

## The Spirit of GOD – Part 2 of 2

Here is a most significant quote from Spirit of Prophecy that bears repeating. *“The language of the Bible should be explained according to its OBVIOUS MEANING, unless a symbol or figure is employed. Christ has given the promise: **“If any man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine.”** John 7:17. If men would but TAKE THE BIBLE AS IT READS, if there were no false teachers to mislead and confuse their minds, a work would be accomplished that would make angels glad and that would bring into the fold of Christ thousands upon thousands who are now wandering in error....”* {DD 38.4} (Darkness Before Dawn)

In these two presentations on the topic of the “Spirit of God,” we wanted to know in explicit terms from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, just WHO or WHAT the Holy Spirit is. In part 1, we established the Oneness of the Father and the Son as Jesus Himself said John 10:30

**“I and my Father are ONE.”** John 10:30

John 1:4, 5 **“In him (Christ) was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in DARKNESS; and the DARKNESS COMPREHENDED IT NOT.”** Note – God is NOW shining the light of truth about the Godhead, as it pertains to the Father, and to His only begotten Son and to their shared Holy Spirit, just as He did with our early pioneers. Those who choose to teach and defend a trinity with either a triune god or three separate and distinct gods, will remain in darkness, because they do not comprehend the truth.

**“Many a star that we have admired for its brilliance will then go out in darkness.** {Prophets and Kings, p. 188. ChS 157.2}

John 1:12 **“But as many as RECEIVED HIM, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that BELIEVE ON HIS NAME:”**

Revelation 14:1 **“And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his FATHER'S NAME written in their foreheads.** Note – It clearly tells us that the 144,000 will have the NAME of the Lamb's Father in their foreheads, not three co-eternal gods.

**“Christ came to our world, but the world could not endure his purity. He has gone to his Father, but He has sent HIS HOLY SPIRIT to represent HIM in the world till he shall come again.”** {PH086 5.3} Note – That would be His omnipresent Spirit.

**“Christ has left HIS HOLY SPIRIT to be His representative in the world, to give celestial aid to every hungering, thirsting soul. ... We are living in a most solemn period of this world's history, but light is shining for those who will walk in the light.”** {TMK 217.2}

**“The leaven of godliness has not entirely lost its power. At the time when the danger and depression of the church are greatest, the little company who are standing in the light will be sighing and crying for the abominations that are done in the land. But more especially will their prayers arise in behalf of the church, because its members are doing after the manner of the world.”** {CET 186.4} Note – In the world of the Christian religion, the SDA church is doing after the beast and her daughters in the worship of the trinity darkness. But a little company, a remnant of the church all around the world, are standing in the light of the truth of the Godhead as our pioneers once believed.

***“The HOLY SPIRIT IS THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST; it is His representative. Here is the divine agency that carries conviction to hearts. When the power of HIS SPIRIT is revealed through the servants of God, we behold divinity flashing through humanity.”*** {13MR 313.3}

John 16:7 **“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the COMFORTER will not come unto you; but if I depart, I WILL SEND HIM UNTO YOU.”** Note – Christ speaking of Himself in the third person.

***“Cumbered with humanity, Christ could not be in every place personally; therefore it was altogether for their advantage that He should leave them, go to His father, and send the Holy Spirit to be His successor on earth. The HOLY SPIRIT is HIMSELF (Christ) divested of the personality of humanity and independent thereof. He would represent Himself as present in all places by HIS HOLY SPIRIT, as the OMNIPRESENT.”*** {14MR 23.3}

2 Corinthians 12:9 **“And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the POWER OF CHRIST MAY REST UPON ME.”**

***“Christ has given HIS SPIRIT as a DIVINE POWER to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress his own character on his church.”*** {RH, November 19, 1908 par. 5}

***“They have ONE GOD and ONE SAVIOUR; and ONE SPIRIT--THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST--is to bring unity into their ranks.”*** {9T 189.3} Note – If you reject the Testimony of Jesus, you are rejecting Christ Himself. That would be the spirit of anti-Christ. He made sure that His end-time remnant people would be clear on the fact that the Spirit of Christ is to be understood as the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4:3-6 **“Endeavouring (striving) to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and ONE SPIRIT, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; ONE LORD, one faith, one baptism, ONE GOD AND FATHER of all, who is above all, and through all, and IN YOU ALL.”** Note – One God and Father, and how is the Father in His people? ONLY by His Spirit. (His omnipresence).

