “everything” has been put under him (Christ). But it is clear that this does not include God himself. That’s because God put everything under Christ. When he has done that, the Son also will be under God’s rule. God put everything under the Son. In that way, God will be all in all.
* **John 16:13 🡪** When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.
* **John 14:28 🡪**“You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.
* **John 10:29-30** 🡪 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one.
* **Philippians 2:6 🡪** (Christ Jesus) who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth…
* **John15:19,22** 🡪 19So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise… 22 Moreover, the Father judges no one, but has entrusted all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him.
* **John 15:30 🡪** “I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.
* **Matthew 20 :23 23🡪** Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.”

One argument for Jesus being under the Father in these verses is that He voluntarily relinquished His divine attributes and subjected Himself to the will of the Father only while on earth.

# But Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11:3 🡪 But I want you to realize that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.

# A Thought

In a (Good) father and son relationship the Father trust the son and those people the son accepts will be accepted by the Father and those who reject the Son will be rejected by the Father. The Son represents the father and the Father trust the Son. So when you talk to the son it is as if you are talking to the father. But in a Father Son relationship the father has authority over the Son but if they have the same views on all things then that Authority would not matter.

**John 15:22-23** 🡪 For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

 In the Old Testament God filled the tabernacle and the temple with his glory so why would it be hard to believe that he filled Jesus Christ with his Glory. If God is all powerful why would he limit himself and how he represents himself to his creation?

# How should we Pray

So if by faith we believe in the triune nature of God then how should we pray?

Jesus taught

* **Matthew 6:9** 🡪 after this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
* **John 14:6** 🡪  Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.
* **John 14:13-14** 🡪 "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it"

And Paul writes to the Ephesians

* **Ephesians 5:20** 🡪 giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Looking at these verses we should pray to the Father asking all things in the name of His son Jesus Christ. Jesus represents us to the Father bearing all our Sin on Him so we can come to the Father with a clean slate.

For example: Dear Farther …………………… in Jesus name we pray Amen

**Side Note**

The Mormons & Jehovah Witnesses believe Jesus was of lesser power than God

Jehovah's Witnesses believe that Jesus is God's only direct creation, that everything else was created by means of Christ, and that the initial unassisted act of creation uniquely identifies Jesus as God's "only-begotten Son". Jesus served as a redeemer and a ransom sacrifice to pay for the sins of humanity. They  consider Jesus as the greatest Witness of all, inferior to no one except Jehovah Himself. Before existing as a human being, Jesus was a spiritual creature called the Logos, or Word, or even Michael the Archangel.

* Note: something to remember when you Read the Bible
	+ LORD - (All Cap) was used in place of the name of God —Yahweh
	+ Lord - (Cap L) divine persons – (e.g. Father, Jesus)
	+ o lord – (Lower case) This is a title of respect (king, master,…)
	+ Some bibles will also capitalize Him, He His, Me to show divinity
	+ Keep in mind the original Hebrew text did not have upper- and lower-case letters so this was added during translation to show the original intent