

## **Abundant Love Water Baptism Classes: Lesson 1–The Holy Trinity**

To get prepared to be baptized in water, it is important to fully understand the meaning of the ceremony in which you will be participating. It is also an opportune time to ensure that you understand some of the most basic doctrines of the Christian faith. Therefore, these classes are designed to ensure that people who get baptized in water in our church have a good understanding of water baptism and several other important Christian doctrines.

The first step to being right with God is to give one's life to Jesus Christ. **John 14:6**

<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

We know that you give your life to Jesus Christ by believing in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and by confessing Jesus Christ as your Lord. **Romans 10:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

<sup>10</sup> For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Together with that belief and confession of faith, we need to repent of our sins. **Acts 17:30**

<sup>30</sup> Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

After having received salvation, we have to persevere in the way of Christ. **Mat. 24:13**

<sup>13</sup> But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

There are several things that help us to persevere in Christ:

1) Communicating with God through prayer **1 Thess. 5:17**

<sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing,

2) Studying the Bible and applying it to our lives **Josh. 1:8**

<sup>8</sup> This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you<sup>[a]</sup> shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

3) Going to a good church **Heb. 10:24-25**

4)<sup>24</sup> And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

The characteristics of a good church include the following:

- 1) The Bible is preached there.
- 2) At least the leaders do not practice sins that do not permit us to go to heaven, and they try to practice what is preached in the church.
- 3) They believe in the Holy Trinity.

The doctrine of the Holy Trinity says that our God is one God in three persons, God the Father; God the Son, Jesus Christ; and God the Holy Spirit. It is very important to believe in the Holy Trinity because the doctrine of the Holy Trinity teaches us what the essence of God is like. If our belief about the essence of God is erroneous, our interpretation of His Word will be incorrect.

For example, Jehovah's Witnesses deny the divinity of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit because they do not believe in the Holy Trinity. They believe that only the Father is God.

Mormons believe in three gods – that the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit are separate gods, not one God in three persons.

There are some Pentecostal churches that believe that only Jesus Christ is God – that Jesus Christ is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit all at the same time. The Pentecostals who believe in this doctrine of “oneness” – that Jesus Christ is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit can be saved because they receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, but it is difficult for them to grow in certain aspects of the Christian faith because they do not understand correctly an important part of God's nature – that He is triune.

Even though you can see the three persons of the Godhead in the Old Testament, the Holy Trinity was not taught among the Jews in the Old Testament. The Holy Trinity is a revelation about the nature of God that came to human beings when Jesus Christ came to the earth. Thus, the Holy Trinity is revealed in the New Testament. It makes sense that there would be some new revelations about God in the New Testament since the New Testament describes the coming of God to the earth in human form. Passages in the New Testament that support the doctrine of the Holy Trinity include the following:

**Mat. 28:18-20:** <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go [\[a\]](#)therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” [\[b\]](#)Amen.;

**1 John 5:7:** <sup>7</sup> For there are three that bear witness [\[a\]](#)in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. (The Word is a clear reference to Jesus Christ, who is not only the Son of God but also God the Son – **John 1:1,14: verse 1:** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**verse 14:** <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.);

**2 Cor. 13:14:** <sup>14</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the [\[a\]](#)communion of the Holy Spirit *be* with you all. Amen.;

**Matt. 3:16-17** (This passage in particular demonstrates that the doctrine of “oneness,” that Jesus Christ is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit does not make a lot of sense because then the Lord Jesus would have had to descend on Himself in the form of a dove, and He would have been talking to Himself when the Father spoke to the Son.)

<sup>16</sup> When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and [\[a\]](#)He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. <sup>17</sup> And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

## The Holy Trinity in the Old Testament

**Gen. 1:26-27:** <sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over <sup>[a]</sup>all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” <sup>27</sup> So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

In verse 26, God uses the plural form to refer to Himself. In verse 27, the singular form is used to refer to God. Thus, we see a plural unity, like one God in three persons.

**Ex. 33:18-23:** <sup>18</sup> And he said, “Please, show me Your glory.”

<sup>19</sup> Then He said, “I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.” <sup>20</sup> But He said, “You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.” <sup>21</sup> And the LORD said, “Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. <sup>22</sup> So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. <sup>23</sup> Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen.”

No human can continue to live on the earth after seeing the Father’s face. However, there were several occasions in the Old Testament when people saw the face of God. In these cases, people were seeing God the Son. These manifestations of Jesus Christ before He was born in Bethlehem are called theophanies, and they include passages like the following:

**Gen. 32:24-32**

<sup>24</sup> Then Jacob was left alone; and a Man wrestled with him until the <sup>[a]</sup>breaking of day. <sup>25</sup> Now when He saw that He did not prevail against him, He <sup>[b]</sup>touching the socket of his hip; and the socket of Jacob’s hip was out of joint as He wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup> And He said, “Let Me go, for the day breaks.”