***“Sin could be resisted and overcome ONLY through the mighty agency of the THIRD PERSON OF THE GODHEAD, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world's Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. CHRIST HAS GIVEN HIS SPIRIT as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress HIS OWN CHARACTER upon His church.”*** {DA 671.2}

I want to stop here for a moment because this quote says, **“The third person of the Godhead.”** Between Part 1 and this Part 2 message, we have seen the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ, identified as the Holy Spirit. But this word PERSON, most people automatically equate a person with a being, because of lifetime experiences. They see live persons all the time and they may have seen a dead person at times. All persons that they have seen they call human beings. That is where our finite minds take us. So, when God's prophet talks about the third person of the Godhead, we tend to believe that it must be a third Being like the Father and the Son. I want to illustrate for you how God helped me understand how person can pertain to the spirit, and I hope it will help your understanding as well.

Let us say that a white man uses a very derogatory term on a black man. He hurt him badly, but did he hurt his back, or his arm or his leg? No, he hurt him deep down in his spirit. And don't miss this point, his spirit is as much his person, as is his physical body. The point is that the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ, both their internal Spirit and Their external Spirit, called the Holy Spirit, is as much Their Person as is Their physical presence. When the Holy Spirit is in us, we have the Person, the presence and power of God and Christ. It is not some third god being. The Scriptures and Spirit of Prophecy, do however, make it crystal clear that the Holy Spirit is the shared omnipresent Spirit of the Father and Christ.

We were made in God's image, so He has a physical form and an internal spirit like we do. But He has what we do not have, nor do we fully understand, and that is His external Spirit that can be in us and be everywhere present in the universe. That is why His prophet calls Their omnipresent Spirit the third Person of the Godhead and not the third being. Here is another quote which will show why the Holy Spirit is not a Being like the Father and the Son.

This is from the book Great Controversy.

***"Before the entrance of evil there was peace and joy throughout the universe. All was in perfect harmony with the Creator's will. Love for God was supreme, love for one another impartial.*** (Listen now with your understanding) ***Christ the Word, the Only Begotten of God,*** (We are talking about Christ having been begotten while Lucifer was an unfallen angel) ***was one with the eternal Father,--one in nature, in character, and in purpose,--the ONLY BEING in all the universe that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God.*** {GC 493.1} What did she say?

***"... the ONLY BEING in all the universe that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God."*** Note – If the Holy Spirit were a third being, why would he be excluded? Well, the person of the Holy Spirit is where the Father and Son are. At creation, the Spirit of God (the Father) moved upon the waters. Not a third being!

***"The ONLY defense against evil is the INDWELLING OF CHRIST in the heart through faith in His righteousness."*** {DA 324.1} Note – The **only defense** against evil is the INDWELLING OF CHRIST in the heart. The Third Person therefore is the personal presence of Christ by His Spirit, which is also called the Comforter, and the Holy Spirit, His omnipresence. It is His Person and not another being.

***"There is NO POWER in you apart from Christ, but it is your privilege to have Christ abiding in your heart by faith, and he can overcome sin in you, when you cooperate with his efforts, putting your will on the side of God's will."*** {YI, June 29, 1893 par. 8} Note – There is no power other than the Spirit of Christ, not a third being.

***"With HIS SPIRIT CHRIST sends a reconciling influence and a POWER that takes away sin."*** {RH, May 19, 1904 par. 1}

***"The prince of this world cometh," saith Jesus, "and hath nothing in Me." There was in Him nothing that responded to Satan's sophistry. He did not consent to sin. Not even by a thought did He yield to temptation. SO IT MAY BE WITH US. Christ's humanity was united with divinity; He was fitted for the conflict by the indwelling of the HOLY SPIRIT."*** {DA 123.3}

***"Jesus ALONE has power to save from sin, to free from the power of evil; and to DOUBT HIM who has laid down his life for us, is to grieve and insult the Father, who has in one gift poured out all heaven to a lost world."*** . {RH, February 10, 1891 par. 5} Note – Do not miss what this is saying.

