

The Third Person of the Godhead



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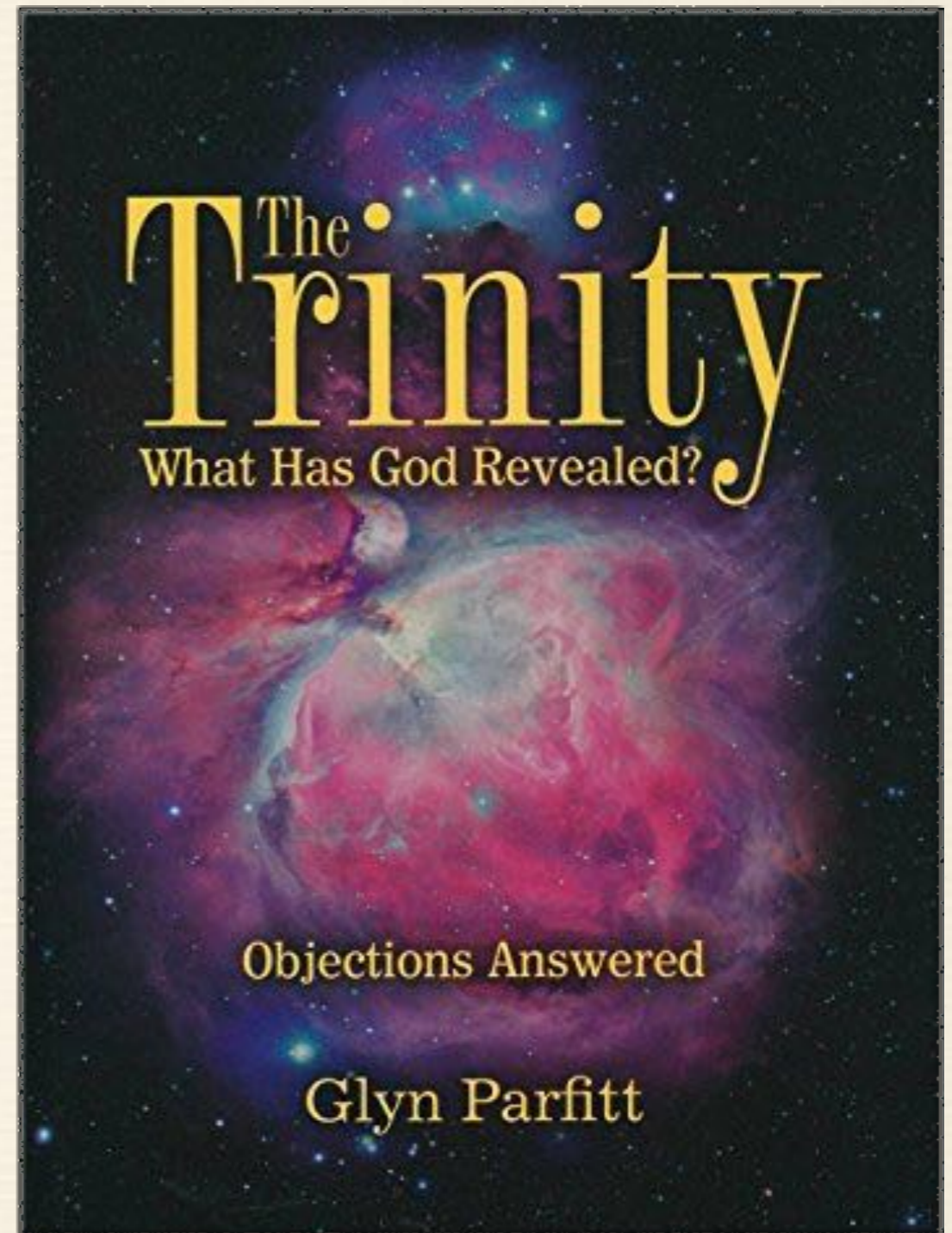
GYC December 30, 2018

The Trinity What Has God Revealed?



