

## Study More:

### Lesson 1      What is God

The first thought that comes to mind in answer to this question is a mysterious deity that rules the universe. That is as far as most people care to take the question. It should be no surprise with that mindset that God remains a distant mystery to the majority. This lesson is for those who desire a deeper more personal relationship with Him. The Christian God is the God of the Bible. **There are over 20,000 references to God in the Scriptures, dealing with every question about Him we could have and much more we haven't thought of.** There are more details about our Heavenly Father found in the Bible than what we could know about our earthly father. In this lesson, we will clear up some uncertainty and introduce a God that is as relatable as our closest relative or friend. **To do an honest Bible study one must receive with an open heart all that is plainly stated within the text, from Genesis through Revelation.** To argue with scripture is to argue with God, which undermines the intended purpose of the Bible. By its own definition, the Bible has two fundamental components, the letter of the Word and the Spirit of the Word. **The letter refers to the historical content while the Spirit conveys the intent or heart of God.** It is that part of the scripture that speaks to us personally. Since Bible history has proven to be accurate and since most early secular history comes from the Bible, we can expect the Spirit of the Bible to be accurate as well.

### The Triune God

There are three separate persons that govern the creation. God the Father, the Word (Jesus) and the Holy Spirit.

*For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. (1 John 5:7)*

Commonly referred to as the Trinity, the three-person Godhead rules the material and spiritual universe in perfect agreement. **Each has a distinctive responsibility but govern as one dynamic personality.** As we journey through the lesson the individual accountability of each will become clear.

### The Validity of God the Father

Most people believe God is invisible and has no personal connection with natural men. Nothing could be further from the truth. This perception makes Him beyond understanding and impossible to relate to. Many witnesses have seen Him and testified to the experience. One day in the future, God will appear before natural men, in the same way, He does spiritual men today. To have some idea what God looks like you need to look no further than your mirror.

*Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; So God created man in His image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (Genesis 1:26, 27)*

To better understand this scripture one must realize God is a spirit and has no need for a physical body because He lives in a spiritual dimension. To accept the idea we must recognize there are two separate and distinct worlds using the same universal space. One world is material in structure, and one is spiritual in structure. To simplify this concept, I will refer to these two separate worlds as dimensions. When God created the material universe, suns, moons, planets, etc., He did it from the already existing spiritual dimension.

*In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1)*

Men were created to live in the material dimension. Our body is the dwelling place for our soul and spirit in the material dimension. Our spiritual body looks much the same as our material body and the spiritual body of those who live in the spiritual dimension. In the beginning, God created man in His image, after His likeness, as a three-part person, body, soul and spirit.

*Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:23)*

Think of it this way; our spiritual body is created in the image of God and covered by natural material found in this world.

*It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. (1 Corinthians 15:44)*

Simply put God looks like natural men with arms and legs, head; speaks, has feelings and in general conduct the business of governing the universe from the spiritual dimension.

*During the cool part of the day, the LORD God was **walking** in the garden. The man and the woman heard him, and they hid among the trees in the garden. The LORD God **called** to the man and **said**, “Where are you?” (Genesis 3:8, 9) **Study more:** (Exodus 33:11, 24:9-11 Daniel 7:9-11, Acts 7:56)*

**Note:** when God appears to natural men it is always in likeness or similitude, not in His full splendor, natural men would die instantly by the radiated power of the supernatural God.

## The Character of God

The creation of the material world is a duplication of the spiritual world. Both dimensions share the same universal space as is plainly taught in scripture. **To better understand God and His environment we simply need to look at our surroundings.**

*Because what is **known** about God should be **plain** to them because God made it plain to them. Ever since the creation of the world, God’s invisible qualities—God’s eternal power and divine nature—have been **clearly seen**, because they are **understood** through the **things** God **has made**. So humans are without excuse. (Romans 1:19-20)*

**The material world we live in is similar to the unseen world God lives in; just as is our material bodies are similar to spiritual bodies.** Our spirit dwells within our material body and the spiritual dimension dwells within the material universe. God lives in Heaven, in the spiritual dimension. Some day in the future God will move His address to earth, at that time, the two dimensions will merge into one.

*I heard a loud voice from the throne. It said, “Now **God’s home is with people**. He will live with them. They will be his people. **God himself will be with them** and will be their God. The angel carried me away in the Spirit to a very large and high mountain. The angel showed me the holy city, Jerusalem. The **city was coming down out of heaven** from God. (Revelation 21:3, 10) **Study more:** (Revelation 21: 23-24)*

The Bible clearly confirms God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit as the ruling alliance of the universe. They represent one God!

