



CHURCH ALIVE - HOME BIBLE STUDY

Lesson 3 – The Three Persons of The Godhead

Compiled by Bev Kendrick

Before you read, I make this personal observation...

This lesson has been gleaned from the writings of leading Christian biblical scholars who have been used by God to bless the Christian Church around the world: (I.e. A. W. Tozer and Rev. Jack Hayford)

As the compiler of these lessons, I have learned that we can read scripture, obtain a lot of head knowledge and get “puffed up” by our individual thoughts. In reality, it is only the Holy Spirit who can open the scriptures, which He has written, and make the Word real and its abundant life promises to become “heart faith.”

So, it's up to us to **SEEK** the full revelation and wisdom of His Word and allow the Holy Spirit, who exalts the Lord Jesus, to give us revelation knowledge of Jesus and as His disciples to *MAKE HIM KNOWN!*

This Week we are going to explore the Scriptures that reveal the three Persons of the Godhead. *The Bible, from Genesis to Revelation declares that **THERE IS ONE GOD, revealed in THEEE PERSONS - yet ONE GOD!*** The only source of true knowledge about the mystery of God's nature must be found in the written revelation of God, as found in the Holy Scriptures. This doctrine was taught by Jesus Christ, His disciples and the apostles. The three Persons of the Godhead was the universal belief of the Church from the very beginning of the Christian era.

God is both ONENESS and PLURALITY as first seen in Genesis 1:1-3:

*“In the beginning **God** created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the **Spirit of God** was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said, “*Let there be light*”; and there was light.” And so, came a revelation of the totality of God.*

John 1:1-3 speaking of Jesus: *“In the beginning was **the Word**, and **the Word was with God**, and **the Word was God**.² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”*

Both Jews and Christians suggest that the Creed of Judaism found in Deuteronomy 6:4,5 also contains the revelation of His mysterious nature: *“**Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!** You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”* This is the root of our faith. Here the word for **God** is Yahweh (singular) and the word for LORD is Adonai (plural).

The Three Persons of the Godhead – God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit – each fully God and share the same divine nature. They are co-equal and co-eternal, meaning they have always existed and are equally God and are all identified as God. This concept is supported throughout Scripture illustrating the relationship and roles of each Person within the Godhead

Jesus did not hesitate to use the plural form when speaking of Himself along with the Father and the Holy Spirit. In John chapter 14 Jesus affirms that He and the Father were one, yet identified himself and the Father as two distinct persons using His own name (“I” and “Father.”) Then Jesus promised that the Father would answer the prayer of Jesus and sent another “Comforter” referring to the Holy Spirit, as the third Person of the Godhead.

In John 14:9-11 Jesus said: *"He who has seen Me has seen the Father... The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. ¹¹ Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves."*

John 12:49, *"I only speak what I hear the Father saying and I only do what I see the Father doing."*

John 14:23 - *"If a man loves **Me**, he will keep My words: and my **Father** will love him, and **We** will come unto him, and make **our** abode with him."*

John 16:12-15: *"...when **He, the Spirit of truth**, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify **Me**, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All things that the **Father** has are Mine. Therefore I said that He ¹⁶will take of Mine and declare it to you."*

It is most important that we think of God the Father, God the Son, Jesus and God the Holy Spirit as ALL COEQUAL TOGETHER.

The three Persons of the Godhead, being One, have one will. Scripture shows that they work together in harmonious unity... (A. W. Tozer)

1. It is first seen in creation:

Genesis 1:1-3: *"In the beginning **God** created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the **Spirit of God** was hovering over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light."*

John 1:1-3: *"In the beginning was the Word, and **the Word was with God**, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."* **John 1:14** – *"**The Word became flesh** and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."*

It highlights the divine nature of Jesus by stating that He was with God and was indeed God. This part of the Bible emphasizes the belief in **one God in three Persons** – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

2. In God's plan of redemption through the atonement, we see the three operating together.

Hebrews 9:14- *"...how much more shall the blood of **Christ**, who through **the eternal Spirit** offered Himself without spot to **God**, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"* Christ, through the Eternal Spirit, offered Himself without spot to God

3. The Conception of Jesus: (Luke 1:35) - "And the angel answered and said to her, 'The **Holy Spirit** will come upon you, and the **power of the Highest** will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the **Son of God**.'" God the Father caused Jesus to be conceived in the womb of Mary by the Holy Spirit. (It was in Prophesied in Isaiah 9:6)

4. At the baptism of Jesus: (Matthew 3:16,17) –

*"When He had been baptized, **Jesus** came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the **Spirit of God** descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷ And suddenly a voice (of the Father) came from heaven, saying, '**This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**'"* This clearly reveals three distinct individual Persons acting in perfect harmony.

