A person is sitting on the edge of a dark, rocky cliff. The cliff is illuminated from below, casting a warm glow. The background is a vast, dark sky filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy, which stretches diagonally across the frame. The overall scene is serene and contemplative.

# The Mystery of the *Godhead*

## What is the Truth?

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# Understanding the Godhead

by Adam Patel

John Wesley said, "Bring me a worm that can comprehend a man, and then I will show you a man that can comprehend the Triune God."

God is so big and so awesome that we cannot comprehend Him. We as humans must accept that. We err when we suppose that we can come to a comprehension of everything God is. But at the same time, He asks us just to trust what He says.

"The mightiest intellects of earth cannot comprehend God. If He reveals Himself at all to men, it is by veiling Himself in mystery. His ways are past finding out. Men must be ever searching, ever learning and yet there is an infinity beyond. Could they fully understand the purposes, wisdom, love and character of God, they would not believe in Him as an infinite being and trust Him with the interests of their souls. If they could fathom Him, He would no longer stand supreme" (*Signs of the Times*, March 13, 1884).

Although we cannot know everything about God, He's given us enough information to know about Him, to fall in love with Him and to make it into the kingdom. Today we are going to explore the information He has given us in His Word.

## Plurality of God who is ONE

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" Genesis 1:1. That word *God* in Hebrew is a plural form, *elohim*. So in the very beginning of the Bible, we see that there was more than one being involved in creation.

The Bible speaks of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. But at the same time it says God is **one**. "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is **one** Lord" Deuter-



onomy 6:4. The word “one” is *echad*. That word *echad* is also used in Genesis 2:24. “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife, and they shall be **one** flesh.” Does that mean when the husband and wife get together, they merge and become one person? No, they are still two individuals, yet they are one unit.

So who was present at creation? “By the Word of the Lord were the heavens made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth” Psalm 33:6. We know who the Word is. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us” John 1:1, 14. So the Word is Jesus Christ Himself. The Bible says in Colossians 1:16, “For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven and that are in earth.” All things were created by Jesus Christ. Again: “All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made” John 1:3.

So we know for sure that Jesus took part in creation. And the Father was there also. “Have we not all one Father? Hath not one God created us?” Malachi 2:10. Nobody disputes that God the Father was there. Nobody disputes that Jesus was there. Many people say it was just the two of them. But let’s see what the Bible says.

## The Holy Spirit in Creation

“And the earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God moved [*rachaph*] upon the face of the waters” Genesis 1:2. The King James Version translates the



word *rachaph* as *moved*, but other translations use the word *hovering*. Moses used the word *rachaph* only one other time in all his writings. The other time was in Deuteronomy 32:11: “Like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them aloft.” So

the Spirit of God was hovering. Moses is telling us that the Spirit of God appeared in the form of a bird, hovering over the waters. Remember another time that we see the Holy Spirit in bird form? At Jesus’ baptism. He comes out of the water, the Father speaks, the Holy Spirit is hovering over the scene in the form of a dove. See Matthew 3:16–17.



## Holy Spirit, the Author

Let's go deeper in our study about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the author of the Word. "For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of men, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost" 2 Peter 1:21.

Notice what Jesus says: "Howbeit when He the Spirit of truth is come, He

will guide you into all truth; for **He shall not speak of Himself**: but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak, and He will show you things to come" John 16:13. **Notice this: The Holy Spirit is the author of this book, but it's not His intention to speak about Himself.** The focus of the Bible is not to bring out the Holy Spirit. So while we do find some things about the Holy Spirit, most things about Him are a mystery. But we have enough information about Him to stand solidly on Truth.

He authored the Bible, but He authored it to make sure the focus was not on Himself. He, the Holy Spirit lets us know that He doesn't speak of Himself. Who is the focus on? Jesus said, "Search the Scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life, **and they are they which testify of Me**" John 5:39. This proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are separate persons. We just read that Jesus says the Holy Spirit authored this Book, but He doesn't testify of Himself. Let me emphasize: the Scriptures are to testify of Jesus. When you put these two scriptures together, the only conclusion you can come to is that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are two separate Beings.

## Jesus and the Comforter

Now, let's go deeper. "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever" John 14:16. Jesus, speaking of the Holy Spirit, calls Him "another comforter." Let me talk about this word *comforter*. In the Greek, it's the word *paraklētos*. Now John uses this same word *comforter* or *paraklētos* in another book that he wrote. "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an Advocate [*paraklētos*] with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous" 1 John 2:1. The other verse says that He would send to us another comforter, or *paraklētos*. He did not say *the* comforter, but *another* comforter. We find that Jesus is a comforter or an advocate, **and the Holy Spirit is the other comforter or advocate**. So we have **two comforters; two advocates**.

