Present Cruth

2 Peter 1:12

Dear Readers, December 2002

"Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love." (2 John 1:3) Jesus Christ truly is the literal begotten Son of God, as demonstrated in last month's issue of *Present Truth*. If you have not taken the time to read it, please do so. I believe you will be richly blessed. We have had an overwhelming response from the November 2002 issue, more than any other issue to date. One man in Rwanda wrote, "Never have I been so touched as when I read, 'Do you believe in the Trinity?' I think it is time to spread the good news about God." We will have the main content of the November issue ready in booklet form very soon.

There will be a camp meeting from February 26 to March 2, 2003 at the River Forest Campground, about one hour North of Orlando, Florida. I hope to see you there. We will provide you with more details in the next issue.

Lessons on Faith (Part 3)

by Alonzo T. Jones

Faith is the expecting the word of God itself to do what the word says and depending upon that word itself to do what the word says.

When this is clearly discerned, it is perfectly easy to see how it is that "faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Hebrews 11:1)

Since the word of God is imbued with creative power and so is able to produce in very substance the thing which that word speaks and since faith is the expectation that the word itself will do what the word says and depending on the word only to do what that word says, it is plain enough that faith is the substance of things hoped for.

Since the word of God is in itself creative and so is able to produce and cause to appear what otherwise would never exist nor be seen, and since faith is the expecting the word of God only to do just that thing and depending upon "the word only" to do it, it is plain enough that faith is "the evidence of things not seen."

Thus it is that "through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." (Hebrews 11:3)

He who exercises faith knows that the word of God is creative and that so it is able to produce the thing spoken. Therefore, he can understand, not guess, that the

worlds were produced, were caused to exist, by the word of God.

He who exercises faith can understand that though before the word of God was spoken, neither the things which are now seen nor the substances of which those things are composed, anywhere appeared, simply because they did not exist; yet when that word was spoken, the worlds were, simply because that word itself caused them to exist.

This is the difference between the word of God and the word of man. Man may speak, but there is no power in his words to perform the thing spoken. If the thing is to be accomplished which he has spoken, the man must

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do something in addition to speaking the word—he must make good his word.

Not so the word of God.

When God speaks, the thing is. And it is, simply because He has spoken. It accomplishes that which He was pleased to speak. It is not necessary that the Lord, as man, must do something in addition to the word spoken. He needs not to make His word good; it is good. He speaks "the word only," and the thing is accomplished.

And so it is written: "For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God, which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe"—in you that exercise faith. (1 Thessalonians 2:13)

This also is how it is that it is "impossible for God to lie." (Hebrews 6:18) It is not impossible for God to lie only because He will not, but also because He cannot. And He cannot lie, just because He cannot. It is impossible. And it is impossible, because when He speaks, the creative energy is in the word spoken, so that "the word only" causes the thing to be so.

Man may speak a word and it not be so. Thus man can lie, for to speak what is not so is to lie. And man can lie, can speak what is not so, because there is no power in his word itself to cause the thing to be. With God this is impossible; He cannot lie, for "he spake, and it was"; (Psalm 33:9) He speaks, and it is so.

This is also how it is that when the word of God is spoken for a certain time, as in a prophecy for hundreds of years to come when that time actually has arrived, that word is fulfilled. And it is then fulfilled, not because, apart from the word, God does something to fulfill it, but because the word was spoken for that time, and in it is the creative energy which causes the word at that time to produce the thing spoken.

This is how it was that if the children had not cried, "Hosanna to the Son of David," (Matthew 21:9, 15) the stones would have immediately cried out; and this is how it was that when the third day had come, it was "impossible" that He should be any longer holden of death.

O, the word of God is divine! In it is creative energy. It is "living and powerful." The word of God is self-fulfilling, and to trust it and depend upon it as such, that is to exercise faith. "Hast thou faith?"

(This article was first printed in the January 3, 1899 issue of *The Review and Herald*. It is also found on pages 19-21 of the book *Lessons on Faith* by A. T. Jones and E. J. Waggoner. I added some verse references that were left out in the original.

An Update on Michael Sibanda

(A prisoner on death row in Zimbabwe, falsely accused of murdering his wife.)

As of November 1, 2002 Michael's case still had not gone to the Supreme Court. Please continue to pray for him. His mother, Sister Melody Tshabalala, was in a serious bus accident. Her back was badly injured. She was given pain medication and is now at home doing better, but still in pain. Please pray for her as well.

Books are appreciated and accepted at the prison where Michael is incarcerated, but they take about two months to arrive from the US. One Sister in Montana sent a book to Michael in prison, and he was overjoyed to receive it. He wrote to her, "Thank you very much my sister for the book Maranatha you gave to me. I received it on the 30th of September... I was overjoyed when I saw the prison officer delivering it to my cell. Thank you very much. I know all this good work you are doing to different people is not your own doing but it is the Spirit of the Almighty that inspires you, for a mortal being is only capable of doing wrong things every time. I haven't read the book yet but it looks like it's good. You could have given me a million dollars but that couldn't save my soul, but the book you gave me has a living Word in it that has power to purchase happiness and life."

A Sister in Ohio asked her friends to contribute \$1 or \$2 to help Michael's mother, Melody, with some expenses, and to visit her son in prison. The Lord blessed her with \$100, which goes a long way in Zimbabwe. After receiving it, Melody wrote, "I am sure God whispered in your spiritual ear to help me. I was definitely in need of money. All my rent and everything was at stake. That's why I am saying it was not your idea, but God put that in your thoughts."

Michael also wrote to a Sister in Ohio, "[I am] grateful to God to have a sister in Christ like you, who ever since you came to know of my problem you have been in constant contact with me and my mum. Thank you very much for your kindness. I am quite convinced that God will soon answer our prayers according to His will. I am therefore asking you in the name of Jesus our Lord to pray for me that I may see God through this trial and surrender my whole life to Him such that if death may prevail my soul rests in the hands of the Almighty. Thank you very much for the greeting cards, small booklet of Psalms and the prayers you make towards my release. I urge you to keep on marching around the walls of Jericho until they fall."



Questions and Inswers on God and the Trinity



by Lynnford Beachy

(I would like to let you know that all of the Questions and Answers that have ever been printed in *Present Truth* have been categorized and put on our website in an easy to use format. You can access them at www.presenttruth.info by clicking on the "Questions and Answers" link at the lower left of the screen. *Editor*)

Point: God and the plural nouns and pronouns

"There are so many instances in Jesus' preaching, even in the Old Testament, where God uses the plural to speak of Himself [to prove that God is three in one]. (He also uses the singular at times, so it is not a 'royal' we.)" *Florida*

Answer:

I am glad that you brought up this subject.

Some people suppose that we can find the Trinity doctrine in the first chapter of the Bible. They make this claim because the Hebrew word *elohim*, that was translated "God," is plural, and they believe the plural pronouns in Genesis 1:26 help to support the Trinity doctrine as well.

The Hebrew word *elohim* is plural, but it never indicates plurality when referring to the true God. Every time *elohim* is used referring to the true God it has a singular meaning. Gesenius calls it "the plural of majesty" and the *Brown-Driver's Brigg's Hebrew Lexicon* says that when it refers to the true God it is "plural intensive" with a "singular meaning."

Furthermore, the word *elohim* is used in the Bible in places where it could not possibly be referring to a plural being. For example, God said to Moses, "See, I have made thee **a god** [*elohim*] to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet." (Exodus 7:1) Was God saying that He was going to turn Moses into a trinity? Obviously not! God would not have us believe that Moses is a plural being. For other examples read 1 Samuel 5:7; 1 Kings 11:5, 33; 18:27, etc.

As indisputable evidence that elohim has a singular meaning when referring to the true God, please consider this: whenever New Testament writers quoted from the Old Testament they used the singular Greek word *theos* to denote the true God as a translation of the word *elohim*. This is also true of the Greek translation of the Old Testament, the Septuagint. This proves, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that *elohim* has a singular meaning when referring to the true God. If *elohim* really indicated a plurality in the true God, then the New Testament writers should have

been consistent and used the plural form of *theos* (, or) when speaking of God, instead they used the singular, every time, even though they used the plural form 8 times when referring to men or false gods. (You can read these for yourself in John 10:34, & 35; Acts 7:40; 14:11; & 19:26; 1 Corinthians 8:5; and Galatians 4:8.)

Regarding the plural pronouns in Genesis 1:26, the pronouns are plural in the original Hebrew, forcing it to be translated, "God said, let US make man in OUR image, after OUR likeness." Those who claim this verse teaches a trinity point out that *elohim* is plural and the pronouns are plural, therefore there must be a plurality in God. If we are to accept this explanation we would have to translate it, "GODS said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness." This translation would do injustice to the true meaning of *elohim*, and it would have three Gods speaking in unison, saying, "Let us make man in our image." Is that what God is trying to tell us? Did several Gods create man, or was there just one?

