

IS THE TRINITY DOCTRINE BIBLICAL?

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NOTE: - All Bible texts are taken from the King James Version; and the compiler has supplied all emphasis throughout this Study Document.

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THE METHOD TO BE EMPLOYED IN ANSWERING THIS QUESTION: -

This Study Document will examine the question that forms the title of this Study Document, in two simple steps, to get to the truth concerning this question.

- I. **Step One** will be to provide a clear and easy to be understood definition of the Trinity teaching.
- II. **Step Two** will then provide unambiguous Biblical witnesses that will establish the truthfulness of the Trinity doctrine.

STEP 1 - THE TRINITY¹ DOCTRINE SIMPLY DEFINED: -

The teaching of the Trinity can be summed up very simply, and is built upon the following two foundational Biblical realities: -

1. There is one True God; and,
2. The one God has eternally existed as three distinct Persons, each one of whom is equally and fully God.

STEP 2 – THE BIBLICAL REALITY OF THE TRINITY DOCTRINE: -

I shall now establish these two fundamental propositions from the following Biblical witnesses. This will not be an exhaustive list of all of the Biblical evidence establishing these truths. But I will put before the reader sufficient evidence from some of the clearest texts on each of these two truths. I will make little comment concerning the following Biblical evidence, as it is very self explanatory.

BIBLICAL REALITY 1: - THERE IS ONE TRUE GOD.

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

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

Isaiah 45:5 & 18, 21 & 22: - "**I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me:** I girded thee, though thou hast not known me. ... For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: **I am the LORD; and there is none else.** ... Tell ye, and bring *them* near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? *who* hath told it from that time? *have* not I **the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me.** Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: **for I am God, and there is none else.**"

¹ Two dictionary definitions of the word "TRINITY" are as follows: -

"TRINITY, n. [L. trinitas; tres and unus, unitas, one, unity.] In theology, the union of three persons in one Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit." – Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary.

"The Trinity" or "the Holy Trinity" - The three persons of the Christian Godhead; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. – Origin Middle English from Old French trinite, from Latin trinitas 'triad', from trinus 'threefold'. - <https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/trinity> - Accessed 23/11/2019.

The etymology of the word "Trinity" is as follows: -

"The Greek term used for the Christian Trinity, "Τριάς," means "a set of three" or "the number three," from which the English word *triad* is derived. The first recorded use of this Greek term in Christian theology was in about 180 C.E. by Theophilus of Antioch, who used it of "God, his Word, and his Wisdom." The word "Trinity," however, actually came from the Latin *Trinitas*, meaning "three-ness," "the property of occurring three at once," or "three are one." In about 200 C.E., Tertullian used it to describe how the three distinct persons (*personae*) of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are of one substance (*una substantia*)." <https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Trinity>. Accessed 16/11/2019.

Isaiah 46:9: - “Remember the former things of old: **for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me.**”

Malachi 2:10: - “Have we not all one father? **hath not one God created us?** why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?”

Mark 12:29: - “And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments *is*, Hear, O Israel; **The Lord our God is one Lord.**”

Romans 3:30: - “Seeing *it is one God*, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith.”

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

See also: - Joel 2:27; Zechariah 14:9; 1st Timothy 2:5.

BIBLICAL REALITY 2: - THE ONE GOD HAS ETERNALLY EXISTED AS THREE DISTINCT PERSONS, EACH ONE OF WHOM IS EQUALLY AND FULLY GOD.

- **THE FATHER IS GOD: -**

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

John 17:1 & 3: - “These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, **Father**, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: ... And this is life eternal, that they might know thee **the only true God**, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”

1st 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.”

2nd Corinthians 1:3: - “Blessed *be God, even the Father* of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and **the God of all comfort.**”

Galatians 1:1: - “Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and **God the Father**, who raised him from the dead;)”

Philippians 2:11: - “And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of **God the Father.**”

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

1st Peter 1:2: - “Elect according to the foreknowledge of **God the Father**, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.”

See also: - Galatians 1:3; Ephesians 6:23; 1st Thessalonians 1:1; 2nd Timothy 1:2; Titus 1:4; 2nd Peter 1:17; 2nd John VS. 3; Jude VS. 1.