If you are arrested and are brought into court, if you have money, you don't hire just one lawyer—you hire two or three. You get a team together. Now, if you have given your heart to Christ, you are rich. You get the best attorneys that the universe can supply. The Holy Ghost is here—standing next to you, defending you, and Jesus Christ is representing you in Heaven. That's the best legal team anyone can have. They have never lost a case and never will. The only time the case is lost is if we don't ask them to stand with us and for us.

Now let's talk about that word **another**. “And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you **another** Comforter” John 14:16. What does **another** mean? I got this definition from the Internet dictionary:

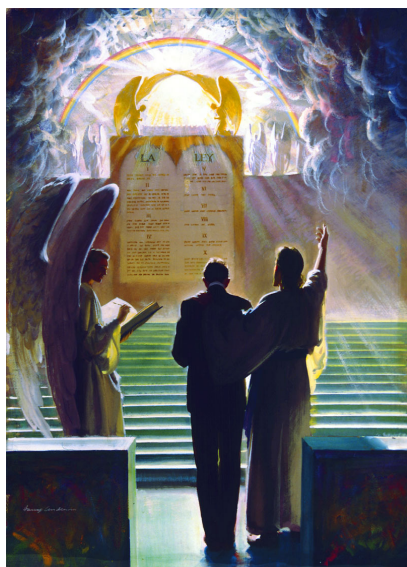
1. Used to refer to an additional person or thing of the same type as one already mentioned or known about.
2. Used to refer to a different person or thing from one already mentioned or known about. [\[1\]](#)

Here's an illustration: If I take someone's Bible and say to them, I'm going to give you another Bible; if I turn around and give them back their own Bible, did I give them another Bible? Of course not! Some people believe that Jesus somehow divided Himself, and the Holy Spirit is merely His omnipresence that He gave up when He became human, and thus the Holy Spirit came out of Jesus somehow. That's like giving the same Bible back. That's not another “of the same type.” If I say I'm going to give you another Bible, I need to give you a different one. But even though it's another Bible, it has the same Scriptures, the same message, the same mission, the same purpose. And that's what the Father, the Holy Spirit and Jesus are all about—different, but the same.

“Christ our mediator and the Holy Spirit are constantly interceding in man's behalf, but the Spirit pleads not for us as does Christ, who presents His blood, shed from the foundation of the world. The Spirit works upon our hearts, drawing out prayers and penitence, praise and thanksgiving. The gratitude which flows from our lips is the result of the Spirit's striking the chords of the soul in holy memories, awakening the music of the heart” (*1 Selected Messages*, 344 or Manuscript 50, 1900).

**There is a difference. They are not the same being or person. They are two separate Beings.**

Now notice this. “And I will pray the





Father, and He shall give you **another** Comforter, that He may abide with you forever, even the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him, but ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you” John 14:16–17. Notice the **second-person pronouns**. If the Holy Spirit was merely an entity of Christ, like being His omnipresence, I don’t think that Jesus would be using these **second-person pronouns**. This shows us again that **the Holy Spirit is a separate person**.

Some both within our denomination and without are confused by the next verse. “I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you” John 14:18. The previous verse says, I will give you **another** Comforter, and He will do this and He will do that for you; then it says, I won’t leave you comfortless, I will come to you. So they say, “See, the Holy Spirit is Jesus, not a separate person.” But they ignore the word **another**, and they ignore all the **second-person pronouns**.

Some people believe that when Jesus left His omnipresence, He split somehow, kind of like cell division. This makes His omnipresence the Holy Spirit, but basically the same substance as He has. But here’s the truth: **Christ is represented by the Holy Spirit, who is a separate person from Christ, but they are one in purpose, mind and charac-**

## ter. Christ comes to you through His representative, the Holy Spirit.

Now let's make this even more plain. Jesus came to testify of the Father, to show us the Father and do the works of the Father. Jesus never came to testify of Himself. He said, "If you've seen me, you've seen the Father. I can do nothing of myself, only what the Father tells me." (See John 8 and 14.) It was all about the Father. He's even called the Everlasting Father in Isaiah 9:6. But does that make Him the Father? Absolutely not. They are one in purpose, mind and character, yet separate Persons. Likewise, the Holy Spirit doesn't come to testify of Himself; He comes to testify of Jesus, to show us Jesus, to do the works of Jesus, and at times is even called Jesus. But does that make Him Jesus? Absolutely not. They are separate persons, while still one in purpose, mind and character.

### The Personality of the Holy Spirit

So let's talk about the personality of the Holy Spirit. Notice the following table:

"For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost."	Acts 15:28	He has an opinion.
"the Spirit helps our infirmities" "the Spirit makes intercession for us with groanings that cannot be uttered" "the Spirit makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God" "the mind of the Spirit"	Romans 8:26–27	He helps us in our weaknesses. He knows the language of heaven.  He intercedes on our behalf. He knows the will of God. He has a mind.
"Distributing [spiritual gifts] to each one individually as He wills."	1 Corinth. 12:11	He makes decisions.  He has a will.
"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit."	Romans 8:16	He testifies.
"Then the Spirit said to Philip, Go near and overtake the chariot."	Acts 8:29	He has a voice. He speaks.
"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God."	Ephesians 4:30.	He can be grieved.
"Why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost? You lied to God."	Acts 5:3–4	He can be lied to. He is a member of the Godhead. He is God.



