

The Holy Trinity

The Holy Trinity

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If this book is a soft cover it is in black and white print a digital colour copy can be found on padreaustralia.com¹ website free of charge. Email: padregraham8@gmail.com

¹ <http://padreaustralia.com/7-trumpets-a-overview/>

The Holy Trinity

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If there are any errors, please note I have very low vision and my team have done their best to correct.

Any perceived wisdom or understanding this book is from the Lord.

The Holy Trinity

The Glory of

The Holy Trinity

The Father

Jesus The Son and

The Holy Spirit

by

Rev'd Dr Graham J Whelan OAM

The Holy Trinity

Thank You

Grateful thanks to Dr Barry Gumm my colleague
and faithful Pastor of the truth of Holy Scripture.

The Holy Bible,
New International Version
The Zondervan Corporation
Grand Rapids, Michigan, 49530

The Holy Trinity

To Our Lord Jesus:

John 20.31

31 But these are written that you may d
believe that
Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and
that by believing
you may have life in his name.

Acts 4.12

12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there
is no other
name under heaven given to men by which
we must be
saved.”

The Name is Jesus the Lord

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These truths within are freely received and are freely given in the Name of the Father, Jesus the Son and The Holy Spirit – The Holy Trinity.

Remember, as elect of God we have a position with God:

2 Corinthians 5.17-18

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:

2 Timothy 4.8

8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

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Revelation 3.21

21 To him who overcomes, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne.

We as elect belong to God the Holy Trinity.

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Before you read this book

This book we believe has been inspired by the Holy Spirit. If you pray in the Holy Faith Jude:20 then we recommend that you pray for a period(s) of time before reading. If you have not received the Holy Faith given to you by the Holy Spirit we recommend you have a sincere prayer to The Lord God Almighty, that He helps you understand, fully comprehend and take action particularly when you arrive at the last two chapters before you continue further.

Jesus said in

John 4:23-24 NIV

23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.”

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Again, Jesus the Son of God said God seeks the “kind of worshipers” John 4:23-24 that worship Him in Spirit and Truth – Holy Spirit-Holy Ghost-Holy Faith worship is praying in Tongues, without the God given right to worship Him in the Holy Spirit Faith you cannot worship Him as HE seeks, desires and wants you to worship HIM.

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FORWARD

It is difficult for my finite mind even with the glorious guiding of The Holy Spirit – The Eternal Third Person of the Holy Trinity – to clearly define all the attributes or qualities of the Glory of The Holy Trinity – The One True God of the Bible – God in 3 Persons.

I enclose here and repeat later for emphasis the truth of God's Glory in Heaven.

The Holy Trinity

THE TRINITY IN EPHESIANS 1.1-14

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God,
To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus:

2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

4 For he (The Father) chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love

5 he (The Father) predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ (The Son), in accordance with his pleasure and will—

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6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One (Jesus) he loves.

7 In him (Jesus) we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's (The Trinity) grace (grace which came through Jesus).

8 that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

9 And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,

10 to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of

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him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,

12 in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

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The Holy Trinity, glorious Trinity. Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Baptism of Jesus clearly defines the Holy Trinity:

Mark 1.9-13

9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

10 As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

11 And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

12 At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert,

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13 and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

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GOD'S GLORY AS THE HOLY TRINITY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

What is God's Glory? God's Glory is the excellence of His Being. His attributes or qualities and the miracles or works He does.

Before determining all God's attributes or qualities I need to state there is no other God – Only the One True Lord God of the Holy Bible.

Isaiah 45:5

5 I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me, LORD (YAHWEH) is a Triune God – the Holy Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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The Holy Trinity is the God in Holy Scripture defined in:

Genesis 1:1

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Here “God” (Elohim – Plural noun) “created” (bara – Singular Verb). This is the first reference to Father, Son and Holy Spirit as defined in Scripture.

See also

Exodus 3:14

14 God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

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Here God reveals His Name YAHWEH (LORD)

Again Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The Hebrew name Elohim is God's decriptive or impersonal Name. His personal Name is YAHWEH (LORD).

All true born-again Bible believing Christians acknowledge our Triune God in the Creeds.

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THE THREE ECUMENICAL OR UNIVERSAL CREEDS

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy universal church; the communion of saints the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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Biblical references for the Apostles' Creed can be found online at the footnote below².

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

² <http://bookofconcord.org/creeds-apostle.php>

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For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried. On the third
day he rose again

In accordance with the Scriptures;

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right
hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and
the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of
life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and
glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic (universal) and
apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness
of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the
life of the world to come. Amen.

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The Athanasian Creed

Whosoever will be saved: before all things it is necessary that he hold the Catholick (Universal) Faith.

Which Faith except everyone do keep whole and undefiled: without doubt he shall perish everlastingly.

And the Catholick (Universal) Faith is this: That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity;

Neither confounding the Persons: nor dividing the Substance.

For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son: and another of the Holy Spirit.

But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, is all one: the Glory equal, the Majesty co-eternal.

Such as the Father is, such is the Son: and such is the Holy Spirit.

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The Father uncreate, the Son uncreate: and the Holy Spirit uncreate.

The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible: and the Holy Spirit incomprehensible.

The Father eternal, the Son eternal: and the Holy Spirit eternal.

And yet they are not three eternals: but one eternal.

As also there are not three incomprehensibles, nor three uncreated: but one uncreated, and one incomprehensible.

So likewise the Father is Almighty, the Son Almighty: and the Holy Spirit Almighty.

And yet they are not three Almighty: but one Almighty.

So the Father is God, the Son is God: and the Holy Spirit is God.

And yet they are not three Gods: but one God.

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So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son Lord: and the Holy Spirit Lord.

And yet not three Lords: but one Lord.

For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity: to acknowledge every Person by himself to be God and Lord;

So are we forbidden by the Catholick (Universal) Religion: to say there be three Gods, or three Lords.

The Father is made of none: neither created, nor begotten.

The Son is of the Father alone: not made, nor created, but begotten.

The Holy Spirit is of the Father and of the Son: neither made, nor created, nor begotten, but proceeding.

So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons: one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.

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And in this Trinity none is afore, or after other:
none is greater, or less than another;

But the whole three Persons are co-eternal
together: and co-equal.

So that in all things, as is aforesaid: the Unity in
Trinity, and the Trinity in Unity is to be
worshipped.

He therefore that will be saved: must thus think of
the Trinity.

Furthermore it is necessary to everlasting
salvation: that he also believe rightly the
Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For the right Faith is that we believe and confess:
that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God
and Man;

God, of the Substance of the Father, begotten
before the worlds: and Man, of the Substance of
his Mother, born in the world;

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Perfect God, and Perfect Man: of a reasonable soul and human flesh subsisting;

Equal to the Father, as touching his Godhead: and inferior to the Father, as touching his Manhood.

Who although he be God and Man: yet he is not two, but one Christ;

One, not by conversion of the Godhead into flesh: but by taking of the Manhood into God;

One altogether, not by confusion of Substance: but by unity of Person.

For as the reasonable soul and flesh is one man: so God and Man is one Christ.

Who suffered for our salvation: descended into hell, rose again the third day from the dead.

He ascended into heaven, he sitteth on the right hand of the Father, God Almighty: from whence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

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At whose coming all men shall rise again with their bodies: and shall give account for their own works.

And they that have done good shall go into life everlasting: and they that have done evil into everlasting fire.

This is the Catholick (universal) Faith: which except a man believe faithfully, he cannot be saved.

So returning to the question and truth of God's Glory what are the classifications of His attributes?

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THE HOLY TRINITY

SPIRITUALITY

God is Spirit, not physical except for Jesus in His second nature as Perfect Man (Athanasian Creed above).

John 4:23-24

23.....the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the **kind of worshipers the Father seeks.**

24 God is spirit, and his worshipers **must worship in spirit and in truth.**”

God the Father, Jesus’ Glory, His Divinity and the Holy Spirit is Invisible.

John 1:18

18 No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known.

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John 9:3

3 said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

1 Timothy 1:17

17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Timothy 6:15-16

15 which God will bring about in his own time— God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords,

16 who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honour and might forever. Amen.

God is not limited by a physical body nor the limitations of the geographical location.

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John 4:21

21 Jesus declared, “Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.

Acts 17:24

24 “The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands.

God is not limited by flesh and bones (except Jesus second nature as above).

Luke 24:36-39

36 While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

37 They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost.

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38 He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?”

39 Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”

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PERSONALITY

The One True LORD God of the Holy Scripture is a personal God. A Triune God of three Persons in perfect unity – again see Creeds above. As a personal God He has self-consciousness and a will. (See Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6). God has Names. In this passage-

Genesis 1:1

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Here we see the Name – God the Holy Trinity.

God (Hebrew is Elohim – a Plural noun).

Created (Hebrew is bara – a singular verb).

In Holy Scripture God has several Names – His important Name is taught:

Exodus 3:14

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14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Commentary on His Name follows under the sub-heading: Life.

Exodus 20:7

7 "You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name.

God, emphasizing The Person of the Father, is personal and warm in relationships of love and obedience.

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LIFE

Here we simply say – God is

Exodus 3:14

14 God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”

God says “I AM WHO I AM”. The Hebrew for this phrase is YAHWEH. This word is not printed in our Bibles and is translated for us as “LORD”.

Throughout Holy Scripture this word means the Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit acting in perfect unity.

God is always living:

Jeremiah 10:10-12

10 But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God, the eternal King. When he is angry, the earth trembles; the nations cannot endure his wrath.

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11 “Tell them this: ‘These gods, who did not make the heavens and the earth, will perish from the earth and from under the heavens.’”

12 But God made the earth by his power; he founded the world by his wisdom and stretched out the heavens by his understanding.

John 5:24-27

24 “I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

25 I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.

26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself.

27 And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

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I Thessalonians 1:9-10

9 for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,

10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

God needs nothing.

Acts 17:25

25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.

God chooses to use us. As elect we are part of **His Life**, for His perfect purposes. God first chooses and calls the elect and then chooses to use us.

John 6:37-40

37 All that the Father gives me will come to me,

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and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

38 For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.

39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.

40 For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

John 6:44

44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:65

65 He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has **enabled him.**"

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Ephesians 1:3-6

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love

5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—

6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Ephesians 2:10

10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

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INFINITY

In our humanity with finite minds I find it totally beyond my powers of reason to think of this.

In this attribute or quality, God is:

- ✓ Unlimited;
- ✓ Unlimitable;
- ✓ Boundless;
- ✓ Not subject to limitations of space;
- ✓ Before space;
- ✓ He who brought space (the Firmaments) and time into being.

Psalm 139:7-12

7 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.

9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,

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10 even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.

11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"

12 even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

Jeremiah 23:23-24

23 "Am I only a God nearby," declares the LORD, "and not a God far away?"

24 Can anyone hide in secret places so that I cannot see him?" declares the LORD. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the LORD.

Acts 17:24-25

24 "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands.

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25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.

In relation to the above qualities God is in charge of all time and all the ages.

Matthew 28:18-20

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19 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,

20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

The One True God of the bible The Holy Trinity is infinite over **all false gods:**

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1 Kings 18:20-39

20 So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel.

21 Elijah went before the people and said, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.” But the people said nothing.

22 Then Elijah said to them, “I am the only one of the LORD’s prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets.

23 Get two bulls for us. Let them choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it.

24 Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god

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who answers by fire— he is God.” Then all the people said, “What you say is good.”

25 Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire.”

26 So they took the bull given them and prepared it. Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. “O Baal, answer us!” they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.

27 At noon Elijah began to taunt them. “Shout louder!” he said. “Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened.”

28 So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed.

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29 Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention.

30 Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come here to me.” They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the LORD, which was in ruins.

31 Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, “Your name shall be Israel.”

