THE TRINITY

Introduction
As we deal with Hindus and Muslims in our mission work, it is good for us to review the Scripture to then help them to see who the true God is. Sometimes it has been said that the Hindus have a trinity of: Brahma, Vishnu and Siva. Of course that is not true and these gods morph into literally hundreds of thousand of others. As to the Muslims, we know that they condemn anyone who teaches of the Triune God. We agree with the Muslims that God is one, but He is more than that. We are looking into a mystery that is revealed to us in the Word of God. It is faith that knows, accepts and trusts this one true God who is three in one, the Trinity. The word simply expresses what the Bible teaches.

God is One
The Lord our God is one and this is taught in both the Old Testament and the New. “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord” Deut. 6:4 “...there is no God but one.” This is in I Cor. 8:4 and a direct quote from the Deuteronomy reference. “You believe that God is one...” in James 2:19 as well as elsewhere reminds us that there is but one God. Interestingly, in one of the most important passages in the NT that teaches that our God is three persons it also teaches that our God is one. “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Mt. 28:19 The word ‘name’ in this passage is singular. It is not in the ‘names’ of... This passages points up the mystery of the three persons in one God. A mystery is hidden to human logic and revealed with the touchstone of faith as far it is revealed in this life. The wording is clear. Our mind just cannot grasp what faith has as it goes beyond limited human reasoning.

NT Passages that State: the Father is God, the Spirit is God, the Son is God
There are two ways in which we can search the Scripture and see that our God is three in one. The first way is to see in individual passages that each person is God.
- The Father is God – Is. 64:8 “Yet, O Lord, thou art our Father...” I Pet. 1:2 “chosen and destined by God the Father...”
- The Spirit is God – Gen. 1:2 “...and the Spirit of God was moving over the face of the waters.” Whether here or numerous other places, the “Spirit of God” is obviously God as the spirit of man is human. In Acts 5:3-4 Peter says in v. 3 that Ananias has lied to the Holy Spirit and in v. 4 that he has lied to God. The Holy Spirit and God are one in the same. Or think of passages that ascribe to the Spirit the attributes of God as for instance, Heb. 9:14 “…who through the eternal Spirit offered himself…”
- The Son is God – Jesus was prophesied to be Immanuel/God with us. Is. 7:14 Throughout the OT He appeared before His incarnation. Most times it was in the name of THE Angel of the Lord. Below is a chart from NT references in John, Philippians, Colossians and Hebrews that points out He is God.

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This is of course the battleground area on the three persons in one God. Is the Son, our Lord Jesus, true God?

Jesus as God

Many verses in John, the epistles, and Revelation support the doctrine that Jesus Christ is God and the closely related concept of the trinity. The Gospel of John in particular supports Jesus' divinity. This is a partial list of supporting Bible verses:

- **John 1:1** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." together with **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, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." and **John 1:18** "No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known."
- **John 5:21** "For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives them life to whom he is pleased to give it."
- **John 8:23-24**: "You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. 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."
- **John 8:58**: "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am."[3]
- **John 10:30**: "I and the Father are one."
- **John 10:38**: "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 12:41**: "Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him." As the context shows, this implied the Tetragrammaton in Isaiah 6:10 refers to Jesus.
- **John 20:28**: "'Thomas said to him, 'My Lord and my God!'"
- **Phillipians 2:5-6**: "Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God,"
- **Colossians 2:9**: "For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form"
- **Titus 2:13**: "while we wait for the blessed hope - the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ."
- **Hebrews 1:8**: "But about the Son he [God] says: "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom."
- **1 John 5:20**: "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 1:17-18**: "When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the
God alone is the Savior and the Savior is Jesus

The Old Testament identifies the LORD as the only savior, and the New Testament identifies Jesus Christ as God and Savior.

- **Isaiah 43:11**: I, even I, am the LORD, and apart from me there is no savior.
- **Titus 2:10**: and not to steal from them, but to show that they can be fully trusted, so that in every way they will make the teaching about God our Savior attractive.
- **Titus 3:4**: But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared in regard with:

  - **Luke 2:11**: Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.
  - **Titus 2:13**: while we wait for the blessed hope, the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ
  - **John 4:42**: They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man [Jesus] really is the Savior of the world."

**Titus 3:6**: whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Divine Attributes are Ascribed to Jesus**

This is yet another way in which we see Jesus is God. He has the qualities of God.

