

a study of the *Holy Spirit*

Lesson 1: The Godhead

There is probably no other biblical topic that is more confused than this; no other topic is responsible for greater religious error than the Holy Spirit.

This series will not clarify all the confusion regarding the Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 29:29). *The guiding rule*—the Scriptures will dictate all thoughts.

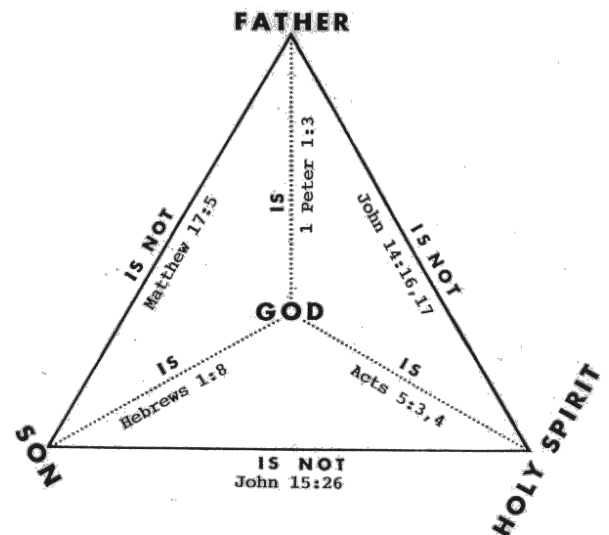
The Godhead:

We are commanded to heed and obey the Spirit (Revelation 22:17). The Spirit occupies a position of authority because He is a part of the "Godhead." (Acts 17:29; Romans 1:20; Colossians 2:9 [KJV]).

There are three members of the "Godhead." It is difficult to describe the relationship within the Godhead (Isaiah 40:18).

- **God the Father**—He is always listed first and is supreme in authority.
- **God the Son**—Jesus Christ occupies the second place in the Godhead.
- **God the Spirit**—The Holy Spirit is always third and has several different titles.

The relationship shared by the three members of the Godhead has been diagrammed by this triangle.



A triangle combines unity and distinctive three-fold nature without confusion.

Several names are used to describe the Godhead

- "The Trinity"
- "The Divine Family"
- "The Deity"

The plurality of the Godhead is seen throughout the Bible

- **Genesis 1:26; 11:7, 8**—"let Us" is a reference that is not to angels.
- **Deuteronomy 6:4**—three important points that are found in this text.
- **Matthew 3:16, 17**—all three Persons of the Godhead are specifically mentioned.
- **Matthew 28:19**—the three members of the Godhead are specifically mentioned by Jesus.
- **Isaiah 64:8; John 1:3; Job 26:13**—the Scriptures teach that the Father created, the Son created, and the Spirit created. Isaiah 44:24 states that Jehovah alone created. How can this be unless the Godhead exists?

Rejecting the Godhead

Three common modes of rejecting the Holy Spirit:

- Some claim there is only ONE Person in the Godhead and this ONE has been manifested in three different forms (the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). This is especially true with the "Jesus Only" or "Oneness" doctrine.
- Some claim the Holy Spirit is only an active "force," or "breath" from God.
- Some claim there are actually three gods instead of one God.

The Need for This Study

- As "God" the Holy Spirit must be understood by believers.
- As a mysterious figure in today's religious scene, we need to be prepared to give an answer to those in error.
- As information regarding Him is known only through Scripture and is found there in quantity, we must study so we will not be ashamed of biblical ignorance!



Looking Ahead

Next Lesson: The Personality of the Holy Spirit

Suggested Reading: Jn. 14; Rom. 8;
1 Cor. 12; Acts 21