

Spirit and Truth

Bible studies dedicated to helping the Bible student to know and worship God as He requires His followers to know and worship Him.

The true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth. John 4:23,24

Lesson 17

THE GODHEAD:
DOES IT REALLY MATTER
HOW WE SEE IT?

Does it really matter whether we believe that the LORD is one LORD, one God, as opposed to explaining God as three individual and separate beings? Would Jehovah not accept us either way? After all, how much about an infinite God can a mere man know?

Our study today will focus on what God requires when His people worship Him and acknowledge Him. We shall see that the issue of the true structure of the Godhead is important, for it will impact on our understanding and appreciation of God. Our concept of God will determine how our lives will be moulded. If our god is cruel, that will characterise our behaviour. If he is loving and self denying, these beautiful traits can become our character. We are to worship Him, as the LORD now requires all men to worship Him -- in Spirit and in truth.

Another topic this lesson will examine is Lucifer's reason for introducing the doctrine of the Trinity and how it fits into his purpose.

WORSHIP GOD

1. When John fell down to worship the angel, what did the angel counsel him to do? And to Whom did he direct John's adoration?

Revelation 22:8,9

2. Who would have the most perfect knowledge of who God is and how He desires His created beings to acknowledge, recognise and worship Him?

John 1:18; 7:29; 14:8,9; 17:25

Note: "In the bosom" -- an expression that means "one who is greatly beloved and intimately close" (John 13:23; 3:35; 5:20a). Jesus was in the bosom of the Father, He was loved of the Father and did whatsoever the Father did (John 5:19,20).

Obviously, He knows the Father better than anyone could know Him.

Who else would be better qualified to declare who He is and what we need to know about Him? The Bible is the written word of God that gives us Christ's declaration of His Father and the Godhead. Should we, then, believe another spirit giving a gospel that differs from that which Christ has given? (2Cor.11:3,4; Gal.1:6-8; 1Thess.2:13).

3. At the prompt to worship Satan, whom did the Son of God say was the One rightly deserving of worship?

Matthew 4:9,10

Note: Satan, who is a fallen angel, wanted Christ to worship him, and Jesus replied -- *worship the Lord thy God*. Jesus has identified the God that is to be worshipped. Later, in prayer, He refers to that God as the *only true God*, and Himself, as the One whom the only-true-God had sent, indicating that He Himself was not the only true God (John 17:3). Clearly, Jesus did not regard Himself to be God in the same sense as Yahweh, His Father, is God. Jesus always identified Himself as the "Son of God" (John 10:30,36b). He therefore could not be one of a triune God, or Trinity. However, this does not lessen the command of Yahweh to worship His Son. Note also that, on the issue of who to worship, the Holy Spirit was not even mentioned.

4. To whom are we instructed to pray?

Matthew 6:9

Note: This is a clear instruction from Jesus, Himself. If Jesus was the second member of the so called Trinity, why did He not include Himself and the Holy Spirit, along with the Father, as recipients of the prayers of His people, if, under the Trinity concept, the three of them were absolutely equal?

5. What did Christ say regarding the form of God and how God requires His true followers to worship Him?

John 4:23,24

Note: God is a Spirit, that is, He is a real person, though having a different type of body to the one we know. Yet, if we could see Him,

He would have a shape similar to that of Christ when He walked the earth (Gen.1:26; Heb.1:3a; 2Cor.4:6b). The Bible does not give a lot of information on the nature of a spirit's body. We do know that since the incarnation, Jesus has a human body and He retained that same glorified body when He returned into heaven (Acts.1:11; Phip.3:21). From our series of studies we have learned that Jesus is also able to manifest Himself in a Spirit form. It is in the Spirit that He returns to us as the Holy Spirit to guide our hearts into righteousness (Eph.3:16-20; Gal.4:6).

6. To help us understand what it means to "worship God in the spirit," examine the following texts and summarise what is conveyed by the use of the term "spirit" as it applies to how a man knows God, communes with Him and pleases Him.

1John 2:3; 3:22,24; 4:7-13

Ephesians 4:22-24

Ezekiel 36:24-27

1Corinthians 6:19,20

Romans 8:16

Compare 1Corinthians 2:13-16

Note: To worship God in the spirit is to worship Him with the mind, or soul, which is the very centre of one's reason or being. Such worship is to seek Him and commune with Him in a manner that links our mind with His. By continual growth in knowledge and unity with God we become like Him. His character becomes our character written upon our own minds. Christ's Spirit in us making our spirit one with His Spirit (John 17:21,22). The Spirit of God in us is evidenced by the word of God written in the mind and producing the character of love (1John 4:7-17).