Only **a person** can have his own opinions, intercede, have his own will, testify, speak, be saddened, and be lied to.

### **Caution: Don't Blaspheme the Holy Spirit**

Now comes the climax. "Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men, but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men" Matthew 12:31. Blasphemy is a sin that offends God. You can't be guilty of blasphemy against a man. Blasphemy is an offense against God. So when Jesus said that you can blaspheme the Holy Ghost, He's automatically saying the Holy Ghost is God. "And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him. But whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come" Matthew 12:32. You see what Jesus did? He said, Look, I'll forgive you if you blaspheme Me. But if you blaspheme the Holy Ghost, there is no forgiveness. Now if the Spirit of God was Jesus Himself, this verse would not make any sense. Jesus here identifies Himself to be completely separate from the Holy Ghost.



**But they rebelled, and vexed  
His Holy Spirit: therefore  
He was turned to be their  
enemy and He fought against  
them” Isaiah 63:10.**

And what about this text in Isaiah 63:10: “But they rebelled, and vexed His Holy Spirit: therefore He was turned to be their enemy, and He fought against them.” We must not vex the Holy Spirit if we want His services in helping us get ready for heaven.





### They Share the Same Name

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit all share the same name in the Bible. The name of God in Hebrew is translated *Jehovah*. It's the name that God gave to Moses in the burning bush when He said, "I AM." Jehovah literally means "I AM," which says He is the eternal one. Eternal means no beginning and no end. It means He exists without anyone's help. And they all share this name, which means they are all eternal, they are all self-existent.



Notice what Paul says in Hebrews 10:15: "Wherefore the **Holy Ghost** also is a witness to us: for after that He had said before. . . ."

(Paul is quoting Jeremiah, and **he is about to quote what the Holy Spirit said**.) "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord. I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them" Hebrews 10:16. That is what the Spirit said.

But notice who Jeremiah said was speaking. "But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel,

saith the LORD" Jeremiah 31:33. Now, keep in mind, when you see that word "LORD" capitalized in the King James Version, it is always *Jehovah* in the original language. In Hebrews, Paul says it was the Holy Ghost who spoke the new covenant, but when you go to the book of



Jeremiah, Jeremiah uses the name Jehovah. **This means that the Holy Ghost is Jehovah, and that Jehovah is the Holy Ghost.**

### **More Examples**

- In Matthew 3:3 we read about John the Baptist, who is the voice of one crying in the wilderness, preparing the way of the Lord. Obviously, **Jesus is the Lord** whom John the Baptist is preparing the way for.

• Isaiah 40:3 talks about “the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye way of the **LORD**.”

• Another example: “Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and His Redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God” Isaiah 44:6.

• Jesus said this of Himself: “I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last” Revelation 1:17. **Without question, Jesus and the Holy Ghost are both called Jehovah.**

• And so is the Father: “But now, O **LORD**, **Thou art our Father**; we are the clay, and Thou our potter; and we are all the work of Thy hand” Isaiah 64:8. **They all share the name.**



This is why we baptize in one name, not names. We baptize in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, because **they all share the same name**. The prophet says, “Here is where the work of the Holy Ghost comes in after your baptism. You are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. You are raised up out of the water to live henceforth in newness of life—to live a new life. You are born unto God, and you stand under the sanction and the power of the three holiest Beings in heaven, who are able to keep you from falling” (*Sermons and Talks*, vol. 1, p. 267).

They all share the name God or *Elohim*; they all share the name Jehovah and they all three make up the Godhead. “Let us not forget that the three great Powers of heaven are working, that a divine hand is on the wheel, and that God will bring His purposes to pass” (*Review and Herald*, May 5, 1903). So the three great powers—Father, Son and Holy Ghost—are God. “The combined power of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost is pledged to uplift man from his fallen state. Every attribute, every power of divinity, has been placed at the command of those who unite with the Saviour in winning men to God” (*The Workers’ Bulletin*, September 9, 1902).

Now let’s look at this from another angle. The devil hates God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, but he has a personal vendetta against Jesus. He is doing everything he can to bring Jesus lower than himself and destroy the Godhead. Lucifer, the Son of the morning, said, “I will ascend into heaven; I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit upon the mount of the congregation in the sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High” Isaiah 14:13–14. But notice the underlined words. Paul tells us what they mean: “But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh



on this wise, **Say not in thine heart, who shall ascend into heaven** (that is, **to bring Christ down from above**)” Romans 10:6. So when the devil said, **“I will ascend into heaven,”** he was trying to bring Christ down, and he is still trying to do it today.