32 With the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs of seed.

33 He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he said to them, “Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood.”

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34 “Do it again,” he said, and they did it again. “Do it a third time,” he ordered, and they did it the third time.

35 The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench.

36 At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: “O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command.

37 Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.”

38 Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.

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39 When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, “The LORD—he is God! The LORD—he is God!”

Confirming other attributes already mentioned, God of the Bible is **always being**. He is YAHWEH – I AM who I AM, I will be who I will be. God was, is and will be.

Psalm 90:1-2

1 LORD, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations.

2 Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Ephesians 3:21

21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

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Jude 25

25 to the only God our Saviour be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

God is before all things and at the end of all things.

Isaiah 44:6

6 “This is what the LORD says— Israel’s King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God.

Revelation 1:8

8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Revelation 21:5-7

5 He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write

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this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

6 He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life.

7 He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son.

Revelation 22:13

13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

A further dimension in God’s quality of infinity is the truth that His understanding is immeasurable.

Psalms 147:4-5

4 He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.

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5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.

God is all-seeing, He sees everywhere.

Proverbs 15:3

3 The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.

Matthew 10:29-33

29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father.

30 And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

31 So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

32 "Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven.

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33 But whoever disowns me before men, I will disown him before my Father in heaven.

God sees our hearts.

Hebrews 4:12-13

12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

The reality is simply that God knows.

Psalms 104:24

24 How many are your works, O LORD! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures.

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In the above verse – God knows, and wisdom is His actions of being totally successful in His knowledge and sustaining of His creation. Further this is expanded with His New Covenant Truth

Romans 11:33-12:2

11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

34 “Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?”

35 “Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?”

36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living

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sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

This truth is true wisdom in action – the action of being successful – not only now in this life, but through faith of Jesus the gift of God -faith in Jesus – successful for all eternity! (Romans 3:22).

In this study of the attributes of God's Glory, there are further considerations concerning the infinite or unlimited power in God's Name. The power in a Name –

Genesis 17:1

1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, "I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless.

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Here God is called “God Almighty”. In Hebrew, this is “El Shaddai”, emphasizing God’s invincible power and requiring us to acknowledge our faith and obedience to Him as LORD. God is almighty and nothing is “too hard” for Him for He has **determined His will.**

Genesis 18:10-14

10 Then the LORD said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.”

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him.

11 Abraham and Sarah were already old and well advanced in years, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing.

12 So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, “After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?”

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13 Then the LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really have a child, now that I am old?’

14 Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son.”

This happened! Nothing is too hard for God’s limitless or infinite power. **Nothing impossible.**

Jeremiah 32:15

15 For this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Houses, fields and vineyards will again be bought in this land.’

Jeremiah 32:17

17 “Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and out-stretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.

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Matthew 19:26

26 Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Further concerning God’s attributes and qualities especially in limitless power –

2 Kings 6:1-7

1 The company of the prophets said to Elisha, “Look, the place where we meet with you is too small for us.

2 Let us go to the Jordan, where each of us can get a pole; and let us build a place there for us to live.” And he said, “Go.”

3 Then one of them said, “Won’t you please come with your servants?” “I will,” Elisha replied.

4 And he went with them. They went to the Jordan and began to cut down trees.

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5 As one of them was cutting down a tree, the iron ax head fell into the water. “Oh, my lord,” he cried out, “it was borrowed!”

6 The man of God asked, “Where did it fall?” When he showed him the place, Elisha cut a stick and threw it there, and made the iron float.

7 “Lift it out,” he said. Then the man reached out his hand and took it.

Matthew 14:22-33

22 Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd.

23 After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,

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24 but the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

25 During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.

26 When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.

27 But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

28 “Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

29 “Come,” he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.

30 But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”

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31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

32 And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.

33 Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

Mark 4:35-41

35 That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.”

36 Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him.

37 A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped.

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38 Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?”

39 He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.

40 He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

41 They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”

When we read the truth of Lazarus we are amazed at the limitless power of God. There are over 300,000 sub-systems in the human body – and all were restored perfectly by a word from Jesus “come out”. Lazarus was dead for 4 days and this was a type-foretelling of Jesus teaching on His own resurrection. **Awesome limitless power!!**

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CONSTANCY

God's constancy describes His endurance and eternal faithfulness and changelessness and awesome power to stand firm eternally.

Psalm 33:10-12

10 The LORD foils the plans of the nations;
he thwarts the purposes of the peoples.

11 But the plans of the LORD stand firm
forever, the purposes of his heart through
all generations.

Psalm 102:12

12 But you, O LORD, sit enthroned forever;
your renown endures through all generations.

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Psalm 102:26-28

26 They will perish, but you remain, they will all wear out like a garment. Like clothing you will change them and they will be discarded.

27 But you remain the same, and your years will never end.

28 The children of your servants will live in your presence; their descendants will be established before you.”

And again, the LORD does not change for He keeps His promises unlike those who are disobedient.

Malachi 3:6-7

6 “I the LORD do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.

7 Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me,

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and I will return to you,” says the LORD Almighty. “But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’

James 1:16-18

16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers.

17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created.

It is important to add to the above truth that where God seems to change, His final decision is not actually altered, but rather He is waiting for a change of heart by those needing to be obedient in the working of His commands and plan. This is seen clearly in the truth about Jonah when he

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went finally in obedience to God and saw the LORD's compassion on the city which repented.

Jonah 3

1 Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time:

2 "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."

3 Jonah obeyed the word of the LORD and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very important city—a visit required three days.

4 On the first day, Jonah started into the city. He proclaimed: "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overturned."

5 The Ninevites believed God. They declared a fast, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth.

6 When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, took off

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his royal robes, covered himself with sackcloth and sat down in the dust.

7 Then he issued a proclamation in Nineveh: “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Do not let any man or beast, herd or flock, taste anything; do not let them eat or drink.

8 But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth. Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence.

9 Who knows? God may yet relent and with compassion turn from his fierce anger so that we will not perish.”

10 When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he had compassion and did not bring upon them the destruction he had threatened.

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THE HOLY TRINITY

- ATTRIBUTES OF GOODNESS

1. MORAL PURITY

God's Goodness we begin by understanding and knowing that His goodness is His virtues in action. When I think of the concept of virtue I am reminded of three basic virtues of faith, hope and love or charity.

1 Cor 13:13 says

“13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love”.

God's goodness as virtues are seen in His excellence in influencing or guiding people through the conviction of His Holy Spirit. As God works out His Purposes for humanity, His attributes of goodness are seen in His perfect moral qualities as

follows.

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(i) HOLINESS

God is without evil or sin. As will be seen from the references below, His attributes of holiness is about uniqueness. He is unique and separate from all creation.

Exodus 15:11-13

11 “Who among the gods is like you, O LORD? Who is like you majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?

12 You stretched out your right hand and the earth swallowed them.

13 “In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling.

1 Samuel 2:2

2 “There is no one holy like the LORD; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.

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Psalm 99:1-3

1 The LORD reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake.

2 Great is the LORD in Zion; he is exalted over all the nations.

3 Let them praise your great and awesome name— he is holy.

Isaiah 6:1-4

1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple.

2 Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.

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3 And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

Isaiah 57:15

15 For this is what the high and exalted One says—
he who lives forever, whose name is holy:
“I live in a high and holy place, but also
with the one who is contrite and lowly in
spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and
to revive the heart of the contrite.”

In the above references to “holy”, the Hebrew root is “qds” meaning “to cut”, “to separate” – “cut off” from all that is evil and sinful. It defines sacred. This equals God’s absolute purity, His goodness untouched by evil. **God is Holy.**

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Leviticus 11:44-45

44 I am the LORD your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy. Do not make yourselves unclean by any creature that moves about on the ground.

45 I am the LORD who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy.

Job 34:10-12

10 “So listen to me, you men of understanding. Far be it from God to do evil, from the Almighty to do wrong.

11 He repays a man for what he has done; he brings upon him what his conduct deserves.

12 It is unthinkable that God would do wrong, that the Almighty would pervert justice.

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Isaiah 6:5

5 “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”

Habakkuk 1:13

13 Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?

Matthew 5:48

48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

As we will see later in this book the only way to be perfect is to be perfect in all one says and; the only way to do that is through the power of the Holy Spirit.

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James 3:2

2 We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

How important it is for his elect to walk in The Holy Spirit.

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(ii) RIGHTEOUSNESS

God's Righteousness is the second quality of God's moral purity. This is God's Holiness applied to His relationships with people. In this truth of the subject of God's Glory, His truth is not discussing man's righteousness – righteousness credited to man from God through faith but – it concerns the subject of God's Righteousness. God's Righteous is all to do with His commitment to His purposes. His purposes in Holy Scripture is salvation of His elect. So, God's Righteousness is His commitment to do for His people, His chosen, His elect whom He regenerates and saves, what they cannot do for themselves. We cannot save ourselves for eternity. It is to do with the side of God's perfect justice which deals with our rescue and acquittal, through the death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus our Lord and Saviour and substitute. God's righteous actions are always in line with His perfect law. It needs to be said here, but it is a different subject, the difference between law and its relation to sin in humanity.

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Romans 8:1-5

1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

3 For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man,

4 in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

5 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

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In the above passage “the law of the Spirit of Life” refers to the controlling power of God’s Holy Spirit in the life of the elect. Also “The Law of sin” refers to the controlling power of sin. The Law only defines or points out a sin. It can condemn a sin but cannot remove sin. Only Jesus can do this – and this is a separate subject.

This subject in the attributes of God’s Glory and His Righteousness at this point focuses on God.

Genesis 18:25

25 Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

Psalms 9:8

8 He will judge the world in righteousness; he will govern the peoples with justice.

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Psalm 19:7-9

7 The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple.

8 The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes.

9 The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous.

Jeremiah 9:23-24

23 This is what the LORD says: “Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches,

24 but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness,

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justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,”

Jeremiah 23:6

6 In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called:

The LORD **Our** Righteousness.

Micah 7:9

9 Because I have sinned against him, I will bear the LORD’s wrath, until he pleads my case and establishes my right. He will bring me out into the light; I will see his righteousness.

(iii) JUSTICE

As defined in notes on God’s Righteousness above, God’s Justice acts in conformity with His

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law. He administers His rule with perfect Justice – Justice which deals with the rescue, redeeming and acquittal of the elect in Jesus His Saving Son.

Genesis 2:15-17

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;

17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”

Deuteronomy 7:7-12

7 The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples.

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8 But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh, King of Egypt.

9 Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.

10 But those who hate him he will repay to their face by destruction; he will not be slow to repay to their face those who hate him.

11 Therefore, take care to follow the commands, decrees and laws I give you today.

12 If you pay attention to these laws and are careful to follow them, then the LORD your God will keep his covenant of love with you, as he swore to your forefathers.

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Psalm 58:11

11 Then men will say, “Surely the righteous still are rewarded; surely there is a God who judges the earth.”

Amos 5:24

24 But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!

Romans 6:23

23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 12:19

19 Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord.

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2. INTEGRITY

(i) Genuineness

The attribute or quality of God's Genuineness focuses on the fact He is a real God not a false god. The wonderful truth of Elijah on Mount Carmel and the fact that the God of Holy Scripture is the one and only true God (I Kings 18:20-39), is proven in this reference. Also the above shows God's integrity – definitely His genuineness, soundness, honesty and wholeness. True God.

Jeremiah 10:1-10

1 Hear what the LORD says to you, O house of Israel.

2 This is what the LORD says: "Do not learn the ways of the nations or be terrified by signs in the sky, though the nations are terrified by them.

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3 For the customs of the peoples are worthless; they cut a tree out of the forest, and a craftsman shapes it with his chisel.

4 They adorn it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so it will not totter.

5 Like a scarecrow in a melon patch, their idols cannot speak; they must be carried because they cannot walk. Do not fear them; they can do no harm nor can they do any good.”