THE PROBLEM OF A FALSE CONCEPT

Thus, we have seen, God wants us to worship Him according to the methods and mental disposition described in the Bible. If we should hold a false

concept of God, how would that influence our mental disposition and worship habits? Why does it matter whether we comprehend God as one individual, who has a Son, or, on the other hand, regard Him as being made up of three separate gods? Is there any consequence to interpreting the Holy Spirit as a third and distinct being in the Godhead?.... Remembering that Satan is the author of deception and confusion, what could be the designs of the Deceiver in the propagation of a lie about who God is?

7. When Jesus was speaking with the Samaritan woman by Jacob's well He made a profound statement concerning the worship structure of the Samaritans and of the Jews. What was His comment concerning the worship format practised by the Samaritans?

John 4:19–22

Note: Neither in the Samaritan precincts nor in Jerusalem, the centre of Jewish worship, will the true worshippers give worship to the true and only God (Mal.1:11; Matt.23:37,38). Notwithstanding, the Jews know the truth about who God is, and that God has entrusted to them the oracles of salvation, this nation has broken the everlasting covenant and defiled the sanctuary (Rom.9:4,5). God will have a people who will worship Him in spirit and in truth. They will honour God with their every thought and desire as they give Him loving service and obedience. Christ pointed out to the Samaritan woman the emptiness of their ignorant worship practices. Also, Paul, in speaking to the people of Athens, emphasised the futility of their misplaced devotion, when they gave worship to the "unknown god" (Acts.17:21–23).

8. Though a man or an angel should present a false doctrine, where should be our confidence that we know the truth and remain unmoved from it?

Galatians 1:8; 1John 1:1–4

Isaiah 8:20

Note: The only source we can trust is the Word of God, the Bible. Men are so prone to error, be it deliberately, or unwittingly. Do not

even take for granted that what you read in these lessons is truth, though we do believe it is the truth. Read the Bible for yourself, ask God for the guidance of His Holy Spirit and form your own conclusions. Then bring your life into harmony with what you have been shown of God. Obedience is the secret to understanding the Bible, without it, the Word is a mystery (1Cor.2:13,14).

9. As the word of God is to be the foundation of our doctrine, what does this say for the method of identifying the church where God has place His name?

1 Timothy 3:15b

Note: Make no mistake, the church of God is the one that teaches the truth. If a professed church of God does not teach all of the truth, then it is seriously limited in its ability to equip a soul to worship the true God in spirit and in truth.

The love God holds for man is as great as He is. Until we understand who He is, who Christ is and who the Holy Spirit is and their correct relationship to one-another it is impossible to understand the love of God as it is revealed to us.

Inventing a concept of God that destroys our ability to understand the love sacrifice He made to save us works toward Satan's objective. By creating a false holy spirit, Satan is able to deceive many of the world's inhabitants. When men believe such a concept they may be easily deceived into thinking that they are worshipping the true God, when in fact they are worshipping a false god. Knowing the truth on the form of the Holy Spirit, to look to the Holy Spirit and revere that Spirit, as one would honour Yahweh, is a direct rebellion against the counsel of Almighty God!

How does Satan work his deception of a false Holy Spirit?

10. God is worshipped by all the host of heaven. What is Lucifer's (Satan's) desire in this regard?

Isaiah 14:12-14

Note: Lucifer desired to be worshipped like God is worshipped. He planned his throne to be above all of the worshipping host of God, in the position of authority. Yahweh thwarted his plans and Michael cast him down to the earth, out of heaven (Rev.12:7-9).

Satan (ex-Lucifer) has not lost his lust for power nor has he lost his desire to be worshipped. He has devised many schemes and avenues by which he directs the minds of men away from God toward either himself, or to some symbol of himself.

Direct worship of Satan is seen today in the Satanic church, the occult and similar movements. Indirect worship may be seen in sun worship, idol worship and human traditions that leave God out of the life (Mark 7:6-9). A subtle form of worship of the prince of darkness has been devised in a pseudo holy spirit.

TESTING FOR THE TRUE HOLY SPIRIT

11. Any spirit may present themselves as the Holy Spirit, or as an agent of Christ. What are we admonished to do when confronted with a message from someone, an impression in our mind, or a concept reflecting on doctrinal issues?