### Another Gospel—Joseph Smith

Joseph Smith is the founder of the Mormon Church. Their story says



**Joseph Smith**

that in 1823 an angel named Moroni comes into his room. The angel tells him that he was once a man that lived on this earth in America. Before he died he wrote the gospel on golden plates and buried them in the earth. Then Joseph Smith finds these golden plates and with the angel's help interprets them, and comes up with *The Book of Mormon*. [2] But notice, it came from an angel.

On the cover of *The Book of Mormon*, the subtitle says, “Another Testament of Jesus Christ.” That’s a dead giveaway.

The Bible tells us that Satan Himself is transformed into an angel of light (2 Corinthians 11:13–14). Paul warned us, “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, **let him be accursed**” Galatians 1:6–9. **Watch out for angels who come to you and start teaching you a different gospel.**

Besides *The Book of Mormon*, Joseph Smith also wrote *Doctrine and Covenants* and *Pearl of Great Price*. This is what the Mormons say about Jesus: “We believe Jesus is the Son of God the Father, and as such inherited powers of godhood and divinity from His Father, including immortality, the capacity to live forever. While He walked the dusty road of Palestine as a man, He possessed the powers of a god and ministered as one having authority, including the power over the elements and even power over life and death.” [3] See how they bring Jesus down from His exalted position as God to a god?

Mormons believe that we all used to exist in another realm as spirits without a body. Everybody on this earth supposedly existed in another realm as “spirit children.” They believe that God the Father had many wives, and He had many spirit children. They believe His firstborn spirit child was Jesus, and his second-born spirit child was Lucifer. And they teach that Jesus is the big brother of Lucifer, and we are the spirit chil-

dren, which means that Lucifer is our brother as well.

But it gets worse. They believe that Jesus recommended a plan for all the spirit children to experience life and hardship in order to elevate to godhood, and God the Father said, "I like your plan." Lucifer came up with a different plan, and God said, "I don't like your plan." So Lucifer got mad and started a war in heaven. Everybody who joined Lucifer's side got kicked out of heaven and became demons. Everybody who fought on the side of Christ ended up being born on this earth, including Jesus.

Paul makes it clear, "**If he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him**" 2 Corinthians 11:4. As you can see, they preach another gospel. **This is one example of how Satan has sought to lower Christ and destroy our knowledge of the Godhead.**

### **Another Gospel—Mohammed**

The Prophet Mohammed was 40 years old when he went into a cave to meditate on God. In this cave he was visited by an angel. The following quote is from the Muslim Hadees, Islamic Historical Documents. "The angel caught me [forcefully] and pressed me so hard that I could not bear it any more. He then released me and again asked me to read and I replied, 'I do not know how to read.' So he caught me again and pressed me a second time till I could not bear it any more.

**"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: which is not another, but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed"**

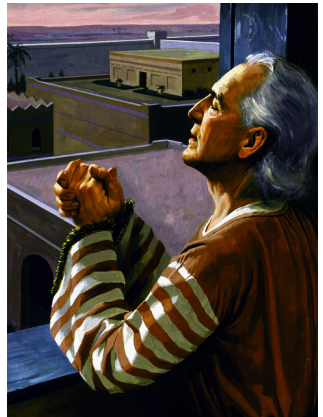
**Galatians 1:6-9.**



### The Prophet Mohammed

He then released me and again asked me to read but again I replied, 'I do not know how to read.' So he caught me for the third time and pressed me, and then released me." So Mohammed ran home, and the quote continues: "Then the messenger of Allah returned with the inspiration and with his heart beating fast. Then he went to his wife Khadija and said: 'Cover me! Cover me!' They covered him until his fear was over, and after that he told her everything that had happened, and said: 'I fear that something may happen to me.'" [4] According to Islamic historical documents, Mohammed felt like an evil spirit was harassing him, and he became suicidal, and wanted to throw himself off the cliff. His wife Khadija and one of the elders in the town convinced him that he had nothing to be afraid of. He finally succumbed to their words, and started to open his mind and heart to this angel who they imagined to be Gabriel.

Have you ever read anything comparable to this in the Bible? Did the Angel Gabriel rough up Daniel, and say, "You'd better prophesy like I tell you? You'd better understand or else!" Is that what Gabriel did? When Daniel was fearful, the angel said, "Daniel, you're a man greatly



beloved. When you began to pray I came as fast as I could." Then He touched Daniel, and strengthened him, and made him feel warm and welcome. (Read the story in Daniel 10.)

Who was the angel that came to Mohammed? None other than the devil himself. And this evil angel tells Mohammed that Jesus is the Word of God, [5] the Spirit of God, [6] the Son of God, [7] but only a created being. [8] He says that Jesus did not die on the cross, [9] and the Holy Spirit is the angel Gabriel. [10] Another Jesus, another spirit, **another gospel**.

