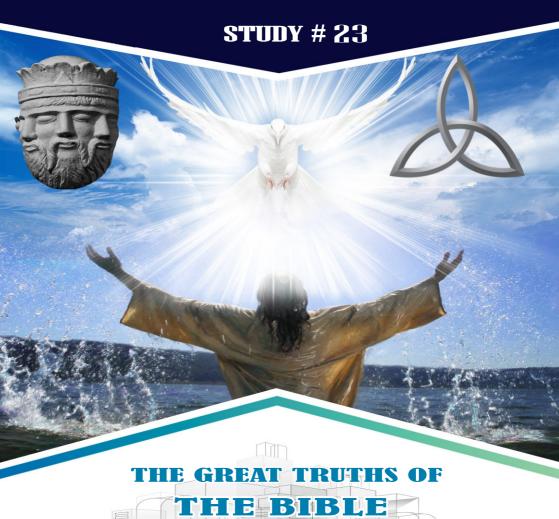
## The study of the Trinity

PART - 1



"Thy word is truth" ...John 17:17



PLEASE NOTE: Kindly refer to your Bibles for every scripture reference and read thoroughly.

MOST SCRIPTURE PASSAGES ARE QUOTED FROM THE AUTHORISED KING JAMES VERSION (KJV)

Today we will take up the study of the "doctrine" of the Trinity.

Among a great majority of Christians is this BELIEF

about God and His Nature!

This "doctrine" teaches that GOD is a......TRINITY -that is

to say, God consists of THREE persons and.....yet remains ONE GOD!

The Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit are taught to be three "Gods" and yet the totaling of them is **NOT** three Gods but.....**ONE** God!!!

HOW, ONE MAY ASK IS THIS.....POSSIBLE?

For when mathematically.....





Here it is taught and believed that.....

Reason does NOT understand !! It is called.....A DIVINE

MYSTERY !!

Many have tried in vain to understand how......this "MYSTERY" works.

Thus God to us has now become a "MYSTERY". It brings to mind something that happened in the early church with the APOSTLE PAUL which we read of in -

Acts 17:22,23

"Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you."

Yes! To the Greeks on "Mars Hall" the God of Israel was refered to as -



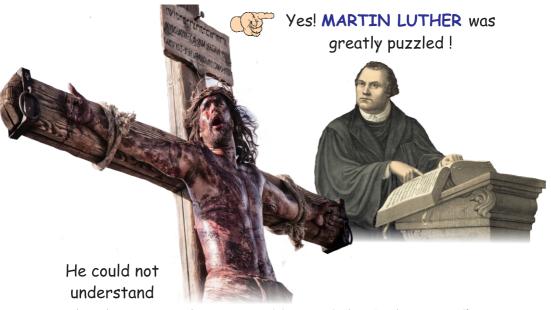
Don't we CHRISTIANS too worship the SAME GOD today?

And it seems, that like on Mars Hill.....HE HAS BECOME

A MYSTERY TODAY!

Perhaps like the Apostle Paul we will have the privilege to tell you -

"Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you....."



why the Son on the cross addressed the Father as.... "My God" when the Son Himself is God!!

(Matthew 27:46 - "....that is to say, My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me")

The great scientist ISAAC NEWTON who was a devoted Christian too was greatly puzzled by this concept of Trinity!

He could not find a reasonable understanding for this puzzling doctrine.

Great SERVANTS OF GOD have searched and tried to understand this "divine mystery" But they have remained puzzled! Especially, when they read -

#### John 20:22

"And when he had said this, <u>he breathed on them,</u> and saith unto them, receive ye the Holy Spirit."

They wander how ONE PERSON of the Trinity can...."breathe" ANOTHER PERSON of the trinity into MULTIPLE PERSONS from his mouth!!

And then again in -

Luke 12:10

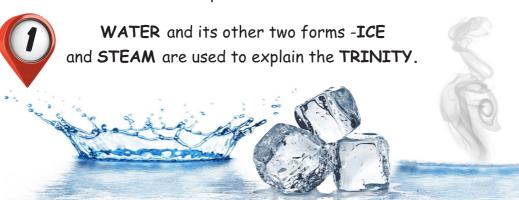
"and whosoever shall speak a word against the son of man ,it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that <u>blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven."</u>

They also wonder if all three persons of the trinity be equal then how come Jesus here says that  $\overline{\text{THE HOLY SPIRIT}}$ 

IS GREATER THAN HE in that blasphemy against His name will be forgiven but......against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven?

#### HOW COULD IT BE?

Today THEOLOGY and THEOLOGIANS in Bible colleges and seminars approach this subject and try to explain it with "out of Bible" examples and ILLUSTRATIONS like-



These 3 forms of liquid, solid and gaseous are said to illustrate the **TRINITY CONCEPT OF GOD**. A child hearing this asked if water in liquid form represents God the Father then when He is heated does he transform into the Son or the Holy Spirit?

