

GOSPEL OF JOHN
WHO IS THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH?
JOHN 14:16-18 (Vs. 17)

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Introduction

We have been seeing **JESUS** in the last hours before **HIS ARREST** and **TRIAL**, preparing **HIS ELEVEN DISCIPLES**, who were also **HIS APOSTLES**, for **HIS** departure! (i.e. **HIS DEATH** by **CRUCIFIXION**, **HIS BURIAL**, **HIS RESURRECTION**, and eventually **HIS ASCENSION!**)

Additionally, **HE** was preparing them to carry out the **GREAT COMMISSION**, which **HE** would give them after **HIS RESURRECTION** just prior to **HIS ASCENSION!**

JESUS would be taken away from them shortly! **JESUS** knew that **HIS DISCIPLES** had become dependent on **HIS PRESENCE**. So, **JESUS** offered them some comforting words for when that time came!

WE SAW JESUS' MINISTRY OF INTERCESSION.

(JESUS told them "I will pray the FATHER...")

i.e. **HE** was **INTERCEDING** here to **HIS HEAVENLY FATHER** on behalf of **HIS DISCIPLES!**

WE SAW JESUS' PROMISE OF ANOTHER COMFORTER. ("...and HE shall give you ANOTHER COMFORTER...")

(This COMFORTER is identified as the SPIRIT OF TRUTH in verse 17 and THE HOLY GHOST several verses later in verse 26, we also know HIM as THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD!)

Well, **WHO** exactly is **HE**?

Here in this **CHURCH**, we **BELIEVE** in the **TRINITY**— i.e. **There is one GOD WHO exists or is manifested in three PERSONS, the FATHER, the SON, and the HOLY SPIRIT.**

Not every **CHURCH** believes in the **TRINITY**, many do but not all. The **DOCTRINE** of the **TRINITY** has been challenged by some because the word **TRINITY** is not in the **BIBLE!** Understand that though the word **TRINITY** is not in the **SCRIPTURE**, the teaching of the **TRINITY** is!

In fact, the **TRINITY** is taught in the very first **CHAPTER** of the **BIBLE** and even in the first **VERSE** of the **BIBLE** as well as throughout the **BIBLE** in both the **OLD TESTAMENT** as well as the **NEW TESTAMENT!**

We could spend many hours looking at all the references supporting the **TRINITY** found in the **SCRIPTURE**, but it would take more time than we have this morning!

Let's take just the first chapter of **GENESIS**...in the first verse **Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth,"** the name **GOD** is the *Hebrew word "ELOHIM."*

The name **ELOHIM** comes from a **singular noun "El"** meaning deity or god. But that is not all there is, **the singular noun is combined with "oah"** which is a **masculine noun**, so it tells us that this god is a male deity. That's not being sexist, its just being true to the **BIBLICAL TEXT**. And then there is a suffix added to that noun, name, and that is the **"im"** which always makes a **word plural**.

So, what are we learning here? We are learning that the god in **Genesis 1:1** is a **masculine deity who is a uni-plurality**. That is to say that **HE WHO is GOD is the one GOD WHO is many and yet at the same time HE is one.**

That is why **Deuteronomy 6:4**, says: **"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:"**

Now that may be too complicated for some and after all we are reading out of our **BIBLE** which is an **ENGLISH BIBLE** so let's move down to the sixth day of creation when man was created:

Genesis 1:26—"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth."

Genesis 1:27—"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."

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Notice the **plural pronouns** there, *“Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.”* Are there many gods? No, there is one God, but God in three persons. And man is created in the image of God.

You have a body, you have a spirit, and you have a mind. We are three-part beings just as God is a three-part being.

But your spirit is not another person, your spirit is you. Your body is not separate from your mind, at least it shouldn't be, and it is you, and the mind, it is all one person. So, God created man in His own image.

Back in *Genesis 1:2* we read, *“And the earth was without form, and void.”* What does that mean? It means it did not have the shape and everything that it has now. Then we read, *“and darkness was upon the face of the deep.”* And pay attention to the next few words carefully,

“And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.” We learn several things from that. First of all, we learn that the **GOD** in the first verse, **ELOHIM**, has a **SPIRIT**.