*Note:* God uses the words us and our while discussing the characteristics of men before they were created. (*Genesis 1:26*)

To better understand how God can be three in one, let's examine how we as humans are three persons in one.

1. Our soul is conscious of both the material and spiritual environment. It can survive in either, meaning it can transcend dimensions. When the material body dies, the spirit and soul immediately pass into the spiritual dimension. **Study more:** (*Mathew 10:28*)
2. Our spirit is the person that can commune with God and be aware of the spiritual dimension through faith. The spirit of man and the spirit of God are inseparable. **Study more:** (*John 14:17*)
3. Our physical body is the material residence where our soul and spirit live. It is only designed to function in the material universe. It is limited to five physical senses, sight, sound, touch, taste, and smell. **Study more:** (*1 Corinthians 6:19*)

In the material world of the 3rd dimension, we need all three parts, body, soul and spirit to become a complete person. The three persons of the Godhead govern the spiritual and material dimensions with three different personalities that fit their distinct responsibility perfectly.

**Study more:** (*John 1:1*) (*John 1:14*) (*Acts 4:31*)

Although God has similar characteristics as men, He has attributes that make Him God. He thinks and acts differently than men do.

*For my **thoughts** are not your thoughts, neither are your ways **my ways**, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are **higher** than the earth, so are my **ways higher** than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. (*Isaiah 55:8, 9*)*

God is a real person who lives in a real world. He works and governs the universe, with feelings, passions, desires, and intellect, as any head of state would do. He has meetings and makes decisions that are in full compliance with the eternal Godhead as is demonstrated in (*Genesis 1:26*). God is the creator and governor of a multi-dimensional universe but lives in one place, Heaven. Jesus said His Father was in Heaven eighteen times. **Study more:** (*Isaiah 9:7*) (*Matthew 5:16*)

**(Omnipresent attribute)** *Your **Spirit** is everywhere I go. I cannot **escape** your **presence**. (*Psalms 139:7*)*

If God is in Heaven, then how could he be in multiple places at the same time? The best way to understand this question is to take literally the explanation God Himself

gives. His ways and thoughts are not the same as ours. Paul, the apostle, validates this verse when he was given a sneak-peek into the spirit dimension.

*I know that this man was taken up to **paradise**. I **don't** know if he was **in** his body or **away** from his body, but he heard things that he is **not able** to **explain**. He heard things that no one is **allowed** to tell. (2 Corinthians 3-4)*

We are not able to fully explain how the person of the Holy Spirit can be with and in every believer nor can we physically experience the spiritual dimension and its mysteries. However, we do know it is the Spirit that knows our needs and hears our prayers, that abides with us throughout our life, for it is clearly stated numerous times in scripture.

*Or do you not know that **your** body is the **temple** of the **Holy Spirit** who is **in** you, whom you have from God? (1 Corinthians 19)*

Sadly, we can reject the company of the Holy Spirit, and He will leave us to our own miserable devices. **Study more:** (Romans 8:9-11)

**(Omniscient attribute)** God has complete knowledge of all that He has designed from beginning to end.

*“In the **beginning**, I told you what would **happen** in the **end**. A long time ago, I told you things that have **not** happened yet. When I **plan** something, it **happens**. I do whatever I want to do. (Isaiah 46:10)*

Like any good architect what He plans He causes to happen. **Because God has infinite wisdom, He knows how something He starts, will finish.** Time, in the spiritual dimension, is irrelevant, so God has no time lines to complete creation. All of His creative work is carefully designed and discussed by the Godhead before He declares it to happen.

*Then God **said**, “Let there be light!” And light **began** to shine. (Genesis 1:3)*

The creation is designed in such a way that news reaches Him instantly like digital reports reach newsrooms around the world, only on a spiritual level beyond our finite comprehension. God has innumerable agents throughout the universe that report to him.

*But you have come to Mount Zion and the **city** of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an **innumerable** company of angels. (Hebrews 12:22)*

Angels can appear and disappear in either dimension through the process of teleportation. Defined, as the transfer of matter or energy from one point to another without traversing the physical space between them. For example, every baby born is assigned an angel when they are born. The angel provides a running account of that person's life to God.

*Be careful. Don't think these little children are not important. I tell you that these children **have angels** in heaven. And those angels are **always** with my Father in heaven. (Matthew 18:11)*

There are many other examples of how God uses angels as information agents throughout scripture.