There was much laughter all around !!

The EGG and its 3 parts - of THE SHELL, WHITE and THE YOLK are also used to illustrate the teaching of the trinity.



The CYCLE with ITS TWO WHEELS and THE THIRD WHEEL which is the chain or gear wheel is another illustration.



Thus many examples are used to show the 3 in 1 concept.

Maybe the next example will be "CASSATTA ICE CREAM"

with its 3 flavours in one!!

But brethren, if the **TRINITY** was to be understood by such illustrations and examples, don't you think **JESUS** would have beautifully **ILLUSTRATED THIS** 

"....mystery" in one or many of His parables! (Remember, He spoke 39 parables!!) BUT.... HE DIDN'T!

Let us understand why..... by studying this subject from the Bible itself

Yes! Let us "Search (seek ye) in the book of the Lord" (Isaiah 34:16)

## LET US STUDY THE TRUTH ABOUT THE TRINITY .....!

Let us first see......HOW MANY TIMES the word "trinity" occurs in the Bible.

For by taking out and studying all the verses with the word "trinity" we would gain what the Bible teaches about the trinity.

We are greatly helped in this work today through CONCORDANCES and what is called ....the ELECTRONIC BIBLE. (which is like the electronic phone diary) or even...... THE COMPUTER BIBLE.



Just keying in the word causes the electronic Bible to display <a href="ALL">ALL</a> the verses where that WORD occurs ALL THROUGH the Bible upon the display screen!

Now we need to just type the word - "TRINITY" and press the KEY -"search".

The answer that appears shortly on the display screen is

#### ....NOT FOUND IN THE BIBLE!

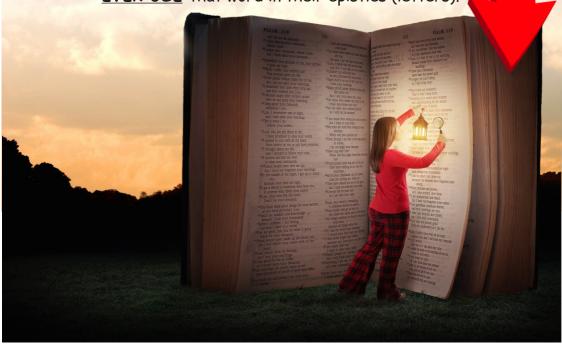
This is <u>VERY</u> SURPRISING and SHOCKING!

THE WORD TRINITY OR TRIUNE GOD <u>DOES NOT APPEAR</u>

IN THE BIBLE <u>AT ALL</u>.

WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT !!

It is NOT in the Old Testament, and Jesus <u>NEVER</u> spoke the word and it is NOT found in any of the FOUR GOSPELS and NEITHER did the apostles Paul, Peter, John, James, etc. <u>EVER USE</u> that word in their epistles (letters).



And remember, they wrote so much about Christian life and about God and His Divine Plan, but.....nowhere did they use the word "trinity".

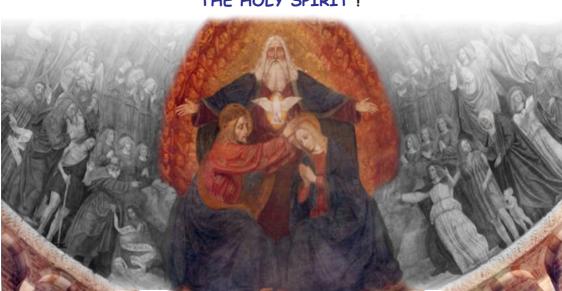
Even in the last book of the Bible-REVELATION, where the history of the gospel age is recorded in symbols, the word "trinity"......IS NOT FOUND AT ALL!

But.... yes! Today we find the word **TRINITY** present **EVERYWHERE** -

.....in song books and....hymns,....in the creed books,....in prayers,....in sermons from the pulpit and even..... in PAINTINGS!

In the Vatican there is a painting of <u>THREE PERSONS</u> seated upon one throne. The one in the center has white hair and a white beard and is said to be "THE FATHER".

.....To the right of the Father is one with black hair and black beard and is said to be **THE SON**.... and on the left of the Father is one with no beard at all and is said to be **THE HOLY SPIRIT!** 



The question that then arises is-

"Is the Holy Spirit <u>the SECOND</u> Son of God, the Father ???"



Is the Holy Spirit.... Jesus' YOUNGER BROTHER ??

Now another thing about this painting is that though THREE persons are seated they totally have only FOUR LEGS!!!!

-that is, the Father sitting in the center shares both His legs in common with the Son and Holy Spirit to show **ONENESS**!!