5. The ongoing ministry of Jesus. (Acts 10:38)

*"**God** anointed **Jesus** of Nazareth with the **Holy Spirit** and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil..."* In John 1:18 Jesus says, *"No one has seen God at any time; **the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him**"*

6. **The Salvation of Man: (1Peter 1:2)-** *"To the ¹pilgrims of the Dispersion... ²elect according to the foreknowledge of **God the Father**, in sanctification of **the Spirit**, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of **Jesus Christ**;³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead..."*
7. **The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.** (Hebrews 9:14)
*"Christ... through the eternal **Spirit** offered Himself without spot to **God** [the Father]..."*
8. **The Resurrection of Jesus.**
Acts 2:32 - This Jesus, **God** has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.'
Romans 1:1-4 – *"He (God) promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and **declared to be the Son of God** with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."*
This is affirmation of Christ's identity as the Son of God and His authority!
Romans 8:11 - *"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 because of His Spirit who lives in you."*
9. **At Pentecost (Acts 2:33)** - *"Therefore (**Jesus**) being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the **Father** the promise of the **Holy Spirit**, He poured out this which you now see and hear."*
10. **In the Great Commission: Acts 28:19** - *"Go therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."* Since Baptism is the most profound confession of the Christian faith, the words of Jesus confirm that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are equally God. The Apostle Paul also gave blessings in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 13:14)

KEY ROLES OF EACH OF THE GODHEAD - by Rev. Jack Hayford...

God, the Father is seen as Creator, Sustainer and Sovereign Lord over all things. He is often seen as the source of life, love and authority. The Father has life in Himself.

"Yet for us there is but one God, the Father, who is the source of all things, and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things [that have been created], and we [believers exist and have life and have been redeemed] through Him." (1 Corinthians 8:6 AMPLIFIED)

He is the one who establishes a covenant relationship with humanity (1John3:1). The Fatherhood of God is expressed in terms of His compassion, mercy and care as seen in Psalm 103:13 - *"As a father has compassion on his children so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him."* Jesus frequently referred to God as His Father expressing the unique intimate relationship they had. Jesus said in John 5:17-18 that He and the Father are continually at work.

God the Son (Jesus Christ): The Word made flesh, Savior of the world, fully man and fully God. He came to redeem man through His life, death and resurrection. (John 14:16,17)

John 3:16, 17 – *"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."* God sent Jesus to save the world, not to condemn it! (V. 17)

Genesis 1:1-3: *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the light of men."* John 1:14 *"The Word became flesh ..."*

Jesus confirmed His eternal nature in John 8:58, *"Before Abraham was, I am."* This indicates that He was everywhere throughout His Creation, by in His actual DIVINE presence. He always existed, In John 1:18 Jesus says, *"No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him"* Jesus said in John 14:9, *"He who has seen Me has seen the Father"*

Colossians 1:14-18: reveals the exalted position of Jesus... *"In whom we have redemption through the blood, the forgiveness of sins.¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth... through Him and for Him. ¹⁷ And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. ¹⁸ And He is the head of the body, the church, ... that in all things He may have the pre-eminence." ¹⁹ For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, ²⁰ and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross."*

God, the Holy Spirit: The Helper, Comforter, and Guide who came to dwell **WITH** us and **IN** us believers. The Spirit convicts, guides and empowers us to live a godly life.

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you." (John 14:26)

John 16:8-15 - ⁸ And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹ of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ of righteousness, ... ¹¹ of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged... He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He ^[d] will take of Mine and declare it to you."

Let's Pray: Thank You, Father God, for the gift of salvation through Your Son, Jesus Christ, whose blood has washed me clean and given me new life. Thank You also for the precious gift of the Holy Spirit, my Comforter, Guide, and Teacher. Lord, help me to walk daily in the freedom You have given me, to listen to the gentle leading of Your Spirit.

