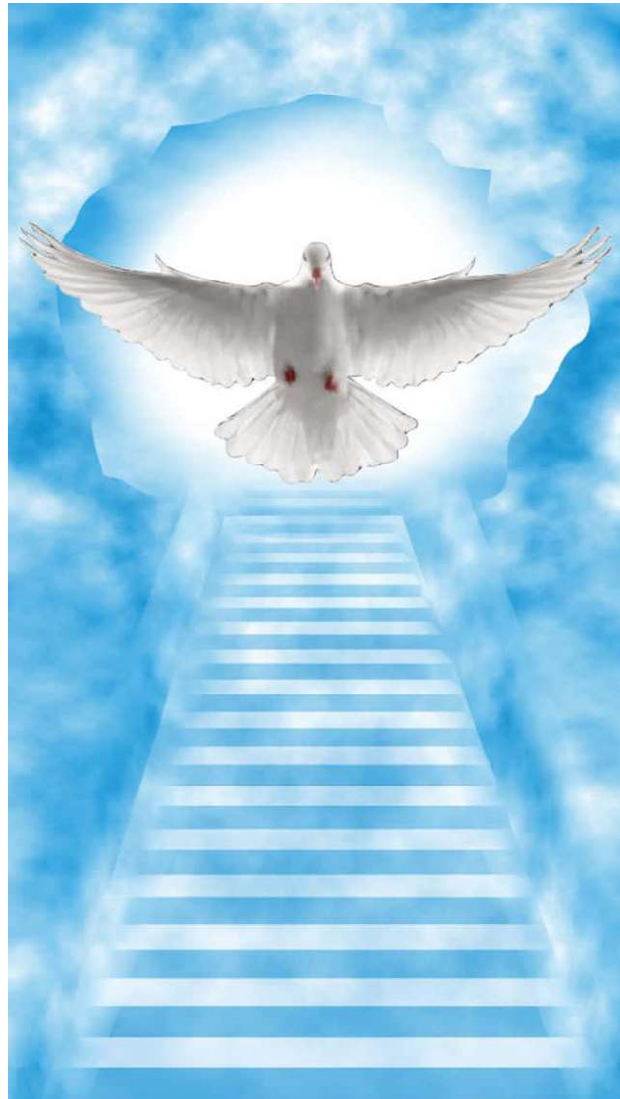


G o d ' s M a r v e l o u s L o v e

*As revealed through His only begotten Son,
His Holy Spirit and the ministering angels.*



God's Marvelous Love

*As revealed through His only begotten Son,
His Holy Spirit and the ministering angels.*

Truth as taught by the Lord, the apostles and the
pioneers of the Seventh-Day Adventist believers.

Vera M. Floyd

PREFACE

As a fifth generation Seventh-day Adventist our family, consisting of six children, faithfully attended church on the edge of our small rural town in the Missouri Ozarks. To support the family my father taught school and eventually made a career of building bridges and other structures. At various times these jobs took him outside of the state. During those times our grandparents, who lived a quarter of a mile from us, would stop by on Sabbath morning, whether it was raining or shining, blistering hot or chilling cold and we would pile into their horse-drawn cart. As we bundled up in army blankets in the winter Cricket would trot the 2-miles in the slushy snow. We always arrived early so a blazing fire in the wood stove would be ready to warm others upon arrival. Granddad often taught the Sabbath School adult class as well as delivering the sermon for the day. His favorite preaching topics were prophecy, the signs of the end of the world and the imminent return of Jesus. As the church pianist Grandma chose hymns about Jesus' second coming and the importance of being ready. She and the congregation sang along enthusiastically.

God promises that where two or three are gathered together He would be among them and sometimes there weren't many more than that in attendance. Even though there were few attending our little stone church I have always had good memories of my childhood church days. The older members habitually showed me kindness and attention, as that was all who attended, except for one other family with several children. By the time I went into the 9th grade this family moved away leaving me with no church friends my age.

As a youth I attended the adult Sabbath School class. I would often ask myself questions as I listened to the discussions. I couldn't seem to figure out where the "threes" were in Genesis 1. I saw the Father and His Son but in verse two it said, "And the 'Spirit of God'." To me, I did not see a separate third person. Then, there was, "Let 'us' make man in our image." I had been taught in school that "us" was plural so it could be a two-person involvement in the forming of Adam from the dust of the ground, or it could be more than two, but no mention was made who the participants were except for the Father and "us." Who was the "us?" Later in life other questions traveled through my mind, "Why was only Jesus able to die for my sins? This really troubled me and I sought to find answers. "What about the Father?" I reasoned that I would die for one of my children if that would save them, what parent wouldn't? I knew that I was a sinner so the giving up of my life for another wouldn't help in saving them but what about the Holy Spirit or the Father? They were perfect, infinite and without sin. They would have sacrificed their lives as well as Jesus but they could not. I agonized over this for many years but no answers came.

The church taught that at Jesus' baptism the Holy Spirit came down from heaven and landed on Jesus' head in the form of a dove, and the audible voice of the Father spoke "this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased". I believed that all three of the Godhead were present at this special event. I wondered why the Holy Spirit would come in the form of a dove, or, during Pentecost, why He would come in the form of cloven tongues like fire; why such earthly symbols? If He could appear in these forms then what was wrong with pantheism? If the Holy Spirit is as much God as the Father then why did the messenger of God, Ellen White, say that pantheism destroys the personality of God? I was confused but I kept pushing these thoughts to the back burner of my mind, and told myself I needed to accept these things by faith because this was the way the church believed, and doubt can lead one to doubt other things till they find themselves walking out of the church. I never wanted that because I loved the church. It was a part of me and I believed it was the remnant church and its doctrinal teachings must be correct on every point. So I handled these questions by pushing them farther back in the recesses of my mind.

Many years after I got married I found that the above questions still were not answered to my satisfaction. The trinitarian belief had been accepted as one of the Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church by this time. This puzzled me further because as I looked at my 1956 baptismal certificate I noticed that it did not read the same as the current baptismal certificates. I came to realize that something was happening within the circle of Adventism. I had been a faithful Seventh-day Adventist through the years and with all the leaders saying the same thing in regards to the trinitarian belief I couldn't believe they would be leading the church in a wrong direction. After all, most of them had taken religion classes in college and many of them had gone through the seminary, thus I felt they were much more informed than I in figuring out spiritual truths.

Around this time we were starting to have a few friends and a relative who shared their non-trinitarian views. At first, I dug my heels in and expressed to them in words and action that it was a false teaching leading many astray from the established teachings of the church and the Bible. But one person in particular presented his understanding on the topic in a Christ like manner. He was a respected Bible student and lived a godly Christian example before others so I decided to study this controversial topic for myself in hopes that my questions would find answers. I didn't want anyone to persuade me how to believe. I wanted "the Bible and the Bible only" to be my guide, along with the Spirit of Prophecy shedding light and supporting the same truth as found in the Word.

I took this stand, "the Bible and the Bible only", because 40 years earlier my husband had studied with a Jehovah Witness for nearly a year. When the Sabbath topic was presented they spent quite some time comparing scripture with scripture. When the JW reached a point where he could not explain his reasons and the importance for not observing and keeping the Sabbath day holy he finally said, "I will have to check with the Watch Tower and whatever they say I will do." Is this how we determine truth, by checking to see what our church teaches? No, it should be "the Bible and the Bible only". That is where we find truth. Thus, I truly became like the Bereans. I put aside all excuses as I studied the Bible along with the Spirit of Prophecy books. I did not find any contradictions between the two. Statements and verses from the Bible would jump out at me that I had never seen in that light before. As I continued to study, my previous questions were gradually being answered, which has given me a peace of mind. This has been a spiritual journey for me and I'm sure it will continue to be as I "study to prove myself a workman that needeth not be ashamed."

The Merriam-Webster's Dictionary gives these definitions for -

Doctrine: "A belief or set of beliefs held and taught by a church, a political party, or other group."

Experimental knowledge: "A knowledge gained through experience."

The knowledge I have gained through this study is an experimental knowledge based on the Bible and not just a doctrinal knowledge with facts listed as one, two, three etc. It has affected every part of my Christian walk with the Lord and it is my prayer that when you study these lessons you will also have a new living experience with your Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ and know through experience the beautiful relationship that they desire to have with you personally.

David says in Ps. 34:8-9 "O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him. O fear the Lord, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him."

A fellow servant of our Father and His Son Jesus Christ,
Vera M. Floyd

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KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

Ellen White's books and manuscripts

AA	The Acts of the Apostles
3BC	.....	The SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 3
CSW	.....	Counsels on Sabbath School Work
CT	.....	Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students
CW	.....	Counsels to Writers and Editors
DA	.....	The Desire of Ages
GC	.....	The Great Controversy
MH	.....	The Ministry of Healing
7MS	.....	Manuscript, vol. 7
14MS	.....	Manuscript, vol. 14
PP	.....	Patriarchs and Prophets
RH	.....	The Review and Herald
SR	.....	The Story of Redemption
ST	.....	The Signs of the Times
5T	.....	Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5
6T	.....	Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6
7T	.....	Testimonies for the Church, vol. 7
TA	.....	The Truth About Angels
TM	.....	Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers
UL	.....	The Upward Look
YI	.....	The Youth Instructor

All Bible text used are from the KJV unless otherwise stated.

The compiler's personal comments are in italics.

HOW TO ARRIVE AT GOD'S TRUTH

Study 1

REVIVAL OF OLD TRUTH

God is truth and it will ever be. There has never been a time when His truth has not existed. This is expressed in Psalms 108:4, "For thy mercy is great above the heavens: and thy truth reaches unto the clouds." Also in Psalms 117:2, "For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever." New truth is only a revival of old truth. Solomon couldn't have been more right when he said, "there is no new thing under the sun."

Counsel on Sabbath School Work, p. 25, par. 1

"There is yet much precious truth to be revealed to the people in this time of peril and darkness, but it is Satan's determined purpose to prevent the light of truth from shining into the hearts of men. If we would have the light that has been provided for us, we should show our desire for it by diligently searching the word of God. Precious truths that have long been in obscurity are to be revealed in a light that will make manifest their sacred worth; for God will glorify His word, that it may appear in a light in which we have never before beheld it. But those who profess to love the truth must put to the stretch their powers, that they may comprehend the deep things of the word, that God may be glorified, and His people may be blessed and enlightened. With humble hearts, subdued by the grace of God, you should come to the task of searching the Scriptures, prepared to accept every ray of divine light, and to walk in the way of holiness."

5 Letter Manuscript; Manuscript 18,1888, par. 37; Evangelism, p. 198, par. 3

"Increased light will shine upon all the grand truths of prophecy, and they will be seen in freshness and brilliancy, because the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness will illuminate the whole."

Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students, p. 437

"There are veins of truth yet to be discovered, but spiritual things are spiritually discerned. One passage of Scripture will prove a key to unlock other passages, and in this way, light is shed upon the hidden meaning of the word. By comparing different texts treating on the same subject, viewing their bearing on every side, the true meaning of the Scriptures will be made evident."

Counsels on Sabbath School Work, pp. 32-33

"They (*the youth*) 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."

In the above statement the word entrench implies that one has established an attitude, habit, or belief so firmly that change is very difficult or unlikely.

Counsels on Sabbath School Work, p. 35

"Great truths which have been neglected and unappreciated for ages, will be revealed by the Spirit of God, and new meaning will flash out of familiar texts. Every page will be illuminated by the Spirit of truth."

The Acts of the Apostles, p. 283

"If the followers of Christ were but earnest seekers after wisdom, they would be led into rich fields of truth as yet wholly unknown to them. He who will give himself fully to God will be guided by the divine hand..."

The Signs of the Times, March 25, 1897; That I May Know Him,

"Because our knowledge of spiritual things has become so dwarfed and enfeebled, we have not advanced from light to greater light. The Lord has not been able to open to our understanding many precious things. In view of the losses which we have sustained by our earthliness and commonness we have much to make us humble."

The Review and Herald, June 4, 1889, par. 12

"In the time of the Saviour, the Jews had so covered over the precious jewels of truth with the rubbish of tradition and fable, that it was impossible to distinguish the true from the false. The Saviour came to clear away the rubbish of superstition and long—cherished errors, and to set the jewels of God's word in the framework of truth. What would the Saviour do if he should come to us now as he did to the Jews? He would have to do a similar work in clearing away the rubbish of tradition and ceremony. The Jews were greatly disturbed when he did this work. They had lost sight of the original truth of God, but Christ brought it again to view. It is our work to free the precious truths of God from superstition and error. What a work is committed to us in the gospel!"

Counsels on Sabbath School Work, pp. 47- 48

"When Christ came into the world to exemplify true religion, and to exalt the principles that should govern the hearts and actions of men, falsehood had taken so deep a hold upon those who had had so great light, that they no longer comprehended the light, and had no inclination to yield up tradition for truth. They rejected the heavenly Teacher; they crucified the Lord of glory, that they might retain their own customs and inventions. The very same spirit is manifested in the world today. Men are averse to investigating truth, lest their traditions should be disturbed, and a new order of things should be brought in. There is with humanity a constant liability to err, and men are naturally inclined to highly exalt human ideas and knowledge, while the divine and eternal is not discerned or appreciated."

The Webster's Dictionary gives this definition for tradition, "The handing down of information, beliefs, and customs by word of mouth or by example from one generation to another without written instruction." This is what the children of Israel were instructed to do—to pass down their heritage or tradition, "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up" (Deut. 6:7). So how can traditions be wrong when the Israelites were instructed to pass down their traditional teachings of commandments, statutes, and judgments to their children? The Thessalonians were encouraged to hold on to the traditions that they had been taught by Paul (2 Thess. 2:15). To pass down traditions that teach truth is good and right, but when a person is shown scriptural truth, that is contrary to their traditions and practices, and they still hold ever so dearly to false traditional beliefs, then they are rejecting the Spirit of truth. The history of the leaders of the Jewish nation, during the time of Jesus was given to us for an example, and they were written for our admonition so we will not stumble and fall (1 Cor. 10:11).

Counsels on Sabbath School Work, pp. 31-32

"When asked to hear the reasons of a doctrine that you do not understand, do not condemn the message until you have given it a thorough investigation, and know from the word of God that it is not tenable."

1913 Webster's Dictionary definition for the word tenable: "able to be maintained or defended as against an objector."

Manuscript 88, July 10, 1898, par. 16, article entitled The Parable of the Householder; 1 Manuscript Release 39.1

"Mighty truths have been buried beneath the sophistry of error, but they will be found by the diligent searcher. As he finds and opens the treasure house of the precious jewels of truth, it is no robbery; for all who appreciate these jewels may possess them, and they too have a treasure house to open to others. He who imparts does not deprive himself of the treasure, for as he examines it, that he may present it in such a way as to attract others, he finds new treasures."

Counsels on Sabbath School Work, p. 32

"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."

Counsels on Sabbath School Work, p. 28

"Precious light is to shine forth from the word of God and let no one presume to dictate what shall or what shall not be brought before the people in the messages of enlightenment that He shall send, and so quench the Spirit of God. Whatever may be his position of authority, no one has a right to shut away the light from the people. When a message comes in the name of the Lord to His people, no one may excuse himself from an investigation of its claims. No one can afford to stand back in an attitude of indifference and self-confidence and say: 'I know the truth. I am satisfied with my position. I have set my stakes, and I will not be moved away from my position, whatever may come. I will not listen to the message of this messenger; for I know that it cannot be truth.' It is from pursuing this very course that the popular churches were left in partial darkness, and that is why the messages of heaven have not reached them."

When a message is sent within our hearing, we have the opportunity and responsibility to weigh it out and measure it by the Word of God to see if truth is being presented. Steps to Christ, pp. 89-90 says "...none will mistake and lose their way except those who follow their own judgment instead of the plainly revealed will of God. We should not take the testimony of any man as to what the Scriptures teach but should study the words of God for ourselves. If we allow others to do our thinking, we shall have crippled energies and contracted abilities. The noble powers of the mind may be so dwarfed by a lack of exercise on themes worthy of their concentration as to lose their ability to grasp the deep meaning of the Word of God. The mind will enlarge if it is employed in tracking out the relation of the subjects of the Bible, comparing scripture with scripture, and spiritual things with spiritual."

Counsels to Writers and Editors, p. 33; The Review and Herald, Aug. 7, 1894

"It is a fact that we have the truth, and we hold with tenacity to the positions that cannot be shaken; but we must not look with suspicion upon any new light which God may send, and say, Really, we cannot see that we need any more light than the old truth which we have hitherto received, and in which we are settled..."

Counsels to Writers and Editors, p. 35, par. 2

"There is no excuse for anyone in taking the position that there is no more truth to be revealed, and that all our expositions of Scripture are without an error. The fact that our people have held certain doctrines as truth for many years, is not a proof that our ideas are infallible. Age will not make error into truth, and truth can afford to be fair. No true doctrine will lose anything by close investigation."

Counsels on Sabbath School Work, p. 33

"You should examine the truths you have been led to believe, until you know that they are without flaw. You lose much when you do not bring every point of faith you hold to the law and to the testimony, for you do not see or appreciate the truth as it is."

"To the law and to the testimony" refers to the teachings of Jesus Christ and His prophets.

Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 70, par. 2

"Even Seventh-day Adventists are in danger of closing the eyes to truth as it is in Jesus, because it contradicts something which they have taken for granted as truth but which the Holy Spirit teaches is not truth."

Counsels on Sabbath School Work, p. 34

"Let no one come to the conclusion that there is no more truth to be revealed. The diligent, prayerful seeker for truth will find precious rays of light yet to shine forth from the word of God. Many gems are yet scattered that are to be gathered together to become the property of the remnant people of God."

Revelation 14:12

"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." *This shows how to identify the remnant people of God.*

Review on How to Arrive at Renewed Truth

1. *With humble hearts diligently search the Word of God. (CSW, p. 25)*
2. *Give the subject matter a thorough investigation. (CW, p. 35)*
3. *Compare different text on the same subject while viewing their bearing on every side. (CT, p. 437)*
4. *Do not close your eyes or ears when increased or possibly new truth is being revealed. (CW, p. 35)*
5. *Once truth is revealed walk in the way of holiness. (CSW, p. 25)*
6. *Do not entrench yourself in the belief that the whole truth has been revealed. (CSW, pp. 32-33)*
7. *Do not hold on to tradition after it has been tested and proven false. (CSW, pp. 47-48)*
8. *Search for truth until you come to a realization that it is without a flaw. (CSW, p. 33)*
9. *Realize that Satan has a determined purpose of preventing precious light from reaching sincere searching hearts. (CSW, p. 25)*
10. *Give it the "law and to the testimony" test. (CSW, p. 33)*

HOW TO FIND TRUTH

Psalms 16:11

"Thou wilt shew me the path of life: In Thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore."

1 John 4:1

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

1 Thess. 5:21

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."

Isa. 8:20

"To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them."

Isa. 28:10

“For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.”

Acts 17:11

“These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”

Each individual must search the scriptures for himself to see what is truth. We must not put our minds in neutral and accept what comes along as always being the truth, unless it has a stamp of approval from the word of God. People in the church as well as out of the church are fallible. As they express their thoughts and preconceived ideas, they might be missing the mark of what is really truth. We must always prove all things by God’s holy word, the Bible.

James 1:5

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”

Manuscript 153, 1898

“The truth, if received, is capable of constant expansion and new developments. It will increase in brightness as we behold it and grow in height and depth as we aspire to grasp it. Thus, it will elevate us to the standard of perfection, and give us faith and trust in God as our strength for the work before us. We need the truth as it is in Jesus. We desire to make the people understand what Christ is to them, and what are the responsibilities they are called upon to accept in Him. As His representative and witnesses we need to come to a full understanding of the saving truth which we must know by an experimental knowledge.”

THUS SAITH THE LORD

Matt. 4:4

“But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.”

8 Letter Manuscript, Manuscript 39, 1893, par. 11

“In the teachings of Christ, He was ceaselessly referring to the Scriptures. Whenever a question was put to Him His answer was, ‘What saith the Scriptures?’ ‘How readest thou?’ (Luke 10:26.) ‘Search the Scriptures.’ “ (John 5:39.)

Ibid, par. 12

“Christ had the wisdom, which is infinite, yet He referred to His own inspired instruction given to good and holy men of old. This people, Seventh-day Adventists, are Bible readers and Bible believers, and present in answer to questions asked in regard to their faith the Scriptures as the foundation of our faith. We do not search for the sayings of men, but for the Word of God, ‘It is written’ for the foundation of our faith. I hope our people will ever stand on the Bible and the Bible only for the foundation of our faith, for whom the truth maketh free is free indeed.”

In 2 Peter 1:21 the word of God says, “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” In the quote above it says that Jesus Himself inspired these holy men of old to write the scriptures. How can that be? Was it not the third person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit, who inspired these holy men of old? As we progress through these studies, we will see how it all fits together, with no contradictions. Revealed truth comes through heaven’s channel of truth, the Word of God.

8 Letter Manuscript, Manuscript 39, 1893, par. 13

"We take a 'Thus saith the Lord.' Here we stand. A doctrine that has not a 'Thus saith the Lord' may be accepted by the whole world, but that does not make it truth. We want truth, and we refuse to run any risk in accepting anything else.

Ibid, par. 14

"...Matters that concern the salvation of our souls are too weighty to be trifled with, and human opinions must be laid aside. We must have the decision of Him who 'is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.' (John 14:6.) If we want to know the way to heaven, we must study the Bible, not man-made theories or man's suppositions; but a plain 'Thus saith the Lord.' "

2 Selected Messages, p. 52

"Satan is a cunning worker, and he will bring in subtle fallacies to darken and confuse the mind and root out doctrines of salvation. Those who do not accept the Word of God just as it reads, will be snared in his trap."

3 Letter 291, 1903; That I May Know Him, p. 281

"All who study the Word with full purpose to cleanse away from the life all sin, and who search the Scriptures to learn what is truth, will welcome the truth of the Word as a 'Thus saith the Lord.' "

The Acts of the Apostles, pp. 68-69

"The banner of truth and religious liberty held aloft by the founders of the gospel church and by God's witnesses during the centuries that have passed since then, has, in this last conflict, been committed to our hands. The responsibility for this great gift rest with those whom God has blessed with a knowledge of His Word. We are to receive this Word as supreme authority. We are to recognize human government as an ordinance of divine appointment, and teach obedience to it as a sacred duty, within its legitimate sphere. But when its claims conflict with the claims of God, we must obey God rather than men. God's word must be recognized as above all human legislation. A 'Thus saith the Lord' is not to be set aside for a 'Thus saith the church' or a 'Thus saith the state.' "

Counsels on Sabbath School Work, pp. 34-35

"As soon as the seeker for truth opens the Bible to read the utterances of God with reverence, possessing an earnest desire to know 'what saith the Lord,' light and grace will be given him, and he will see wondrous things out of God's law."

The Review and Herald, July 1, 1909, par. 11

"Men talk much of higher education, but who can define what the higher education is? The highest education is found in the Word of the living God. That education which teaches us to submit our souls to God in all humility, and which enables us to take the Word of God and believe just what it says, is the education that is most needed. With this education we shall see of the salvation of God. With the Spirit of God upon us, we are to carry the light of truth into the highways and the byways, that the salvation of God may be revealed in a remarkable manner."

The Great Controversy, p. 595

"...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."

Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students, p. 528

"The word of God is to stand on its own eternal merits; to be accepted as the word of God; to be obeyed as His voice, which declares His will to the people. The will and voice of finite man are not to be interpreted as the voice of God."

Results of Not Following a "Thus saith the Lord"

Many people interpret the Bible the way they want to understand it rather than following a "thus saith the Lord" and "to the law and to the testimony." But 2 Peter 1:20-21 says, ²⁰"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. ²¹For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." This is the reason why there are approximately 41,000 different denominations in the world with these diverse doctrines.

- 1. The eternally burning hell.*
- 2. You can eat anything you want.*
- 3. The immortality of the soul.*
- 4. Eternal security—once saved always saved.*
- 5. Tithing is not necessary under the new covenant.*
- 6. It is impossible to overcome sin.*
- 7. A little wine is good for the stomach.*
- 8. God doesn't kill.*
- 9. It doesn't matter what day you keep holy.*
- 10. Three Gods are to be united and worshipped as one.*
- 11. The secret rapture of the righteous.*
- 12. The atonement was completed at the cross.*
- 13. Jesus took on Adam's nature before sin.*
- 14. And many more!*

God is saying, "Go to the Book and find out what I have written."

WE MUST NOT ADD TO OR TAKE AWAY

Duet. 4:1-2

¹ "Now therefore hearken, O Israel, unto the statutes and unto the judgments, which I teach you, for to do them, that ye may live, and go in and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers giveth you. ² Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you."

Rev. 22:18-19

¹⁸ "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: ¹⁹ And if any man shall take away from the words of this book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

Our eternal life is dependent on what we believe, accept and live as truth. We are warned to not let any man deceive us (2 Thess. 2:3).

HOW TO RESPOND TO DIFFERING VIEWS

The Review and Herald, Aug. 27, 1889, par. 3, 5-7; Chicago morning talk by Ellen White entitled The Test of Doctrine, April 9, 1889.

“When views are presented that do not seem in harmony with your own, it should drive you to study your Bible, and investigate it to see if you yourself hold the right position on the subject. That another holds a different opinion, should not stir up the very worst traits of your nature. You should love your brother, and say, ‘I am willing to investigate your views. Let us come right to the word of God and prove by the law and the testimony what is truth.’

