

## The Trinity and Facts Over Feelings Study #4

### I. The Holy Trinity

The Christian doctrine of the Trinity teaches that there is one God who exists in **three** distinct persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit.

Each person is fully God, sharing the same divine essence, yet they are distinct in their relationships and roles.

While the words “three-in-one God” are not found in a single verse or passage, it is described frequently throughout Scripture.

All three members are seen within certain Bible passages...

*Matthew 3:16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.*

*Matthew 3:17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." NKJV*

*Matthew 28:19 Go 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. NKJV*

*1 Corinthians 12:4 There are diversities of gifts but the same Spirit.*

***1 Corinthians 12:5 There are differences of ministries but the same Lord.***

***1 Corinthians 12:6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. NKJV***

The word for “*God*” in **1 Corinthians** is the word “*Theos,*” which according to the *Outline of Biblical Usage*, means:

The Godhead, Trinity: God the Father, the first person in the Trinity; Christ, the second person of the Trinity; Holy Spirit, the third person in the Trinity.

In the Old Testament, **Elohim** is used for God many times and means He is a mighty and strong creator.

The root word “*El*” means “*might,*” “*strength,*” and “*power;*” it is used as a name for “*God,*” and it appears over 250 times in the Hebrew Bible.

Elohim can mean rulers or judges, but in the Old Testament verses that used the word Elohim for the name of God, it has a plural intensive-singular meaning.

In Hebrew, the meaning within scriptures like ***Genesis 1:1*** is God, works or special possessions of God, the (true) God. (Outline of Bible usage)

The very first verse of the Bible is ***Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” NKJV***

Because God is a mighty and strong creator, there is nothing too difficult for Him!

*Jeremiah 32:17 Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You. NKJV*

Elohim is a plural word describing the **compound unity** of One God.

We believe in One God who is a unity within the Trinity, and God is revealed in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Trinity was creating together in *Genesis*, when He said, “*Let us make man in our image.*”

*Who was God talking to?* Angels are not made in the image of God, so He was not talking to an angel.

God is Triune: *Matthew 3:16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.*

*Matthew 3:17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." NKJV*

The **Father** is God: *1 Corinthians 8:6 yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we live. NKJV*

The **Son** is God:

*John 8:58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."*

*John 8:59 Then they took up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by. NKJV*

*John 5:18 the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God. NKJV*

*Hebrews 1:8 But to the Son He says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom. NKJV*

The **Spirit** is God: *1 Corinthians 2:4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,*

*1 Corinthians 2:5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God. NKJV*

Our God is a mighty and strong creator, so there is nothing too difficult for Him. We can trust Him for any and everything!

This next name of God is so important to reveal who He is...

**God is Jehovah or YHWH, the self-existent One.**

The name of God in the Hebrew Scriptures is YHWH .

*Exodus 3:13 Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What is His name?' what shall I say to them?"*

*Exodus 3:14 And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" NKJV*

This name *I Am Who I Am* is connected with the name *Yahweh* which appears many times in the Bible.

When the LORD reveals Himself as "I AM," He shows the essence of His eternal nature, His self-sufficiency, and His omnipresence.

"I AM" means that He is always present, never changing, and has all the power to fulfill His promises, existence, and sovereignty.

YHWH was used because the Jewish people did not want to pronounce the name of God, thinking He was too holy to utter His name.

Instead, they left the vowels out and used the word *LORD* (*Adonai*).

If the vowels of the word *Adonai* are put over the consonants for *YHWH*, you can get the name "**Jehovah**."

Ironically, Jesus referred to Himself as *Adonai* and "I AM."

This is a great argument for certain cults that use the name Jehovah and claim Jesus is not God.

God's name is "**I AM**" because it means "*the self-existent God.*"

There was never a time when the Triune God did not exist, or a time when He will cease to exist; He is **eternal** and unchanging.

God is completely independent. He relies on nothing to exist because "**I Am**" also means God is "the becoming one."

The LORD God becomes whatever is lacking in our time of need, and as His children, God will meet our every need in Christ.

***Philippians 4:19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. NKJV***

God's name "**I AM**" announces God's presence and invites any interested person to know Him by **experience**, to taste and see that the Lord is good.

Jesus claimed to be the "**I am**" in the ***Book of John***.

I AM the bread of life, I AM the light of the world, I AM the good Shepherd, I AM the resurrection and the life, I AM the way, the truth, and the life, I AM the true vine, and many others.

***John 8:24 Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I Am [He], you will die in your sins.***

In Gethsemane, when they came to arrest Jesus the night before He was crucified, we read...