- **Eternal** – Rev. 1:17-18 “...’Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one; I died, and behold I am alive for evermore...’”
- **Omnipresent** – Mt. 28:20 “...and lo, I am with you always...”
- **Omnipotent** – Think of all the miracles He did. The greatest of these was raising people from the dead (Lazarus, Jairus’ daughter, the son of the widow of Nain) and raising Himself from the dead.
- **Omniscient** – How many times in the Gospel narratives don’t we hear Jesus saying things about people that one could not know unless He read hearts and knew all? Jn. 1:48 “Nathanael said to him, ‘How do you know me?’ Jesus answered him, ‘Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.’”
But even with this volume of evidence (and there is much more) none are so blind as those who will not see.

New Testament Passages that Put Two or Three of the Persons of God Together
The second way we can see that our God is three in one is by reading the Word where unity or divinity or joint work is linked together in references. At the end of this study in the appendix there is a list that one man put together of these references, 80 in number. These are not exhaustive.

What follows are those that most expressly put the three persons together.
- Mt. 28:19 is the baptismal formula.
- Mt. 3:16-17 At Jesus’ baptism we see as the Son comes up from the water the Spirit descending in the form of a dove as the Father speaks.
- 2 Cor. 13:14 is the NT blessing from the three persons that corresponds to Aaron’s threefold OT blessing in Num. 6:24-26.
- Eph. 4:4-7 “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all... grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift.”
- Gal. 4:6 “And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’”
- 2 Cor. 1:21-22 “But it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has commissioned us; he has put his seal upon us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.”
- Rom. 14:17-18 “For the kingdom of God does not mean food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit; he who thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.”
- Acts 2:32-33 “This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit...”
- Jude 20-21 “…pray in the Holy Spirit; keep yourselves in the love of God; wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”
- 1 Pet. 1:2 “chosen and destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood.”
- Luke 1:35 “…The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; there the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.”
- Rev. 1:4-5 “…Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come (eternal Father), and from the seven spirits who are before his throne (eternal Spirit who goes throughout all the earth), and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.”
The New Testament Expands upon the Old

The universe seems infinite. But as time passes we see more and more of it. First it was by our eyesight alone and then with telescopes as they were developed. The words in the NT on the three in one expand on what was disclosed in the OT. In other words we see more and more. God has not changed, it being a simple matter rather of Him revealing more and more to us. The OT revealed and then the NT revealed. We learn more and more, but can never know all, just as we can’t know about all of the universe. No more than a cup can hold the ocean’s water, can our mind grasp more than what is revealed to us. God works with our puny minds and limited understanding. “Can you find out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limit of the Almighty?” Job 11:7 We know only in so far as the Word reveals in spiritual matters. As he discloses, so we believe. And this is historically true in the giving of the Word.

Think of how in other areas the NT expands upon the OT. Circumcision replaces baptism and baptism is for both genders, not only for the male as the head of the house. Passover is replaced with communion. Communion is offered beyond the nation of Israel and her converts. While in OT times all should seek the Lord, in NT times we seek them all for God. In the OT the Angel of the Lord was Jesus in His pre-incarnation appearances. The people then did not know as we know now having seen His birth, life, death and resurrection.

The three in one is in the OT though not as profusely as in the NT. We already considered the threefold blessing in Numbers 6:24-26. Also consider the following:

- Gen. 48:15-16 “And he blessed Joseph, and said ‘The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has led me all my life long to this day, the angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads...” Here the threefold blessing is given again.
- Is. 42:1 “Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put by Spirit upon him...” Three persons.
- Is. 61:1 “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted...” Three persons.
- Is. 63:7-10 “I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord, the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord has granted us...For he said, Surely they are my people, sons who will not deal falsely; and he became their Savior. In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them...But they rebelled and grieved his holy Spirit...” Three persons.

There are other passages which speak of two of the three persons such as in Ps. 110:1 “The Lord says to my lord: ‘Sit at my right hand...” which clearly here portrays the Father and the Son.

The idea of the plural, three in one is in the very first verse of the OT, Gen. 1:1, where the word for God is elohim, which is plural although we translate it singular. There is the
“us” in Gen. 1:26, 3:22, 11:7 which all points to the triune God. The doxology of Is. 6:3 of “holy, holy, holy” is repeated in NT times with Rev. 4:8. There is also another plural doxology in 1 Chron. 29:11 “Thine, O lord, is the greatness... thine... thine is the kingdom...”