- **THE SON IS GOD: -**

Isaiah 9:6 & 7: - "**For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:** and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, **The mighty God**, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, **upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever.** The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."

Matthew 1:20 - 23: - "But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, **Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.**"

Luke 8:38 & 39: - "Now the man out of whom the devils were departed besought him that he might be with him: but Jesus sent him away, saying, Return to thine own house, **and show how great things God hath done unto thee.** And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city **how great things Jesus had done unto him.**"

John 1:1 & 14: - "**In the beginning** was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.** ... **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."

John 20:28: - "And Thomas answered and said unto him, **My Lord and my God.**"

Acts 20:28: - "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed **the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.**"

Romans 9:5: - "Whose *are* the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh **Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever.** Amen."

Philippians 2:5 - 7: - "Let this mind be in you, which was also in **Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God,** thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, **and was made in the likeness of men.**"

Colossians 2:9: - "For in him **dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.**"

1st Timothy 3:16: - "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh,** justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory."

Hebrews 1:8 & 9: - "**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. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, *even thy* God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows."

Titus 2:13: - "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing **of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.**"

NOTE: - Based upon the well established rule of Greek grammar discovered by Granville Sharp, the highlighted portion above should actually be translated as - "**of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ**".

2nd Peter 1:1: - "Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness ***of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.**"

NOTE: - *For the expression "**of God and our Saviour**", the margin has "**Gr. of our God and Saviour**".

- **THE SON IS NOT THE FATHER: -**

Matthew 11:27: - "All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth **the Son, but the Father**; neither knoweth any man **the Father, save the Son**, and *he* to whomsoever **the Son** will reveal *him*."

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.**"

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

1st 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.**"

1st John 2:1: - "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, **we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.**"

1st John 2:22: - "Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth **the Father and the Son.**"

2nd John VS. 9: - "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both **the Father and the Son.**"

- **THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD: -**

Genesis 1:1 & 2: - "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* upon the face of the deep. **And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.**"

Job 26:13: - "**By his spirit he hath garnished the heavens**; his hand hath formed the crooked serpent."

Job 33:4: - "**The Spirit of God hath made me**, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life."

Psalms 139:7 & 8: - "**Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?** If I ascend up into heaven, thou *art* there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou *art there*."

Isaiah 40:13 & 14: - "**Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or *being his* counsellor hath taught him?** With whom took **he** counsel, and *who* instructed **him**, and taught **him** in the path of judgment, and taught **him** knowledge, and showed to **him** the way of understanding?"

Acts 5:1 - 4: - "But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, and kept back *part* of the price, his wife also being privy *to it*, and brought a certain part, and laid *it*, at the apostles' feet. **But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost**, and to keep back *part* of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? **thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.**"

Paul writing to the Corinthians stated that they were the temple of the living God.

2nd Corinthians 6:16: - "And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? **for ye are the temple of the living God**; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."

Paul had previously written to the Corinthians, that they were the temple of the Holy Ghost.

1st Corinthians 6:19: - "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?"

NOTE: - The Temple of the Living God = the Temple of the Holy Ghost. Thus, the Holy Spirit **IS** God.

Hebrews 9:14: - "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through **the eternal Spirit** offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

The prophet Jeremiah in recording the original promise of the New Covenant provisions, indicates that it is the LORD, that is, Jehovah is the One who is speaking the terms of this covenant.

Jeremiah 31:33 & 34: - "But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, **saith the LORD** ["Jehovah" – compiler], I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the **LORD** ["Jehovah" – compiler]: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, **saith the LORD** ["Jehovah" – compiler]: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

The apostle Paul attributes these New Covenant terms as being spoken by the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 10:15 – 17: - "*Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord*, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more."

The Holy Spirit is the God who gives spiritual gifts to individual members within the congregation.

1st Corinthians 12:8 - 11 & 28: - "**For to one is given by the Spirit** the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge **by the same Spirit**; to another faith **by the same Spirit**; to another the gifts of healing **by the same Spirit**; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another *divers* kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and **the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. ... And God hath set some in the church**, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues."

