

## 2. COMMUNION WITH EACH PERSON OF THE GODHEAD INDIVIDUALLY

In 1 JN 5:7, we are told "There are three that bear witness in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit" And they bear witness to the Sonship of Christ, and the salvation of believers by the water and the blood, which symbolize justification and sanctification. All three persons of the Triune God bear witness to the same process. As we accept the witness of all three, we have communion with each person of the Godhead severally.

Paul tells us of this diversity, but the same Godhead. 1 COR 12: 4-6 "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same SPIRIT. There are different kinds of service, but the same LORD (JESUS). There are different kinds of working, but the same GOD (FATHER) works all of them in all men."

EPH 2:18 "For through Him (Christ) we both have access to the Father by one Spirit". Our access to God is for our communion or fellowship with Him - through Christ, by the Spirit.

- A. Communion with God the Father is responded to by us to the Father through our faith, love, trust, joy, and obedience to His loving acts. These are our reactions to the Blessed Knowledge and acceptance of Jesus as our Saviour. And the Son is given to us to fulfill in us the purposes of the Father's love. We accept Jesus as the Son on the truthfulness of the 'Father's witness. Those who do not believe God (acceptance of all the prophecies), make God out to be a liar. In JN 14:1 Jesus says, "You believe in God, believe also in Me". This is a reference to the Triune Godhead, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. To believe somebody, is to put your faith and trust in what that person has said.

1JN 2:15 "If any man loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him" This is our love for God, who should be the object of our love. And this love we have for God is what is referred to in MAL 1:6, as our honour of God.

This love of ours for God is reflected in our prayers, praises, and worship of God.

Symbolic of this is the bowing of the knee to God. PSM 95:6 "Come let us bow down in worship."

- B. Communion with the Son. How do we know that Jesus is the Son of God? - because God Himself has testified to this fact. MATT 17:5 ".... This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased. Listen to Him". Apart from the fact that the Old Testament is replete with references to the coming Messiah. Jesus threatened the Pharisees for not believing this truth. JN 8:24

The Son, whom the Father gave - JN 3:16, is to be trusted by us believing in Him. It is Christ who guarantees our salvation through the Holy Spirit. How often have we heard people say "Oh, I believe in God, but not this Jesus story?" They have missed the whole point by their arrogance. All men are to honour the Father, and that is to believe what the Father has said. If we do not honour the Son, we do not honour the Father, because we have made the Father out to be a liar by not accepting and believing in what He has said. The apostolic benediction in EPH 6:24 confirms this honour to the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul declares in 1 COR 1:2 that the calling on the name of the Lord Jesus is a distinguishing characteristic of the Saints.

C. Communion with the Holy Spirit. This worship of God the Father, and God the Son is also due to the Holy Spirit. One of our early introductions to the Holy Spirit is through our Baptism, where our Master instructs the disciples to baptize in the Name of the Father, and the Son and of the Holy Spirit. This statement qualifies and affirms the equality of the triune Godhead. So, we see that there is no exercise of grace, no act of divine worship, no duty of obedience done towards God, but they are distinctly directed to Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In our studies of the Holy Spirit, we dealt with the distinct work of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit in the work of Salvation in believers. We are therefore to honour and worship each for their specific work in our own lives. God the Father initiated the plan of salvation, God the Son made the atonement for sins, and God the Holy Spirit executes the salvation and sanctification process.

REV 1: 4 & 5 talk about the Grace and Peace to us from Father, Son and Holy Spirit (seven-fold Spirits) - the Godhead joined together, yet three distinct persons. The teaching we receive in our Spiritual walk may be considered in the same vein. JN 6:45 "They will all be taught by God". By the Father we are taught and brought into union and communion with the Son. The Father draws us to Christ. We will not come to Christ unless we are drawn, taught, and led by the Father. This in conjunction with the Holy Spirit.

The prophetic and kingly ministry of our Master are connected in no small part to His office as teacher. This profound teaching was freely recognized during His earthly ministry by a wide audience. The words that the Father conveyed to the Son are those words we find in the gospels. And in JN 12:32, "But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself" We read frequently in the gospels ".... and they were amazed at His teaching ...." Because He taught like no one else, with wisdom and authority.

And we know also that the Holy Spirit is a great teacher of men from such verses as JN 14:26 "But the Counsellor, The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things ...." Bringing to our remembrance all things that Jesus had taught.

There is a communion of Grace to us from each person of the Godhead. As this is so, we must have a communion with each person of the Godhead distinctly.

The Father communicates to us all grace by His own authoritative will. Life giving power is vested in the Father we cannot come to the Son unless we are called by the Father.

The Son communicates to us out of a purchased treasury JN 1:16 "For out of His fulness, we have all received Grace upon Grace". And life through His death.

The Spirit communicates to us by working in us by His Power. It is the power of God, through Christ and by the Holy Spirit that quickens us from the dead.