1John 4:1; 1Thessalonians 5:21

12. What is the universal test, or proving, that may be applied to a teacher, a prophet, a spirit, and even the Holy Spirit?

Isaiah 8:20

Compare Deuteronomy 13:1-4

Note: Is it possible that the *Holy Spirit* would instruct us in a manner that is in conflict with the revealed will of God? -- Of course not. That is why the Holy Spirit can be tested by every word of God and show positive. The voice of God's Spirit and the guidance He gives

in His word will always be in perfect harmony with exactly what the true God requires for us. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit will not speak His own words but will speak the things He has received from the Father. Note that it is the Father-God who supplies both Jesus and the Holy Spirit; therefore, there can be no conflict of message between the Word and the voice of God in us (John 5:19,20,30; 8:28b; 10:3,4,27,5; 14:10; 16:13,14; Acts.2:33).

The standard for all that we hear is the word of God, the Bible. That is our only safeguard. How else would we know that the voice we hear behind us saying, "*this is the way walk in it,*" is in fact the voice of God? (Isa.30:21). The man, or angel that speaks the truth of God's word, not handling the word of God deceitfully, will, therefore, be as the voice of God (2Cor.2:17; 4:2; Matt.4:6,7; 1Cor.2:4-14; Jer.1:6-9; Isa.52:7).

13. What is the sure disclosure as to the source of the message from the messenger?

Deuteronomy 13:1-4

Compare Jeremiah 23:21,22; 29:8,9,30-32

14. What is the source of the counsel that comes from the true teacher, prophet, spirit and even the Holy Spirit?

John 16:13-15

Compare Jeremiah 14:14

15. Why has God stressed that the One bearing His name is giving the message that comes from Himself?

John 14:10,11,29

Note: Even the Son of God did not presume to give His own message, but that which was given Him of the Father (John 7:16; 17:8). Yahweh is the source of life and the pathway back to life. His Son and His Spirit in His Son, are the agents by which He turns the hearts of men back to Himself (John 14:6; Acts.2:33; John 16:8; 1John 5:11,12.). This would

indicate that God's agent on earth is the Holy Spirit, Jesus, not a man (e.g. Pope), and not an angel (e.g. Gabriel from heaven, or Satan from earth).

16. How are men able to identify the Messiah and God's appointed agents?

Acts 18:28

John 7:16-18

Note: By a diligent searching of the Scriptures, the Spirit of Christ reveals to men the truths of the word of God (1Pet.1:10,11). Ye shall hear that Christ is in one place or another. You may even hear that this one is Christ, or that one is Christ. God says, do not blindly believe every spirit, but test the spirit, whether it be of God or of another source (Matt.24:23,24; 1John 4:1). By this same method we are able to identify the Holy Spirit, for that Spirit will not speak contrary to the word He has heard of God (John 16:13,14).

A false messenger under the direction of the false holy spirit will attempt to deceive us with an allusion of compliance with Scripture (Matt.4:6,7). Thus it is paramount that we read the Bible for ourselves and pray earnestly for the guidance of the true Holy Spirit.

17. Who receives the true Holy Spirit, sent from God?

Acts 5:32; 1Peter 1:22

Note: The Holy Spirit is given that men will have the power to obey the commandments of God (Eze.36:25-27; John 1:12; Acts 3:26). It is clear then, that those who do not obey the instruction of God, as given in His word, do not have the Holy Spirit. As there is no such thing as a spiritual vacuum, the disobedient are under the control of the unholy spirit.

Our interpretation of Scripture is determined by the spirit at our side at the time we study it (2Cor.4:3,4; 2:15-17; 4:2). If we have a mind-set to seek truth diligently and hunger and thirst for righteousness, we shall receive it and be given the Holy Spirit; thus, we may find God through His word and His Spirit will testify with our spirit (Luke 11:8-13; Matt.5:6;

Jer.29:13,14; Rom.8:16). The Holy Spirit, which is Christ, will be at our side directing our thoughts into the righteous mould of His word (John 1:12; 1John 4:13; 1Peter 1:22,23).

