

Journey Into The Spirit World



LESSON 1 . . . The Original Spirit

NOTES

We are now beginning a fascinating “journey into the spirit world.” It’s the totally real, but invisible, world all around us—a world inhabited by God, Satan, angels, and demons. As we explore the spirit world, we will also look at heaven and hell, the eternal homes of all spirits. Any study of the spirit world must begin with the original Spirit and Creator of all things—God. What does Genesis 1:1 tell us about God?

This means, at the very *beginning*, God already existed in eternity past. He existed before time, space, or matter. There are **five** things we should know about our eternal God, **the Original Spirit**.

1. God is a trinity.

God is a trinity, which means He is a “tri-unity,” or three in one. This is perhaps the most difficult doctrine in the Bible to understand. Someone has said, “If you try to explain the Trinity, you will lose your mind. But if you deny it, you will lose your soul.”

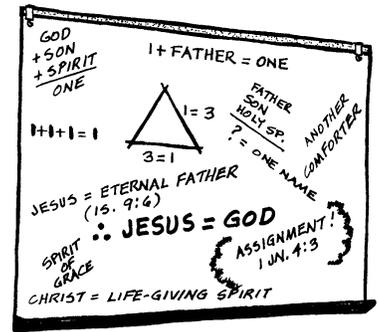
The word “trinity” is not found in the Bible, but the truth of it permeates Scripture. In only one place in the Bible are all three personalities of the Trinity revealed at the same time. It is at Jesus’ baptism. When Jesus comes up out of the water, the heavens open and Jesus sees the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on Him (Mt 3:16). Then, what happens (3:17)?

It is very difficult to understand divine math. In our math, one plus one equals what? Two! However, that is not true of divine math. For example, what does Jesus tell us in John 10:30?

In divine math, one plus one equals one. However, there is even more. In divine math, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit do not equal three but one,

because the Holy Spirit is also God. When Ananias sells some land and gives a portion of the proceeds to the church, he pretends to give it all. Therefore, Peter tells him Satan has filled his heart “to lie to the Holy Spirit” (Acts 5:3). Then, still referring to *the Holy Spirit*, what does Peter say to Ananias in the last phrase of Acts 5:4?

There have been many attempts to explain the Trinity through illustrations. For example, a man can be a trinity. He can be a son, a husband, and a father. There is also the illustration of an egg, which is three-in-one with shell, white, and yolk. Another illustration is water, which can be ice, liquid, and steam. However, these all fall miserably short, because there is not a person, an egg, or an element in the entire world that compares to God. There is nothing in this world with which to compare Him; that is why the Trinity is beyond human comprehension. Not only is God a **trinity**, but also . . .



2. God is omnipresent.

Each of the next three characteristics of God begins with the prefix “omni,” which means “unlimited.” Omnipresent means God is everywhere at once. Our great, triune God permeates all creation, holding everything together. What description of God’s omnipresence does Psalm 139:8 give us?

Heaven is the highest possible place and *Sheol*, or “hell” (SHEÔL, she-ole´), is the lowest possible place. Together, they cover all of creation. Because God is omnipresent, He is always close when we need Him. He is always available and never far away. That’s why after Moses’ death, the Lord makes what promise to Joshua in Joshua 1:5b?

Because God is omnipresent, there is no place where God is not with us, and therefore, there is nothing for us to fear. God is with us wherever we go, even through the valley of the shadow of death (Psa. 23:4).

God is a **trinity** and is **omnipresent**, but also . . .

3. God is omniscient.

This means God’s knowledge is unlimited, or endless. Because God

knows everything past, present, and future, we don't have to worry about anything. God knows everything about the most distant star in the universe. For example, what does Psalm 147:4 reveal?

God knows more about our bodies than we do and more than any doctor can determine through endless testing. He knows the smallest details of our bodies. Even though the quantity changes daily, or even hourly, God has every hair on our heads numbered (Mt 10:30). (He also knows the true color of every person's hair!)

Because God is omniscient, we never have a problem that takes God by surprise. God also knows everything about how we live. We can't "hood-wink," or deceive, Him. After Peter denies the Lord three times, Jesus gives him opportunity to confess Him by asking three times if he loves Him. The third time Jesus asks Peter if he loves Him, what does Peter say (John 21:17c)?

Because God knows everything, He knows all about our problems, our health, our finances, and our relationships. He knows how our problems can sometimes be so discouraging and even frightening. That's why we have what promise in 1 Peter 5:7?



God is a **trinity**, He is **omnipresent**, **omniscient**, and . . .

4. God is omnipotent.

This means God is all-powerful. This is what God reveals to Abraham when He says, "*I am God Almighty*" (Gen. 35:11). Therefore, He can do the impossible. For example, when the angel Gabriel announces to Mary she will have a child and is to call Him "Jesus," Mary is very confused. Therefore, she asks how this can be since she is "*a virgin*" (Lk 1:34). Mary was the first person to doubt the Virgin Birth. How does Gabriel respond in Luke 1:37?

As stated earlier, since God is omniscient, we never have a problem that takes God by surprise; and since He is omnipotent, we never have a problem that is impossible for Him to solve. However, we must realize God has a divine purpose for every problem He allows us to have. Therefore, when we ask God to help us with our problems, He will do one of two things: remove the problem or give us the grace to live with it (2 Cor. 12:8-9). Sometimes we need to be relieved of a problem, but sometimes we need to keep the problem because problems keep us humble (2 Cor. 12:7), develop our characters, and accelerate spiritual growth (Jas. 1:2-4).

Because God has unlimited power, so do our prayers of faith. How does Jesus express this fact in Mark 9:23c?

God is a **trinity**; He is **omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent**, and . . .

5. God is immutable.

This means we can count on God to always be the same. How does God express this fact in Malachi 3:6a?

While everything in our world is constantly changing, it is great to know Someone we can count on to never change—our awesome, incomparable God. Why doesn't God change? Because He is perfect, and you can't improve on perfection. Since God never changes, we can always depend on Him.

There is not the slightest variation in God; He is eternally the same. Even when we fail Him, as Peter did, His love for us is not diminished in the slightest. That's why we have what promise in 2 Timothy 2:13a-b?

There are many more wonderful, unchanging attributes of our magnificent God that time and space will not permit us to consider. Even if we did, our awesome God would still be beyond the ability of our finite minds to comprehend. However, we can get just a glimpse of His glory in the Bible, which reveals God is a **trinity**; He is **omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent**, and **immutable**.