6 No one is like you, O LORD; you are great, and your name is mighty in power.

7 Who should not revere you, O King of the nations? This is your due. Among all the wise men of the nations and in all their kingdoms, there is no one like you.

8 They are all senseless and foolish; they are taught by worthless wooden idols.

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9 Hammered silver is brought from Tarshish and gold from Uphaz. What the craftsman and goldsmith have made is then dressed in blue and purple—all made by skilled workers.

10 But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God, the eternal King. When he is angry, the earth trembles; the nations cannot endure his wrath.

John 17:1-3

1 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed:

“Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.

2 For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.

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3 Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

I Thessalonians 1:9

9 for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God,

1 John 5:20

20 We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true—even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

Revelation 3:7

7 “To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David.

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What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

Revelation 6:10

10 They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?”

(ii) Veracity

This quality refers to the fact that God in Trinity is truth and thus represents things as they actually are.

1 Samuel 15:29

29 He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a man, that he should change his mind.”

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John 17:17

17 Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

Titus 1:1-2

1 Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness

2 a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time,

Hebrews 6:13-19

13 When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself,

14 saying, "I will surely bless you and give you many descendants."

The Holy Trinity

15 And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.

16 Men swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument.

17 Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very clear to the heirs of what was promised, he confirmed it with an oath.

18 God did this so that, by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled to take hold of the hope offered to us may be greatly encouraged.

19 We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure....

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The above last reference is a great encouragement to the elect in our ministry to continue to be true and honest in the teaching of Holy Scripture enabled by the Holy Spirit.

2 Corinthians 4:1-2

1 Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart.

2 Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

The Holy Trinity

(iii) Faithfulness

God's faithfulness is true proof of His genuineness, that is being true, and His veracity, that is always telling the absolute truth.

1 Corinthians 1:9

9 God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

2 Corinthians 1:17-22

17 When I planned this, did I do it lightly? Or do I make my plans in a worldly manner so that in the same breath I say, "Yes, yes" and "No, no"?

18 But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not "Yes" and "No."

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19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by me and Silas and Timothy, was not “Yes” and “No,” but in him it has always been “Yes.”

20 For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.

21 Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us,

22 set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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24 The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.

2 Timothy 2:13

13 if we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself.

1 Peter 4:17-19

17 For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?

18 And, “If it is hard for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?”

19 So then, those who suffer according to God’s will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good.

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Further in this attribute of the Faithfulness of God we know from Holy Scripture that God always fulfils His promises. So should we.

Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Ecclesiastes 5:4-5

4 When you make a vow to God, do not delay in fulfilling it. He has no pleasure in fools; fulfill your vow.

5 It is better not to vow than to make a vow and not fulfill it.

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Matthew 5:37

37 All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No';.....

Hebrews 13:5

5 ...God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

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3. LOVE

To begin this section before looking at relevant attributes there are some important truths from scripture on God's Love.

Matthew 3:17

17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

John 14:30-31

30 I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me,

31 but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me. "Come now; let us leave.

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1 Corinthians 13:11

11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.

1 John 4:8, 16

8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.
God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.

The Holy Trinity

(i) Benevolence

God's Benevolence is His charitable qualities in action – His faithfulness in meeting the specific needs of His people – His elect – those born-again and in Him and His Son Jesus and filled with His Holy Spirit. Simply it is God's welfare for those He loves eternally. Concerning welfare of those mentioned above Holy Scripture gives a perfect example in three parables in Luke's Gospel. They are all printed for emphasis. God seeks us out.

Luke 15

1 Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear him.

2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

3 Then Jesus told them this parable:

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4 “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?

5 And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders

6 and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’

7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

8 “Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?

9 And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbours together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’

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10 In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

11 Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons.

12 The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

13 “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.

14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.

15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs.

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16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!

18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.’

20 So he got up and went to his father. “But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

21 “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

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22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate.

24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

25 “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing.

26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on.

27 ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

28 “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him.

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29 But he answered his father, 'Look! All these years I've been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends.

30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!'

31 "'My son,' the father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.

32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.'"

John 3:16

16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

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John 6:37, 39, 40, 44, 65

37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.

40 For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

65 He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him."

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John 15:9-17

9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love.

10 If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love.

11 I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

13 Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.

14 You are my friends if you do what I command.

15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

The Holy Trinity

16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

17 This is my command: Love each other.

1 John 4:10

10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Romans 5:6-10

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die.

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8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!

10 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!

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(ii) Grace

When I was young – a long time ago – there were two definitions for God’s Grace:

- The free unmerited favour of God – The One True God of the Bible.
- G God’s favour and
R Righteousness
A At
C Christ’s His Son’s
E Expense – The carrying out of His mission to save the elect.

Grace is the epitome of His outworking of His wonderful Love. Grace is God’s love in action for His elect, His people, His chosen ones. It is nothing to do with our merit. It is all to do with why we worship Him – His Glory – it is His “Worth” – His “Worth Ship” – Our worship of a great, glorious true loving God who has redeemed us through

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the mission of His Glorious Son our Lords
Jesus – our Saviour. God is so loving and
gracious.

Exodus 34:6

6 And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming,
“The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and
gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love
and faithfulness,

Psalm 86:11-15

11 Teach me your way, LORD, that I may
rely on your faithfulness, give me an
undivided heart, that I may fear your
name.

12 I will praise you, Lord my God, with all
my heart; I will glorify your name forever.

13 For great is your love toward me; you
have delivered me from the depths, from
the realm of the dead.

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14 Arrogant foes are attacking me, O God; ruthless people are trying to kill me—they have no regard for you.

15 But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

Psalm 103:1-4

1 Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

2 Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—

3 who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

4 who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion,

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Ephesians 1:5-8

5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will

6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

8 that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

Ephesians 2:4-10

4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,

5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

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6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,

7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God

9 not by works, so that no one can boast.

10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Titus 2:11-13

11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.

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12 It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,

13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ,

Titus 3:3-7

3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.

4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared,

5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

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6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour,

7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

It is a joy to focus on the truth that our salvation – our Holy faith is a gift. Through the faith **of** Jesus, we have Holy faith **in** Jesus (Romans 3:22 and Jude 20-21).

(iii) Mercy

God's Mercy is His attribute of being eternally tender-hearted with loving compassion to those who are faithfully obedient to His perfect will and commands.

Psalm 86:1-7

1 Hear, O LORD, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.

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2 Guard my life, for I am devoted to you. You are my God; save your servant who trusts in you.

3 Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I call to you all day long.

4 Bring joy to your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

5 You are forgiving and good, O Lord, abounding in love to all who call to you.

6 Hear my prayer, O LORD; listen to my cry for mercy.

7 In the day of my trouble I will call to you, for you will answer me.

Psalm 103:8-14

8 The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.

The Holy Trinity

9 He will not always accuse, nor will he harbour his anger forever;

10 he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him;

12 as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

13 As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

14 for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.

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Matthew 9:35-36

35 Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.

36 When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed (by spirits & pharisee's) and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

Mark 1:40-41

40 A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean."

41 Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!"

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Mark 6:30-34

30 The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught.

31 Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, “Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.”

32 So they went away by themselves in a boat to a solitary place.

33 But many who saw them leaving recognized them and ran on foot from all the towns and got there ahead of them.

34 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So he began teaching them many things.

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(iv) Persistence

This attribute of God's Glory in His Glorious Trinity, is to do with His eternal "keeping on – Keeping on" – continuing in His purposes.

Exodus 34:5-7

5 Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD.

6 And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness,

7 maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation."

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Psalm 86:11-15

11 Teach me your way, LORD, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.

12 I will praise you, LORD my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever.

13 For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the depths, from the realm of the dead.

14 Arrogant foes are attacking me, O God, ruthless people are trying to kill me - they have no regard for you.

15 But you, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness.

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Matthew 6:12

12 Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

John 15:12

12 My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.

1 Peter 3:18-20

18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit,

19 through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison

20 who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water,

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2 Peter 3:9

9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

1 John 2:7-11

7 Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard.

8 Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

9 Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness.

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10 Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble.

11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him.

1 John 3:11-18

11 Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us.

13 We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world.

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15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God.

16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him.

17 In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him.

18 There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

I am so thankful that this question was asked when I was commenting on the miracle of Our Lord Jesus raising His friend Lazarus from the dead.

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This was a type/foretelling of what Our Lord would do about His death and resurrection. What hope we have in Him!! What joy about our eternal future! May we all take strength in the power of His Holy Spirit in our lives as we strive in this evil world to please Our Lord Jesus.

Again, the question – What is God’s Glory?

When we discussed the truth of the raising of Lazarus a wonderful friend – a senior army officer in our lunch group named Barnabas mentioned it was about the “Glory of God” and yes, it is!

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GOD THE FATHER FIRST PERSON OF THE HOLY TRINITY

In this chapter I need to overview the truths of the Father's Glory defined in Holy Scripture. I thank the additional work by authors referenced.

Firstly, Revelation Chapter 4 to 5.13

1 After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."

2 At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.

3 And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian. A

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rainbow, resembling an emerald, encircled the throne.

4 Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads.

5 From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. Before the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God.

6 Also before the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back.

7 The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle.

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8 Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying:

“Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God Almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.”

9 Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever,

10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

11 “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

5.1 Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the

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throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals.

2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?”

3 But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it.

4 I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.

5 Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

6 Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the

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four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits a of God sent out into all the earth.

7 He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.

8 And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

9 And they sang a new song:

“You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
because you were slain,
and with your blood you
purchased men for God
from every tribe and language
and people and nation.

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10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”

11 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders.

12 In a loud voice they sang:

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and
wealth and wisdom and
strength and
honor and
glory and
praise!”

13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing:

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“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!”

The above passage is God’s Glory in real reality now in His Eternity. It is the eternal reality of Heaven now.

Before focusing on key areas defined above I wish to focus simply on God the Father defined in the Old Testament.

God The Father in the Old Testament

In the Old Testament, the Father is not specifically defined. He is seen as First Person of the LORD. We know He is the First Person of the Trinity as already defined in the creeds earlier.

Specific references:

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Psalm 2.7

7 I will proclaim the decree of the LORD:
He said to me, "You are my Son; today I
have become your Father.

Psalm 89.26

26 He will call out to me, 'You are my
Father, my God, the Rock my Savior.'

Isaiah 63.16

16 But you are our Father, though
Abraham does not know us or Israel
acknowledge us; you, O LORD, are our
Father, our Redeemer from of old is your
name.

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God the Father in the New Testament

Specific References:

Matthew 6.9

9 “This, then, is how you should pray:
“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your
name,

Matthew 6.26

26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not
sow or reap or store away in barns, and
yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are
you not much more valuable than they?

Matthew 11.27

27 “All things have been committed to me
by my Father.
No one knows the Son except the Father,
and no one knows the Father except the
Son and those to whom the Son chooses
to reveal him.

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John 3.35

35 The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands.

John 5.17

17 Jesus said to them, “My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working.”

John 5.18

18 For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

John 5.20

20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these.

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John 6.44-46

44 “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

45 It is written in the Prophets: ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me.

46 No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father.

Amazing and awesome truth:

John 8

1 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

2 At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them.

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3 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group

4 and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery.

5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?”

6 They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. **But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger.**

7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.”

8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

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9 At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there.

10 Jesus straightened up And asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

11 “No one, sir,” she said. “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

13 The Pharisees challenged him, “Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid.”

14 Jesus answered, “Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I

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know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going.

15 You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one.

16 But if I do judge, my decisions are right, because I am not alone. **I stand with the Father, who sent me.**

17 In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two men is valid.

18 I am one who testifies for myself; **my other witness is the Father, who sent me.**"

19 **Then they asked him, "Where is your father?"**

"You do not know me or my Father,"
Jesus replied. **"If you knew me, you would know my Father also."**

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20 He spoke these words while teaching in the temple area near the place where the offerings were put. Yet no one seized him, because his time had not yet come.

