

# Biblical Foundation Of The Trinity

## I. The Old Testament Foundation

A. The Trinity is Hinted in the Old Testament (though not fully understood)

1. *“And God said, Let **us** make man in **our** image, after **our** likeness”* - Genesis 1:26
2. *“And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil”* - Genesis 3:22
3. *“Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre. Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: **therefore God, thy God**, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.”* - Psalm 45:6-7
  - a) Notice in this verse the psalmist is speaking to God: “Thy throne, O God....” but he also says, “God, thy God...” How can God have a God?
  - b) Hebrews 1:8-9 quotes this verse and applies it to Jesus
4. *“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, and his Spirit, hath sent me.”* - Isa. 48:16
  - (a) Here God is speaking, but He says, the Lord God and his Spirit hath sent me.
5. Also See - Isa. 6:8; Ps. 110:1; Matt. 22:41-46; Isa. 63:10; Mal. 3:1-2; Hosea 1:7; Prov. 8:22-31

## II. Three Biblical Foundations of the Trinity

A. There is only one God

1. *"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord"* - Deut. 6:4
2. *"That all the people of the earth may know that the Lord is God, and that there is none else."* 1 Kings 8:60
3. *"I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me"* - Isa 45:5
4. *"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus"* - 1 Timothy 2:5
5. *"Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble."* - James 2:19
6. Also see Isa. 45:21-22; Rom. 3:30; 1 Cor. 8:6;

## B. There Are Three Persons in the One God

1. **The Father is God** - no texts needed, universally understood
2. **The Son is God**
  - a) *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."* - John 1:1-3
  - b) *"And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."* - John 20:28-29
  - c) *"Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh **Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever.**"* - Rom. 9:5
  - d) *"For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily."* - Col 2:9

- e) Also, the Son created the world (Col. 1:16-17, Heb. 1:10, John 1:3)
- f) The Son existed eternally with the Father (John 17:5, John 1:1)

### **3. The Holy Spirit is God**

- a) *“But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost...thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.”* - Acts 5:3-4
- b) *“Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”* - 1 Co. 3:16 (you are God’s temple because God the Spirit dwells in you)
- c) *“And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”* - Gen 1:2
- d) *“Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”* - 2 Co 3:17

#### **(1) The Holy Spirit is a Person, Not a Force**

- (a) *“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”* - John 14:26 (Notice, the Holy Spirit teaches, and reminds, these are personal attributes)
- (b) *“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”* - Rom. 8:26 (Notice, the Holy Spirit understands our needs and speaks to the Father)
- (c) *“Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia”* - Acts 16:6 (Here, the Holy Spirit commands)
- (d) *“Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.”* - Acts 8:29 (Here, the Spirit speaks)

- (e) *“And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”* - Eph. 4:30 (Here, the Spirit can grieve or be made sorrowful)

## C. The Three Persons Are Eternally Distinct

### 1. The Son is Distinct from the Father

- a) *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word **was with God, and the Word was God.**”* - John 1:1-2
- b) *“Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world”* - John 17:24
- c) Jesus prays to His Father in John 17

### 2. The Spirit is Distinct from the Father

- a) *“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”* - John 14:26

### 3. The Spirit is Distinct from the Son

- a) *“But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me”* - John 15:26

## 2. Verses That Show All Three Members of the Trinity

- a) *“And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”* - Matt. 3:16-17

- b) *“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, 21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.” - Jude 20-21*
- c) *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost” - Matt 28:19* (Notice there is only one name. The name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This one divine name is Yahweh of the Old Testament.)

## IV. Conclusion

C. Definition of the Trinity: There is only one God and in the one God, there are three co-eternal, co-equal persons, namely the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.