#### IS THIS HOW THE GREAT ALMIGHTY GOD IS ?

Then there is another SCULPTURE showing THREE HEADS in one person of a KING with a CROWN.



Here too instead of having six eyes for 3 heads there are only FOUR EYES!!

#### THIS TOO IS SAID TO REPRESENT GOD IN TRINITY!



Today **THE BIBLE SOCIETY** also has a **LOGO** representation of the Trinity!



It is found in the Title page of the King James Version Bible.

It consists of 3
INTERLOCKING OVAL
SHAPES, being three ovals but
completely INTER
CONNECTED to form
ONE DESIGN.

out O



Have you seen it?



It is called the "TRIQUITRA"!

Here is how it looks like!

BUT IS THIS DOCTRINE OF GOD....AS A TRINITY TO BE UNDERSTOOD ....BY DESIGNS OR....BY
THE WORD OF GOD?



Yes! It is the WORD (the Bible) that is to be
THE BASIS of truthLet us read of this matter in -

#### Isaiah 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."

The "law" represents the OLD TESTAMENT and
The "testimony" represents the NEW TESTAMENT.

## If any teaching is NOT contained therein IT IS NOT THE LIGHT FROM GOD but IT IS DARKNESS and UNTRUTH!

For what is it we read of God's word?

Let us turn to -

**John 17:17** - ".....Thy word is truth."

Yes! Let us make the Bible the **BASIS** for our understanding of this doctrine of the **TRINITY**.

We have already seen that the word **TRINITY** does not occur in the Bible at all.

Now let us search for verses which may explain this **CONCEPT** or **PRINCIPLE** of the **TRINITY** in the Bible.

Let us begin by turning to a popular verse in -

2 Corinthians 13:14

"The grace of the <u>Lord Jesus Christ</u>, and the love of <u>God</u>, and the communion of the <u>Holy Spirit</u> (Holy Ghost) be with you all"

Yes! This is the verse of **BENEDICTION** used as a blessing at the end of worship services....It speaks of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit -

but it does not imply THAT they are ONE!

Besides NOTE the Father is referred to as......GOD!

WHY IS THIS, WHEN ALL THREE ARE CONSIDERED TO BE GOD?

ARE WE TO THEN UNDERSTAND THAT THE HEAVENLY FATHER ALONE IS GOD ?!

Well.....Thus this verse CANNOT be called a PROOF of the TRINITY.

Then there is another verse which we read in - Matthew 28:19

"....and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."



This is another verse used to PROVE the TRINITY!

But here too the emphasis is on the SEPARATENESS of the Father and.....the Son and.....the Holy Spirit rather than any thought of them being ONE!

And besides if THIS BE a METHODOLOGY of giving baptism, the apostles and disciples **DID NOT** use or follow that method AT ALL as we read in Acts 2:38: 10:48: 19:5.

#### WHY WAS THIS?

Yes! This in fact was the instructions from the Lord to His disciples!

But it does not refer to BAPTISM at all!

He was speaking of "immersion" which the Greek word "baptiso" means and does not necessarily mean ONLY Christian Baptism but has a reference TO ANY KIND OF IMMERSION.

**Example**: Immersing dirty clothes in soap water.

Yes! There is a **DEEPER** meaning to those words of Jesus and the Lord was speaking a VERY DIFFERENT immersion!

But that is not what we will be going into today!

Thus here too there is NO BASIS for the teaching of the TRINITY.

Now is there any other verse which speaks of Trinity as a concept ??

Yes! There is **ONE** verse that **CLEARLY** gives the concept of TRINITY.

We read this verse in -

1 John 5:7

"For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word

#### and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one...."

## Yes! THIS IS THE VERSE used to prove the TRINITY doctrine!

#### BUT WHAT DO WE SEE ....??

This verse is only found in the King James Version English

Bible and in the Tamil Bible!!

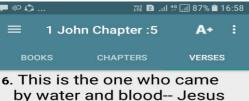
It is **NOT FOUND** in English **NIV**, **RSV**, or in Kannada or in Hindi Bibles!

WHY ?.....

Because the answer is found and explained in the FOOTNOTE of the NIV Bible which says-

".....NOT FOUND in any manuscri pt before the sixteenth century."

That is to say that this is an <u>ADDED</u> verse to the Bible - not an original part of Holy Scriptures - AN



- 6. This is the one who came by water and blood-- Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.
- 7. For there are three that testify:
- 8. the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement.
- 9. We accept man's testimony, but God's testimony is PREV Chapter: 5 NEXT

INTERPOLLATION !!

Thus we have seen that
TRINITY as a WORD and as
a CONCEPT or PRINCIPLE
with reference to the Father,
the Son and the Holy Spirit as
being THREE and yet ONE
GOD (or GODHEAD) is NOT
present nor is TAUGHT by
any verse in the Bible.