21 Once more Jesus said to them, “I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come.”

22 This made the Jews ask, “Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, ‘Where I go, you cannot come’?”

23 But he continued, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.

24 I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins.”

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25 “Who are you?” they asked. “Just what I have been claiming all along,” Jesus replied.

26 “I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is reliable, and what I have heard from him I tell the world.”

27 They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father.

28 So Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.

29 The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.”

30 Even as he spoke, many put their faith in him.

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31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.

32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

33 They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?”

34 Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.

35 Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever.

36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

37 I know you are Abraham’s descendants. Yet you are ready to kill me, because you have no room for my word.

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38 **I am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence**, and you do what you have heard from your father."

39 "Abraham is our father," they answered. "If you were Abraham's children," said Jesus, "then you would do the things Abraham did.

40 As it is, you are determined to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things.

41 You are doing the things your own father does." "We are not illegitimate children," they protested. "The only Father we have is God himself."

42 Jesus said to them, "**If God were your Father, you** would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me.

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43 Why is my language not clear to you?
Because you are unable to hear what I say.

44 You belong to your father, the devil,
and you want to carry out your father's
desire. He was a murderer from the
beginning, not holding to the truth, for
there is no truth in him. When he lies, he
speaks his native language, for he is a liar
and the father of lies.

45 Yet because I tell the truth, you do not
believe me!

46 Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If
I am telling
the truth, why don't you believe me?

47 He who belongs to God hears what God
says. The reason you do not hear is that
you do not belong to God."

48 The Jews answered him, "Aren't we
right in saying that you are a Samaritan
and demon-possessed?"

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49 “I am not possessed by a demon,” said Jesus, “**but I honor my Father** and you dishonor me.

50 I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge.

51 I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.”

52 At this the Jews exclaimed, “Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that if anyone keeps your word, he will never taste death.

53 Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?”

54 Jesus replied, “If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. **My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the**

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one who glorifies me.

55 Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and keep his word.

56 Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.”

57 “You are not yet fifty years old,” the Jews said to him, “and you have seen Abraham!”

58 “I tell you the truth,” Jesus answered, “before Abraham was born, I am!”

59 At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

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John 10.30

30 I and the Father are one.

John 14.6

6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14.9

9 Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

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John 17.1-5

After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.

2 For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.

3 Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

4 I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.

5 And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

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Philippians 2.11

11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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The Holy Trinity and the Adoption of the Elect

We see the Holy Trinity again for emphasis:

Ephesians 1.1-14

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints in Ephesus, a the faithful b in Christ Jesus:

2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

4 For he (The Father) chose us in him (The Father) before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love

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5 he (The Father) predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—

6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

8 that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

9 And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ,

10 to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

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11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,

12 in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,

14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

The following confirms the truth of Ephesians 1.1-14:

Concerning adoption, I am interested in some comments by Grudem about sovereignty and the

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eternal grace of Jesus. Grudem also has some interesting thoughts on adoption which he discusses in Schreiner in his contribution “Perseverance of the Saints.” Grudem in an interesting way lists “regeneration, justification and adoption,” as “entirely works of God,” as noted above which ³correlates to Erickson’s comments on election as part of God’s work and thus part of the sovereignty of God. The Father he suggests that conversion “which includes repentance from sins and faith in Christ...is entirely a work of man.”

I disagree with Grudem’s comments and focus firstly on the truth that faith is not the work of man but rather given as a gift from God (Eph 2:5-8). This truth will be defined fully in the chapter: GOD THE SON. Jesus is the faithful One who gives faith on regeneration (Rom 3:22, 26). This

³ Wayne Grudem, “Perseverance of the Saints: A Case Study from the Warning Passages in Hebrews.” In Still Sovereign eds. Thomas R Schriener, Bruce A Ware (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000), p 135
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faithfulness of Jesus gives strength to each elect to “keep on believing – keep on trusting.” This is the work of Jesus, the Son of God. Obedience is the work of man and is part of the process is conversion which is man’s response (Jn 14:15; 15:9, 10). All the wisdom of the elect is in Jesus. In order to examine this truth I need to examine several key areas of doctrine – namely the sovereignty of God. It is about God’s sovereignty when calling and drawing the elect. I have observed that there is confusion among authors when examining their subject in the definition of the word “conversion.” This can be seen when studying the Book of Acts, especially Chapter 9 dealing with the conversion of Paul which should commence initially not the conversion of Paul but the regeneration of Paul after he had the vision of Jesus on the road to Damascus.

A person before regeneration “has no moral ability to believe, and the only way they will believe is if they are given by the Father to the

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Son....”⁴ I view repentance in a sense of obedience to Jesus as noted. I am also reminded of a truth, again, for example, that I decided to believe in Jesus ... and chose to follow Jesus – then after regeneration realized through the Holy Spirit’s anointing that in eternity past Jesus decided for me ... and Jesus chose me (Eph 1:4; Jn 6:37, 44, 65; 10:29). These references are discussed and printed.

Having said this, I also agree with Schreiner - “however, most evangelicals, including me, understand repentance from sin to be an essential part of true conversion and argue that no-one can genuinely trust Christ as a Saviour from his or her sins unless the person has repented of those sins. I need to add again – God’s sovereign regeneration including calling and drawing also includes conviction of the elect to repent and thus

⁴ Thomas R Schreiner, “Does Scripture Teach Prevenient Grace in the Wesleyan Sense?” In Still Sovereign eds. Thomas r Schreiner, Bruce A Ware (Grand Rapids: Baker books, 2000), p 243

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initiating the process of conversion, the process of knowing and growing.

Therefore, although justification is by faith alone, faith is always accompanied by repentance, and always results in a changed pattern of life.

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The Fathers Effectual Call

The references below are repeated again for emphasis:

Matthew 6.9

9 “This, then, is how you should pray:
“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

Matthew 6.26

26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

Matthew 11.27

27 “All things have been committed to me by my Father.
No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the

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Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

John 3.35

35 The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands.

John 5.17

17 Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working."

John 5.18

18 For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill him; not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God.

John 5.20

20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement

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he will show him even greater things than these.

John 6.44-46

44 “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

45 It is written in the Prophets: ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me.

46 No one has seen the Father except the one who is from God; only he has seen the Father.

Please read again John 6.37-68. This wonderful truth is the work of the Holy Trinity given with authority to Jesus. The Cross is His eternal victory over eternal death. **The elect belong to God** as John records in John 8.47 which follows. Please read John 8 carefully.

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John 8

1 But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives.

2 At dawn he appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered around him, and he sat down to teach them.

3 The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group

4 and said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery.

5 In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?”

6 They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him. But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger.

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7 When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “If any one of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.”

8 Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

9 At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there.

10 Jesus straightened up And asked her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?”

11 “No one, sir,” she said. “Then neither do I condemn you,” Jesus declared. “Go now and leave your life of sin.”

12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I

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am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

13 The Pharisees challenged him, “Here you are, appearing as your own witness; your testimony is not valid.”

14 Jesus answered, “Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going.

15 You judge by human standards; I pass judgment on no one.

16 But if I do judge, my decisions are right, because I am not alone. I stand with the Father, who sent me.

17 In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two men is valid.

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18 I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me.”

19 Then they asked him, “Where is your father?” “You do not know me or my Father,” Jesus replied. “If you knew me, you would know my Father also.”

20 He spoke these words while teaching in the temple area near the place where the offerings were put. Yet no one seized him, because his time had not yet come.

21 Once more Jesus said to them, “I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come.”

22 This made the Jews ask, “Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, ‘Where I go, you cannot come’?”

23 But he continued, “You are from below; I am from

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above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.

24 I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins.”

25 “Who are you?” they asked. “Just what I have been claiming all along,” Jesus replied.

26 “I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is reliable, and what I have heard from him I tell the world.”

27 They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father.

28 So Jesus said, “When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.

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29 The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.”

30 Even as he spoke, many put their faith in him.

31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.

32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

33 They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?”

34 Jesus replied, “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.

35 Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever.

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36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

37 I know you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are ready to kill me, because you have no room for my word.

38 I am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence, and you do what you have heard from your father."

39 "Abraham is our father," they answered. "If you were Abraham's children," said Jesus, "then you would do the things Abraham did.

40 As it is, you are determined to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham did not do such things.

41 You are doing the things your own father does." "We are not illegitimate children," they protested.

"The only Father we have is God himself."

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42 Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me.

43 Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say.

44 You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

45 Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe me!

46 Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? If I am telling the truth, why don’t you believe me?

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47 He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God.”

48 The Jews answered him, “Aren’t we right in saying that you are a Samaritan and demon-possessed?”

49 “I am not possessed by a demon,” said Jesus, “but I honor my Father and you dishonor me.

50 I am not seeking glory for myself; but there is one who seeks it, and he is the judge.

51 I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.”

52 At this the Jews exclaimed, “Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that if anyone keeps your word, he will never taste death.

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53 Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are?"

54 Jesus replied, "If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me.

55 Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and keep his word.

56 Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad."

57 "You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!"

58 "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"

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59 At this, they picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

John 10.30

30 **I and the Father are one.**

John 14.6

6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 14.9

9 Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

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John 17.1-5

1 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.

2 For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.

3 Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

4 I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.

5 And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

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Philippians 2.11

11 and every tongue confess that Jesus
Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Ware discusses effectual calling and grace, which I view as one of the most marvellous doctrines demonstrating the sovereignty of God the Holy Trinity. Ware explains that the doctrine “refers more specifically to God’s inward and ultimately persuasive summons to repent of sin and turn to Christ for salvation.”⁵ I am humbled by this great comfort, yet sorrowful because of the fact that not all are given the call and are saved.

Clowney expands on these ideas on effectual call

⁵ Bruce A Ware, “Effectual Calling and Grace” in Still Sovereign eds. Thomas R Schreiner, Bruce A Ware (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000), p 211

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in his comments on preaching and the sovereignty of God, when he discusses the call of Saul, now Paul, who “came as a servant of the Lord preaching the Good News of God’s salvation (Acts 13:47).”⁶ The sovereignty of God is clearly demonstrated in Paul proclaiming and preaching the salvation of God’s calling and only through God’s power. My sorrow, mentioned above, is compared to the great sorrow of Paul when he himself expressed the grief of the Jews’ rejection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Clowney notes a very important point concerning God’s sovereignty that “God’s word did not fail, for His purposes stand in those whom He has chosen ... God chose Isaac not Ishmael; Jacob not Esau ...”⁷

⁶ Edmund P Clowney, “Preaching and the Sovereignty of God” in Still Sovereign eds Thomas R Schreiner, Bruce A Ware (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000), p 335

⁷ Ibid.

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Further on election – Gospel of John, Yarbrough in Schreiner comments on divine election in the Gospel of John beginning with an interesting point that election is “implicit in John’s opening words, ‘in the beginning ...’ (1:1), a clear echo of Genesis 1:1.”⁸ Creation and redemption are spoken of here and explained clearly that “God is, and that He willed to create and to save ... God chose to send the light, not because but in spite of human desire and readiness for it.”⁹

Whilst commenting on divine election in the Gospel of John, Yarbrough in Schreiner also comments on creation. He explains “creation, and accordingly also redemption, can have no other explanation than that God is, and that He willed to create and to save.”¹⁰

⁸ Robert W Yarbrough, “Divine Election in the Gospel of John” in Still Sovereign eds Thomas R Schreiner, Bruce A Ware (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000), p 48

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

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GOD THE SON THE DEITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

THE SECOND PERSON OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Mark 1.1-11

1 The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. (The Holy Trinity).

2 It is written in Isaiah the prophet: “I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way”

3 “a voice of one calling in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

4 And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

5 The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him.

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Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

6 John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

7 And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.

8 I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.

10 As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

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11 And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”

John 1.1-5

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was with God in the beginning.