*For if the word spoken **through angels** proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward. (Hebrews 2:2)*

There is one area that God has chosen not to know, the mind and will of every individual. All individuals' either created as angels or born as men have the right to their personal thoughts and free wills. God does not know what men will think or do in any given situation. It is man's responsibility to do God's will if He expects to be successful in every walk of life.

*Always remember what is written in that book of law. Speak about that book and study it day and night. Then you can be sure to **obey** what is **written** there. **If you do this, you will be wise and successful in everything** you do. (Joshua 1:8)*

(Omnipotent attribute) The final attribute God has that man will never possess is ultimate power. God never speaks carelessly, what He says is absolute. His power is found in the integrity of His word. He caused the world to happen by declaring it and will raise the dead by demanding it.

*God, who gives **life** to the **dead** and **calls** those things, which **do not** exist as though they **did**. (Romans 4: 17)*

*He **cried** with a **loud** voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" And he who had **died** came **out** bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. (John 11:43-44)*

Although God has ultimate power, He has limited Himself in His dealings with free moral agents (natural men and women as well as all supernatural beings from the spiritual dimension). God will not interfere with a man's life unless He is called upon to do so. Men have complete control over their life to either conform to the universal law of God or go their way and reject His perfect will.

## The Person of Jesus Christ

Jesus became the Son of God when the Virgin Mary conceived by the Holy Spirit and gave birth to a baby boy.

*The angel said to her, “Don’t be afraid, Mary, because God is very pleased with you. <sup>3</sup>Listen! You will **become pregnant** and have a baby boy. You will **name** him Jesus. (Luke 1:30, 31)*

*Mary said to the angel, “How will this happen? I am still **a virgin**. “The angel said to Mary, “The Holy Spirit will **come** to you, and the **power** of the Most High God will **cover** you. (Luke 1:34, 35)*

Before He became Jesus, He was identified in the spiritual dimension as the Word because God creates through the Word.

*Before the world began, the Word was there. The Word was **with** God, and the Word **was** God. <sup>2</sup>**He** was there **with** God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Everything was made **through** him, and nothing was made **without** him. (John 1:1, 2, 3)*

Because the first man Adam rejected Gods universal truth he was banned from the habitation of God and stripped of his spiritual identity.

*So the LORD God **forced** the man out of the Garden of **Eden** to work the ground he was **made** from. (Genesis 3:3)*

Adams transgression was costly because he chose to separate himself from God and go his independent way. The universal law had broken, and the penalty was spiritual death.

*For **all** have **sinned** and fallen short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)*

All of Adams descendants would now have to decide for themselves whether or not to accept God.

*For the **wages of sin** is death. (Romans 6:23)*

The Word, came from Heaven to earth to solve the impossible predicament.

*The **Word** became **flesh** and dwelt among us. (John 1:14)*

Because God loved his creation, He offered His perfect Word to redeem man from the grip of death.

*For since by **man** came death, by Man also came **the resurrection** of the dead for as in Adam **all** die, even so in Christ shall **all** be made alive. (1Co.15:21, 22)*

The birth and death of Jesus Christ are the central themes of the entire Bible and the most positive set of events in the history of man and maybe the least understood.

The verse, “*For all, have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God*”, is the result of Adams offense. In a world governed by perfect law and justice, the iniquity of Adam flawed the perfection. **Once perfection has been blemished, it remains imperfect.** When Adam and Eve broke the law by disobeying God, they did so understanding the penalty was death but they refused to believe it.

*Whosoever commits sin also transgresses the law for **sin** is the **transgression** of the **law**.* (1John 3:4)

If you take the verse above for what it clearly says there should be no confusion about Sin. It is unbelief, followed by disobedience. Therefore, sin is simply a denial of the truth.

## The Mission of Jesus Christ

Men cannot save themselves from this deadly condition. Only God can bridge the gap, but He must do it without breaking His perfect law, or He too would be subject to the same justice and the penalty of death. If you are even slightly confused with the plan of redemption, please follow the next few lines very closely. **Because Adam was the first man to break the perfect law of God his sin nature is passed down through his seed (not genes).** The seed is received by the women but cannot be passed on by the women. Therefore, sin is received by both male and female but passed only by the male. The penalty of death was charged to all mankind without the chance for acquittal. (Perfection made imperfect) The penalty had to be served if God was to remain true to His Word. The only answer was to find a man free of Adams sin willing to give his life to satisfy the law and liberate Adams fallen race from the law of sin and death.