Those who promote the idea that *Gods* said, "Let us make man," run into a big problem in the next verse, because all of a sudden the pronouns switch to singular, both in Hebrew and in English, while the plural *elohim* is still used. Why was there a change? The next verse says, "So God [*elohim*] made man in HIS own image, in the image of God [*elohim*] created HE him." If we are expected to believe that *Gods* are speaking in verse 26, to be consistent we must believe that *Gods* are being referred to in verse 27, but instead of plural pronouns the Bible changed to singular pronouns as if only one person was referred to.

Now, there's a very simple explanation for this. The use of plural pronouns after a singular noun does not indicate that the singular noun should really be plural. For example, let's suppose the president said to the attorney general, "Let us make a law." This wouldn't indicate that there are two presidents just because he used a plural pronoun. The plural applies to the two who will be involved in making the law rather than to the president. In like manner, the "us" and "our" in Genesis 1:26 applies to the Two who were involved in the creation of the world rather than to the one who was speaking.

The Bible says "God... created all things by Jesus Christ." (Ephesians 3:9) It is obvious that the God in this verse is someone other than Jesus Christ. And according to Hebrews 1:2, God, the Father, created all things by His Son.



Now, we can know for sure who is speaking in Genesis 1:26, and whom He is speaking to. God, the Father, said to His Son, "let us make man in our image." Remember, Christ is "the express image" of the Father, so anyone created in the Father's image is automatically created in His Son's image.

I am glad you mentioned the use of the plural by Jesus in the New Testament. Jesus used the Greek word, *theos*, in the singular form, many times in the New Testament. Every time He used this word in the singular form He was referring to one person, and one person only, God, His Father. Also, every time He was referring to God, He used the singular pronouns which were translated, He, Him, His, Thy, Thine, and Thee. Every time Jesus included Himself when He was speaking of God, He used the plural pronouns, we, us, and our. Here are some examples: John 14:23; 17:11, 21; etc.

So, to the best of my knowledge, God never referred to Himself using plural pronouns, or nouns with a literal plural meaning.

I hope this helps to clarify this issue.

Point: 1 John 5:7

"I have done an exhaustive search on the three in one godhead. There are so many scriptures to support it. One of the most plainly spoken is 1 John 5:7." Florida

Answer:

One of the favorite verses used to support the theory that God is made up of three persons is 1 John 5:7. Let's read this verse and then its context and find out just what it is saying to us. It says: "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one." (1 John 5:7)

This verse says that "there are three that bear record in heaven." The question must be asked, "three what?" Trinitarians and Tritheists assume that "there are three [persons or beings, or even three Gods]," but that is not what the verse says. It just says "there are three."

When we read the next verse we find a very similar statement. It says, "And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one." (1 John 5:8) Again we read of three, but instead of bearing "record in heaven," they "bear witness in earth." The words "record" and "witness" come from the same Greek word in the very same form, and can be translated alike.

Verse 8 says, "there are three that bear witness in earth." Again, we must ask "three what?" Are there three persons? three beings? three Gods? From the context we find that it can be none of these. These three are said to be

"the Spirit, and the water, and the blood." Verse six explains what these are where it says, "This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth." (1 John 5:6)

From this verse we find that two of the three, the water and the blood, cannot possibly be persons, yet they bear record in the earth. How do they bear record? This is easy to learn when we see how the Spirit bears record on the earth. Paul wrote, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." (Romans 8:16) This occurs on the earth. The water and the blood also bear witness that we are the children of God. The water by baptism, and the blood by cleansing "us from all sin." (1 John 1:7)

If the three that bear witness on the earth are not separate individual persons, then there is no guarantee that the three that bear witness in heaven are separate persons. Also, verse eight helps us to understand how the three in heaven are one. Verse eight says, "these three agree in one," or in other words the record that they bear is in agreement. So it is not the three, the water, the blood, and the Spirit, that are one, but the three records that are one. This is also true about the previous verse, the record of the Father, the Word and the Spirit is the same record. They all bear record that we are the children of God, and their record is in agreement.

How does the Father bear record in heaven? If a heavenly being wished to have direct access to the Father, who is sitting upon the throne, the Father would personally bear record that we are the children of God. The Son of God also bears record in the same way. And the Holy Spirit bears record in heaven the same way that it bears record in the earth, it bears record with our spirit that we are the sons of God. In heaven this same Spirit can bear witness to a heavenly being, even if they are not physically standing before the throne of God. And these three records are in perfect agreement.

First John 5:7 does not prove that there are three persons in one God. If we wish to find evidence from the Bible that God is composed of three persons we must look elsewhere.

As a side note to this, I encourage you to read any Bible commentary on 1 John 5:7, most of which declare that the words "in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth" were not found in any Greek manuscripts before the 15th century, and were added into the Latin Vulgate by mistake of a copyist who included a marginal note in the text. For this reason most of the newer Bible translations leaves these words out, or include them in italics to indicate their questionable nature.

I hope this helps to clarify this verse.



Question: Is Christianity a religion of one God?

"Is not Christianity a religion of one God, I would like a simple answer." *Indiana*

Answer:

True Christianity is a religion of "one God, the Father." (1 Corinthians 8:6) Unfortunately, most Christians claim to believe in "one God, composed of three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." This makes them in reality polytheists, unlike the Jews or any other truly monotheistic religion.

I hope this simple answer is sufficient to answer your question.

Question: Why do people worship Jesus?

"Why do people worship Jesus in the Scripture? If it is only because God was in Him, then what is the difference between God in Him and God in us that sets Him apart? Is it because Christ is the direct revelation, but we reveal God indirectly? Yet if this is the reason, then why did they just not worship towards the Father who was in heaven, seeing that Jesus was only His image? This last question is the main point that I hope God will clarify, in Jesus' name."

Answer:

There are many things that set Jesus Christ apart from us, which render Him worthy of worship. Jesus Christ is the only being in the universe who was actually begotten by God the Father. He is "the only begotten Son of God." (John 3:18) He is also referred to as God's "holy child." (Acts 4:27, 30) These statements about Christ are independent of His incarnation, for "God sent his only begotten Son into the world." (1 John 4:9) Jesus Christ did not become the Son of God by the process of being sent; He was God's Son long before He came into the world.

Children are, to a more or less degree, a reproduction of their parents. By nature, a child inherits the nature, certain character traits, the form, the appearance, etc., from its parents. There is no exact reproduction among men because of our imperfections but, with God there are no imperfections. Christ is "the express image of his [Father's] person." (Hebrews 1:3) Christ is a perfect representation of His Father. He inherited His Father's nature, character, form, and appearance, as well as an exalted position. The Father appointed His Son to be the "heir of all things." (Hebrews 1:2) All things that Christ has, He received from His Father.

By nature God is much more exalted than men. A human is of a higher order of being than a flea, a dog, or any other animal. Yet, the Bible says that man was created "a

little lower than the angels." (Hebrews 2:7) Angels are a higher order of being than man, yet they are still infinitely lower than God Himself. God is the highest order of being there is. As His Son, Christ is on the same level with God, by the rule of kinship. Just as a human always begets another human of the same nature, and a sheep always begets a sheep after its kind, so God's Son is of the very same nature as God, His Father. Therefore, there is an infinite difference between Him and us just based upon His nature alone. Yet, beyond that, God the Father has highly exalted His Son.

In Philippians chapter 2 we read a description of the exalted nature of Christ. Paul wrote,

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philippians 2:5-11)

These texts show Christ's exalted, divine nature, before the incarnation, as "being in the form of God." This could not be said of any man or angel. These texts also show that God, the Father, highly exalted His Son and gave Him a name above every name. Jesus said, "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him." (John 5:22, 23)

Not only is Christ much higher than men by nature, God, the Father, has "highly exalted Him" and "hath given all things into his hand." (John 3:35) The Bible emphasizes that "By him were all things created." (Colossians 1:16) God, the Father, commanded the angels to worship Him. (Hebrews 1:6) For all these reasons, and surely many more that have not been mentioned, Christ is worthy of worship. There is no man, regardless of how fully God is in him, of whom these things could be said. Christ is "the express image" of God, and He is worthy of worship.

I hope this helps to answer your question.

Question: Is Jesus God?

"Is Jesus God?"

California

Answer:

This question requires a definition of the word "God." If the word "God" is taken to mean, "the supreme ruler of



the universe, the Most High God," then the answer to your question would have to be no, because the Bible recognizes only one person with these titles, and Jesus said Himself that His Father is "the only true [original] God." (John 17:3)

The word "god" has several different meanings. In a limited sense, men are called god. Both the Greek word *theos* and the Hebrew word *elohim*, which are most often translated "god," are used in reference to men. (See Exodus 7:1; Psalm 82:6; John 10:34) When the word "god" is used in that sense, then there are hundreds and thousands of gods.