## SO WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES TEACH ON THIS SUBJECT THEN.....?

In order to get the TRUTH on this matter we must study the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit SEPARATELY and DEEPLY by "searching in the book of the Lord".....

where the truth is found....... "here a little and there a little".

Is the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit-

....CO-EQUAL in Power, Authority and Glory?

CO-EXISTENT, (CO-ETERNAL) as in being immortal and having NO beginning?

Yes! This is the general teaching everywhere among Christian teachers about this DOCTRINE.

The answers will be found in the following THREE PART STUDY beginning first with the study of the Holy Spirit.

Let us begin now with -

#### THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is taken to be the **THIRD** part of the **TRINITY** and to be God **HIMSELF** too!

The Holy Spirit <u>is considered to be a person</u> as is the Father and the Son -Jesus.

Many books have been written about this being so.



Example: "Good Morning Holy Spirit" by Benny Hinn.

IS THIS TRUE?

#### WHAT DO THE SCRIPTURES TEACH?

What did Jesus say and teach about the Holy Spirit?

Let us read from His own words in -

John 17:3

"And this is eternal life, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou has sent."

Here Jesus is giving **THE KEY** and **THE WAY** to eternal life and He says it
involves "knowing" ......the Father and
the Son.

WHAT ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Is not the knowledge of the Holy Spirit <u>ALSO</u>
<u>NECESSARY</u> to gain eternal life?

But we see Jesus has not mentioned the Holy Spirit at all!



#### WHY IS THIS? WHAT IS THE REASON? DID HE FORGET?

Besides here in this 17TH CHAPTER OF JOHN, we see Jesus LONGEST PRAYER being recorded.

**HOW MANY TIMES** does Jesus mention the name of the Holy Spirit in this long prayer of His?

Let us see.....

(PLEASE READ THE FULL CHAPTER).

It is **SHOCKING** to see that **NOT ONCE** does Jesus take the name of the Holy Spirit but takes the name of the Father **SIX times**!

(Refer JOHN 17:1,5,11,21,24 and 25) WHY IS THIS ?

Isn't it strange considering the amount of importance given to the Holy Spirit today by the Pentecostal Movement!

("Parisutha Aavi Aanavar" in TAMIL) Does NOT Jesus pray to and praise the HOLY SPIRIT as He so obviously does to the Heavenly Father?

THE ANSWER IS.....NO!

#### WHAT COULD BE THE REASON?

Let us hear it from Jesus Himself as we read in......

**Luke 24:49** 

"......Behold I send the PROMISE of my Father upon you; but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, Until ye be endued WITH POWER FROM ON HIGH!

#### THERE!

Jesus clearly defines the Holy Spirit as - "power from on High".

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A POWER FROM GOD - NOT A PERSON.

It is further **CONFIRMED** by the Apostle Peter in-Acts 2:33

".....And having received of the Father the promise of the HOLY GHOST, He hath shed forth THIS, which ye now see and hear."

The CLEAR understanding of the Holy Spirit as God's POWER - "He hath shed forth THIS..."

SURELY IF THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS A PERSON THEN THE USE OF THIS WORD "THIS" WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY DISRESPECTFUL!

But the Apostle Peter knew better! He had just been filled with the Holy Spirit.



This power of God is referred to as the "Spirit of God" in the Old Testament.

The word "Spirit" in

Hebrew is....

Greek is....

H-7307

G-4151

Ruach

Pneuma

Both words mean WIND or AIR.

Thus at Pentecost the outpouring of the Holy Spirit was as we read in -

**Acts 2:2** 

".....a rushing mighty wind"



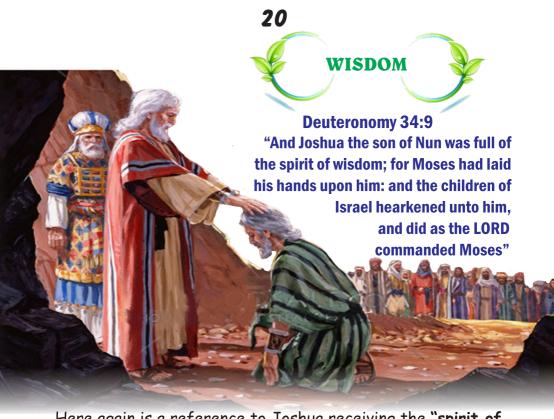
Yes! This MIGHTY POWER of God.......His Holy Spirit manifests itself in many ways as we shall now see hereunder -



Genesis 1:2

"And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."

Yes! This is a reference to God's Mighty Power at work in an **EMPTY** and gaseous earth converting it to the conditions that would sustain life!