When we were in *John 4*, we saw **JESUS** said in *John 4:24*– *“God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”*

Who said that? **JESUS**, the one is called **EMMANUEL**, **GOD WITH US**, said **GOD IS A SPIRIT!** So, **GOD is a SPIRIT** and **GOD came in the FLESH**. Some object to that and say that **GOD** never left **HEAVEN**. Well, that is true. How could **GOD** have not left **HEAVEN** and be here on Earth? Because **GOD is OMNIPRESENT!**

So, we see so far that **GOD is a uni-plurality**. We see that the **SPIRIT OF GOD** was involved in creation. But in *JOHN 1* we are told that the **WORD** was also involved in creation. (*John 1:1-5; 9-14*)

Paul backs this up in *Colossians 1:16*– *“For by him [JESUS] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:”*

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Colossians 1:17– *“And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”*

So, the **SON OF GOD** was involved in creation, the **SPIRIT OF GOD** was involved in creation, and **GOD THE FATHER** was involved in creation. From the first verses of the first chapter of the **BIBLE** and throughout, we can see the concept of the **TRINITY** being taught! That is about 4,000 years before **JESUS** came in the flesh!

Why do I mention that? Because some people are going to tell you that teaching on the **TRINITY** did not exist until the founding of the Roman Catholic Church in about 315 A.D. There is a technical term for that! **HOGWASH!** That is simply not true! We have just seen the teaching of the **TRINITY** more than 3,000 years prior to that!

But some will object and say that the word **TRINITY** does not appear in our English Bible. That is true! The word **TRINITY** does not appear in our English Bible, however, three times Paul uses the term **GODHEAD**. That term implies the **TRINITY** and represents the **TRINITY**.

Acts 17:29– *“Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.”*

Romans 1:20– *“For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:”*

Colossians 2:9– *“For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.”*

There are a lot of words that we use in our modern language, in our modern theological terms, that are not in the **BIBLE**. That does not mean the concept is not in the **BIBLE**, it is there expressed in other terms.

RAPTURE is another term we use. We admittedly do not find the word **RAPTURE** in the **BIBLE**, but we certainly find the concept there.

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And it was **JESUS, GOD** in the flesh, **WHO** taught us to pray in *Matthew 6:9– “Our Father who art in Heaven.”* Not our **FATHER** who **WAS** in Heaven! And when did **JESUS** say that? When **HE** was on earth.

We’ve seen that **JESUS** also taught us to pray in **HIS NAME**.
John 16:23-24– “23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. 24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.”

So, the **THIRD MEMBER** of the **HOLY TRINITY** is **THE HOLY SPIRIT**. Both **TESTAMENTS** use the term **HOLY SPIRIT**. There are other terms that are used too, such as, **THE SPIRIT OF GOD, THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD, SPIRIT OF CHRIST, THE HOLY GHOST**.

Then where we are in our **GOSPEL OF JOHN** series in *chapters 14, 15, and 16*, and we see that **JESUS** calls **HIM** the **COMFORTER** and **THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH!** Which tells us of two aspects of the **MINISTRY** and **WORK** of the **HOLY SPIRIT!** We looked at that word **COMFORTER** already.

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If there is anything that our world desperately needs today, it is **TRUTH!** **HOSEA** recorded that **GOD** had a controversy with **HIS OWN PEOPLE!**
Hosea 4:1– Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: For the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, Because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land.

In our day we are seeing how that **TRUTH** is being **DENIED, IGNORED, ERASED, TRADED, TRASHED, and KILLED!** (e.g. *The confirmation hearings this week for Supreme Court nominee...Ketanji Brown Jackson and the definition of a woman! Also, the male swimmer who identified as a female and came in 1st at the NCAA Finals.*)

We live in a world that increasingly **DENIES** that there is such a thing as **ABSOLUTE TRUTH!** They sound like **PONTIUS PILATE** who mouthed the words, “*What is TRUTH?*” to **JESUS**, the **ONE WHO** is **TRUTH!**

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PILATE asked that question after **JESUS** declared the **TRUTH** to him:
John 18:37– “...To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.”

