

# The Trinity: Three Foundational Truths

There are three pillars of biblical truth that teach God as three in person yet one in essence or being.

1. There is only one God.
2. The Father is divine. The Son is divine. The Spirit is divine.
3. The Father, Son, and Spirit are not the same.

## 1. There is Only One God

**Deuteronomy 6:4** says, "*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.*"

**Deuteronomy 10:14** says, "*Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it.*"

**Isaiah 43:10** says, "*“You are my witnesses,” declares the Lord, “and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me.”*

**Isaiah 44:6–8** says, "*Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: “I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. <sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. <sup>8</sup>Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any.”*

**Isaiah 45:21–22** says, "*Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me. <sup>22</sup>“Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.”*

## 2. The Father is God. The Son is God. The Spirit is God.

### A. The Father Is God

**John 6:27** says, "*Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal.*"

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

**Romans 1:7** says, "To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

**Galatians 1:1** says, "Paul, an apostle—not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead"

**1 Corinthians 8:6** says, "yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist."

**1 Corinthians 15:24** says, "Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power."

## **B. The Son Is God**

**John 1:1** says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"

**John 1:18** says, "No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known."

**John 20:28** says, "Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

**Romans 9:5** says, "To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen."

**Titus 2:13** says, "waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ"

**2 Peter 1:1** says, "Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ"

**Hebrews 1:8** says, "But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom" (quoting **Ps 45:6**).

## **C. The Spirit Is God**

**Acts 5:1–6** says, "But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property,<sup>2</sup> and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet.<sup>3</sup> But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?<sup>4</sup> While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to

God."<sup>5</sup>When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and breathed his last. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. <sup>6</sup>The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him."

**1 Corinthians 3:16** says, "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?"

**2 Corinthians 3:17** says, "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."

**Psalms 139:7–8** says, "Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence?<sup>8</sup>If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!"

**1 Corinthians 2:10–11** says, "these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God."

**John 3:5–7** says, "Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'" (cf. **1 John 3:9**, "born of God")

### **3. The Father, Son, and Spirit are not the same.**

**Isaiah 48:16** says, "Draw near to me, hear this: from the beginning I have not spoken in secret, from the time it came to be I have been there." And now the Lord God has sent me, and his Spirit."

**Matthew 3:16–17** says, "And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; <sup>17</sup>and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

**Matthew 28:19** says, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"

**2 Corinthians 13:14** says, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

**Ephesians 4:4–7** says, "There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—<sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. <sup>7</sup>But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift."

**1 Peter 1:2** says, "according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood"

**Jude 20–21** says, *"But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit,<sup>21</sup> keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life."*

From these Scriptures under pressure by false teachings, the ancient church wrote and accepted the following creed.

### **The Nicene Creed (325 AD)**

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of the same essence as the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the world to come. Amen.

### **Gloria Patri (2<sup>nd</sup> century)**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.