Suppose a brother should come to us, and present some matter to us in a different light from that in which we had ever looked at it before, should we come together with those who agree with us, to make sarcastic remarks, to ridicule his position, and to form a confederacy to misrepresent his arguments and ideas? Should we manifest a bitter spirit toward him while neglecting to seek wisdom of God in earnest prayer, —while failing to seek counsel of Heaven? Would you think you were keeping the commandments of God while pursuing such a course toward your brother? Would you be in a condition to recognize the bright beams of heaven’s light should it be flashed upon your pathway? Would your heart be ready to receive divine illumination? —No; you would not recognize the light. All this spirit of bigotry and intolerance must be taken away, and the meekness and lowliness of Christ must take its place before the Spirit of God can impress your minds with divine truth. We should come right down to the root of the matter presented and should not be in a position where we shall have no love for our brother because his ideas differ from our views. If you do take this position, you say by your attitude that you consider your own opinion perfection, and your brothers erroneous.

When a doctrine is presented that does not meet our minds, we should go to the word of God, flee to the Lord in prayer, and give no place to the enemy to come in with suspicion and prejudice. We should never permit that 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 among us to prove of what manner of spirit we are. We are not to deceive ourselves. In 1844 when anything came to our attention that we did not understand, we kneeled down, and asked God to help us to take the right position, and then we could come to a right understanding and see eye to eye. There was no dissension, no enmity, no evil-surmising, no misjudging of our brethren. If we only understood the evil of this spirit of intolerance, how we would shun it! We join ourselves to the enemy of God and man when we accuse our brethren, for Satan was an accuser of the brethren. We bear false witness when we add a little to our brother’s words, and give them a false coloring; and in the sight of God we are not doers, but transgressors of the law. We are not on the Lord’s side; we are on the side of him who hurts, destroys, and tears down the cause of truth. We should pray for one another instead of drawing apart.

He who keeps the word of truth abides in Christ; in him is the love of God perfected. We should be ready to accept light from God from whatever source it may come, instead of rejecting it because it does not come through the channel from which we expected it. When Jesus opened the word of God at Nazareth, and read Isaiah’s prophecy of his work and mission, and declared that it was fulfilled in their hearing, they began to doubt and question. They said, ‘Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? and his sister, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things? And they were offended in him.’ They did not expect light from him, and they rejected the message of God. When he who had been blind, received his sight, and came to the Pharisees and told them of Jesus, they said, ‘Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out.’ They settled themselves in unbelief, in rejection of Christ, though they professed to believe in God.”

JESUS’ APPEAL

John 5:39 (NKJV)

“You search the Scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and these are they which testify of me.”

THE ONENESS OF THE FATHER AND HIS SON

Study 2

THE ONENESS of TWO DIVINE BEINGS

1. Salutations in Paul's Letters to the Churches

Webster's Dictionary says the word "and" is used to connect words of the same part of speech, clauses, or sentences, that are to be taken jointly. -- Example: I like apples and oranges.

Romans 1:7, "Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Cor. 1:3, "Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ."

2 Cor. 1:2, "Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ."

Gal. 1:3, "Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ."

Eph. 1:2, "Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ."

Phil. 1:2, "Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ."

Col. 1:2, "Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Thess. 1:1, "Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ."

2 Thess. 1:2, "Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Tim. 1:2, "Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord."

2 Tim. 1:2, "Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord."

Titus 1:4, "Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour."

Philemon 1:3, "Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

An honest question to ask is, "Why is just the Father and Jesus mentioned in these salutations of Paul's?" One of the Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (see Appendix) states that there is a unity of three co-eternal Persons in the Godhead. If this is the case then why is the Holy Spirit left out in all of these verses? Only eight known authors wrote the 27 books of the New Testament. How did these early church believers and authors testify in regard to the oneness of these two divine beings and how they should be worshipped? Let's take a few moments to hear their testimony in their own words.

2. The Apostles and Authors of the New Testament

a. Matthew

Matthew 10:32

"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven."

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."

b. Mark

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."

Mark 10:16-17

¹⁶ “But when he (*man with an unclean spirit*) saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him, ¹⁷ 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.”

c. Luke

Luke 2:11, 13

¹¹ “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord... ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

Luke 2:49

“And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father’s business?”

Acts 7:55-56

⁵⁵ “But he (*Steven*), being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God. And said, ⁵⁶ Behold I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.”

We see here that the Father and the Son of man are in the throne room of heaven. There is work going on in behalf of our salvation. These verses also say that Steven was “full of the Holy Spirit.” In further studies we will find that our Heavenly Father desires each of us to be filled with this Divine Spirit as Steven was. Who is the Spirit? How can we be filled with this Spirit? These are essential questions to ask. This will all unfold as we continue these studies.

d. John

John 5:22-23

²² “For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son. ²³ That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.”

John 5:26

“For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he giveth to the Son to have life in himself;”

John 10:30

“I and my Father are one.”

John 14:1

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.”

John 14:6

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

John 15:1

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.”

John 17:3

“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”

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."

2 John 1:3

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

Rev. 5:13

"And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever."

e. Paul

Rom. 15:6

"That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Cor. 8:6

"But to us there is 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."

Eph. 3:14-15

¹⁴ "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁵ Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named."

Phil. 2:9-11

⁹ "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ¹¹ And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Heb. 1:5

"...I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son."

f. James

James 1:1

"James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ..."

James 2:1, 5

¹ "My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons... ⁵ Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?"

g. Peter

1 Peter 1:3

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

2 Pet. 1:2

"Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord."

2 Peter 1:16-17

¹⁶ “For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eye-witnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory. This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

h. Jude

Jude 1

“Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, a brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:”

The above quotes from the New Testament authors show a oneness between the Father and His Son Jesus. They did not testify to a oneness between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It was always between the Father and His Son.

3. The Oneness Verified by the Spirit of Prophecy

The Youth Instructor, Dec. 16, 1897

“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.”

The Truth About Angels, p. 33

“...The Son was seated on the throne with the Father, and the heavenly throng of holy angels was gathered around them. 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 Father mentions to the heavenly angels that He made His Son equal to Himself. He did not announce to the angels that He had made the Holy Spirit equal to Himself.

Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 36

“The Son of God shared the Father’s throne, and the glory of the eternal, self-existent One encircled both...Before the assembled inhabitants of heaven the King declared that none but Christ, the only Begotten of God, could fully enter His purposes, and to Him it was committed to execute the mighty counsels of His will. The Son of God had wrought the Father’s will in the creation of all the hosts of heaven; and to Him as to God, their homage and allegiance were due.”

These two previous quotations say that the angels were gathered around the throne where only the Father and the Son were seated.

The Great Controversy, p. 493

“Christ the Word, the only Begotten of God, was one with the Father, —one in nature, in character, and in purpose, —the only being in all the universe that could enter into all the counsels and the purposes of God. By Christ the Father wrought in the creation of all heavenly beings. ‘By Him were all things created, that are in heaven, ... whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers’ (Colossians 1:16); and to Christ, equally with the Father, all heaven gave allegiance.”

This quote makes no mention of allegiance being made to the Holy Spirit, neither is there mention of the Holy Spirit being equal to the Father and His Son. It only mentions the oneness and equality of the Father and His only Begotten Son.

Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 34, par.1

“The Sovereign of the universe was not alone in His work of beneficence. He had an associate—a co-worker who could appreciate His purposes, and could share his joy in giving happiness to created beings. ¹ ‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God. ² The same was in the beginning with God.’ John 1:1, 2. Christ, the Word, the only begotten of God, was one with the eternal Father—one in nature, in character, in purpose—the only being that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God.”

The Desire of Ages, p. 834

“Before the foundations of the earth were laid, the Father and the Son had united in a covenant to redeem man if he should be overcome by Satan. They had clasped their hands in a solemn pledge that Christ should become the surety for the human race.”

The Signs of the Times, Dec. 23, 1897, par. 2

“The great plan of redemption was laid before the foundation of the world. And Christ, our Substitute and Surety, did not stand alone in the wondrous undertaking of the ransom of man. In the plan to save a lost world, the counsel was between them both; the covenant of peace was between the Father and the Son.”

The Review & Herald, May 28, 1908, par. 12

“The plan of redemption was arranged in the councils between the Father and the Son.”

The Review & Herald, September 13, 1906, par. 4

“Before the fall of man, the Son of God had united with his Father in laying the plan of salvation.”

The Signs of the Times, June 17, 1903, par. 2

“The plan of salvation devised by the Father and the Son will be a grand success.”

The Story of Redemption, p.18

“God informed Satan, that to His Son alone He would reveal His secret purposes...”

The Ministry of Healing, p. 429

“Even the angels were not permitted to share the counsels between the Father and the Son when the plan of salvation was laid.”

The Story of Redemption, pp. 20-21

“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 said to His Son, ‘Let us make man in our image.’ “

This inspired quote, which the messenger of God wrote for our understanding shows that we were created in the image of the ones who created us—our Heavenly Father and His Son. There is no mention of a third person involved in creation. See also Early Writings, p. 145.

The Story of Redemption, p.15

“Lucifer in heaven, before his rebellion, was a high and exalted angel, next in honor to God’s dear Son.”

This shows the original order in the Godhead.

1. God the Father, John 17:3

2. The Son of God, Phil. 2:9-11

Lucifer a created being was never a member of the Godhead. He was next in honor to Jesus but not equal to Jesus. (SR, p. 15.)

The Review and Herald, Sept. 24, 1901

"Evil originated with Lucifer, who rebelled against the government of God. Before his fall he was a covering cherub, distinguished by his excellence. God made him good and beautiful, as near as possible like Himself."

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 3, p. 328

"Satan had his sympathizers in heaven, and took large numbers of the angels with him. God and Christ and heavenly angels were on one side, and Satan on the other. Notwithstanding the infinite power and majesty of God and Christ, angels became disaffected. The insinuations of Satan took affect, and they really came to believe that the Father and the Son were their enemies and that Satan was their benefactor."

The above statement is referring to Satan becoming envious and rebellious because he wasn't included in the inner conference with the Father and His Son as they planned the creation of the world and the making of man in their own image. He felt that he should be equal with Christ. If the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead why wasn't Lucifer jealous of him?

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 3, p. 115

"Satan in his rebellion took a third of the angels. They turned from the Father and His Son, and united with the instigator of rebellion."

The Youth Instructor, July 7, 1898, par. 2

"⁴⁰ 'The child grew and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him...
⁵¹ And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them. ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man (*Luke 2:40, 51, 52*).'⁵² Let the brightest example the world has yet seen be your example, rather than the greatest and the 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."

The Signs of the Times, October 14, 1897; That I May Know Him, p. 363

"In order that the human family might have no excuse because of temptation, Christ became one with them. The only being who was one with God lived the law in humanity, descended to the lowly life of a common laborer, and toiled at the carpenter's bench with his earthly parent. He lived the life, which he requires of all who claim to be his children. Thus was cut off the powerful argument of Satan that God required of humanity a self-denial and subjection that he would not himself render. The weapons that Satan designed to use against God, were taken from his hands."

The Signs of the Times, Oct. 3, 1892; Ye Shall Receive Power, p. 351

"The Father has given His Son for us that through the Son the Holy Spirit might come to us, and lead us unto the Father."

Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 63

"The Son of God, heaven's glorious Commander, was touched with pity for the fallen race. His heart was moved with infinite compassion as the woes of the lost world rose up before Him. But divine love had conceived a plan whereby man might be redeemed. The broken law of God demanded the life of the sinner. In all the universe there was but one who could, in behalf of man, satisfy its claims. Since the divine law is as sacred as God Himself, only one equal with God could make atonement for its transgression. None but Christ could redeem fallen man from the curse of the law and bring him again

into harmony with Heaven. Christ would take upon Himself the guilt and shame of sin—sin so offensive to a holy God that it must separate the Father and His Son. Christ would reach to the depths of misery to rescue the ruined race.”

Selected Message, vol. 1, p. 293

“There is a personal God, the Father; there is a personal Christ, the Son. And ¹‘God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, ²hath 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; ³who 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’ (Heb. 1:1-3).”

The Review and Herald, Oct. 25, 1881

“If the time seems long to wait for our Deliverer to come; if, bowed by affliction and worn with toil, we feel impatient for our commission to close, and to receive an honorable release from the warfare, let us remember—and let the remembrance check every murmur—that God leaves us on earth to encounter storms and conflicts, to perfect Christian character, to become better acquainted with God our Father and Christ our Elder Brother, and to do work for the Master in winning many souls to Christ, that with glad heart we may hear the words: ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.’ “

Manuscript 21, 1895; Our High Calling, p. 368

“All heaven appreciates the struggles of those who are fighting for the crown of everlasting life, that they may be partakers with Christ in the city of Christ, the very streets of which are pure gold, ‘as it were transparent glass.’ (Revelation 21:21.) God wants you there, Christ wants you there, the heavenly host wants you there. The angels are willing to stand in the outer circle, and let those who have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus stand in the inner circle.... A crown of glory waits for all who fight the good fight of faith.”

God, Christ and the angelic host all want us to be in heaven. What about the Holy Spirit? Did Ellen White leave the Holy Spirit out of this statement for a reason or was it an oversight? If he has a vital part as a third Person of the Godhead would he not have the same interest and longing for God’s children to be present in their heavenly home? Lets continue to study further as we search out this question.

15 Letter Manuscript, Manuscript 21, Feb. 16, 1900; The Upward Look, p. 61

“By the power of His love, through obedience, fallen men, a worm of the dust, is to be transformed, fitted to be a member of the heavenly family, a companion through eternal ages of God and Christ and the holy angels. Heaven will triumph, for the vacancies made by the fall of Satan and his host will be filled by the redeemed of the Lord.”

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 362

“All heaven is keeping the Sabbath, but not in a listless, do-nothing way. On this day every energy of the soul should be awake, for are we not to meet with God and with Christ our Saviour? We may behold Him by faith. He is longing to refresh and bless every soul.”

The Desire of Ages, p. 770

“Heaven and earth will unite in praise, as ‘from one Sabbath to another’ the nations of the saved shall bow in joyful worship of God and the Lamb.”

The Story of Redemption, p. 432

“The people of God are privileged to hold open communion (*in the new earth*) with the Father and the Son.”

The Truth About Angels, p. 296

“The working out of the plan of salvation reveals not only to men but to angels, the character of God, and through the ages of eternity the malignant character of sin will be understood by the cost to the Father and the Son of the redemption of a rebel race.”

6 Letter Manuscript; Manuscript 31, 1889, par. 18

“To know the Father and the Son is the highest knowledge that man can obtain.”

In these quotes it is evident that there is such a oneness with the Father and Jesus and they alone are to be worshipped. Why was the Holy Spirit left out if all are to be worshipped?

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE FATHER AND HIS SON

1. God the Father

a. He is holy.

John 17:11, “And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.”

Ps. 111:9, “holy and reverend is his name.”

Isa. 57:15, “For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy;...”

b. He is a Spirit.

John 4:23-24, ²³“For 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. ²⁴God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

2. The Son of God

a. He is holy.

Acts 4:30, “By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.”

Heb. 7:26, “For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;”

1 Peter 1:16, “Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I (*Jesus*) am holy.”

b. He is a Spirit.

1 Cor. 15:45, “And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam (*Jesus*) was made a quickening spirit.”

This “quickeningspirit” is not only a living soul but an immortal soul, which makes alive and has the power/authority to give life. The Geneva Bible of 1587 has ‘spirit’ capitalized.

Thus, is it safe to say from these verses that the Father is Holy and He is a Spirit and Jesus is Holy and has a Spirit? According to the Bible this is what it says. "Wherever God manifest His presence, the place is holy." The Desire of Ages, p. 156. As we continue I believe it will become even more clear that the Father and His Son desires us also to be holy which is possible only as their Spirit dwells in us.

CONCLUSION

A Fundamental Belief of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is that "there is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three coeternal Persons...He is as much a person as are the Father and the Son." If that is the case...

- 1. Why didn't Paul include a third person when writing his epistles? (see Salutations in Paul's Letters to the Churches, p. 12 of this study.)*
- 2. Why don't we ever see a third person sitting on the throne with the Father and the Son? (Acts 7:55-56; TA, p. 33; PP, p. 36.)*
- 3. Why isn't the Holy Spirit identified as the next in honor to Christ instead of Lucifer. (SR, p. 15.)*
- 4. why don't we ever see a third person involvement mentioned during Creation week? (GC, p. 493; PP, p. 34; p. 20-21.)*
- 5. Why don't we ever see a third person involvement in the heavenly planning council? (DA, p. 834; ST, Dec. 23, 1897 and June 17, 1903; RH, May 28, 1908 and Sept. 13, 1906; MH, p. 429.)*
- 6. Why is only the Father and the Son of God mentioned as receiving praise and honor during the millennium and in the earth made new? (DA, p. 770.)*
- 7. Why will it be the saint's privilege to hold fellowship with the Father and His Son but not with the Holy Spirit? (SR, p. 432.)*
- 8. If the Holy Spirit is a third Person of the Godhead, why is he not an equal to the Father along with Jesus, if all three are to be a unity of three coequal, coeternal Persons? (TA, p. 33; PP, pp. 34, 63; GC, p. 493.)*

If the Godhead is a unity of three co-eternal Persons wouldn't we want to give all three praise? Or, could it be that the third Person has not been correctly identified? In study 3 we will delve deeper into this question and find out who the Holy Spirit is and how He is involved in our salvation.

*B*ut to us there is but one God,
the Father, of whom are all things,
and we live in him; and one Lord
Jesus Christ, by whom are
all things and we live by him.

1 Corinthians 8:6

THE IDENTITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Study 3

Reason For This Study

The Great Controversy, p. 464

“Before the final visitation of God’s judgments upon the earth there will be among the people of the Lord such a revival of primitive godliness as has not been witnessed since apostolic times. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His children. At that time many will separate themselves from those churches in which the love of this world has supplanted the love for God and His word. Many, both ministers and people will gladly accept those great truths which God has caused to be proclaimed at this time to prepare a people for the Lord’s second coming. The enemy of souls desires to hinder this work; and before the time for such a movement shall come, he will endeavor to prevent it by introducing a counterfeit. In those churches which he can bring under his deceptive power he will make it appear that God’s special blessing is poured out; there will be manifest what is thought to be great religious interest. Multitudes will exult that God is working marvelously for them, when the work is that of another spirit. Under a religious guise, Satan will seek to extend his influence over the Christian world.”

Only two classes of people will be found in the last days, those who are following Christ and have returned to primitive godliness and those who love the world. There will also be two powers, the Spirit of God and the counterfeit spirit introduced by Satan.

What is primitive godliness? It is the character of Christ reproduced in His people through the Spirit. Not until we have this character can God come to claim us as His own.

Christ Object Lessons, pp. 67, 69

“Christ is seeking to reproduce Himself in the hearts of men; and He does this through those who believe in Him. The object of the Christian life is fruit bearing—the reproduction of Christ’s character in the believer, that it may be reproduced in others... ‘When the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come’ (*Mark 4:29*). Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.”

Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 79

“The perils of the last days are upon us. Satan takes control of every mind that is not decidedly under the control of the Spirit of God.”

1. THE THREE IN ONE GOD CONCEPT

The second Fundamental Belief of the church under the heading of The Trinity reads, “There is One God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three coeternal Persons.”

Below are quotes from the Spirit of Prophecy, which are used by trinitarians when explaining their three in one God concept but are their explanations correct as given in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy?

The Signs of the Times, June 19, 1901; 7A SDA Bible Commentary, p. 442

“Our sanctification is the work of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is the fulfillment of the covenant that God has made with those who bind themselves up with Him, to stand with Him, with

His Son, and with His Spirit in holy fellowship. Have you been born again? Have you become a new being in Christ Jesus? Then co-operate with the three great powers of heaven who are working in your behalf. Doing this you will reveal to the world the principles of righteousness.”

Counsels on Health, p. 222

“The Godhead was stirred with pity for the race, and the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit gave Themselves to the working out of the plan of redemption. In order fully to carry out this plan, it was decided that Christ, the only-begotten Son of God should give Himself an offering for sin. What line can measure the depth of this love? God would make it impossible for man to say that he could have done more. With Christ He gave all the resources of heaven, that nothing might be wanting in the plan for man’s uplifting.”

The original writing of this statement is found in the Australasian Union Conference Record, Article A, April 1, 1901, par. 10. The word ‘Themselves’ was written in the lower case. Counsels on Health was compiled and published in the year 1923. The Holy Spirit of the Father and His Son has always had an active part in the redemption of humanity but not as a separate third person of the Godhead. As you continue in these studies the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy will clarify itself by using the concept, “precept upon precept, line upon line; here a little and there a little” (Isa. 28:10).

Special Testimonies, Series B, No. 7, 1905, p. 51; Evangelism, p. 617, compiled, published in 1946.

“We are to co-operate with the three highest powers in heaven, —the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, —and these powers will work through us, making us workers together with God.”

Special Testimonies, Series B, No. 7, 1905, pp. 62-63; Evangelism, pp. 614-615

“...The Father is all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and is invisible to mortal sight. The Son is all the fullness of the Godhead manifested... the Comforter that Christ promised to send after He ascended to heaven, is the Spirit in all the fullness of the Godhead, making manifest the power of divine grace to all who receive and believe in Christ as a personal Savior. There are three living persons of the heavenly trio. In the name of the three great powers—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—those who receive Christ by living faith are baptized, and these powers will cooperate with the obedient subjects of heaven in their efforts to live the new life in Christ.”

In the original copy of the above statement from the pen of Ellen White her proofreader wrote, “There are three living persons of the heavenly trio” but Ellen White read it over before it went to the publisher and marked out “persons” and wrote “personalities”. She also made a correction by changing “heavenly trinity to heavenly trio”. The trio is simply the Father, the Son (Jesus in the flesh), and Holy Spirit (Jesus in the Spirit). This will be explained more fully and clearly as the Holy Spirit is identified in this and further studies.

The Southern Watchman, Feb. 23, 1904, p. 122

“Those who proclaim the third angel’s message must put on the whole armor of God, that they may stand boldly at their post, in the face of detraction and falsehood, fighting the good fight of faith, resisting the enemy with the word, ‘It is written.’ Keep yourselves where the three great powers of heaven, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, can be your efficiency. These powers work with the one who gives himself unreservedly to God. The strength of heaven is at the command of God’s believing ones. The man who takes God as his trust is barricaded by an impregnable wall.”

16 Letter Manuscript; Manuscript 130, 1901, par. 53

“The Lord Jesus described the difficulties they (*His followers*) would meet. Having called their minds to rise to an eminence, He bids them look and behold the vast confederacy of evil arrayed against God, against Christ, against all who unite with these holy powers. Christ tells them they were to fight in fellowship with all the children of light; that satanic agencies would combine their forces to extinguish

the light of the life of Christ out of their ranks. But they were not left to fight the battles in their own human strength; that the angelic host coming as ministers of God would be in that battle, and also there would be the eternal heavenly dignitaries—God, and Christ, and the Holy Spirit—arming them with more than mortal energy, and who would advance with them to the work, and convince the world of sin.”

The Desire of Ages, 1940 edition, p. 671

“Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world’s Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church.”

In the 1898 edition of The Desire of Ages the ‘Third Person’ is written in lower case letters. The same is true in the May 19, 1904, par. 3 publication of The Review and Herald. This quote identifies who the third person of the God-head really is. He isn’t a third co-eternal Person but rather the Spirit of Jesus Himself. Without this Spirit that was imparted to Jesus by His Father He would never have been able to resist temptation. We have access to this same power that Jesus had (see Luke 11:13). The Spirit of Jesus can rightly be put in the position of a third person of the Godhead because Jesus came in the flesh to give His life for the world and then returned in the Spirit to be the Comforter. They are three separate personalities but they all work together as one.

Special Testimonies, Series A, No. 10, 1897, p. 37

“The prince of the power of evil can only be held in check by the power of God in the third person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit.”

We have read quotes such as The Desire of Ages, p. 671 where the Holy Spirit came forth from the Father, and the Father imparted His Spirit to His Son. So in this sense the Holy Spirit is part of the Godhead as He is the very being of the Father and His Son. There is no mention in the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy where the Holy Spirit is sitting on a separate throne. In further studies we will learn more about the identity of the Holy Spirit and His work.

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 8, 1904, p. 194

“The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are seeking and longing for channels through which to communicate to the world the divine principles of truth.”

Manuscript Release 7, p. 299 *(In reference to the Avondale School in Australia)*

“The Lord instructed us that this was the place in which we should locate, and we have had every reason to think that we are in the right place. We have been brought together as a school, and we need to realize that the Holy Spirit, who is as much a person as God is a person, is walking through these grounds, that the Lord God is our keeper, and helper. He hears every word we utter and knows every thought of the mind.”

Manuscript 20, 1906, par. 31-32

“The Holy Spirit is a person, for He beareth witness with our spirits that we are the children of God. When this witness is borne, it carries with it its own evidence. At such times we believe and are sure that we are the children of God. What strong evidence of the power of truth we can give to believers and unbelievers when we can voice the words of John, ‘We have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.’ The Holy Spirit has a personality, else he could not bear witness to our spirits and with our spirits that we are the

children of God. He must also be a divine person, else he could not search out the secrets which lie hidden in the mind of God. 'For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him; even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.' "

2. THE "ONE GOD" CONCEPT

Many people embrace this concept. They base their belief on Eph. 4:6 and many other scripture verses that says there is only one true God. His only begotten Son has inherited all things from His Father. The Holy Spirit is the divinity of the Father that has been imparted to the Son and passed on through the ministration of the angels to those that accept Jesus as their personal Savior. It is this power that enables a person to overcome sin in their lives. One of Satan's means of hindering this work is brought out in the statement below.