In a more limited sense, angels are called gods. David wrote about man, "For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels." (Psalms 8:5) The word "angels" in this verse comes from the Hebrew word *elohim*. The way *elohim* is used here it denotes a type of being that is higher than man, but it is still used in a limited sense, and with this definition there would still be many gods.

In reference to Christ, *elohim* and *theos* are used in a much more limited sense, to denote His nature as being on the same level as His Father—something that cannot be said about any other being in the universe. The Bible says that Christ was "in the form of God." (Philippians 2:6)

But even when the word "God" is used of Christ, it is used in a limited sense, because Christ has a God who is "the head of Christ," "above all," and "greater than" He. (See 1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 4:6; and John 14:28.) When the word "God" is used in its absolute and unlimited sense, there is only one Person to whom it can apply, and that is God, the Father, alone. Jesus said that His Father is "the only true God." (John 17:3) Paul said, "there is none other God but one... God, the Father." (1 Corinthians 8:4, 6) Of the 1354 times the word "God" is used in the New Testament, more than 99% of the time it refers exclusively to God the Father, while it only applies to His Son a very few times?

So to clarify, there are many gods when the word "God" is used in a limited sense, to include men and angels. When "God" is used as an adjective to describe the nature of God, then there are only two divine beings, God, the Father and Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son. When the word "God" is used in this sense, then yes, Jesus is God. The Son of God is completely divine by nature because His Father is divine, just as I am completely human because my parents are human.

When the word "God" is used in its absolute sense, to denote "the most High God," "the Sovereign of the universe," or "the only true God," then there is only one God, the Father, beside which there is no God.

Some people think that God is beyond the possibility of having a Son, but Jesus said, "with God all things are possible." (Mark 10:27) Let's not limit God. If God would have a thousand begotten Sons it would not detract in the least from the fact that He is "the only true God," the "one God" of the Bible.

I hope this helps to answer your question.

Question: Is it a sin to pray to Jesus?

"Is it a sin to pray to Jesus?"

California

Answer:

No! Stephen addressed Christ directly when he said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." (Acts 7:59) Yet, this is not the normal procedure for prayer in the Bible. Jesus said we should pray to the Father and make requests in the name of Jesus. (Matthew 6:9; John 14:13)

Question: Are Jesus and the Father the same person?

"According to the tracts, I found out that Jesus Christ is distinct from God. But from the little I have read, God in the Old Testament days was God the Father but in the New Testament He came as God the Son. Is He not the same God the Father as can be seen in Philippians 2:5-7, that He put down His glory and came as man?" *Ghana*

Answer:

Certainly not! The Bible is very clear that the Father and His Son are two distinct individuals. The Father sent. The Son was sent. (1 John 4:14) The Father gave power and authority. The Son received power and authority. (Matthew 28:18; John 5:27) The Father gave His Son a work to do. The Son finished the work that the Father gave Him. (John 17:4) The Father gave a commandment. The Son obeyed the commandment. (John 12:49) The Father anointed the Son. The Son was anointed. (Luke 4:18) The Father highly exalted His Son. The Son was highly exalted. (Philippians 2:9) The Father gave a name. The Son received a name. (Hebrews 1:4) The Father is the head of Christ. The Son will always be subject to His Father. (1 Corinthians 11:3; 15:24-28) The Father gave life. The Son received life. (John 5:26) The Father is the most High God. The Son is the Son of the Most High God. (Mark 5:7) The Father is the God of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Son worships the Father. (Ephesians 1:17; John 4:22)

The verses you mentioned that supposedly prove the Father and the Son are the same person do nothing of the kind. In fact, these verses prove that the Father and the Son are separate individuals. Let's read them.

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be



equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name. (Philippians 2:5-9)

In verse six we read that the Son thought it not robbery to be equal with God. Now it is not possible to be equal with yourself. This indicates that the God whom Christ "thought it not robbery to be equal" with, must be someone other than Himself. In verse nine we read that God highly exalted Christ and gave Him a name. It would make God out to be extremely selfish to think that He exalted Himself and gave Himself a lofty name.

Many times, even in the Old Testament, we read about both the Father and His Son. For example:

Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell? (Proverbs 30:4)

When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth: While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth: Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him. (Proverbs 8:24-30)

I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. (Psalms 2:7)

The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. (Psalms 110:1)

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:6)

These are just a few of the many places where the Father and the Son are spoken of separately. The biggest danger in supposing that the Father and the Son are the same person is that it would deny the sonship and the death of Christ, which would severely limit our understanding of God's love. God's love was demonstrated by His great sacrifice in giving His only begotten Son to die for our sins. Anything that limits or distorts our perception of God's love should be recognized as an invention of Satan to destroy God's people, and it should be avoided like the plague.

I hope this helps to answer your question.

Question: Did Jesus have a beginning?

"Did Jesus have a beginning (please let's not get into the semantics of created versus begotten, either He had a beginning or He didn't — that's the question)."

California

Answer:

Yes, Jesus had a beginning. The Bible says His "origin" is from the "days of eternity." (Micah 5:2 RSV and margin)

I am quite appalled that people would conclude that distinguishing between "created" and "begotten" is a matter of semantics. That is as far from the truth as light is from darkness. The Bible defines creation as being made out of nothing by the Word of God. "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." (Hebrews 11:3) God "spake and it was." (Psalm 33:9) Not so with Christ, He said that He "came out from God," "the only begotten Son of God." (John 16:27; 3:18) Christ was begotten by His Father as the "express image of his person," thus making Him of the same nature as His Father. If Christ had been merely a creature, then there would be very little sacrifice on the part of God, the Father, in giving up His only begotten Son to die for our sins, because all He would have given is a creature. The difference between created and begotten would be similar to the difference between me giving up my own son, and me giving up something that I created such as a table or a chair or, perhaps, if I could create life, a cricket. Satan would love the world to believe that there is no difference between created and begotten so that he can successfully hide God's love from the world.

There is a vast difference between begotten and created. In history this was the difference between the Arians and the Semi-Arians. The Arians believed that Christ was created, while the Semi-Arians believed that Christ was begotten.

Question: Is Jesus the Holy Spirit?

"I observed in the tract on the Holy Spirit the equation: 'Jesus Christ = The Lord; the Lord = That Spirit, Therefore: Jesus Christ = That Spirit.' It also continues to prove that Jesus is our Comforter, therefore Jesus is the Holy Spirit. This assertion can be misleading as it gives the impression that the Holy Spirit is Jesus. I am sure that's not exactly what you mean (or is it?). After all, it is quite clear that 'the Holy Spirit' is a 'third' 'entity' though not a person. (Matthew 12:30-32; Matthew 28:19, etc.) I have not distributed this tract as it can misrepresent the truth as we know it. Please consider and clarify."

Jamaica

Answer:

It is true that the Lord Jesus is that Spirit, our Comforter, but to state it more completely, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the Father coming to us through His Son, giving us the added benefit of having the Spirit of His Son who was victorious over all sin. (Galatians 4:6) When speaking of the promised Comforter Jesus said,

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. (John 14:16-18)

Here Jesus made it clear that He would return to His disciples as the promised Comforter. He said that this Comforter was already dwelling with them, on the outside, but soon He would be in them. Then Christ said that He would come to them. Jesus continued, "At that day ve shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you." (John 14:20) Jesus said that the day the Comforter comes to them, His disciples would know that He was in them. He further explains, "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." (John 14:23) Here we see that the promised Comforter that would come to the disciples was both the Spirit of the Father and the Spirit of His Son. When we receive the Spirit of the Son, we receive the Spirit of the Father because the Father dwells in His Son by His Spirit.

The Holy Spirit proceeds "from the Father" (John 15:26), to the Son, and from the Son to us. (See John 3:34 and Titus 3:5, 6.) Then we can have personal fellowship with both the Father and His Son. "Truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ." (1 John 1:3) "He that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also." (1 John 2:23)

You wrote, "it is quite clear that 'the Holy Spirit' is a 'third' 'entity' though not a person." Actually, this is not clear, it is not even taught in the Bible at all. According to Webster's New Explorer Dictionary, the word "entity" means, "something with separate and real existence." This could not be true of the Holy Spirit, for the Bible says that it "proceedeth from the Father." (John 15:26) The Greek word that was translated proceedeth is in present tense, indicating a continual process of proceeding from the Father. Since the Holy Spirit continually proceeds from the Father, it could not have a separate existence from the Father.

I hope this helps to answer your question.

Question: What do you think about Acts 5:3, 4?

"Acts 5:3, 4... indicates that the Holy Spirit is God. What do you think about it?" *Ethiopia*

Answer:

Let's read these verses.

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 hast not lied unto men, but unto God. (Acts 5:3, 4)

Many Trinitarians use these verses as conclusive evidence that the Holy Spirit is a third separate person, or being, called God the Holy Spirit, but that is not what these verses say. According to the Bible, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. "And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." (Ephesians 4:30) The Holy Spirit is called, "the Spirit of your Father." Please compare the following verses as evidence of this fact: "For it is not ye that speak, but *the Spirit of your Father* which speaketh in you." (Matthew 10:20) Mark wrote, "for it is not ye that speak, but *the Holy Ghost.*" (Mark 13:11) "The Holy Ghost" is "the Spirit of your Father."

Jesus said as much when he explained, "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me." (John 15:26) The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, the Father, which proceeds from Him, through His Son Jesus Christ, to us. Paul wrote, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour." (Titus 3:5, 6) When we receive the Spirit of the Father coming to us through His Son, we receive the added benefit of receiving the Spirit of His Son as well. "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father." (Galatians 4:6) Jesus said, "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." (John 14:23)

On the day of Pentecost Peter taught the same truth when he preached, "This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear." (Acts 2:32, 33) Jesus said, "your heavenly Father [shall] give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him." (Luke 11:13)



When we realize that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the Father coming to us through His Son, Acts 5:3, 4 makes perfect sense. Please read it again and see for yourself.

The word holy is an adjective, providing us with a description of God's Spirit. God has a Spirit, and His Spirit is holy. To lie to God's Spirit is to lie to God. That is because His Spirit is Himself, not another person. If I were to lie to your spirit, you would not suppose that I lied to someone other than yourself. Let us be just as reasonable with the Scriptures when they refer to God's Spirit.

I hope this helps to answer your question.

Question: Is the Holy Spirit God?

"Is the Holy Spirit God?"

California

Answer:

That is like asking, "Is the spirit of Lynnford Lynnford?" or "Is the spirit of Lynnford human?" If we wish to distinguish the spirit of Lynnford from another person, then yes, the spirit of Lynnford is Lynnford. If we wish to define the nature of the spirit of Lynnford, then yes, Lynnford's spirit is human. However, Lynnford, who is human, is made up of more than just his spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, not a separate God, or being apart from God Himself. The Bible says, "God is a Spirit" (John 4:24), but God is more than that because He has hands, a head, hair, a form, a garment, He can sit, etc. (Revelation 5:1; Daniel 7:9; Philippians 2:6) God is a complete being. The Apostle James wrote, "The body without the spirit is dead." (James 2:26) There is more to an individual than just his spirit, but the spirit of an individual is "the inner man," (Ephesians 3:16) the part of man that goes "back to God" in an unconscious state at death, and will "put on immortality" if that man is righteous.

God is a Spirit, but there is more to God than Spirit. He also has a body, a form. So to say "God is a Spirit" is accurate, but to turn it around and say, "the Spirit is God," is not completely true, because God is more than just Spirit. The Bible says "God is love," but to turn it around and say "love is God" would not be true, because God is much more than love. The same can be said of the statement, "God is light." (1 John 1:5) The Holy Spirit is not someone other than God and, in that sense, the Holy Spirit is God, but God is more than just His Spirit, and we should not worship, praise, or pray to His Spirit.

I hope this helps to clarify your question.

Question: Is the Holy Spirit a person?

"What about when the Bible says about the holy spirit speaking, 'Thus saith the holy spirit?' Does this show a person?"

E-mail

Answer:

The Holy Spirit of God is spoken of as God's "presence," (Psalm 51:11; 139:7) and this presence is said to be everywhere. It is through God's Spirit that He is able to be present in all places at the same time. Thus, when the Bible says, "the Holy Ghost said," (Acts 13:2) it is God Himself speaking to people by means of His Holy Spirit. This does not indicate that the Holy Spirit is a separate person from that of the Father and His Son.

I hope this helps to answer your question.

Question: Whose Spirit is the Holy Spirit?

"Is the Holy Spirit the Father's Spirit or the Son's Spirit or both at the same time or different Spirits at different times (in other words, is it sometimes Christ's Spirit and sometimes the Father's Spirit)?"

California

Answer

Strictly speaking, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the Father, which "proceedeth from the Father," (John 15:26) yet at times, the Holy Spirit is called, "the Spirit of Christ." For example, compare 1 Peter 1:11 and 2 Peter 1:21. Both of these are true, for Jesus received His Father's Spirit without measure (John 3:34), so that the Son has His Father's Spirit. The Bible says that God sends us His Spirit through His Son. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour." (Titus 3:5, 6) By this process we gain the added benefit of receiving not only the Spirit of the Father, but also the Spirit of His Son. Jesus said, "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." (John 14:23) Paul wrote, "because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father." (Galatians 4:6)

Jesus said, "I am in the Father, and the Father in me." (John 14:10) If we receive the Spirit of one (the Father or the Son), we automatically receive the Spirit of the other, for they dwell in each other the same way they dwell in us, by their Spirit. "Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also." (1 John 2:23) "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son." (2 John 1:9)



Fearfully and Wonderfully Made (Part 11)

by George McDaniel

(This is the eleventh in a series of health articles that are designed to help you gain a deeper appreciation for God's amazing handiwork of the human body, and a better understanding of how it works and how it can be better maintained by simple methods. George McDaniel is my father-in-law, and has been a registered nurse for many years, which, along with much research, has taught him many useful health principles. I pray that you are being blessed by these articles.

Water 2

This month I will try to show how chronic dehydration is the main cause of conditions which have been mistakenly considered diseases.

Much of the information contained in this article comes from a book entitled, *Your Body's Many Cries for Water* by Fereydoon Batmanghelidj, MD. "Dr. Batman" (as he is affectionately called by his patients) began to study the healing effect of water in Iran after Ayatollah Khomeini came to power. As a political prisoner, He was put in charge of the medical care of other prisoners. Frequently no medications were available, so the only agent he could use was water. After his release, he escaped from Iran and came to the USA where he continued his study of water. This book records his experiences of treating thousands of patients with different conditions and obtaining remarkable results just by having them increase their water intake.

When the body is chronically dehydrated a rationing system is put into effect to distribute the available water to the parts of the body that are most vital. The primary regulator of water distribution is histamine. Histamine has several functions in the body. One of these is as a neurotransmitter; that is, a substance produced by the brain to enable messages to be sent along the nerves and to pass from one nerve to another and to the muscles. Histamine is one of many substances used for this purpose.

Histamine also functions as part of the immune system. If you ever had a cold or an allergy and suffered with red, itching eyes and stuffy, runny nose, you are familiar with this effect of histamine. You may have taken an antihistamine to help relieve these symptoms. Histamine also regulates the formation of acid in the stomach. These are just some of the varied functions of histamine. It is no wonder then that when the body becomes dehydrated and histamine production increases to deal with water regulation that those other aspects of the body that are also regulated by histamine can also be affected.

Here are some examples of conditions that can be caused by lack of sufficient water intake:

Asthma and allergies - There are many histamine receptors in the bronchial tubes of the lungs. Since one of the sites for water loss from the body is the lungs, bronchial constriction produced by histamine reduces evaporation of water during breathing. This is a simple action taken by the body to preserve some water when the body is dehydrated. People with asthma are also very sensitive to certain allergens. Usually it is exposure to these allergens that triggers an attack. However, if they are adequately hydrated, the response will not be so exaggerated. An acute asthmatic attack can be explained as caused by an exaggerated response resulting from an increase in histamine in the body due to dehydration. The cause of allergies is similar. Histamine has responsibilities in antibacterial, antiviral and defense against foreign materials. In dehydration, when histamine production becomes exaggerated for water regulation, an immune system activation of histamine-containing cells will release exaggerated amounts of histamine. It is this excess amount that produces the symptoms of allergies.

Asthma and allergies should be treated with a determined increase in water. These conditions should respond within three days to four weeks. With an increase in daily water intake, histamine production will decrease. To treat these with bronchodilators and antihistamines without increasing water intake is futile and dangerous.

Hypertension (high blood pressure) - This is frequently referred to as "essential hypertension," because the cause is considered to be unknown. It is treated initially with a decrease in dietary sodium and the use of diuretics to get rid of water from the system. Stress and anxiety can cause high blood pressure. Just being in the doctor's office can cause a temporary elevation of blood pressure. Another cause of temporary high blood pressure readings is due to the technique used for measuring the pressure. Some practitioners inflate the cuff well above the systolic pressure, then let the air out until the sound is heard. Every major artery has a nerve associated with it that monitors the flow of blood through it. When the cuff is inflated to a high level, blood pressure will be raised to try to force blood through the obstruction. Thus, a temporary elevation in pressure, caused by circumstances, can cause a person to be put on medications who doesn't need them.

Dehydration is a major cause of essential hypertension due to the adaptive mechanisms at work in the



circulatory system. The blood vessels have been designed to cope with fluctuations in blood volume and tissue requirements by opening and closing different vessels. When the total fluid volume in the body is decreased, the main vessels also have to become narrower, otherwise there would not be enough fluid to fill all the space. Gases would separate from the blood to fill the space and "vapor locks" would occur, stopping the flow of blood.

Shunting of blood flow is a normal routine. When we eat, more circulation is directed into the intestinal tract and less is directed to other areas. It is diverted from places like the brain and muscles. This explains the sleepy feeling we get after eating a heavy meal. The body accomplishes this by shutting down capillary beds in the affected areas in order to direct more blood to where it is needed more urgently.

As the body becomes chronically more dehydrated, these mechanisms are used to direct blood to where it is more urgently needed. The process begins by closing some capillaries in less active areas. If the drought continues, water is taken from inside some cells and from water held outside the cells. As the total circulating volume decreases, the blood vessels become narrower. With some capillary beds closed, and the vessels themselves narrowed, there is increased resistance to blood flow, and only an increased force behind the circulating blood will ensure the passage of some fluids through the system. Simply stated, blood pressure rises to get the blood through to where it is needed.

In order to maintain adequate water outside the cells so that there will be water available to get into the cells, the body retains sodium. Keeping sodium in the body is a last resort way of retaining some water around the cells. The sodium is not the cause of the hypertension, but is a part of the water-regulating mechanism in the face of dehydration. When hypertension is treated with diuretics, this eliminates some of the sodium and takes with it some water, but this doesn't cure the problem. It only makes the body more determined for salt and water absorption, which is never enough to correct the problem. After awhile, diuretics are not enough to keep the blood pressure down and other medications will be given. These are usually beta blockers and calcium channel blockers which decrease the force with which the heart beats. How long can one go on like this? Long enough to ultimately become very sick and die.

The best treatment for essential hypertension should be to treat it at the very beginning with an increase in water, not to take medications to get rid of the water. Water is itself a good diuretic. If prolonged dehydration has caused complications of heart failure, water intake should be increased gradually to make sure that fluid collection in the body is not excessive. It takes the body time to adapt to new conditions, but eventually the excess salt will be flushed out, blood vessels will expand and capillary beds will open up. Blood pressure can then return to normal

Another important component for controlling hypertension is exercise. The more muscles are exercised, the more their capillaries will open and hold a greater volume of blood within the circulation reserves. The capillary bed must remain open and offer no resistance to blood flow. In this way regular exercise contributes to normal blood pressure.

A third aspect relating to control of blood pressure involves an adequate diet, especially in respect to two minerals, potassium and magnesium. A diet that contains adequate amounts of these two minerals will help in maintaining normal blood pressure.

Dyspeptic pain (gastritis, duodenitis, heartburn, colitis) - The lining of the stomach, called the mucosal layer, contains glands that secrete acid, digestive enzymes and mucous. The mucous is secreted to protect the stomach lining from the action of the acid and digestive enzymes. The mucous consists of 98% water and 2% "scaffolding" substances that trap the water. In this mucous layer a natural buffer state is established. The cells below it also secrete sodium bicarbonate that is trapped in the mucous layer. As the acid in the stomach tries to go through this layer, it is neutralized by the bicarbonate. The result of this reaction is the production of sodium chloride from the hydrochloric acid and the sodium bicarbonate. Too much salt alters the water-holding properties of the scaffolding material of the mucous, making it less sticky and less homogeneous. This allows the acid to get through to the mucosal layer, causing pain and, eventually, an ulcer.

Experiments have shown that when a person drinks a glass of water it immediately passes into the intestine and is absorbed. However, within one-half hour, almost the same amount of water is secreted into the stomach through the mucosa. The act of digestion of solid food requires copious amounts of water. The acid is poured onto the food, enzymes are activated and the food is broken down into a fluid state that can pass into the intestine for the next phase of digestion.

One result of the resecretion of water through the mucosal layer is washing excess salt out of the mucous layer. The mucous layer is thus rehydrated and made thick and sticky again. The efficiency of this shield depends upon a regular intake of water, particularly before



eating a meal of solid food, which would stimulate the production of acid. The only natural protection from acid in the stomach is water, from the base upward.

A good program to follow to obtain the necessary amount of water for digestion and for the body needs is to take one to two 8 oz. glasses (250-500 ml) of water one-half to one hour before meals and again at least two hours after meals to allow time for digestion. Additional water can be taken to provide what is needed by the body (8-10 glasses or 2000-2500 ml). Water should not be taken with meals because it dilutes the digestive juices and slows down the process of digestion. If adequate water is consumed between meals, the need for drinking liquids with the meal will not be felt.

The secretion of acid in the stomach is regulated by histamine. The receptors in these cells are called histamine type 2 receptors, usually abbreviated as H2 receptors. The standard treatment for dyspeptic pain is the administration of antacids and medications such as Tagamet or Axid that block the action of histamine on these receptors. They are known as H2 receptor antagonists. These can cause many unwanted side effects. In the first place, acid in the stomach is needed for digestion of protein. It should not be neutralized or blocked. Also, most antacids contain aluminum, which has been implicated as a factor in Alzheimer's disease, which causes a degeneration of the brain. It usually occurs in the elderly, but is not limited to them. H2 receptor antagonists block not only acid in the stomach, but affect other histamine receptors throughout the body. These medications can help relieve the pain, but do nothing to relieve the condition. If the condition progresses to the development of ulcers, surgical removal of part of the stomach may result, leaving the person permanently handicapped for the rest of his life. The pain of gastritis, duodenitis, heartburn and colitis should be recognized for what it is, a symptom of dehydration, and treated with an increase in water intake. This will prevent the development of complications. If ulcers develop, increased water plus an adequate diet will result in healing. Some other causes of pain in the stomach and abdomen include the following:

- 1) Alcohol Alcohol is a poison and can kill cells which it contacts. It also causes dehydration. Alcohol can cause the development of gastritis (inflammation of the stomach), hepatitis (inflammation of the liver) and pancreatitis (inflammation of the pancreas). These conditions can be very painful.
 - 2) Heavy use of irritating spices.
- 3) Wrong combinations of food at a meal Some people are able to eat anything with no problems, while others have to be very careful in what they eat.

4) Cancer of the stomach can cause pain.

Any stomach pain not relieved by water, that continues for more than just a few hours, should be checked out by a medical specialist.

I have covered these four conditions, asthma, allergies, hypertension and dyspepsia in some detail so you can see how the actual cause is, in many cases, a lack of adequate water in the body. There is not space enough to cover all ailments in such detail, but I will mention a couple others briefly.

Chronic pains in the body - Chronic pains in the body that can't be easily explained as due to injury or infection should first be interpreted as signals of water shortage. They should be treated with water first before taking other medications. The reason is this: histamine and certain other associated water distribution regulators, such as prostaglandins and kinins, can cause pain when they come in contact with pain-sensing nerves. These pains include the ones already discussed as well as rheumatoid arthritis; back pain; headaches, including migraine headaches and headaches due to indulgence in alcohol; leg pain on walking, called intermittent claudication pain; and anginal pain. It is all too easy to regard these signs of dehydration as complications of a disease process and begin to treat them with complicated procedures and medications. The first thing that should be tried in all these situations is an increase in daily water intake.

Elevated blood cholesterol - It may seem strange to associate this symptom with dehydration, but this is how it works: Cholesterol is used by the cells as a defense against the osmotic pressure of the blood that draws water out through the cell membrane. The cell needs a certain amount of water to maintain its normal functions. Cholesterol deposited in the cell membrane makes it less permeable to the passage of water. There are receptors in cell walls which are activated by a hormone called vasopressin which can filter water into the cell. Vasopressin also narrows blood vessels, raising blood pressure, and producing increased pressure to push water into the cells. So we see that elevated cholesterol levels are a result of the body trying to maintain normal cellular functions in the presence of dehydration.

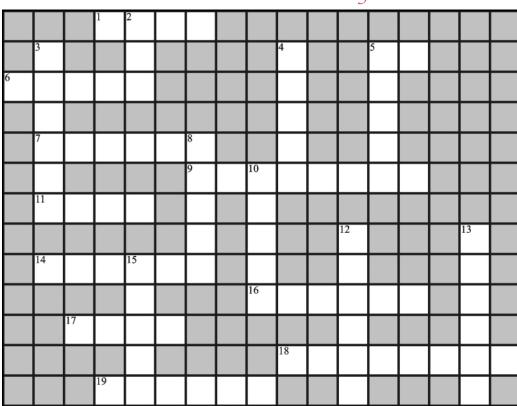
From this brief study we can see that many symptoms that are regarded as diseases are actually symptoms of dehydration, which should be treated by an increase in daily water intake. If the symptoms are treated with medications, the real cause goes untreated and permanent, irreversible damage can occur. We all want good health. Why don't we try the simple remedies God has freely provided for us. One of these is pure water, wisely used.

Present Truth

Something for the Young at Heart

We would like to give you an interesting and easy way to study the Bible, so we are including a crossword puzzle for you. Try it, and see what you think. If you have any suggestions, please let us know. In order to maintain the flow of the study, this crossword puzzle is not split into Across and Down sections—Across or Down is indicated at the end of each line.

The State of the Dead



Answers

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- Man was ____ from the dust of the ground. Genesis 2:7—14 Across
- According to Paul, dead people are _____ 1 Thessalonians 4:13—19 Across
- ➤ The Bible says that the dead sleep in the ____ of the earth. Daniel 12:2—11 Across
- ➤ When a man dies, where does he return? Genesis 3:19—3 Down
- There is ____ place where all people, both the righteous and the wicked, go at death. Ecclesiastes 3:20—2 Down
- ➤ What part of man returns to God at death? Ecclesiastes 12:7—16 Across
- At death the spirit of man, whether righteous or wicked, goes ____. Ecclesiastes 3:21—7 Across
- ➤ The Bible indicates that the spirit of man is not conscious while they are dead by stating that when a person dies their thoughts ____. Psalm 146:3, 4—12 Down
- According to the Bible, the dead know not ____. Ecclesiastes 9:5—9 Across
- ➤ There is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the _____. Ecclesiastes 9:10—6 Across
- According to the Bible, ____ is not in heaven yet. Acts 2:29, 34—8 **Down**

- ➤ When people are resurrected from the dead, their ____ come out of the grave. Matthew 27:52, 53—13 Down
- knows the location of Moses' sepulchre (grave). Deuteronomy 34:5, 6 (2 words)—**5 Down**
- ➤ There was a dispute between Michael and the devil over the ____ of Moses. Jude 9—1 Across
- _____, both body and spirit, is in heaven now and visited
 Christ on the mount of transfiguration. Luke 9:30—15
 Down
- Note: Any dead person whose body is on earth, is not in heaven right now.
- ➤ Are the wicked being punished right now? 2 Peter 2:9—5 Across
- The wicked are ____ to the day of destruction. Job 21:30—18 Across
- The ____ and unjust will be resurrected from the dead. Acts 24:15—17 Across
- ➤ At the second coming of Christ, the dead in Christ (the just) will rise _____. 1 Thessalonians 4:16—4 Down
- ➤ The unjust will not be resurrected until a thousand ____ after Christ's second coming. Revelation 20:4, 5—10 Down





The Work in Africa

by Lynnford Beachy

The work in Africa is continually growing. Many people are accepting the truth through the untiring labors of many ca who have accepted the truth about

ministers in Africa who have accepted the truth about God and His Son. Please continue to pray for the work there. We would like to share some letters with you so that you can pray intelligently and understand the progress of the work there. By the request of some of these ministers who have encountered problems caused by printing the names of towns and ministers we have deleted these names to ensure that they cannot be used to hinder the work.

Kenya

We thank God so much for His goodness for He allowed us to do the Missionary work as we had planned here in Kenya. God was able to provide funds for this work at the last minute when we were almost losing hope. I have to thank all brothers and sisters who were praying towards the success of this work and who also contributed financially towards its success... May God bless you all as you continue giving for His work...

The congregation which gathered during this first sermon was about fifty people. News of our arrival soon spread around. The public address machine and speakers that we had made this possible. They were clear and audible from as far as two kilometers [1.25 miles] away. Thanks to brothers from Uganda who came with the machine, we only hired a generator and fueled it.

At night after we had our supper, Brother ____ gave another teaching. This time the hall was full and since it was not a big hall, I can estimate the congregation to be about sixty-five people ... Thursday started well with a morning devotion... Then Brother taught about "The God of the Bible." It was so powerful, to an extent that many people came to notice that they have been worshiping a God who is not presented in the Holy Scriptures. It was good to see people writing scripture verses as Brother _____ was quoting from the Bible... After that, Brother presented a topic on the Sabbath. After the introduction he taught and gave out tracts entitled, "100 Facts on the Sabbath Questions." The majority of the congregation... go to church on Sunday. It was a blessing to them to receive this massage and surely they accepted to keep the Sabbath day holy. To date there is a church with a small congregation there who worship on Sabbath. Glory be to God...

On Friday... Brother _____ taught about the Trinity. Many people confirmed from the Bible as he was teaching that God does not exist in a Trinity but we have only one God. We could notice from their prayers that these people were Trinitarians because, when we asked one of their pastors to pray he often referred to God as "Mungu wa Utatu" a Swahili word for the trinity God. The lesson was a blessing to the congregation and brought a lot of light to them...

Africa

We arrived in _____ on Wednesday and started our programs. The attendance was low but thank God we had a public address machine. Even those from very far could hear the message. After three day's presentation of the truth, we got a letter warning us that if we didn't move out the next day, we would be killed. This letter was written by Muslims who claimed that they were defending their faith. It was brought at night and dropped at the door and we found it early in the morning.

It all started because Brother _____ was teaching about the true God. Somewhere in the sermon he taught about Jesus Christ as the Son of God who possessed the real character of God. God is love and Jesus taught love and forgiveness. Brother _____ compared this with another messenger claiming to be God's prophet (Mohammed) who taught war and revenge. The explanation was so straight and clear that people could differentiate who, between the two, is God's messenger. That place is a Muslim dominated city, and everywhere one can see mosques. Well, we had to leave since we were not prepared for physical confrontation. Brothers and sisters in the Lord wept as they saw us off...

I decided to travel to ______ to fulfill the mission. While there I never conducted a crusade because of insecurity in the area. It is election time and politically our nation is not peaceful and holding a public meeting can be dangerous. So we organized a seminar in a house where people came and we taught them. What I realize is that most of them were longing for a big crusade and they still need it to date. God willing, we shall conduct one in the future. Many people accepted the message. One pastor is at war with Pastor _____ who was our host because the majority of this congregation has joined the Sabbath and accepted the truth.

Another Brother in Kenya wrote,

If you have video cassettes, please send them to us. Also, if you have more tracts which talk about the Trinity



doctrine and other materials which will be more useful, please send them to us. Be sure of this, I have attended many teachings of different churches, but I have proved that this is the true faith of Jesus Christ and His teachings. I request you and your ministry to send me a statement of affiliation which will allow me to represent this message everywhere around the world.

Uganda

I was very grateful for the support for the crusades in _____. I came back on October 27th. I thank the Lord for the outcome and for being with me in Spirit by your prayers even if the results are not as I expected. In brief, God has won for Himself 12 souls... Most of the people followed my presentations though I got tired because of being alone. People were surprised to hear the Bible opposing the Trinity. Those who came first had to go and call for their friends to come and witness for themselves...

God blessed me by Brother _____, who had sent me more tracts which I received at the right time, so I had a lot to hand out after the presentation of the message, but I was very strict to give to only those who know how to read, for most of them don't know how to read.

Zambia

We are happy to share with you our mission report, "To Malawi with Love," God enabled us to visit five cities in Malawi. We conducted five seminars. Our subjects were: "The Origin of Sin," "The Fall of Man," "The Sanctuary," "Christ Our Righteousness," "The Everlasting Gospel of Rev. 14:6-12" "The Reality and Genuineness of Christ's Death," "The Two Laws" and "Who is Telling the Truth About God?"

Many people accepted the message who had never heard about it before, and were very excited about the message and determined to share it with others. And we also distributed 12,500 tracts in five cities. The people accepted our literature with hugs, tears and smiles! Please pray much for these people and keep the work in Africa and other countries in your prayers.

Please, as funds permit I am planning to visit, very soon, our fellow workers in Congo DR... Funds needed now \$700 [-\$200 which the Lord already supplied] for transport, e-mails: receiving and sending, pay phone, stamps, envelopes and photo camera for mission Africa. The work here in Zambia is moving forward with success. Our Lord is so good. He is doing all he can to save those who are lost. May the Almighty God bless you all. I am looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Please join us in prayer and fasting. Mission Africa is moving forward in faith. More tracts, booklets and books are needed to reach this troubled continent. While millions beg for food in Africa, millions more want for spiritual food.

Please multiply your prayers and gifts for Africa. Our publications should go everywhere. Let them be issued in many languages. You who believe the truth for this time, wake up.

Earnest prayers are needed to keep doors open in many places. Time is very short. Jesus is coming! Many people in Africa are hungering and thirsting for the present truth. We are praying for you and the work there and other countries. Please continue the good work you are doing. May God bless you as you serve Him each day.

In another letter this brother wrote,

Our meetings in Malawi were as follows: ...Before we stood up and started teaching, they started singing songs and dancing and shouting, which is Charismatic Movement (Pentecostal style of worship). After we prayed, then we started our teaching. We came to find out that a lot of things that we presented were new to them. These people were so much interested in our teachings because they had some notebooks in which they were taking some notes down and they were asking a lot of questions and they were so much eager to learn.

After teaching them the two laws and the Sabbath, a lot of people were very much interested and happy... I visited a lot places in Malawi... We found Malawian people to be very good people and they are very much thirsty and starving for the truth. I thank the Lord for the opportunity of going on this mission trip. Our mission to Malawi was more successful than anyone could have imagined or hoped for. Please we need also your prayers!!! Where preaching is not allowed, let the silent messengers of printed page do the work. Let's get the world ready for the return of Christ. May God bless you abundantly as we look forward to hearing from you very soon...