In future lessons we will look more at God's Plan of Redemption through Jesus Christ and the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

ATTRIBUTES of GOD – By A. W. Tozer

In the ongoing scriptures, three distinct persons emerge, each of whom is God: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit.

The ETERNITY OF GOD

God, Creator of all things has no origin. *"Origin"* only applies to things God created. There was never a time when God did not exist! God is SELF-EXISTANT. In these word spoken to Moses, ***"I AM THAT I AM"*** (Exodus 3:14) He is emphasizing His self-existence and His eternal nature. All life is in God and from God. Life is a gift from God. All created things need God. WE NEED GOD!

John 17:3 - *"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."* Knowing God is the foundation of eternal life.

Revelation 22:13 - *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."*

Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. God is present at the beginning of Creation, throughout history and at the conclusion of all things.

In Isaiah 46:9 God declares, *"I am God and there is no one like Me; I make known the end from the beginning."*

Revelation 1:4,8 - *"Who was and is and is to come"* describes God and Jesus Christ as existing in the past, present and future simultaneously, highlighting their eternal nature and sovereignty – in control of the unfolding of time and events.

2 Timothy 1:10 says, *"Jesus has brought immortality and life to light through the Gospel."* The Gospel of Jesus Christ reveals victory over death and hope of eternal life.

In Psalm 90:2 - Moses celebrated the ETERNITY of GOD! *"He is from everlasting to everlasting;"* and this is taken for granted throughout scripture. "Time" has no application to God. God created time. God has no past or future.

LIFE APPLICATION: "After" and "before" give us our idea of time: things happen one after another. In God everything that will happen has already happened. God exists outside the constraints of time and space.

Pastor Jerry shared a message RECENTLY - Wherever you go *"GOD HAS ALREADY BEEN THERE!"*

Testimony: At Christmas I was reminiscing on how excited the kids would be on Christmas morning. It all seemed to me to be so real - like it was just yesterday. I felt the Lord impressing upon me that is because there is no time or distance in the spiritual realm.

We were made for eternity as certainly as we were made for time. *"He set eternity in our hearts..."* (Ecclesiastes 3:11). He put a divine longing within us for something greater than the temporal world – an inborn desire for purpose and meaning. Within us there is that everlasting hope that somewhere we will continue to exist

Let's stop and pray as the Psalmist prayed in Psalm 90:12,

"Teach me to number my days, that I may gain a heart of wisdom."

Help me to apply Your wisdom and make choices that have eternal consequences

GOD is INFINITE – meaning "LIMITLESS"

"Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!" (Romans 11:33)

Psalm 147:5 – *"Great is our Lord and mighty in power; His understanding has no limit."*

Isaiah 40:12 – *"Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, measured heaven with a span and calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?"*

LIFE APPLICATION: It is impossible for our limited minds to grasp. God has no limitations – no imperfections. He is what He is! And all who are in Christ share with Him all the riches of His limitless power, wisdom and presence. The gift of eternal life is as limitless as God.

John 3:16 is an example of the limitless nature of His love for us: *"God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son..."* His love is everything HE IS! His love enfolds the whole world and still has room for 10,000 x 10,000 more.

Jeremiah 32:17 declares that *“Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.”*

Psalms 147:5 – *“Great is our Lord and mighty in power; His understanding has no limit.*

The IMMUTIBILITY of GOD meaning “HE DOES NOT CHANGE”

“For I am the LORD, I do not change; therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.” (Micah 3:6)

This emphasizes His unchanging nature and His faithfulness to His Covenant with the Israelites despite their failures.

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

LIFE APPLICATION: This is a reminder to us of His love and commitment to us. He is perfect and that rules out any possibility to change. GOD, ALONE, is always loving, always merciful, always receptive to our needs!

Also, His attitude towards sin is still the same as in Genesis and His attitude towards the sinner has not changed: *“Come unto Me, all who are weary and heavy laden and find rest...”*

However, God hates sin (Proverbs 6:16-19). God will not compromise and cannot be persuaded to altar His Word. *“For the wages of sin is death, but the ¹⁴gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord* (Romans 6:23). All change must be on our part bringing our lives into His revealed will.