On the other hand, if we are indifferent to its counsel, not careful to obey the things we read, or we read in an attempt to justify error, we wrest the Scriptures to our own destruction. This cannot be the work of the Holy Spirit. It can only be the work of a demonic power directing the mind into a distortion of the truth (2Pet.3:16b). Notice 2Thessalonians 2:10–12. The strong delusions that God is said to send on those who love not the truth, is another way of saying that, God will leave them to the devices of the unholy spirit (Hosea 4:17; Ps.81:11–14; 106:34–41; Rom.1:28). God is in the business of saving souls, not deceiving them (2Tim.2:25,26). There was no guile (deceit) in the mouth of Jesus, or in the mouth of His followers (1Peter 2:22; Zeph.3:13).

The disobedient have no power to discern or avoid the deceptions of the false holy spirit. Generally they find it hard to see the truth even when it is shown to them and they frequently refuse to relinquish error. Conversely, the man with the Holy Spirit in his heart, when learning of some error of interpretation of Scripture, will make the needed adjustments in his life to come into harmony with the revealed light.

One of the deceptions of the false holy spirit is that there are three separate "gods," thus making the one God a Trinity of supreme gods, each being God, in their own right. The names of these gods are given as: - *Father, Son and Holy Spirit*. We have studied sufficiently at this point to know that this is not the true understanding of God. There is no third individual God-person, making one of the Godhead and having the name "Holy Spirit." The Person fulfilling this function in the Godhead, we have seen previously to be Jesus.

To further develop the concept of a false Holy Spirit, — is it feasible

that someone would presume to act the part of God!!? That person could not substitute for God, or for the Son of God, but could possibly be disguised and masquerade as the Holy Spirit. How could this be done and who would have the power that he could convince men that he was the true Holy Spirit? The answer to these questions is not hard to see and the hypothesis is a very real possibility. Let us now examine the practicalities of Satan assuming such an audacious roll.

DISCERNING OUR COUNSELLING SPIRIT

There is only one principal deceiver -- Satan (John 8:44; 2Thess.2:3,4; Isa.14:12-15; Rev.17:8). The only people who will not be taken by his deceptions will be God's elect, those having the true Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ and who do the will of the Father (Matt.24:24; 1Peter 1:2; John 7:17).

18. To discern that the messages we are receiving from the Bible and the Holy Spirit are from God, what vitally important action is required on our part?

John 7:16,17; 1Peter 1:22,23; Acts.5:32

Note: The man that does the will of God will not misinterpret the truth of the reading, or of the messenger; he will know whether it be of God or, of some foreign spirit (Isa.35:8). The soul is purified and becomes knit with the true Holy Spirit by obeying the truth.

19. A person may be a lovely Christian, dedicated to God, and growing in faith, yet a believer of the Trinity. Where will this person stand as the truth of the Godhead is opened to them?

Matthew 9:27-30a, note v.29
1Kings 8:39b

Note: It is a Bible fact that, the man who obeys the Word of God will discern truth (Eph.1:17-19; John 7:17). He who seeks for truth that he

may know God and become like Him in character, will recognise truth and accept it. The Holy Spirit will have anointed his eyes with the eyesalve of spiritual perception, his eyes will be opened and he will receive according to his faith (experience with God) (Rev.3:18; 1Kings 8:39; Ps.18:20–24; Matt.9:27–30a)).

Why, then, do some Christians deny the One God and His true relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ?..... Either they have not matured enough in their Christian experience to accept such a doctrine, having to "unlearn" error (John 16:12; Heb.5:10–14), or there is some more serious impediment to the full outpouring of the true Holy Spirit. Maybe that impediment is a cherished sin, like pride, or fear of losing popularity (John 12:37–43). It is worth noting that one of the elements required in the restoration of those in Laodicea is spiritual eyesalve. In the unrepentant state, Laodicea believes she has need of nothing and knows it all (Rev.3:17,18).

20. Why would knowledgeable and experienced Christians refuse to acknowledge the non-plurality of the Father?

John 7:26–28

Note: Notwithstanding the writings in the law, the Psalms and in the prophets concerning the coming of the Messiah, there were various misconceptions as to how He would appear and manifest Himself at His first advent (Luke 24:25,27,44,45). Some people did recognise Him as the Messiah, the Son of God (John 1:45,49, 30–34; Matt.16:13–17), yet the learned men, the chief rulers in Israel either found it hard to accept Jesus, because He did not fit the human conceptions they held of the Messiah or, they refused to accept Him in the face of undeniable evidence (John 12:37; 14:11). An example of the ignorance of the learned is Nicodemus. He could not understand the fundamentals of the infilling of the Holy Spirit and the rebirth, a principle taught in the Old Testament, documents to which he had access (John 3:3–12; Eze.36:25–27; Jer.31:31–33; Heb.8:9,10).