***John 18:4 Jesus, therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, "Whom are you seeking?"***

***John 18:5 They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am He." And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them.***

***John 18:6 Now when He said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground. NKJV***

Creation.com said, *"The name Jehovah lives in the name Jesus —Jehoshua, Jehovah saves.*

***Jehovah*** is rendered "ho kyrios" (the Lord) in the New Testament and is variously rendered in English: YHWH, Yahweh, Jahveh, Jehovah, GOD, the LORD." (Creation.com)

The LORD is self-existent, all-powerful, all-knowing, and present everywhere, so He deserves our reverence and worship.

The LORD, as great I AM, does not change. Life may change and be full of uncertainties, but the LORD remains the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Jesus is our anchor and peace in a chaotic world. As we anchor ourselves in the Great I AM, we can confidently navigate the storms of life, knowing that Jesus remains steadfast.

His promises are yes and amen, so we can hold on tightly to Him as our anchor.

***Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. NKJV***

## II. Facts over Feelings.

Once a person has received Christ, the Holy Spirit seals the person, comes to reside in a person, and empowers the person to live for Christ and not for themselves.

***Ephesians 1:13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,***

***Ephesians 1:14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. NKJV***

***1 Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?***

***1 Corinthians 6:20 For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. NKJV***

As Christ-followers, we are to rely on the promises of God's Word, not our feelings. Read ***Hebrews 11:1-6***

The Christian life is one of faith in Christ and His Word. We trust the Lord and all He has promised us, and the more we trust Him, the less we will rely on feelings which cannot be trusted.

As believers, we're called to live by faith, but many choose to live by their feelings.

There are times when Christians make decisions that seem right but go against the teaching of Scripture. At those times, we need to trust what the Lord has said in His Word, instead of feelings.

***2 Corinthians 5:7 We walk by faith, not by sight. NKJV***

Lysa TerKeurst said, *"Feelings are indicators, not dictators.*

*They (feelings) can indicate where your heart is in the moment, but that doesn't mean they have the right to **dictate** your behavior and boss you around."* (TerKeurst)

*You are more than the sum total of your feelings and perfectly capable of that little gift . . . called self-control."* (TerKeurst)

***Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,***

***Galatians 5:23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. NKJV***

Our feelings can be good indicators that something isn't right or that something is great, but we should never replace the Holy Spirit's prompting with our feelings.

***1 Thessalonians 5:19 Do not quench the Spirit.***

***1 Thessalonians 5:20 Do not despise prophecies.***

***1 Thessalonians 5:21 Test all things; hold fast what is good.***

***1 Thessalonians 5:22 Abstain from every form of evil. NKJV***

*Have you ever decided to do something simply because it “felt right,” only to discover later that it was the completely wrong decision in life?*

***Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;***

***Proverbs 3:6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. NKJV***

*Do you live by your feelings? If so, we need to consider what God’s Word has to say about our feelings and hearts.*

***Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?" NKJV***

*Why are our hearts so untrustworthy? Because they constantly change with our emotions.*

***Proverbs 28:26 He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but whoever walks wisely will be delivered. NKJV***

*Our feelings are similar to sand that is always shifting.*

***Matthew 7:24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:***

*Matthew 7:25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.*

*Matthew 7:26 "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand:*

*Matthew 7:27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall." NKJV*

Our feelings can be easily changed by people and circumstances; this is why it is folly to trust our feelings.

Our hearts are also affected by our old sin nature and the flesh.

*Romans 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin.*

*Romans 7:15 For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.*

*Romans 7:16 If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good.*

*Romans 7:17 But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.*

***Romans 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.***

***Romans 7:19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.***

***Romans 7:20 Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. NKJV***

There's a battle that we must always fight against the flesh, and our feelings will lead us to do what feels good in the moment, sometimes righteous and sometimes wrong.

***Galatians 5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.***

***Galatians 5:17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.***

***Galatians 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. NKJV***

We walk by **faith**, which is not a blind faith, but it is to be guided by God's perfect Word.

Old Testament Examples

The ***Book of Hebrews*** tells of some accounts from different Old Testament saints who had to rely on their faith in God instead of their feelings.

Each of the saints in the *Book of Hebrews* had doubt, fear, temptations, and uncertainty, but they trusted the LORD.

*Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. NKJV*

Imagine living in the desert, in a world completely rebellious to the LORD, and then having God tell you to build a boat.

It had never rained on the earth before that time, and again, Noah lived in the desert. After hearing from the LORD, Noah experienced 100 years during which he did not hear from God.

*Do you think he was tempted to give up and not trust God? What would have happened if Noah trusted his feelings during those years?*

When we are tempted to follow our feelings, we need to look to God's Word and test what our feelings are telling us to do.

If our feelings line up with the Word of God, then we can move **forward**. If our feelings do not line up with the Word of God, that is when we must trust the LORD and do what He says to do.

Even if it seems crazy, like it is about to rain in the Desert.

God's Word is our source and foundation for life because feelings are good indicators but lousy dictators.