Objections Answered

Glyn Parfitt



Seventh-day Adventist Belief on the Holy Spirit FB#5

God the eternal Spirit was active with the Father and the Son in Creation, incarnation, and redemption. He is as much a person as are the Father and the Son. He inspired the writers of Scripture. He filled Christ's life with power. He draws and convicts human beings; and those who respond He renews and transforms into the image of God. Sent by the Father and the Son to be always with His children, He extends spiritual gifts to the church, empowers it to bear witness to Christ, and in harmony with the Scriptures leads it into all truth. (Gen. 1:1, 2; 2 Sam. 23:2; Ps. 51:11; Isa. 61:1; Luke 1:35; 4:18; John 14:16-18, 26; 15:26; 16:7-13; Acts 1:8; 5:3; 10:38; Rom. 5:5; 1 Cor. 12:7-11; 2 Cor. 3:18; 2 Peter 1:21.)

Anti-Trinitarian Views on the Holy Spirit

- ❖ The Father and the Son are distinct beings while the Holy Spirit is not a being.
- ❖ There are three persons, or personalities, but two beings.
- ❖ Some believe the Holy Spirit is the “spirit” that exists between the Father and the Son. They call it “Their Holy Spirit.”
- ❖ Others believe that the Holy Spirit is the “spirit” of Jesus Christ who is limited in bodily form now.

Anti-Trinitarian Views on the Holy Spirit

- ❖ They believe that the current view in the SDA church on the Holy Spirit and the Trinity is Roman Catholic and un-biblical.
- ❖ Ellen White warned that Dr. John Harvey Kellogg's teachings in the book *Living Temple* contained the Alpha of heresies.
- ❖ They believe that the current view in the SDA church on the Holy Spirit is the Omega of apostasy.
- ❖ Many urge a return to the "pioneer" view of the Godhead.

SDA History on Trinity

❖ Another helpful resource: *The Trinity: A Historical Analysis of the Trinity in Seventh-day Adventism.*

www.advindicate.com July 30,
2017. Lemuel Sapien

SDA History on Trinity

- ❖ William Miller was Baptist and Trinitarian
- ❖ Christian Connexion formed a prominent part of Millerite movement and was anti-Trinitarian
- ❖ 100 Christian Connexion churches joined Millerite Movement
- ❖ Joshua Himes, James White, and Joseph Bates were all part of Christian Connexion

John Harvey Kellogg and Trinity

“He then stated that his former views regarding the trinity [that the trinity is a false doctrine] had stood in the way of making a clear and absolutely correct statement; but that within a short time he had come to believe in the trinity and could now see pretty clearly where all the difficulty was, and believed that he could clear the matter up satisfactorily.”



John Harvey Kellogg and Trinity

“He told me that he now believed in God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost; and his view was that it was God the Holy Ghost, and not God the Father that filled all space, and every living thing.

He said that if he had believed this before writing the book, he could have expressed his views without giving the wrong impression the book now gives.”

Letter from AG Daniells to WC White, October 29, 1903



Kellogg and Panentheism

- ❖ “The difference is this: When we say God is in the tree, the word ‘God’ is understood in that the Godhead is in the tree. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, whereas the proper understanding in order that wholesome conceptions should be preserved in our minds, is that”



Kellogg and Panentheism

❖ “God the Father sits upon his throne in heaven where God the Son is also; while God’s life, or Spirit or presence is the all-pervading power which is carrying out the will of God in all the universe.”

❖ Letter: J.H. Kellogg to W.W. Prescott, October 25, 1903



Observation of Former Anti-Trinitarian

❖ “What Kellogg really did was just take what many of the pioneers believed to its logical conclusion: If the Holy Spirit is the power of God and that power is in us and in creation, then we have God in us and the trees have God in them. The Pioneers really had no ammunition against his teachings, and many of them accepted it, at first.”

- ❖ “But Ellen White came up with the right ammunition: she said that the Holy Spirit is a distinct person, not a power or influence.
- ❖ “Its interesting when you look at the dates of Ellen White’s statements referring to the Holy Spirit as a person, they appear at the same time that Kellogg started preaching his false theories. Coincidence?”
- ❖ Joel Ridgeway, statement on December 28, 2018

Anti-Trinitarian Views on the Holy Spirit

- ❖ Anti-Trinitarians believe that John Harvey Kellogg's conversion to trinitarianism is clear evidence that a belief in the Trinity as defined by SDAs is the omega of apostasy
- ❖ In reality, their view of the Holy Spirit as a presence fits right in with the omega of apostasy that Dr. Kellogg taught.