The BIBLE, GOD’S WORD, and all those who love it and dare to quote it are seen in our day as intolerant, bigoted, narrow-minded, and outdated!

The PROPHET ISAIAH RECORDED:

Isaiah 59:4– “None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: They trust in vanity, and speak lies; They conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity.”

(BTW...The calls for so-called *justice* in our day are only calls for *revenge!*)

Isaiah 59:14– “And judgment is turned away backward, And justice standeth afar off: For truth is fallen in the street, And equity cannot enter.”

The PROPHET JEREMIAH RECORDED:

Jeremiah 7:28– “But thou shalt say unto them, This is a nation that obeyeth not the voice of the LORD their God, nor receiveth correction: truth is perished, and is cut off from their mouth.”

Jeremiah 9:3– “3 And they bend their tongues like their bow for lies: But they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; For they proceed from evil to evil, And they know not me, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 9:5– “And they will deceive every one his neighbour, And will not speak the truth: They have taught their tongue to speak lies, And weary themselves to commit iniquity.”

We need **TRUTH!** And we need people who are unafraid to **TELL THE TRUTH!** **LYING** goes way back to **GENESIS 3:4** when the **SERPENT** lied to **EVE** and said, “*Ye shall not surely die.*” He tells the same lie today!

Listen to what **JESUS** said to some religious leaders who denied the **TRUTH** in **HIS** day:

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John 8:44—“*Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*”

So literally, when one **LIES**, they are doing the work of **SATAN** because **LYING** originated with **SATAN**! He is the father of **LIES**!

But, understand that **TRUTH** is older than **LYING** and **TRUTH** is more powerful than **LIES**! **TRUTH** is the **work of GOD** and **LYING** is the **work of SATAN**!

Well, how do we know **GOD’S TRUTH** is the **TRUTH**? Because **TRUTH** is all **GOD** deals in! Listen to me, **EVERY WORD** that **GOD SAYS THAT HE WILL DO, HE WILL DO!**

EVERY FULFILLED PROPHECY IN SCRIPTURE BOTH PROVES GOD IS TRUE AND REVERBERATES THAT GOD IS TRUE!

That is why **GOD’S WORD** tells us to speak the **TRUTH**! If we are **HIS** and **HE IS THE TRUTH** and **HE SPEAKS THE TRUTH** and we have **THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH** dwelling within, **WE SHOULD BE ALL ABOUT THE TRUTH!**

Zechariah 8:16–17—“*16 These are the things that ye shall do; Speak ye every man the truth to his neighbour; execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates: 17 And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbour; and love no false oath: for all these are things that I hate, saith the LORD.*”

So, **WHO** is this **COMFORTER** that **JESUS** prayed the **FATHER** to give **HIS DISCIPLES**? **JESUS** said in our text “*Even the Spirit of truth*” – that is who this **COMFORTER** is, **THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH!**

Not the father of **LIES**, because **SATAN** and his **LIES** will not bring you any **LASTING COMFORT!**

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Oh we might can be **COMFORTED** by a **LIE** for a period of time, but **when TRUTH PREVAILS** (and **TRUTH WILL ALWAYS PREVAIL!**) the **LIE** can bring **COMFORT** no more!

JESUS not only said that **THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH** was coming, but **HE** said “*whom the world cannot receive*”— that’s a very important statement! The unregenerated, natural person does not have **THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH!** (*Cf. 1 Corinthians 2:9-14*)

The unregenerate world cannot receive **THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH!** Only those who have been **BORN AGAIN** by **THE SPIRIT OF GOD**, by **BELIEVING ON THE SAVIOUR**, can receive **THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH!**

The lost individual does not **KNOW** the **HOLY SPIRIT**, but we who have **BELIEVED ON JESUS KNOW HIM!** **JESUS** says in our text verse, “*...but ye know Him.*” and watch that last phrase, “*...for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*”

JESUS was saying to these **DISCIPLES**: *Right now, HE is with you, but HE is going to be in you.* We will come back to that thought.

