

THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY

As Proved With Passages From the New World Translation of the Jehovah's Witnesses
(Punctuation and Capitalization as Found in the NWT, Copyright 1961, Revised 1970 by
The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania)

I. There is only one God:

- a. Deut. 6:4 "Listen, O Israel: Jehovah **our God is one Jehovah.**"
- b. I Cor. 8:4 ". . . There is **no God but one.**"
- c. Is. 42:8 "I am Jehovah. That is my name; and to no one else shall I give my own glory, neither my praise to any graven images."
- d. Is. 43:10-11 ". . . **Before me there was no God formed, and after me there continued to be none.** I – I am Jehovah, and besides me there is no savior."
- e. Is. 45:5 "I am Jehovah, and there is no one else. **With the exception of me, there is no God.**"

II. Yet, there are three distinct Persons within this one God, to which both the Old and New Testaments either hint at, or explicitly proclaim:

- a. Gen. 1:26 "And God went on to say: 'Let **us** make man in **our image**, according to **our likeness.**'"
- b. Is. 48:16 "And now the Lord **Jehovah** himself has sent **me**, even **his spirit.**"
- c. Is. 61:1 "The **spirit of Jehovah** is upon **me** . . ."
- d. Matt. 3:16-17 "After being baptized **Jesus** immediately came up from the water; and, look! The heavens were opened up, and he saw descending like a dove **God's spirit** coming upon him. Look! Also, there was **a voice from the heavens that said: 'This is my Son**, the beloved, whom I have approved.'"
- e. Matt. 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of people of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the **Father and of the Son and of the holy spirit.**"
- f. Jn. 15:26 "When the helper arrives that I will send you from the **Father**, the **spirit of the truth**, which proceeds from the Father, **that one** will bear witness about **me.**"
- g. II Cor. 12:14 "The undeserved kindness of the Lord **Jesus Christ** and the love of **God** and the sharing in the **holy spirit** be with all of you."
- h. Gal. 4:6 "Now because you are sons, **God** has sent forth the **spirit** of his **Son** into our hearts and **it cries out:** "Abba, Father.'"

III. Each of these Persons are acknowledged as God in the Bible:

- a. Concerning the Father:
 1. Mal. 2:10 "Is it not **one father** that all of us have? Is it not **one God** that has created us?"
 2. Matt. 6:9 "**Our Father in the heavens**, let your name be sanctified."
 3. Jn. 20:17 "I am ascending to **my Father and your Father and to my God and your God.**"
 4. Eph. 3:14-15 "On account of this I bend my knees to the **Father, to whom every family in heaven and on earth owes its name.**"
- b. Concerning the Son, Jesus:
 1. Matt. 1:21 – 23 "'She will give birth to a son, and you must call his name **Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.**' All this actually came about for that to be fulfilled which was spoken by Jehovah through his prophet saying: 'Look! The virgin will become pregnant and will give birth to a son, and they will call his name Immanuel,' which means, when translated, '**With us is God.**'"
 2. Mk. 2:5-7, 10-11 "And when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic: 'Child, your sins are forgiven.' Now there were some of the scribes there, sitting and reasoning in their hearts: 'Why is this man talking in this manner? He is blaspheming. **Who can forgive sins**

except one, God?’ . . . ‘[Jesus said] But in order for you men to know that **the Son of man has authority to forgive sins upon the earth**’ – he said to the paralytic: ‘I say to you, Get up, pick up your cot, and go to your home’. At that he did get up . . .”