Here again is a reference to Joshua receiving the "spirit of wisdom" to lead the Israelite people as he succeeded Moses

#### **PHYSICAL POWER**

#### **Judges 14:6**

"And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, And he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done."



#### **Judges 16:2-3**

"And it was told the Gazites, saying, Samson is come hither. And they compassed him in, and laid wait for him all night in the gate of the city, and were quiet all the night, saying, in the morning, when it is day, we shall kill him. And Samson lay till midnight, and arose at midnight, and took the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all, and put them upon his shoulders, and carried them up to the top of an hill that is before Hebron."

Yes! Here God's HOLY SPIRIT gave to Samson great power and superhuman strength, so that he could do UNBELIEVABLE FEATS as recorded in the scriptures just read.

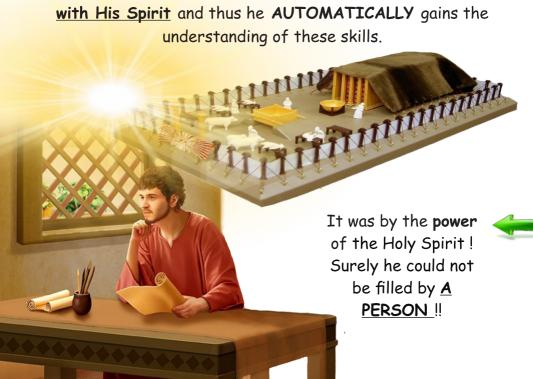


### **KNOWLEDGE OF CRAFTSMANSHIP AND SKILLS Exodus 31:2-3**

"See, I have called by name Bezal'e-el the son of U'ri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: and I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship."

Here we read of how when God had commanded Moses to build the Tabernacle, there was no one who had those SKILLS OF CRAFTMANSHIP in Israel who could work with ......GOLD, ..... SILVER, ..... COPPER ..... IRON.... AND.... WOOD.

Thus God selects a person called BEZALIEL and fills him understanding of these skills.





"And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy."

#### WHAT IS MEANT BY PROPHECY?

Is it speaking about **FUTURISTIC MATTERS** about people and their lives and problems?

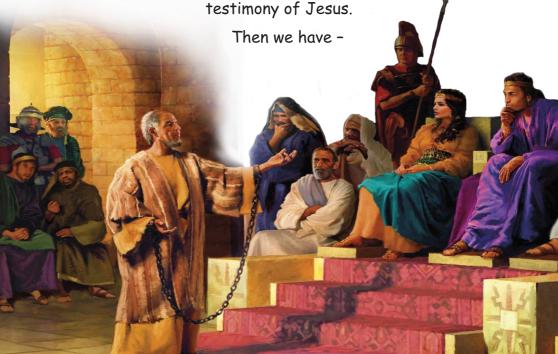
#### NO!

We read the answer in-

**Revelation 19:10** – "the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy"

Yes! THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS runs all through the Bible!

Thus the meaning of prophecy is the explanation of the meaning and ......the interpretation of the Bible and of the

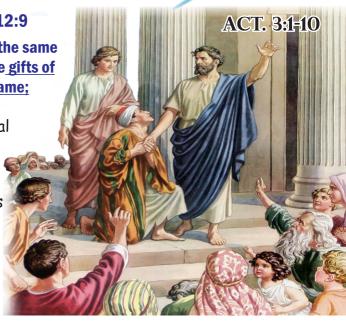






healing by the same;

Yes! The power to heal diseases and PHYSICAL and MENTAL deformities was another power manifested through the HOLY SPIRIT.





#### I Corinthians 12:10

"To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another diverse kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues."

Here is the ability to SUDDENLY and WITHOUT training or **WITHOUT** having to learn....be able to speak other languages.

This was to enable THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL to

gentile lands with their MANY AND DIFFERRING languages.

Example: India.

This mighty power of God - the HOLY SPIRIT was POURED OUT without measure upon Jesus!

This we read of in -



John 3:34

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

Surely a person could not be referred to as **BEING GIVEN** "in measure." !!

We read the **DETAILS OF THIS OUTPOURING** of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus in-

Isaiah 11:1,2

"And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse,

and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD:"

THIS WAS.....THE SPIRIT......POURED OUT
UPON JESUS!

Surely if the Holy Spirit was a **PERSON** how could Jesus be possessed by another person?

And can a person be poured out "by measure"?

Even the **APOSTLES** and **THE EARLY CHURCH** knew the truth of the Holy Spirit to be the power of God **AND....NOT** A **PERSON**.

Even the **APOSTLES** and **THE EARLY CHURCH** knew the truth of the Holy Spirit to be the power of God <u>AND....NOT</u> A PERSON.