10 Manuscript Releases 156, par. 11

"As the special work of Satan has been to separate the Father and the Son, he has so blinded the eyes of the Christian world that they now turn from the Father and from His law and dwell wholly on Christ."

a. The Nature of the Holy Spirit

The Acts of the Apostles, p. 52

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

This was one of the last books written by Ellen White, which was published just a few years before her death. This quote from The Acts of the Apostles comes from a letter that she wrote to Bro Chapman. This letter will be included in the last study of this series. In that letter she identifies who the Spirit is but the nature of the Spirit we cannot explain because God has not revealed it to us.

19 Letter Manuscript, Manuscript 46, 1904, par. 4

"There are some things upon which we must reason, and there are other things that we must not discuss. In regard to God—what He is and where He is—silence is eloquence. When you are tempted to speak of what God is, keep silence, because as surely as you begin to speak of this, you will disparage Him."

19 Letter Manuscript, Manuscript 46, 1904, par. 15

"Our ministers must be careful not to enter into controversy in regard to the personality of God. This is a subject that they are not to touch. It is a mystery, and the enemy will surely lead astray those who enter into it. We know that Christ came in person to reveal God to the world. God is a person, and Christ is a person. Christ is spoken of in the Word as 'the brightness of His Father's glory, and the express image of His person.' " (Heb. 1:3.)

b. The Identity of the Holy Spirit

True, we do not and cannot know and understand the nature of the Holy Spirit, but we can identify the Holy Spirit because God has plainly taught us in the scriptures and confirmed by the Spirit of Prophecy who the Holy Spirit is. He has told us that He wants us to know the position and works of the Holy Spirit as penned in these statements below.

Col. 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.”

The identity of this divine power, or the Holy Spirit, is a mystery to unbelievers but God wants His consecrated, believing children to understand this mystery; it is Christ living in us. If we know and understand the work of the Holy Spirit then we will know what is available so we can make our requests known to our Father.

Counsels on Sabbath School Work, p. 40

“There will be heart yearnings after God, and earnest prayer for clear perception to discern the office and work of the Holy Spirit. It is not for us to use it, but for the Holy Spirit to use us, molding, fashioning every power.”

Daughters of God, 1897, p. 185, par. 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.”

This helps to explain the statement from Manuscript Release 7, p. 299 that says, “the Holy Spirit, who is as much a person as God is a person.”

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 9, 1909, p. 189

“Those who believe the truth should remember that they are God’s little children, that they are under His training. 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.”

When we unite with the three mentioned in this quote we will see and experience the unity that Jesus prayed for in John 17. This unity coming into the ranks of the believers was what the early church founders lived and sacrificed for.

Letter 66, April 10, 1894, par. 18

“The Lord is soon to come. We want that complete and perfect understanding which the Lord alone can give. It is not safe to catch the spirit from another. We want the Holy Spirit, which is Jesus Christ.”

The Review and Herald, April 5, 1906, par. 16

“The Holy Spirit, which proceeds from the only begotten Son of God, binds the human agent, body, soul, and spirit, to the perfect, divine-human nature of Christ. This union is represented by the union of the vine and the branches. Finite man is united to the manhood of Christ. Through faith human nature is assimilated with Christ’s nature. We are made one with God in Christ.”

The Ministry of Healing, p. 417

“By His Spirit He (*the Father*) is everywhere present. Through the agency of His Spirit and His angels He ministers to the children of men.”

The Desire of Age, p. 166, par. 2

“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.’ Matt. 28:20. While He delegates His power to inferior ministers, His energizing presence is still with His church.”

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 7, 1902, p. 273, par. 1

"In giving us His Spirit, God gives us Himself, making Himself a fountain of divine influences, to give health and life to the world."

17 Letter Manuscript; Manuscript 62, 1902, par. 12

"The men and women in every church are earnestly to inquire: 'What is my work? What shall I do?' The Lord has told you what to do. His instruction is: 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.' (Mark 16:15.) Worship no man, praise no man. Acknowledge no other god but the only true and living God. Humble yourselves before Him alone. He will give to you His Holy Spirit, making you 'a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men.' (1 Corinthians 4:9.)"

We must always keep before us that the Ten Commandments are immovable. In James 2:10 we read, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." Exodus 20:3, the first of the ten commandments says, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." The above quote reiterates this, "Acknowledge no other god but the only true and living God." The Father imparted His power to Jesus because He was His only begotten Son; ⁹"Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ¹¹And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:9-11). There is no scripture where it shows that the Father highly exalted another person to be a part of the Godhead as He did His only begotten Son. Jesus Himself always acknowledged His Father as the one true God and so should we.

The Desire of Ages, p. 805

"The impartation of the Spirit is the impartation of the life of Christ."

9 Letter Manuscript 66, par.18. This letter was written by Ellen White from Granville, New South Wales, Australia to W.W. Prescott, April 10, 1894.

⁵ "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. ⁶ But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.' (James 1:5, 6). 'And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him because we keep his commandments and do those things that are pleasing in his sight' (1 John 3:22). ²⁰ 'And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. ²¹ Little children keep yourselves from idols' (1 John 5:20, 21). The Lord is soon to come. We want that complete and perfect understanding which the Lord alone can give. It is not safe to catch the spirit from another. We want the Holy Spirit, which is Jesus Christ. If we commune with God, we shall have strength and grace and efficiency."

It says here in this quote that it is not safe to catch the spirit from another. John warns us in 1 John 4:1 "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." In other words, there are evil spirits, which are Satan's and there is the Holy Spirit, which is Jesus Christ. Christ righteous Spirit cannot dwell where evil spirits dwell.

Luke 11:13

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him."

The Bible Echo, Jan. 15, 1893

"By the Spirit the Father and the Son will come and make their abode with you. John 14:23 'Jesus answered and said unto him (*Judas, but not Iscariot*), If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.' "

The Desire of Ages, p. 669

“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.”

Notations on the Quote Above

1. *“Divested of the personality of humanity.” The only person of the Godhead who has had the personality of humanity was Jesus. Even our Heavenly Father does not have this human characteristic. Only Jesus came as our example, living among humanity, dying for humanity and without sin. The Holy Spirit is Christ’s representative, but divested (deprived of a particular quality) of the personality of humanity.*

2. *“Independent thereof.” When the Spirit is removed from humanity it is “independent thereof.” Jesus not only had the personality of humanity, He also had the personality of Divinity.*

3. *“Cumbered with humanity.” Jesus alone was cumbered with humanity. In His humanity, He was just like us. We cannot be in California and Japan at the same time. When Jesus went back to heaven He kept His humanity, but sent His successor, the Holy Spirit—the Spirit of Jesus. Thus, all believers would have access to His divine Spirit. No one would have an advantage over another.*

The Southern Work, September 13, 1898, par. 2

“That Christ should manifest Himself to them, and yet be invisible to the world, was a mystery to the disciples. They could not understand the words of Christ in their spiritual sense. They were thinking of the outward, visible manifestation. They could not take in the fact that they could have the presence of Christ with them, and yet He be unseen by the world. They did not understand the meaning of a spiritual manifestation.”

The quote below from Counsels on Health, p. 222 was also given under the section The Three In One God Concept but is presented again to give a clearer understanding of the quote above.

Counsels on Health, p. 222

“The Godhead was stirred with pity for the race, and the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit gave Themselves to the working out of the plan of redemption. In order fully to carry out this plan, it was decided that Christ, the only-begotten Son of God should give Himself an offering for sin. What line can measure the depth of this love? God would make it impossible for man to say that he could have done more. With Christ He gave all the resources of heaven, that nothing might be wanting in the plan for man’s uplifting.”

Ellen White explains it this way, “But although Christ’s divine glory was for a time veiled and eclipsed by His assuming humanity, yet He did not cease to be God when He became man. The human did not take the place of the divine, nor the divine of the human. This is the mystery of godliness. The two expressions human and divine were, in Christ, closely and inseparably one, and yet they had a distinct individuality. Though Christ humbled Himself to become man, the Godhead was still His own. His Deity could not be lost while He stood faithful and true to His loyalty.” Signs of the Times, May 10, 1899, par. 11. This is why we can say that there is a third person actively involved in the plan of salvation because Jesus has two distinct individualities, His human and His divine —His Holy Spirit.

Manuscript 13, 1895, p. 313, par. 3

“The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ; it is His representative. Here is the divine agency that carries conviction to hearts. When the power of His Spirit is revealed through the servants of God, we behold divinity flashing through humanity.”

The Review and Herald, Oct. 26, 1897, par. 15

“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 the Spirit reveal its fruit—love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith.”

So simple and so uncomplicated! “The influence of the Holy Spirit is the life of Christ in the soul.” Many have tried to explain their “three in one” God concept but they have a difficult time doing so. Jesus has shown us how He loved the little children and the disciples were instructed not to drive them away from His presence. Would He not make it possible for even small children to understand in simple terms how they can overcome sin by inviting the Holy Spirit, the very life of Christ Himself into their hearts?

The Desire of Ages, p. 805

“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 received with the attributes of Christ. Only those who are thus taught of God, those who possess the inward working of the Spirit, and whose life the Christ-life is manifested, are to stand as represented men, to minister in behalf of the church.”

14 Manuscript 84, par. 3

“The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ, which is sent to all men to give them sufficiency.”

Manuscript 36, 1891

“But it is the leaven of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, which is sent down from heaven, called the Holy Ghost.”

By comparing verse with verse from the Bible and allowing light to be shed on these verses through the pages written by the messenger of God this is how we can arrive at the identity of the true Spirit. The Spirit is always linked to the Father and the Son, thus He is usually referred to as “The Spirit of God” or the Spirit of Christ”. Romans 8:9 is an example of this, “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.”

Webster’s dictionary gives the definition for “of”; “indicating an association between two entities, typically one of belonging. Examples would be: 1.) son of a friend 2.) a photograph of the bride 3.) the coast of Italy. So the Spirit of God as shown by this definition reveals that the Spirit is associated with and part of God and the Spirit of Christ reveals that the Spirit is associated with and part of Christ.

THE TWO NATURES OF JESUS

SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 7, p. 904; Letter 5, 1889

“The blending of the two natures, the divine and the human... can never be explained.”

The Upward Look, p. 196

“In clothing His divinity with humanity, He became possessed of two natures, the divine and the human.”

Selected Messages, vol. 1, p. 252

"In assuming humanity Christ took the part of every human being. A Being divine and human, with His long arm he could encircle humanity, with His divine arm he could lay hold of the throne of the infinite."

The Desire of Ages, p. 507

"Looking upon Him in His humiliation as He walked a man among men, they had not understood the mystery of His incarnation, the dual character of His nature. Their eyes were holden, so that they did not fully recognize divinity in humanity."

SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 5, p. 1129; Letters 32, 1899; The Signs of the Times, May 10, 1899

"But although Christ's divine glory was for a time veiled and eclipsed by His assuming humanity, yet He did not cease to be God when He became man. The human did not take the place of the divine, nor the divine of the human. This is the mystery of godliness. The two expressions 'human' and 'divine' were in Christ, closely and inseparably one, and yet they had a distinct individuality. Though Christ humbled Himself to become man, the Godhead was still His own. His deity could not be lost while He stood faithful and true to His loyalty."

SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 5, p. 1128; The Review and Herald, Oct. 29, 1895

"Christ had not exchanged His divinity for humanity, but He had clothed His divinity with humanity."

SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 7, pp. 744-745

"He veiled His divinity with the garb of humanity, but He did not part with His divinity. A divine-human Saviour."

Selected Messages, vol. 1, pp. 272-273

"Christ's work was to reconcile man to God through His human nature, and God to man through His divine nature."

SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 6, p. 1054; The Review and Herald, Mar. 9, 1905

"Christ ascended to heaven, bearing a sanctified, holy humanity. He took this humanity with him into the heavenly courts, and through the eternal ages he will bear it, as the One who has redeemed every human being in the city of God."

In these statements we find that Jesus had both the human and divine natures. He did not lay aside His divinity when He took on humanity, rather He veiled His divinity with humanity. Nor did He lay aside His humanity after His resurrection. This is why the Godhead is referred to in a number of quotations as three living persons of the heavenly trio, the three great and highest powers in heaven, the three eternal heavenly dignitaries, and the third person of the Godhead. This simply means God the Father, Jesus in the Spirit and Jesus in the flesh. We will never be able to explain the blending of the divine with the human nor are we to try to explain it. It will always be a mystery.

Question and Answer

Question: Is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit the same as blasphemy against our Heavenly Father?

Answer: Yes!

In Mark 3:28-30 we read, ²⁸ "Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: ²⁹ But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation: ³⁰ Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit." We have identified thus far that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus, which came forth from His Father. As we

saw in a previous lesson God is Holy and He is a Spirit. That is who He is. When a person blasphemes the Holy Spirit he is showing irreverence and rebellion against God and will be in danger of eternal damnation.

John 3:34

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

The Review and Herald, Nov. 5, 1908

“The Father gave His Spirit without measure to his Son, and we also may partake of its fullness.”

In other words, God gave Jesus a measureless supply of His Spirit and this measureless supply is also available to us.

Romans 8:9-11

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. ¹⁰And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.”

In this verse there is no mention of an independent third person Holy Spirit apart from the Father and Jesus. The Father is the one that raised Christ from the dead. In Early Writings, p. 182 it reads “Then the angel from heaven, with a voice that caused the earth to quake, cried out, ‘Thou Son of God, Thy Father calls Thee! Come forth.’” In addition, That I May Know Him, p. 71 it reads ‘Humanity died; divinity did not die. In His divinity Christ possessed the power to break the bonds of death.’ “

In other words, Jesus and His Father’s will were united as one so that He desired to fulfill the will of the Father (Luke 22:42). Even though He possessed divinity and had the power to bring himself forth from the grave, He did not until His father called Him. This is brought out in Gospel Workers, p. 285 “We cannot use the Holy Spirit; the Spirit is to use us. Through the Spirit, God works in His people ‘to will and to do of His good pleasure (Phil. 2:13).’ But many will not submit to be led. They want to manage themselves. This is why they do not receive the heavenly gift. Only to those who wait humbly upon God, who watch for His guidance and grace, is the Spirit given.”

The Father and His Son’s desire is for us also to be one as they are one (John 17:22-23). This means we will need to be holy which is only possible when we have His Spirit imparted to us. Without this Spirit we cannot be one with the Father and His Son.

CONCLUSION

As we conclude study 3 and consider the closing days of this earth’s history, we must take seriously the quote, which was given at the beginning of this study from The Great Controversy, p. 464. The final judgment of God will be upon us very soon. The pen of inspiration has revealed to us that there will be a revival of primitive godliness, which has not been seen since apostolic time. The Spirit and power of God will be poured out upon His people and the final judgment will then take place. Simultaneously Satan will reinforce his agencies to bring in a counterfeit spirit as he attempts to hinder the Spirit and power of God being poured out upon His people. For every truth there is a counterfeit. If there is one mistake God’s people must not make it is, to not know the identity of the Holy Spirit. If we do not understand this correctly, we will be deceived by the counterfeit and will not be a part of the revival of primitive godliness. One can detect the counterfeit by studying the true.

The table below gives some examples of counterfeits that counteract the truth. As Jesus was talking to some Jews in John 8:31-32 He said ³¹“... If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; ³²And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” We all like freedom and can have it if we know the truth. By standing on the Word and proving all things (1 Thess. 5:21) truth will be clearly revealed to us. We will be unmovable in our faith in God and His word. (see 1 Cor. 15:58.)

TRUTH	COUNTERFEIT to TRUTH	REFERENCES
Faith	Presumption	Heb. 11:1; DA, 126
Teachers	False teachers	1 Cor. 12:28; 2 Pet. 2:1
Prophets	False Prophets	1 Cor. 12:28; 1 John 4:1; 2 Pet. 2:1
Archangel	Archenemy	1 Thess. 4:16; Rev. 12:9
Judgment of the Wicked <i>Receives their final punishment at the end of the millennium where they are cast into a lake of fire and burned to ashes.</i>	Purgatory <i>The wicked upon death immediately go to a place called Purgatory where they suffer until they are purified.</i>	Rev. 20:14,15; Mal. 4:1
Sabbath <i>The 7th day—the Lord’s Day</i>	False Sabbath <i>Day of worship other than the 7th day.</i>	Ex. 20:8-11; James 2:10-12
Baptism <i>By immersion</i>	Substitute baptism <i>By sprinkling, pouring etc.</i>	Eph. 4:5; Matt. 3:6, 16
Last Supper <i>The pure grape juice and the broken bread is symbolic of the body and shed blood of Jesus. Foot washing.</i>	Eucharist <i>The wafer used as the actual body of Jesus. Fermented wine is used. Foot washing is not performed.</i>	1 Cor. 11:23-27; John 13:4-15
Speaking in a known language <i>Understood by people of the different language groups.</i>	Speaking in an unknown language <i>Not understood by the different groups.</i>	Acts 2:4, 6; 1 Cor. 14:19, 27-28
Confession of sin <i>to Jesus our High Priest.</i>	Confession of sin <i>to a human priest.</i>	Heb. 4:14-16
Holy Spirit	Counterfeit spirit	Eph. 4:4; 2 Cor. 11:4; GC, 464

Is the Holy Spirit making a difference in your life? Has bitterness been replaced with a forgiving spirit? Do you now see a person’s good characteristics rather than his weaknesses? Does love for others regardless of their position or status in life overrule? Is there a spirit of unity among you?

In our next study we will reiterate the qualities of character that will be necessary for us to have before we cross over into our Canaan home. These qualities are called the fruit of the Spirit and come as a result of the Spirit abiding in us. The counterfeit spirit will always compete with the Spirit of God. Are we straddling the fence or are we on God’s side? May we each yield to the wooing of His Spirit.

We have nothing to fear
for the future, except as
we shall forget the way the
Lord has led us, and His
teaching in our past history.

Life Sketches, p. 196

WHO IS THE COMFORTER?

Study 4

Jesus' Promise to the Apostolic and Present Day Church

John 13:16

"And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;"

Jesus' Explanation to His Disciples in Fulfilling This Promise

John 13 and 14

In the thirteenth chapter of John, Jesus has just had the last supper with His disciples. He is forewarning them for what lies ahead so they will be prepared and find comfort during their lonely days. In verse 33 He tells them, "Little children, yet a little while I am with you. Ye shall seek me; and as I said unto the Jews, Whither I go, ye cannot come..." As Jesus continues with this conversation in John 14 he says, ¹ Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. ² In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. ⁴ And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. ⁵ Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? ⁶ Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Jesus goes on to say in verse 13 and on, ¹³ "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it. ¹⁵ If ye love me, keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; ¹⁷ Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you, ¹⁹ Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. ²⁰ At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. He continues on in verse 26, "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth (see John 14:6), which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:"

Notations on John 14

a. John 14:15

"If ye love me, keep my commandments."

We are to love Jesus and keep His commandments. This is impossible of ourselves. Verse 16 gives a solution to this dilemma.

b. John 14:16

"I will ask the Father and he will give you another Comforter."

c. John 14:17

"The Spirit of truth dwells with you, and shall be in you."

In verse six Jesus says that He is the truth, but later in John 15:26 we find that the Comforter and the Spirit of

truth are the same. How can that be? Since Jesus had the Spirit of God dwelling in Him, He also had the Spirit of truth or the Comforter abiding in Him because they are the same. Jesus is now telling His disciples that they can have the Comforter who is also the Spirit of truth dwelling in them.

d. John 14:18

"I will come to you."

Jesus promised to send the Comforter or the Holy Spirit to them.

e. John 14:19

"Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, you shall live also."

f. John 14:20

"I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you."

g. John 14:21

"I will manifest myself to you."

Jesus would do this through the Comforter.

h. John 14:22

"How is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?"

This question was asked by one of Jesus' disciples. "That Christ should manifest Himself to them, and yet be invisible to the world, was a mystery to the disciples. They could not understand the words of Christ in their spiritual sense. They were thinking of the outward, visible manifestation. They could not take in the fact that they could have the presence of Christ with them, and yet He be unseen by the world. They did not understand the meaning of a spiritual manifestation." The Southern Work, Sept. 13, 1898, par. 2. This is talking about Jesus returning in the Spirit, not a third person who is separate from Him.

i. 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."

j. 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..."

Note again that Jesus sends the Comforter from the Father, which is the Spirit of truth. This Spirit of truth testifies of Jesus (John 14:6).

The Problem Solved:

The Acts of the Apostles, pp. 25-31 paraphrased

1. *Jesus was leaving His disciples and they thought they would be left alone to carry on the work.*
2. *The disciples became discouraged. (AA, 25)*
3. *Jesus had tried to prepare them for this time, but they were slow to understand. (Ibid)*
4. *Jesus' crucifixion left them hopeless and bitterly disappointed. (Ibid, 26)*
5. *After the resurrection Jesus was able to spend 40 days instructing the disciples in the prophecies concerning*

Himself and their future. The fulfillment of these prophecies assured them that they would be equipped for the mission ahead. (Ibid, 26)

6. The disciples could now understand Jesus' words as they saw the prophecies being fulfilled, and this established their faith. (Ibid, 27)

7. They recognized the work entrusted to them was that of proclaiming the truth to the world. (Ibid, 27)

8. They were to work earnestly for the salvation of souls. (Ibid, 28)

9. Jesus promised that His very presence would be with them even in far-away-places. (Ibid, 29)

10. Jesus promised that He would give them success as they went forth sharing the good news with others. (Ibid, 31)

11. The disciples could have success only as they received help through the Holy Spirit. (Ibid)

12. The same help is offered to us today if we by faith allow the Comforter to accomplish His work in us.

WHO IS "ANOTHER" COMFORTER?

7 Letter Manuscript; Letter 7, par. 14, 1891. A letter by Ellen White to Bro. Chapman.

"It is not essential for you to know and be able to define just what the Holy Spirit is. Christ tells us that the Holy Spirit is the Comforter, and the comforter is the Holy Ghost, "the Spirit of truth, which the Father shall send in my name," (John 14:26.) ¹⁶ "I will pray the Father, and he shall send you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him; but ye know him, for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." (verses 16, 17.) This refers to the omnipresence of the Spirit of Christ, called the Comforter. Again, Jesus says, "I have many things to say unto you, but you cannot bear them now. Howbeit, when he, the Spirit of Truth is come, he will guide you into all truth." John 15:26; 16:13.

Notice in the above quote that the Holy Spirit is the Comforter as well as the Spirit of Truth. These terms all refer to the omnipresence of the Spirit of Christ.

The Desire of Ages, pp. 668-669

"Before offering Himself as the sacrificial victim, Christ sought for the most essential and complete gift to bestow upon His followers, a gift that would bring within their reach the boundless resources of grace. 'I will pray the Father,' He said, 'and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever...'"

The Desire of Ages, p. 800

"Thus Christ discoursed to His disciples (*as they walked to Emmaus*), opening their minds that they might understand the Scriptures. The disciples were weary, but the conversation did not flag. Words of life and assurance fell from the Saviour's lips. But still their eyes were holden. As he told them of the overthrow of Jerusalem, they looked upon the doomed city with weeping. But little did they suspect who their traveling companion was. They did not think that the subject of their conversation was walking by their side; for Christ referred to Himself as though He were another person. They thought that He was one of those who had been in attendance at the great feast, and who was now returning to his home."

"another Comforter," "another person," —what does Jesus mean?

As the English language has different definitions for the word "plain" so the Greek language has different meanings for the word "another." See the following chart for clarification:

GREEK WORD	DEFINITION	BIBLE TEXT WHERE GREEK WORD IS USED
parakletos	called to one's side, an advocate, comforter, helper.	1 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 (<i>parakletos</i>) with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."
heteros	another of a different sort, another but distinct in kind.	Matt. 8:21: "And another (<i>heteros</i>) of his disciples said unto him, Lord suffer me first to go and bury my father."
allos	another of the same sort or kind.	John 14:16: "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you 'another' (<i>allos</i>) Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;" 1 Sam. 10:6 "And the Spirit of the Lord will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into 'another' (<i>allos</i>) man." Note: In this text 'another' implies another of the same. 'Another' was still Saul, just as 'another' in John 14:16 was still Jesus. If I gave you a glass of water, and then said, "would you like another?" you would know it was still water I was referring to and not milk or juice.

THE COMFORTER IDENTIFIED

Questions and Answers

Question: *Is the Holy Ghost the comforter?*

Answer: *Yes! We are told this in John 14:26, "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."*

Question: *Is the Comforter the Spirit of truth?*

Answer: *Yes! We are told this in John 15:26, "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceeded from the Father, he shall testify of me."*

Question: *So, if the Holy Ghost is the Comforter and the Comforter is the Spirit of truth, who is the truth?*

Answer: *Jesus tells us in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."*

Question: *So when the Jews were resisting the influence of Christ, were they resisting and rejecting the Comforter, who is the Spirit of truth?*

Answer: *Yes!*

Question: *If we today reject the truths He has given us through His Word would we not also be rejecting the Holy Ghost, who is the Comforter and the Spirit of truth?*

Answer: *Again, the answer would be yes!*

We find here that the titles Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Holy Spirit and the Holy Ghost are names which refer to Jesus. These are only some of the names given to Him. In Isaiah 9:6 names such as "Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" are also bestowed upon Jesus.

The Personal Presence of the Comforter

Special Testimonies, Series B, No. 7, 1905, pp. 62-63; Evangelism, pp. 614-615

“The Father is all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and is invisible to mortal sight. The Son is all the fullness of the Godhead manifested... the Comforter that Christ promised to send after He ascended to heaven is the Spirit in all the fullness of the Godhead, making manifest the power of divine grace to all who receive and believe in Christ as a personal Saviour. There are three living persons of the heavenly trio. In the name of the three great powers—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—those who receive Christ by living faith are baptized, and these powers will cooperate with the obedient subjects of heaven in their efforts to live the new life in Christ.”

This quotation was given in the last study but to reemphasize it says that the Comforter is the Spirit in all the fullness of the Godhead. The Godhead has been identified as the Father and His Son. Their Spirit is called the Comforter.