Illustrations out of Life
True enough, this is a mystery which we only grasp by faith of who our God is. Yet some earthly illustrations, though they fall short of the whole truth, can help us to get the attention of some and explain in part.

- The sun in the sky has: light, heat, power. It remains one.
- H2O is the chemical symbol for water. H2O is: fluid as in water, solid as in ice, and gas as in steam. Yet always it remains H2O.
- Man may be: an uncle, a brother, a husband. He always remains the same man.
- An egg has three components: yoke, white, shell. Take away any one part and it is no longer an egg.
- The ancient Christian father Augustine pointed out how man has: mind, spirit, will. These are three distinct aspects of man which are inseparable and constitute one unified whole human being.

Conclusion
Our God is far more than a committee of three, as He is: the Father – God over us, the Son – God with us, the Spirit – God in us. And of course even this wording lacks. It would be good to review the three Creeds to see how other Christians have explained this mystery of the three in one. The Apostles of 150, the Nicene of 381 and the Athanasian of 542 explain what Scripture teaches about our God. All wording in the Creeds can be traced to Bible passages. As we say in the Creeds ‘I believe’, so it is the case that faith is worked in our heart by God Himself to acknowledge and confess that our God is three persons in one God. A mystery beyond our human logical comprehension, but not beyond faith.

Appendix Follows
Here I simply will list (without major comment) many of the NT passages that involve the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—in some sort of either interaction or co-ordinate statement.

The Gospels and Acts

- 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. 19 Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us." (Matt 1.18ff)

- And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. 10 The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. 11 "I baptize 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 baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." (Matt 3.9)

- 16 As soon as Jesus was baptized, 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." (Matt 3.16f)

- Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." 4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (Matt 4.1ff)

- But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, 20 for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. 21 "Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. 22 All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. 23 When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. I tell you the truth, you will not finish going through the cities of Israel before the Son of Man comes. (Matt 10.19f)
- But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. (Matt 12.28)
- 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. (Matt 28.19)
- While Jesus was teaching in the temple courts, he asked, "How is it that the teachers of the law say that the Christ is the son of David? 36 David himself, speaking by the Holy Spirit, declared: "The Lord said to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I put your enemies under your feet." 37 David himself calls him 'Lord.' How then can he be his son?" (Mark 12.35)
- for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. 16 Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. 17 And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous -- to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." (Lk 1.15ff)
- But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. 31 You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end." 34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. (Lk 1.30ff)
- His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied: 68 "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come and has redeemed his people. 69 He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (Lk 1.67)
- Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: 29 "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. 30 For my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the sight of all people, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." (Lk 2.25f)
- Jesus answered, "It says: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" 13 When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time. 14 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. (Lk 4.12)
- 21 At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. (Lk 10.21)
"I tell you, whoever acknowledges me before men, the Son of Man will also acknowledge him before the angels of God. 9 But he who disowns me before men will be disowned before the angels of God. 10 And everyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. (Lk 12.8f)

Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. 33 I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' 34 I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God." (Jn 1.32)

"The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all. 32 He testifies to what he has seen and heard, but no one accepts his testimony. 33 The man who has accepted it has certified that God is truthful. 34 For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit. 35 The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands. (Jn 3.31ff)

"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. (Jn 14.15)

"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. (Jn 14.25)

"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. (Jn 15.26)

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; 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. (Jn 16.7)

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. (Jn 20.16)

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." (Acts 1.4)

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." (Acts 1.7)
- God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. 33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. (Acts 2:32)
- 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." (Acts 2:38)
- Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! 9 If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, 10 then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. (Acts 4:8)
- When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heaven and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. 25 You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: "Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? 26 The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One." (Acts 4:24)
- Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. 30 Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." 31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. (Act 4:29)
- The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead — whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. 31 God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. 32 We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him." (Acts 5:30)
- "You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit! 52 Was there ever a prophet your fathers did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him — 53 you who have received the law that was put into effect through angels but have not obeyed it." 54 When they heard this, they were furious and gashed their teeth at him. 55 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56 "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." (Acts 7:51ff)
- When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. 15 When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. 16 because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. (Acts 8:14ff)
- But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel. 16 I will
show him how much he must suffer for my name." 17 Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord — Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here — has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, 19 and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. 20 At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. (Acts 9.15)

