

A serene sunset over a lake. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds in shades of orange, yellow, and blue. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow. In the foreground, the dark silhouettes of evergreen trees line the left side of the frame. The water in the lake is calm, reflecting the colors of the sky and the silhouettes of the trees. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

That We May

Know Him

**Deuteronomy 29:29** "The secret things belong to the LORD our God:  
but ***those things which are revealed*** belong to us and to our children for ever..."

**Jeremiah 9:23-24** "Thus says the LORD: 'Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, ***that he understands and knows Me***'"

Has anyone ever told you that God is a *mystery*?

This idea has kept many genuine Christians from experiencing the fullness of peace, love, and transforming power that can only be found in close fellowship with their Creator. The truth is that only through the veil of human speculation and theory do we distort God into a being who cannot be understood. This study was created to simply explore what God has revealed about Himself in His Word – adding nothing to what is said, and taking nothing away. My prayer is that it will bring you into a closer and deeper relationship with your God, a God who wants to be *known*!

*Sabrina Barich*

**Hosea 6:3** "Let us ***know***, let us ***pursue*** the knowledge of the LORD,  
His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain,  
like the latter and former rain to the earth."

**Proverbs 2:3-5** "Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and ***find the knowledge of God.***"

\* NKJV has been used for easier reading, unless significant changes have been made in word selection. In such cases KJV has been used to present a closer translation. Bolding and italics have been added for emphasis.

# God the Father

What is the Father's character like?

**1 John 4:8-10** "He who does not love does not know God; for **God is love**. In *this* the love of God was manifested toward us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that **He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**"

**John 3:16-17** "For God *so loved* the world that **He gave His only begotten Son**, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world; but **that the world through Him might be saved.**"

**2 Corinthians 1:3** "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the **Father of mercies** and the **God of all comfort.**"

**2 Corinthians 6:18** "'I will be a *Father* to you, and **you shall be My sons and daughters,**' says the LORD (*Yahweh*) Almighty."

**James 1:17** "**Every good gift** and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is **no variation or shadow of turning.**"

**1 John 3:1** "Behold, what manner of **love** the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called **children of God!** Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him."

Where is the Father?

**Matthew 6:9** "...Our **Father who art in heaven**, hallowed be Thy name."

**Revelation 4:2** "...behold, a throne set **in heaven**, and **One sat on the throne...**"

**Isaiah 37:16** "O LORD (*Yahweh*) of hosts, God of Israel, the **One who dwells between the cherubim**, You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth."

How has He been revealed to us?

**Exodus 33:20** "But He said, '**You cannot see My face**; for no man shall see Me and live.'"

**Hebrews 1:1-2** "God ... has in these last days **spoken to us by His Son**, whom He has appointed heir of all things, *through whom* also He made the worlds,"

**John 1:18** "No one has seen God at any time. **The only begotten Son**, who is in the bosom of the Father, **He has declared Him.**"

What has the only-begotten Son, Jesus, revealed to us about His Father?

**Matthew 11:25** "At that time Jesus answered and said, 'I thank You, **Father, Lord of heaven and earth**, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes.'"

**Mark 14:36** "And He said, 'Abba, Father, **all things are possible for You**. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what *I will*, but what *You will*.'"

**John 4:24** "**God is Spirit**, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

**John 5:19-20** "Most assuredly I say to you, **the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do**; for whatever *He* does, the Son *also* does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel."

**John 5:30** "I can of Myself do *nothing*. As I hear, I judge; and My judgement is righteous, because I do not seek My *own* will but **the will of the Father** who sent Me."

**John 5:26-27** "For **as the Father hath life in Himself**, so hath He **given to the Son** to have life in *Himself*, and hath *given* Him authority to execute judgement also, because He is the Son of Man."

**John 10:29** "My Father, who has *given* them to Me, **is greater than all**; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand."