The Review and Herald, Nov. 29, 1892

“...The Holy Spirit is the comforter, as the personal presence of Christ to the soul.”

8 Manuscript Releases, July 16, 1892, p. 49

“The Saviour is our Comforter. This I have proved Him to be.”

Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 3, p. 256

“Jesus had assured them (*disciples*) that he would send the Comforter, as an equivalent for his visible presence.”

19 Manuscript Release, no. 1405, July 26, 1892, p. 297, par. 3; Sons and Daughters of God, p. 124

“As by faith we look to Jesus our faith pierces the shadow, and we adore God for His wondrous love in giving Jesus the Comforter.”

The Review and Herald, May 19, 1904

“This comforter is the Holy Spirit, —the soul of His life, and 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.”

The Desire of Ages, p. 277

“When He should come forth from the tomb, their sorrow would be turned to joy. After his ascension He was to be absent in person; but through the Comforter He would still be with them, and they were not to spend their time in mourning. This was what Satan wanted. He desired them to give the world the impression that they had been deceived and disappointed; but by faith they were to look to the sanctuary above, where Jesus was ministering for them; they were to open their hearts to the Holy Spirit, His representative, and to rejoice in the light of His presence.”

The Ministry of Healing, pp. 488-489

“The Father’s presence encircled Christ, and nothing befell Him but that which infinite love permitted for the blessing of the world. Here was His source of comfort, and it is for us. He who is imbued with the Spirit of Christ abides in Christ. Whatever comes to him comes from the Saviour, who surrounds him with His presence. Nothing can touch him except by the Lord’s permission...”

SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 3, p. 1154

“By the mighty cleaver of truth God has brought His people, as a rough stone, from the quarry of the world. These stones must be squared and polished. The rough edges must be removed. This is a painful process; but it is a necessary one. Without it, we could not be prepared for a place in God’s

temple. By trial, by warning, by admonitions, God seeks to prepare us to fulfill His purpose. If we cooperate with Him, our characters will be fashioned 'after the similitude of a palace.' it is the specified work of the Comforter to transform us."

God brings His people from the quarry of the world to do His transforming work. As we read the Word of God and pray we are reprovved and transformed. The quotation below shows that the Holy Spirit reprovves us so that we will recognize our need and turn to Him for help.

Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 176

"...the Holy Spirit is a comforter as well as a reprover."

The Review and Herald, Oct. 26, 1897

"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. "

The Review & Herald, August 26, 1890, par. 10

"The reason why the churches are weak and sickly and ready to die, is that the enemy has brought influence of a discouraging nature to bear upon their trembling souls. He has sought to shut Jesus from their view as the comforter, as one who reprovves, 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 waverly, 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. Every soul must have a realization that Christ is his personal Savior; then love and zeal and steadfastness will be manifest in the Christian life. However, clear and convincing the truth is, it will fail to sanctify the soul, fail to strengthen and fortify it in its conflicts, unless it is brought in constant contact with life. Satan has achieved his greatest success through interposing himself between the soul and the Saviour."

WHAT THE COMFORTER WANTS TO DO FOR US

The Youth Instructor, July 5, 1894, par. 6

"Christ, our Mediator, is the one who gives the Holy Spirit; and by the office work of the Holy Spirit, the atonement made on Calvary is brought in contact with the soul of man to transform his character, and change his nature, until it can be said in heaven, 'Ye are laborers together with God, wearing Christ's yoke, bearing his burden.' Through the agent of the Holy Spirit, man becomes the agent through which souls are brought into the kingdom of heaven. Through sanctification of the Spirit, he is a light to direct souls in the path of right, and draw souls to Jesus Christ. His hitherto paralyzed moral agency is quickened and reinvigorated with spiritual energy. Through the imputed righteousness of Christ, the Christian is placed on vantage ground, and becomes a channel through which the Holy Spirit can work, and the work done through the human agent, does not disappoint our Redeemer; for in such instruments he does not plead in vain with the souls of men. They are not ambassadors who having eyes see not, having ears hear not, and having hearts will not understand."

Manuscript 7, Jan. 26, 1902

"Christ is to be known by the blessed name of Comforter. 'The Comforter,' said Christ to His disciples, '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...' "

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 322

"All who desire an opportunity for true ministry, and who will give themselves unreservedly to God, will find in the canvassing work opportunities to speak upon many things pertaining to the future, immortal life. The experience thus gained will be of the greatest value to those who are fitting themselves for the ministry. It is the accompaniment of the Holy Spirit of God that prepares workers, both men and

women, to become pastors to the flock of God. As they cherish the thought that Christ is their Companion, a holy awe, a sacred joy, will be felt by them amid all their trying experiences and all their tests. They will learn how to pray as they work. They will be educated in patience, kindness, affability, and helpfulness. They will practice true Christian courtesy, bearing in mind that Christ, their Companion, cannot approve of harsh, unkind words or feelings. Their words will be purified. The power of speech will be regarded as a precious talent, lent them to do a high and holy work. The human agent will learn how to represent the divine Companion with whom he is associated. To that unseen Holy One he will show respect and reverence because he is wearing His yoke and is learning His pure, holy ways. Those who have faith in this divine Attendant will develop. They will be gifted with power to clothe the message of truth with a sacred heart.”

God pulls back the curtain and shows in this encouraging quote where we receive our power and success when canvassing and pastoring the flock of God. The Spirit of God prepares the workers and through His Spirit the unseen Holy One—Christ, becomes their companion. In the next paragraph of the same book it reads, “If the Spirit of Christ dwells in their hearts, they will find opportunities to present His word to others and to direct minds to the special truths for his time.”

The Desire of Ages, pp. 669-670

“At all times and in all places, in all sorrows and in all afflictions, when the outlook seems dark and the future perplexing, and we feel helpless and alone, the Comforter will be sent in answer to the prayer of faith. Circumstances may separate us from every earthly friend; but no circumstance, no distance, can separate us from the heavenly Comforter. Wherever we are, wherever we may go, He is always at our right hand to support, sustain, uphold, and cheer.”

How reassuring! We have all hit rock bottom at one time or the other. It is comforting to know there is never a time we have to swing it alone. Jesus knows our trials, He knows our temptations and He knows our struggles. He has traveled the road before us and He has promised that we will never be left to travel the road alone.

The Ministry of Healing, p. 249

“If in our ignorance we make missteps, the Saviour does not forsake us. We need never feel that we are alone. Angels are our companions. The Comforter that Christ promised to send in His name abides with us. In the way that leads to the City of God there are no difficulties which those who trust in Him may not overcome. There are no dangers which they may not escape. There is not a sorrow, not a grievance, not a human weakness, for which He has not provided a remedy.”

John 20:11-16

¹¹ “But Mary stood without at the sepulcher weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulcher, ¹² And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet where the body of Jesus had lain. ¹³ And they said unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him. ¹⁴ And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus saith unto her, Woman why weepest thou? Whom seekest thou? She supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. ¹⁶ Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.”

The Desire of Ages, p. 794

“To how many might the Saviour’s words be spoken, ‘Why weepest thou? Whom seekest thou?’ He is close beside them, but their tear blinded eyes do not discern Him.”

The Desire of Ages, p. 794 *paraphrased*

Today many are echoing Mary's cry of despair not realizing that Jesus is close beside them through His Spirit. He speaks to them but they do not understand.

Ps. 23:4

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

Isa. 51:12

"I, even I, am he that comforteth you..." (*see verse 1.*)

Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 513

"Oh, let it be seen, my brethren, that Jesus is abiding in the heart, sustaining, strengthening, comforting. It is your privilege to be endowed, from day to day, with a rich measure of His Holy Spirit, and to have broadened views of the importance and scope of the message we are proclaiming to the world..."

The Review and Herald, Article A, Jan. 27, 1903, par. 13

"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."

Mark 16:19-20

¹⁹ "So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. ²⁰ And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen."

Manuscript 14, p. 84.3

"The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ, which is sent to all men to give them sufficiency..."

The Upward Look, p. 359

"I had been praying and praying for help, and all the time my Savior was standing close by my side, waiting for me to recognize Him as my sufficiency, my strength, my grace. I learned the lesson, and after that, when I kneel down to pray, I believed that I could receive, whether I felt as if I would or not."

A Review of What the Comforter Does for Us:

1. *Prepares us to be workers for God. (6T 322)*
2. *Gives us support. (DA 669-670)*
3. *Sustains us. (DA 669-670; TM 513)*
4. *Upholds us. (DA 669-670)*
5. *Cheers us. (DA 669-670)*
6. *Answers our cry of despair. (John 20:11-16; DA 794)*
7. *Comforts us. (Isa. 51:12; TM 513)*
8. *Strengthens the wavering. (TM 513; RH Aug. 26, 1890, par. 10)*
9. *Helps us as we present the gospel to others. (Mark 16:19-20; YI July 5, 1894. par. 6)*
10. *He is our sufficiency. (MS 14, 843; UL 359)*
11. *He is our grace. (UL 359)*
12. *He makes our joy full. (RH Art. A, Jan. 27, 1903, par. 13)*
13. *Teaches us all things. (MS 7, Jan. 26, 1902)*
14. *Reproves us. (RH Aug. 26, 1890, par. 10; TM 176)*

15. Warns us. (3BC 1154; RH Aug. 26, 1890, par. 10)
16. Reminds us to use the power of speech to His glory. (6T 322)
17. Admonishes us. (3BC 1154; RH Aug. 26, 1890, par. 10)
18. Inspires us with confidence. (RH Aug. 26, 1890, par. 10)
19. Helps us to overcome. (DA 669-670)
20. Transforms us. (3BC 1154; YI July 5, 1894. Par. 6))
21. Will bring all things to our remembrance that Jesus has said to us. (MS 7, Jan. 26, 1902)
22. Will send answers to the prayer of faith. (DA 669-670)

CONCLUSION

Hebrew 4:15

“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”

Who better could be our comforter than Jesus. He understands what we are going through. He went through everything we have had to go through when he walked among men. He was rejected, abused, called names, disrespected, misunderstood and had times of loneliness. He knows all about our emotional pain. He suffered want at times. He didn't have a bed He could call his own. If there is a third person of the Godhead that is co-equal with God the Father and the Son would we be able to relate to him in the same way as we do to Jesus since he never took on human flesh, never suffered all the things we have had to suffer, was never tempted nor had trials. I personally would find it hard to relate to him as my comforter in the way I do to Jesus who was touched with all of my infirmities and trials.

2 Cor. 1:3-4

³ “Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; ⁴ Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.”

The Ministry of Healing, p. 106

“Through His human agencies He desires to be a comforter such as the world knows not.”

Through His Spirit He wants to be a personal comforter to you as well.

*I*n the judgment men will not be condemned because they conscientiously believed a lie, but because they did not believe the truth, because they neglected the opportunity of learning what is truth.

Ellen G. White, PP 55.2

THE HOLY SPIRIT'S WORK

Study 5

In our studies thus far, we have found that God is Holy and He is Spirit. When God imparts His Spirit to us mighty things will happen. He will help us overcome sin, empower us for ministry and prepare us to go home with Jesus. The nature of His Spirit is such a mystery that we will never fully understand it, but by identifying the Spirit and the work he wants to accomplish in us, we can by faith believe mighty things will happen when we consecrate our lives to Him.

We have also learned that there is a counterfeit spirit. We will be able to recognize both by their fruits. The Bible shows whether we have the Spirit of God or the spirit of the devil. The identifying lists of both are included in this lesson.

A. HOW THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS MANIFESTED

1. Manifested By the Fruit of the Spirit

The character of the Father and His Son are revealed through the fruit of the Spirit as shown in the text below.

The Fruit of the Spirit. (Gal. 5:22-23.)

a. Love

1 John 4:8, "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love."

b. Joy

John 15:11, "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full."

c. Peace

Isaiah 9:6, "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."

d. Longsuffering

2 Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

e. Gentleness

2 Cor. 10:1, "Now, I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you:"

f. Goodness

1 Chr. 16:34, "O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever."

g. Faith:

Rev. 14:12, "Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus."

h. Meekness

Matt. 11:29, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

i. Temperance

1 Cor. 9:24-27, ²⁴ “Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. ²⁵ And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. ²⁶ I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: ²⁷ But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: Lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a cast-away.”

1 Cor. 11:1, “Be ye followers of me (Paul), even as I also am of Christ.”

In this verse Paul is saying that it is safe to follow him as long as he faithfully follows Jesus.

The Review and Herald, Oct. 26, 1897

“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 the Spirit reveal its fruit—love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith.”

Christ Object Lessons, pp. 67, 69

“Christ is seeking to reproduce Himself in the hearts of men; and He does this through those who believe in Him. The object of the Christian life is fruit bearing—the reproduction of Christ’s character in the believer, that it may be reproduced in others... ‘When the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come’ (*Mark 4:29*). Christ is waiting with longing desire for the manifestation of Himself in His church. When the character of Christ shall be perfectly reproduced in His people, then He will come to claim them as His own.”

2. Manifested Through a Transformed Life

1 John 3:2-9

² “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. ³ And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. ⁴ Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. ⁵ And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. ⁶ Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. ⁷ Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. ⁸ He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.”

Thoughts from the Above Text

1 John 3:2, “now are we the sons of God.”

We become the sons of God when we accept Jesus as our personal Savior and make Him the Lord of our lives.

1 John 3:3, “purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”

Jesus is our example. By following Him through the Spirit, our life is purified.

1 John 3:4, “whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law.”

When we transgress the law we are guilty of sin.

1 John 3:5, “manifested to take away our sins.”

Jesus came to this world to die for us. Through Christ we can overcome sin. We can have that same power that Jesus had to overcome sin.

1 John 3:6, “Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not.”

When Jesus Christ abides in our hearts we overcome sin.

Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 420

“When Christ reigns in the soul, there is purity, freedom from sin.”

Does this mean that we can say we are sinless? No! Victory comes through a lifetime of growth. The following quote confirms this.

The Signs of the Times, March 23, 1888, par. 13

“We cannot say, ‘I am sinless,’ till this vile body is changed and fashioned like unto His glorious body. But if we constantly seek to follow Jesus, the blessed hope is ours of standing before the throne of God without spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; complete in Christ, robed in his righteousness and perfection.”

1 John 3:7, “he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.”

When the Spirit is dwelling in us we are bearing the fruit of the Spirit. We become righteous because we partake of His Spirit. The “by beholding we become changed” concept holds true here as well. This Spirit destroys the works of the flesh in us. Right doing takes over. Satan no longer has a room in our heart, which he can call his own!

1 John 3:8, “He that committeth sin is of the devil.”

When we sin Satan still has a part of us. Matt. 6:24 says, “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.” 1 John 3:8 says, “but the Son of God was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil.” The works of the devil are the works of the flesh. (see Gal 5:19-21.) Through the Spirit Satan’s works will be replaced with the fruit of the Spirit. (see Gal. 5: 22-23.)

1 John 3:9, “born of God.”

What does this mean? To be born again means we have new desires, new goals, new mission, and a completely new heart that desires to please the Lord in everything. We do this by surrendering our lives to Him. As we cooperate with Him He changes our desires, goals, and will to conform to His. This is how we grow more and more into the image of Jesus. This is what it means to be born of the Spirit.

3. Manifested In the Heavenly Sanctuary

Psalms 77:13, “Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary: who is so great a God as our God?”

Zechariah, chapter 4 reads, ¹“And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man out of his sleep, ²And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold

candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof: ³ And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof: ⁴ So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord? ⁵ Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No my lord, ⁶ Then he answered and spake unto me saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts. ⁷ Who art thou, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain, and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shouting, crying, Grace, grace unto it. ⁸ Moreover the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, ⁹ The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the Lord of hosts hath sent me unto you. ¹⁰ For who hath despised the day of small things for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the Lord, which run to and fro through the whole earth. ¹¹ Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof? ¹² And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? ¹³ And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. ¹⁴ Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth."

The KJV of the Bible quotes Zachariah 4, verse 6 as saying, "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." However the NKJV capitalizes the word "spirit". Ellen White also capitalized "spirit" in Christ's Object Lessons, pp. 407- 408 putting the Spirit in its rightful position.

Illustration of Zechariah 4 Simplified:

See the pictorial illustration on page 49 along with references in Christ's Object Lessons, pp. 407-408 and Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, pp. 509-512. It will help explain this vision.

1. The Holy Spirit is represented by the oil that is imparted from God. The two anointing angels are represented by the two olive trees, standing before the Lord in the Most Holy Place of the sanctuary. In Early Writings, p. 252 we are told that the two cherubs, one on each side of the ark, represents all the angelic host.

2. The two anointing angels impart the Holy Spirit through the pipes from the two branches of the olive trees. Thus the Holy Spirit reaches the hearts of the consecrated believers through the ministry of angels.

Note that in Christ's Object Lessons, p. 228 it says, "Through the ministration of angels God sends light to His people, and through His people this light is to be given to the world."

3. These two pipes empty the Holy Spirit into the bowl on top of the candlesticks, which represents the hearts of the believers.

4. The Holy Spirit then flows from the bowl to the lamps causing the light to burst forth and shine through us.

Christ's Object Lessons, p. 419

"It is the love of God continually transferred to man that enables him to impart light. Into the hearts of all who are united to God by faith the golden oil of love flows freely, to shine out again in good works, in real, heartfelt service for God."

Ibid, par. 1

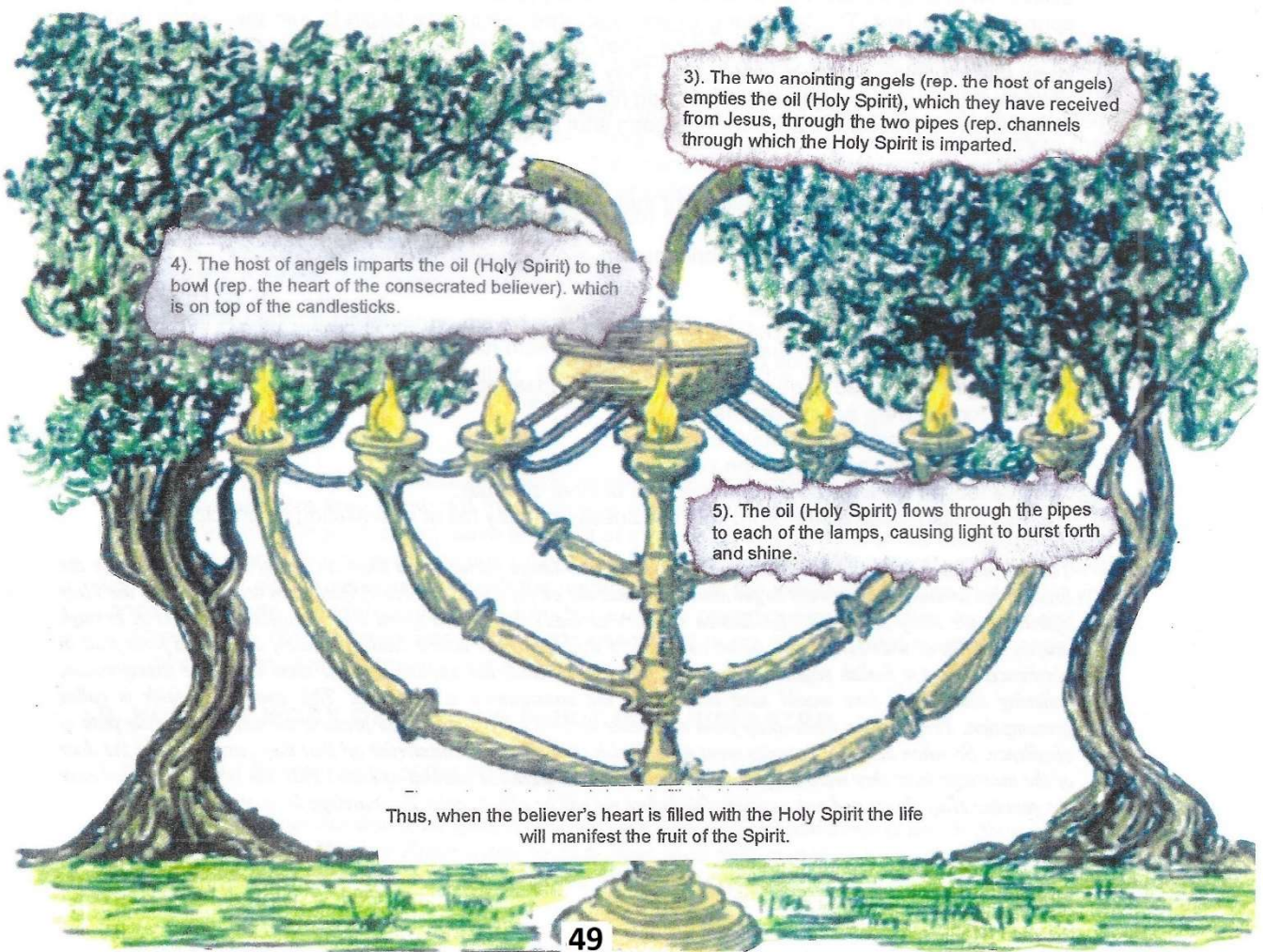
"It is not because of any restriction on the part of God that the riches of His grace do not flow earthward to men. If all were willing to receive, all would become filled with His Spirit."

ZACHARIAH 4



1). God the Father imparts His Holy Spirit (rep. by the oil) to His Son, Jesus.

2). Jesus imparts His Holy Spirit (rep. by the oil), which was given Him by His Father, to the two anointing angels (rep. by the two olive trees), who are on both sides of the mercy seat in the Most Holy Place.



3). The two anointing angels (rep. the host of angels) empties the oil (Holy Spirit), which they have received from Jesus, through the two pipes (rep. channels through which the Holy Spirit is imparted).

4). The host of angels imparts the oil (Holy Spirit) to the bowl (rep. the heart of the consecrated believer), which is on top of the candlesticks.

5). The oil (Holy Spirit) flows through the pipes to each of the lamps, causing light to burst forth and shine.

Thus, when the believer's heart is filled with the Holy Spirit the life will manifest the fruit of the Spirit.

Ibid, par. 2

“It is the privilege of every soul to be a living channel through which God can communicate to the world the treasures of His grace, the unsearchable riches of Christ. There is nothing that Christ desires so much as agents who will represent to the world His Spirit and character. There is nothing that the world needs so much as the manifestation through humanity of the Saviour’s love. All heaven is waiting for channels through which can be poured the holy oil to be a joy and blessing to human hearts.”

Ibid, par. 4

“The indwelling of the Spirit will be shown by the outflowing of heavenly love. The divine fullness will flow through the consecrated human agent, to be given forth to others.”

4. Manifested Through the Spirit of Prophecy

The Acts of the Apostles, p. 284

“There are today many as ignorant of the Holy Spirit’s work upon the heart as were those believers in Ephesus; yet no truth is more clearly taught in the word of God. Prophets and apostles have dwelt upon this theme. Christ Himself calls our attention to the growth of the vegetable world as an illustration of the agency of His Spirit in sustaining spiritual life. The sap of the vine, ascending from the root, is diffused to the branches, sustaining growth and producing blossoms and fruit. So the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit, proceeding from the Saviour, pervades the soul, renews the motives and affections, and brings even the thoughts into obedience to the will of God, enabling the receiver to bear the precious fruit of holy deeds.”

In John 15:1 we find that Jesus is the vine, we are the branches, and the Father is the vinedresser. We don’t have to stress over the identity of the Holy Spirit, because we are told that the life-giving power of the Spirit comes forth from the Father through His Son. This life is passed on to those who are connected to the vine. We become connected to the vine through daily study of the Word and prayer. Along with this we stay connected through meditating on His Word, claiming His promises, sharing truth, and testifying of what God has done for us. If this is not practiced in ones life then the branch dies. When this happens, one must immediately return to where he last saw the light.

The Father and His Son never force themselves on us, as Jesus says 7“If you abide in Me, and My words, abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 8 Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be My disciples.” (John 15:7-8.)

5. Manifested by the Teachings of Jesus

Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 406

“As Christ sat looking upon the party that waited for the bridegroom, He told His disciples the story of the ten virgins, by their experience illustrating the experience of the church that shall live just before His second coming.” Matt. 25 along with Christ’s Object Lessons, pp. 408-409 tells and explains this story.

The Ten Virgins paraphrased

As Jesus is seated with His disciples upon the Mount of Olives He sees and watches the scene below unfold. A marriage is soon to take place and the crowd is starting to gather. Near the bride’s house are ten young virgins robed in white. They each carry a lighted lamp representing the word of God and a small container for oil representing the Holy Spirit. As they wait for the bridegroom there is a delay; in fact, a long delay. Those waiting became very tired and sleepy, and they fell asleep. At midnight there was a lot of commotion and cries of “the bridegroom is coming!” Everyone springs to their feet. The ten young virgins grab their lamps and begin to trim their wicks. But five have neglected to fill

their flasks with oil. They did not prepare for an emergency since they didn't know there would be such a long delay. They begged some oil from the other five virgins but they had already emptied their flask so they had none to spare. The five foolish virgins went to buy more oil but when they returned the door had been shut and the master of the feast declared, "I know you not."

All ten virgins professed to be waiting for their Lord.

All ten virgins professed a pure faith.

All ten virgins went out to meet the bridegroom.

All ten virgins had lamps.

All ten virgins had vessels for oil.

All ten virgins claimed to be Christians.

All ten virgins professed to be doing God's service.

All ten virgins appeared to be waiting for Christ's appearing.

The five foolish were not hypocrites.

The five foolish had a regard for the truth.

The five foolish had advocated the truth.

The five foolish were attracted to those who believe the truth.

The five foolish received the word with readiness, but they fail of assimilating its principles.