- how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. (Acts 10.38)

- "As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. 16 Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' 17 So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God?" (Acts 11.15)

- When he arrived and saw the evidence of the grace of God, he was glad and encouraged them all to remain true to the Lord with all their hearts. 24 He was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith, and a great number of people were brought to the Lord. (Acts 11.23)

- After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe. 8 God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us. 9 He made no distinction between us and them, for he purified their hearts by faith. 10 Now then, why do you try to test God by putting on the necks of the disciples a yoke that neither we nor our fathers have been able to bear? 11 No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are." (Acts 15.7)

- Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. 7 When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. 8 So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. 9 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. (Acts 16.6)

- "And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. 23 I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. 24 However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me — the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace. (Acts 20.22f)

- They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. From morning till evening he explained and declared to them the kingdom of God and tried to convince them about Jesus from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. 24 Some were convinced by what he
said, but others would not believe. 25 They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement: "The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your forefathers when he said through Isaiah the prophet: (Acts 28.23)

The Pauline writings

- Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God — 2 the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures 3 regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, 4 and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. (Rom 1.1)
- Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. 3 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; 4 perseverance, character; and character, hope. 5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. (Rom 5.1)
- 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. (Rom 8.9ff)
- 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. (Rom 8.13ff)
- 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, (Rom 8.26)
- If your brother is distressed because of what you eat, you are no longer acting in love. Do not by your eating destroy your brother for whom Christ died. 16 Do not allow what you consider good to be spoken of as evil. 17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the
Holy Spirit, 18 because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men. (Rom 14.15)

- to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. (Rom 15.16)

- 18 I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done — 19 by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit. (Rom 15.18)

- 30 I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. (Rom 15.30)

- 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. (I Cor 2.8)

- The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 The spiritual man makes judgments about all things, but he himself is not subject to any man's judgment. 16 "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ. (I Cor 2.14)

- Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor homosexuals nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. 11 And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (I Cor 6.9)

- 14 By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also. 15 Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ himself? Shall I then take the members of Christ and unite them with a prostitute? Never! 16 Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, "The two will become one flesh." 17 But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit. 18 Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. 19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? (I Cor 6.14)

- Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. 4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. (I Cor 12.3ff)

- 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. (2 Cor 1:20)

- You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. Such confidence as this is ours through Christ before God. (2 Cor 3:3)

- May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Cor 13:14)

- Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? Have you suffered so much for nothing — if it really was for nothing? Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard? (Gal 3:1ff)

- But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." (Gal 4:4)

- I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. (Gal 5:21ff)

- He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. (Eph 2:17)

- For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom his whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. (Eph 3:14)

- There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to one hope when you were called — 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Eph 4:4)

- And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Eph 4:30)

- Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Eph 5:18)

- For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus. (Phil 3:3)
• For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord. (1 Thess 1:4)

• 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. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thess 2:13)

• 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, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior. (Titus 3:4)

The General Epistles

• This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. 4 God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. (Heb 2:3)

• 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, 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. (Heb 6:3)

• How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God! (Heb 9:14)

• How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know him who said, "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will judge his people." 31 It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. (Heb 10:29)

• who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: (1 Pet 1:2)

• 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. (1 Pet 3:18)
Red = Father; Blue = Son; Green = Holy Spirit

1. Isaiah 48:16 "And now the Lord God has sent Me, and His Spirit." (verses 12-13 actually identify the speaker in v16 "ME" as being the creator YHWH. Jesus what actually was sent, is called the creator in the New Testament: Jn 1:3; Col 1:16; Heb 1:10-12. The natural reading of Isa 48:16, is that the sender is the Father. The Jews simply had no way to explain how both the sender and the one sent (ME) could both be YHWH. This is a good example of doctrinal development between the Old and New Testament. Christians can easily make sense of the passage! So Isa 48:16 has YHWH sending another who is also YHWH. Of course Trinitarians know that all three members of the Godhead are called "YHWH". Anti-Trinitarians, can do no better than the Jews in explaining how the send and the one sent are both called YHWH in Isa 48:16! Combined with Isa 61:1, it is clear that the ME is Jesus!)