3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

5 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

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John 1.10-12

10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—

John 1.14, 17

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

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John 3.16, 36

16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

36 Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him.”

Colossians 1.15-20

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

16 For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.

17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

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18 And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,

20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

Hebrews 1.1-13

1 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways,

2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.

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3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

4 So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.

5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"

6 And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

7 In speaking of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, his servants flames of fire."

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8 But about the Son he says, “Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom.

9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.”

10 He also says, “In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands.

11 They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment.

12 You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end.”

13 To which of the angels did God ever say, “Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet”

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John 14.6

6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 17.1-5

1 After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: “Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.

2 For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him.

3 Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

4 I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.

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5 And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

Matthew 28.18-20

18 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

19 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,

20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

I now turn to “the truth of the deity of Jesus” and the fact that for eternity He is the believers’ righteousness and wisdom (cf again Lk 24:27 and associated Old Testament references as listed). I begin the discussion on the deity of Jesus by

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looking at comments by Griffith Thomas concerning the atoning propitiation sacrifice of Jesus and His righteousness which is imputed to the believer. Griffith Thomas states “It is not enough that our Lord’s death occurred in history; it must also become part of our personal experience, in order that it may be a spiritual force in our life.”¹¹ He goes on to explain Article 11 in the Book of Common Prayer – “We are accounted righteous before God, only for the merit of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by faith, and not for our own works ...”¹² Commenting on Article 11 Griffith Thomas suggest that it is the compliment of Article 2 – “The Son which is the Word of the Father, begotten from everlasting of the Father, the very and eternal God, and of one substance with the Father, took man’s nature....”¹³ I observe from Griffith Thomas’ comments the

¹¹ W H Griffith Thomas, The Catholic Faith. (London: Church Book Room Press Ltd, 1966), p 54

¹² Ibid, 55

¹³ Ibid.

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valuable truth that Jesus is the eternal second Person, the Son from everlasting, the eternal Living Word (Jn 1:1). Where I have said “observes above”, I need to expand this important truth noted by Griffith Thomas concerning “...imputed to the believer.” The phrase above “...imputed to the believer...” is wonderful for the analysis required for the original dissertation. For the review of Erickson’s logical order, I need to highlight this following truth. On regeneration the new believer knows almost nothing of the truths of faith God has just given but knows he/she has been born again – born anew – born from above (Jn 3:7). Being filled with the Holy Spirit and knowing this glorious anointing (1 Jn 2:20ff) this imputation is amazing. On regeneration, on being saved, salvation is not lost (Lk 19:10; Heb 13:5). Each new believer now begins to know and grow in obedience. Of course there is a warning in relation to sin as already noted above (Rom 6:1-18). This warning is highlighted in the following passage:

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Hebrews 6.1-20

1 Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God,

2 instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.

3 And God permitting, we will do so.

4 It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit,

5 who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age,

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6 if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.

7 Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God.

8 But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.

9 Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are confident of better things in your case – things that accompany salvation.

10 God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

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11 We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure.

12 We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.

13 When God made his promise to Abraham, since there was no one greater for him to swear by, he swore by himself,

14 saying, “I will surely bless you and give you many descendants.”

15 And so after waiting patiently, Abraham received what was promised.

16 Men swear by someone greater than themselves, and the oath confirms what is said and puts an end to all argument.

17 Because God wanted to make the unchanging nature of his purpose very

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clear to the heirs of what was promised,
he confirmed it with an oath.

18 God did this so that, by two
unchangeable things in which it is
impossible for God to lie, we who have
fled to take hold of the hope offered to us
may be greatly encouraged.

19 We have this hope as an anchor for the
soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner
sanctuary behind the curtain,

20 where Jesus, who went before us, has
entered on our behalf. He has become a
high priest forever, in the order of
Melchizedek.

Thus we need to simply focus on the truth we are
Given by God the Father to God the Son.

When we consider the doctrine of effectual calling
and grace, the Father and the Son work in perfect
unity. Remember Jesus said:

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John 10.27-30

27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.

28 I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.

29 My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.

30 I and the Father are one."

John 10.36-38

36 what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'?

37 Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does.

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38 But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father.”

John was confirming what he recorded about Jesus:

John 1.12

12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—

This confirms what I have said in other writings, that you have to be given something before you can “receive”. The elect are given by the Father to the Son. The following references have been quoted many times and are repeated for emphasis. It is so important to remember and read Holy Scripture.

Jesus said:

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John 5.24-27

24 “I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

25 I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live.

26 For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself.

27 And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man.

John 6.37-40

37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

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38 For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.

39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day.

40 For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

John 6.44

44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

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John 6.65

65 He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him.”

The effectual call is from the Father and the Son – clearly seen through the Holy Spirit’s guidance Jesus said:

John 15.15-16

15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit— fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

The Apostle Paul, also guided by the Holy Spirit knew this truth:

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Ephesians 1.3-7

3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

4 For he (The Father) chose us in him (the Father) before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love

5 he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—

6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

It's wonderful to focus again on the truth of the selfless love of Jesus – His dedication to “save His

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people from their sins” (Mt 1:21) – His obligatory love, His mission and duty in obedience to His Father to complete the Father’s purposes – the redemption of the elect.

Further on effectual calling and grace I focus on the most positive mindset possible – that concerning a further analysis of Jesus’ authority.

Luke 19.10

“The Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost”

This is the epitome of God’s wisdom in Jesus.

Ware discusses effectual calling and grace. Here I emphasize the grace of Jesus:

“John testifies concerning Him. He cries out, saying ‘This was He of whom I said, He who comes after me has surpassed me because He was before me. From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the

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law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No-one has ever seen God but only God the One and only begotten Son who is at the Father's side, has made Him known.” (Jn 1:15-18)

I view this as one of the most marvelous doctrines demonstrating the righteousness and wisdom and sovereignty of God the Holy Trinity in Jesus. It is Jesus' righteousness and wisdom – mainly His success to His people in His love. Ware's comments add to Erickson. I have mentioned before I disagree with Erickson in that I believe the order is regeneration and conversion – the calling, a “persuasive summons”, as Ware explains below.

Ware explains that the doctrine “refers more specifically to God's inward and ultimately persuasive summons to repent of sin and turn to

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Christ for salvation.”¹⁴ I am humbled by this great comfort. Again I am reminded of the truths:

“God presented Him (Jesus) as a sacrifice of atonement (propitiation) through faith in His blood. He did this to demonstrate His justice, because in His forbearance He had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished – He did it to demonstrate His justice at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus. Where then is boasting? It is excluded. On what principle? On that of observing the law? No, but on that of faith. For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.” (Rom 3:25-28)

I emphasize here that ‘justify’ refers to and of the believer being declared righteous by God through faith in Jesus. The reality is that no-one is perfect,

¹⁴ Bruce A Ware, “Effectual Calling and Grace,” in Still Sovereign eds. Thomas R Schreiner, Bruce A Ware (Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000), p 211

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good or holy by their own self-righteousness (Rom 3:10-12). I also focus on the reality of:

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight.

In love He predestined us to be adopted as His sons and daughters through Jesus Christ...in Him we were also chosen having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with His purpose and will, in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of His glory. And you were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance ...” (Eph 1:3, 4; 11-14)

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I acknowledge that this is a very important truth especially concerning purity where believers are to be “holy and blameless in the Father’s sight” (again Eph 1:4), and this is discussed later when examining the problem of scholarly and non-scholarly liberal error which condones, for example, homosexuality. I discuss this in the comments on sanctification in the Chapter on The Holy Spirit.

Before proceeding please re-read the truth of the elect’s adoption.

Please also remember there is no way that humankind as a result of the Fall could come to Jesus using their own strength (again Rom 3:10-12). I also acknowledge the hymn:

“All my hope on God is founded,
All my trust He shall renew;
He, my guide through changing order,
Only good and only true.

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God unknown

He alone

Calls my heart to be His own.

Still from man to God eternal

Sacrifice of praise be done,

High above all praised praising

For the gift of Christ His Son.

Hear Christ's call

One and all:

We who follow shall not fall.”¹⁵

I am also reminded that Calvin teaches the truth of unconditional election which supports the above reference and words of the hymn, with the following Scriptures:

¹⁵ Robert Bridges, in Mission Praise. Hymn number 16

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“Jesus said ‘All that the father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.’” (Jn 6:37)

“No-one can come to me unless the father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.” (Jn 6:44)

This is why I told you that no-one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him.” (Jn 6:65)

“The Jews gathered around Him, saying ‘How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ (Messiah), tell us plainly’. Jesus answered, ‘I did tell you but you did not believe. The miracles I do in my Father’s name speak for me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; No-one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no-one can snatch

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them out of my Father's hand. I and the father are one." (Jn 10:24-30)

"Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad – in order that God's purpose in election might stand: not by works but by Him who calls – she was told 'the older will serve the younger.' Just as it is written: Jacob I loved but Esau I hated. What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For He says to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I have mercy and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion. It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth. Therefore, God has mercy on who He wants to have mercy, and He hardens whom He wants to harden." (Rom 9:11-18)

In God's love and care those who are elect are more than conquerors:

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“And we know that in all things God works for the good for those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.” (Rom 8:28)

I add here on this teaching on election that through the Holy Spirit God’s effectual calling results in a positive response for those whom He loves and saves.

With regard to the calling and faith given, the elect are to do those things He has prepared in advance for believers to do (Eph 2:10; also 2 Tim 1:9). Our successful actions completed in Christ through His strength. Walking with Jesus in the now and not yet, waiting for our adoption as sons and daughters to be complete. This is our certain hope – our known hope. As a result of faith and our justification.

Our adoption is such a positive state in our relationship with God – its ultimate success – it’s

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the wisdom of God and our “positive standing,”¹⁶ as a child of God in His eternity. A child “restored to a position of favour with God.”¹⁷ There is nothing more successful than this.

¹⁶ Millard J Erickson, Christian Theology. (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1998), p 974

¹⁷ Ibid.

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THE GLORY OF GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE THIRD PERSON OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Earlier in this study I included the truth of the creeds which we as Christians believe. I love the way our forefathers were so diligent in their modern evangelical definitions for us to simply understand the truth of Holy Scripture.

The Eternal Third Person of the Holy Trinity is the Person of the Holy Spirit. **He is a Person.** I have included again the definitions of the Holy Spirit from the Creeds repeated for emphasis.

Apostles Creed

I believe in the **Holy Spirit**; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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Nicene Creed

We believe in the **Holy Spirit**, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

Athanasian Creed

Whosoever will be saved: before all things it is necessary that he hold the Catholick Faith.

Which Faith except everyone do keep whole and undefiled: without doubt he shall perish everlastingly.

And the Catholick Faith is this: That we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity;

Neither confounding the Persons: nor dividing the Substance.

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For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son: and another of the **Holy Spirit**.

But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the **Holy Spirit**, is all one: the Glory equal, the Majesty co-eternal.

Such as the Father is, such is the Son: and such is the **Holy Spirit**.

The Father uncreate, the Son uncreate: and the **Holy Spirit** uncreate.

The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible: and the **Holy Spirit** incomprehensible.

The Father eternal, the Son eternal: and the **Holy Spirit** eternal.

And yet they are not three eternals: but one eternal.

As also there are not three incomprehensibles, nor three uncreated: but one uncreated, and one incomprehensible.

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So likewise the Father is Almighty, the Son Almighty: and the **Holy Spirit** Almighty.

And yet they are not three Almighty: but one Almighty.

So the Father is God, the Son is God: and the **Holy Spirit** is God.

And yet they are not three Gods: but one God.

So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son Lord: and the **Holy Spirit** Lord.