If you believe that a third god being has power to save from sin and to free from the power of evil, and not Christ alone, it grieves and insults the Father.

***“Christ determined to bestow a gift on those who had been with Him and on those who should believe on Him (Every future follower), because this was the occasion of His ascension and inauguration, a jubilee in heaven. What gift could Christ bestow rich enough to signalize and grace His ascension to the mediatorial throne? It must be worthy of His greatness and His royalty. Christ gave HIS REPRESENTATIVE, THE THIRD PERSON OF THE GODHEAD, THE HOLY SPIRIT. This gift could not be excelled. The divine Spirit, converting, enlightening, sanctifying, would be His donation, because He would give all gifts in one.”*** {Ms44-1898.11}

***“Keep cheerful. Do not forget that you have a Comforter, the Holy Spirit, which Christ has appointed. You are never alone.”*** {DG 184.3}

***“When trials overshadow the soul, remember the words of Christ, remember that HE is an UNSEEN PRESENCE in the PERSON of the HOLY SPIRIT, and He will be the peace and comfort given you, manifesting to you that He is with you, the Sun of Righteousness, chasing away your darkness. "If a man love me," Christ said, "he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." Be of good cheer; light will come, and your soul will rejoice greatly in the Lord.”*** Letter 124, 1897. {DG 185.2} Note - How will the Father and Son make their abode in us? Only by Their shared Omnipresent Holy Spirit. Not by a third god.

Especially note the next statement, which was released by the White Estate in 2015, on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sister White's death. It is a powerful message from God for His end time people. Don't miss what it says so clearly.

***“The Lord is soon to come. We want that COMPLETE AND PERFECT UNDERSTANDING which the LORD ALONE can give. IT IS NOT SAFE TO CATCH THE SPIRIT FROM ANOTHER. We want the HOLY SPIRIT, which is JESUS CHRIST.*** {Lt66 April 10, 1894} Note – This complete and perfect understanding that only the Lord can give is the truth about the Godhead. It says that it is NOT safe to catch the Spirit from another, which would be a counterfeit. We are not to fall for the erroneous doctrine of a third god which the Fundamental Beliefs #5 calls god the holy spirit. That is a place that Satan wants to fill. Immediately after the warning we are to only want the Holy Spirit which is Jesus Christ. It makes me wonder how it can be possible that so many highly educated people, with their PhD's, and their Doctorates of Divinity, can embrace something so diabolical as the first commandment breaking Fundamental Beliefs #2, #4 and #5, all three promoting a trinity of co-eternals.

Hebrews 13:5 ***“... He (Christ) hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”*** Note – Jesus by His own omnipresent Spirit will keep that promise.

Revelation 3:20 ***“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”***

***“Lift up CHRIST in His POWER in the PERSON of the HOLY SPIRIT. He is waiting for them to OPEN THE DOOR and admit HIM.”*** {Lt 59 March 29, 1899} Note – The end-time church of Laodicea, has opened the door to another spirit, and Jesus is left standing outside the door knocking. Who will let the Spirit of Truth in? Soon it will be too late.

Note – Now I want to address one specific quote of Ellen White that she made in Australia when she was at Avondale College. Many who are of a three God persuasion are convinced that this proves the Holy Spirit is a third god. I will give that quote in a moment. Let us understand one thing about the quote; that it is found in the book “Evangelism.” Sister White did not write this book. LeRoy E. Froom, a well-respected Seventh-day Adventist leader, who some say was once a Roman

Catholic priest of the Jesuit order, and is today buried in the Masonic section of a cemetery in Maryland, went through 100,000 pages of Sister White's writings, searching for any quote that would appear to support the Trinity. He was a compiler of her writings that are in the subject book. He even put the word Trinity in a sub-heading which you see here in bold letters:

**The Eternal Dignitaries of the Trinity.**—"The eternal heavenly dignitaries--God, and Christ, and the Holy Spirit--arming them [the disciples] with more than mortal energy, . . . would advance with them to the work and convince the world of sin."--Manuscript 145, 1901. {Ev 616.4}

Now here is the very next quote regarding Avondale:

**"We need to realize that the Holy Spirit, who is as much a person as God is a person, is walking through these grounds."**--Manuscript 66, 1899. (From a talk to the students at the Avondale School.) {Ev 616.5} Now let us look at the part of the quote that Froom left out:

**"We have been brought together as a school, and we need to realize that the Holy Spirit, who is as much a person as God is a person, is walking through these grounds, UNSEEN by human eyes, that the LORD GOD IS OUR KEEPER AND HELPER. He hears every word we utter and knows every thought of the mind."** Note - On the surface, the abbreviated quote could be misinterpreted and appear to support the Trinitarian argument. However, just as we are to compare scripture with scripture, knowing the fuller quote, let us look at similar S.O.P. quotes.

**"Christ walks UNSEEN through our streets. With messages of mercy He comes to our homes. With all who are seeking to minister in His name, He waits to co-operate. He is in the midst of us, to heal and to bless, if we will receive Him."** {MH 107.2} Note - So it was Jesus by His Spirit that was also walking the grounds at Avondale School.

**"How few realize that Jesus, unseen, is walking by their side! How ashamed many would be to hear His voice speaking to them and to know that He heard all their foolish, common talk!"** {TM 87.4}

**"Remember that Jesus is beside you wherever you go, noting your actions and listening to your words. Would you be ashamed to hear his voice speaking to you, and to know that he hears your conversation?"** {YI, February 4, 1897 par. 3}

**"The human agent, the seen instrument, is to preach the Word, and the Lord Jesus, the unseen, agency, by His Holy Spirit is to make the Word efficacious and powerful"---Letter 105, 1900. {2SM 18.3}**

Deuteronomy 29:29 says clearly: **"The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, ..."** Note - If man is to understand anything about the mystery of God, it better be that which has been given in the scriptures or by His inspired prophets, otherwise man may begin to rely on speculation, conjecture or flawed intellectual philosophy.

I want to share one more very important quote: **"It is not essential for us to be able to define just what the Holy Spirit is. ... The nature of the Holy Spirit is a mystery. Men cannot explain it, because the Lord has not revealed it to them. ... Regarding such mysteries, which are too deep for human understanding, silence is golden."** {AA 52.1} Note - Everything we have shown is REVEALED information from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy and we have not stepped out of those

boundaries regarding the Holy Spirit. The nature of the Holy Spirit has not been revealed, but WHO the Holy Spirit is, has been revealed.

Based on Deuteronomy 29:29 and the quote that followed, NO ONE is to try to explain God and His Spirit any further than what God has revealed to us in scripture or by His end time prophet. We have so complied in these studies. BUT, the same CANNOT be said about the denomination and HERE IS THE PROOF:

### **SDA Denomination 2015 Fundamental Belief #2 - *The Trinity***

**“There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of THREE COETERNAL PERSONS. God is immortal, all-powerful, all-knowing, above all, and ever present.”** Note - I am not going to read any further, because the difficulty with Fundamental Belief #2 is in the first sentence.

A BIG Problem with #2.

- (1) The word **Trinity** is not found in the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy to describe God.
- (2) The word coeternal is not found in the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy, but it is being used to describe God. The origin of this error is biased intellectual philosophy and the wording of the Athanasian Creed from the Council of Nicea in 325 AD..
- (3) The Seventh-day Adventist Church did not officially become Trinitarian until 1980, sixty-five years after God’s non-Trinitarian prophet was laid to rest.

Note – This exceeds man’s authority in defining God because there is no support for the erroneous decision in establishing this Belief. Their conclusion that makes it false doctrine is that they say there were three separate and distinct Gods, none preceded the other two or came after the other two. **There is nothing to back up that conclusion.** Then comes the false conclusion that since they are equal in eternal existence, there can be no true Father and Son relationship. They conclude that the three Gods are role playing and that the Father-Son relationship is only a metaphor.