2. Isaiah 61:1: "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, Because the Lord (YHWH) has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners;" (This is a certified triadic passage because Jesus applied the text to Himself in Luke 4:18-30)

3. Isaiah 63:8-10: "For He said, "Surely, they are My people, Sons who will not deal falsely." So He became their Savior. In all their affliction He was afflicted, And the angel of His presence [lit: face] saved them; In His love and in His mercy He redeemed them, And He lifted them and carried them all the days of old. But they rebelled And grieved His Holy Spirit" (The angel of His face is YHWH himself not a created angel: Ex 23:14-15, 20-23; 14:19; Num 20:16; Ex 33:12. Trinitarians expect to find this kind of passage in the Old Testament, that would not be fully understood until the mystery was revealed about the Trinity in the New Testament.)
4. Matthew 3:13-17; Luke 3:21-22: After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

5. Matthew 28:19: "baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit"

6. Luke 1:35: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God."

7. Luke 4:1-12: "Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, … Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.'"

8. John 14:16: "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever"

9. John 20:21-22: "So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

10. Acts 1:7-8: "He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.

11. Acts 2:33: "Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear."

12. Acts 2:38-39: "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."

13. Acts 5:30-32: "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross... "And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him."

14. Acts 7:55: "But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God"

15. "So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, being built up; and going on in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it continued to increase." (Acts 9:31)

16. Acts 10:38: "You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power"

17. Acts 10:44-48: "While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message … and exalting God … And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

18. Acts 11:15-17: "the Holy Spirit fell upon them … Therefore God gave to them the same gift as He gave to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ?"

19. Acts 15:8-11: "And God, who knows the heart, testified to them giving them the Holy Spirit … we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus"

20. Acts 20:27-28: "For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. "Be on guard … for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you
overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

21. Acts 28:25-31: "The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers … this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles … preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ"

22. Romans 1:1-4: "Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning His Son, … who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,"

23. Romans 5:5-6: "the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us. For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly."

24. Romans 8:2-4: "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. … God … sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh … walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit."

25. Romans 8:9 "indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him."

26. Romans 8:14-17: "For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. … you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ"

27. Romans 8:26-30: "In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness … the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words … God causes all things to work together for good … predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son"

28. Romans 15:16: "to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles, ministering as a priest the gospel of God, so that my offering of the Gentiles may become acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit."

29. Romans 15:30: "Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me,"

30. 1 Corinthians 2:2-5: "For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified… in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith would … rest on the power of God."

31. 1 Corinthians 6:11: "inherit the kingdom of God. … you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God."

32. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6: "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. There are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons."

33. 1 Corinthians 12:11-12,18: "But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. … But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired."

34. 2 Corinthians 1:21-22: "Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a
pledge."

35. 2 Corinthians 3:3-4: "written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God … Such confidence we have through Christ toward God."

36. 2 Corinthians 13:14 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all."

37. Galatians 3:1-5: "Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified … does He who provides you with the Spirit and works miracles among you"

38. Galatians 3:14: "The Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith … in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

39. Galatians 4:4-6: "God sent forth His Son … God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

40. Ephesians 1:3-13: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ," … "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace" … "In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,"

41. Ephesians 2:18: "for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father,"

42. Ephesians 2:19-22: "God’s household … Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone … a holy temple in the Lord … dwelling of God in the Spirit."

43. Ephesians 3:16-17: "that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith"

44. Ephesians 4:4-6: "one Spirit … one Lord … one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all."

45. Ephesians 5:18-20: "be filled with the Spirit … singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father"

46. Ephesians 6:1-3: "Encourage one another and build each other up, just as you do when you are present with the Lord."

47. 1 Thessalonians 1:3-6: "hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the presence of our God and Father … in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction … with the joy of the Holy Spirit"

48. 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14: "always give thanks to God … beloved by the Lord … sanctification by the Spirit and faith in the truth … the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."

49. Titus 3:4-6: "the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared, He saved us, … according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior"

50. Hebrews 2:3-4: "salvation first spoken through the Lord … God also testifying … gifts of the Holy Spirit"

51. Hebrews 9:14: "how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal"
Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God

52. Hebrews 10:29-31: "trampled under foot the Son of God … has insulted the Spirit of grace … It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

53. 1 Peter 1:2: "according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood"

54. 1 Peter 3:18: "For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit;"

55. 1 Peter 4:14: "If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you."

56. 1 John 3:23-24: "we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ … He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us."

57. 1 John 4:2: "By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God"

58. 1 John 4:13-14: "He has given us of His Spirit. We have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world."

Jude 20-21: "praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life."