☞ The Holy Spirit is a Person, possessing the attributes of Personality.

The Holy Spirit has a mind.

Romans 8:27: - "And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is the mind of the Spirit*, because **he** maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*."

The Holy Spirit has a will.

1st Corinthians 12:11: - "But all these worketh that one and **the selfsame Spirit**, dividing to every man severally as **he will**."

The Holy Spirit has foreknowledge.

John 16:13: - "Howbeit when **he, the Spirit of truth**, is come, **he** will guide you into all truth: for **he** shall not speak of **himself**; but whatsoever **he** shall hear, *that* shall **he** speak: and **he will show you things to come**."

NOTE: - The personal pronoun “**he**” is used six times, and the pronoun “**himself**” is used once.

The Holy Spirit can speak, and uses the first person pronouns when referring to himself.

Acts 1:16: - “Men *and* brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, **which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before** concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.”

Acts 8:29: - “**Then the Spirit said unto Philip**, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.”

Acts 10:19 & 20: - “While Peter thought on the vision, **the Spirit said unto him**, Behold, three men seek thee. Arise therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, doubting nothing: for **I** have sent them.”

Acts 13:2: - “As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, **the Holy Ghost said**, Separate **me** Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto **I** have called them.”

The Holy Spirit can be vexed and grieved.

Isaiah 63:10:- “But they rebelled, and **vexed his holy Spirit**: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, *and* he fought against them.”

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

The Holy Spirit can work miracles.

Acts 8:39: - “And when they were come up out of the water, **the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip**, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.”

Romans 15:19:- “**Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God**; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.”

The Holy Spirit can be insulted or despised.

Hebrews 10:29: - “Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and **hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?**”

The Holy Spirit can love.

Romans 15:30: - “Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ’s sake, and for **the love of the Spirit**, that ye strive together with me in *your* prayers to God for me.”

The Holy Spirit intercedes for us.

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

The Holy Spirit is a teacher.

Luke 12:12: - “**For the Holy Ghost shall teach you** in the same hour what ye ought to say.”

The Holy Spirit bears witness.

Romans 8:16: - “**The Spirit itself beareth witness** with our spirit, that we are the children of God.”

The Holy Spirit has knowledge.

1st 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.**”

The Holy Spirit can forbid something from being done.

Acts 16:6 & 7: - "Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and **were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia**, after they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but **the Spirit suffered them not.**"

The Holy Spirit can appoint a person to fulfill a task.

Acts 20:28: - "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, **over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers**, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."

- **THE SPIRIT IS NOT THE FATHER OR THE SON: -**

Isaiah 48:16: - "Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there *am I*: and now **the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me.**"

Luke 3:21 & 22: - "Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass, that **Jesus** also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, and **the Holy Ghost** descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and **a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son;** in thee I am well pleased."

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."

- **ON THIS FOUNDATION, THE SCRIPTURES OFTEN REFER TO GOD IN WAYS THAT EMPHASIZE ALL THREE MEMBERS OF THE GODHEAD: -**

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 28:19: - "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them **in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.**"

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

Romans 15:30: - "Now I beseech you, brethren, **for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake**, and for the love **of the Spirit**, that ye strive together with me in *your* prayers **to God** for me."

2nd Corinthians 13:14: - "The grace of **the Lord Jesus Christ**, and the love of **God**, and the communion of **the Holy Ghost**, *be* with you all. Amen."

Ephesians 2:13 & 18: - "But now in **Christ Jesus** ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. ... **For through him** [that is Christ Jesus – compiler] **we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.**"

Ephesians 4:4 – 6: - “*There is one body, and **one Spirit**, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; **one Lord**, one faith, one baptism, **one God and Father of all**, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.*”

Hebrews 9:14: - “How much more shall **the blood of Christ**, who through **the eternal Spirit** offered himself without spot **to God**, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”

Jude VS. 20 & 21: - “But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, **praying in the Holy Ghost**, Keep yourselves in **the love of God**, looking for **the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ** unto eternal life.”



The two fundamental principles of the Trinity doctrine are indeed Biblical realities, and have been clearly established from the Scriptures.