

THE POWER OF 3 IN GOD

One of the most powerful "discoveries" the Lord has granted me in my walk with Him has been the significance of the number "three" in God's heavenly order. For those of you who have studied "numerics", that is the study of the significance of numbers in the bible, this will come as no surprise. For "3" is recognised as being the number of God. It doesn't take a genius (so even I can understand) that the "GOD" of the Christian faith is a very specific deity of 3 parts, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, normally called the "Trinity".

Three in one, yet one in three. Now that is more difficult to understand! A mystery. We have to depend on God the Father to reveal this truth to us, through Jesus, our intermediary with Him, by the revelation of the Holy Spirit, God living within us. Confused? We need to ask God to reveal this mystery to us and over time, as our relationship with Him deepens, He does. Maybe this sounds like typical "spiritual speak", a pat answer, but I have certainly found it to be coming true for me. It does take time though.

The best example in our physical world, for attempting to explain this mystery, is to look at water, an essential of life. Water can be found in three forms, usually as a liquid, but also as a solid in the form of ice, and as a gas, in the form of steam. Three forms of the same substance, the form determined by temperature variations. Spiritually, God like water, is an essential of life, although sadly, many reject Him.

ONE GOD in three forms, fulfilling differing spiritual roles. God the Father, the designer of the universe, a spirit being

"who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see." (1 Timothy 6: 16)

God the Son, for

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities, all things were created by him and for him." (Colossians 1: 15-16)

Yes Jesus is the human image of God, the creator and ruler of the universe. We could do with Him here now, to explain how creation did evolve! Ask the maker for the real answer! Would quickly solve a lot of arguments!

And finally, God the Holy Spirit, our spiritual teacher, guide and comforter, helping us find our way through the intricate intimacies of life – when we allow Him to!

"But when he, the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears and he will tell you what is yet to come." (John 16: 13)

The verse also provides insight into the unity of the Godhead as well as defining the role of the Holy Spirit.

I have just had a thought! Must be inspired! Wouldn't it be great if we could have 3 differing bodies for different purposes. A sure way to win the Olympic decathlon! The strong body of the sprinter (without the need to take steroids!), the slim, lean body of the distance runner for the 1500 metres, exchanged for one of sheer bulk and power for the field events. An unbeatable combination! Sometimes I think an invisible body would be very handy too! A fly on the wall perhaps? Better say no more!

While the mystery of the Godhead is awesome and has challenged the understanding of Christians down the ages, what follows is just absolutely amazing! For through the "power of three" God reveals His plans for His church. From the beginning of time until the return of Jesus! Truly exciting? Yes! Because as we approach end times, we

can see God's ultimate plan and purpose for us and His church become a reality. What could be more exciting than that? Beats a Big Mac any day!

THE POWER OF 3 IN THE CHURCH

The "power of 3 in the church" is what this book is all about, indeed what the church is all about, as we approach the climax of this age! We will explore some of the many truths God is revealing through His word, in so many different ways. His plans for the past, present and most importantly, the future of His church and His people, are excitingly revealed and confirmed consistently throughout scripture. We are going to travel down an exciting, stimulating, yet challenging path, exploring what the future holds for those who are willing to answer God's call today, to commence building His church of tomorrow, right now.

The table below enables us to become more familiar with the patterns of three established time and again throughout God's word. The scriptures are examples only. If you are really keen, or don't believe what you see, try seeking out further references in your concordance. A computerised concordance is a real timesaver – or I am sure it will be when I get one!

THE POWER OF THREE

(Please see table)