**Lucifer: that other angel—defiant, deceptive, determined!**



## Another Gospel—Joseph Rutherford

Joseph Franklin Rutherford is the man who gave Jehovah Witnesses their name. Notice this: Rutherford claimed that God used angels to teach the remnant, not the Holy Spirit.

Rutherford tells, the Holy Spirit stopped teaching the remnant in 1918. Everything written by Rutherford from books and booklets to the *Watchtower* magazine, came from angels. [11]

What do these angels teach in the *Watchtower* about Jesus and the Holy Ghost? They say that “Jesus was created by Jehovah as the Archangel, Michael, before the world existed, and that he is a lesser, although a mighty, god.” He’s not equal. **They also teach that the Holy Spirit is not a person, but an impersonal force of God. Where does this teaching come from? The only source for this can be evil angels.**

**Do you see the pattern? In Mormonism, an angel came. In Islam, an angel came. With the Jehovah Witnesses, angels came; and they all bring Jesus down. They either bring the Holy Spirit down or destroy Him altogether. These are the tactics of Satan!**

**Sadly, there are brethren in our church now that are teaching the same things these evil angels have been teaching.** They are teaching that the Holy Spirit is not God, and at one point in time, God the Father existed by Himself; that Jesus came forth **from** the Father.

## Another Gospel—Brought Forth

For example, they use Proverbs 8:22–25, which says that Wisdom was brought forth from the Father in creation. It is using birth language. The Bible calls Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:24). So they come to the conclusion that if Wisdom



was brought forth in Proverbs 8, and Christ is Wisdom – that means Christ, at some point, was brought forth from the Father. But Proverbs is a poetic book. If you just read the first three verses of Proverbs 8, you’ll find that it refers to wisdom being a “she.” So if you want to say Christ was brought forth, you might as well call Christ a “she” as well.

When I was in school, I studied



**Joseph F. Rutherford**

some about Greek mythology. I learned about Zeus and all the gods on Mount Olympus. [12] Zeus was the chief god and Hera, his sister, was the head goddess. The chief god and goddess had a bunch of god and goddess children. The goddess of wisdom was named Athena, but she was not born. You know how she came to be? She was brought forth. Therefore they conclude, wisdom [Athena] was brought forth from the chief god, Zeus. [13] **Do you see how Satan is using the Bible in his own way to destroy the truth of the matter?**

These people say that Christ was brought forth by some means other than creation—they call it being begotten. He came forth from the Father; kind of like cell division, then they became equal. This is what they are teaching—that Jesus was brought forth from the Father like Athena was from Zeus.

### **The Everlasting “I AM”**

We began this study by learning that **Christ is eternal. “Before Abraham was, I AM”** John 8:53. **That means He, Jesus, is Jehovah, with no beginning and no end. Philippians 2:6 says that He was equal with God—not became equal, but always was equal with God.**

The most powerful point to me is this: **“God is love”** 1 John 4:8. 1 Corinthians 13 describes who God is. You can just replace “love” with “God.” “God is patient, God is kind, God doesn’t envy ...” If God the Father was all by Himself, how could He be patient and kind with no one to be patient and kind toward? How can someone be selfless if they are alone? Love demands relationship. So in order for God to be love, He had to always be in relationship with others; somebody had to be there with him. Those who teach that Jesus was brought forth from the Father are essentially saying that at one point God didn’t fit this definition. And remember, Lucifer is the one who said, “I will exalt my throne above...” Isaiah 14:13. He was selfish; there was no love for others in Lucifer who became Satan!



“Christ is the pre-existent, self-existent Son of God. ... In speaking of His preexistence, Christ carries the mind past through dateless ages. He assures us that there never was a time when he was not in close fellowship with the eternal God” (*Signs of the Times*, August 29, 1900). Why? Because God is love. “From all eternity Christ was united with the

Father, and when He took upon Himself human nature, He was still one with God" (*Signs of the Times*, August 2, 1905). "In Christ is life, original, unborrowed, underived. 'He that hath the Son hath life' 1 John 5:12. The divinity of Christ is the believer's assurance of eternal life" (*The Desire of Ages*, 530). He didn't get it from somewhere else. He didn't borrow it from or get it from the Father. He had life in Himself.