**John 14:10** "Do you not believe that **I am in the Father, and the Father in Me**? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but **the Father who dwells in Me does the works.**"

**John 14:24** "He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear **is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me.**"

**John 14:28** "...If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father', for **My Father is greater than I.**"

**John 17:7** "Now they have known that **all things** which You have *given* Me are **from You.**"

**John 17:1-3** "Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said, '**Father**, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And **this is eternal life**, that they may **know You, the only true God**, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.'"

Jesus declared that His Father is the *only true God*. Did His disciples understand His teaching?

**1 Corinthians 8:6** "But to us there is but **one God, the Father, of whom are all things**, and we *in Him*; and **one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things**, and we *by Him*."

**1 Corinthians 11:3** "But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of the woman is man, and the **head of Christ is God.**"

**Philippians 2:11** "and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, **to the glory of God the Father.**"

**Ephesians 4:6** "**One God and Father of all**, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."

**1 Thessalonians 1:1** "Paul, and Silvanus, and Timothy, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in **God the Father** and in **the Lord Jesus Christ**: Grace to you and peace from **God our Father** and **the Lord Jesus Christ.**"

**Titus 1:4** "To Titus, a true son in our common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from **God the Father** and **the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour.**"

(See also **1 Corinthians 1:3**, **2 Corinthians 1:2**, **Galatians 1:3**, **Ephesians 1:2**, **Philippians 1:2**, **Colossians 1:2**, **2 Thessalonians 1:1-2**, **1 Timothy 1:2**, **2 Timothy 1:2**, **Philemon 1:3**, and **2 John 1:3**)

**James 3:8-9** "But no man can tame the tongue... With it we bless **our God and Father**, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God."

**Acts 17:23-25** "Therefore, **the One** whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: 'God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is **Lord of heaven and earth**, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since **He gives to all life, breath, and all things.**'"

**Jude 1:1** "Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to those who are called, *sanctified* by **God the Father**, and *preserved* in **Jesus Christ**"



# Jesus Christ

If the Father, by Christ's own declaration, is the "only true God", then who is Jesus?

**Matthew 16:15-17** "He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?'

Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, **the Son of the living God.**'

Jesus answered and said to him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah: for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but **My Father** who is in heaven.'

Simon Peter's answer was inspired by the Father Himself – that Jesus is *His Son!* His answer was so powerful that Christ shortened his name to Peter, which means "a rock", and declared that "on **this rock** I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it." (**Matthew 16:18**)

Was Christ identifying Himself as God's *literal Son*? We find that in the Old Testament, through King Solomon, Christ gave amazing insight into His relationship with the Father in **Proverbs 8:22-30**. (Note that **1 Corinthians 1:24, 30** and **Luke 11:49** reveal that Jesus Himself is "the wisdom of God"!)

"The LORD (*Yahweh*) possessed me in the beginning of His way, before His works of old.

I was **set up** from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.

When there were no depths, I was **brought forth**;

When there were no fountains abounding with water.

Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I **brought forth**:

While as yet He had not made the earth, nor the fields,

Nor the highest part of the dust of the world.

When He prepared the heavens, I was there:

When He set a compass upon the face of the depth:

When He established the clouds above:

When He strengthened the fountains of the deep:

When He gave to the sea His decree, that the water should not pass His commandment:

When He appointed the foundations of the earth: then I was by Him, **as one brought up with Him**:

and I was **daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him,**"

This beautiful description of the companionship between the Father and Son in the days of eternity tells us that Christ indeed had a beginning to His existence. Our finite minds cannot fathom the time period when this occurred, because in reality it was before the measurement of time was established, and we may not fully understand *how* Christ was brought forth from His Father, but we accept our Saviour's words by faith.

It's important to understand that Christ was not *created*, as angels and humans were. We know this because **John 1:3** tells us that, "All things were made *through* Him, and without Him **nothing** was made that was made." He was truly **begotten** – brought forth from the Father's own divine life.

**John 8:42** "Jesus said unto them, 'If God were your Father, you would love Me: **for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor** have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.'"

**John 16:27-28** "For the Father Himself loveth you, because ye have loved Me, and have believed that **I came out from God. I came forth from the Father, and** am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father."

**John 17:8** "For I have given unto them the words which Thou gavest Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that **I came out from Thee, and** they have believed that Thou didst send me."

In every instance, the event of proceeding/coming forth from the Father is *separated* from the event of being sent into this world (conjunction noted with italics). This clarifies that Jesus was speaking of two separate events – being begotten in heaven, and being sent to earth.

By the testimony of Jesus, it is revealed that there was a point in the great expanse of eternity when the Father chose to bring forth a divine Son. Therefore, Christ had a beginning, while the Father did not. Does this *lessen* Christ's divinity in any way? Absolutely not!

**John 5:26** "For **as the Father** hath life in Himself; **so hath He given to the Son** to have life in *Himself*"

**Colossians 1:19** "For it **pleased the Father** that in Him **all the fullness** should dwell."

**Colossians 2:9** "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead (**deity/divinity**) bodily."

\*\* Note that the word translated "Godhead" here the Greek word *theotes* (G2320), which simply means *deity – the state of being divine*.

Christ was brought forth from the very life of the Father Himself, the great Source of all. It pleased the Father to bring Christ into existence, giving Him the same full, divine, eternal life that He had in Himself. Just as a *human* father begets a *human* son, our *divine* Father begets a *divine* Son!

**John 1:1** presents this beautifully in the original Greek, with the first use of "God" actually being a **definite article**. If thus properly translated it would read: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with **the God**, and the Word was God."

This sounds a bit funny in English, which is likely why it wasn't translated this way, but it helps to clarify the verse. In the beginning Christ was with His Father (the only true God; the Source of all things), but Christ Himself was also God *in nature*. He was fully divine.

**Hebrews 1:4-5** "... as He has **by inheritance** obtained a more excellent name than they. For to which of the angels did He ever say: 'You are **My Son**, today **I have begotten you?**' And again: 'I will be to Him a **Father**, and He shall be to me a **Son**'?"

Christ is divine because He *inherited* His Father's divinity! But the Father is the Source of all, without beginning, making Him the only *true* God.

**1 Corinthians 8:6** "But to us there is but **one God, the Father**, *of whom* are all things, and we in Him; and **one Lord Jesus Christ**, *by whom* are all things, and we by Him."

The Father is the source, and Christ is the executing agent, or the channel, *by whom* the Father made all things, and *by whom* we are reconciled to the Father.

**1 Timothy 2:5** "For there is **one God**, and **one mediator** between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

Not surprisingly, Christ's identity as God's Son was the exact truth that Satan attacked:

**Matthew 4:3** "...**If You are the Son of God**, command that these stones become bread."

**Matthew 4:6** "...**If You are the Son of God**, throw Yourself down..."

Satan's angels knew who He was as well:

**Mark 5:7** "And he cried out with a loud voice and said, 'What have I to do with You, Jesus, **Son of the Most High God?** I implore You by God that You do not torment me.'"

**Luke 4:41** "And demons also came out of many, crying out and saying, 'You are the Christ **the Son of God!**' And He, rebuking them, did not allow them to speak: for they knew that He was the Christ."

Christ's own declaration of His identity was the reason He was persecuted:

**John 10:36** "Do you say of Him whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming', because I said, I am **the Son of God?**"



**John 19:7** "The Jews answered him, 'We have a law, and according to our law He ought to die, because He made Himself **the Son of God.**'"

**Matthew 26:63** "But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, 'I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, **the Son of God!**'"

**Luke 22:70** "Then they all said, 'Are You then **the Son of God?**' So He said to them, '**You rightly say that I am.**'"

**Matthew 27:40** "And saying, 'You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are **the Son of God**, come down from the cross.'"

**Matthew 27:54** "So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that happened, they feared greatly, saying, 'Truly this was **the Son of God!**'"

And this is, in fact, the only belief by which we are saved!

**John 3:16,18** "For God so loved the world that He **gave His only begotten Son**, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life... He who believes on Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of **the only begotten Son of God.**"

**John 20:31** "But these are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, **the Son of God**, and that believing you may have life through His name."

**John 5:25** "Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of **the Son of God**: and those who hear will live."

Looking back to Hebrews 1, verse 4 also explains why the Father's name, *Yahweh*, can be applied to Christ in the prophecy of Jeremiah.

**Jeremiah 23:5-6** "'Behold, the days are coming' says the LORD (*Yahweh*), 'That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgement and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD (*Yahweh*) OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.'"

**Hebrews 1:4** "... as He has **by inheritance obtained a more excellent name** than they."

Just as a human son inherits his father's name, so Christ inherited *His* Father's name! In verses 8 and 9 we again see that while Jesus is divine in nature, His Father is still God over all.

**Hebrews 1:8-9** "But unto the Son He saith: 'Thy throne, **O God**, is forever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of Thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; **therefore God, even Thy God**, hath anointed Thee with the oil of gladness above Thy fellows.'"

Though Christ is divine, and has been exalted by His Father to receive worship, He also *has* a God – His own Father.

**Matthew 27:46** "And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, '... **My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?**'"

**John 20:17** "Jesus said to her, 'Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren, and say to them, 'I am ascending to **My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.**'"

**Romans 15:6** "That you may with one mind and one mouth glorify **the God and Father** of our Lord Jesus Christ."

**1 Corinthians 11:3** "But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and **the head of Christ is God.**"

**Ephesians 1:3** "Blessed be **the God and Father** of our Lord Jesus Christ..."

(See also **2 Corinthians 1:3, 2 Corinthians 11:31, Colossians 1:3, and 1 Peter 1:3**)

**Ephesians 1:17** "...that **the God** of our Lord Jesus Christ, **the Father of glory**, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him"

**Revelation 1:5-6** "To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His blood, and has made us kings and priests to **His God and Father**, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

**Revelation 3:12** "He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of **My God**, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of **My God**, and the name of the city of **My God**, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from **My God**. And I will write on him My new name."

In receiving the seal of God, Christ will write His Father's name – *Yahweh*, upon our foreheads, along with His own new name. Our forehead represents our *understanding* of who God is, and, therefore, whom we worship.

**John 4:23** "But the hour is coming, and now is, when **the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.**"

In contrast, the "mark of the beast" will be based upon a *false* understanding of God, promoted by the anti-Christ power described in the book of Revelation:

**Revelation 17:4-5** "The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication: And **on her forehead** a name was written, '**Mystery**, Babylon the Great, The Mother of Harlots and of the Abominations of the Earth.'"

The "god" of this anti-Christ system is called *Mystery*. Christ came to this earth for the express purpose of revealing His Father to us, so that the true God would **not** be a mystery to us! Christ never received glory unto Himself, but did *all* to the glory of His God and Father. His teachings consistently express that He came to this earth to reveal His Father's love, character, and purpose to mankind, and to reconcile us unto the Father through Himself.

**Revelation 14:1** "Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb stood on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred and forty-four thousand, having **His Father's name** written in their foreheads."

To undoubtedly confirm the identity of Christ, we need only to look to the Father's affirmation of who He is. The Father, the highest authority in the universe, gave a specific message at Christ's baptism, and again on the mount of transfiguration (**Matt. 3:17, 17:5, Mark 1:11, 9:7, Luke 3:22, 9:35, 2 Peter 1:17**). His message was this:

"This is **My beloved Son**, in whom I am well pleased." And on the mount He adds "**Hear Him!**"

All authority that Jesus has to be the Father's representative, and to pay the ransom for fallen humanity, rests in this single, most important truth – that He is **the beloved, divine, begotten Son of God**.

# The Holy Spirit

As we've discovered that the Father is the Source of all, we can also confirm with scripture that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father Himself.

**John 15:26** "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"

**Genesis 1:2** "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."

Just as the "Son **OF** God" implies possession (i.e. The Son *belongs* to the Father, He is *His* Son), the "Spirit **OF** God" does also. The Holy Spirit is exactly as the Bible describes – the Spirit **OF** God. It is God's *own* spirit, the spirit **of** the Father!

**Matthew 10:20** "For it is not you who speak, but the **Spirit of your Father** who speaks in you."

As a quick aside, let's look at some other "spirits" in the Bible...

**Genesis 41:7-8** "...And **Pharaoh** awoke, and, behold, it was a dream. And it came to pass in the morning that **his spirit** was troubled; and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt..."

**Genesis 45:27** "And they told him all the words of Joseph, which he had said unto them: and when he saw the wagons which Joseph had sent to carry him, the **spirit of Jacob** their father revived."

**Deuteronomy 2:30** "But **Sihon king of Heshbon** would not let us pass through: for the LORD your God hardened **his spirit**, and made his heart obstinate..."

**Ezra 1:1** "Now in the first year of **Cyrus** king of Persia, that the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the LORD stirred up the **spirit of Cyrus** king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom..."

There are many more examples, but I think the point is clear. In no other instance would we think of someone's spirit as being anything other than that – *their own spirit*, i.e. their mind, thoughts, and character. So why would we picture a separate, third being when the Bible says "the Spirit of God"? The Father is an all-powerful, omnipresent spirit-being, and therefore can be sitting on the throne of heaven in *body*, and yet be present here on earth in *spirit*.

**John 4:23-24** "...for **the Father** seeketh such to worship Him. **God is a Spirit**: and they that worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth."

Remember that it pleased the Father that the fullness of divinity would dwell within His Son. Therefore, Jesus is filled with the Spirit of His Father—they are one in Spirit. Jesus was brought forth to be God's "Right Arm"—the Channel through whom God would manifest His glory to His creation.

**John 12:37-38** 'But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: "Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has **the arm of the LORD** been revealed?"'

Just as the Father wrought all of creation through His Son, it is also **through Jesus** that we receive the Spirit of God!

**Ephesians 2:13,18** "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. (...) For **through Him** we both have access *by one Spirit to the Father*."

In this way the Father and Son share the same Spirit, being one in character, purpose, and love for mankind. The book of John comes alive so beautifully when we understand this powerful truth.

**John 14:20-23** "'At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and **I in you**. He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him, and will **manifest Myself to him**.'

Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, 'Lord, how is it that You will **manifest Yourself to us**, and not to the world?' Jesus answered and said to him, 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and **We will come to him, and make Our home with him**.'

The Holy Spirit is none other than the Spirit of Christ and His Father, and we can have *Their* Spirit living in *us*! We see that the terms, "Spirit of God" and "Spirit of Christ" can be used interchangeably, because they share one Spirit.

**Romans 8:9-10** "But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the **Spirit of God** dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the **Spirit of Christ**, he is not His. And **if Christ is in you**, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness."

When Christ became a member of the human race, He clothed His divinity in humanity.

**Philippians 2:6-7** "who, being in **the form of God**, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking **the form of a bond-servant**, and coming in the **likeness of men.**"

Yet He was still filled with His Father's Spirit, and it was by this sustained Oneness with the Father that He was able to overcome all the powers of the enemy; resisting sin in His own body, and destroying the effects of sin in the lives of others—healing the sick, casting out demons, and raising the dead!

**Isaiah 42:1** "Behold, My servant whom I uphold. My elect One in whom My soul delights! **I have put My Spirit upon Him**; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles"

**John 14:10** "Do you not believe that **I am in the Father, and the Father in Me**? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but **the Father who dwells in Me does the works.**"

After His victorious resurrection, the glorified Jesus would be the Channel by which mankind would have access to that very same Spirit. This is why the Holy Spirit, known after Christ's ascension as "the Comforter", could not be given to His disciples until Pentecost.

**John 7:39** "But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was **not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.**"

**John 16:7** "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is *expedient* for you that I go away; **for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you**; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you."

Only once Christ returned to heaven to be glorified, and commence His work in the heavenly sanctuary as our High Priest, could the Father send the Spirit through Him to His awaiting disciples.

**Acts 2:32-33** "This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having **received from the Father** the promise of the Holy Spirit, **He poured out this** which you now see and hear."

**Hebrews 4:15** "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was **in all points tempted as we are**, yet without sin."

**John 14:16-20** "And I will pray the Father, and He will 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**. I will not leave you comfortless: **I will come to you**. Yet a little while, and the world seeth Me no more; but ye see Me: because I live, ye shall live also."



The Comforter could not be sent until Jesus was glorified, yet Jesus said "He dwelleth with you" in *present tense*, but "shall be in you" in *future tense*. By saying "ye know Him" and "He dwelleth with you", Christ was identifying Himself, filled with His Father's Spirit, as the very same Comforter. Though He was currently dwelling *with them* in person, in the future He would be *in them* by the Holy Spirit.

The Greek word for "Comforter" is "*parakletos*". John is the only author who used this term - four times in his gospel, and once in 1 John. Despite the *widely* held belief that the Comforter describes a third individual, distinct from the Father and Christ, John had actually purposed in his writings that there would be **no question** of who he was referring to. Unfortunately, his effort for clarity was hidden in the translation. In 1 John 2:1 he identifies exactly who he was speaking about, but this term, *parakletos*, was here translated as "Advocate" instead of "Comforter".

**1 John 2:1** "My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an **Advocate** with the Father, **Jesus Christ** the righteous."

**OR** → "... if anyone sins, we have a **Comforter** with the Father, **Jesus Christ** the righteous."

Our "parakletos", our "Comforter", is none other than Jesus Christ!

But why, then, in **John 14:16** does Christ say that the Father will send **another** Comforter? Doesn't this mean that it must be a *separate* person?

There are two Greek words which are translated as "another" – *allos* and *heteros*. While *heteros* means "another of a *different* sort" (ex. "May I try another type of apple?"), *allos* means "another of an *identical* sort" (ex. "Those green apples are delicious! May I have another?") The word Christ used in this passage was *allos*. Therefore, He was not telling them that the Father would send a *different* Comforter, but that He would send a Comforter *identical* to the One who was currently with them! The Father had sent Christ as their Comforter the *first* time in human form, and would send Him *again*, in Spirit form.

**Hebrews 2:18** "For in that **He Himself has suffered**, being tempted, **He** is able to aid those who are tempted."

Christ alone can help us overcome worldly temptation, because He is the One who has taken on our fallen human nature and triumphed over sin! We also shouldn't take issue with the fact that while describing "the Comforter" Christ speaks of Himself in the third person, as He did this all throughout His ministry. (**Matthew 13:41, 24:27,30, Mark 10:33-34, 45, Luke 17:24, 18:8, John 10:2-4, 17:1-3**, etc.)

Remember that **1 Timothy 2:5** tells us, "For there is one God and **one Mediator between God and men**, the Man Christ Jesus." There is only one Mediator – one Intercessor.

**Romans 8:26** "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."

When we let Scripture interpret Scripture, who is said to make intercession for us?

**Romans 8:34** "Who is He who condemns? It is **Christ** who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also **makes intercession for us.**"

**Hebrews 7:25** "Therefore [**Christ**] is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to **make intercession for them.**"

Christ Himself is that *one* Mediator, that *one* Intercessor between God and men.

**John 17:23** "**I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them, as You have loved Me.**"

**Galatians 4:6** "And because you are sons, God has sent forth the **Spirit of His Son** into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!'"

**1 Peter 1:10-11** "Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, searching what, or what manner of time, the **Spirit of Christ who was in them** was indicating when He testified beforehand **the sufferings of Christ** and the glories that would follow."

**1 Corinthians 2:16** "For 'who has known the mind of the LORD that He may instruct Him?' But we have **the mind of Christ.**"

**1 Corinthians 15:45** "And so it is written, 'The first man Adam became a living being. The last Adam became a **life-giving spirit.**'"

May we all pray to receive the *only* life-giving Spirit – the Spirit of our Saviour Himself.

**Revelation 3:19-20** "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. **Behold I stand at the door, and knock:** if any man hear my voice, and open the door, **I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.**"

Christ wants to fill us with the very Spirit He has from His Father, that we may have the same power He had on this earth to overcome the temptations of this world, and live a victorious Christian life. Only through Him can we be transformed, day by day, to reflect God's image as He does.

**2 Corinthians 3:16-18** "Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now **the Lord is the Spirit**; and **where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty**. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being **transformed into the same image from glory to glory**, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."

**Philippians 4:7** "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds **through Christ Jesus**."

**John 16:13** "...when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will **guide you into all truth**."

**Philippians 4:13** "I can do all things **through Christ** who strengthens me."

The Father and Son are *longing* to come abide with you through the Spirit, to give you the strength to overcome, guide you into all truth, and give you peace which surpasses *all* understanding.

*Will you let Them?*

**Colossians 1:26-29** "Even the *mystery* which has been hidden from ages and from generations, **but now has been revealed to His saints**. To them God willed to *make known* what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**. Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to **His working** which **works in me mightily**."

**Galatians 2:20** "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but **Christ liveth in me**: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by **the faith of the Son of God**, who loved me, and gave Himself for me."

# Father & Son

Here are a few more verses revealing the *two* divine beings: God and His begotten Son.

**Proverbs 30:4** "Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? **What is His name, and what is His Son's name**, if you know?"

**Zechariah 6:12-13** "Then speak to him, saying, Thus says the LORD (*Yahweh*) of hosts, saying, 'Behold, the Man whose name is The BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, and He shall build the temple of the LORD; yes, He shall build the temple of the LORD. He shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule on His throne; so He shall be a priest on His throne: and **the counsel of peace shall be between them both.**'" (Both = two!)

**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)"

**Ephesians 5:5** "For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in **the kingdom of Christ and God.**"

**1 Timothy 5:21** "I charge you before **God and the Lord Jesus Christ** and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality."

**Hebrews 8:1** "Now of the things which we have spoken this is **the sum**: We have such **an High Priest**, who is set on the right hand of the throne of **the Majesty** in the heavens."

**1 John 1:3** "That which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly **our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.**"

**1 John 2:22-23** "Who is a liar but he that denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies **the Father and the Son**. Whoever denies **the Son** does not have **the Father** either; he who acknowledges **the Son** has **the Father** also. Therefore, let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide **in the Son and in the Father.**"

**Revelation 5:13** "And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying, 'Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power be **to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb**, forever and ever!'"

**Revelation 6:16** "And said to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us, and hide us from **the face of Him that sits on the throne** and from **the wrath of the Lamb!**'"

**Revelation 14:4** "... These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever He goes. These were redeemed from among men, being first fruits **to God** and **to the Lamb.**"

**Revelation 14:12** "Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep **the commandments of God** and **the faith of Jesus.**"

**Revelation 20:6** "Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be **priests of God** and **of Christ**, and shall reign with Him a thousand years."

**Revelation 21:22** "And I saw no temple in it, for **the Lord God Almighty** and **the Lamb** are its temple."

**Revelation 22:1,3** "And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from **the throne of God** and **of the Lamb.** ... And there shall be no more curse, but **the throne of God** and **of the Lamb** shall be in it..."

# Mystery Solved!

**2 Peter 1:2-4** "Grace and peace be multiplied to you in **the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord**, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

I truly hope you've been blessed by this study. In conclusion, I'd like to quote a passage from one of my favourite books, *Ministry of Healing* – Chapter 35, p. 409.

## **"A True Knowledge of God"**

"Like our Saviour, we are in this world to do service for God. We are here to become like God in character, and by a life of service to reveal Him to the world. In order to be co-workers with God, in order to become like Him and to reveal His character, we must know Him aright. We must know Him as He reveals Himself.

A knowledge of God is the foundation of all true education and all true service. It is the only real safeguard against temptation. It is this alone that can make us like God in character.

This is the knowledge needed by all who are working for the uplifting of their fellow men. Transformation of character, purity of life, efficiency in service, adherence to correct principles, all depend upon a right knowledge of God. This knowledge is the essential preparation both for this life and for the life to come. ... "This is life eternal," said Jesus, "that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent."

In the words of Paul to the church in Ephesus,

**"...Love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."**