Note the greetings in the <u>INTRODUCTION</u> of all their letters-

#### 1 Corinthians 1:3

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

#### **Galatians 1:3**

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

#### **Philippians 1:2**

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

#### **James 1:1**

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

#### 2 Peter 1:2

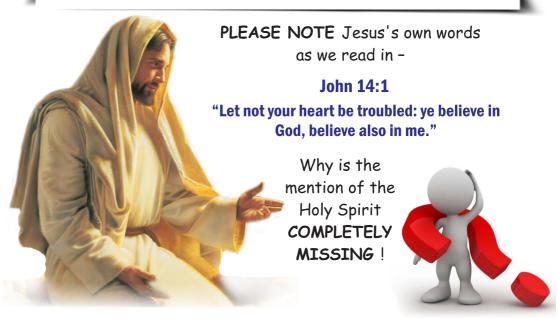
"Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord."

#### 1 John 1:3

".....truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ."

Yes! A VERY CLEAR reference to ONLY the Father and the Son, with the HOLY SPIRIT missing as "the Spirit" is NOT a person!!

## THUS THE GREETINGS WERE NEVER IN THE NAME OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!



Why is Jesus **NOT** telling us to believe **IN** the Holy Spirit **ALSO**?

Because as we have **SO CLEARLY** seen the Holy Spirit is.....**NOT A PERSON AT ALL**-



#### .....BUT THE POWER OF GOD AND....FROM GOD!

## Having understood THIS GREAT BIBLE TRUTH the question then arises "From WHERE came <u>THIS IDEA</u> of the Holy Spirit TO BE A PERSON?"

We read that answer in THE GOSPEL OF JOHN in -

John 16:7; 14:16,26; 15:26

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you."

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

"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."

"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:"

Yes! Here THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD is referred to as



"he" and as......a "comforter" and......"counsellor"
(NIV BIBLE)

(In Greek the word is "parakletos" - which means "comforter")

It is <u>ONLY</u> in John's gospel and these verses that the Holy Spirit is referred to as a person.

## WHY IS THERE THIS CONTRADICTION OF WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED SO FAR?

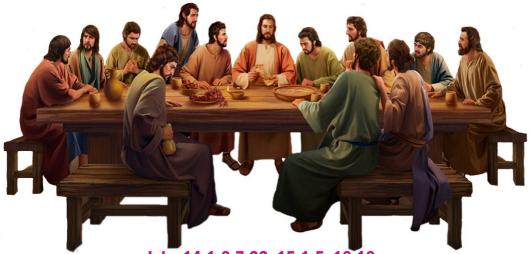
Let us see and study the matter -

From John 14:1 till John 17th Chapter Jesus is CONTINUOUSLY speaking to COMFORT His disciples in the upper room.

(Check RED LETTER Bibles and you can see this matter manifest as all the pages are red with only the replies of the disciples in black letters)

Let us read some of the words of the Lord Jesus in those

THREE CHAPTERS in -



John 14:1,6,7,23; 15:1-5; 16:16

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

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

"If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth <u>ye know him, and have seen him."</u>

"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."

"I AM the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

"A little while, and ye shall not see me: and <u>again, a little while, and ye</u> <u>shall see me</u>, Because I go to the Father."

Yes! These are some examples of Jesus words to the disciples in these chapters.

They are difficult to understand if taken LITERALLY.

Imagine Jesus saying
He is a LITERAL tree A VINE!

Is Jesus <u>REALLY A TREE</u>
and is His Father REALLY A
HUSBANDMAN and are His
disciples REALLY BRANCHES
OF......a vine tree?

MOST DEFINITELY NOT!

After Jesus had finished speaking these words

the apostles and disciples said to Him - **John 16:18** 

"They said therefore, what is this that he saith, a little while, we cannot tell what he saith...."

Yes! The disciples <u>COULD NOT UNDERSTAND</u> what Jesus had said to them!!

Then Jesus explains the **REASON** for this in - **John 16:25** 

"These things have I spoken unto you <u>in proverbs</u>....." (KJV)

"Though I have been speaking figuratively a time is coming...." (NIV)

Yes! Jesus explains and says He was speaking in **FIGURATIVE PARABOLIC** language to them.

Thus here the "Power of God" is PARABOLICALLY referred to as a comforting person!

Just as Jesus refers to Himself as...."a vine tree" and His Father as ......a "Husbandman" and the disciples as......"branches"!!

If one is disposed to INSIST that Jesus here is speaking in LITERAL language inspite of Him saying so clearly (John 16:25) then ONE must also consider Jesus calling himself a vine tree as LITERAL and the Heavenly Father as a LITERAL farmer ("husbandman").

We know that this would be too <u>RIDICULOUS</u> to even consider !!!