Pioneer Views in Favor of Trinity

“We fear that many have tried to receive the Holy Ghost as an emotion or an influence, when according to His name and position, given Him by Jesus in introducing Him to the disciples, He should be received as a person.”

- G. B. Starr, *Union Conference Record*, December 31, 1906, Vol. 10, No. 26

Pioneer Views in Favor of Trinity

“A personal Holy Ghost in charge of the work of grace, under God and Christ, as their representative and appointed agent, to accomplish the work of regeneration of man's soul, body, and spirit, will be discounted and made to appear only as an influence. When faith in the trio of the Godhead is destroyed, and the One delegated with authority to resist and conquer man's foe is rejected as naught, we are left to the cruel buffetings of Satan, with no power to resist our adversary.”

- R.A. Underwood, *Review and Herald*, November 21, 1907, Vol. 84, No. 47

Pioneer Views in Favor of Trinity

“From the confusing idea of ‘one God in three Gods,’ and ‘three Gods in one God’—the unexplainable dictum of theology—the enemy gladly leads to what appears to be a more rational, though no less erroneous idea—that there is no trinity, and that Christ is merely a created being. But God's great plan is clear and logical. There is a trinity, and in it there are three personalities... These divine persons are closely associated in the work of God...”

- R. Hare *Union Conference Record*, July 19, 1909, Vol. 13, No. 29

Pioneer Views in Favor of Trinity

“The Holy Spirit is represented in the Bible as one of the Trinity. Of the Holy Spirit, Christ said that it 'proceedeth from the Father'; and, 'He shall testify of Me.' John 15 : 26. In many instances in the New Testament, the Holy Spirit is spoken of by the use of the personal pronoun 'He' and 'His.' From this we would conclude that the Holy Spirit has a personality...It is evident that the Holy Spirit is one of the Trinity, and fully represents God...”

-Stephen N. Haskell, *Bible Training School*, 1910, Vol. 9, No. 7

Pioneer Views in Favor of Trinity

- ❖ Starr, Underwood, Hare, and Haskell's statements all occur while Ellen White was still alive and none were denounced as heresy.
- ❖ Furthermore, E.J. Waggoner joined the Kellogg apostasy and favored *Living Temple*. He was a Semi-Arian and not a Trinitarian so his Godhead views did not spare him from joining Alpha of apostasy

Truth About the Holy Spirit

- ❖ John 16:13 - “Howbeit when He, the Spirit of Truth, is come, He shall guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will show you things to come.”
- ❖ One deceived anti-trinitarian said, “If I am in error, it is God who led me here.” That is fanaticism through and through.

The Holy Spirit is God

- ❖ “But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou has not lied unto men, but unto God.” Acts 5:3, 4
- ❖ Peter unquestionably equates the Holy Ghost to God.

The Holy Spirit is Eternal

- ❖ “How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the **eternal Spirit** offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?” — Hebrews 9:14

Godhead Present at Creation

- ❖ Hebrews 1:1, 2 - God has spoken unto us by Son, by Whom He made all things
- ❖ Genesis 1:2 - Spirit of God moved upon face of waters

Truth About Holy Spirit

❖ “And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.” —
Luke 1:35

❖ Holy Spirit was responsible for conception of Christ

Godhead Present at Jesus' Baptism

❖ “And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him: And lo a voice from heaven saying, This my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” — Matthew 3:16, 17

Godhead and Work of Salvation

- ❖ “Go ye therefore and teach (make disciples) of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:” — Matthew 28:19
- ❖ Some Anti-Trinitarians try to discredit the validity of this verse.
- ❖ When you wish a verse was not in the Bible, that should raise red flags about your theological position.