*For the **law** of the Spirit of **life** in Christ Jesus hath made me **free** from the law of **sin** and **death**.* (Romans 8:2)

Adam lived by the flesh and ignored the spirit. Those that live by the spirit are made new by redemption through Jesus Christ.

*In Him, we have **redemption** through **His blood**, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.* (Ephesians 1:7)

The only way to accomplish this was to bypass the seed of Adam and halt the strain of sin. (Imperfection) The new man had to be part of Adams race to qualify. He must be willing to give up his life even though he was not guilty of the charge. Above all, he had to have the power to take back his life after death. Jesus had to be all God and all man.

*Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: When His **mother** Mary was betrothed to Joseph before they came together, she was found with child of the **Holy Spirit**. (Matthew 1:18)*

God was now God the Father; Jesus became God the Son and Mary represented Adams race. Jesus was born all God and all man and was the perfect candidate to pay the debt for sin. He sacrificed his sinless life so that sinful man could be acquitted. In a nutshell: Gods perfect love for humankind demanded reconciliation of Adams race. Even though He was sinless, He took it upon Himself to satisfy the law of sin and death once and for all. Because He was sinless, death could not legally hold Him, and He left hell after three days. God Himself paid the debt and broke the bondage of His perfect law.

*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. (John 3:16)*

*For **if** we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so will God bring with Him **those** also who died in Jesus. (1Thessalonians 4:14)*

All men and women have been set free from the law of sin and death through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. The only responsibility we have in the redemption process is to acknowledge and receive the acquittal. Thank you, Lord, I willingly accept this pardon and acknowledge that the shed blood of Jesus Christ saved me from the law of sin, and death and made a way for me to become part of the family of God.

*For this is **My** blood of the **new** testament, which is shed for many for the **forgiveness** of sins. (Mt.26:28).*

All who have accepted clemency are cleared of any wrongdoing. We are now in the family of God and will inherit the universe.

***Heirs** of God and **joint-heirs** with **Christ**. (Romans 8:17)*

We will take our rightful position as a joint heir with Jesus, our elder brother and become part of the administrative body of the ever-expanding universe. Not only will our prospects improve remarkably but as an heir of God, we will be in a position to take advantage of all the earthly benefits as well.

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His **benefits**. (Psalms 103:2)*

Earthly benefits are easy to recognize. Anything that provides comfort and well-being could be defined as a benefit. But Gods benefits go far beyond the earthly realm.

*“Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither has entered into the heart of man the things which God hath **prepared** for them that **love Him**.”(1Corinthians 2:9)*

## The Second Coming of Jesus Christ

The second coming of Jesus Christ is well documented in scripture and is scheduled to happen at any time. The nation of Israel has been partially restored to the land God promised Abraham, as predicted. The official restoration began in 1948 when Israel regained her independence after 2000 thousand years of forced dispersion.

*But you must tell those people that the Lord GOD will **bring them back**. I have **scattered** you among **many** nations, but I will **gather** you together and bring you back from **those** nations. I will **give** the land of **Israel** back to you. (Ezekial 11:17)  
Study more: (De. 30:3)*

Jesus explained what conditions on Earth would be like just before His return. **There would be many wars and conflicts among the nations with extreme geological activity producing earthquakes and excessive weather conditions.** The conflicts would cause famines and perils unlike any other time in earth history. Jesus made it clear that problems would be so severe that if He didn't come back all life on earth would be lost.

*Nations will **fight** against other nations. Kingdoms will **fight** against other kingdoms. There will be times when there is **no** food for people to eat. And there will be **earthquakes** in different places. (Matthew 24:7)*

*Because it will be a time of **great** trouble. There will be more trouble than has **ever** happened since the **beginning** of the world. But God has decided to **make** that terrible time short. If it were not made **short**, no one would continue **living**. But God will make that time short to help the people he has chosen. (Matthew 24:21,22)*

When Jesus left the first time He made a promise to His church; He told them He was leaving to prepare a place for them in Heaven.

*There **are many** rooms in my Father's house. I would not tell you this if it were not true. I **am** going there to **prepare a place** for you*

*After I go and **prepare a place** for you, I will **come back**. Then I will take you with me so that you can be where I am. (John 14:2,3)*

When Jesus comes the second time it will not be in secret nor will it be without the supremacy one might imagine the God of the universe has. It will be the greatest demonstration of power ever witnessed by human beings.