But he said, “I will not let You go unless You bless me!”

<sup>27</sup> So He said to him, “What *is* your name?”

He said, “Jacob.”

<sup>28</sup> And He said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but <sup>[c]</sup>Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed.”

<sup>29</sup> Then Jacob asked, saying, “Tell *me* Your name, I pray.”

And He said, “Why *is it that* you ask about My name?” And He blessed him there.

<sup>30</sup> So Jacob called the name of the place <sup>[d]</sup>Peniel: “For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.” <sup>31</sup> Just as he crossed over <sup>[e]</sup>Penuel the sun rose on him, and he limped on his hip. <sup>32</sup> Therefore to this day the children of Israel do not eat the muscle that shrank, which *is* on the hip socket, because He <sup>[f]</sup>touched the socket of Jacob’s hip in the muscle that shrank.

### **Dan. 3:19-25**

<sup>19</sup> Then Nebuchadnezzar was full of fury, and the expression on his face changed toward Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. He spoke and commanded that they heat the furnace seven times more than it was usually heated. <sup>20</sup> And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who *were* in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, *and cast them* into the burning fiery furnace. <sup>21</sup> Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their *other* garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

<sup>22</sup> Therefore, because the king’s command was <sup>[a]</sup>urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. <sup>23</sup> And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

<sup>24</sup> Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste *and* spoke, saying to his <sup>[b]</sup>counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?”

They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.”

<sup>25</sup> “Look!” he answered, “I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the<sup>[c]</sup> Son of God.”

### Jesus Christ as God

#### **Rev. 19:10**

<sup>10</sup> And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, “See *that you do not do that!* I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

Only God is supposed to receive worship. Even angels reject such honor from people.

#### **Matt. 28:9-10**

<sup>9</sup> And <sup>[a]</sup>as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, “Rejoice!” So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him. <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go *and* tell My brethren to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me.” This is one of the examples of times when Jesus Christ received human worship without any problem, which clearly indicates that not only is He the Son of God but also God the Son. Therefore, He is worthy of worship just like the Father is.

### The Holy Spirit as God

The Holy Spirit also possesses all of the divine properties of the Father and Jesus Christ. These properties include the following:

1) omniscience (He knows everything): **1 Cor. 2:10-12**

<sup>10</sup> But God has revealed *them* to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

<sup>11</sup> For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup> Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

2) omnipresence (He is present everywhere):

**Gen. 1:2:** <sup>2</sup> The earth was without form, and void; and darkness <sup>[a]</sup>was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

He was moving on the surface of the whole world at the same time.

**Eph. 4:30:** <sup>30</sup> And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

The only way that all of us can grieve Him at the same time that we do wrong is if He is present everywhere at the same time.

3) eternity (He is infinite: He does not have a beginning or an end.)

**Heb. 9:14:** <sup>14</sup> how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without <sup>[a]</sup>spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?



4) omnipotence (He is all powerful.)

**1 John 4:4** indicates that the person that is inside of Christians is more powerful than the person who currently in charge of the world.

<sup>4</sup> You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

**Matt. 4:8-10** teaches us that until the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, the devil has authority over the world. He obtained this authority when Adam and Eve gave up the authority that God had given them when they sinned in the Garden of Eden

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. <sup>9</sup> And he said to Him, “All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me.”

<sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, <sup>[a]</sup>“Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.’ ”

**(Gen. 1:26 and 3:17:** <sup>17</sup> Then to Adam He said, “Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat of it’:

“Cursed *is* the ground for your sake;

In toil you shall eat *of* it

All the days of your life.

). That is one of the main reasons why so many bad things happen in the world: Humans gave up their authority over the world to the devil.

**1 Cor. 3:16:** <sup>16</sup> Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?

The person who is stronger than the devil that dwells inside Christians is the Holy Spirit. The fact that the Holy Spirit is stronger than the devil indicates that He is all powerful.

### Last Notes

**1 Thess. 5:23:** <sup>23</sup> Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify<sup>[a]</sup> you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. For some people, it is difficult to understand how God can be one but at the same exist as three persons. In **1**

**Thess. 5:23**, we see that each human being has three parts: body, soul, and spirit. It makes sense that each part of God, who is a lot bigger than a human being, is not just a part but an actual separate person.

**Mar. 13:32**

<sup>32</sup> “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

The three persons of the Holy Trinity are equal in their Divinity. One is not greater than the other. They all participated in the creation of the universe. They differ in the role that they play sometimes. For example, Jesus Christ saved humanity by dying for us on the cross. The Holy Spirit lives inside Christians. One of the roles reserved for the Father is knowing when the end of the world will come, like it says in **Mar. 13:32**.