21. If Jesus were to be one of a Trinity-of-gods He could not possibly be the true Son of God, but rather, is playing a make believe roll. The Trinitarian concept, therefore, denies that Jesus Christ is, in verity, the Son of God. What does the Bible state concerning the worship practices of those who continue in this mode of worship after having come to a knowledge of the truth?

John 9:39-41

1John 2:22

Note: The truth has been revealed by Jesus, Himself, and by His word, such that Christ gave sufficiently convincing evidence of who He is. Denying the true Father - Son relationship between Yahweh and Michael, the Christ, is to set oneself against the very Deity one would claim to exalt. When a man states that he knows the truth and refuses to test the message coming from another spirit, he is held accountable for the light that he would have learned had he examined the word and prayerfully and humbly sought God for the truth.

22. In order to have God dwelling in us and we abiding in God, what must be our confession?

1John 4:15

Note: A Trinitarian cannot truthfully confess that Jesus is the Son of God in the same context that the Bible states that Jesus is the Son of God. In the times of our ignorance God winked at, but now commands all men everywhere to repent (Acts 17:31; 1Pet.1:14; 1Tim.1:12-14). No man on earth has an absolute knowledge of every Bible subject, we learn and grow progressively throughout our lifetime (Prov.4:18; 1Kings 8:61; John 16:12). Hence, we are all at different levels of knowledge of the law and of the One who gave the law. When God gives us light that we may know Him, to worship Him in Spirit and in truth and we refuse that light, how great is our darkness and subsequent ignorance of the only true God and of Jesus Christ whom He sent (John 17:3; Matt.6:23; Jer.13:15-17; Phip.3:10-16).

THE DELUSION

23. When the devil comes to us he does not disclose his true identity or his objective. How does he disguise his appearance and motives?

2Corinthians 11:13–15

Note: If Satan appeared as our adversary, we would be very cautious and defensive. To deceive and to win our confidence He manifests himself as an angel of light; his own agents and ministers appear as ministers of righteousness (e.g. Isa.9:16).

24. What anxiety did Paul express toward the Christians at Corinth on this matter of deception propagated by those who purport to be ministers of righteousness?

2Corinthians 11:3,4, compare Galatians 1:6–8

Note: The Corinthian church was exposed to false teachings about Christ. Note that Paul saw fit to make some plain statements on some basic doctrinal issues. Interestingly, he needed to identify the Father and the Son and their relationship to each other (1Cor.8:4–7; 15:25–28; 2Cor.11:3,4,13–15). The gospel they had been given was a deceptive gospel; God had not sent those prophets and teachers, for their message does not show the way to eternal life (Jer.14:14).

Paul also mentions "another spirit." This is certainly not God's Spirit, it can only be from the realm of the demons, Satan! The influence on others may be manifest through men empowered by Satan or, Satan, himself, speaking directly to people and disguising himself as the Holy Spirit. Any man led by this spirit, especially the clergy and those who make a high profession of loyalty to the true God, is a powerful instrument of deception and control in the hands of Satan. Ministers and God's professed people, thus affected, believe they are led of the Holy Spirit, doing the will of God, when in reality they are doing the will of the Adversary of souls and are leading their flock into perdition (Isa.9:16; Jer.23:30–32; 14:14; Eze.34:1–10; Matt.23:13–15,27,28; John 8:43,44; 2Pet.2:13–19; Rom.6:16).

25. Those led by the Spirit of God, are called the sons of God. They are sons and daughters by the Spirit of adoption. What is said of those who are under a "different spirit."

Romans 8:9,14,15

26. The "spirit of bondage" is the spirit that binds, holds, or makes prisoner. In the Bible, there is only one spirit that has earned that title. Who is it?

2Timothy 2:26; Isaiah 14:12,17

Note: Those under the spirit of bondage are under the control of Satan. The devil suggests iniquity and the soul is powerless to resist (Prov.5:22; Rom.7:14-23). Paul explains the situation in Romans 7 and gives us the only escape -- Jesus Christ (Rom.7:24,25; Isa.61:1; Luke 4:18,19).