Two or Three Witnesses

- ❖ “This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.” — 2 Corinthians 13:1
- ❖ “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.”
— 2 Corinthians 13:14

1 John 5:7

- ❖ “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”
- ❖ This passage is called the Johannine comma.
- ❖ Found in Textus Receptus but not majority of Greek manuscripts
- ❖ Found in majority of Latin manuscripts

1 John 5:7

“The strongest evidence . . . is found in the Greek text itself. Looking at 1 John 5:8, there are three nouns which, in Greek, stand in the neuter (Spirit, water, and blood). However, they are followed by a participle that is masculine. The Greek phrase here is *oi marturountes* (who bare witness). Those who know the Greek language understand this to be poor grammar if left to stand on its own. Even more noticeably, verse six has the same participle but stands in the neuter (Gk.: to marturoun).

1 John 5:7

Why are three neuter nouns supported with a masculine participle? The answer is found if we include verse seven. There we have two masculine nouns (Father and Son) followed by a neuter noun (Spirit). The verse also has the Greek masculine participle *oi marturountes*. With this clause introducing verse eight, it is very proper for the participle in verse eight to be masculine, because of the masculine nouns in verse seven. But if verse seven were not there it would become improper Greek grammar.”

Dr. Thomas Newton, *Crowned With Glory*

Ellen G. White on the Holy Spirit

“The Comforter that Christ promised to send after He ascended to heaven, is the Spirit in all the fulness of the Godhead, making manifest the power of divine grace to all who receive and believe in Christ as a personal Saviour. There are **three living persons** of the heavenly trio; in the name of these three great powers—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—those who receive Christ by living faith are baptized, and these powers will co-operate with the obedient subjects of heaven in their efforts to live the new life in Christ (Manuscript 21-1906.11).”

Ellen G. White on the Holy Spirit

“We need to realize that the Holy Spirit, who is as much a **person** as God is a person, is walking through these grounds.”—Manuscript 66, 1899.
(From a talk to the students at the Avondale School.) (Evangelism 616.5)

Ellen G. White on the Holy Spirit

These two statements make it clear that:

1: There are three living persons of the heavenly trio - The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit

2: The Holy Spirit is as much a person as God is a person

Ellen G. White on the Holy Spirit

“The Lord is soon to come. We want that complete and perfect understanding which the Lord alone can give. It is not safe to catch the spirit from another. We want the Holy Spirit, which is Jesus Christ. If we commune with God, we shall have strength and grace and efficiency (Letter 66, 1894.18).”

“The Holy Spirit is the Comforter, in Christ’s name. He [the Holy Spirit] personifies Christ, yet is a distinct personality (Manuscript Releases, vol. 20, 324).”