And in another letter he wrote,

The silent messengers, the tracts, are hard at work. Just today I received a number of letters from Malawi and here in Zambia regarding 'Which God?' and 'The God of the Bible,' etc. People are reading them. We need more tracts!! We returned with hundreds of names. The letters are coming in from the tracts passed out.

Zimbabwe

We started our studies amid difficult conditions, but we were amazed by the turnout. We thank God for He can



make people go beyond their cultural bonds for His sake. We touched on the love of God and its nature, and salvation only in Jesus. These studies were conducted under trees. People ignored the harsh conditions and valued the lessons on the love of God higher. This reminded us about the need for having a tent. As I'm writing, these people are willing to fellowship with us so that they can gain a clearer understanding about God and His Son. We shall be back again on the 23rd of November for more studies about the doctrinal issues regarding the Trinity. We kindly invite your prayers for these people, for their willingness to stand for truth.

Brother Ephraim, who is in charge of printing truth filled literature in Africa wrote,

The Lord is blessing His work through our Bible workers, and people are receiving the message with joy. We once again were invited to that place where we were once ordered to leave immediately. A few brethren and sisters who had gotten the insight of the message arranged and invited us to a different venue.

We praise the Lord for what happened there. The place is drought stricken and we had tried to provide some meals for our visitors, and because of what we had prepared which was not enough because of funds, we cut our days to three instead of the intended five.

The potential seems to be very great in that area and, the Lord providing us with funds, we wish to meet their needs... Our limited source of funds seems to be failing to keep up with the demand. Please help with what you can.

Tanzania

Warmest greetings from us here with the trust that you are all prospering in the Lord. Further to my last letter relating to our new contacts in ______, I want to praise God and share with you the outcome of the meetings we have had until last Sabbath.

The whole of last week we have been in contact with some brethren who separated from the ____ church because they argued that the "Christ Our Righteousness" message was not preached by their church. Upon hearing of our message which was wrongly presented to them by their leaders, these people decided to look for us and hear from us.

We began to speak to their delegation on the truth about God and His dear Son Jesus Christ. Thank God, through His Spirit, they were impressed and then asked that if possible we could meet all of their entire group members. Last Sabbath, November 23rd, was the day agreed for the meetings. Actually, they gave us the whole day's program.

Just at the right time God brought Brother _____ to join our hands for these historical meetings. Having presented different subjects in the morning services, and later in the afternoon, there was no question or argument against what was presented. Each of them just praised God that this was the right time for the message to be presented to the people. Let us join our efforts; this is the truth and the everlasting gospel...

At the moment we have received an urgent appeal from ______. Brother _____ and I agreed to go there, by the help of God, during the first two weeks of December. However, this again is subject to availability of funds, for which we invite you to share with us. If God permits us to go there, kindly accept our request for US \$300.00 to cover our travel and upkeep expenses while there. Brother _____ made the early contacts there, now it appears that the interest has come to maturity. We pray for your understanding and your support, as we know that the needs are beyond human capabilities, may our heavenly Father intervene.

A brother on the other side of the country wrote,

I have proposed to go to _____ where three letters now came to call for seminars. I ask brothers all around the world to help us in any way to enable us to spread the gospel. Our problem is transportation, even bicycles can help. If our zeal will join together the world will be warned and the Lord would come to take his bride home. Best wishes to all our brothers in the faith.

Benin Republic

I am going to tell you how I embraced the Sabbath message... By God's grace I entered a Bible college in 1985 and later I joined a ministry where I became a pastor... My daughter became fond of confronting me with questions during a Sunday School lesson or Bible studies, for which I had warned her several times not to ask such questions in the church, but only at home where we are alone. Now what was this question that cannot be answered in the church? "Why did God say, 'Remember the seventh day to keep it holy," and "Which day is that seventh day?"

I answered her that question by saying that the Christian Sabbath is Sunday and the Jewish Sabbath still remains on Saturday, but the Sabbath was done away on the cross when He said, "It is finished." Sabbath observation was done away because of the grace message that Jesus preached, and also He resurrected on the Sunday morning which brought the Old Testament to an end.

My daughter seemed not to be happy with my comments. She told me to just show her where it is in the Bi-



ble that we shall observe Sunday instead of Saturday, the seventh-day Sabbath. At this juncture I became very annoyed with her and decided not to tolerate her questions again, and secondly the church was becoming uncomfortable with her questions to the point where some began to ask if she was now a Sabbatarian. The church council called me to caution me on the attitude of my daughter, and told me that if I failed to call her to order I would be disciplined.

But one day I was teaching from the book of Daniel and I saw a verse that said they will change times, etc. I asked myself a question: Who will change what time and why? It was at this juncture that I decided to pick up an old piece of literature in my house that talks about the Sabbath and God opened my heart to the message of the Sabbath.

I was ashamed to disclose this to my daughter, and it would never be acceptable to any member in my Church. If I disclose this, I will lose my job, prestige, and fine salary that I enjoyed and a very comfortable home. I concealed this for two months and I became restless and continued to see myself as a hypocrite. I eventually succumbed to the urging of the Holy Spirit.

"I called my daughter first to tell her the true answer to her numerous questions concerning the Sabbath, and that I had now accepted the truth about the Sabbath, and that there is no command in the Bible to observe Sunday and that we have been walking in disobedience to the perfect Law of God. She was so happy and jumped up with a big hallelujah.

Now another battle had commenced, a battle to tell the truth as it is. Now how can I start this and when? It was only my daughter who supported me and told me to summon courage and go boldly on a Sunday morning and tell the congregation that Sunday is not the Sabbath of the Lord, it is Saturday, the seventh day. I knew what was at stake if I did that. I later called on my wife and told her I had decided to follow the Sabbath of Jesus. My wife asked me if I was dreaming or if something had gone wrong with me and she rushed out to call our first church elder to come and hear what I was saying.

On the Sunday of the same week, August 2001, [Interestingly, Howard Williams and I were in Africa at that time.—*Editor*] I opened my Bible from the book of Exodus chapter 20 and told my congregation that we had been misled for years and that the seventh-day Sabbath is the true day of worship, etc. Your guess is as good as mine as you must know what came next. I was suspended and was later sacked and excommunicated. I was told to hand over all church properties in my hand and I must va-

cate church premises that same day. This did not go down well with my wife and my in-laws.

Now I am a messenger of the true Sabbath and have also started a Sabbath group in Benin Republic. I lost all my good friends, and it was just recently the Lord convinced my wife to join me to preach the Sabbath truth. I believe I have friends among the true worshipers of God, even as the Psalmist said, even if everyone abandons me the Lord will bring me in.

With all my heart I want to circulate this message in and around Benin, the center of Voodoo in Africa. I want your encouragement to continue. I have lost all that I have built for years because of this truth, for which I have no regret. Help to return my children back to school, also to help my wife start a petty business and also some financial support to keep on moving. They see me as a drop out, but I know I have a big family and I will never be a drop out. I have a very big heart to circulate this truth.

All I need from you is your prayers and if possible your financial support and materials such as books, Sabbath School manuals, tracts, used or new Bibles in English and French languages, audio/video tapes both for our lending library and for personal studies. I am in need of a very good study Bible for my personal use. I am also in need of some used clothes for me and my family, even shoes and jackets, etc. Please, we need anything that will help us in our search for perfection in Christ.

We are also involved in prison outreach, child evangelism, cult outreach, etc. Here cannot contain all that is in my heart, but all I know I was blind but now I see. I thank God for my daughter whom God used to change my life. We are happy to worship Him His own way. If God impresses you, kindly send any help through the Western Union, Cotonou, Benin Republic. We need your encouragement and invite your prayers and questions. We want to operate a free Bible lessons, if you can support us on this, please let us know. I will stop here, 28 persons joined me when we left our former church.

Summary

From these few letters you can see somewhat of how the Lord is working in Africa to send the truth to those hungering and thirsting after righteousness. I am very encouraged as I read these letters, and I trust that you are as well. The Lord is taking the reigns in His own hands. Please add your prayers to mine that the Lord will provide for all the needs of these brethren who are actively spreading the truth in Africa. They are working under very difficult circumstances with very limited funds.

Many of the letters from Africa include requests. Thanks to the kindness of our Lord, and the generosity of His people, some of these needs have been met. How-



ever, there are many that we are unable to meet due to lack of funds.

Some of the needs that have not been met are:

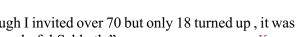
- A motorcycle for a minister in Uganda—\$1,000.
- A house for a minister and his family in Tanzania—\$3,200.
- Telephone and bicycle for a minister in Zambia—\$500.
- Seminars in Congo—\$500.
- Supplies for literature evangelism, crusades, and Bible courses in Zambia—\$500 monthly.
- An amplifier, speaker and microphone for a minister in Ghana.—\$100.
- Church rent for a church in Kenya—\$50 monthly.
- A December camp meeting in Kenya—\$450.
- A bicycle for a brother in Tanzania—\$100.