Frequently, those receiving their instructions from the unholy spirit are not necessarily seen to be profoundly wicked men. They may be prominent and respected church and community officials. How can they be doing righteousness and evil at the same time? Can a polluted cistern bring forth sweet water? These "professed Christians" in many cases are not abandoned by God, for the Holy Spirit still pleads with them and at times they respond to God's calling. However, there are other times when it is the unholy spirit that speaks to them and because they hold to some secret sin, are unable to discern between the voice of God and the voice of a stranger. The unholy spirit holds them captive and the poor souls believe they are serving God.

The devil takes the roll of the Holy Spirit to them and listens to their prayers and answers them. Knowing that sin will cause the withholding of good things, the soul thus deceived believes that his sinful course is not so bad, or overlooked by God because he is under the illusion that God is blessing him (Prov.14:12; Jer.5:25; John 9:31; Ps.66:18).

27. Given that men may be under the control of a false holy spirit, what would be a principal deception used by this personator of God?

2Corinthians 4:3,4

Note: The unholy spirit will work to lead us into a wrong understanding of the Scriptures and thus a wrong concept of God, His Son and their relationship. Add to this the deception re the Holy Spirit, and Satan can mask his delusion by a deceitful handling of the Scriptures (2Cor.4:2).

The Trinity doctrine is the foundation doctrine by which Satan may continue receiving worship and hold power over the professed people of God. The Roman Catholic Church is on record as saying that *the Trinity is the central doctrine of her faith and upon it are based all of the other teachings of the church.* (*Handbook For Today's Catholics, p.12. See lesson 2, p.2*). It is no wonder that Satan will stir up the religious leaders and the masses to vehemently oppose the truth that exposes the adversary's central and foundation doctrine of worship (John 16:2,3). With such a distorted view of God, Christ and the Holy Spirit it becomes impossible to worship the Father and Son with the depth of intelligent knowledge of the truth that God has made available.

28. From where is the unholy spirit seen to be working as he attempts to minister to the congregation of God?

Isaiah 14:12-14

Note: Satan will exalt his throne above the stars of God (*stars of God - angels or messengers to the church, church leaders and teachers, Rev.1:20; 2:1*). He will be upon the mount of the congregation in the sides of the north (*mount of the congregation - God's people collectively, Mic.4:1,2. The sides of the north - where God's throne is, Eze.44:4; Ps.48:1-3*). Satan will be like the most High to God's professed, but not fully committed people. He will appear to be by the throne of God answering their prayers and giving them power¹ (2Thess.2:9-12; Dan.8:24; Rev.13:2; 12:3,9). These deceitful signals will be interpreted as God's approval of their spiritual condition and will result in them

believing a lie. The lie, Satan would have them believe, is that God does not regard their secret sins. By this, a man may profess what he will, but still he is the captive of Satan (Jas.2:7-11).

29. Who exalts himself above all that is called God and, what is he doing there?

2Thessalonians 2:3c,4
 Compare Ezekiel 28:2, see also lesson 5, pp.5,6

Note: The "son of perdition," the beast that *was, is not, and yet is*, goes into perdition, or death (Rev.17:8). This is opposite to the description of the "Son of life" - *which is, which was, which is to come* (Rev.1:8; 1John 5:11,12). The son of perdition is therefore Satan. Exalting himself to the throne of God, Satan is taking the roll of God and seeking to administer the prerogatives of God.

To strengthen and promote his receipt of worship in the minds of men, Satan included himself into the Godhead! He has achieved his greatest success through interposing himself between the soul and the Saviour².

How did he do this!!?.... Through the Trinity: - Father, Son and "unholy spirit," except he called himself the "holy spirit." For a long time he has persuaded the churches to pray to the "holy spirit," call upon the "holy spirit" and invoke the presence of his counterfeit "Spirit of God." Nowhere in Holy Writ has God counselled His people to deal directly with the Holy Spirit. We pray to God the Father and He sends the Holy Spirit through His Son. Even then, the Son/Holy Spirit does not act of Himself, but carries out the will of Jehovah-God (Matt.6:9; Luke 11:13; Gal.4:6). It is as though God foresaw the deception over the Holy Spirit and excluded the direct worship of Him, notwithstanding that the Spirit is His Son.

God says we are to directly worship Himself, and His Son also, who

is equal with Himself. There is no instruction in the Bible to worship, or call upon the Holy Spirit.

Through the deception of the Trinity, Satan has been able to exalt himself in the eyes of men to a level equal with God. His throne has a virtual status, above the stars of God, in the mount of the congregation. In the minds of deceived men, he is at the very throne of God, answering their prayers with light and much power, but no sweet love, joy and peace¹. God is the God of love and Jesus is the Prince of Peace. Satan is neither of these. He is our adversary and it is his determined effort to bring misery upon us, hurt God, and rob us of our eternal life (1John 4:7-21; Isa.9:6; John 14:27; 1Pet.5:8).