It must also be noted that the early pioneers of Adventism rejected the Trinity and believed that only God the Father has existed for all eternity, and that at a certain point way back in eternity the Father begat or birthed His Son whom we call Jesus and at that point, the person of Jesus had beginning of days.

### **Fundamental Belief #4 - *The Son***

**“God the eternal Son became incarnate in Jesus Christ. Through Him all things were created, the character of God is revealed, the salvation of humanity is accomplished, and the world is judged.”** Note - I am not going to read any further, because the difficulty with Fundamental Belief #4 is in the first sentence.

A BIG Problem with #4

Neither the four-word phrase, *God the eternal Son*, nor the three word phrase *God the Son*, is found in the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy. That is a fact. What is not a fact is that Jesus is not a co-eternal God, however He is the Son of the eternal Father and was begotten in eternity.

### **Fundamental Belief #5 - *The Holy Spirit***

**“God the eternal Spirit was active with the Father and the Son in Creation, incarnation, and redemption.”** Note - I am not going to read any further, because the major difficulty with Fundamental Belief #4 is in this first sentence.

A BIG Problem with #5

A four-word phrase, *God the Holy Spirit*, or the four-word phrase, *God the eternal Spirit* as shown above, or a five-word phrase, *God the eternal Holy Spirit*, are not found in the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy. No such phrases exist there. Another problem would be if there were this third god called god the holy spirit, then he would be the father of the man Jesus, and not the Father.

We do not dispute the fact that there is a Holy Spirit, for it is the One omnipresent Spirit of God the Father and of Christ and is not a third separate and distinct god being.

In a moment we will look at the 1872 Fundamental Principles of the early Adventist pioneers that pertain to the Godhead. But first let us read this from God's prophet:

***"The past fifty years have not dimmed one jot or PRINCIPLE of our faith as we received the great and wonderful evidences that were made certain to us in 1844, after the passing of the time. The languishing souls are to be confirmed and quickened according to His Word. . . . Not a word is changed or denied. That which the Holy Spirit testified to as truth after the passing of the time, in our great disappointment, is the solid foundation of truth. [The] pillars of truth were revealed, and we accepted the foundation principles that have made us what we are - Seventh-day Adventists, keeping the commandments of God and having the faith of Jesus."*** - UL352.4

#### Fundamental Principle #1

**"That there is one God, a personal, spiritual being, the creator of all things, omnipotent, omniscient, and eternal, infinite in wisdom, holiness, justice, goodness, truth, and mercy; unchangeable, and everywhere present by his representative, the Holy Spirit."** Ps.139:7.

#### Fundamental Principle #2

**"That there is one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Eternal Father, the one by whom God created all things, and by whom they do consist; that he took on him the nature of the seed of Abraham for the redemption of our fallen race; that he dwelt among men full of grace and truth, lived our example, died our sacrifice, was raised for our justification, ascended on high to be our only mediator in the sanctuary in Heaven, where, with his own blood he makes atonement for our sins; which atonement so far from being made on the cross, which was but the offering of the sacrifice, is the very last portion of his work as priest, according to the example of the Levitical priesthood, which foreshadowed and prefigured the ministry of our Lord in Heaven."**  
See Lev. 16; Heb. 8:4, 5; 9:6, 7; etc.

The early pioneers and Ellen White did not believe in a trinity because God Himself taught them and confirmed the doctrines by His Spirit. So, who are we going to believe? ... God has made the decision easy for us.

Acts 5:29 says, **"We ought to obey God rather than men."** Rather than the theologians today with their intellectual philosophy, spinning the lie that the pioneers were in error. Since God led them and taught them, then they are saying God is in error.

Mark Twain once said, **"It's easier to fool people, then it is to convince them they have been fooled."** The trinity doctrine is proof of that!

Let us pray for God's people to wake up to Satan's all-time greatest deception.

Richard C. Vaughn