But *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* (1 John 1:9) Confession of sin is met with God’s faithfulness and justice.

GOD IS OMNISCIENCE: God has total awareness and understanding of all things, including human thoughts and actions.

Isaiah 40:13-14: *“Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, or as His counselor has taught Him? ¹⁴With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him, and taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, and showed Him the way of understanding?”*

There is no knowledge that He does not possess! This is taught throughout scripture, concerning Him, that He knows all that can be known. He knows constantly and effortlessly all things perfectly.

Pastor Jerry often says, “God is never taken by surprise!”

God’s wisdom and knowledge are beyond human understanding and can only be revealed by the Spirit of God.

1 Corinthians 2:11,12 - *“The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹For who knows a person’s thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹²What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.”*

LIFE APPLICATION: God knows everything about us; He knew us utterly before we knew Him. He knew us and called us in spite of our failings. He knows and cares. The following scriptures reveal these truths..

Psalm 139:1-4: *"You have searched me, LORD, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar.³ You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways.⁴ Before a word is on my tongue you, LORD, know it completely."*

Psalm 90:8: *"You have set our iniquities before You, Our secret sins in the light of Your countenance."*

Matthew 10:29, 30 – *"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care.^[a] ³⁰ And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered."*

Let's take time to read and meditate on Psalm 139 inviting the Holy Spirit to minister life.

THE TRANSENDANCE OF GOD (Isaiah 57 :15) God is exalted!

"For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy. "I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones."

God is exalted above the created universe. *"Far above"* does not refer to physical distance. God is Spirit. This is talking about God's greatness. However, God's transcendence is not greatness by degree. **God is not like us, He is the Creator.** We are unable to understand His thoughts, override His will, or be of any kind of threat to Him. Yet it is God who puts it in our hearts to SEEK HIM and makes it possible in some measure to know Him. It please God when we SEEK HIM.

In Isaiah 29:11 King David offers a doxology of praise to God –

*"Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory,
The victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours;
Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head over all."*

God stands apart. We must not think of Him as "highest" in an ascending order of things.

LIFE APPLICATION. God is entirely different from us. God is also near to us, but, because of the distance between us and the holy God, we can only draw near to Him through Jesus. In His presence there is a sense of insufficiency in ourselves that causes us to humbly fall on our faces before Him.

GOD IS OMNIPRESENT – God is present everywhere at the same time!

"Lo, I am with you always even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

"Am I a God who is near and not a God afar off?" (Jeremiah 23:23)

"Do you not know that you are the temple of God and the Spirit of God dwells in you?" (1Cor3:16)

And Jesus said, *"He lives WITH you and will be IN you."* (John 14:17)

He is here and everywhere at the same time; and through Jesus Christ He is immediately accessible to every heart. This truth is seen throughout scripture. THIS IS WHERE FAITH BEGINS! All goes back to the truth that **GOD IS HERE!** The certainty that God is near us should keep us in a state of joy all the time. Even in the midst of trials and sorrows the believer may be conscious of the presence of God.

John 1:18 reveals in the midst of His sorrow and tears Jesus, in the flesh, reveals the relationship He has with Father God: *"No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him."*

Testimony: When our eldest son unexpectedly went home to be with the Lord, three years ago, I found comfort and strength in the words of David: *"I have set the LORD always before me; because He is at my right hand I shall not be moved."* David had a revelation of the resurrection. We will be with our son again one day!

LIFE APPLICATION: GOD IS NEAR TO US! This truth gives meaning to all other truths and give value to our lives. There is no place that man can hide from God (Psalm 139:7-12). God is near us, next to us, sees us, knows us through and through. Even in the midst of trials and sorrows the believer may be conscious of the presence of God. One of the most comforting words of Jesus to me are, *"Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* (Matthew 28:20) We are not alone!

LET'S PRAY:

Father I am so blessed and thankful for Your presence in my life and for the love, grace and mercy You have shown me. Lord, help me to walk daily in the gentle leading of Your Spirit, and to live in a way that reflects Your grace and truth. I am forever thankful for the salvation You have so freely given. I ask that the Holy Spirit open the scriptures and make them real to me so I may KNOW YOU MORE! In Jesus name I ask.