The five foolish started out having enough oil to keep their lamps burning, but they ran out of their supply before the bridegroom arrived, so they went to get more oil. Since the oil represents the Holy Spirit, can one run out of the Holy Spirit? As we study and search for hidden treasure in God's Word and spend time connecting with Him through prayer, He fills us with His Spirit. As we continue to study our faith claims God's promises and brings forth fruit in obedience. The five foolish virgins claimed the promises of God, but apparently used them to excuse transgression, believing that God's love would save them from the consequence of their sin. This counterfeit faith is called presumption. Presumption leads away from obedience to God's Word. God will preserve all who walk in the path of obedience. So, when the foolish virgins went to replenish their oil, it was counterfeit oil that they purchased. At the door of the marriage feast they were told, "I know you not", and were not allowed to enter. This tells us that we must have the genuine Holy Spirit and not a counterfeit before we will be able to enter the marriage feast of our Lord.

Christ's Object Lessons, pp. 408, 411 *these are consecutive pages but the publishers misnumbered pages 409 and 410.*

"So with the church that lives just before Christ's second coming. All have a knowledge of the Scriptures. All have heard the message of Christ's near approach, and confidently expect His appearing. But as in the parable, so it is now. A time of waiting intervenes, faith is tried; and when the cry is heard, 'Behold, the Bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him,' many are unready. They have no oil in their vessels with their lamps. They are destitute of the Holy Spirit.

"Without the Spirit of God a knowledge of his word is of no avail. The theory of truth, unaccompanied by the Holy Spirit, cannot quicken the soul or sanctify the heart. One may be familiar with the commands and promises of the Bible; but unless the Spirit of God sets the truth home, the character will not be transformed. Without the enlightenment of the Spirit, men will not be able to distinguish truth from error, and they will fall under the masterful temptations of Satan."

"The Spirit of God sets the truth home..." Obviously this must have a deeper meaning than it may seem on the surface. The scribes and the Pharisees didn't seem to understand this concept, as Jesus told the disciples during the Sermon on the Mount in Matt. 5:20 "except your righteousness, shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and the Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven." The Pharisees and scribes knew all about the externals, but they didn't understand the inner working of the Spirit on their hearts. We can go to church all our life, quote Bible verses, and claim the beautiful promises of God, but if it doesn't change us we

become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 1 Corinthians 13 shows how the truth is to be set home; agape love takes the place of pride, hatred, bigotry, anger, and self-centeredness. We cannot bring about these changes by ourselves as agape love comes only from God. But as we allow His Spirit to work silently on our hearts, changes will take place. Changes only come as we study the Bible with an open heart and mind.

Ibid, p. 411

“...but they (*the five foolish virgins*) have not yielded themselves to the Holy Spirit’s working. They have not fallen upon the Rock, Christ Jesus, and permitted their old nature to be broken up... The Spirit works upon man’s heart, according to his desire and consent implanting in him a new nature; but the class represented by the foolish have been content with superficial work. They do not know God. They have not studied His character; they have not held communion with Him; therefore they do not know how to trust, how to look and live. Their service to God degenerates into a form. ‘They come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as My people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them; for with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness.’ Eze. 33:31.”

Ibid, pp. 411-412

“When startled from their lethargy, they discern their destitution, and entreat others to supply their lack; but in spiritual things no man can make up another’s deficiency.... But character is not transferable. No man can believe for another. No man can receive the Spirit for another. No man can impart to another the character which is the fruit of the Spirit’s working.”

Ibid, p. 413

“In this life they (*those who have not had an abiding relationship with Christ*) have not entered into fellowship with Christ; therefore they know not the language of heaven, they are strangers to its joy. ‘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. 1 Cor. 2:11.’... The fellowship of the Spirit, which you have slighted, could alone make you one with the joyous throng at the marriage feast. In that scene you cannot participate. Its light would fall on blinded eyes, its melody upon deaf ears. Its love and joy could awake no chord of gladness in the world-benumbed heart. You are shut out from heaven by your own unfitness for its companionship.”

B. HOW THE WORK OF SATAN’S SPIRIT IS MANIFESTED

1. Manifested By the Fruits of the Flesh

Every fiber of our being—our desires, thoughts, actions, and our passions reflect who dwells in us—the Spirit of God or the spirit of Satan. Our Heavenly Father yearns for us to “bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.” (John 15:8.) We must examine our hearts to make sure we are bearing the right kind of fruit.

The Fruits of the Flesh (Gal. 5:19-21.)

Gal. 5:21, “...they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

a. Adultery

Prov. 6:32, “But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.”

b. Fornication

1 Cor. 6:18, “Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that commit-eth fornication sinneth against his own body.”

c. Uncleanness

Rom. 6:19, "I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness."

d. Lasciviousness

Jude 4, "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ."

e. Idolatry

1 Cor. 10:14, "Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry."

f. Witchcraft

Micah 5:11, "And I will cut off witchcrafts out of thine hand; and thou shalt have no more soothsayers:"

g. Hatred

Prov. 10:18, "He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool."

h. Variance

Matt. 10:35, "For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law."

i. Emulation

Rom. 10:13, "...I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them."

j. Wrath

Ps. 37:8, "Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil."

k. Strife

Prov. 20:3, "It is an honour for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling."

l. Seditions

Luke 23:18-19, ¹⁸ "And they cried out all at once, saying, Away with this man, and release unto us Barabbas: ¹⁹ (Who for a certain sedition made in the city, and for murder, was cast into prison.)"

m. Heresies

1 Cor. 11:17-19, ¹⁷ "Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse. ¹⁸ For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it. ¹⁹ For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you."

n. Envyings

James 3:14, "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth."

o. Murders

James 3:14, "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him."

p. Drunkenness

Rom. 13:13, "Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying."

q. Revellings

1 Peter 4:3, "For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banqueting, and abominable idolatries:"

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 294

"Man is Satan's captive and is naturally inclined to follow his suggestions and do his bidding. He has in himself no power to oppose effectual resistance to evil. It is only as Christ abides in him by living faith, influencing his desires and strengthening him with strength from above, that man may venture to face so terrible a foe. Every other means of defense is utterly vain. It is only through Christ that Satan's power is limited. This is momentous truth that all should understand. Satan is busy every moment, going to and fro, walking up and down in the earth, seeking whom he may devour. But the earnest prayer of faith will baffle his strongest efforts. Then take 'the shield of faith,' brethren, 'wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.' "

That I May Know Him, p. 16

"It is the grace that Christ implants in the soul that creates the enmity against Satan, a servant ever ready to do his bidding. The new principle in the soul creates conflict where hitherto had been peace. The power which Christ imparts, enables man to resist the tyrant and usurper. Whenever a man is seen to abhor sin instead of loving it, when he resists and conquers those passions that have held sway within, there is seen the operation of a principle wholly from above. The Holy Spirit must be constantly imparted to man, or he has no disposition to contend against the powers of darkness."

Is the Holy Spirit real? Yes, the Bible speaks of the Holy Spirit many times. The Spirit of Prophecy quotations in these lessons thus far have also confirmed the existence of the Holy Spirit. The pen of inspiration states that this momentous truth is something all should understand. It can be the difference between being prepared or not being prepared when Satan comes to deceive. "It is only as Christ abides in him by living faith, influencing his desires and strengthening him with strength from above, that man may venture to face so terrible a foe." Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 294.

2. Manifested Through False Worship

I have been asked, "does it really matter which way a person believes about the Spirit, whether it is a three in one God concept or a one true God and His Son concept?" I would have to say yes, because Satan is seeking to counterfeit the Spirit of Christ. By reading the vision below one should be able to see the eternal danger at stake. It connects to the first quotation given in study 3 of this series on how Satan will attempt to deceive with a counterfeit spirit. "Error is never harmless. It never sanctifies, but always brings confusion and dissension. It is always dangerous. The enemy has great power over minds that are not thoroughly fortified by prayer and established in Bible truth." Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, 292.

Early Writings, pp. 54-56

"I saw a throne, and on it sat the Father and the Son. I gazed on Jesus' countenance and admired His lovely person. The Father's person I could not behold, for a cloud of glorious light covered Him. I asked Jesus if His Father had a form like Himself. He said He had, but I could not behold it, for said He, 'If you should once behold the glory of His person you would cease to exist.' Before the throne I saw the Advent people—the church and the world. I saw two companies, one bowed down before the throne, deeply interested, while the other stood uninterested and careless. Those who were bowed before the throne would offer up their prayers and look to Jesus; then he would look to His Father, and appear

to be pleading with Him. A light would come from the Father to the Son and from the Son to the praying company. Then I saw an exceeding bright light come from the Father to the Son, and from the Son it waved over the people before the throne. But few would receive this great light. Many came out from under it and immediately resisted it; others were careless and did not cherish the light, and it moved off from them. Some cherished it, and went and bowed down with the little praying company. This company all received the light and rejoiced in it, and their countenance shone with its glory.

“I saw the Father rise from the throne, and in a flaming chariot go into the holy of holies within the throne, and the most of those who were bowed down arose with Him. I did not see one ray of light pass from Jesus to the careless multitude after He arose, and they were left in perfect darkness. Those who arose when Jesus did, kept their eyes fixed on Him as He left the throne and led them out a little way. Then He raised His right arm, and we heard His lovely voice saying, ‘Wait here; I will return from the wedding and receive you to Myself.’ Then a cloudy chariot, with wheels like flaming fire, surrounded by angels, came to where Jesus was. 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.

“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.”

We have just studied the two different spirits at work, the spirit of Satan and the Spirit of God. There is a tug of war taking place, which is called the great controversy. Each side is trying to enlist us on their side. One side because of love and the other side out of spite, retaliation, and jealousy. In Our Father Cares, p. 246 it reads “Fallen man is Satan’s lawful captive. The mission of Christ was to rescue him from the power of his great adversary. Man is naturally inclined to follow Satan’s suggestions. And he cannot successfully resist so terrible a foe unless Christ, the mighty Conqueror, dwells in him, guiding his desires, and giving him strength. God alone can limit the power of Satan...Satan knows better than God’s people the power that they can have over him when their strength is in Christ. When they humbly entreat the mighty Conqueror for help, the weakest believer in the truth, relying firmly upon Christ, can successfully repulse Satan and all his host...”

Praise God & Hallelujah for the victory we can have through Jesus!

When men come in who would move one pin or pillar from the foundation which God has established by His Holy Spirit, let the aged men who were pioneers in our work speak plainly, and let those who are dead speak also, by the reprinting of their articles in our periodicals. Gather up the rays of divine light that God has given as He has led His people on step by step in the way of truth. This truth will stand the test of time and trial.

1MR, p. 55.1

A NAME WHICH IS ABOVE EVERY NAME

Study 6

Philippians 2:9-11

⁹ “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:
¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ¹¹ And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

After Jesus’ resurrection He wanted to spend time with His eleven disciples. He instructed them to go to a certain quiet mountainous area. In Matt. 28:18-20 it reads, ¹⁸“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

When a person passes away, we have a tendency to hang on to their last spoken words—we never forget them. The same is true when Jesus spoke His last words on the cross and just before returning to His Father in heaven after His resurrection. Many who believe in the three-in-one God concept back up their belief by repeating Matt. 28:19, “baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost,” It does use the triune names Father, Son and Holy Ghost, does it not?

In the preface I shared many questions that I had in my personal journey and how they went unanswered for many years. When I found the answers to my questions I experienced 1 John 1:3-4, ³“...our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.” There is beauty and freedom in truth. God wants us to be full of His joy as we walk in fellowship with Him and His Son. As you explore in this lesson the subjects of baptism and Pentecost, may you find a deeper and richer fellowship with the Father and Jesus.

BAPTISMAL CHANGES MADE IN EARLY CENTURIES

Matthew 28:19; How Should It Read?

Matt. 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:”

Or, should it read:

Matt. 28:19, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in My Name.”

Eusebius

Eusebius is known as the father of church history and Bishop of Caesarea. He wrote prolifically and his most celebrated work is his Ecclesiastical History; a history of the church from the Apostolic period until his own time. The library in Caesarea was made available to Eusebius which Origen had enlarged with his manuscripts the previous generation (early 200s). This was earlier than any existing copies of Matthew 28:19. He quotes many verses in his writings including Matthew 28:19 several times but he never quoted it as it appears in the modern Bibles. He always finished the verse with the words “in My Name.” It is highly unlikely that this verse appeared in its present day form before the latter part of the 4th century and that it was amended to fit the prevailing teaching of the trinity.

Below are statements made by others who have shed further light on this topic.

Documents Testifying to the Change

1. Hastings' Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics

vol. 2, p. 88

"It must be acknowledged that the threefold name of Matthew 28:19 does not appear to have been used by the primitive church, but rather in the name of Jesus Christ or Lord Jesus."

vol. 2, pp. 377-388 (*excerpts*)

"Christian baptism (originally) was administered using the words 'In the name of Jesus'."

"The use of Trinitarian formula of any sort was not suggested in early church history."

"Name was an ancient synonym for 'person.' Payment was always made in name of some person referring ownership. Therefore one being baptized in Jesus name became his personal property, 'Ye are Christ's.' "

vol. 2, p. 389

"Baptism was always in the name of Lord Jesus until time of Justin Martyr when the Triune formula was used."

2. Hastings' Dictionary of the Bible

vol. 1, 1909, p. 82

"It has been customary to trace the institution of the practice (of baptism) to the words of Christ recorded in Matthew 28:19. But the authenticity of this passage has been challenged historical as well as on textual grounds. It must be acknowledged that the formula of the threefold name, which is here enjoined, does not appear to have been employed by the primitive Church, which, so far as our information goes, baptized 'in' or 'into the name of Jesus' (or 'Jesus Christ' or 'the Lord Jesus': Acts 2:38, Acts 8:16; Acts 10:48; Acts 19:5; cf, 1 Corinthians 1:13; 1 Corinthians 1:15), without reference to the Father or the Spirit."

vol. 1, 1909, p. 241

"History tells us that it was not until many years after the apostles that the mode and formula of baptism in the name of Jesus Christ were changed."

3. Britannia Encyclopedia

11th edition, vol. 3, p. 82

"Everywhere in the oldest sources it states that baptism took place in the name of Jesus Christ."

11th edition, vol. 3, pp. 365-366

"Baptism was changed from the name of Jesus Christ to the words Father, Son and Holy Ghost in the second century."

4. Catholic Encyclopedia

vol. 2, p. 263

"Catholics acknowledge that baptism in Jesus' name was changed by the Catholic Church."

vol. 2, p. 377

“Everywhere in the oldest sources it states that baptism took place in the name of Jesus Christ.”

5. Maurice Canney’s Encyclopedia of Religions,

1970 reprint of the 1921 edition (Gale Research Co.), p. 53

“The early church always baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus until the second century.”

Ibid

“Persons were baptized at first ‘in the name of Jesus Christ’ or ‘in the name of the Lord Jesus.’ Afterwards, with the development of the doctrine of the Trinity, they were baptized ‘in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost’ (Justin Martyr, Apol. 1:16).”

6. Bible Catechism,

Rev. John C. Kersten, S.V.D. (Catholic Book Publishing Co., N.Y.; N.Y.), 1973, p. 164

“Only in the 4th Century did the formula ‘in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit’ become customary.”

7. Introduction to Christianity,

Catholic Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (he later became Pope Benedict XVI), 1968 edition, pp. 82-83

“The basic form of our (Trinitarian Matthew 28:19) profession of faith took shape during the course of the second and third centuries in connection with the ceremony of baptism. So far as its place of origin is concerned, the text (Matthew 28:19) came from the city of Rome.”

The Trinitarian baptism and text of Matthew 28:19 therefore did not originate from the Apostolic Church in Jerusalem, but was a later invention of the Roman Church!

Has the Bible Been Tampered With?

Early Writings, p. 220, 1882

“I saw that God had especially guarded the Bible; yet when copies of it were few, learned men had in some instances changed the words, thinking that they were making it more plain, when in reality they were mystifying that which was plain, by causing it to lean to their established views, which were governed by tradition.”

Satan’s agenda has always been to deceive humanity. In order to accomplish this, he has used different methods. For the world he uses position, materialism, wealth, fashion and appetite. These tactics he uses on Christians, as well, in order to draw them into a worldly mindset. For the Christian, he also uses respected preachers and leaders to influence their way of thinking. Satan knows that believers are taught to base their beliefs on the Bible and the Bible only. What better way to achieve this massive deception than to corrupt the Bible by adding to or taking away from its original teaching. He accomplishes this through his agents. The KJV was translated by select group of clergy from the Church of England, which have very similar rituals and beliefs as the Roman Church.

BAPTISM BY THE APOSTLES “IN THE NAME OF JESUS”.

The disciples never baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. These verses clearly show this.

1. Acts 2:38

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...”

2. Acts 8:12

"But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."

3. Acts. 8:16

"For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."

4. Acts 8:37-38

³⁷ "And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus is the Son of God. ³⁸ And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him."

5. Acts 9:17-18

¹⁷ "And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. ¹⁸ And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized."

6. Acts 10:48

"And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the 'Lord'."

7. Acts 16:15

"And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us."

8. Acts 16:31-33

³¹ "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. ³² And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. ³³ And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway."

9. Acts 18:8

"And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized."

10. Acts 19:5

"When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."

11. Acts 22:16

"And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

12. Rom. 6:3

"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?"

13. 1 Cor. 12:13

"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."

14. Gal. 3:27

"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."

15. Col. 2:12

“Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.”

Bible Catechism, New Revised – Vatican 11th Edition by Rev. John C. Kersten S.V.D. (Catholic Book Publishing Co., N.Y., N. Y.; 1973, p. 164; A Meaning for Man’s Existence.

“The Bible tells us that Christians were baptized into Christ (no. 6). They belong to Christ. The Acts of the Apostles (2:38; 8:16; 10:48; 19:5) tells us of baptizing ‘in the name (person) of Jesus’ — a better translation would be ‘into the name (person) of Jesus.’ Only in the 4th Century did the formula ‘in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit’ become customary.”

To reemphasize the quote above, the new Christian believers were baptized in the name of Jesus. The change to baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit came about in the 4th century. Baptisms in the New Testament were performed in the name of Jesus. Thus Christians for the first 300 years were baptized in His name. The disciples would never have gone against the command of Jesus.

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 6, p. 91

“Those who are baptized in the threefold name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, at the very entrance of their Christian life declare publicly that they have forsaken the service of Satan and have become members of the royal family, children of the heavenly King.”

In the above quote it appears to me, that Ellen White did not fully understand that Matt. 28:19 had been added to the Scriptures during the 4th century. The original command of Jesus was to baptize in His name. In The Review and Herald March 27, 1890 Ellen White wrote, “We must not think, ‘Well, we have all the truth, we understand the main pillars of our faith, and we may rest on this knowledge.’ The truth is an advancing truth, and we must walk in the increasing light.” In humility Ellen White would accept truth as the Lord revealed it to her. An example of this is found in Testimonies for the Church, vol. 1, pp. 204-209. A couple during that time, critically saw and voiced their opinions of things going on at Battle Creek, which they did not like or agree with; pork eating was one of the things on their list.

Ellen White sent them a very scolding, rebuking letter Oct. 21, 1858, “If God requires His people to abstain from swine’s flesh, He will convict them on the matter. He is just as willing to show His honest children their duty, as to show their duty to individuals upon whom He has not laid the burden of His work. If it is the duty of the church to abstain from swine’s flesh, God will discover it to more than two or three. He will teach His church their duty.” Ellen White was given light on abstaining from unclean meat in a vision on health, 1863. She took her stand against meat and found improved health. She had been sickly all her life, but after this vision lived for another 52 years. Truth is progressive but when truth is presented to us individually we need to prove all things by the Word of God, and then follow what is shown through His word.

Why Baptism is in the Name of Jesus Only

a. *The Godhead formulated a plan whereby a person can be saved. Acts 4:12 states that “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” Heaven’s way for our salvation is the only plan.*

b. *A new Christian has declared through baptism that he has chosen a different Master. Following Jesus is the only way.*

c. *It is always safe and wise to follow Jesus and His method of baptism. Being obedient to Jesus is always the best decision as obedience leads to further light.*

d. *The new convert testifies through baptism that he has died to self. "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God." Col. 3:3*

e. *As the new born Christian is raised to newness of life he is empowered by the Holy Spirit to live that new life in Christ.*

Is it possible to be buried alive in baptism because one did not die to self? Too many times the love of the world has not been parted with and the enjoyments of sin are still treasured. Thus the Holy Spirit cannot be imparted to such a person. Buried alive, what a thought! It happens more frequently than we probably realize. Baptism is all about looking to the cross and seeing what Jesus has done for us through His death, burial and resurrection. No record has been passed down indicating that the Father or a third person of the Godhead died, was buried, and rose again. The Father could not sacrifice His life for us as he is Spirit and cannot die. Furthermore there is no mention of a co-equal, coeternal independent third person in heaven. Only Jesus could die in our place. His humanity was able to die; His divinity did not, and could not die. Jesus imparts His Spirit to those who have experienced His death, burial, and resurrection through baptism. This is why the apostles baptized a person in the name of Jesus. This is why the name of Jesus is exalted above every name.

THE OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. At the Baptism of Jesus

Matthew 3:16

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

The Desire of Ages 111

"As Jesus asked for baptism, John drew back, exclaiming, 'I have need to be baptized of Thee, and comest Thou to me?' With firm yet gentle authority, Jesus answered, 'Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness.' And John, yielding, led the Saviour down into the Jordan, and buried Him beneath the water. 'And straightway coming up out of the water,' Jesus saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him.' "

The Desire of Ages 111-112

"Upon coming up out of the water, Jesus bowed in prayer on the river bank... 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... 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...' John had been deeply moved as he saw Jesus bowed as a suppliant, pleading with tears for the approval of the Father. As the glory of God encircled him, and the voice from heaven was heard, John recognized the token which God had promised. He knew that it was the world's Redeemer whom he had baptized. The Holy Spirit rested upon him, and with outstretched hand pointing to Jesus, he cried, 'Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.' "

The Desire of Ages 113

"The light which fell from the open portals upon the head of our Saviour will fall upon us as we pray for help to resist temptation. The voice which spoke to Jesus says to every believing soul, This is My beloved child, in whom I am well pleased."

The Review and Herald Aug. 11, 1910

"Daily He (*Jesus*) received a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit."

1 Cor. 15:31

"I (*Paul*) protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily."

Only as we invite Jesus to abide with us and die daily to self will we be prepared to receive a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit.

A Review of the Baptismal Experience of Jesus

a. The Spirit like a dove descended on Jesus at His baptism. (Matt. 3:16)

b. The Spirit of God descending like a dove. (DA 111)

"Like" is a representation of something else but is not that something else.

Here are some biblical examples:

Jer. 23:29, "Is not my word like a fire? Saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?"

Ps. 92:12, "The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon."

Isa. 59:19, "So shall they (when God's judgments are on the earth the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness) fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him."

c. Direct from God's throne was issued the beams of His glory. (DA 112)

d. A dovelike form lands on the Saviour's head. (DA 112)

e. "A dovelike form" was an emblem of Jesus. (DA 112)

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary: An emblem is "an object or picture used to suggest a thing that cannot be shown."

f. Jesus' form was bathed in the light that always surrounds the throne of God. (DA 112)

g. The glory of God encircled Jesus. (DA 112)

The glory of God means the invisible qualities, character, or attributes of God displayed in a visible way.

h. John recognized the token, which God had promised. (DA 112)

The 1913 Webster's Dictionary: A token is "something intended or supposed to represent or indicate another thing or an event; a sign." An example given was the rainbow, which is a token of God's covenant established with Noah.

i. Light fell from the open portals upon the head of Jesus. (DA 113)

As we analyze the Bible verses and Spirit of Prophecy quotes given in reference to the baptism of Jesus we can see that there is no mention of the Holy Spirit, as a third person coming down and landing on His head. The dove was a token, an emblem, or symbolic form of God's glory.

2. Disciples Receives the Spirit After Jesus' Resurrection

John 20:21-22

²¹“Then said Jesus to them (*the disciples while with Jesus after His resurrection*) again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. ²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost.”

After the resurrection the disciples were assembled together for fear of the Jews. At that time Jesus appeared and showed them His pierced hands and side. He proclaimed that He was sending them out to be witnesses for Him, just as His Father sent Him. He then did an unusual thing. He breathed on them the Holy Spirit. “Before the disciples could fulfill their official duties in connection with the church, Christ breathed His Spirit upon them.” The Desire of Ages 805. This Spirit didn’t come down from heaven as a third person but rather it came forth from Jesus. Do we not need the Holy Spirit in order to fulfill our duties in the church today? Jesus is just as willing to impart His Spirit to us. As we sense our need we are to ask for the infilling of the Holy Spirit, believing God will do for us what He did for the disciples.

3. Pentecost

Acts 2:1-4

¹“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³ And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

The Acts of the Apostles 39

“The Holy Spirit, assuming the form of tongues of fire, rested upon those assembled. This was an emblem of the gift then bestowed on the disciples, which enabled them to speak with fluency languages with which they had heretofore been unacquainted. The appearance of fire signified the fervent zeal with which the apostles would labor and the power that would attend their work.”

7 Testimonies for the Church 31

“On the Day of Pentecost the Infinite One revealed Himself in power to the church. By His Holy Spirit He descended from the heights of heaven as a rushing, mighty wind, to the room in which the disciples were assembled. It was as if for ages this influence had been held in restraint, and now heaven rejoiced in being able to pour upon the church the riches of the Spirit’s power.”