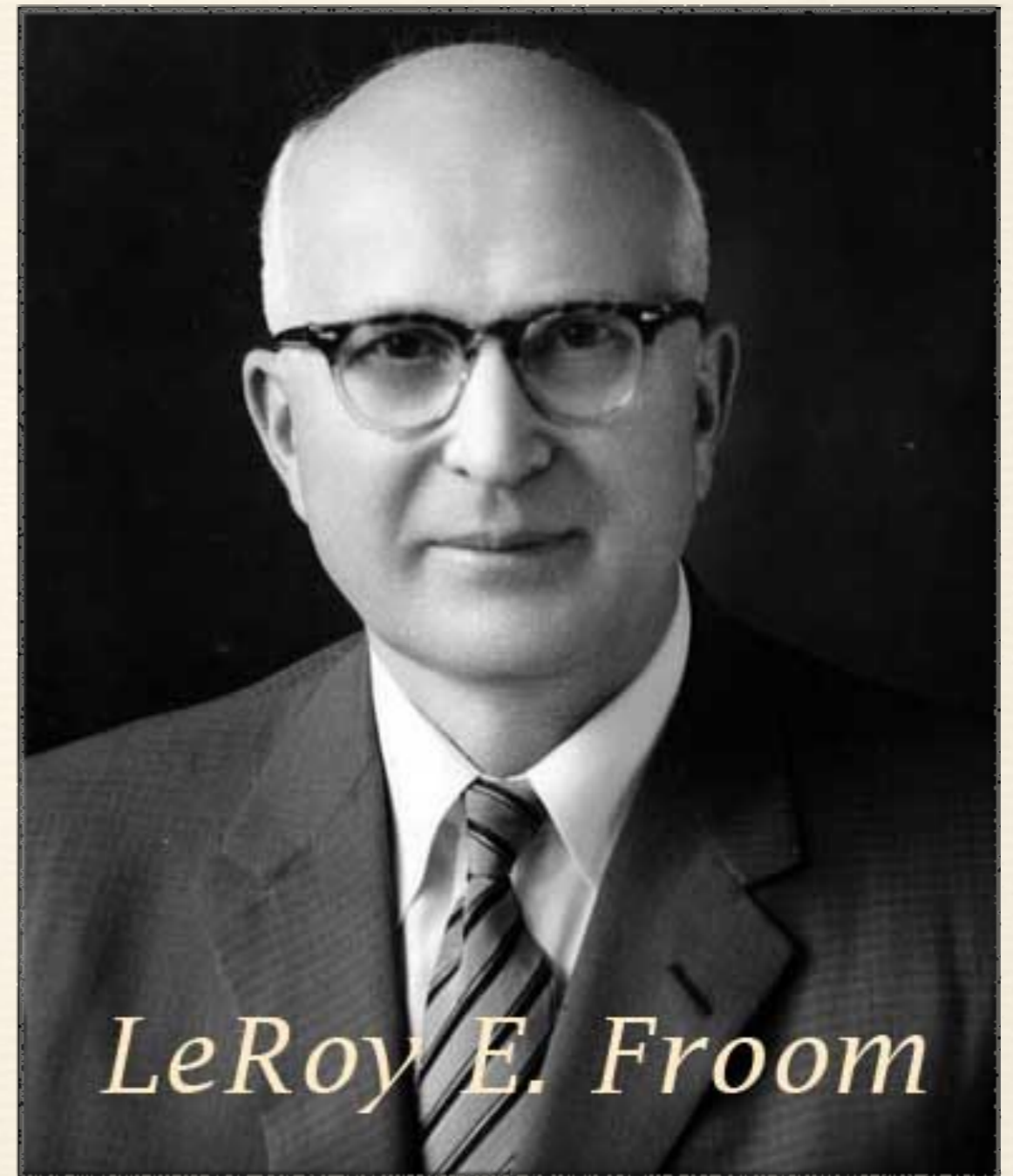
❖ “The Holy Spirit exalts and glorifies the Saviour. It is His office to present Christ, the great salvation that we have through Him, and the sacred, elevated purity of His righteousness. Says Christ, ‘He shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you.’ The Spirit of truth is the only effectual teacher of divine truth; those who are taught of Him have entered the school of Christ. How God must esteem the race, that He gave His Son to die for them, and appoints His Spirit to be man’s teacher and continual guide.” (ST, April 3, 1884)

❖ “Thank God that the world’s Redeemer promised that if He went away He would send the Holy Spirit as **His representative**. Let us pray and grasp the rich promises of God that in proportion to our earnest, humble supplications the Holy Spirit will be appointed to meet our needs. If we seek God with all our heart we shall find Him, and obtain the fulfillment of the promise.” *Letter 13, 1894; That I May Know Him, p. 270*)

❖ “The Father hath given us His Son for us, that through the Son, the Holy Spirit might come to us, and lead us to the Father. This His divine agency, we have the Spirit of intercession whereby we may plead with God as a man pleadeth with his friend.” (2MR p. 36)

Anti-Trinitarian Attacks on Spirit of Prophecy

- ❖ Claim that Leroy Froom tampered with writings of Ellen White relating to what she said about Holy Spirit when compiling book *Evangelism*
- ❖ Froom may have made mistakes in other areas (QOD), but the original sources for *Evangelism* on the Holy Spirit are accurate.



Attacking the Spirit of Prophecy

“The very last deception of Satan will be to make of none effect the testimony of the Spirit of God. “Where there is no vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18). Satan will work ingeniously, in different ways and through different agencies, to unsettle the confidence of God's remnant people in the true testimony (Letter 12, 1890. *Selected Messages* Vol. 1, p. 48).”

Attacking the Spirit of Prophecy

- ❖ It is my settled conviction that Satan is working through the Anti-Trinitarian movement to unsettle God's people in their confidence in the Spirit of Prophecy.
- ❖ Claiming that Ellen White's writings have been tampered with shows that they have departed from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils.

