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***“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.***

**Jesus**

**“The Trinity is a mystery which my faith embraces as revealed in the Word, but my reason cannot fathom.”**

**John Arrowsmith**

### Is the Father God?

Throughout the Scriptures, the Father is unequivocally called God (John 6:27, 17:3; 1 Cor. 8:6; 2 Cor. 1:3; Eph. 1:3; 1 Peter 1:3).

### Is Jesus God?

Jesus Christ is clearly called God throughout the Scriptures

(Matt. 28:9; John 1:1–4, 1:14, 5:17–25, 8:58, 10:30–33, 12:37–41 cf. Isa. 6:9–11; 20:28–29; Acts 20:28; Rom. 9:5; Col. 1:16–17, 2:8–9; Phil. 2:10–11; Heb. 1:8; 1Co. 8:4–6; 1 Tim. 6:15; Titus 2:13; 1 John 5:20; Rev. 1:8, 1:17–18, 17:14, 19:16, 22:13–16).

This fact of Jesus’ deity was spoken clearly by Himself and recognized as a claim to be God by the Jewish leaders without Jesus’ apology or correction (Matt. 26:63–65; John 5:17–23, 8:58–59, 10:30–39, 19:7). The Scriptures are also clear that Jesus was fully human (Isa. 7:14, 9:16; Rom. 8:3; 1 John 4:2).

### Is the Holy Spirit God?

The Holy Spirit is clearly called God throughout the Scriptures. In the Old Testament He is all-powerful (Micah 3:8; see also Acts 1:8; Rom. 15:13, 19), eternal (Heb. 9:14) all knowing (Isa. 40:13–14, see also 1 Cor. 2:10), creator (Gen. 1:2; Ps. 104:30) and all present (Ps. 139:7).

In the New Testament, He is also clearly declared God (Acts 5:3–4, see also John 14:16; 2 Cor. 3:16–18).

The Holy Spirit is not merely an impersonal force, but a person who can be grieved (Eph.4:30), resisted (Acts 7:51), and insulted (Heb. 10:29).

### Are the Father, Son, and Spirit different persons?

Though one God, the Father, Son, and Spirit are distinct persons, The Father and Son are two persons in frequent salutations (Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:3; 2 Cor. 1:2; Gal. 1:3; Eph. 1:2, 6:23; Phil. 1:2; 1 Thess. 1:1; 2 Thess. 1:1, 2; 1 Tim. 1:1, 2; 2 Tim. 1:2; Titus 1:4; Philem. 3; James 1:1; 2 Peter 1:2; 2 John 3) as well as in other Scriptures (John 3:17, 5:31–32, 8:16–18, 11:41–42, 12:28, 14:31, 17:23–26; Gal. 4:4; 1 John 4:10).

The Scripture is also clear that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are not the same person (Luke 3:22; John 14:16, 15:26, 16:7; 1 John 2:1). Likewise, the Father is not the Holy Spirit (John 14:15, 15:26; Rom. 8:11, 8:26–27; 2 Cor. 1:3–4; Gal. 1:1).

## What is the Trinity?

While the word “Trinity” does not appear in the Bible, the concept is very clearly taught. Church father Tertullian (155–220 AD) was the first to use the word trinity. To say that God exists as a Trinity **does not mean** that there are three Gods, or that one God merely manifests Himself as either Father, Son, and Holy Spirit on various occasions.

To say that God exists as a Trinity is to say that there is **one God with a unified essence who exists in three equal persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**. By person it is meant that God thinks, feels, acts and speaks. The Westminster Confession of Faith (1647) summarizes the doctrine by saying, “In the unity of the Godhead there be three persons, of one substance, power, and eternity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.”

- **Isaiah 48:16** And now the Sovereign LORD has sent me, with his Spirit.
- **Matthew 3:16–17** As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”
- **Matthew 28:18–20** Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”
- **Romans 14:17–18** For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men.
- **Romans 15:16** ...to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.
- **1 Corinthians 2:2–5** For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power.
- **1 Corinthians 6:11** And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.
- **1 Corinthians 12:4–6** There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men.
- **2 Corinthians 1:21–22** Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.
- **2 Corinthians 13:14** May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- **Ephesians 2:18** For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.
- **Ephesians 4:4–6** There is one body and one Spirit— just as you were called to one hope when you were called— one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
- **1 Thessalonians 1:3–5** We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake.

