

In the Beginning God



THE JOURNEY

BECOMING A DISCIPLE

FBC PURPOSE STATEMENT: LEARNING TO LIVE BY FAITH TOGETHER

Relationship is Key

One of the most exciting and humbling truths of the Christian life is that God desires to have a relationship with us. We are made to know Him. Even after we trust Him as our Savior, He wants us to grow in our knowledge of Him and our experience with Him.

John 17:3-And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou has sent.

Genesis 1:27-So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Three Truths to Remember

- 1) *God has revealed Himself to us because He wants a relationship with us*
- 2) *Growth in your Christian life comes through yielding to the direction of the Holy Spirit*
- 3) *Growth in your Christian life is measured by becoming more like Christ*

Connecting To Jesus
And His Church

ENGAGE



Becoming Rooted &
Grounded In Faith

ESTABLISH




Serving Your Church
And Community

EQUIP



Sharing Your Faith
And Servant Leadership

EMPOWER



GOD EXISTS AS TRINITY

The Bible clearly tells us that there is one true God. Mark 12:29, Isaiah 45:5, Ephesians 4:6, James 2:19

But the Bible also tells us that this God exists as a trinity-literally a trinity, or three in one. Scripture refers to this as the "Godhead." Acts 17:29 & Romans 1:20

We see throughout Scripture that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all God-although there is but one God. I John 5:7-*For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.*

There is one God who exists simultaneously in three persons. Each is coequal, copowerful, and coeternal.

The Father is God-Romans 1:7

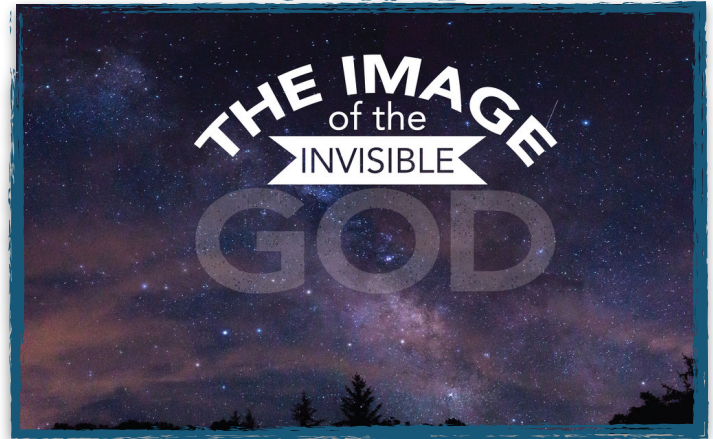
The Son is God-Hebrews 1:8

The Spirit is God-Acts 5:3-4

The Trinity is impossible to explain but vital to believe. We see it all throughout the Bible. Notice these verses that refer to all three parts of the Trinity at the same time: Matthew 3:16-17, Matthew 28:19, and 2 Corinthians 13:14



GOD IS SEEN IN CREATION



WE ARE MADE IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

One of the earliest revelations of the Trinity was given in the very first chapter of the Bible-Genesis 1:26 (notice the word, "us")

And there, even as God began to reveal His Trinity, He also revealed that He made us in His image. He made us to resemble Himself. But we don't resemble God in physical characteristics-John 4:24-*God is a Spirit...* Rather we resemble Him in the sense that we have a body, soul, and spirit; we have physical and immaterial components to our being. We were created in His likeness mentally, socially, morally, and spiritually.

Mentally-we were created with intelligence; an ability to reason and choose (Genesis 2:19)

Socially-we were created with a need for interaction and fellowship (Genesis 2:18)

Morally-we were created with responsibility to live according to right and wrong (Genesis 2:16-17)

Spiritually-we were created with a spirit that will live forever even after our bodies die & with the capacity to have a relationship with God (Genesis 3:8)

God is so much greater than our minds can comprehend. And yet, He made us in His image and for a relationship with Him.

God Revealed

God does not expect us to just figure out for ourselves who He is. He has specifically revealed Himself to us:

-He reveals Himself through creation-Psalm 19:1

Even as an intricately-crafted clock points to a skilled maker, so a perfectly-synchronized solar system and universe points to a Creator. God made the world starting in Genesis 1:1. He simply spoke it into existence (Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24). In the summary of God's creation, we read that He made it all "very good." Also, remember why we were created-

Revelation 4:11. We do not exist to please ourselves, but to please God.