The Infinite One refers to our Heavenly Father who is impossible to be measured or calculated. He says, ⁸ “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways... ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isa. 55:8-9). His Spirit was poured out upon the people assembled during Pentecost. “By the co-operation of the divine Spirit, the apostles did a work that shook the world. To every nation was the gospel carried in a single generation.” The Acts of the Apostles 593. The Lord is waiting to bestow His Spirit upon us as well. All we have to do is to surrender our lives to Him and ask for the gift.

Testimonies to Ministries 174

“Just prior to His leaving His disciples for the heavenly courts, Jesus encouraged them with the promise of the Holy Spirit. This promise belongs as much to us as it did to them, and yet how rarely it is presented before the people, and its reception spoken of in the church. In consequence of this silence upon this most important theme, what promise do we know less about by its practical fulfillment than this rich

promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit, whereby efficiency is to be given to all our spiritual labor? The promise of the Holy Spirit is casually brought into our discourses, is incidentally touched upon, and that is all. Prophecies have been dwelt upon, doctrines have been expounded; but that which is essential to the church in order that they may grow in spiritual strength and efficiency, in order that the preaching may carry conviction with it, and souls be converted to God, has been largely left out of ministerial effort. This subject has been set aside, as if some time in the future would be given to its consideration. Other blessings and privileges have been presented before the people until a desire has been awakened in the church for the attainment of the blessing promised of God; but the impression concerning the Holy Spirit has been that this gift is not for the church now, but that at some time in the future it would be necessary for the church to receive it."

A Review of the Pentecostal Experience

a. The Holy Spirit assumed the form of tongues of fire. (AA 39; Acts 2:1-4)

Definition of assuming: To accept something to be true without question or proof.

This statement says that the Holy Spirit took on the form of tongues of fire. The tongues of fire in other words signified that God's grace would enable them to do a work that would otherwise be humanly impossible. The Lord's messenger tells us that the appearance of the tongues of fire signified the fervent zeal with which the apostles would labor and the power that would attend their work. (see The Acts of the Apostles 39.)

b. An emblem of the gift of the Holy Spirit was bestowed on the disciples during Pentecost. (AA 39)

Webster's 1913 Dictionary: An emblem is "a symbolism."

c. The Holy Spirit descended from heaven as a rushing mighty wind. (Acts 2:1-4; 7T 31)

4. Equipping Disciples of Jesus in the Last Days

Signs of the Times Oct. 3, 1892, par. 4

"Jesus is waiting to breathe upon all his disciples, and give them the inspiration of His sanctifying Spirit, and transfuse the vital influence from Himself to his people. He would have them understand that henceforth they cannot serve two masters. Their lives cannot be divided. Christ is to live in his human agents, and work through their faculties, and act through their capabilities. Their will must be submitted to his will, they must act with his spirit, that it may be no more they that live, but Christ that liveth in them. 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."

Overview of the Manifestations of the Spirit

The baptism of Jesus and the Pentecostal manifestations of "a dovelike form", "a light", "the glory of God", "cloven tongues like as of fire" and the "rushing mighty wind" were seen and experienced by Jesus and 120 of His followers. These were only emblems, tokens, representations and symbols.

The Holy Spirit portrayed in symbolisms should not be strange to us as symbols were often used in the Bible. An example of this is in Mark 14:22. During the last supper Jesus passed bread to His disciples after He had blessed it saying, "Take, eat: this is my body." He then took the cup of wine saying, "This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many." The bread and wine weren't His actual body and blood but only symbolic.

The Spirit of God in the symbolic form like a dove was sent to Jesus at His baptism to strengthen and encourage Him for the trials ahead. During Pentecost an emblem was sent in the form of cloven tongues as of fire to represent the Holy Spirit. This was sent to strengthen and guide His disciples in the task of spreading the gospel

to the world. Jesus knew there would be difficult trials to face and many would lose their lives for the gospel. Jesus also knows that His remnant people will need an outpouring of the Holy Spirit to carry them through the trials before them and to accomplish the spreading of the gospel. He has promised, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." (Heb. 13:5.) His Spirit will be imparted to make this promise a reality.

CONCLUSION

The Acts of the Apostles 282-283, inspiration tells us –

"On his arrival at Ephesus, Paul found twelve brethren, who, like Apollos, had been disciples of John the Baptist, and like him had gained some knowledge of the mission of Christ. They had not the ability of Apollos, but with the same sincerity and faith they were seeking to spread abroad the knowledge they had received. These brethren knew nothing of the mission of the Holy Spirit. When asked by Paul if they had received the Holy Ghost, they answered, 'We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.' 'Unto what then were ye baptized?' Paul inquired, and they said, 'Unto John's baptism.'

"Then the apostle set before them the great truths that are the foundation of the Christian's hope... With deep interest and grateful, wonderful joy the brethren listened to Paul's words. By faith they grasped Him as their Redeemer. They were then baptized in the name of Jesus, and as Paul 'laid his hands upon them,' they received also the baptism of the Holy Spirit, by which they were enabled to speak the languages of other nations and to prophesy."

The apostles were baptizing in the name of Jesus. The gift of the Holy Spirit was given after Paul laid hands on them. This enabled them to speak in other languages and be more effective workers.

The Acts of the Apostles 283

"It was by cherishing a humble, teachable spirit that these men gained the experience that enabled them to go out as workers into the harvest field. Their example presents to Christians a lesson of great value. There are many who make but little progress in the divine life because they are too self-sufficient to occupy the position of learners. They are content with a superficial knowledge of God's word. They do not wish to change their faith or practice and hence make no effort to obtain greater light."

What this is saying is that in order to spread the good news of the gospel and make progress in our spiritual life a person must...

- 1. cherish humility.*
- 2. have a teachable spirit.*
- 3. not be self-sufficient which interferes with being a learner.*
- 4. not have a superficial knowledge of God's word.*
- 5. be willing to change their faith or practice if it contradicts a 'thus saith the Lord', so that the Lord will be able to give them greater light.*

17 Letter Manuscript, Manuscript 62, 1902, par. 13; That I May Know Him 344

"On the day of Pentecost the Infinite One revealed Himself in power to the church. By His Holy Spirit He descended from the heights of heaven as a rushing mighty wind to the room in which the disciples were assembled. Words of penitence and confession of sin were mingled with songs of praise for sins forgiven. Words of thanksgiving and of prophecy were heard. All heaven was bending low to behold and adore the wisdom of matchless, incomprehensible love. The apostles and disciples were lost in wonder, and exclaimed, 'Herein is love!' (1 John 4:10.) They grasped the imparted gift. Their hearts were surcharged with a benevolence so full, so deep, so far-reaching, that it impelled them to go to the ends of the earth testifying, God forbid that we should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

They were filled with an intense longing to add to the church such as should be saved. They called on the believers to arouse and do their part, that all nations might hear the truth and the earth be filled with the glory of the Lord.”

It is time to go home but there is an unfinished work yet to be done. God has children in all parts of the world who need to hear the good news of the gospel. Only the Holy Spirit working through us can accomplish this. “Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.” Zach. 4:6, NKJV.

As we continue on into study 7 the deceptions and lies of Satan will be exposed. “Even so, come Lord Jesus.” Rev. 22:20

The Son was seated on the throne with the Father, and the heavenly throng of holy angels was gathered around them. 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. Especially was His Son to work in union with Himself in the anticipated creation of the earth.... Satan was envious and jealous of Jesus.... His heart was filled with envy and hatred. Christ had been taken into the special counsel of God in regard to His plans, while Satan was unacquainted with them. He did not understand, neither was he permitted to know, the purposes of God...

The Truth About Angels, p. 33

THE FOUNDATION OF REBELLION AND FALSE WORSHIP

Study 7

Review and Reflection

As students of the word of God we learned in study 1 that truth has been misunderstood, diluted, and covered over by deceptive traditions brought into the church through Satan's lies. To arrive at truth we are not to be self-confident but rather seek a thus saith the Lord and not a thus saith the church or the state as our guide.

In study 2 we saw how the Father and His Son shared the throne in heaven. No one else shared the throne with them. To them only is worship and allegiance due. On day six of creation week man was made in the image of the Father and the Son. There was not a third person involvement in the creation. Before the fall of man, the Son of God had united with His Father in laying the plan of salvation. There was no one else worthy of being included in this council.

As we continued into study 3 we found that there is only one true God and that is our Heavenly Father, and one Lord, Jesus Christ. The Father has given all power to His Son. We also learned that the Holy Spirit's nature cannot and is not to be understood but God has given us an abundance of truth and knowledge in the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy regarding His identity. We also discovered that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God that He imparted to Jesus. Through the ministry of the angels, they in turn impart His Spirit to those who have consecrated their hearts to God. The Holy Spirit has been imparted to them in order that they may live victorious lives. Satan's plan to substitute a counterfeit spirit in these last days was also exposed.

Study 4 explained who the Comforter really is. From the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy it was discovered that it's not a united co-equal, co-eternal third person called the Holy Spirit. While Lucifer was in heaven, he held the third person position next to Jesus. After he was cast out of heaven Gabriel was given that position. A serious study of John 14 showed that the Comforter is the omnipresence of the Spirit of Jesus, which was imparted to Him by His Father. They in turn impart their Spirit through their personal presence and the angels to those who have given their hearts to Him.

As we studied 5, we learned more about the workings of the Holy Spirit. God is preparing a people who will be safe to save. They will be a pure people represented by the five wise virgins and will not be defiled with false teachings. Their desire will be to follow the Lamb wherever He goes. No guile is found in their mouths, and they are without fault before the throne of God (see Rev. 14:4-5). Zachariah 4 portrays a beautiful picture of how the Holy Spirit is imparted to the believer's hearts and shines forth to illuminate and leave its influence wherever they go. Through the Spirit's influence the works of the flesh are defeated, and the fruit of the Spirit takes their place in a transformed life.

As we delved into study 6 a new truth was revealed. We discovered through history that the apostles baptized only in the name of Jesus and not in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Matt. 28:19 was changed in the fourth century to accommodate the trinity doctrine that was coming into the Catholic Church. This study also showed that the dove landing on Jesus' head at His baptism and the cloven tongues that came down during Pentecost were emblems, symbolic of the Holy Spirit.

In studies 7, 8, and 9 we will be looking at the start of rebellion in heaven and the beginnings of false worship. We will also see how Satan got a foothold in early church history and how it has continued down to the present time. We will also see how he has introduced a counterfeit Holy Spirit which we were told would happen in The Great Controversy, p. 464. "It is only through Christ that Satan's power is limited. This is a momentous truth

that all should understand. Satan is busy every moment, going to and fro, walking up and down in the earth, seeking whom he may devour. But the earnest prayer of faith will baffle his strongest efforts.” Testimonies for the Church, p. 294. As we continue to “study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Tim. 2:15) may our testimony be “...we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ...” 2 Peter 1:16.

THE FATHER OF LIES SEEKING POWER

Revelation 12:7-8

⁷ “And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, ⁸ And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

Isaiah 14:12-14

¹² “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! ¹³ For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.”

Thus the great controversy started in heaven and will continue on earth to the close of time. Let’s see how this is still unfolding today.

THE TRINITY DEVELOPMENT IN DIFFERENT CULTURES

1. The beginnings of false religion after Lucifer was cast out of heaven.

The Tower of Babel

Adam
| (10 generations from Adam to Noah)
Noah
|
Ham
|
Cush
|
Nimrod

Nimrod was the originator of sun worship, a false religion, and the founder of Babylon. Nimrod and his father worked together on a plan to have a one-world government where they would rule.

God told Noah that there would never be another flood to destroy the earth (Gen. 9:11). By building the tower of Babel this was Satan’s attempt to defy God and His authority. Satan’s plan was to have a kingdom here on earth to compete with the kingdom of heaven. He knew very well how the government worked in heaven, since he had at one time lived there. He would attempt to have as many people as possible join his kingdom. This large group decided to make a name for themselves

(Gen. 11:4), but God had another plan and that was through Abraham. Abraham's name was to become great because God knew He could rely on Abraham to exalt His holy name (Gen. 12:2) among the nations.

Satan continues to defy God by causing many to accept another person as co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and Jesus who God has declared to be His Son. Thus, the worship and adoration which belongs to them only is given to a fictitious third being. Satan attempts to do all he can to take glory away from God.

2. Triune Gods of Ancient History

Going back into ancient history, we find that many cultures had a three in one triune god. Examples are...

- a. Babylon: Shamash, Sin, Ishtar
- b. Greece: Zeus, Apollo, Athena
- c. India: Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva
- d. Rome: Jupiter, Mars, Venus
- e. Phoenicia: Uolomuss, Uolosuros, Elivn
- f. Canaan: Baal, Tamuuz, Asthoreth
- g. Persia: Ahura Mazda, Mithra, Ahriman
- h. Egypt: Osiris, Horus, Isis

3. The Triune God in Christianity

The same is happening today. Satan is using mysterious deceptions to deceive people into thinking that they are worshipping God when in reality they are worshipping a triune god. They explain it this way.

The Father is referred to as God.

The Son is referred to as God.

The Holy Spirit is referred to as God.

Yet the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are separate and distinct from one another.

This in itself has a mysterious ring to it and is hard to explain. It is confusing and unexplainable indeed, but this should not be a surprise because this is what Babylon means—confusion. We must base our understanding of truth on the Word of God.

4. The Triune God of the Seventh-day Adventist Church

The Fundamental Beliefs of the Church (see Appendix) quotes that there is... "One God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three coeternal Persons." It is written this way...

God, the eternal Father

God, the eternal Son

God, the eternal Spirit

The Adventist.org website states that, "When you look to scripture, it's clear that the Holy Spirit is a part of the triune God. The term God is inclusive of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." As we take the scripture test, "To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" Isa. 8:20, then we have to ask ourselves, "does the scriptures clearly say that the Holy Spirit is a part of the triune God?" In the Fundamental Beliefs a number of Bible texts are used to back up the trinitarian doctrine. Let's take a few moments to look at some of these texts.

1. Luke 4:8

“And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”

I don't understand how this text proves that the Holy Spirit is a third person. During the forty days and forty nights when Jesus was in the wilderness, Satan tried to put doubt into His mind as to who He really was. Satan knew all about the positions in heaven because he had lived there under its authority. The Father was the Supreme One. Satan also understood the position that Jesus had as the Son of God. There is no mention of a third person here, so this text is a weak one to use in defense of the trinity.

2. Eph. 4:4-6

⁴ “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ One Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

This verse tells us that there is One Lord, one faith, and one baptism. There is also One God and Father who is above all and wants to live in us all. This one body and one hope is possible only through the Holy Spirit that is referred to in verse 4. It is this Spirit that makes it possible for us to become brothers and sisters in Christ. Testimonies for the Church, vol. 9, 189 tells us that this Spirit is the Spirit of Christ.

3. 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 to secure our salvation. In The Desire of Ages, p. 834 it states, “Before the foundations of the earth were laid, the Father and the Son had united in a covenant to redeem man if he should be overcome by Satan. They had clasped their hands in a solemn pledge that Christ should become the surety for the human race.” And also, in The Review & Herald, May 28, 1908, par. 12, “The plan of redemption was arranged in the councils between the Father and the Son.” No mention of a third divine being is seen here.

4. Duet. 6:4

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord:”

How can the Lord God be one Lord and yet be the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each being co-equal and co-eternal? Eph. 4:4-6 will help us understand this verse as not referring to a trinity.

5. John 14:16-18, 26

¹⁶ “I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; ¹⁷ Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. ²⁶ 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.”

Since we covered these verses in Study 4 it would be good to review that lesson. There we learned that the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, and the Holy Ghost were all the same. Jesus Himself comes to us in the Spirit, not a third person.

6. 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.”

The Father anointed Jesus with the Holy Ghost and with power. With this power Jesus was able to cast out devils and heal people. After identifying the Holy Spirit in study 3 we will see that there is no God the Holy Spirit as a third being. God the Father Himself is a Spirit and His Spirit is the Holy Spirit. (see Romans 8:9-14.) The Spirit of God the infinite Father and the Spirit of Jesus make up the Holy Spirit.

7. Rom. 5:5

“And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”

In these studies, I have been filled with a greater love for my Heavenly Father. The Father Himself through His Son gives the Holy Spirit to us. Here are a couple quotes which are worth repeating, The Review and Herald, April 5, 1906, “The Holy Spirit, which proceeds from the only begotten Son of God,” and Testimonies for the Church, vol. 7, p. 273, par. 1, 1902, “In giving us His Spirit, God gives us Himself.” These quotes help us confirm our faith and understanding of who the Holy Spirit is.

WHAT ABOUT 1 JOHN 5:7?

1. The Review and Herald

Article by D.W. Hull, Nov. 10, 1859

“The objector (*the Trinitarians*) contends that Christ and his Father are one person, and in proof of his position quotes 1 John 5:7. ‘For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.’ This is claimed as very strong proof in support of the trinity. The three persons are spoken of as God; the Father as God, the Son as a God, and the Holy Ghost as a God. I believe I may safely say that, aside from scripture, no such license would be allowable. Men have been so used to perverting scripture, and taking advantage of terms, and pressing them into their service, that they do not realize the magnitude of the crime as they otherwise would. The same expression is frequently used about man and wife; yet no person doubts that a man and his wife are two separate persons, inasmuch as they may be separated by hundreds of miles. Dr. A. Clarke expressly says that this passage (1 John 5:7) is an interpolation.”

The Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary indentifies interpolation as the insertion of something, such as a text, that is new or of a foreign matter.”

2. The Review and Herald

Article by J.N. Loughborough, Nov. 5, 1861

“The word Trinity nowhere occurs in the Scriptures. The principal text supposed to teach it is 1 John 5:7, which is an interpolation.”

3. Biblical Research Institute

Article by Angel Manual Rodriguez

In response to the question “I understand that not all of 1 John 5:7 was originally written by John. How can that be?” Angel Rodriguez wrote this reply:

“In the original Greek manuscript of the New Testament the words of 1 John 5:7 ‘...in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one’ were not included. This statement in 1 John 5:7 shows up for the first time in manuscripts of the Latin version only after A.D. 600. It is not found in Greek manuscripts until after A.D. 1400. Henceforth, according to the experts, it is found in four Greek manuscripts as a translation from the Latin and inserted into the Greek text. The addition is not found in any of the other ancient versions. **73**

“When Erasmus published his version of the Greek New Testament, he left out the addition to 1 John 5:7 from the first two editions (1516,1529), arguing that he could not find those words in any Greek manuscripts. Pressured by some to include this addition to the Greek manuscript in which the addition was found, he would include it in his next edition. Sure enough, they came up with a Greek manuscript in which the addition was found, one in which scholars believe was dated from the sixteenth century A.D., translated from the Latin to the Greek and added to the Greek text. Erasmus subsequently included it in his 1522 edition of the Greek New Testament.”

Rodriguez ends his comments by saying, “The Trinity is a biblical doctrine, and you can preach about it. But you should not use this text.”

Is the trinity a biblical doctrine? How we understand a doctrine should be based on the Word, “To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.” (Isa. 8:20.) When we study to show ourselves approved unto God and rightly divide the word of truth God will reveal truth to us. The trinity cannot be proved by the Bible.

4. SDA Bible Commentary

Vol. 7, p. 675

“The passage (1 John 5:7) as given in the KJV is in no Greek Manuscript earlier than the 15th and 16th centuries. The disputed words found their way into the KJV by way of the Greek text of Erasmus (see Vol. 5, page 141). It is said that Erasmus offered to include the disputed words in his Greek Testament if he were shown even one Greek MS that contained them. A library in Dublin produced such a MS (known as 34), and Erasmus included the passage in his text. It is now believed that the later editions of the Vulgate acquired the passage by the mistake of a scribe who included an exegetical, marginal comment in the Bible text that he was copying. The disputed words have been widely used in support of the doctrine of the Trinity, but in view of such overwhelming evidence against their authenticity, their support is valueless and should not be used.”

Many ministers today are teaching the accuracy of 1 John 5:7 but the Bible teaches that only the Father and His Son are seated on the throne. If we are going to worship only them in heaven, should we not be praising and worshiping only them now? Rev. 5:13 says, “And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.”

QUESTIONS:

Here are some thought questions to consider as we conclude this study.

- 1. Is there one verse in Scripture, where God expresses His love for the Holy Spirit, as He often does to His Son?*
- 2. Is there one verse in Scripture, where Jesus expresses His love for the Holy Spirit, as He often does to His Father?*
- 3. Why does Scripture almost always mention the Holy Spirit as a possessive pronoun/noun, as in “His Spirit,” “His Holy Spirit,” “Spirit of God,” or “Spirit of Christ”?*
- 4. If the Holy Spirit conceived Jesus, why did He continually pray to His Father, and not to the Holy Spirit?*

Matthew 10:32-33; Matthew 11:25-27; Matthew 12:50; Matthew 15:13; Matthew 16:17; Matthew 18:10; Matthew 18:35. Jesus never referred to the Holy Spirit as His Father nor did He ever pray to him.

5. If the Holy Spirit is co-equal, and co-eternal why did the Father not treat him as equal? (Phil. 2:6; TA 32-33). Why did he not inherit all things as Jesus did? This would have proved his equality. There is not a single passage of Scripture that indicates this.

AN APPEAL

Today is the day to earnestly seek after truth because we aren't promised tomorrow. We must give ourselves fully to God because Satan is working to deceive and lead us astray. We need to make sure we can defend the faith we hold so dear and at the same time know that it is based on God's Word.

*W*hen 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 interpretation 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.

Selected Messages, vol. 1, p. 161

UNMASKING THE ARCHENEMY

Study 8

Defining the Terms

The Merriam-Webster's Dictionary

unmasking: "to expose the true character of or hidden truth about..."

archenemy: "a person who is extremely hostile or opposed to someone or something."

a. Archangel

The Truth About Angels, pp. 32-33

"The great Creator assembled the heavenly host, that He might in the presence of all the angels confer special honor upon His Son. The Son was seated on the throne with the Father, and the heavenly throng of holy angels was gathered around them. 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..."

Jude 9:

Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee."

1 Thess. 4:16

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:"

This identifies the archangel who is none other than Jesus. The Father assigned Him the position of directing the angelic host. They will be accompanying Jesus the King of Kings and Lord of Lords when He comes back to escort the saints home.

b. Archenemy

Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 1, p. 22; The Truth About Angels, p. 43

"All the heavenly host were summoned to appear before the Father, to have each case determined. Satan unblushingly made known his dissatisfaction that Christ should be preferred before him. He stood up proudly and urged that he should be equal with God, and should be taken into conference with the Father and understand His purposes. God informed Satan that to His Son alone He would reveal His secret purposes, and He required all the family in heaven, even Satan, to yield Him implicit, unquestioned obedience; but that he had proved him-self unworthy a place in heaven. Then Satan exultingly pointed to his sympathizers, comprising nearly one half of all the angels, and exclaimed, These are with me! Will you expel these also, and make such a void in heaven? He then declared that he was prepared to resist the authority of Christ, and to defend his place in heaven by force and might, strength against strength."

As the characteristics of both are compared, the archangel and the archenemy, it doesn't take long to identify who belongs with each title. One is selfless and honored by all in heaven. The other is ever ready to fight to the end for what he considers his rights. Neither will it be difficult to see the same archenemy attitudes portrayed in these last two studies.

THE AGENCIES OF GOD

Deceptions were coming into the apostolic as well as the early Christian churches during the 1st and 2nd centuries. These verses give some insight into this.

1 John 4:1

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”

2 Timothy 3:13

“But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived.”

2 Cor. 11:13-15

¹³ “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ,
¹⁴ And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”

During this period of time there were many faithful Christians who stood strong for the faith. Because they defended the truth some were persecuted severely while others became martyrs. Their love for God was supreme.

Prominent Early Church Christians During the 1st and 2nd Centuries

1. Polycarp: 69-156 AD

A bishop of the church at Smyrna and a companion of the apostle John. In his old age he was arrested and burned to death.

2. Justin Martyr: 110-165 AD

A philosopher who converted to Christianity around 130 AD and became a tireless evangelist. His works are the earliest Christian apologies (*defense of the Christian faith*) in existence. Around 165 AD he along with six other companions were executed during the reign of Marcus Aurelius. When Marcus Aurelius, the Roman emperor, told Justin that if he did not obey by bowing to Roman gods he would be tortured without mercy. Justin's reply was, “That is our desire, to be tortured for our Lord Jesus Christ, and so be saved, for that will give us salvation and firm confidence at the most terrible universal tribunal of Our Lord and Savior.” Shortly after his death the papal church made claims of his body and elevated him to sainthood! After 1600 years of being buried in the catacombs the remains of his bones were dug up and sent to Maryland to be under the care of the St. Mary Catholic Church.

3. Ireanaeus: 120-205 AD

A bishop of the church at Lyons, France, and a pupil of Polycarp.

4. Tertullian: 140-230 AD

He converted to Christianity and became a Catholic Church Father. The term “trinity” originated with him. He was a leader in the church at Carthage, North Africa, and was one of the earliest Christian authors to write in Latin. He wrote numerous apologies, works against heretics, and exhortations to other Christians.

5. Clement of Alexandria: 150-200 AD

A presbyter in the church of Alexandria, Egypt, who was in charge of the school of instruction for new Christians. Origen was one of his pupils.

6. Origen: 185-255 AD

He was a teacher in the church at Alexandria Egypt, and the first writer of Bible commentaries. He was a pupil of Clement of Alexandria, and eventually took over the school for new believers after the departure of Clement.

7. Cyprian: 200-258 AD

He was a bishop of the church in Carthage North Africa during a period of fierce persecution. He shepherded his congregation underground for a decade before being captured and executed by the Romans. Many of the letters written by, and to him, have been preserved.

8. Lactantius: 260-330 AD.

He was a prominent Roman teacher of rhetoric, who later converted to Christianity. He settled in France, where he became the teacher of Constantine's son. His contribution to Christian literature is entitled, "Introduction to True Religion, or The Divine Institutes."