**If there's a doctrine out there that's bringing down my Lord Jesus, it's not from God. I want to belong to the church that exalts the name of Jesus. He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. His name is Jehovah. He is everlasting. He is my Savior and friend. And He deserves all my praise.**

[1] <https://www.google.com/search?q=definition+for+another&oq=definition+for+another&aqs=chrome..69i57j0i7i30l2j0i7i30i395l5.15429j1j4&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>

[2] <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Moroni-religious-figure>

[3] <https://newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/what-mormons-believe-about-jesus-christ>

[4] [https://stage.wikiislam.net/wiki/Angel\\_Jibreel](https://stage.wikiislam.net/wiki/Angel_Jibreel)

[5] Quran Aal `Imran 3:45

[6] Quran An-Nisaa' 4:171

[7] Quran Aal `Imran 3:59

[8] Quran Maryam 19:34-35

[9] Quran An-Nisa 4:157-158

[10] Quran An-Nahl 16:102 & Al-Baqarah 2:97

[11] <http://underpop.online.fr/w/watchtower-bible-and-tract-society/was-rutherford-a-spirit-medium.pdf>

[12] <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zeus>

[13] <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Athena>

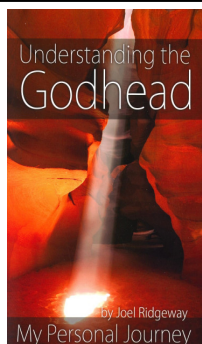
About the author: Adam Patel is a lay preacher. His sermons can be found on YouTube under his name and also under *Sons of Might*, his ministry name, which also includes his twin brother, Taariq Patel, who is a pastor in central USA.

There is so much confusion over who God is. What is the Truth? From a staunch anti-trinitarian to a confirmed believer in the Eternal Heavenly Trio, Joel Ridgeway asks, "What would cause such a drastic change in my view of the Godhead?"

Discover light on this confusing topic from Joel's journey; one who has "been there and done that."

The author was raised a Seventh-day Adventist, and in his early teens accepted the anti-trinitarian view of God, but years later experienced unease with the teachings. He chose to search for the Truth on this matter for himself.

**"Understanding the Godhead"** is well written. It presents the research in a very organized way. There is nothing confusing in Joel's presentation. He answers all the questions! Available on Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/Understanding-Godhead-My-Personal-Journey/dp/1642556246>



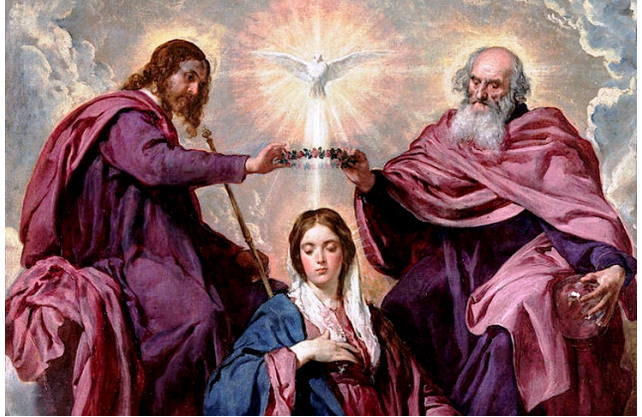


## Godhead

In describing to His disciples the office work of the Holy Spirit, Jesus sought to inspire them with the joy and hope that inspired His own heart. He rejoiced because of the abundant help He had provided for His church. The Holy Spirit was the highest of all gifts that He could solicit from His Father for the exaltation of His people. The Spirit was to be given as a regenerating agent, and without this the sacrifice of Christ would have been of no avail. The power of evil had been strengthening for centuries, and the submission of men to this satanic captivity was amazing. **Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead**, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of **divine** power. It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ has given His Spirit as **a divine power** to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church (Desire of Ages, 671).

## Roman Catholics Believe in Four, Not Three — the Trinity Plus Mary

Roman Catholics believe in four, not three—the trinity plus the "Blessed Virgin Mary." According to Catholic theology, Mary is venerated and worshipped above Jesus and the Holy Spirit. They create shrines, idols, cathedrals, and universities to her and call her the "Queen of Heaven," "Mother of Salvation," and "Co-redemptrix." They attribute miracles to her and pray to her for healing and forgiveness of sins. The Second Vatican Council established that the Virgin Mary has an "extraordinary" and "privileged" relationship with the trinity. [1]



Lumen Gentium or "the Light" is the name of the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, one of the principal documents of the Second Vatican Council. In this document the Second Vatican Council declared that Mary has been enabled by the trinity to cooperate with them in the salvation of the human race. [1]

Jesus and the Holy Spirit have basically been demoted to third and fourth place in the work of redemption. Rome teaches that Mary, in her "maternal role" stands next to Christ and directs "believers" towards him. Mothers are sweeter, kinder and gentler to the children than are fathers. Mothers think with their hearts, whereas fathers think with their heads. Therefore, it is to Mary that sinners must pray for intercession, not to Christ. Catholicism teaches that it is Mary's immaculate heart that is open as a refuge to sinners. It is Mary who is full of grace, most pure, most chaste, most immaculate yet at the same time she is also united to all those who are to be saved. Notice these two prayers that are made every day by billions of Catholics around the world:

"Hail Mary ... Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen." [2]

"Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve: to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious Advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus." [3]

On May 22, 2016 Pope Francis confirmed the teachings of Mary's exalted role and relationship with the trinity. Pope Francis said that it is through Mary that our "faith is reinforced" in the trinity because she is the mirror, or reflection, of that trinity. He said these words to a group of pilgrims who were visiting the Vatican. [4]

### **Biblical teaching on the Godhead destroys Catholic Doctrine**

The Bible never attributes the role of mediator to any human. The Bible says that Christ is the only mediator to the Father, 1 Timothy 2:5. The Bible speaks of the Holy Spirit being our advocate in John 14:16, 17, and also speaks of Jesus being our advocate, 1 John 2:1. The Scriptures are totally silent with regard to the special role of Mary being an advocate to sinners or working with the Godhead to save mankind.