Now, let’s go back to *vs. 16* to get the flow of thought here, “*And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever.*” And then *vs. 17*, “*Even the Spirit of truth*” [that is **WHO THE COMFORTER** is, **HE** is coming].

So, **JESUS** is asking the **FATHER** to send these **DISCIPLES THE COMFORTER, THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH** or **THE HOLY SPIRIT**. (The **WHOLE** of the **HOLY TRINITY**—**FATHER, SON, and HOLY SPIRIT** is engaged here for this to take place!)

John 14:18— “*I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.*”

You may think, wait a minute I’m confused, “*I thought HE said the SPIRIT OF TRUTH was coming.*” That is right! And right after **HE** introduces us to the **SPIRIT OF TRUTH, HE** says, “*I am coming.*”

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The **COMFORTER** is **THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH!** Earlier in this same Chapter in vs. 6, **JESUS** said, *“I am the TRUTH.”*

So, the **HOLY SPIRIT** is the **SPIRIT OF TRUTH** and **JESUS IS THE TRUTH!** And **JESUS** says here, *“I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”* You may say, *“Explain that to me preacher.”*

In *Romans 8:9*, **PAUL** speaks of **THE HOLY SPIRIT** and says, *“Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”*

WHO RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD?

JOHN 2:19 records these words... *“Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”*
(The context makes it clear that JESUS was speaking of HIS BODY!)

So, **JESUS** raised **HIS OWN SELF** up! Yep... but hold on...

Romans 6:4– “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

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

So, **JESUS** and the **FATHER** raised **HIM** from the dead! Yep...but hold on...

Romans 8:11– “But 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.”

So, **JESUS** and the **FATHER** and the **SPIRIT OF CHRIST WHO** is also the **SPIRIT OF GOD** or the **HOLY SPIRIT** that we have indwelling us raised **JESUS** from the **dead!** Yep...but hold on...Peter simplified it...

Acts 2:22-24; Acts 5:29-31

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So, what does that mean? Is the **HOLY SPIRIT**, the **SPIRIT OF JESUS CHRIST** and the **SPIRIT OF GOD ALL ONE?** That is it exactly!

You see, you cannot separate the **TRINITY!**

Are there three distinct persons in the **TRINITY?**

Yes, but you cannot separate them because they are **ALL ONE GOD!**

(See *John 14:9-11* again!)

Conclusion

So let's draw this to a close for today! I know it's complicated but is also very simple! Don't make it more complicated than it is! It boils down to the fact that there is but **ONE GOD!** And you can come to know **HIM** today if don't already!

The main thing for us is to come to a saving knowledge of **JESUS** by **TURNING FROM OF OUR SIN OF UNBELIEF (REPENTANCE)** by **BELIEVING ON JESUS CHRIST, GOD'S SON,** and the **FINISHED WORK** that **HE** accomplished by the **GOSPEL!** (That's **FAITH!**)

Have you done that? If you wait until you understand all the ins and outs of the **TRINITY** or **GOD**, you'll die in **UNBELIEF** and be separated from **GOD** for all eternity!

That's what **SATAN** wants! And we've already seen he's a dirty stinking **LIAR** and **MURDERER!** (We all came into this world spiritually dead because he lied to **EVE** and she fell for it and she and **ADAM** both sinned and died spiritually and eventually physically! And it affected not only them, but all of us that came after them! Don't let Satan keep you dead for all eternity! Christ is the only remedy! Only through the **GOSPEL** can you escape!

If you have **BELIEVED** the **GOSPEL**, you have the **SPIRIT OF TRUTH**, **WHO** is the **SPIRIT OF CHRIST**, and the **SPIRIT OF GOD**, the **HOLY GHOST**, the **HOLY SPIRIT**, the **COMFORTER**, living within your **HEART** and **HE** is going to abide with you for ever!