-He reveals Himself through human conscious-Interestingly, the Bible never sets out to prove the existence of God. It simply assumes His existence. The Bible assumption is because God hardwired the knowledge of Himself into our hearts when He made us (Romans 2:14-15). Nobody is an atheist. People know there is some God, and have a sense of right and wrong. That sense maybe be molded by culture, but it is there, nonetheless. Scripture tells us God placed within us the gift of conscience which testifies of God, of sin, and our need for Him. John 1:9-*That was the true Light, which lightieth every man that cometh into the world!*

He reveals Himself through the Scriptures-While nature gives us general revelation of God, the Bible gives us specific revelation OF God.

He reveals Himself through His Son-Jesus Christ came as God in the flesh to reveal to us who God is (1 Timothy 3:16). And so, in creation, throughout history, embedded into our conscience, and through His Word and His Son, God has revealed Himself to us. He wants us to know more about Him!



How God's Law Is a Mirror of God's Character

GOD		LAW
Luke 18:19	GOOD	Romans 7:12
Isaiah 5:16	HOLY	Romans 7:12
Deuteronomy 32:4	JUST	Romans 7:12
Deuteronomy 32:4	TRUTH	Psalms 119:142, 151
Matthew 5:48	PERFECT	Psalms 19:7
Matthew 11:30	NOT BURDENSOME	1 John 5:3
1 John 1:5	LIGHT	Proverbs 6:23
1 John 4:8	LOVE	Romans 13:10
Exodus 9:27	RIGHTEOUS	Psalms 19:9
1 John 3:3	PURE	Psalms 19:8
John 4:24	SPIRITUAL	Romans 7:14
Malachi 3:6	UNCHANGABLE	Matthew 5:18
Genesis 21:33	ETERNAL	Psalms 111:7-8

God's Characteristics

Some of God's attributes are unique to Him alone. Let's look at a few of these amazing attributes of God:

- Holy** (completely sinless & unique)-Isiah 6:3
- Omnipresent** (all present, or present everywhere at the same time)-Proverbs 15:3
- Omnipotent** (all-powerful)-Psalm 33:9
- Omniscient** (all-knowing)-Hebrews 4:13
- Immutable** (cannot and will not change-Malachi 3:6
- Sovereign** (ruler of all)-Isaiah 46:10
- Infinite** (eternal with no beginning and no end and without measure or limit)-Psalm 90:2

Jesus is God

He is Called God-Exodus 3:14, Isaiah 9:6, John 8:58
 He is Called the Son of God-John 3:16, John 5:17-18
 He Creates-John 1:3
 He Preserves-Hebrews 1:3
 He Forgives Sins-Mark 2:7-11
 He Gives Eternal Life-John 17:2
 He is Worshipped-Luke 4:8, Matthew 2:2, John 9:38
 Omnipotent-Matthew 28:18