"For there are three [not four] that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one" 1 John 5:7.

It is alleged by some that the Catholics inserted the above verse in the Scriptures. But that is impossible since this verse was in the Greek Manuscript (Received Text) before there ever was a Jesuit or a Catholic. Before A.D. 100 the apostle John compiled the New Testament Scriptures or supervised this important task. There were no Catholics in his day.

This verse, with three distinct beings, actually destroys the Jesuit/Catholic foundation and belief in Mary as co-redeemer. There are not four members of the Godhead and there are not four beings that bear record in heaven. This verse shows that Mary is not in heaven pleading in behalf of sinners. If the Jesuits added this verse, then they also would have added all of the following verses that mention the three members of the Godhead:

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the **Father**, and of the **Son**, and of the **Holy Ghost**" Matthew 28:19.

"And I [Jesus] will pray to the **Father**, and He shall give you another **Comforter** [the Holy Spirit], that He may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of truth" John 14:16, 17.

"But the **Comforter**, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the **Father** will send in **My** [Jesus'] name, He [the Holy Ghost] shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I [Jesus] have said unto you" John 14:26.

"Now **He** [the Father] which stablisheth us with you in **Christ**, and hath anointed us, is **God** [the Father]; who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the [**Holy**] **Spirit** in our hearts" 2 Corinthians 1:21, 22.

"The grace of the **Lord Jesus Christ**, and the love of **God** [the Father], and the communion of the **Holy Ghost**, be with you all. Amen" 2 Corinthians 13:14.





"There is one body, and one **[Holy] Spirit**, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One **Lord** [Jesus], one faith, one baptism, One **God** and **Father** of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" Ephesians 4:4-6.

"Elect according to the foreknowledge of **God the Father**, through sanctification of the **[Holy] Spirit**, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of **Jesus Christ**: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied" 1 Peter 1:2.

"Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the **Lord GOD** [the Father], and His **[Holy] Spirit**, hath sent **me** [Jesus]" Isaiah 48:16.

This is a Messianic verse. Read the context of Isaiah 48:12-16. This is the same "servant" spoken of in Isaiah 48-53 who was "bruised for our iniquities." This verse speaks of God and the Holy Spirit doing the "sending." It's more than just a power. This verse doesn't say, "Now the Lord God has sent me with His power" but the "Father" and the "Holy Spirit" sent "Jesus."

### **The Holy Spirit as a Person**

Besides the fact that Ellen White, in her own handwriting named the Holy Spirit as a Person of the Godhead [see back page], the verses above substantiate all three Divine Persons.

Throughout the Bible we find references to angels, both good and evil. In Hebrews, Paul refers to the angels as spirits, "ministering spirits." Jesus cast out evil spirits or angels on numerous occasions. There was never a question that these spirits were real beings. Therefore it is reasonable to understand that the Holy Spirit is not just an essence or power, but a real Being or Person, separate and distinct as are the other two Divine Persons in the Godhead.

At this website [5] you will find a list of early church fathers who quoted 1 John 5:7 and 8 from as early as A.D. 200. These verses are found in the sermons of the pastors in the early church, before there was a Catholic Church. They quoted the verses and portions the "scholars" omit as they are found in the Byzantine or Received Text. At least 20 persons made reference to this verse before A.D. 1500.

Dr. David L. Brown, Senior Pastor of a Baptist Church in Wisconsin has written an indepth study of the history of 1 John 5:7, 8. It is posted here [6] and is a more recent investigation of these texts.

[1] Lumen gentium, n. 53

[2] "Hail Mary," Common Catholic Prayers, <http://www.catholicity.com/prayer/prayers.html>

[3] "Hail Holy Queen," Common Catholic Prayers, <http://www.catholicity.com/prayer/prayers.html>

[4] <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/holy-trinity-calls-us-to-solidarity-with-others-pope-says-76821/>