30. When Satan attempted to persuade Jesus with his deceptions he did not come as the adversary, but as one who was ready to help and remedy Christ's situation. There was a hook hidden in every offering of Satan. How did Jesus recognise the error in the arguments and suggestions of this disguised "angel of light"?

Matthew 4:1–10, note vv.4,7,10

Note: We have all experienced thoughts on a matter that brings distress at a particular time. In taking the problem to God in prayer, how can we be sure of the solution? It may seem difficult to differentiate between whether the Holy Spirit is advising us or Satan is offering a suggestion (Isa.30:21). We are unresolved as to how we should act on the matter... The secret is obedience to God. When it is in the heart to please God by obeying His word, we shall know the answer to our perplexity³, our minds will be in tune with the Holy Spirit, we will have the mind of Christ (John 15:7–10; 1John 5:14,15; 1John 4:18; 15:3; Rom.8:16; 1Cor.2:16).

The word of truth will be a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. If a man or a spirit speaks contrary to the law and to the testimony (the Bible), there is no light in them (Ps.119:105,130,133; Isa.8:20).

A work Satan does as the unholy spirit is to convict us again and again on sins already confessed, forsaken and forgiven. He delights to rob us of our peace and give us guilt feelings on past actions that the Holy Spirit has not seen fit to again bring to our attention. He does this to cause us to lose courage, give up and forsake the narrow way. He wants us to think it is all too hard and impossible to attain to the righteousness of Christ. One way to handle this situation is to pray to Jehovah-God and ask Him to put into our mind His thoughts and to remove any thought that he has not placed there. If the thought goes away, it was not of God. If it persists, do what the conviction requires and praise God that He has saved you from sin. Either way, you will know the source of the original thought that troubled you. Act accordingly and you will have peace (Ps.119:165; Isa.26:3; John 14:27).

SATAN'S OTHER PURPOSE FOR THE TRINITY

We see three main objectives in Satan's Trinity plan:—

- 1. By masquerading as the Holy Spirit he may take the place of God in the minds of men and receive worship like God.
- 2. Hold a controlling influence over men.
- 3. By portraying God as three beings the "Son of God" is not the Son of God and the Father did not give Himself in the form of Jesus Christ as the ransom for sin. Thus the Scriptural expression of the love of God through the giving of His Son cannot possibly be understood by men having a Trinitarian perspective. Through the Trinity, Satan has effectively discredited the love of God in the minds of men.

31. What act on God's part demonstrates His love for fallen man?
1John 4:9,10

32. When Satan tempted Eve how did he portray God?

Genesis 3:4,5

Note: Satan raised doubts in the mind of Eve as to the love of God. He implied that God lied to her in order to conceal some good thing from her. Christ plainly states the character of the adversary -- a liar and a murderer (John 8:44). Satan is also described as the accuser. He is the ultimate troublemaker and destroyer of friendships. In Genesis he is seen to make false and accusative statements about God to the people (Eve), then he accuses God's people before God that he may drive a separating wedge between the Saviour and man (Rev.12:10; Zech.3:1,2; Job 1:8-11).

If Satan can distort, or fog our perception of the real love of God, he has an advantage to manipulate our minds in the way we perceive Scripture and God. With this he is able to seriously limit our commitment, appreciation and our love for our most wonderful loving God. By the Trinity concept, the enemy of souls has robbed us of the most beautiful experience we may have on this earth -- the *earnest of our inheritance*, the Holy Spirit, which is our intimate and very personal knowledge of God (Eph.1:11-14).

33. What has God invited us to do?

Jeremiah 9:24

Note: What does it mean to know and understand God? We cannot see Him physically and most people have not heard His voice directly. We may only know Him through Jesus Christ, that is the Holy Spirit, for it is He that reveals the Father (John 1:18).

To know God is to know the love of God (Eph.3:14-19). That may only be realised if we understand what God has sacrificed for us personally. The three-in-one concept of God destroys all possibility of understanding the love of God to the extent that He has revealed it. A Trinitarian, offended by this statement, should realise that he has not known Yahweh as one God in order to draw a comparison.