And yet not three Lords: but one Lord.

For like as we are compelled by the Christian verity: to acknowledge every Person by himself to be God and Lord;

So are we forbidden by the Catholick Religion: to say there be three Gods, or three Lords.

The Father is made of none: neither created, nor begotten.

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The Son is of the Father alone: not made, nor created, but begotten.

The **Holy Spirit** is of the Father and of the Son: neither made, nor created, nor begotten, but proceeding.

So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons: one **Holy Spirit**, not three **Holy Spirits**.

And in this Trinity none is afore, or after other: none is greater, or less than another;

But the whole three Persons are co-eternal together: and co-equal.

So that in all things, as is aforesaid: the Unity in Trinity, and the Trinity in Unity is to be worshipped.

He therefore that will be saved: must thus think of the Trinity.

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Furthermore it is necessary to everlasting salvation: that he also believe rightly the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For the right Faith is that we believe and confess: that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and Man;

God, of the Substance of the Father, begotten before the worlds: and Man, of the Substance of his Mother, born in the world;

Perfect God, and Perfect Man: of a reasonable soul and human flesh subsisting;

Equal to the Father, as touching his Godhead: and inferior to the Father, as touching his Manhood.

Who although he be God and Man: yet he is not two, but one Christ;

One, not by conversion of the Godhead into flesh: but by taking of the Manhood into God;

One altogether, not by confusion of Substance: but by unity of Person.

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For as the reasonable soul and flesh is one man:
so God and Man is one Christ.

Who suffered for our salvation: descended into
hell, rose again the third day from the dead.

He ascended into heaven, he sitteth on the right
hand of the Father, God Almighty: from whence
he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

At whose coming all men shall rise again with
their bodies: and shall give account for their own
works.

And they that have done good shall go into life
everlasting: and they that have done evil into
everlasting fire.

This is the Catholick Faith: which except a man
believe faithfully, he cannot be saved.

* catholic means "universal" and is not a
reference to the Roman Catholic Church.

From the creeds we simply see the Glory of **The
Holy Spirit** and we know He was there at creation.

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Genesis 1:1

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

I have already mentioned confirming the above

“God” (Elohim – Plural noun)

“created” (bara – Singular Verb).

The Holy Trinity is clearly seen as in the creeds.

Genesis 1:2

2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Here the completeness of the initial creation is seen – awaiting for God to give light, create order and give life. Then God’s glorious statement of His Spirit actively working in creation.

The Holy Spirit was the active Person who empowered God’s servants to achieve His purposes. Some truths:

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Judges 3:7-10

7 The Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD; they forgot the LORD their God and served the Baals and the Asherahs.

8 The anger of the LORD burned against Israel so that he sold them into the hands of Cushan Rishathaim king of Aram Naharaim, to whom the Israelites were subject for eight years.

9 But when they cried out to the LORD, he raised up for them a deliverer, Othniel son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother, who saved them.

10 The Spirit of the LORD came upon him, so that he became Israel's judge and went to war. The LORD gave Cushan-Rishathaim king of Aram into the hands of Othniel, who overpowered him.

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Judges 6:34-37

34 Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet, summoning the Abiezrites to follow him.

35 He sent messengers throughout Manasseh, calling them to arms, and also into Asher, Zebulun and Naphtali, so that they too went up to meet them.

36 Gideon said to God, "If you will save Israel by my hand as you have promised

37 look, I will place a wool fleece on the threshing floor. If there is dew only on the fleece and all the ground is dry, then I will know that you will save Israel by my hand, as you said."

Judges 11:29-31

29 Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah. He crossed Gilead and Manasseh,

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passed through Mizpah of Gilead, and from there he advanced against the Ammonites.

30 And Jephthah made a vow to the LORD: “If you give the Ammonites into my hands,

31 whatever comes out of the door of my house to meet me when I return in triumph from the Ammonites will be the LORD’s, and I will sacrifice it as a burnt offering.”

1 Samuel 10:10

10 When they arrived at Gibeah, a procession of prophets met him; the Spirit of God came upon him in power, and he joined in their prophesying.

Elisha knew in his spirit that Elijah was sealed with the Holy Spirit of the LORD and requested an even greater infilling of the Holy Spirit, so he could be increasingly guided to fulfil God’s purposes. The verse below demonstrates.

2 Kings 2:9

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9 When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?” “Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit,” Elisha replied.

Elihu speaking to Job

Job 33:1-4

1 “But now, Job, listen to my words; pay attention to everything I say.

2 I am about to open my mouth; my words are on the tip of my tongue.

3 My words come from an upright heart; my lips sincerely speak what I know.

4 The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.

In the Psalms we are reminded that in the Old Covenant, the Holy Spirit could be taken away

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from a person once God's servant. Not so in the New Covenant when the elect is regenerated.

Psalm 51:10-12

10 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

11 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.

Psalm 104:30-31

30 When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.

31 May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the LORD rejoice in his works

Isaiah 11:1-2

1 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

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2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

Isaiah 28:8-12

8 All the tables are covered with vomit and there is not a spot without filth.

9 “Who is it he is trying to teach? To whom is he explaining his message? To children weaned from their milk, to those just taken from the breast?

10 For it is: Do and do, do and do, rule on rule, rule on rule; a little here, a little there.”

11 Very well then, **with foreign lips and strange tongues*** God will speak to this people,

12 to whom he said, “This is the resting place, let the weary rest”; and, “This is the place of repose” — but they would not listen.

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In the above reference we see in verse eight the disgusting symbolism of the way in which the people ignored God's law, and thus as Isaiah prophesied Israel would be taken into captivity. From the History the King of Assyria, Tiglath-Pileser defeated Israel and 43 of the 46 cities in Judah in 722BC and took most people into captivity in Assyria. Isaiah was speaking of this awful reality of their failure by ignoring God's Holy Spirit. In their history we know that the Godly King Hezekiah prayed that the LORD would not allow the Babylonians to defeat Jerusalem in Judah.

Because of the spiritual failure of God's people and not listening to Isaiah's prophecy unless they repented they also would go into captivity. We know they failed in their obedience to God and went into captivity in Babylon in 586BC. But there is more. In verse eleven Isaiah says "foreign lips and strange tongues". At that point in history the foreign tongue was to be the Assyrian language but if they had been obedient to God it would be His Holy Spirit speaking to them but they did not

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listen. How dangerous it is not to listen to the Holy Spirit of God - it is disastrous.

So today, this is a type/foretelling of not listening to the Holy Spirit's guidance and when we are disobedient to Jesus today. Look at the condition of God's world today when we ignore the Holy Spirit's leading. The symbolism of filth and vomit in Isaiah 28 is the reality of impurity everywhere today, when we don't accept the Holy Spirit's indwelling and thus leading of praying in "tongues". Today this is the reality of being faithful to scripture of Jude 20-21. The last comment concerning Isaiah 28v12 "but they would not listen" was a clear reference to God's Holy Spirit. Again, it is dangerous not to listen to God's Holy Spirit. In fact it is the sin that is not forgiven. As recorded in (Mark 3:29) "But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven, he is guilty of an eternal sin."

Again in the references above Isaiah prophesied and Paul confirmed that today people who are not educated (i.e. rash) would become educated by

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the Holy Spirit and they would know and understand The Trinity and the outward physical sign in a person's life of having the Holy Spirit would be they would have a stammering tongue that would be a fluent and clear language to speak to God in and even used to spread the gospel. See a following chapter on Glorious aspects of the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 32:4

4 The mind of the rash will know and understand, **and the stammering tongue** will be fluent and clear.

The word "**Rash**" as a noun **Rash** is defined as a "sudden outbreak of something".¹⁸

Rash – as in the sudden outbreak of True Christianity on the day of Pentecost.

¹⁸ <http://www.yourdictionary.com/rash#LOIeThGcuP4tTcsJ.99>

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Isaiah 61:1

1 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,

Isaiah 63:10

10 Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them.

In the New Covenant we see the glory of the Holy Spirit in the unity of Our Lord Jesus.

Matthew 1:18

18 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.

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John the Baptist's truth;

Matthew 3:11

11 "I baptise you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Matthew 3:16-17

16 As soon as Jesus was baptised, 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.

17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

The Holy Spirit guides Jesus – Jesus in His second nature as perfect man.

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Matthew 4:1

1 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.

Mark 1:4-8

4 And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

5 The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the Jordan River.

6 John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

7 And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.

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8 I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.”

In the Apostle John’s Gospel John recorded the words of Jesus about His Holy Spirit whom He will send:

John 14:15-21

15 “If you love me, you will obey what I command.

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever

17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live.

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20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

21 Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him.”

John 14:25-29

25 “All this I have spoken while still with you.

26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

28 “You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me,

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you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

29 I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe.

John 15:26-16:16

26 “When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.

27 And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

16:1 “All this I have told you so that you will not go astray.

2 They will put you out of the synagogue; in fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God.

3 They will do such things because they have not known the Father or me.

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4 I have told you this, so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you. I did not tell you this at first because I was with you.

5 “Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’

6 Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief.

7 But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

8 When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:

9 in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me;

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10 in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer;

11 and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

12 “I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear.

13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

14 He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.

15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.

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16 “In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me.”

Acts 1.5-8

5 For John baptized with a water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

6 So when they met together, they asked him, “Lord, Are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

7 He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

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Acts 2.4, 38-39

4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

Romans 8.5-16

5 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

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6 The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;

7 the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

8 Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

9 You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

10 But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

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12 Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it.

13 For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live,

14 because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.”

16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.

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Romans 8.22, 27

22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

The Epistle, the letter, of the Apostle Paul to the people in Rome is a wonderful truth and encouragement to us concerning the truth of the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Further, the glorious truth of:

Ephesians 1.14

14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those

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who are God's possession—to the praise
of his glory.

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Jude 17-21

17 But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold.

18 They said to you, “In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.”

19 These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

20 But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.

21 Keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

When studying the glorious guiding of the Holy Spirit we need to keep in mind as the elect that in everything we are to “be spiritual” (1 Cor 12:1).

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Before examining the **hard reality** of our human weakness we need to be **truly spiritual and obedient**, I wish to re-visit the truths discussed in the chapter The Glory of The Deity of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Davis explains that God pardons all our sins and accepts us as righteous and that this is through faith. I add that righteousness is God's commitment to do (for those to whom He has given faith) for us what we cannot do for ourselves. Indeed it is the side of His justice that concerns our rescue and acquittal (Rom 4). Davis notes the Scripture (Rom 3:20, 23, 24, 28; 5:1). I further add from Davis' listing of Romans 3:23, that whilst we are still sinners, through faith God sees us as justified – “Just-if-I or just-as-if-I” had not sinned (I emphase and comment).

Hunt discusses justification and the word justify, explaining that it means “to declare righteous or

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to treat as righteous.”¹⁹ He continues “justify is the verdict of acquittal ...”²⁰

Watson defines justification as “an act of God, God’s free grace whereby He pardons all our sins, and accepts us as righteous in His sight, only for the righteousness of Christ, imputed to us, and received by faith alone.”²¹ Watson highlights that Christ has made us to be righteous through faith (1 Cor 1:30; Rom 5:1). Watson also highlights that “justification is a fixed permanent thing, it can never be lost.”²²

Thus the need to re-visit how the Father chose His elect in His saving Son Jesus. Also in this chapter

¹⁹ T W Hunt, The Mind of Christ. (Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 1995), p 152

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Thomas Watson, A Body of Divinity. (Edinburgh: the Banner of Truth Trust, 1978), p 226

²² Ibid, 229

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the focus is on always “being spiritual” – being guided by the Holy Spirit 24/7.

Concerning the wisdom of Christ and being mindful of His divinity, one area I am very interested in, is the authority given to Jesus by the Father concerning the truth again in John 10:29:

29 “My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no-one can snatch out of my Father’s hand.”