3. Jn. 5:18 “On this account, indeed, the Jews began seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but **he was also calling God his own Father, making himself equal to God.**”
4. Jn. 5:23 “[Jesus said] . . . in order that **all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father.** He that does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.”
5. Jn. 10:30 “[Jesus said] **I and the Father are one.**”
6. Jn. 20:28 “In answer, Thomas said to him [Jesus]: ‘**My Lord and my God!**’”
7. Heb. 1:6 “**And let all God’s angels worship him [Jesus].**”
8. Heb. 13:8 “**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, and forever.**”
9. I Jn. 5:20 “But we know **that the Son of God has come**, and he has given us intellectual capacity that we may gain the knowledge of the true one, by means of his Son Jesus Christ. **This is the true God and life everlasting.**”
10. Rev. 1:5-8, 17-18 “And from Jesus Christ, “the Faithful Witness,” “The first-born from the dead,” and “The Ruler of the kings of the earth.” To him that loves us and that loosed us from our sins by means of his own blood . . . to him be the glory and the might forever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, and those who pierced him . . . ‘I am the Alpha and the Omega,’ says Jehovah God, ‘the One who is and who was and who is coming, the Almighty.’ . . . “And when I saw him, I fell as dead at his feet. And he laid his right hand upon me and said: “Do not be fearful. I am the First and the Last, and the living one; and I became dead, but, Look! I am living forever and ever, and I have the keys of death and hades.””
- c. Concerning the Holy Spirit (Especially, that He is a Person and not a Thing):
 1. Acts 5:3-4 “But Peter said: ‘Annanias, why has Satan emboldened you to **play false to the holy spirit . . . You have played false, not to men, but to God.**’”
 2. Mk. 13:11 “Do not be anxious beforehand about what to speak; for whatever is given you in that hour, speak this, for **you are not the ones speaking, but the holy spirit is.**”
 3. Lk. 12:12 “**For the holy spirit will teach you** in that very hour the things you ought to say.”
 4. Jn. 16:13 “However, when that one arrives, **the spirit of truth, he will guide you** into all the truth, **for he will not speak of his own impulse**, but what things **he hears he will speak**, and **he will declare** to you the things coming.”
 5. Acts 1:16 “Men, brothers, it was necessary for the scripture to be fulfilled, **which the holy spirit spoke beforehand** by David’s mouth . . .”
 6. Acts 15:28 “For **the holy spirit and we ourselves have favored** adding no further burden to you, except these necessary things . . .”
 7. Acts 13:2 “. . . **the holy spirit said:** ‘Of all persons set Barnabas and Saul apart for me for the work to which **I have called them.**’”
 8. Rom. 8:26-27 “. . . **the spirit itself pleads for us** with groanings unuttered. Yet he who searches the hearts knows what the meaning of the spirit is, because **it is pleading** in accord with God for holy ones.”
 9. Is. 63:10 “But they themselves rebelled and **made his holy spirit feel hurt.**”
 10. Eph. 4:30 “Also, **do not be grieving God’s holy spirit**, with which you have been sealed for a day of releasing by ransom.”

IV. COMMENTS:

- a. Many more passages could be adduced if it weren't for the inconsistent and theologically biased renderings of their "translation." For example: J.W.'s do not believe that the Holy Spirit is an actual person of the Trinity, but an "energy" emanating from God. So, instead of translating Genesis 1:2 as "the Spirit of God hovered over the face of the deep," as is typical for all other translations, they render it "And God's active force was moving to and fro . . ." The Hebrew word there is "ruach," which means "spirit." Yet here they render it something completely foreign, even though elsewhere in their bible, they do render the word "ruach" as "spirit."
- b. If the Holy Spirit were only an "active force" of Jehovah, and not a Person, then how can so many passages in the Bible speak of the Holy Spirit "speaking," "teaching," "calling," "grieving," "praying," etc. These are all traits of personality, not "impersonality." Thus, the NWT is, at times, "schizophrenic" in using personal pronouns for the Holy Spirit, sometimes referring to the Spirit as "it," sometimes as "he."
- c. Notice that the Bible is very clear that there is no other god, equal to or lesser than the true God. Yet, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are both referred to as God. Therefore, the idea that Jesus is a lesser god (as J. W.'s claim) is inconsistent with God's own statements that there are no other gods, equal to or lesser than Him. If there is indeed only one God, and yet the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are each called God, one can only conclude from the testimony of Scripture that the True God is Triune: Three equal and distinct Persons in one divine essence that is God.
- d. Part of the problem for J.W.'s in understanding Christ is that they have a completely muddled understanding of His Two Natures: Divine and Human. According to His Divine nature, He has always existed with the Father and Spirit, and shares equally in glory, power, honor etc. According to His human nature, beginning with His incarnation, Jesus was subordinate to the Father, especially as His incarnation tied Him to humanity for the purpose of saving us.
- e. One of the powerful passages for Christ's divinity is corrupted by the NWT. Phil. 2:5 ff. reads in normal translations: "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." The word for "form" in the Greek indicates that the outward appearance expresses that nature which is an inner reality. In other words, the fact that outwardly Christ the Son appeared as God is indicative of His inner nature as God. He did not consider His equality with God as something stolen or inappropriate. But in His humility humbled Himself to take on the appearance and nature of humanity, again for our salvation. The NWT, in order to promote their false understanding of Christ's nature, renders the passage this way: "who, although existing in God's form, gave no consideration to a seizure, namely that he should be equal to God." Notice how a little tinkering changes the meaning of the verse.
- f. Finally, it should be noted that, even with all the mistranslations in the NWT resulting from the J.W.'s personal theological bias, enough of God's Word still shines through to show the truth, for those willing to see it. This is so true that even the Watchtower people complain that "From time to time, there have arisen from among the ranks of Jehovah's people those, who, like the original Satan, have adopted an independent, faultfinding attitude . . . They say that it is sufficient to read the Bible exclusively, either alone or in small groups at home. ***But, strangely, through such Bible reading, they have reverted right back to the apostate doctrines that commentaries by Christendom's clergy were teaching 100 years ago . . .***" (The Watchtower, August 15, 1981). Indeed!