Under the Trinitarian concept, Jesus is not the Son of God, the Father (who is not really the Father) then gave nothing. It was the second member of the Trinity who did it all, and then He did not really die, but only gave a human sacrifice. Thirty three years of life on this planet was not much to give out of an eternity of time.

By contradistinction the real heavenly Father and His real Son risked all of creation in their efforts to save you and me. If Christ had sinned, there would be no Saviour, all sin and sinners, including Jesus, must be destroyed lest sin be perpetuated to the destruction of the whole universe. Lesson 7 explains the love of God revealed in the giving of His only Son.

34. By what power may we know the love of God?

Ephesians 3:14–19, note v.16

Note: The "He" and "His" in verse 16 is a reference to Jesus Christ mentioned in verse 14. It is by "His Spirit" that we are strengthened and made able to comprehend, to the fullest extent, the love of Christ, which otherwise is beyond our knowledge. It is the real Holy Spirit that reveals it, not the false holy spirit.

35. What reassurance has our loving and merciful God given in His word concerning the deceptions Satan has placed before the faithful followers of the Lord Jesus Christ?

John 10:27–29

Romans 8:35–39

36. How do we develop a love for God?

1John 4:19

Note: We have discussed at length the aspect of mankind learning to love the God of heaven, someone we cannot see, who at first seems hard to understand, hard to become acquainted with. This verse says it all in one succinct statement -- *We love God, because He first loved us!*

Unless we see and experience that love, personally, we cannot become fully acquainted with God, where we are conscious of a real love born of a rational and deliberate seeking after Him. Knowing God through knowing His real Son, Jesus, can open a revelation of the love of God that cannot be obtained through a false concept of God and His Son.

CONCLUSION

It does matter whether we worship God as a Trinity, or as the one God, one individual, supreme over all, even to be the God of His Son.

There are two most striking disadvantages in approaching God as a Trinity. The first of these is that it so limits our understanding of Him and of what the Word is saying about Him and about our relationship to Him, it becomes impossible to worship Him in spirit and truth to the measure that He has revealed and, aided by the Holy Spirit, is within our capacity to do. The second disadvantage is that we become more vulnerable to the deceptions of the unholy spirit. As with any light God has shed on our path, to reject it will cause us, in time, to become confused over the light we already have. The end is total darkness (John 12:35-40). Such a course will lead us to renounce salvation issues. We may even denying God before men!

God gave His Spirit to His Son in immeasurable abundance (John 3:34), He will do the same for us. But this cannot happen while ever we have a state of mind that cannot worship Him with an intelligent appreciation of who He is.

It is Satan's designed plan to use the Trinity to blind men to the real love of God. Through the Trinity he may assume a virtual position at the throne of God where he may receive the prayers and devotion of misguided Christians. The promise of God is that the true Holy Spirit will lead men into all truth and the worship of the true God. We become open to the

unholy spirit when we do not obey the Word of God. By disobedience we are unable to discern the voice of God from the voice of a stranger. Thus we fall prey to the deceiver who has exalted his throne above the stars of God and sits upon the mount of the congregation in the sides of the north (that is, he occupies the part of the mind of man that should be the dwelling place of God. By surrendering to Jesus, our Saviour can cast him out and we are again safe under the direction of our loving God).

What of the worship practices of the person who knows nothing else but the Trinitarian view of God? -- In the times of our ignorance, God winked at. We are not held accountable for what we do not know and have not had opportunity to learn. God will protect that person from sin in the same measure He will protect the one who knows and obeys the full light of the Gospel. However, feigned ignorance will not excuse us to follow a popular traditional concept of God when we know the truth on the matter (Heb.4:13; Luke 16:15). To worship God under these circumstances is to follow man's traditions, and in the eyes of God (His judgement), this is counted as full blown rebellious idolatry.

...Lest Satan should get an advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices. 2Corinthians 2:11

DOES IT REALLY MATTER HOW WE PERCEIVE GOD?...

Who is a liar, but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ (appointed, anointed of God)? He is antichrist that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son the same hath not the Father, (but) he that acknowledges the Son hath the Father also. 1John 2:22,23

Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwells in him and he in God. 1John 4:15

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he, as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. 2Thessalonians 2:3,4



Superscripts -- see Appendix A

Prophesy Again Australia



Website: www.prophesyagain.com.au

Youtube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCar1jSxa_tu9HuSkyDcNsmA

Email : truevine@email.com

Address: PO BOX 644, Buninyong, Victoria, Australia,