Jesus follows this with the wonderful truth, “I and the Father are one” (Jn 10:30).

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Sanctification

I make some comments on sanctification with the help of Davis which have the background focus on Jesus' deity, and how Jesus' deity is compromised by liberal theology. This liberal theology, in my view, is in total opposition to true sanctification. These errors are discussed in this chapter under the sub-heading "Unbelieving Liberal Misconceptions" below. Davis explains the Christian growth in holiness is to be like Jesus by faith and obedience with the Holy Spirit's guidance through reading the Scriptures.

Sanctification is being set apart for Jesus' purpose (Eph 2:10).

Emphasizing Jesus our righteousness, Hunt also states that through faith "righteousness has already begun in those who are linked to Christ ...

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not by any work of theirs, but by the working of the Spirit of God.”²³

Hunt thus makes a clear comment on sanctification that “the justified and regenerated must press on after holiness of life.”²⁴

Griffith Thomas also comments on sanctification “making righteous – this is sanctification.”²⁵ Also concerning sanctification Griffith Thomas suggests that it is “the basis for our purity.”²⁶

²³ T W Hunt, The Mind of Christ. (Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishes, 1995), p 153

²⁴ Ibid, p 159

²⁵ W H Griffith Thomas, The Catholic Faith (London: Church Book Room Press Ltd, 1966), p 56

²⁶ Ibid.

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The Truth of the Resurrection

To this point, this study has referenced Holy Scripture. I have now included detailed examination of the deity of Jesus and the truth of the resurrection acknowledging the work of other authors.

Davis reminds me of Jesus' true deity with comments on the resurrection and final judgement with the wonderful truth (Job 19:25-27) "I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand upon the earth ..." He also quotes wonderful references (Mt 22:29-32; Jn 6:39-40; Rom 6:5) along with the truth of 1 Corinthians 15 and 1 Thessalonians 4. He concludes with references on judgment (e.g. Mt 13:39-42; 25:32-33, 46). I marvel at the truth of this last reference (Jn 12:47-48) which confirms the truth that Jesus (Jn 3:17) that He did not come to condemn but to save. Those who do not accept Him condemn themselves (Jn 3:36). I conclude with the simple comment on Davis'

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discussion about the eternal state – the joy of being “with Christ” (Phil 1:23). When mentioning the word “joy” I am also reminded of the awesome truth that only believers have true “joy” as joy is a fruit of the Spirit – a condition of true belief in Jesus now and for all eternity. I also add that the believers’ election and adoption, that state of belonging to Jesus is a great comfort and success for eternity.

I am also encouraged by Davis here as he discusses Jesus’ obedience which I suggest gives practical understanding about wisdom. In addition to faithfulness and therefore righteousness, one of the most important characteristics of Jesus as mentioned by Davis is that of obedience. He always obeyed God’s will (Jn 6:38), indeed He did exactly what His Father had commanded (Jn 14:30-31). Already mentioned is Jesus’ authority to lay His life down and take it up again (Jn 10:18). Davis mentions God’s command authorizing the Lord to do this (Jn 15:10). Jesus saves us from our sins by being our

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substitute and being obedient to death “even death on a cross” (Phil 2:8).

Referring to “our substitute” above I know some Liberal scholars have urged all Christians to be tolerant of differences in basic beliefs. However, this would be compromising the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus. One would be acknowledging all belief systems must be correct. This is compromise at its worst for scripture teaches “salvation is found in no-one else...” (Acts 4:12). If one person’s “truth” is diametrically opposed to another person’s “truth” how can both be correct?

Following on from this truth, I note Davis comments on the resurrection and ascension. He explains that “the resurrection was God’s vindication of Christ’s teaching and earthly

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ministry ...”²⁷ and that by His death and resurrection, death and sin were defeated. This is the wonderful evidence that Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords deserving of our worship (Mt 28:9; Lk 24:36-39). Of great importance is the reality as Davis explains that Jesus’ body was a “real body that could be seen and touched.”²⁸ (Again Lk 24:36-39). Davis also highlights the wonderful truth that Jesus continues in His ministry that the “ascended Christ is now actively continuing His work through the ministry and mission of the church”²⁹ (Acts 1:1-2). I also add the wonderful joy for Christians of the guidance of His Holy Spirit (Rom 8:9). Further it is marvellous how the Holy Spirit guided Paul when he wrote the wonderful words concerning Jesus (Phil 2:9-11) and Davis notes the Hymn “Of Obedience and

²⁷ John Jefferson Davis, Basic Bible Texts. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984), p 81

²⁸ Ibid, 82

²⁹ Ibid.

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Humble Service”³⁰ which in my mind exemplifies the humility of Jesus (Mt 20:28) and also his exaltation as King of kings and Lord of lords with the Father now. Thus Jesus is the only Saviour (Acts 4:12) and thus the author of the believers’ calling and salvation.

Frame begins briefly outlining miracles that “throughout the Scriptures God does wonderful works so that people will know that He is the Lord (Ex 6:7; 7:5, 17; 8:22; 9:14; 10:2; 11:7; 14:4, 18; 16:12; 29:46)”³¹ to mention the beginning of God’s works. He explains that during the ministry of Jesus that Jesus Himself made many miraculous signs but that they rarely allowed people to soften their hearts and believe. Even the enemies of Jesus admitted to the miraculous but did not believe. Frame further explains that even the

³⁰ Ibid, 83

³¹ John M Frame, Apologetics to the Glory of God. (Phillipsburg, New Jersey: R & R Publishing, 1994), p 143

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resurrection itself failed to “convince many”.³² He continues with comments of Jesus’ rebuke to those who only wanted signs (Mt 12:39; Jn 4:48). I am aware of the many New Testament references concerning miraculous signs and their “epistemological function” and, with respect to apologists many will say – well there are strange happenings. However, concerning the resurrection, already noted above with the appropriate references, I am greatly encouraged by Frame’s words, except for the use of the word “story” in the passage which follows:

“The story of the Resurrection was related too soon after the fact to be the product of legendary development. The ornamentation and elaboration characteristic of legends is not there. The story of the women discovering the empty tomb bears remarkable marks of authenticity. No-one inventing such a story would have placed women

³² Ibid.

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in this role, because they were not acceptable witnesses in Jewish courts of law.

Attempts to explain the Resurrection as something other than a supernatural event have always fallen flat. Some have said that Jesus did not actually die on the cross, but only fell into a coma, from which he was roused in the tomb. But in such a weakened condition, Jesus could not have rolled away the heavy stone and appeared to the disciples as the triumphant Lord of heaven and earth. Some have said that the disciples engaged in a conspiracy, but that has been dealt with above. Some have explained the post-Resurrection appearances as hallucinations or 'visions'. But hallucinations do not work that way. They do not produce the same images in many persons, who then report that they have all seen the same thing.

The fact is, then that the Resurrection is as well established as any fact in history – indeed better

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than most, for it is attested by the Word of God itself.”³³

I am further encouraged by Frame’s comments that the resurrection was credibly absolutely certain and that it is the word of God Himself and deserves “the highest standard of credibility.”³⁴

McDowell, in his discussion on Jesus as Lord, comments on the resurrection in his Chapter “Support of Deity: The Resurrection – Hoax or History?” He begins by stating “the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is one of the most wicked, vicious, heartless hoaxes ever foisted upon the minds of men, OR it is the most fantastic fact of history.”³⁵ He continues about Jesus’ credentials and explains:

³³ Ibid, 146

³⁴ Ibid, 147

³⁵ Josh McDowell, The New Evidence that Demands a Verdict.

Evidence I and II. (Nashville, Tenn: Thomas Nelson, 1999), p 203

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- “(1) The impact of His life, through His miracles and teachings, upon history;
(2) fulfilled prophecy in His life; and
(3) His resurrection.”³⁶

McDowell highlights the record of the resurrection (Mt 28:1-11; Mk 16; Lk 24; Jn 20, 21), and cites W L Craig concerning the importance of the physical resurrection of Christ – “Without the belief in the resurrection the Christian faith could not have come into being. The disciples would have remained crushed and defeated men. Even had they continued to remember Jesus as their beloved teacher, His crucifixion would have forever silenced any hopes of His being the Messiah. The cross would have remained forever the sad and shameful end of His career. The origin of Christianity therefore hinges on the

³⁶ Ibid.

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belief of the early disciples that God had raised Jesus from the dead.”³⁷

McDowell continues with the significance of the resurrection and that of the four world religions based on personalities that “only Christianity claimed an empty tomb for its founder.”³⁸ He continues further with the true comment that “the resurrection is propounded as being:

- (1) the explanation of Jesus’ death;
- (2) prophetically anticipated as the messianic experience;
- (3) apostolically witnessed;
- (4) the cause of the outpouring of the Spirit, and thus accounting for religious phenomena otherwise inexplicable; and

³⁷ Ibid, 204

³⁸ Ibid, 205

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(5) certifying the Messianic and Kingly position of Jesus of Nazareth... without the resurrection the Messianic and Kingly position of Jesus could not be convincingly established.”³⁹

Concerning historic fact McDowell cites W J Sparrow-Simpson who wrote “If the resurrection is not historic fact, then the power of death remains unbroken, and with it the effect of sin; and the significance of Christ’s death remains uncertified, and accordingly believers are yet in their sins, precisely where they were before they heard of Jesus’ name.”⁴⁰ McDowell explains that the “resurrection turned disaster into victory and without the resurrection Christianity would never have happened ... that without faith in the resurrection there would be no Christianity at all ... Christianity stands or falls with the truth of the

³⁹ Ibid, 206

⁴⁰ Ibid.

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resurrection.”⁴¹ McDowell highlights the reference (1 Cor 15:7).

In addition to the New Testament witness above in the previous comments about the deity of Jesus, McDowell continues with the claims of Jesus that he would be raised from the dead – indeed His own predictions of His own resurrection (Mt 12:38-40; 16:21; 17:9; 17:22-23; 20:18-19; 26:32; 27:63; Mk 8:31-9:1; 9:10; 9:31; 10:32-34; 14:28, 58; Lk 9:22-27; Jn 2:18-22; 12:34; and also Chapters 14-16).

McDowell also spends considerable time in explaining the historical approach to the resurrection of Jesus as an event in history. He cites Wilbur Smith who commented “the meaning of the resurrection is a theological matter, but the fact of the resurrection is a historical matter; the nature of the resurrection body of Jesus may be a

⁴¹ Ibid, 208

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mystery, but the fact that the body disappeared from the tomb is a matter to be decided upon by historical evidence.”⁴² I comment here concerning the word “mystery” cited by Smith and is reminded that the Greek equivalent “mysterion” as discussed in the section “Sovereignty of God – God’s Responsibility and Ours” has to do with something that was concealed but is now explained and revealed – and this is exactly true when examining the predictions that Jesus made in Scripture concerning His own resurrection. McDowell continues looking at the legal ramifications of the resurrection as fact and comments on the forensic aspects of Scripture noting Bernard Ramm who said “In Acts 1, Luke tells us that Jesus showed Himself alive by many infallible proofs (en pollois tekmeriois), an expression indicating the strongest type of legal

⁴² Ibid, 211

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evidence.”⁴³ McDowell further cites Ernest Kevan concerning eyewitnesses which have been discussed by La Haye. However, Kevan also adds concerning the Epistles of the New Testament that they “constitute historical evidence of the highest kind ...”⁴⁴ In addition to the above authors McDowell cites J N D Anderson who discussed Moule who explained “from the very first the conviction that Jesus had been raised from death has been that by which their very existence has stood or fallen. There was no other motive to account for them, to explain them ... at no point within the New Testament is there any evidence that the Christians stood for an original philosophy of life or an original ethic. Their sole function is to bear witness to what they claimed as an event – the raising of Jesus from among the dead ... the one really distinctive thing for which

⁴³ Ibid, 213

⁴⁴ Ibid, 214

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the Christian stood was their declaration that Jesus had been raised from the dead according to God's design ..."⁴⁵ Thus as Sparrow-Simpson adds to his previous citation, "the resurrection of Christ is the foundation of apostolic Christianity ..."⁴⁶ I add (and this can also apply to the unbelief of liberal scholars who reject Paul and Peter's letters, and also John's Revelation as Scripture) that "those who deny His resurrection consistently deny as a rule His divinity and His redemptive work in any sense that St Paul would have acknowledged."⁴⁷

I have noted that McDowell has much more to say on this marvellous foundational truth and concludes this section on the resurrection with McDowell's comment that "it may be said that the

⁴⁵ Ibid, 215

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

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historical evidence for the resurrection is stronger than for any other miracle anywhere ... as Paul said, if Christ is not risen from the dead then our preaching is in vain and your faith is also vain.”⁴⁸

I acknowledge that McDowell has presented evidence for the resurrection of Christ in such a manner that would be acceptable in a modern day courtroom setting. This is not to deny the role faith plays in accepting the historical fact as part of God working in the lives of humankind.