THE AGENCIES OF SATAN

1. Pagan Rome

The Council of Nicea, 325 AD extended over a number of years at various locations. It was the first Ecumenical Council ever held by the Catholic Church. An Ecumenical Council is a meeting where all the bishops are in attendance and it must be called by the pope. The purpose in calling this council together was because Arianism had become so widespread that many were taking hold of it.

Arian Beliefs:

1. Nature of God

- Only God the Father is eternally existent, with neither beginning nor ending.
- In his view, elevating the Son of God, the Holy Spirit, or anything else to the level of God the Father amounts to polytheism.
- God the Father was not technically "the Father" until the conception of Jesus Christ.

2. Christ

- Jesus was not eternally existent but had a beginning.
- Jesus was the first of all creation, created before time and the most perfect of all God's creation.
- Jesus Christ became the Son of God when God "adopted" Him in honor of his perfection and integrity.
- Jesus is subservient to God the Father and of a separate substance and essence.

3. Holy Spirit

- the Holy Spirit was created by God the Father with the help of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
- the Holy Spirit is of a separate substance and entity from God the Father and Jesus the Son and is subservient to both.

As this council met, they hoped...

- a. to resolve some divisive issues brought about by Arianism.
- b. to formulate a doctrine in response to the Arian heresy, which denied the divinity of Christ. This meeting condemned Arius and the Arian heresy that Christ is a created being.
- c. to unite the increasingly divided church with a set of beliefs its leaders would agree on as a means of recognizing heresy or deviations from orthodox biblical doctrines.
- d. to establish the equality of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit in the Holy Trinity and asserted that only the Son became incarnate as Jesus Christ.
- e. to make these a public profession of faith.
- f. to ensure the continued unity of the church by attaining a consensus among the church leaders. *1800 bishops were present.*
- g. to hold each leader accountable for upholding and enforcing these newly established doctrines.

Constantine was the Roman emperor at that time. He presided over the Council of Nicea. This was the first council to declare Jesus to be coequal and coeternal with the Father. The Holy Spirit was not given this status until the 2nd Ecumenical Council, which was known as the Council of Constantinople. Held in 381 AD its purpose was...

- a. to attain a consensus representing all Christendom except for the western churches.
- b. to confirm the Nicea Creed which was finalized by saying that God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are three “persons” but one in essence, eternal, co-existent and equal.

James says that we do well to believe “that there is one God.” (James 2:19).

- c. to expand the doctrine.
- d. to define the Trinity.
- e. to clarify language used in describing the Trinity.
- f. to clarify the creed on the equality of God the Father and God the Son that was formulated at the Council of Nicea.
- g. to confirm the divinity of the Spirit.

Arianism continued to cause division among Christians for many years even after these two councils met.

By the time John the Apostle wrote the book of Revelation around 80-90 AD he was 95 years of age. He died in 100 AD. The doctrine of the trinity wasn’t formulated until after the Bible was completed and the apostles had been dead for some time. It took centuries for later theologians to formulate the teaching of the trinity. The apostles did not in any way indicate they believed this doctrine, nor did they teach it. Paul told the Corinthians in 1 Cor. 2:2 “For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.” In verse 9 it says, “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.” This chapter includes God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit of God. The Spirit is not a separate entity from the Father.

2. Islam

The religion of the Moslems (610-632 AD) teach that the Holy Spirit is Gabriel.
God the Father + Jesus (the Prophet) + The Holy Spirit (Gabriel) = The Godhead

In Sura 2:97, the Qur'an states that Gabriel delivered the word of Allah to the prophet Muhammad, and in Sura 16:102 Gabriel is specifically called "the Holy Spirit". All Quranic references to the Holy Spirit refer, therefore, to Gabriel.

3. Ignatius of Loyola

In 1540 AD Pope Paul III approved the Society of Jesus and Ignatius was recognized as its founder. This society is more commonly known as the Jesuit order. The society of the Jesuits was formed in response to the Reformation. Many Europeans who had been faithful to the papal teachings left during the time that the Christians were persecuted. Through the efforts of this society many were won back to the church.

Ignatius wrote a manual called Spiritual Exercises, which is a result of 'visions' that he received. It is the basic training manual for the Jesuit Order.

As Ignatius was in a cave he would have visions while meditating on the trinity. At one point he came to the place where he conversed with a spiritual being. In their theology it was the Holy Spirit whom he considered was a separate being from the Father and Son.

Secret History of the Jesuits, p. 18 by Edmond Paris

"He never doubted the reality of these revelations. He chased Satan with a stick, as he would have done a mad dog; he talked to the Holy Spirit as one does to another person. The whole room seemed to be filled with the atmosphere of heaven. A holy, sacred presence seemed to be in my room. I laid down my pen and was in a waiting attitude to see what the Spirit would say unto me. I saw no person. I heard no audible voice, but a heavenly watcher seemed close beside me. I felt that I was in the presence of Jesus."

The Great Controversy, p. 234

"At this time the order of the Jesuits was created, the most cruel, unscrupulous, and powerful of all the champions of popery."

The oath taken by the Jesuits will give you a better understanding of who they are.

"My son, heretofore you have been taught to act the dissembler: among Roman Catholics to be a Roman Catholic, and to be a spy even among your own brethren; to believe no man, to trust no man. Among the Reformers, to be a reformer; among the Huguenots, to be a Huguenot; among the Calvinists, to be a Calvinist; among other Protestants, generally to be a Protestant, and obtaining their confidence, to seek even to preach from their pulpits, and to denounce with all the vehemence in your nature over Holy Religion and the Pope; and even to descend so low as to become a Jew among Jews, that we might be enabled to gather together all the information for the benefit of your Order as a faithful soldier of the Pope...You have been taught your duty as a spy, to gather all statistics, facts and information in your power from every source; to ingratiate yourself into the confidence of the family circle of Protestants and heretics of every class and character, as well as that of the merchant, the banker, the lawyer, among the schools and universities, in parliaments and legislatures, and the judiciaries and councils of state, and to be all things to all men, for the Pope's sake, whose servants we are unto death."

How blasphemous for this society to be called the "Society of Jesus." As one looks at the comparison between the character of Jesus and that of the Jesuits it is mind-boggling. Jesus loved righteousness, hated lawlessness and deceit. He went about doing good for all humanity. He was faithful, humble, merciful, truthful, and full of grace (see Heb. 1:9; Acts 10:38; 1 Thess. 5:24; Lk. 22:27; Heb. 2:17; Rev. 3:7; 2 Cor. 13:14). The Jesuits on the other hand persecuted the Christians by arresting and brutally torturing them. They were burned at the stake

or thrown in the arena for wild beasts to devour. It is estimated that there were seven million Christians by 324 AD. An estimated two million of these were persecuted and killed for their faith. They are still being persecuted and killed today under the guise of the Society of Jesus. One should be able to clearly see whose spirit the Jesuits possess. "Wherefore by their fruit ye shall know them" (Matt. 7:20).

4. H.P. Blavatsky (1831-1891)

H.P. Blavatsky was a Russian spiritual leader and a co-founder of the Theosophical Society. She was a Mason and a New Ager who wrote a book called The Secret Doctrine for New Agers and founded a magazine titled Lucifer.

Rather than attempting to convert a person from their religious beliefs, the Theosophical Society embraced Hindu and Buddhist teachings as well as their new age ideas.

We are warned against theosophy.

Battle Creek Letters, p. 109, par. 6

Ellen White says, "Let the world go into spiritualism, into theosophy, into pantheism if they choose. We are to have nothing to do with this deceptive branch of Satan's work. The pleasing sentiments of pantheism will lead many souls into forbidden paths."

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary

Theosophy: "A belief in or experience of a reality surpassing normal human understanding or experience, especially a reality perceived as essential to the nature of life; having a spiritual meaning or reality that is neither apparent to the senses nor obvious to the intelligence, involving or having the nature of an individual's direct subjective communion with God or ultimate reality."

The Secret Doctrine, 1888, p. 539 by H.P. Blavatsky

"Lucifer is a divine and terrestrial Light, 'the Holy Ghost' and 'Satan' at one and the same time."

These people worshipped Satan in their secret rituals. Who is this Holy Spirit they talk about? Lucifer who claims worship. That is what he wanted all along. In Isaiah 14:13-14 it says, ¹³"For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: ¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High." And in Matt. 4:9 Satan told Jesus, "All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me." Satan has never stopped trying to climb to the heights of heaven and put himself in the position of God.

Satan has a thousand ways to lead us down the path of destruction. We must not always accept what comes along as being truth. Believing in a doctrinal teaching doesn't make it truth unless it is based on Bible truth. If we give our allegiance only partially to God then the enemy is also receiving a portion of our allegiance possibly without our even knowing it. Jesus quoted Deut. 6:5, "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might" Matt. 22:37. Our heart must not be divided if we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth.

5. The Roman Catholic Church

The Catholic Creed: "One God is three divine personalities in one indivisible substance or essence. "In other words, God the Father + God the Son + God the Holy Spirit = 3 Gods but really only 1 God.

Handbook For Today's Catholic, p. 11

"The mystery of the Trinity is the central doctrine of the Catholic faith. Upon it are based all the teachings of the church."

This means that all the doctrines held by the papal church such as Sunday being the true Sabbath, confession and forgiveness of sins achieved through the priest, infallibility of the pope, Mary not having the stain of original sin, thus she was conceived without sin, the Eucharist (bread and wine is the real presence of Jesus), infant baptism, purgatory etc. have their roots in the trinity doctrine yet the Adventist Church now accept the Trinity doctrine as one of their fundamental beliefs even though the Catholic Church claims that all of their teachings are based on the Trinity doctrine!

The Donay Catechism of 1649, p. 143

Q: "What is Sunday, or the Lord's Day in general?"

A: "It is a day dedicated by the apostles to the honour of the most holy Trinity, and in memory that Christ our Lord arose from the dead upon Sunday, sent down the Holy Ghost on a Sunday, and therefore is called the Lord's Day. It is also called Sunday from the old Roman denomination of Dies Solis, the day of the sun, to which it was sacred."

In other words, Sunday worship and the Trinity doctrine both came about to commemorate the sacredness of the sun and they were bought into Christendom by the Catholic Church.

Here is a prayer by Pope John XXIII to the Holy Spirit for the success of the ecumenical council in the early 1960's...

"O Holy Spirit, sent by the Father in the name of Jesus, who art present in the church and dost infallibly guide it, pour forth we pray, the fullness of Thy gifts upon the Ecumenical Council. We pray also for those sheep who are not now of the one fold of Jesus Christ, that even as they glory in the name of Christian, they may come at last to unity under the governance of the one Shepherd. Amen."

There is not a single scripture where we are given license to pray to the Holy Spirit. In John 14:6 it says, "...no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." John 15:16, "...whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you" and 1 Tim. 2:5, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

The Ministry of Healing, p. 512

"The strength received through communion with God, united with earnest effort in training the mind to thoughtfulness and caretaking, prepares one for daily duties and keeps the spirit in peace under all circumstances, however trying."

God is the one we are to communicate with. So, who is answering the prayer of Pope John XXIII? Satan is hiding behind a mask of the Holy Spirit. The deception is so clever that to many it may sound like blasphemy when people speak out against such a thing. But, to God it shows that there are believers who recognize Him for who He is. We must always remember that the father of lies will appear as an angel of light to deceive with his cunning trickery. The time is ripe for Satan to pull off his last great deception as he knows his time is short and what he does he must do quickly.

Questions and Answers to Ponder

Q: Who has filled the gap between God and man?

A: "The ladder (*referring to the dream of Jacob*) represents Jesus, the appointed medium of communication. Had he not with His own merits bridged the gulf that sin had made, the ministering angels could have held no communion with fallen man. Christ connects man in his weakness and helplessness with the source of infinite power." Patriarchs and Prophets, p. 184, par. 2

Daughters of God, 1897, p. 185, par. 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."

The connection of the branch to the vine refers to spiritual life continually flowing to us. Jesus makes this possible through His Spirit.

Q: Who stands between God and man now?

A: Jesus, who is represented by the ladder.

If Satan fought to take Jesus' place in heaven would it not make sense that he is putting forth his utmost to do the same now? Manuscript 31, par. 69, 1889, "He has set up his throne between God and man to appropriate the adoration that belongs to God alone."

Q: How could Satan possibly set up his throne between God and man to appropriate the adoration that belongs to God alone?

Could it be by introducing a counterfeit? In The Great Controversy, p. 464 it mentions that a counterfeit will appear before the end of time to prevent a revival of primitive godliness such has not been seen since apostolic times. If we believe that Jesus is coming soon then is it not possible that this counterfeit is already in place?

When we get sick we should try to reason from cause to effect to understand why we got sick. Thus, would it not be good to reason how Satan could possibly set up his throne between God and man to appropriate the adoration that belongs to God alone? How does he go about doing this? Satan is a counterfeit spirit who seeks to deceive us. He has caused his followers to believe in the trinity. He uses the papal system as one of his agents. The Roman Church believes the pope has obtained his authority from God and is His representative on earth. We must be sure we are following the Lamb whithersoever He goeth (Rev. 14:4), and not following another spirit.

6. Spiritualism

Wikipedia Encyclopedia

"Spiritualism is a new religious movement which developed and reached its peak growth in membership from the 1840's to the 1920's. By 1897, spiritualism was said to have more than eight million followers in the United States and Europe..."

"Spiritualism is based on the belief that the spirits of the dead exist and have both the ability and the inclination to communicate with the living. The after life, or the 'spirit world,' is seen

by spiritualists, not as a static place but as one in which spirits continue to evolve. These two beliefs—that contact with spirits is possible, and that spirits are more advanced than humans—lead spiritualists to a third belief—that contact with spirits are capable of providing useful knowledge about moral and ethical issues, as well as about the nature of God."

It is interesting that this spirit, which continues to evolve, is more advanced than humans and is capable of providing useful knowledge about the nature of God. In Study 3 we read from The Acts of the Apostles, p. 52 “The nature of the Holy Spirit is a mystery. Men cannot explain it, because the Lord has not revealed it to them.” It can’t be God’s Spirit because He does not lie or contradict Himself. The only conclusion is that it is the spirit of Satan.

We can see how deceptive Satan is. He has created a religious movement that reached its peak of growth during the time when the Seventh-day Adventist Church was being developed. Satan knew that God was raising up this church for such a time as this. God’s people were to proclaim the three angel’s messages to prepare the world for Christ’s coming. God has a work to do in each of our hearts if we are to be ready for the greatest of all events. Satan is making sure that this doesn’t happen so he has put forth a counterfeit movement that claims to speak through the dead.

7. Pentecostalism

A “power of the spirit”, jumping up and down, rolling on the floor, doing all kinds of bizarre things (see 1 Kings 18:26, 28). These things are attributed to the Holy Spirit.

Satan is masking himself as the Holy Spirit. The majority believes that the Holy Spirit is a being completely separate from the Father and His Son. They pray to this Spirit with intense desire. But the Lord tells us in Jer. 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” In Manuscript 39, 1893, par. 21 it says, “We cannot dishonor God more than in distrusting His Word. Feeling is not at all reliable. God’s Word is the foundation upon which our hopes may safely rest.” It is dangerous to follow our feelings and desires. To unmask this counterfeit spirit therefore we must study His Word.

The Lord yearns to pour out His Spirit upon each of us but only in His chosen way. In Evangelism, p. 701 we read, “The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the church is looked forward to as in the future; but it is the privilege of the church to have it now. Seek for it, pray for it, believe for it. We must have it, and Heaven is waiting to bestow it.” If we fully surrender our lives to Jesus, we will receive the Spirit. It is an individual work. It is our privilege to receive this gift.

CONCLUSION

God yearns for all of our hearts. His love for us is deeper than the ocean, higher than the stars, wider than the east is from west. In fact, His love for us is so deep that He gave His only begotten Son to die so we could be redeemed. If Jesus had sinned even once the Father would have lost His Son for all eternity but He took that chance. That is how much He loves each of us!

The Sabbath School Quarterly, Oct. 1906, p. 6

When this quote was printed in the 1906 Sabbath School Quarterly the author was not mentioned. It most likely would have been one of the leaders of the church. Here is what it says.

“God delights in the association of pure intelligent creatures. This is likewise the greatest delight that the human mind can experience. Our Father knows full well that we can be supremely happy only in His service, and when our minds are filled with His thoughts, and our eyes behold His glory; even as the Saviour, having the highest happiness of His followers at heart, said, ‘Father, I will that they also who Thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am; that they may behold My glory which Thou hast given Me; for thou lovedst Me before the foundation of the world.’ From this viewpoint, God is a jealous God, jealous for the supreme happiness of His people — for the service of any other than the true God

can only bring them misery. It is for this reason that He says, 'My glory will I not give to another,' for if His glory were bestowed upon another, it would make 'another' an object of worship, which would result in confusion and sorrow to some of God's creatures. He only glorified His Son with Himself, and not separately. See John 17:5."

King Herod made a choice to appropriate God's glory to himself. ²¹ "And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne and made an oration unto them. ²² And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man. ²³ And immediately, the angel of the Lord smote him, because he did not give God the glory: and he was eaten of worms and he gave up the ghost." (Acts 12:21-23). Herod died because he did not give God the glory. In grasping for glory that belongs only to God, Herod was much like Lucifer, who said, 'I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' Isa.14:4. Has Satan accomplished his mission by attempting to take the glory away from God and placing it on himself? Has he done this by trying to make himself co-equal with the Most High?

Manuscript 31, 1889, par. 69

"Satan's aim had been to reproduce his own character in human beings. No sooner was man created than Satan resolved to efface in him the image of God and to place His stamp where God's should be. And he has succeeded in instilling into the heart of man the spirit of envy, of hatred, of ambition. In this world he has set up a kingdom of darkness, of which he, the leader in guilt is prince. He desired to usurp the throne of God. Failing in this, he has worked in darkness, in crookedness, in deception, to usurp his peace in the hearts of men. He has set up his throne between God and man to appropriate the adoration that belongs to God alone."

Satan's aim is to remove the image of God (the fruit of the Spirit, Gal. 5:22-23) from the heart of the believer and replace it with his counterfeit spirit (Gal. 5:19-21). When this change takes place a new master is now in charge of our minds. He is then able to work in a deceptive way upon the heart. One way that he does this is by bringing confusion to the remnant church on the issue of the trinity. He knows that if one believes that there is only "One Lord and One God and Father of all" Eph. 4:5,6, and through their Spirit He is imparted to the believers to empower them to become overcomers the battle is over.

The trinity belief is a heart matter in which each of us will have to answer to God. In this last and most important study we should be able to see changes that have taken place in the Seventh-day Adventist church from when it was formed to the present time. Satan is attempting to bring a change of mastery and disruption into our ranks. We must always keep upper most in our minds, "Who has our heart?"

Selected Messages, vol. 1, p. 122

"We have far more to fear from within than from without. The hindrances to strength and success are far greater from the church itself than from the world. Unbelievers have a right to expect that those who profess to be keeping the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, will do more than any other class to promote and honor, by their consistent lives, by their godly example and their active influence, the cause which they represent. But how often have the professed advocates of the truth proved the greatest obstacle to its advancement! The unbelief indulged, the doubts expressed, the darkness cherished, encourage the presence of evil angels, and open the way for the accomplishment of Satan's devices."

THE APPLE OF GOD'S EYE

Study 9

The Church is the Apple of God's Eye

The eyes are of utmost importance to the body. We go to extreme measures to protect them. If an insect, a small grain of sand or speck of dirt finds its way into the eye the entire body reacts immediately. God protects and guards His church on earth from every form of danger as we protect our eyes. He regards His church as the apple of His eye.

Duet. 32:10

"He found him in a desert land, and in the waste howling wilderness; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye."

Prov. 7:2

"Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye."

Psalms 17:8

"Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings..."

Zach. 2:8

"For thus saith the Lord of host; After the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled you: for he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of his eye."

Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 15

"...the church of Christ, enfeebled and defective as it may be, is the only object on earth on which He bestows His supreme regard. While He extends to all the world His invitation to come to Him and be saved, he commissions His angels to render divine help to every soul that cometh to Him in repentance and contrition, and He comes personally by His Holy Spirit into the midst of His church."

Ibid, p. 18

"The church, being endowed with the righteousness of Christ, is His depository, in which the wealth of His mercy, His love, His grace, is to appear in full and final display. The declaration in His intercessory prayer, that the Father's love is as great toward us as toward Himself, the only-begotten Son, and that we shall be with Him where He is, forever one with Christ and the Father, is a marvel to the heavenly host, and it is their great joy. The gift of His Holy Spirit, rich, full, and abundant, is to be to His church as an encompassing wall of fire, which the powers of hell shall not prevail against."

Ibid, p. 19

"The church is the property of God, and God constantly remembers her as she stands in the world, subject to the temptations of Satan. Christ has never forgotten the days of His humiliation. In passing from the scenes of His humiliation, Jesus has lost none of His humanity. He has the same tender, pitying, love, and is ever touched with human woe. He ever bears in mind that He was a Man of Sorrows, and acquainted with grief. He forgets not His representative people who are striving to uphold His downtrodden law. He knows that the world that hated Him, hates them. Although Jesus Christ has passed into the heavens, there is still a living chain binding His believing ones to His own heart of infinite love. The most lowly and weak are bound by a chain of sympathy closely to His heart. He never forgets that He is our representative, that He bears our nature."

In this study we will see that throughout history God had great men and women who stood for truth and refused to buckle under the pressure of falsehood that was creeping into the church. God will have a church that remains faithful. "The gift of His Holy Spirit, rich, full, and abundant, is to be to His church as an encompassing wall of fire, which the powers of hell shall not prevail against." (see above statement, TM, p. 18). "The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall. It remains, while the sinners in Zion will be sifted out—the chaff separated from the precious wheat." Selected Messages, vol. 2, p. 380.

THE PIONEERS EXPOSE FALSE TEACHINGS AND DEFEND THE FAITH

Letter 279, 1904, par. 21 by Ellen White

"Weigh every proposition coming from human beings; for fanciful theories will be brought in."

Beliefs of the Early SDA Church Pioneers:

False teachers were coming into the church at this time but there were the faithful who boldly defended the truth. The following statements clearly testify that the pioneers of the Seventh-day Adventist Church were nontrinitarian in their belief.

1. J. N. Andrews (1829-1883)

Minister, writer, editor, scholar and the first official Adventist missionary.

The Review & Herald, vol. 6, no. 24, March 6, 1855, p. 185, article by J.N. Andrews

"This doctrine (*the trinity*) destroys the personality of God, and his Son Jesus Christ our Lord."

2. Joseph Bates (1792-1872)

A sea captain, preacher, writer, counselor, temperance advocate and the first SDA local conference president. He was the oldest member of the church pioneers.

Joseph Bates was a member of the non-Trinitarian Christian Connection before joining the Millerite Movement.

The Autobiography of Elder Joseph Bates, 1868, pp. 204-205, The Living Voice of the Lord's Witnesses, pp.15-16

"My parents were members of long standing in the Congregational Church, with all of their converted children thus far, and anxiously hoped that we would also unite with them. But they embraced some points in their faith which I could not understand. I will name two only: their mode of baptism, and the doctrine of the trinity...Respecting the trinity, I concluded that it was an impossibility for me to believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, was also the Almighty God, the Father, one and the same being. I said to my father, 'If you can convince me that we are one in this sense, that you are my father, and I your son; and also that I am your father, and you my son, then I can believe in the trinity.'"

3. R. F. Cottrell (1814-1892)

Minister, counselor, writer, hymnist, poet and president of the New York Conference. He came out of the Seventh Day Baptist Church to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The Review & Herald, July 6, 1869, article by R.F. Cottrell

"But to hold the doctrine of the Trinity is not so much an evidence of evil intention as of intoxication from that wine of which all the nations have drunk. The fact that this was one of the leading doctrines, if not the very chief, upon which the bishop of Rome was exalted to the popedom, does not say much in its favor."

4. J. N. Loughborough (1832-1924)

Minister, historian, author and health advocate. He was the last of the church pioneers to die.

The Living Voice of the Lord's Witnesses, p. 19

"It (*the trinity doctrine*) is contrary to common sense. It is contrary to Scripture, Its origin is pagan, and fabulous." *Webster's 1828 Dictionary: not real; a fable.*

The Review & Herald, September 20, 1898, article by J.N. Loughborough

"We learn from this language that when we speak of the Spirit of God we are really speaking of his presence and power."

5. Uriah Smith (1832-1903)

Minister, author, educator and longest serving editor for the Review and Herald, which amounted to 50 years.

GC Daily Bulletin, vol. 4, March 14, 1891, pp. 146-147, article by Uriah Smith

"The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God; it is also the Spirit of Christ."

6. James White (1821-1881)

Husband of Ellen White, minister, speaker, author, writer, editor, publisher of The Review and Herald and president of the General Conference.

James was an ordained minister of the Christian Connection when he joined the Millerite Movement.

The Review & Herald, Sept. 12, 1854, article written by James White

"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. 'Here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.' This class, who live just prior to the second advent, will not be keeping the traditions of men, neither will they be holding fundamental errors relative to the plan of salvation through Jesus Christ. And as the true light shines out upon these subjects, and is rejected by the mass, then condemnation will come upon them..."

James White says that the trinity doctrine is a fundamental error. Yet 125 years later the SDA church would call it a fundamental belief! This would never have occurred until after the death of James and Ellen White.

7. Ellen G. White (1827-1915)

Messenger of God, speaker, prolific author and mother.

Counsels to Writers and Editors, pp. 31-32, Preach the Word, 1905, p. 5

"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."