- December seminars in Tanzania—\$300.
- Large pictures prophecy for seminars in Uganda—\$300, possibly less if sent from the US.
- Hungry Christian families suffering from a drought in Uganda.—unspecified amount.
- Widows and orphans in Rwanda.—unspecified amount.
- Paper and ink for printing in Zimbabwe—\$500 monthly.
- Several ministers have been sponsored, but there are a few who have not. They need funds for the living expenses of themselves and their families-\$100 for each minister and his family.

If the Lord impresses you to help meet any of these needs, please contact us and we will give you the necessary information to contact these brethren. Thank you! «



Letters from our Readers



(Each month we receive letters that help us to know how God's work is progressing throughout the world. Because we think you are interested in this work as well, we are printing some of them for you. If you do not wish your letter to be printed, please let us know when you write. Editor)

"I picked up a copy of "The Truth About God" by Lynnford Beachy. What an eye opener! I have been seeking truth all my 47 years. I was brought up in the LDS church. By the time I was 13, and could not find the God of the Bible in the church, I left and went out in the world to find God. Sex, drugs, crime and so on; always being pulled back to God; always looking for His church. I

hooked with the Jehovah's Witnesses, Catholics, etc., etc., etc. I only found small bits of truth here and there. My God did not give up on me, even when I gave up on myself.

"Could you people please send me your book on last day events and any other information you feel might help me. I have so much running through my mind and soul these days. May the Most High God bless you all always, I pray in Jesus' name, amen."

"Thank you for the great study you presented on "The Prophecy of Daniel" chapters 8 and 9, in the October 2002 Present Truth."

"I'm glad to tell you that we had a good Sabbath day. We had a joint Sabbath with Sunday keepers whom I invited from different denominations. This was because I had planned to preach about the doctrine of the trinity using the November issue of *Present Truth*. I like the way this issue discussed the trinity. There were a total of 18 visitors though I invited over 70 but only 18 turned up, it was such a wonderful Sabbath."

"Thank you very much for your kind message I received November 12, 2002 and your magazine, Present Truth. I have read many articles in the pages of your maga-

zine. They have inspired, corrected, and encouraged me on in my Christian pathway but never have I been so touched as when I read, "Do you be-

lieve in the Trinity?" I think it is time to spread the good news about God. Be courageous in Him."

"I read the last newsletter and your letter. I also read the booklet you sent me ['The Formu-

lation of the Doctrine of the Trinity']. I did not have this before... I thought, as with this newsletter, your statements of what Trinitarians believe was very well done. I have read it at least three times. I have been thinking and praying about what you have stated therein." Maryland

"Thank you for the wonderful articles in the November issue of Present Truth. The three you wrote were just what I needed to share with a lady I've been talking to. They should answer a lot of her questions. I enjoy your writing and this last issue was one of the best. I printed one out for her on the Internet, but would you send about three copies of this one so I could have them to share. Thanks."

California

"I am very impressed with your November issue. You have done a very good job!...You have a booklet on the council at Nicea. Can I have that please? Can I have a couple more copies of this November issue? Can you send my



friends each a copy of the November issue?... I would also appreciate whatever else you have on this subject."

Missouri

"I got a chance to just glance through the new *Present Truth*. I saw the article on the Trinity, but before I could read it someone who came to the house took it! God must have had something in it for them!" *Florida*

"Thank you for the *Present Truth* articles. It speaks to a lot of truths in many different ways... Since I have come to know the Lord more intimately than in years past, I have believed that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit exist. I have never understood the Trinity, but have believed in each of the three. Because of that, I would say that I have considered myself a believer in the Trinity...

"If believing that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are one and the same, equal in thought, will and deed is a Trinitarian, then I am not. Many people that I know believe the same way [as I do] but say they believe in the Trinity...

"What your articles did for me was to bring it all into focus a bit better and help me to understand the doctrine and different beliefs people have. *Iowa*

"After returning from ______, I gathered the 10 to 15 pastors and conducted a meeting and discussed about the Trinity in the monthly magazine. Please kindly pray for our services and please pray for my family." *India*

"Thank you about the information for the elementary stages of the Trinity, it's just so clear." Zimbabwe

"I read [the November] *Present Truth* and agree with it 100%." *Ohio*

"I am writing because a friend of mine wrote to you about your monthly *Present Truth*. I have read them and I would also like to be put on your mailing list...

"I would also like your writing on *The Formulation of the Doctrine of the Trinity*. I have been in study on this for three years and I have learned more since reading your monthly issues.

"You might find this interesting. The mainstream Christians for the last three years that I have been around in prison and my Christian friends on the street have told me I am wrong on the Trinity and I should not think that way and I know from listening to Charles Stanley, Chuck Swindoll, Billy Graham, and the list goes on, as you know, about how Jesus is and was God. Anyway, I have been in prayer about this the last two weeks and asked the Lord to please reveal what is true because I want to worship You the way I should and I want to know what is right. Then a couple of days ago tossed your monthly newsletters on my bunk and said I might be interested in these. He was right. I have to say in my heart I don't think it was a coincidence. Praise God! Oregon

"I am writing you if you may start sending me your monthly newsletters. May you please send the month of July 2001, "The Big Picture." It left me completely amazed how a difficult topic can be so easily put down to understand. May God bless you to be a blessing for others. Also, may you please sign me up for your Bible studies. Thank you. Florida

"We are improving our work but the problems increase more and more. Time is our great difficulty. We don't have people who can give their whole time to preach the truth. All the people in our group have to work in secular jobs to get their support. Please tell about the possibility of someone to come to Brazil."

Brazil

"I want to mention your great nutrition health articles! I'm making copies for ones we [know] in the body of Messiah and family/friends. Thank you for printing it. We do have to watch what we eat, for we are what we eat." *Ohio*

"I am very much happy and of course thankful especially to heaven upon knowing that someone introduced me to your publication, *Present Truth*. Praise God.

"I have received six copies, including March 2002 issue until August 2002 issue from a friend in my previous address. By now, I have already started reading the March 2002 issue and am happy to know that the Sabbath day was blessed by God and it is the real holy day to praise God.

"I hope and pray that I can receive more of your issues and understand more about the truth." *Philippines*

"Thank you for sending us some issues of your newsletter, *Present Truth* and other literature. We are very interested about the wonderful booklets that you forwarded to us. We need the newsletter, *Present Truth* to read about the mission work in Africa. We are also very interested and some of us changed to follow Jesus Christ."

Papua New Guinea

"I recently read one of your tracts concerning the Holy Spirit. I was very blessed. It covered many scriptures that indicate that the Holy Spirit is the mind of Christ, not another superior being to be worshipped. Anyway, I am interested in receiving any of your Bible courses dealing with prophecy and a free book on last day events." *Florida*

"I was thrilled to get to read a few issues of your *Present Truth* that a friend of mine here... shared with me. I would really appreciate it if you could put me on your mailing list to receive this great publication.

"I thank you in advance for your generosity in sending it. Your reward is coming soon. Even so, Come Lord Jesus. (Revelation 22:12, 20)" *Michigan*

"I received your letter and my two Bible study lessons. I thank you again for everything you and your staff are doing for me in keeping the Words of God next to my heart.



"Please don't forget, with each lesson, send me a postage-paid, stamped envelope. I sure appreciate everything." Ohio

"Thank you for sending your publication but I find being a single mom with two kids and working full time is too much and I don't get to read. Please remove my name from your mailing. Thank you."

Colorado

"Thank you very much for the booklets and Bible lessons you have sent. Indeed it is a great blessing for us. As we are passing through the Daniel and Revelation studies, to explain it briefly the study of the Michael of Daniel 12th chapter, the booklet entitled "Michael" was very much helpful in presenting this subject. The remaining booklets make us to understand the great truth about God. May God bless the authors of these booklets abundantly to serve Him eternally. May God bless their family as well. Let the promises of God be owned by them.

"The newsletters you have sent are very much inspiring to the youths of our church. Please continue to send them. The Bible correspondence lessons are very methodically prepared with proper syllabus and presented. I wish these lessons may be translated in our Indian languages and distributed to these longing souls of India.

India

"Thank you for preaching and written truth. You have been instrumental in clearing up some question in my mind . my husband and I appreciate your ministry. Your magazine has helped me greatly spiritually and I thank you for your dedication for spreading the truth. May God bless you."

Rwanda

"Please send me your book on the trinity. You also answered a question on your site by referring to other materials. 'The Love of God,' 'God's Plan to Save You,' 'The Truth About God,' 'The Importance of Knowing the Truth About God,' 'The Holy Spirit,' 'Satan's Deadliest Lie,' 'Which God,' 'The God of the Bible,' and 'The Formulation of the Doctrine of the Trinity.' How long is this material and suggested price. I'm interested in it also." *Ohio*

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