# THUS THE MATTER SEEMS TO BE VERY CLEAR SYMBOLIC LANGUAGE HAS BEEN TAKEN LITERALLY! Yes! The Holy Spirit is the POWER of God and NOT a person!

Besides we read clearly in the Old Testament of the Holy Spirit as being the "Holy Spirit of the Father" in -

**Isaiah 63:10** 

"But they rebelled and <u>vexed HIS HOLY SPIRIT</u>; therefore he was turned to be their enemy...."

Now let us <u>NOTE</u> another important point here regarding WHY the Holy Spirit is translated in the <u>masculine gender</u> in SOME PLACES and....

.....the <u>neutral gender</u> in OTHER PLACES!

In the GREEK language, the language in which the new Testament was written, there is only ONE word which is used for both masculine, feminine and neutral gender.

That word is..... "heauteau" and the Greeks understood the gender meant, by the context of the sentence.

But this has led to translators translating the references to the Holy Spirit as **masculine** in some translations and...... **neutral** in others!!

An example is found in ROMANS 8:16

"The Spirit <u>itself</u> beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:" (KJV BIBLE)

## "The Spirit <u>himself</u> testifies with our spirit that we are God's children." (KJV BIBLE)

Yes! Did you see that?! Isn't it VERY CLEAR?!

Now let us see another aspect of the Holy Spirit which is taken to be LITERAL by many in -

John 1:32-33

"...I saw the spirit descending from heaven <u>like</u> a dove......

and I knew Him not...."



Yes! The SYMBOL of A DOVE was an identification of Jesus to John the Baptist. (Matthew 3:16)

If the HOLY SPIRIT were a LITERAL dove then it would have so manifested at PENTECOST too!

But what do we see and read about Pentecost in -

#### Acts 2:2.3

"And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire....."

Here the **SYMBOL** of the Holy Spirit is **NOT SHOWN** as a dove but is described as -

"tongues like as of fire".

Thus the INVISIBLE POWER of God was given <u>VISUAL</u> <u>symbols</u> of its manifestation.

Why the difference in symbols?

Because in Jesus <u>the power of God</u> would work in one who was "...holy and undefiled" and who would finally sacrifice his life as the "lamb of God" -The PURE one -

Yes! The symbol had to be.... like a "dove"!

But in the case of the disciples the symbol was "tongues like as of fire" symbolizing that through the power of the Holy Spirit they would preach the Gospel of the Kingdom unto all nations IN THEIR OWN LANGUAGES and with GREAT POWER.



Yes! The symbol was....like "tongues like as of fire".

Now there are some verses in the Book of Acts and the letters of Paul that <u>SEEM TO give the idea</u> of the Holy Spirit <u>as being personal or a person!!</u>

Let us read of these verses in -

Acts 13:2; 10:19; 16:6; 20:23

"As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul....."

"While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold......"

".....And were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,"

"Save that the Holy Ghost winesseth in every city, saying......"

An example similarly in the letter of Paul!

I Timothy 4:1 - "Now the spirit speaketh expressly that in the latter times..."

Yes! It would seem that the **HOLY SPIRIT** has a "voice" and......"speaks"!

#### WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

Let us try and understand this through an example.

What would we as God's children do if we were provoked to sin by someone?

#### No! No!

Wouldn't we say that this is a sin, and that I wouldn't do it as my conscience does not permit me to!

We do recognise this inner voice of conscience many times.

## But can we state that this inner voice of ours is a separate entity or person?



#### No!

Now if the conscience has a "voice" - imagine how much more the Holy Spirit of God WITHIN would "speak" and GUIDE!

Having clearly seen the HOLY SPIRIT as the "power of God" (Acts 2:33) we are to understand these words to refer to the invisible INNER "voice" of the Holy Spirit- of DIVINE GUIDANCE to the "new creatures" (2 Corinthians 5:17) in Christ - especially with and in the case of the APOSTLES who were given the responsibility to ESTABLISH the EARLY CHURCH!

This is the Holy Spirit <u>INFLUENCE ON THE MIND</u> guiding the decisions of the apostles and even of the disciples.



Now to another popularly misunderstood verse-

2 Corinthians 3:17

"Now the Lord is <u>that</u> Spirit and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

This verse is taken to mean that the Holy Spirit is Jesus!

IS THAT THE MEANING MEANT OVER HERE ?!

Firstly one must understand the Apostle Paul's LANGUAGE AND MANNER OF WRITING. The Apostle Peter explains the matter to us in -

#### 2 Peter 3:16

"As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are SOME THINGS HARD TO BE UNDERSTOOD which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest......"

Yes! The Apostle Peter tells us that the Apostle Paul's writings were **NOT EASILY UNDERSTOOD** and one **MUST** 



So it is with this verse! Let us see the inner and deeper meanings now -



("the Lord is that spirit")

This has a reference to Our Lord Jesus' CURRENT STATE OF BEING as a spirit being AFTER his death on the cross and after His resurrection as we read in -

I Peter 3:18 / 2 Corinthians 5:16

"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit."

"Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea,

## though we have known Christ after the flesh, <u>yet now henceforth</u> know we him no more."



Yes! This is a clear reference of understanding that the Lord is now **NO MORE** a flesh being - "a man".....but on the contrary is......a **MIGHTY SPIRIT BEING!** 



Here the word "spirit" refers to <u>the words of the Lord</u> as we find the meaning of "spirit" defined by Jesus

Himself in -

#### John 6:63

"It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life"

And these words spoken by Jesus are..... GOD'S WORDS as we read in -

#### John 3:34

"For he whom God hath sent <u>speaketh the words of God:</u> for God giveth not the spirit by measure unto him"

Yes! And we know that ALL God's words are "THE TRUTH" as seen in -

#### John 17:17

"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth."

Thus the "spirit of the Lord" refers to the Lord Jesus words of TRUTH.



("there is liberty")

This refers to the TRUTH and its effect of SETTING ONE FREE as promised by the Lord Jesus in -

John 8:32

"And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

Did you see THE BEAUTIFUL THOUGHT the apostle Paul was expressing about the EFFECT OF THE TRUTH UPON THE TRUE CHRISTIAN?

Now to another verse of doubt......

**Ephesians 4:30** 

"And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God......"

The word "grieve" seems to make the Holy Spirit to seem as a PERSON -

but here the grieving here is **ACTUALLY** referring to God the Father, WHOSE SPIRIT or POWER is being referred to as we read in-

Isaiah 63:10

"But they rebelled and vexed His Holy Spirit......"

Yes! The Holy Spirit - is the POWER of the Father!

## Thus the "grieving" of the Holy Spirit is..... THE GRIEVING OF THE FATHER who gave it.



And what about.....

#### **Luke 12:10**

"And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him who blasphemeth against the Holy Spirit it shall <u>not</u> be forgiven".



#### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

This refers to those who **WITHOUT** the Holy Spirit speak against Jesus today

(**Example**: the RSS of India, the Muslims of Saudi Arabia, etc).

They will be forgiven for their ignorance but those WITH the Holy Spirit who "blaspheme" and sin will be PUNISHED and not be forgiven because of having received the knowledge of God which comes <u>ONLY</u> through the Holy Spirit as we read in

#### 1 Corinthians 2:14

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him neither can he know them, <u>because they</u> are spiritually discerned."

It is like how parents punish older children more severely than... the younger children for wrongs and bad behaviour simply because of them

......HAVING AND POSSESSING greater knowledge and intelligence!

#### .....IT IS THE SAME PRINCIPLE WITH GOD!

Those more knowledgeable through receiving the Holy Spirit are **NOT FORGIVEN** so easily for their wrongs, but will receive a punishment or chastisement.



Finally, when God's **DIVINE PLAN OF SALVATION**for mankind is **COMPLETED** and

#### **Revelation 5:13**

"....Unto <u>Him</u> that sitteth upon the throne and unto the <u>Lamb</u> forever and ever!!"

Yes! How many persons are mentioned here in the thanksgiving?

Isn't it TWO?

WHY IS THE HOLY SPIRIT MISSING?

Because as we have seen in our study today the Holy Spirit of God is

....NOT A PERSON!

Yes! Finally we read in-

1 John 1:3

"That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowshi p with us: and truly <u>our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ"</u>

Yes! Note the fellowship here is with <u>TWO PERSONS</u> and .....the Holy Spirit is <u>AGAIN</u> NOT mentioned.

Yes! And again we read in-

#### 2 John 1:9-11

"Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath BOTH THE FATHER AND THE SON. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him Godspeed. For he that biddeth him Godspeed, is partaker of his evil deeds."

### .....THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST IS OF THE FATHER & SON!

How strange it is that **TODAY** this verse is understood in quite **THE OPPOSITE WAY**!

If any doctrine other than that of THE TRINITY is made manifest to most Christians TODAY, such a ONE is treated as per this verse -

"receive him <u>not into your house</u>, neither bid him Godspeed."

Ah, Really, how <u>COMPLETELY</u>.....THE DARKNESS
HAS COVERED

THE LIGHT OF TRUTH!

The EARLY CHURCH knew......THIS TRUTH!

We thank God WE NOW.....KNOW IT TOO!

Thus we have seen that....THERE IS NO TRINITY
TAUGHT IN THE BIBLE..... but that there are but two
persons - The FATHER and the SON!

Are these two ONE as we read Jesus words in -

#### John 10:30 - "I and my Father are ONE"

## WE SHALL STUDY THIS MATTER IN THE NEXT LESSON.