If she "got it wrong" about the identity of God in the beginning, then what confidence do we have that she finally got it right in the end? If the Lord had given Ellen White insight indicating that the doctrine of the trinity was truth would she not have revealed it to us? Furthermore, would she want nontrinitarian beliefs of the early founders of the church to be reprinted long after their death if it was a lie?

She understood and believed what the early pioneers believed about the trinity, as she was the wife to whom James White was married for 35 years. He ate with her, preached with her, prayed with her, travelled thousands of miles with her, built up churches with her and yet she never once said to him, 'James you are wrong in what you are teaching about the trinity.' Not once is there any record that she said anything about his anti-trinitarian views, and neither is there any record of her saying anything to anyone else. And those who knew Ellen White knew she was not silent when error was being taught. Now what does this tell us about the 70 years of her association with the leaders and pioneers of the Adventist Church, all publishing anti-trinitarian materials, and never once telling them that they were wrong? trinitytruth.org, article titled SDA Pioneers on the Trinity.

Gospel Workers, p. 298

"The fact that there is no controversy or agitation among God's people, should not be regarded as conclusive evidence that they are holding fast to sound doctrine. There is reason to fear that they may not be clearly discriminating between truth and error. When no new questions are started by investigation of the Scriptures, when no difference of opinion arises which will set men to searching the Bible for themselves, to make sure that they have the truth, there will be many now, as in ancient times, who will hold to tradition, and worship they know not what."

Other Notable Individuals of the SDA Church:

1. Willie White (1854-1937)

He was the son of James and Ellen White and one of her secretaries who proofread her manuscripts before they were sent to the publishers. He held positions of minister, interim GC president, established Pacific Press and publishing houses over seas, was director of the GC Sabbath School dept. and secretary/director of the E.G. White Estate.

Letter from Willie White to H.W. Carr, April 30, 1935

"The statements and the arguments of some of our ministers, in their effort to prove that the Holy Spirit is an individual as are God the Father and Christ the eternal Son, have perplexed me, and sometimes they have made me sad. One popular teacher said 'we may regard Him (*the Holy Spirit*), as the fellow who is down here running things.' "

2. L. L. Caviness (1884-1955)

A pioneer educator who participated in starting the Advanced Bible School, which was the fore-runner of the Adventist Theological Seminary. He was also an associate Editor of The Review and Herald, Professor of Greek at Washington Missionary Seminary, taught at Union College, contributed to the SDA Bible Commentary as well as serving as an educator and held leadership positions overseas.

Bible Conference of 1919, comment made by L.L. Caviness

"I cannot believe in the so called Trinity doctrine of the three persons always existing."

3. E. J. Waggoner (1855-1916)

Physician, co-editor of Signs of the Times, author and writer.

Christ and His Righteousness, 1890, p.23

"Here we find that the Holy Spirit is both the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ"

This was his belief until he apostatized from the church.

PROMINENT LEADERS WHO BROUGHT IN FALSE TEACHINGS

1. D. M. Canright (1840-1919)

A minister, author and prominent leader in Adventism till he apostized in 1887.

He authored Seventh-day Adventism Renounced which was published in 1889. In this book he differed from his former brethren by stating, “they reject the doctrine of the Trinity.”

2. Bro. Chapman:

Another one of Satan’s attempts to bring false teaching into Adventism was in 1891. At that time Brother Chapman, a minister, was told that he was not to go around and preach in churches because he was preaching heresies. He was unhappy about this so he wrote Ellen White a letter expressing his discontent. Here is a quote from the letter that he wrote.

14 Manuscript Release 175, Bro. Chapman’s letter to E.G. White, June 3, 1891

“Elder Robinson...states positively that I cannot be sent out to present the truth to others until some points held by me are changed or modified...He quotes as a sample my idea in reference to the Holy Ghost not being the Spirit of God, which is Christ, but the angel Gabriel...On all fundamental points I am in perfect harmony with our people; but when I try to show what seems to me to be new light on the truth, those in authority...brand me as a fellow with queer ideas of the Bible.”

Ellen White’s response to Bro. Chapman’s letter:

“Your ideas...do not harmonize with the light which God has given me...It is not essential for you to know and be able to define just what the Holy Spirit is. Christ tells us that the Holy Spirit is the Comforter, and the Comforter is the Holy Ghost... This refers to the omnipresence of the Spirit of Christ, called the Comforter...you need to come in harmony with your brethren...Now, my brother, it is truth that we want and must have, but do not introduce error as new truth.”

The error that Bro. Chapman taught was that of attributing the Holy Spirit to Gabriel. What were the brethren teaching in 1891? This is crucial to know because Ellen White told him that he needed to be in harmony with the brethren. The Holy Ghost being the Spirit of God was what the pioneers of the Adventist church taught.

3. John Harvey Kellogg (1852-1943)

Medical doctor, nutritionist, health activist, director of the Battle Creek Sanitarium, inventor, businessman and author.

John Harvey Kellogg came to believe that God the Holy Spirit was in everything, animate and inanimate.

The devil made another attempt, this time in 1903 though a little more sophisticated and a bit higher up in the Adventist church. Unfortunately Kellogg was used to bring in the Alpha of heresies. When the sanitarium burned to the ground and they were going to rebuild, the GC president, A.G. Daniels, recommended to Kellogg, who was a renowned world famous physician, that he write a book to generate money for the rebuilding. He set to work writing The Living Temple. In this book he inserted some theology that he had come to accept and believe. Daniels warned him not to include these ideas in the book but to have it purely on physiology, a medical book. But he went ahead and inserted some of his ideas and thoughts into the book anyway. One day Daniels was having a conversation with Kellogg and some of the things he was hearing troubled him so he decided to write a letter of his concerns to Willie White, Ellen White’s son.

Letter from A.G. Daniels to Willie White regarding Dr. Kellogg, October 29, 1903:

“Kellogg told me that he had come to believe in the trinity and now believed in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost; and his view was that it was God the Holy Ghost and not God the Father that filled all space, and every living thing. He said if he had believed this before writing the book, he could have expressed his views without giving the wrong impression the book now gives.”

*Kellogg had come to believe in the trinity. In other words, the church did not believe in the trinity at that time. But he had changed his views and now believed in God the Holy Spirit. Ellen White later said that what Kellogg was beginning to teach was what she referred to as pantheistic ideas. In 1903 his published work, *The Living Temple*, was made available but he had been inculcating these essential principles about pantheism in private conversations and later in public lectures since 1880.*

The Living Temple, p. 29, by John Harvey Kellogg

“Suppose now we have a boot before us—not an ordinary boot, but a living boot, and as we look at it, we see little boots crowding out at the seams, pushing out at the toes, dropping off at the heels, and leaping out at the top—scores, hundreds, thousands of boots, a swarm of boots continually issuing from our living boot—would we not be compelled to say, ‘there is a shoemaker in the boot’? So there is present in the tree a power which creates and maintains it, a treemaker in the tree.’ “

What Kellogg came to believe was that God the Holy Spirit was in everything. That he filled every space, animate and inanimate. He did not understand God as a personal being, and came to view Him as three divine beings. He did not get these ideas from the scriptures but from his own imagination by allowing Satan to control his thinking.

Special Testimonies, Series B #7, p. 49

“Pantheistic ideas regarding God in nature are framed by Lucifer, the fallen angel.”

So the pantheistic ideas of Kellogg did not originate with him. The source of these ideas was from Satan himself. Kellogg wasn’t coming up with anything new. Satan had worked on Kellogg’s mind until his understanding of God and His Spirit were warped. Can that happen to us if we don’t stay connected to God?

19 Letter Manuscript, Manuscript 46, May 18, 1904, par. 13

“...And all through my life I have had the same errors to meet, though not always in the same form.” In *The Living Temple* the assertion is made that God is in the flower, in the leaf, in the sinner. But God does not live in the sinner. The Word declares that He abides only in the hearts of those who love Him and do righteousness. God does not abide in the heart of the sinner; it is the enemy who abides there.

Ellen White states that she has had to confront many errors of a similar nature. This is what she is dealing with here. The Living Temple says God is in everything, even the sinner. If we believe this as he did then we must conclude that he is in all people—sinners and saints alike. The Bible teaches “...Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Col 1:27). God cannot occupy the same body temple with Satan (see 1 John 3:6, 9). So a very solid conclusion can be drawn here—Kellogg was deceived.

Manuscript 46, May 18, 1904, par. 19

“...God in the flower, God in the leaf, God in the tree. But if God be in these things, why not worship them?”

Letter 300, 1903, written by Ellen G. White to John Harvey Kellogg

“You are not definitely clear on the personality of God, which is everything to us as a people. You have virtually destroyed the Lord God Himself.”

The problem in The Living Temple was that it introduces speculation in regard to the personality of God and where His presence is. If the personality of God is everything to us as a people, then it certainly is something that should not be misunderstood.

The Webster's 1828 Dictionary defines "personality" as that which constitutes a person, a distinct person; who he is; what he does.

4. LeRoy Froom, Roy Anderson, W.E. Read

LeRoy Froom was a field secretary of the GC assigned to research and writing, Roy Anderson was editor of the Ministry magazine, and W.E. Read was also a field secretary of the GC.

During 1955-56 two well-known Protestant theologians, Walter Martin who was writing a book about cults and was planning to include Seventh-day Adventists and Donald Barnhouse, editor of Eternity magazine met in secret meetings with LeRoy Froom, Roy Anderson and W.E. Read. T.E. Unruh made the initial contact and R.R. Figuhr, the Gen. Conference President who supported the meetings. Martin wanted to make sure he understood current SDA theology before he reached any conclusion. The result of these meetings was that the SDA church repudiated at least three vital Christian doctrines in order to be called an Evangelical Christian church. This was confirmed in an article in Eternity Magazine, Are SDA's Christian's? Sept. 1956 by Donald Barnhouse. These three doctrines are...

a. The Trinity. Eternity Magazine, Sept. 1956

"The Adventists take their place in the very center of traditional Christianity's Trinity doctrine..."

Letter from Arthur L. White (Sister White's grandson) to Leroy Froom, Dec. 7, 1955

It was called "to our attention the fact that you are seeking information as to the positions held by our early workers concerning the Trinity, the personality of the Holy Spirit, and the pre-existence of Christ as this may be revealed in their writings. I think we will have to concede that our early workers were not Trinitarians."

b. The Nature of Jesus.

Instead of Jesus coming in the nature of Adam after the fall they changed our belief to Jesus coming in the nature of Adam before the fall. This means that Jesus did not have a nature like ours and was not tempted in all points as we are. Thus it is unnecessary for us to overcome sin. This aligns Adventism with Evangelical teachings.

c. The atonement was finished at the cross.

The Adventist now teach that salvation was completed at the cross. This negates the cleansing of the heavenly sanctuary at the end of the 2300 years. It also nullifies the investigative judgment.

Eternity Magazine, Sept. 1956, Are SDA's Christians? By Donald Barnhouse states that...

"They (SDA's) do not believe, as some of their earlier teachers taught, that Jesus' atoning work was not completed on Calvary but instead that He was still carrying on a second ministering work since 1844. This idea is also totally repudiated."

Eternity Magazine, What SDA's Really Believe, Nov. 1956 by Walter Martin, also states that...

"Seventh-day Adventist are solidly in the tradition of historic orthodox Christianity."

The Great Controversy, p. 489

"The intercession of Christ in man's behalf in the sanctuary above is as essential to the plan of salvation as was His death upon the cross. By His death he began that work which after His resurrection he ascended to complete in heaven."

5. Seventh-day Adventist Church Hymnal Committee

The 1985 SDA Church Hymnal Committee consisted of nineteen members with C.L. Brooks as chairman and Wayne Hooper as the executive secretary.

The early church pioneers testified of the truths that were dear to them through the hymns of praise they sang to their Creator. They had come out of other denominational churches whose teachings were taught in their songbooks. James White set out to update the hymnal of the new believers so it would reflect their beliefs and make them a distinctive people. As a preface to one of the hymnals he compiled this comment is made "singing is an important part of the worship of God, and those who would worship him 'in spirit and in truth,' should seek to express truthful sentiments in all their songs of praise. As most Hymns sustain some one or more of the popular fables of the time, our task in selecting has been difficult..." Earlier in this study (page 89) a quotation by James White states, "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..." What about our present hymnal? There are numerous songs that promote the trinity belief. As stated earlier this doctrine was brought in by the Catholic Church during the 381 AD Council of Constantinople. The present day Catholic Church makes the claim that "The mystery of the Trinity is the central doctrine of the Catholic faith. Upon it are based all the teachings of the church." And now we find that this teaching has been brought into our hymnal. Many Adventists today claim that the early pioneers changed their viewpoint from a non-trinitarian to a trinitarian belief. In the present 1985 Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal, "Holy, Holy, Holy" stanza one and four mentions, "God in three persons, blessed Trinity." In 1826 Reginald Heber, an ordained priest in the Church of England wrote this hymn for the purpose of having it sung by the congregation for Trinity Sunday. It is noteworthy to mention that in the Christ in Song hymnal, published in 1908 by F. E. Belden, and used by the early pioneers, the first stanza of "Holy, Holy, Holy" is changed so that "God in three persons, blessed Trinity" is left out and the fourth stanza eliminated. Christ in Song was published prior to Ellen White's last 7 years of life. Does this not say something about how the pioneers believed? In other words the trinity doctrine was not accepted by the pioneers and did not creep into the doctrines of the Seventh-day Adventist Church until the last of the pioneers had passed away.

WARNINGS GIVEN

Isaiah 58:1

"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins."

Selected Messages, vol. 1, p. 204 by Ellen White in 1872. She writes...

"The principles of truth that God in His wisdom has given to the remnant church, would be discarded. Our religion would be changed. The fundamental principles that have sustained the work for the last fifty years would be accounted as error. A new organization would be established. Books of a new order would be written..."

The Lord foresaw that truth in His remnant church would be trampled upon and in His mercy He warned the church of this so they would not be deceived. The acceptance and following of truth leads to salvation, the falling away from it leads one away from Him who is truth and the final result is eternal death. He longs for each of us to embrace the truth so we can be saved.

Selected Messages, vol. 1, p. 204, Manuscript 1, 1915

"I tell you now, that when I am laid to rest, great changes will take place. I do not know when I shall be taken; and I desire to warn all against the devices of the devil."

When God raised up the Adventist Church, He established it on a firm foundation. As Satan undermined that foundation he brought about a misunderstanding regarding the Holy Spirit because he wanted to take God's place in heaven. He pushed his agenda through his agents here on earth. Who were some of his agents? Bro. Chapman, John Harvey Kellogg, LeRoy Froom, Roy Allen Anderson, and W. E. Read. Froom was primarily responsible for introducing the Trinitarian doctrine into the Adventist Church. He set out to search for anything that could be taken as trinitarian in Ellen White's writings and managed to find a small number of quotes that he thought he could use. He placed these quotes in the book Evangelism in 1946. It was finally published in 1957. This was more than 30 years after the death of Ellen White.

Adventist Review, Vol. 158, No. 31, Nov. 29, 2016, p. 4; TrinityTruth.org, article The Trinity and the Adventist Church.

"While no single Scripture passage states the doctrine of the Trinity, it is assumed as a fact...only by faith can we accept the existence of the Trinity."

Q: Is there any other doctrine that Seventh-day Adventist holds as truth that they have to accept by faith?

A: No!

The Great Controversy, p.197, 204-205 *paraphrased in part...*

The above question and answer is in contrast to the stand that the Christian princes of Germany had at the Diet of Spires in 1529. Their protest gave to the reformed church the name of Protestant. They set the power of conscience above the magistrate and the authority of the word of God above the visible church and say with the prophets and Apostles...

"We ought to obey God rather than man' (Acts 5:29). Satan's manner of working against God and His word has not changed; he is still as much opposed to the Scriptures being made the guide of life as in the sixteenth century. In our time there is a wide departure from their doctrines and precepts, and there is need of a return to the great Protest principle—the Bible, and the Bible only, as the rule of faith and duty."

Letter 55, 1886, par. 18; 2 SM, p. 380; Maranatha, p. 203

Satan will work his miracles to deceive; he will set up his power as supreme. The church may appear as about to fall, but it does not fall. It remains, while the sinners in Zion will be sifted out—the chaff separated from the precious wheat. This is a terrible ordeal, but nevertheless it must take place. None but those who have been overcoming by the blood of the Lamb and the word of their testimony will be found with the loyal and true, without spot or stain of sin, without guile in their mouths. We must be divested of our self-righteousness and arrayed in the righteousness of Christ."

WHOM WILL YOU SERVE?

The Mark of the Beast is all about who we worship. Will we worship the one true God on His Holy Day or the papal triune god on Sunday?

Review & Herald, July 13, 1897, article by Ellen White

"The third angel's message has been sent forth to the world, warning men against receiving the mark of the beast or of his image in their foreheads or in their hands. To receive this mark means to come to the same decision as the beast has done, and to advocate the same ideas, in direct opposition to the word of God."

To those who do not receive the mark of the beast but are sealed by God is given this beautiful picture of His marvelous love.

The Review & Herald, Vol. 2, p. 77

"We are saved because God loves the purchased of the blood of Christ; not only will he pardon the repentant sinner, not only will he permit him to enter heaven, but he, the Father of mercies, will wait at the very gates of heaven to welcome us, to give us an abundant entrance to the mansions of the blessed. O what love, what wondrous love the Father has shown in the gift of His beloved Son for this fallen race! And this Sacrifice is a channel for the outflow of his infinite love, that all who believe on Jesus Christ may, like the prodigal son, receive full and free restoration to the favor of heaven."

This statement along with Bible text and Spirit of Prophecy quotations never mentions a third person called the Holy Spirit being present when Jesus returns. If he is co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Son why isn't he returning along with Jesus and the host of angels? Our Heavenly Father waits at the gate of heaven to welcome the apple of His eye home. They have been counting the days. Soon we will be home at last!

Testimony for the Church, vol. 5, pp. 173-174

"No outward shrines may be visible, there may be no image for the eye to rest upon, yet we may be practicing idolatry. It is easy to make an idol of cherished ideas or objects as to fashion gods of wood or stone. Thousands have a false conception of God and His attributes. They are as verily serving a false god as were the servants of Baal. Are we worshiping the true God as He is revealed in His word, in Christ, in nature, or are we adoring some philosophical idol enshrined in His place? God is a God of truth. Justice and mercy are the attributes of His throne. He is a God of love, of pity and tender compassion. Thus He is represented in His Son, our Saviour. He is a God of patience and longsuffering. If such is the being whom we adore and to whose character we are seeking to assimilate, we are worshiping the true God."

Thus, if we put someone or something before the one true God then it becomes an idol to us. A triune God is making another equal to God. The Bible says there is only one true God.

NOW IS THE TIME TO STAND FOR TRUTH

As we anticipate our heavenly home we must return to the Bible and the Bible only and base our beliefs on a thus saith the Lord rather than what saith man, or what saith tradition, or what saith the church. It is time to stand for truth. It is time to have a revival of primitive godliness that has not been witnessed since apostolic times. It is time to return to the foundation that was laid by the pioneers of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. How they loved the truth and sacrificed for it. We must love and defend the truth as they did.

Life Sketches, p. 196

"We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history."

Do we still uphold the teachings that the Lord has taught us through the apostles and the pioneers of our church? We must never forget!

Testimonies, vol. 5, p. 137

"Now is the time when we should closely connect with God, that we may be hid when the fierceness of His wrath is poured upon the sons of men. We have wandered away from the old landmarks. Let us return. If the Lord be God, serve Him; if Baal, serve him. Which side will you be on?"

APPENDIX

THE EVOLUTION OF OUR FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS REGARDING THE TRINITY

1872 Synopsis of Our Faith

The first publisher of these Statements of Beliefs was James White. This synopsis consisted of 25 items. The two pertaining to the Godhead are listed below.

1. "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." Ps. 137:7.
2. "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 exist..."

1874 Baptismal Certificate

No. 2 Baptismal Vow

"Have you received the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour for salvation from sin, for a real change of heart, and will you permit Him (*Jesus*) by the Holy Spirit to live in you daily? John 1:12, Gal. 2:20."

This is the only mention of the Holy Spirit in this baptismal certificate.

1889-1914 SDA Yearbooks, no. 1, p. 147

The Declaration of the Fundamental Principles Taught and Practiced by Seventh-day Adventist was published by the Steam Press of the Seventh-day Adventist Publishing Association in Battle Creek, Michigan in 1872. Based on 1 Cor. 8:6, these twenty-five fundamental principles first appeared in an 1874 Signs of the Times issue, and from there it was incorporated into the Yearbooks of 1889-1914. But between 1915-1930 there was no statement of Beliefs appearing in our Yearbooks. In the 1889 Yearbook, which was written largely by James White, it contained neither the term Godhead nor trinity. It laid down a clearly non-trinitarian foundation and was not replaced or changed in any way until 1931. In this 14-page leaflet it states that "as Seventh-day Adventists we desire simply that our position should be understood; and we are the more solicitous for this because there are many who call themselves Adventist who hold views with which we can have no sympathy, some of which, we think, are subversive of the plainest and most important principles set forth in the Word of God.

"As elsewhere stated, Seventh-day Adventist have no creed but the Bible; but they hold to certain well-defined points of faith."

Those well-defined points were...

1. "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. Ps. 139:7.
2. There is one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Eternal Father, the one by whom he created all things, and by whom they do consist...

3. The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, contain a full revelation of his will to man, and are the only infallible rule of faith..."

1931 Fundamental Beliefs

In 1931 the word "Trinity" appeared in the SDA Yearbook for the first time and from all outward appearance it seemed to be official but it was never voted on as a church. This yearbook listed 22 fundamental beliefs.

Fundamental Principles of Seventh-day Adventist, no. 2, 1931, p. 37

1. "That the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, contain an all-sufficient revelation of His will to me, and are the only unerring rule of faith and practice."
2 Tim. 3:15-17.

2. "That the Godhead, or Trinity, consists of the Eternal Father, a personal, spiritual Being, omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, infinite in wisdom and love; the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Eternal Father, through whom all things were created and through whom the salvation of the redeemed hosts will be accomplished; the Holy Spirit the third person of the Godhead, the great regenerating power in the work of redemption." Matt. 28:19

3. "That Jesus Christ is very God, being of the same nature and essence as the Eternal Father. While retaining His divine nature he took upon Himself the nature of the human family, lived on the earth as a man..."

The Review and Herald, Oct. 29, 1931, p. 3, article below written by F.M. Wilcox entitled Christ is Very Good. -- F.M. Wilcox was a Seventh-day Adventist minister, administrator and editor of the Review and Herald for 33 years.

Christ is Very Good article

"We recognize the divine Trinity, —the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, — each possessing a distinct and separate personality, but one in nature and in purpose, so welded together in this infinite union that the apostle James speaks of them as one God." James 2:19.

James 2:19, "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble." This text says that there is one God just as Eph. 4:6 says there is one God and not a three in one God. We are to read the Word just as it says and not try to put our own interpretation on it.

Duet. 4:2

"Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you."

Rev. 22:18-19

¹⁸"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: ¹⁹And if any man shall take away from the words of this book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

1945 Plans to Revise the Fundamental Beliefs

Movement of Destiny by Leroy Froom, 1945, p. 422

"The next logical inevitable step in the implementing of our unified 'Fundamental Beliefs' involved revision of certain standard works so as to eliminate statements that taught, and thus perpetuated, erroneous views on the Godhead. Such sentiments were now sharply at variance with the accepted

'Fundamental Beliefs' set forth in the Church Manual, and with the uniform 'Baptismal Covenant' and 'Vow' based thereon, which, in certificate form, was now used for all candidates seeking admission to membership in the church."

The next year (1946) the inevitable step was put in place.

1981 Fundamental Beliefs

Fundamental Principles of Seventh-day Adventist, no 3, 1981, p. 5

The trinity doctrine became official in 1981. This consisted of 27 Fundamental Beliefs.

1. The Holy Scriptures -- The Holy Scriptures, Old and New Testaments, are the written Word of God...

2. The Trinity

There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-eternal Persons. God is immortal, all-powerful, all-knowing, above all, and ever present. He is infinite and beyond human comprehension, yet known through His self-revelation. He is forever worthy of worship, adoration, and service by the whole creation. Duet. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 4:46; 1 Pet. 1:2; 1 Tim. 17; Rev. 14:7.

3. The Father

God the eternal Father

4. The Son

God the eternal Son

5. The Holy Spirit

God the eternal Spirit

2005 Fundamental Beliefs

A twenty-eighth fundamental belief was added at the 2005 General Conference Session.

Selected Messages, vol. 1, p. 161-162

"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. 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 what constitutes the truth for this time.

See pages 88 - 90 of this study to read the testimonies of these standard bearers.

"We are not to receive the words of those who come with a message that contradict the special points of our faith. They gather together a mass of Scripture, and pile it as proof around their asserted theories. This has been done over and over again during the past fifty years. And while the Scriptures are God's word, and are to be respected, the application of them, if such application moves one pillar from the

foundation that God has sustained these fifty years, is a great mistake. He who makes such an application knows not the wonderful demonstration of the Holy Spirit that gave power and force to the past messages that have come to the people of God."

It is noteworthy to mention that the foundation God sustained those fifty years were recorded in the 1872 Synopsis of Our Faith and not the present 2005 Fundamental Beliefs. In the thirteenth belief it states, "This unity (unity of God's church) has its source in the oneness of the triune God, who has adopted us as his children." Is this triune god the one we are to worship? In Exodus 20:3 it says, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me," and in Rev. 14:12 we are told that only those who, "keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus" will be among the redeemed. The church now says that we have a unity of three coeternal beings. How can that be? Could it be that while the Laodicean church slept something happened? "But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way." Matt. 13:25.