More SOP on Trinity

“The Godhead was stirred with pity for the race, and the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit gave Themselves to the working out of the plan of redemption. In order fully to carry out this plan, it was decided that Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, should give Himself an offering for sin. What line can measure the depth of this love? God would make it impossible for man to say that He could have done more.”

“With Christ He gave all the resources of heaven, that nothing might be wanting in the plan for man’s uplifting. Here is love—the contemplation of which should fill the soul with inexpressible gratitude! Oh, what love, what matchless love! The contemplation of this love will cleanse the soul from all selfishness. It will lead the disciple to deny self, take up the cross, and follow the Redeemer (Counsels on Health 222.2).”

More SOP on Trinity

“The fact that you have been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is an assurance that, if you will claim Their help, these powers will help you in every emergency.” (6T 99)

More SOP on Trinity

“Christ, our Mediator, and the Holy Spirit are constantly interceding in man’s behalf, but the Spirit pleads not for us as does Christ, who presents His blood, shed from the foundation of the world; the Spirit works upon our hearts, drawing out prayers and penitence, praise and thanksgiving. The gratitude which flows from our lips is the result of the Spirit’s striking the cords of the soul in holy memories, awakening the music of the heart (1 SM 344).”

Holy Spirit and Worship

“Now a little point. As the saints in the kingdom of God are accepted in the beloved, they hear: ‘Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’ And then the golden harps are touched, and the music flows all through the heavenly host, and they fall down and worship the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit (Manuscript 139, 1906.32).”

God alone is worthy of worship. Thus the Holy Spirit is God.

Deceptions of Anti-Trinitarians

- ❖ Some Anti-Trinitarians believe that worshipping Jesus or the Holy Spirit is breaking the First Commandment: “Thou shalt have no other gods before me” because they believe the Father is the only true God, and that we have one Lord, Jesus Christ.
- ❖ Yet Jeremiah 10:10 teaches that “The Lord is the true God, He is the living God, and an everlasting king.”

Deceptions of Anti-Trinitarians

- ❖ Anti-Trinitarians claim that their view of the Godhead is necessary in order to experience righteousness by faith and to receive the latter rain.
- ❖ Sadly, they have fallen into the trap of many other fanatical movements such as the 2520 movement, Feast-keeping, Lunar Sabbaths, date-setters, Church Triumphant movement etc.

False Loud Cry

“God is raising up a class to give the loud cry of the third angel’s message. ‘Of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them’ (Acts 20:30). It is Satan’s object now to get up new theories to divert the mind from the true work and genuine message for this time. He stirs up minds to give false interpretation of Scripture, a spurious loud cry, that the real message may not have its effect when it does come. This is one of the greatest evidences that the loud cry will soon be heard and the earth lightened with the glory of God” (Manuscript Releases, Volume 9, p. 27, from Letter 20, 1884).

Deceptive Movement

“Those who seek to define God are on forbidden ground. We are to enter into no controversy regarding God—what He is and what He is not. He, the Omniscient One, is above discussion. Those who express such sentiments regarding Him show that they are departing from the faith (Letter 240-1903).”

Avoid Anti-Trinitarians

- ❖ Romans 16:17 - “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.”
- ❖ Stay away from their meetings and disfellowship those in your church who are agitating this issue.

Avoid Anti-Trinitarians

“God is displeased with us when we go to listen to error, without being obliged to go; for unless He sends us to those meetings where error is forced home to the people by the power of the will, He will not keep us. The angels cease their watchful care over us, and we are left to the buffetings of the enemy, to be darkened and weakened by him and the power of his evil angels; and the light around us becomes contaminated with the darkness.”

(EW 124.3)

Closing Thoughts

- ❖ Let us not be confused over such basic Bible doctrine and clearly defined truths.
- ❖ Let us focus on receiving the Holy Spirit so that we will receive the true latter rain.
- ❖ May we be part of God's closing work in which the Third Person of the Godhead fills our lives so that we can illuminate the earth with the glory of God's character.
- ❖ John 16:8-11

The Trinity
What Has God
Revealed?



Objections Answered

Glyn Parfitt