May our One True LORD God Almighty of the Bible bless you in this study.

Repeating Paul to the Romans:

Romans 8

1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,

⁴⁸ Ibid.

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2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.

3 For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man,

4 in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

5 Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.

6 The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace;

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7 the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

8 Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.

9 You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

10 But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

11 And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

12 Therefore, brothers, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it.

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13 For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live,

14 because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, *“Abba, Father.”*

16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.

17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs— heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.

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19 The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.

20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope

21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.

22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has?

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25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express*.

27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

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30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

31 What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?

32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies.

34 Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?

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36 As it is written: “For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,

39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

As elect we have responsibilities:

1 Corinthians 2:6-12

6 We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

7 No, we speak of God’s secret wisdom, a

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wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began.

8 None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

9 However, as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him” —

10 but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.

11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man’s spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

12 We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.

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1 Corinthians 12:1

1 Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.

In the above passage (1 Cor 12:1) Paul is being very practical. The version NIV and RSV the Greek word pneumatikon is translated “Spiritual gifts”. The actual Greek word is “spiritual matters”. From my study of the Greek definition I suggest “being spiritual” – meaning actually “doing” – knowing and doing the work guided by the Person The Holy Spirit. We are saved and sealed by the Holy Spirit (Eph1:13) to Work:

Ephesians 1:13

“13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,”

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Ephesians 2:10

10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Ephesians 6:17-20

17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

19 Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel,

20 for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

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2 Thessalonians 2:13

13 But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.

Jude 20-21

20 But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.

21 Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

As sanctified elect we are to be responsible, faithful and obedient – be holy.

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HOW YOU BECOME PART OF THE GOD HEAD HOLY TRINITY

JESUS BREATHED ON THEM

In Revelation 19 we read:

15 Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty

In Isaiah 11.4 we read:

4 but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the Earth. He will strike the Earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

We see the power is in His breath in John 20.21-22.

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21 Again Jesus said, “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”

22 And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

In Acts 1.7 Jesus said:

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in

all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the Earth.”

Acts 2.2-4 we read:

2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

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John 1.12 we read:

12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God

When you are “breathed on” and when given the Holy Spirit you are given the right and the power to become children of GOD and greater things shall you do in His name.

John 14.12

12 Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.

How important it is that we do when Jesus did so often and pray to the Father in Spirit and in Truth.

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John 4.23-24

23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

Worship in its root word from the Strong concordance means:

Prep in direction of; The place; time; occasion; or respect which the destination of the relation.

God wants you to breathe and speak to and with Him in the Holy Spirit – Speaking in tongues.

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THE NEED FOR PRAYER

We remember that in the beginning the LORD God created everything in heaven and in Earth and He said all He created 'was good'. The devil enters and all becomes evil and bad.

Hence the constant need for prayer.

Matthew 6.7-15

"And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. "This, then, is how you should pray: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on Earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil

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one. For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”

Romans 8.26

“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.”

Jude 17-21

“But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold. They said to you, "In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires." These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit. But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Keep yourselves in God's love as you

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wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.”

The Devil’s Total Evil and Destruction

The devil has been effective in trying to destroy God’s awesome creation since the beginning – from Genesis 3 as previously mentioned. Throughout all Old Testament history, the devil has hated God’s creation and tempted and led astray almost all people with whom he had contact. From the time of Samuel, we see Samuel’s sons destroyed by the devil, along with the evil reigns of 19 evil kings before Israel and Judah went into their relative captivities. All this history in the Old Covenant was the time of ante-Christ, before Jesus came into His world. Remember:

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Malachi 2.16 – 3.5

“...guard yourself in your spirit, and do not break faith. You have wearied the Lord with your words. "How have we wearied him?" you ask. By saying, "All who do evil are good in the eyes of the Lord , and he is pleased with them" or "Where is the God of justice?" "See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty. But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be

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acceptable to the Lord , as in days gone by, as in former years. "So I will come near to you for judgment. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers, adulterers and perjurers..."

Malachi 4.5

"See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes.

In the above truth, the Messenger who prepared the way is John the Baptist, the new Elijah, and the Messenger of the New Covenant is the Anointed One, the Messiah, the Christ Jesus.

And the new Elijah, John the Baptist and Jesus came:

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Mark 1.1-5, 7-13

“The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way" - "a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.' " And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit

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descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan..."

It is so important to read and study Holy Scripture. From the above truth we see Jesus being led to be tempted by the devil. Jesus is the Eternal Second Person of the Trinity in His Second Nature His Humanity. In the next Scripture we see Him being tested by the devil:

Matthew 4.1-11

"Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the

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mouth of God.' " Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: " 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.' " Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' " Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.' " Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him."

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SALVATION FOR YOU TODAY

Let not your Heart be troubled – there is a way out

This book reveals last days scriptures pertaining to the end times and therefore can be distressing. The “NOW” i.e 20th and 21 Century end days up until 2022 and hopefully a little beyond but, also explaining what happened thousands of years ago and verse two and three of Genesis chapter 1 which has remained unexplained and generally unknown until recently.

The “Not Yet” we can not foresee and therefore some of the technology/information and events may change or be revealed in more detail than it has been leading up to 2022, which will only confirm the greater truth of the Bible and that is that it was and is inspired by the Holy Spirit for the “Past, Present (today year of our Lord Jesus - 2022) and Future (the not yet)”.

Due to the last days material and facts, thoughts and opinions expressed in this book are to give

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you hope. The hope has been stated at the beginning of the book, in order for you to know that there is ONE who saves and is able to SAVE and His name is Jesus and He died and rose again so that you may have Life Eternal and abundantly.

Matthew 24.3-8

3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"

4 Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you.

5 For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

6 You will hear of wars and rumours of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.

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7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

8 All these are the beginning of birth pains”.

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John 3 – Jesus says how to get saved.

John 3.3-8

1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council.

2 He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him."

3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again. "

4 "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"

5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

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6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'

8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

Let me explain. Everyone who received the Holy Ghost in the past (since the day of Pentecost and until Jesus returns), that person of The Holy Spirit is by The Holy Spirit enabled to speak in tongues. That is where the wind blows you to hear the sound as the scripture says, where the Holy Spirit is accepted by a person into that person's life, they are evidence of that acceptance, and are enabled with the sign and gift of the Holy Spirit, to speak in the Holy Spirit – Speaking in Tongues. No speaking in Tongues means you have not received the Holy Spirit or Holy Faith as Jude 20 records.

Again:

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Jude 17-21

17 But, dear friends, remember what the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ foretold.

18 They said to you, “In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.”

19 These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit.

20 But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.

21 Keep yourselves in God’s love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

John 4.23-24 – Jesus states how God wants to be worshipped:

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23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

Let me explain – God the Father actively wants you and everyone to worship Him in God the Holy Spirit – speaking in tongues which He gives you when you accept Jesus the Son and God the Holy Spirit into your life, for these are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

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Acts 1.4-8

Jesus says wait to be baptised or immersed in the Holy Spirit

4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.

5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

6 So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the Earth."

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Then we see the very first pouring out of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, just as Jesus had prophesied and promised in John 3.

Acts 2.1-4

120 people initially then 3000 on this day speak in tongues as they are enabled by the Holy Spirit

1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Then we see that the Holy Spirit was poured out on non-Jewish people, the Gentiles – you and me.

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Acts 10.44-48 - Holy Spirit poured out on the Gentiles

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message.

45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles.

46 For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

47 Then Peter said, "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have."

48 So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

How do we know they received the Holy Spirit back then and today? Verse 46 "For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God."

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There is NO other way to receive the Holy Spirit and NO other evidence of receiving The Holy Spirit except to hear someone speak in tongues.

Acts 11.16 – Immersed in the Holy Spirit

16 Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

Jude 20-21

Praying – building or immersing yourself in the Holy Spirit

20 But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.

21 Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

To be clear, to be saved the way Jesus said it is best to be saved if you will, John 3, you must repent of your separation from God,

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be Baptized by being fully immersed in water and be Baptised, fully immersed in the Holy Spirit. You will hear the Holy Spirit when you speak in tongues in prayer to God and as John 4:24 says – this is the way God the Father desires and wants you to worship Him.

Why? Why does God seek such worshippers?

John 4.24

24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

To speak to someone in a language or read or translate language, primers of that language are needed to enable the process.

The Miriam Learners dictionary explains a “primer” as following:⁴⁹

⁴⁹ <https://www.learnersdictionary.com/definition/primer>

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1 chiefly US : something (such as a book) that provides basic information on a particular subject

The article is an excellent primer on foreign policy.

2 : a small book that helps teach children how to read

So to communicate efficiently, effectively with The Father a primer is needed. God gives us His Primer – God the Holy Spirit. Jesus died so that God could give us The Holy Spirit.

Acts 1.5

5 For John baptized with a water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 1.8

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;

Part of the power one receives when the Holy Spirit comes upon you is that you speak in tongues.

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Acts 2.4

4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

When you receive the Holy Spirit it is He who enables you to communicate in effectual Holy Faith prayer to The Father.

The Holy Spirit provides you with the primer to speak with The Father who is a Spirit. No primer and you do not know how to pray to The Father as you ought to pray or speak with Him.

Romans 8.26

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

Without the primer, The person, The Holy Spirit you do not know how to express the right communication in the spirit. What a wonderful

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gift and sign that God has given us, He enables us to speak with Him by God the Holy Spirit person who intercedes for us.

Jesus died so that we could have this wonderful gift from God the Father.

First God gave us Jesus the Son of God made flesh. Next He gives us the Holy Spirit to enable us to speak with Him as we know not how to pray in the spirit where God the Father dwells.

How kind, thoughtful and loving is our God!

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PRAYER FROM A WAR POINT OF VIEW

If a country is at war with another do they want their plans to be known to the enemy?

Of course not – Therefore secure encrypted communication is essential.

We are in a spiritual war, therefore when you pray do you want the devil to know what you are praying about?

Of course not.

Therefore, when you pray in the Spirit – Speaking in Tongues only the Holy Trinity know what you are praying as the Holy Spirit makes these prayers for you with groaning that only the Holy Trinity understands.

Your prayer is encrypted (if you will) and only God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit knows what is being said.

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What a wonderful blessing this is. God planned all this so that your communication with Him is pure and untainted in any way.

In summary to be saved the way Jesus said you must do, know the following:

- Repent
- Be Baptised by full immersion
- Be baptised by the Holy Spirit – voice evidence (speaking in Tongues) of this baptism
- To stay saved pray without ceasing, praying in the Holy Spirit – Speaking in Tongues. Follow Him and you will receive the gift of Eternal Life.

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Notes:

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