



Living Walking Serving

FAITH AND GRACE CHURCH

BIBLE STUDY NOTE ON

THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER – THE HOLY SPIRIT (Joel 2:28-32, Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4-5, 2:1-4, 2:16-21)

STUDY 5: THE TRINITY

TEXT: Deut. 8:4, 1 Cor. 8:4; Gal. 3:20; 1 Tim. 2:5, Gen. 1:1, 26; 3:22; 11:7; Isaiah 6:8, 48:16, 61:1

INTRODUCTION

We are living in the age of the Holy Spirit. God had promised there would be a time when all those who follow Him would receive His Spirit (Joel 2:28-32), and not just the prophets, kings, and the priest. Peter pointed out in Acts 2:16-21 that that time has come to pass. God would speak to and through all those who would come to Him, whether in visions, dreams, or prophecy. This was the beginning of the last days. God's final act of salvation began with the pouring out of His Spirit. This final act of deliverance will continue to the end of this age. In this new series of studies on the Holy Spirit, I would like us to start by looking at the relationship between three persons of the Godhead – The Trinity.

THE TRINITY

The Trinity is one God existing in three Persons. Understand that this is not in any way suggesting three Gods. The word "Trinity" is not found in Scripture. It is just a term that is used to attempt to describe the triune God—three coexistent, co-eternal Persons who are God.

The following is what God's Word says about the Trinity:

- 1) There is one God (Deut. 6:4; 1 Cor. 8:4; Gal. 3:20; 1 Tim. 2:5).
- 2) The Trinity consists of three Persons (Gen. 1:1, 26; 3:22; 11:7; Isa. 6:8, 48:16, 61:1; Matt. 3:16-17, 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14). In Gen. 1:1, the Hebrew plural noun "Elohim" is used. In Genesis 1:26, 3:22, 11:7 and Isaiah 6:8, the plural pronoun for "us" is used. The Hebrew word for "God," "Elohim," definitely allows for the Trinity.
- 3) The members of the Trinity are distinguished one from another in various passages.
In Isaiah 48:16 and 61:1, the Son is speaking while making reference to the Father and the Holy Spirit.
 - Jesus' baptism—Matthew 3:13-17 (voice of the Father, Son baptized, Spirit descending like a dove).
 - Salvation—1 Peter 1:2 (chosen by the Father, sanctified by the Spirit, sprinkled with the blood of Jesus).
 - Sanctification—2 Corinthians 13:14 (grace of the Lord Jesus, love of God, fellowship of the Holy Spirit).
 - Christian Baptism—Matthew 28:19 (baptized in one name, yet three Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).
 - Prayer—Ephesians 3:14-21 (strengthened by his Spirit, know the love of Christ, filled with the fullness of God).
 - Christian Growth—2 Thessalonians 2:13 (chosen by God, loved by the Lord, sanctified by the Spirit).
- 4) Each member of the Trinity is God. The Father is God (John 6:27; Romans 1:7; 1 Peter 1:2). The Son is God (John 1:1, 14; Romans 9:5; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 1:8; 1 John 5:20). The Holy Spirit is God (Acts 5:3-4; 1 Corinthians 3:16).
- 5) There is subordination within the Trinity. Scripture shows that the Holy Spirit is subordinate to

the Father and the Son, and the Son is subordinate to the Father. Concerning the Son see Luke 22:42, John 5:36, John 20:21, and 1 John 4:14. Concerning the Holy Spirit see John 14:16, 14:26, 15:26, 16:7, and especially John 16:13-14.

6) The individual members of the Trinity have different tasks. The Father is the ultimate source or cause of the universe (1 Corinthians 8:6; Revelation 4:11); divine revelation (Revelation 1:1); salvation (John 3:16-17); and Jesus' human works (John 5:17; 14:10). The Father initiates all of these things.

The Son is the agent through whom the Father does the following works: **the creation and maintenance of the universe** (1 Corinthians 8:6; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16-17); **divine revelation** (John 1:1, 16:12-15; Matthew 11:27; Revelation 1:1); and **salvation** (2 Corinthians 5:19; Matthew 1:21; John 4:42). The Father does all these things through the Son, who functions as His agent.

The Holy Spirit is the means by whom the Father does the following works: creation and maintenance of the universe (Genesis 1:2; Job 26:13; Psalm 104:30); divine revelation (John 16:12-15; Ephesians 3:5; 2 Peter 1:21); salvation (John 3:6; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 1:2); and Jesus' works (Isaiah 61:1; Acts 10:38). Thus, the Father does all these things by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Below is the best symbol for describing the Trinity:

