

The Godhead

By Doug Hamilton

Songs of Faith and Praise #66 “Doxology”

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly hosts; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

We have all sung that song many times in the past and been left with the concept of the *Trinity*. This is often brought up in Christian conversation, but the actual word does not occur in the Bible. There is a word which does capture this teaching referred to in the King James Version Bible. The word is *Godhead*. Take for example Acts 17:29, “Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the *Godhead* is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s device.”

In the NASB it uses the phrase “Divine Nature”. This is a rather accurate phrase in regards to the Godhead because it communicates the inseparable tri-fold nature of God. All three are one in their Divine Nature because they cannot be divided in any way. Their power, purpose and propensity is intrinsic to all Three.

Christ is one with the Father.

- John 10:30, “I and the Father are one.”
- John 17:11, “...keep them in Your name, *the name* which You have given Me, that they may be one even as *We are*.”
- Matthew 10:40, “He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.
- Hebrews 1:3, Christ “is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature...”
- 1 Timothy 3:16, “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh...”
- Matthew 1:23 “BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,” which translated means, “GOD WITH US.”

The shared Divine Nature of Jesus is the same as God. Christ was not One “*who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped*”. It is an incredible fact that *in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*” (Colossians 2:9 KJV)

The Spirit is one with the Father.

- 1 Corinthians 2:10, “for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.”
- 2 Corinthians 3:17, “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, *there* is liberty.”

Christ and Spirit are one with each other.

- Hebrews 9:14 “...the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God...”
- John 14:26, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”

All Three are one with each other.

God sent the Holy Spirit to conceive the Son.

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- Matthew 1:20-21, But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.²¹ “She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

God commissioned the ministry of Jesus with the Holy Spirit.

- Matthew 3:16-17 After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him,¹⁷ and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.”
- Acts 10:38 “*You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power...*”

Jesus recognized the empowerment by the Holy Spirit of the Father.

- Luke 4:18-19 “THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED,¹⁹ TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD.” (Quoting Isaiah 61:1)
- This was predicted in Isaiah 11:1-2. “*The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.*”

The Holy Spirit acknowledged Father and the Son as one.

- In Matthew 22:43-44 He said to them, “Then how does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying,⁴⁴ ‘THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, “SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET” ’? Note: This quote is from Psalms 110:1. Notice all caps on the first LORD and not the second. This is because it says, “*The Jehovah said unto my Adonai, ‘Sit at my right hand...*” God the Father is calling someone else Lord. This is Jesus.

The Earliest Revealing of the Godhead.

The Godhead is first revealed to us in *Genesis 1:26-27*, Then God said, “*Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.*”²⁷ *God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

Other places of obvious plurality of Elohim.

- Genesis 3:22, “Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil...”
- Genesis 11:7, “Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another’s speech.”
- Isaiah 6:8, Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I. Send me!”

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God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit have always been working in perfect harmony. They often appear together in the Holy Scriptures. As *Isaiah 48:16* “*And now the Lord GOD has sent Me, and His Spirit.*” They are a triple-team!

Three areas that the Godhead affects the Christian:

In understanding the roles of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we can use a construction analogy. When a person would like to construct a building, the first higher an architect to design, then a contractor to build the structure and a finishing carpenter the complete the job. That same pattern is evident in three key areas that affects the Christian.

1) Creation

The Father designed the cosmos.

- Genesis 1:1, In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
- Psalm 19:1, “The heavens are telling of the glory of God...”

The Son built it.

- John 1:3, “All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.”
- Colossians 1:16, “For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.”
- Hebrews 1:2 “...in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.”

The Holy Spirit finished it.

- Genesis 1:2, “The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.”
- Psalm 104:30, “You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the ground.”
- Job 33:4, “The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life.”

All three, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit were involved in creation. Together they are the great builders of the cosmos.

2) Confirmation

God Authored the Word

- John 12:49, “For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment *as to* what to say and what to speak.”

The Son Spoke the Word

- John 1:1, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
- John 8:26, “I have many things to speak and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world.”

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The Holy Spirit confirmed the Word.

- Mark 16:20, “And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.”
- Acts 2:22, “Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs...”

The words of the Bible which we have were well-designed by the Father, well-spoken by the Son and well-backed up by the power of the Spirit. We can trust the Word of God!

3) Salvation

God designed the Gospel.

- John 3:16, “God so loved the world...”
- Ephesians 1:5, “He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will...”

Jesus the Son built the Gospel.

- Romans 5:8, “...while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”
- Hebrews 5:7, “In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety.”
- John 10:18, “No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.”

The Holy Spirit that raised Him from the dead.

- Romans 1:4, Jesus “*resurrection from the dead*” was “*according to the Spirit of holiness...*”
- Romans 8:11, “But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”

Together, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are working together to fulfill the gospel in our lives. Titus 3:5-7, says that God saved us according “*to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior.*”

Application:

What drives the Christian is the hope of eternal life with God. God designed and promised (Titus 1:3), Jesus paid for it and the Holy Spirit seals us until the day of redemption (Ephesians 1:13). If they could pull off a great work like creation, then they can most certainly fulfill salvation in our life. We are baptized into the possession of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit with this hope (Matthew 28:19-20). Possessing this hope together, it is with the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 13:14) that we must never give up on our faith. Hanging onto our faith is intrinsically tied to our trip to heaven someday.