

## **ORIGIN of the TRINITY – LESSON 2**

### **– New Testament Passages**

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*Goals – Gather information as to whether the concept of the Trinity is biblically based and a reasonable conclusion to be drawn from the Bible – both Old and New Testaments.*

*Gather information about the necessity of the theological debate, evaluation, “in-fighting”, and even church power politics. Why did it occur?*

*Present and ask critical questions about the resulting theology. Might we have reached a different conclusion or presented it with a different twist?*

***Recap of the Last Lesson:** Goal – Our Church proclaims a belief in the triune God. Let us as a group, retrace the process of how we arrived at this “theological place” – at least in a limited way. (i.e. What is the biblical basis for our belief in the trinity?); Discussed Normandale’s Mission Statement and Trinity Sculpture; Read Old Testament verses stating or implying existence of: the Holy Spirit or Trinity (repeat two or three of these if desired); Discussed other ideas, concepts and questions.*

**Any comments**, questions, or anything before we proceed with the discussion?

**Review quotes provided from the New Testament** – consider this: Does the Old Testament “tee us up” for the later New Testament proclamations, and the subsequent long and bitter debates among the factions of the early church?

**Go back to questions** (Lesson 1) – select some to discuss further – add others to discuss.

### **New Testament Passages**

**Typical References** (*note how the whole language and style of the New Testament is so much different than the Old Testament*)

*(Throughout the New Testament there are references by Jesus and others to such things as “I and Father are one”, “whoever has seen me has seen the Father”, or words to that effect. And Paul in particular describes Jesus as God “manifested in the flesh”, “the fullness of the Godhead bodily”, “the great God”, and “equal with God”. The term Immanuel means “God with us”. The following will focus mainly on the “oneness” of God, and on how the Holy Spirit begins to evolve, or fit, into the New Testament’s “Good News” theology.)*

**Mathew 1:18** – This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit (*conceived of God, who is one with the Holy Spirit according to this verse - more detail is provided in Luke 1*).

**Mathew 3:11** – I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire (*almost the same as reference in Mark 1, Luke 3, and John 1*).

**Mathew 12:31-32** – (*Jesus speaking to the Pharisees*).....every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Any one who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven..... (*Implying that the Holy Spirit is God's power in Christ*); (*Almost the same as Mark 3:29*); (*Also the very same message given to the disciples in Luke 12*).

**Mathew 28:19** – (*Jesus commissioning the 11 disciples*) Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..... (*How often in the New Testament are the 3 given this very equal billing?*).

**Mark 1:10-11** – (*while being baptized by John the Baptist*) As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased (*Is this the first “appearance”, chronologically, of all three mentioned together?*).

**Mark 12:35-37** – (*Interesting reference by Jesus to the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament, while teaching in the temple, thus tying the two books together theologically*) ....How is it that the teachers of the law say that the Christ is the son of David? David himself speaking by the Holy Spirit, declared: “The Lord said to my Lord.....” David himself calls him ‘Lord’. How then could he be his son? (*And what Lord is speaking to what Lord? – according to authorities, Jesus wants to show that David considered the Messiah to be his Lord, not just his son (descendent), and God himself in human form.*)

**Mark 13:11** – (*Jesus speaking to his disciples*) Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit (*again, as in the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit is God acting in man*).

**Luke 2:25-26** – Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon.....and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

(*Numerous other Luke references are similar to those already listed in other Gospels.*)

**John 5:46** – (*Jesus speaking to a group of Jews*) If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me (*tying back to the Old Testament – some rather vague, I think, references he was referring to are Numbers 21:9 – So Moses made a bronze snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived – i.e. God's gift of healing for venomous snake bites; and Deuteronomy 18:15 – The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own brothers. You must listen to him*).

**John 14:10** – Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. (*Jesus is speaking to his disciples just prior to the following reference.*)

**John 14:16-17, 26** – And I will ask the Father and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth.....But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things..... (*a new name for the Holy Spirit – Jesus is teaching the disciples in his last hours – promising the Holy Spirit.*)

**John 16:13** – (*Again, Jesus speaking to the disciples in his last hours – trying to teach, inform, and encourage.*) But when he, the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth.

**John 17:3** – (*Jesus praying and proclaiming one God*) Now this is eternal life; that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

**John 20:22-23** – (*Jesus speaking to the 11 disciples after the resurrection*) .... “Peace be with you”. And with that he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

**John 20:28** – (*Thomas to Jesus after the resurrection and touching Jesus' wounds of Crucifixion*) My Lord and my God! (*Thomas proclaims that Jesus is God.*)

**Acts is FULL of references of the Holy Spirit** as: a gift, communicating, baptizing, descending, coming upon, speaking, giving gifts, creating tongues, filling, falling on, inspiring, being received, comforting, empowering, sending out, forbidding, testifying, declaring, etc., etc., etc. (*action, action, action*), and another tie to the Old Testament with Paul telling the leaders of the Jews..... (*See Acts 28 below.*)

**Acts 2:16-18** – (*Peter, speaking to the Eleven during the appearance of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost - explaining what was happening using the Old Testament.*) No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: “.....God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.”

**Acts 5:3-4** – .....you have lied to the Holy Spirit.....You have not lied to men but to God (*Equating the Holy Spirit to God*).

**Acts 28:25-26** – They disagreed among themselves and began to leave after Paul had made this final statement; “The Holy Spirit spoke the truth to your forefathers when he said through Isaiah the prophet: “Go to this people and say, ‘You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.’”

**Romans 5:3-5** – ....but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

**Romans 14:17** – For the kingdom of God..... *(is)* of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.....

**Romans 15** – *(Speaks of the hope which comes from the “power of the Holy Spirit” and being “sanctified by the Holy Spirit”.)*

**Ephesians 1:2** – *(Paul’s opening greeting to the Christians in Ephesus.)* Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ *(How about the Holy Spirit?)*.

**1 Thessalonians 1** – *(Speaks of the power and inspiration of the Holy Spirit.)*

**Hebrews** – *(Speaks of gifts, sanctuary, witness, glory, etc of the Holy Spirit.)*