*When the Son of Man comes, **everyone** will see him. It will be like **lightning** flashing in the sky that can be **seen** everywhere. (Matthew 24:27)*

This event is not the end of the world but the beginning of a new and wonderful era for the earth and her inhabitants. Not only have the physical armies of the earth been disarmed and defeated but His spiritual enemies have been banished and locked away from any contact with earth dwellers. The Lord Himself along with all the resurrected saints will be present on earth to provide comfort and guidance in the transformation of Adams race.

## The Work of The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the triune God and has responsibilities apart from the Father and Son. The Bible identifies the Holy Spirit as an individual of equal authority.

*So go and make followers of all people in the world. Baptize them in the name of the **Father** and the **Son** and the **Holy Spirit**. (Matthew 28:19)*

Unlike the Father and Son, who have a distinct form, the Holy Spirit can materialize in many shapes. When John baptized Jesus, the Holy Spirit was witnessed in the form of a dove.

*So Jesus was baptized. As soon as he came up out of the water, the sky opened, and he saw **God's Spirit** coming down on him like a **dove**.<sup>17</sup> A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the one I love. I am very pleased with him. (Matthew 3:16-17)*

In the following verses, Jesus asked God the Father to send the Holy Spirit in His place to help, support and comfort the believer forever. Jesus, the helper, is preparing to leave the earth but will not leave without leaving another helper in His place. Notice the pronoun him is used to describe the Holy Spirit. these verses clearly separate the deity of God into three distinctive beings.

*I will ask the **Father**, and **he** will give you **another** Helper to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup>The Helper is the **Spirit of truth**. The people of the world cannot accept him because they don't see **him** or know **him**. But you know **him**. **He** lives with you, and **he** will be in you. (John 14:16-17) Study more: (John 15:26) and (Ephesians 1:17)*

To fully understand how the Holy Spirit as a single individual can dwell with every believer and be everywhere at once is a mystery man cannot know. God made it clear when He said, *My ways are not your ways, and my thoughts are not your thoughts.* The sister worlds of material and spirit are different and until we see the spiritual dimension for ourselves we will not understand how this is possible.

I would like to share a thought that could help to illustrate the possibilities of the spiritual dimension. Electricity is a physical power source that we depend on every day in our material world. We can't see it, but we use it to live by daily. Electrical power is generated from a central location into a common network for the benefit of all. To take advantage of this wonderful power source, we need only to plug in! On a spiritual level, the power that comes from the presence of God is enough to light the world without the sun.

*The city did **not** need the **sun** or the moon to **shine** on it. The **glory** of God gave the city **light**. The Lamb was the city's lamp. The peoples of the **world** will walk by the **light given** by the Lamb. The city's gates will never close on any day because there is **no** night there. (Revelation 21:23,25)*

In the spiritual dimension, there is no need for artificial power; God is all in all. The Holy Spirit is able to transmit sufficient power to communicate with the entire universe. Think of the Holy Spirit as a cell phone grid without the use of hardware. Remember we are three part beings, body, soul, and spirit. Our spirit person is that part of us that bonds and communicates with God. If we choose to accept God's pardon and are cleared of any transgression, then we are filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and able to send and receive messages from God.

*When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.<sup>2</sup>Suddenly a noise **came** from **heaven**. It sounded like a strong wind blowing. This noise **filled** the whole house where they were sitting.<sup>3</sup>They saw something that looked like flames of fire. The flames were separated and stood over each person there. <sup>4</sup>They were all **filled** with the Holy Spirit, and they began to speak different languages. The Holy Spirit was **giving them the power to do this**. (Acts 2:1-4)*

In this way, the Holy Spirit can live with each individual believer on a personal level. This is how prayers are heard and answered, how emotion is felt and needs are met.

It is the divine party line generated by the all-powerful Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the life blood of the spiritual dimension!

The Holy Spirit is God and has all the attributes of God found in the previous verses. The earth and its domain were given to Jesus by the Father after Adam failed to hold it. Jesus reconciled the earth back to God by his death and resurrection. When He died on the cross, He was brought back to heaven to be with His Father. **The Holy Spirit remained to continue the work Jesus started. The following verses outline the Work of the Holy Spirit.**

*Nevertheless, I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. <sup>8</sup>And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: <sup>9</sup>of sin because they do not believe in Me; <sup>10</sup>of righteousness, because I go to My Father, and you see Me no more.*

*<sup>12</sup>“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.<sup>13</sup> However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. <sup>14</sup>He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup>All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore, I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you. (John 16:7-15)*

If this lesson has been of benefit in any way, please write and let me know and I will continue to add lessons in the future.