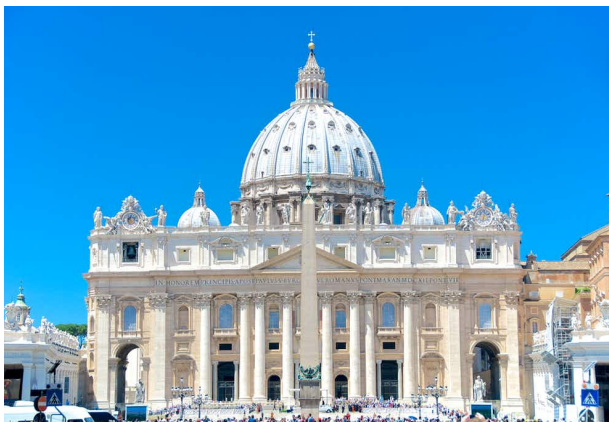
[5] <http://www.chick.com/ask/articles/1john57.asp>

[6] <http://logosresourcepages.org/Versions/received.htm>

## What Do Roman Catholics Teach about their Trinity?

In other words – what did the early Adventist Pioneers **not** believe? Note: As you will see in the quotes – Roman Catholicism teaches that

the Son comes out of the Father and the Holy Spirit comes from both; and there is only a one Person God! There is no Son apart from the Father and no Holy Spirit apart from either; significantly, the roots of Arianism (Christ is not eternal) and the no-separate-Holy Spirit teaching — both find their source in this peculiar doctrine, which was vigorously opposed by several of our SDA pioneers!



1. "From all eternity the Father begets the Son, and the Son proceeds from the Father. ... The Father and Son breathe forth the Holy Spirit, and He proceeds from Them, as from one source." [1]

2. "God the Father eternally knows Himself, and continues to know Himself, and thus continues to bring forth the Son in a continual birth

process. God the Father and God the Son continue to love each other, and their delight in each other continues to bring forth the Spirit of Love, God the Holy Spirit. In a similar way, fire has light and color. As long as there is fire with light, there is produced color. But all three exist at one and the same time.” [2]

3. “He, the Holy Spirit, proceeds, not by way of generation, but by way of spiration [3], from the Father and the Son together, as from a single principle. Such is the belief the Catholic faith demands.” [4]

4. “The Holy Ghost is the Spirit of Christ. He is also the Spirit of the Father.” [5]

5. “Thus St. Augustine argues ... there is only one Father, just as there is only one Lord or one Son, so there is only one Spirit, who is, consequently, the Spirit of both.” [6]

6. “We confess that the Holy Ghost proceeds eternally from the Father and the Son, not as from two principles, but as from one principle, not by two spirations, [3] but by one single spiration. [7]

7. “Proceeding both from the Father and the Son, the Holy Ghost, nevertheless, proceeds from them as from a single principle. The Holy Ghost proceeds from the two, not insofar as They are distinct, but inasmuch as Their Divine perfection is numerically one. Besides, such is the explicit teaching of ecclesiastical tradition, which is concisely put by St. Augustine.” [8]

8. “The Son proceeds from the Father by generation (and generation means the process of begetting offspring, reproduction, or giving birth to) ...” [9]

“The mystery of the Trinity is the central doctrine of the Catholic faith. Upon it are based all the other teachings of the church.” [10]

The SDA Pioneers did not write one word in opposition to the three-Person Godhead; they only wrote against the Catholic three-gods-in-one theory called “the Trinity.” **Sadly, quite a number of professed SDAs are promoting Catholic doctrine.** Hopefully, you are not one of them.

[1] One God in Three Persons, My Catholic Faith: A Manual of Religion, Louise Laravoire Morrow, Bishop of Krishnagar, p. 30.)

[2] Ibid. p. 31.)

[3] Webster's Dictionary: Definition of Spiration - plural. 1a obsolete : the action of breathing as a creative or life-giving function of the Deity (1) : the act by or manner in which the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father or from the Father and the Son (2) : the relation subsisting by virtue of this procession.

[4] The Catholic Encyclopedia, 1914 Edition, art. “Holy Ghost.”

[5] Thus St. Augustine Argues (in Joan, tr. Xcix, 6, 7 in PL, XXXV, p.188).

[6] Denzinger, Enchiridion, 1908, n. 460 a.

[7] Ibid. n. 691.

[8] The Catholic Encyclopedia: De Trin., lib. V, c. xiv, in P.O., XLII, p. 921.

[9] The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine, p 31 by Peter Geiermann, C.S.S.R., Imprimatur - September 16, 1957.

[10] Handbook for Today's Catholic, p. 16.

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 partaking of the divine nature having overcome  
 the corruption that is in the world through lust.

This handwritten paragraph by Ellen White is from Manuscript 57, 1900. It is also recorded in the SDA Bible Commentary, vol. 6, p. 1074.9. It says: "In the first chapter of Second Peter is presented the progressive work in the Christian life. The whole chapter is a lesson of deep importance. If man, in acquiring the Christian graces, works on the plan of addition, God has pledged Himself to work in his behalf upon the plan of multiplication. 'Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord' 1 Peter 1:2. **The work is laid out before every soul that has acknowledged his faith in Jesus Christ by baptism, and has become a receiver of the pledge from the three Persons—the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost.**"