### Summary:

- **All the attributes are \_\_\_\_\_ because they are revealed in scripture.**
- **Each is fully active and powerful.**
- **Each is in full \_\_\_\_\_ with another.**
- **Each can be fully expressed simultaneously with another without conflict.**
- **The capacity to understand how this is possible is incomprehensible.**

## Supplementary information:

What are some names of God?

In Scripture, a person's name is closely linked to the person's character and purpose. This is true of the names of God in Scripture. All the names of God reveal but a glimpse of God and his character. We know that even with many names of God, there is no name that will ever be able to completely describe or understand the fullness of God and his character.

Primary Old Testament Names.

1. Jehovah (YHWH): "Self-Existent One" (from Ex. 3:14, "I am that I am"). The characteristics of this name are in the relationship between the true God and His people and, when used, emphasize God's holiness, hatred of sin, and love of sinners (Isa. 12:2, 26:4).
2. Elohim: "Strong One" (Gen. 1:1). The characteristics are used of the true God and of false gods. It is a plural word and is the plural of majesty. The plural does allow for the subsequent revelation of the Trinity in the New Testament but does not teach the Trinity per se. This name is often used when pertaining to God's sovereignty and work (Isa. 54:5; Jer. 32:27; Gen. 1:1; Isa. 45:18; Deut. 5:23; 8:15; Ps. 68:7).
3. Adonai: "Lord" or "Master" (Josh. 5:14; Isa. 6:8-11). This name marks Him out as a ruler. The characteristics of this name are used of men and of God and indicate the master-servant relationship.

## Compound Old Testament Names.

### 1. With the name El.

- El Elyon, translated the Most High, exalted one (lit., the strongest strong one, Gen. 14:19; Ps. 9:2; Dan. 7:18, 22, 25; Isa. 14:13–14).
- El Roi, the Strong One who sees (Gen. 16:13).
- El Shaddai, the Almighty God, points to his gracious power (Gen. 17:1–20, 28:3, 35:11; Ex. 6:31; Ps. 91:1, 2).
- El Olam, the Everlasting God, the unchanging God (Gen. 16:13; Isa. 40:28).

### 2. With the name Jehovah.

- Jehovah Jirah, the Lord will provide (Gen. 22:13–14).
- Jehovah Nissi, the Lord my banner (Ex. 17:15).
- Jehovah Shalom, the Lord is peace (Judg. 6:24).
- Jehovah Sabaoth, the Lord of hosts (1 Sam. 1:3).
- Jehovah Maccaddeshcem, the Lord your Sanctifier (Ex. 31:13).
- Jehovah Raah, the Lord is my Shepherd (Ps. 23:1).
- Jehovah Tsidkenu, the Lord our righteousness (Jer. 23:6).
- Jehovah El Gmolah, the Lord God of recompense (Jer. 51:56).
- Jehovah Nakeh, the Lord who smites (Ezek. 7:9).
- Jehovah Shammah, the Lord who is present (Ezek. 48:35).

## Names of God in the New Testament.

When looking at the names of God in the New Testament, Jesus Christ emerges as the predominant name. Jesus claimed to be the revealed name of God in John 17:6. Jesus is the culmination of the promise that God would dwell with His people.

Jesus: Derived from the Hebrew “Joshua” (Y’shua) or “Je–Hoshua” meaning Jehovah Is Salvation.

“I AM”: Jesus upset his generation especially when He said, “Before Abraham was, I AM,” John 8:58. Note also His claim to be Jehovah in such phrases as “I AM the Light of the world,” “the bread of life,” “living water,” “the Resurrection and the Life,” and “the Way, Truth and the Life” in John’s Gospel. From the Hebrew Old Testament verb “to be” signifying a living, intelligent, personal being.

Christ: is equivalent to the Hebrew “Messiah” (Meshiach), “The Anointed One.”