

*“There is one God, and one mediator between  
God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 2:5).*

## **God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit**

**By Harold Doan and Harry Sheets**

**Sheets:** A few days ago a lady called to ask about the Bible teaching of the nature of God and Jesus and the Holy Spirit. She wanted to know if they are all the same being and yet different. We do not know the lady's name, but we do want to try to answer her question by showing what the Bible says about God and about Jesus and about the Spirit of God.

**Doan:** Let us look first at some Bible texts which tell us about God, who He is, and what He is. The first verse of the Bible tells us that “in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” Whenever the beginning was, God was there first. Everything that has been created was made by Him. Hebrews 11:3 makes this a matter of faith, saying, “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which were seen were not made of things which do appear.” Some have thought this refers to the fact that all things are made of atoms which are invisible. Whatever the method of creation, it was completed by God through His spoken Word. We believe this by faith. This does not mean that it unreasonable so that we *have* to believe it by faith. Creation by a great, all-powerful God is much more reasonable than to think that everything we know in this complex world happened by accident. Though we do not understand the “how” of creation, by faith we know it was accomplished by God.

**Sheets:** Someone might have the idea that the phrase “word of God” refers to Jesus. We know from Scripture that God alone created heaven and earth. “Thus saith the Lord, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the Lord that maketh all things: that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself” (Isa. 44:24). The next chapter, verse 5, reads, “I am the Lord, and there is none else, there is no God beside me . . . I am the Lord, and there is none else” (45:5, 6). God alone, with the counsel of no one, created all things.

**Doan:** Deuteronomy 6:4 gives us as brief and as clear a picture of the nature of God as we can find in the Bible. This verse is the basis of Jewish belief in one God, and of the Christian understanding of one, undivided God. “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord.” All through the days of the Old Testament, Jews understood by the Word of God that God was one, undivided God. In this belief they were different from the heathen who believed in multiple gods, or one god who had many parts. This verse is quoted in the New Testament by Jesus, and by Paul, to show that there was no change in the nature of God with the appearance of Jesus the Son of God. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was the God of Jesus and Paul.

**Sheets:** We have heard it said that the word “one” used in Deuteronomy 6:4 denotes “compound unity.” The word from which “one” is translated is used often in the Old Testament and, in every case, it means what it says —“one,” not two or three. God is one.

**Doan:** Paul, in 1 Corinthians 8:6, gives us this statement about God: “To us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.” There is one God and He has a Son, Jesus Christ. There are no tricky mathematics here. One and one is two. God is one, and Jesus is His Son, another one.

**Sheets:** That introduces the second part of our study. We have seen that God alone created heaven and earth, that God is one being. Who then is Jesus?

**Doan:** John 3:16 calls Jesus the “only begotten Son” of God. The word “begotten” means conceived and born. Jesus is the only individual ever born to be the Son of God. From His conception by the Spirit of God, Jesus was God’s Son. You and I become God’s sons through adoption into His family through Christ, but Jesus was born the Son of God. When was Jesus born the Son of God? When he was born of the Virgin Mary.

**Sheets:** Romans 1:3, 4 tells who Jesus is. “Concerning his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; and declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.” Jesus was born the Son of God, of the, lineage of David. His Sonship was proved by the fact that God raised Him from the dead.

**Doan:** The fact that Jesus is the Son of God is very important. Notice this passage of Scripture in 1 John 5:11-13. “This is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” Jesus is the Son of God, who died for our sins that we might have eternal life. He was born the Son of God to the Virgin Mary. God showed His approval of Jesus and proved His Sonship by raising Him from the dead to immortality.

**Sheets:** The third part of our question is, “What is the Holy Spirit?” The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit is the power of God, the influence through which He works in His creation. The word “spirit” is from Greek and Hebrew words that mean either the air we breathe, beings like angels, a state of feeling, or the influence that a person exerts. Since we know that there is only one God, and since the Holy Spirit was present at the creation, though God said that He alone created the earth, we can know that the Holy Spirit is the power of God through which He created the earth.

**Doan:** In the story of the birth of Jesus in Luke 1: 35, we read the words of the angel to Mary. The angel said, “The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.” Here the Holy Ghost, or Holy Spirit, is called the power of God, and the one born was the Son of God. If the Holy Spirit is a person, then he is the father of Jesus, and not God, according to this verse. We can see, however, that the Holy Spirit is the power of God, through which Jesus was born in a miraculous way.

**Sheets:** There is a lot of confusion concerning the distinction between Jesus and God. Oftentimes we hear Jesus referred to as God and God as Jesus. The Bible makes a distinction between Jesus and God; it does not confuse them. Jesus took great pains to

show that He is not God. He wanted it understood that He was not stealing the glory of God and taking His place. When He prayed to His Father in heaven at the tomb of Lazarus, he prayed, "I know that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me" (John 11:42). Jesus wanted all to know that His power came from God in heaven.

**Doan:** The worst accusation against Jesus was, "He made himself the Son of God," or He claimed to be the Son of God. Even those who were looking for cause of blasphemy in Him could never claim that He pretended to be God.

**Sheets:** We could summarize our study by saying we believe the Bible teaches that God is one, that He alone created all things, including Jesus; that Jesus is God's "only begotten Son," whom God caused to be born of woman; and that the Holy Spirit is the power of God through which He works in His creation.

**Doan:** Yes, that would well summarize what the Bible says about the nature of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. 'We glorify God as the one great Creator an Father of all. We honor Jesus as His only begotten Son our Saviour and Redeemer. We pray for a portion a that Spirit of God to enable us to serve Him in a right way. We hope you know God as your Father, and Jesus as your Saviour, and that you know the power of God in your life.