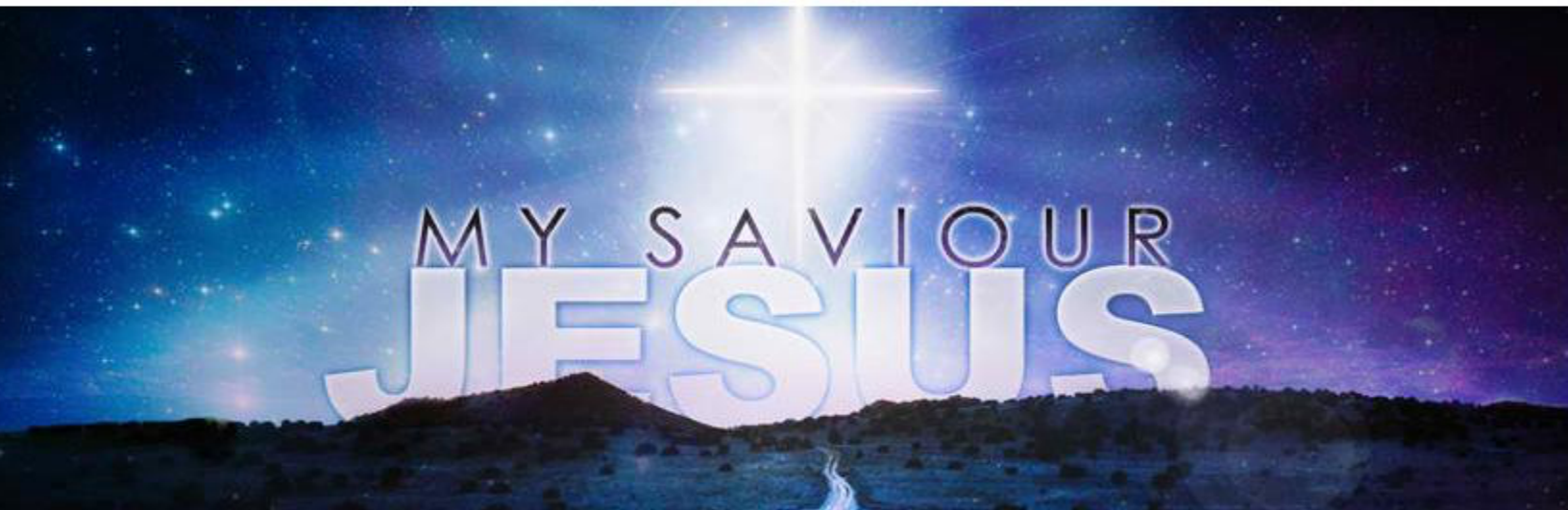
Omniscience-John 16:30
 Omnipresence-Matthew 28:20
 Eternality-John 1:1
 Immutability-Hebrews 13:8
 Holiness-7:26

Jesus is the Savior

What Makes Him Savior?

He came through a virgin birth-John 1:1, 14
 He was prophesied-Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23
 His birth place was prophesied-Micah 5:2
 He was tempted but never sinned-Hebrews 4:15-16
 He died for mankind-Romans 5:8

He is our propitiation-I John 2:2
 He rose for mankind- (next point)
 He offers a gift of eternal life-John 1:12, Rom. 10:13



Jesus is Alive

He Rose from the Grave-Luke 24:1-7. Just as prophesied throughout OT Scriptures.

He Was Witnessed-There are ten accounts of appearances of Jesus after He rose from the dead. He was seen by over 500 people-Acts 1:3 & I Corinthians 15:6

He Will Build His Church-Matthew 16:18

He is Lord of Our Life & Our Savior-We are to have a relationship with Him that is in obedience to His Word. Romans 6:23, Luke 6:46, John 14:15, and James 1:22

Jesus is Coming Again

John 14:1-3-Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

The Holy Spirit Ministers to Your Heart

He is the Divine Comforter-John 14:16, John 14:26, John 15:26, and John 16:7

Christians deal with heartaches and struggles just as unbelievers do. But we have the Holy Spirit to help us and knowledge that we are never left alone.

He Guides You to Truth-John 14:26 & John 16:13. Part of this work is to help us understand the Bible and to make decisions that are honoring to Him.

He Strengthens You for Service-Romans 15:13 & Ephesians 3:16. Specifically to serve in the local church.

He Empowers Your Witness-Acts 1:8 & Acts 5:32. As a Christian, you CAN lead someone to Christ

Helps Us Live the Christian Life

Trying harder to be a better Christian in your own strength is an exercise with no results. But the Holy Spirit can and will empower us to change our lives from the inside out.

We are to be Filled with the Spirit-Ephesians 5:18. This will allow Him to control us.

We are to Walk in the Spirit-Galatians 5:16, 25. Knowing when to say “no” and “yes”

Do Not Quench the Spirit-Ephesians 4:30-31 & I Thessalonians 5:19-If ignored or rebelled long enough, we will cease to Hear His voice of warning

The Fruits of the Spirit

The incredible blessing of the Spirit filled life is that as the Holy Spirit transforms your life from the inside, it begins to show in some very specific ways on the outside. His work shows up in many ways that are referred throughout the New Testament, but in Galatians 5:22–23, we have a specific list.

Love-I Corinthians 13:4-7

Joy-John 15:11

Peace-John 16:33

Longsuffering-2 Timothy 2:3

Gentleness-I Thessalonians 2:7

Goodness-Galatians 6:10

Faith-Luke 17:5

Meekness-Matthew 5:5, Titus 3:2

Temperance-I Corinthians 9:23-24



HOLY
SPIRIT