PATTERN OF...	JESUS	HOLY SPIRIT	THE FATHER
<i>NOTE: The patterns or types are split into two sections for clarity, emphasising their main thrust. All can be applied to both the individual and the church however, so should not be looked upon as being mutually exclusive.</i>			
THE CHURCH			
DEVELOPMENT <i>Matthew 16:18 Colossians 1:18-20</i>	TRADITIONAL/ EVANGELICAL <i>Ephesians 1:22-23</i>	CHARISMATIC/ PENTECOSTAL <i>John 14:16</i>	END TIME/ TABERNACLE <i>Matthew 26:39</i>
PROGRESSIVE TRUTHS/ REVEALED <i>John 3:21,8:31-32 1 John 3:6-8</i>	Salvation by Grace thru' Faith in Jesus <i>Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 3:21-26</i>	Holy Spirit Baptism or Release <i>Acts 2:1-4 Joel 2:23a,28</i>	Obedience to God's Will <i>Hebrews 10:9-10 Joel 2:23b,29-32</i>
FEASTS OF THE LORD <i>Leviticus 23:4-44</i>	Passover <i>Leviticus 23:4-14</i>	Pentecost <i>Leviticus 23:15-22</i>	Tabernacles <i>Leviticus 23:23-44</i>
MOSES TABERNACLE <i>Exodus 25:1-27:21</i>	Outer Court <i>Exodus 27:1-19</i>	Holy Place <i>Exodus 26:1-37</i>	Holy of Holies <i>Exodus 26:1-37</i>
THE EXODUS <i>Exodus, Numbers, Deutrnry, Joshua</i>	Red Sea <i>Exodus 12:1-15:21</i>	The Desert <i>Exodus 14:21-22,15:22 on</i>	Promised Land <i>Joshua 1:1-24:33</i>
THE OVERCOMERS <i>Revelation 12:11</i>	Blood of the Lamb <i>Revelation 12:11a</i>	Word of Testimony <i>Revelation 12:11b</i>	Submission to Death <i>Revelation 12:11c</i>
THE 3 THAT TESTIFY <i>1 John 5:6-7</i>	Blood <i>1 John 5:7</i>	Spirit <i>1 John 5:7</i>	Water <i>1 John 5:7</i>
THE INDIVIDUAL			
DEVELOPMENT <i>Hebrews 6:1</i>	Salvation <i>John 10:9</i>	Spirit <i>Acts 9:17</i>	Submission <i>Colossians 4:12</i>
THE NEW COVENANT <i>Jeremiah 31:33</i>	The Sacrifice <i>Hebrews 9:13-14, 10:9-10</i>	The Seal <i>Acts 1:4-5, 2:1-4, Eph. 1:13-14</i>	The Promise <i>Hebrews 8:10</i>
3 PARTS OF MAN <i>1 Thessalonians 5:23</i>	Body <i>1 Corinthians 6:18-20</i>	Spirit <i>1 Corinthians 7:34</i>	Soul <i>Matthew 10:28,16:26</i>
3 PARTS OF THE SOUL <i>Hebrews 8:10-11</i>	Mind <i>Romans 12:2</i>	Emotions (Heart) <i>Romans 10:9-10</i>	Will <i>1 Corinthians 7:37</i>
NEW TESTAMENT TRIAD <i>1 Corinthians 13:13</i>	Hope <i>1 Thessalonians 5:8</i>	Faith <i>Romans 1:17</i>	Love <i>1 Corinthians 16:13</i>
THE 3 BIRDS <i>Matthew 6:26, Revln. 19:17-21</i>	Sparrow <i>Psalms 84:3-4</i>	Dove <i>John 1:32-34</i>	Eagle <i>Revelation 12:14</i>
THE MAGI'S GIFTS <i>Matthew 2:1-12</i>	Myrrh <i>Mark 15:23</i>	(Frank)incense <i>Exodus 30:34</i>	Gold <i>Exodus 25:10-22</i>
PARABLE OF TALENTS <i>Matthew 25:14-30</i>	One Talent <i>Matthew 25:18</i>	Two Talents <i>Matthew 25:16</i>	Five Talents <i>Matthew 25:17</i>
PARABLE OF 10 MINAS <i>Luke 19:11-27</i>	Kept 1 Mina <i>Luke 19:20-24</i>	Earned 5 Minas <i>Luke 19:18-19</i>	Earned 10 Minas <i>Luke 19:16-17</i>
BUILDING FAITH <i>1 Corinthians 12:4-6</i>	Gifts <i>1 Corinthians 12:4</i>	Service <i>1 Corinthians 12:5</i>	Working <i>1 Corinthians 12:6</i>
THE POWER OF 3 <i>David's Revelation</i>	3x1 = 3 <i>N/A</i>	3x3 = 9 <i>N/A</i>	3x3x3 = 27 <i>N/A</i>

This list, while not complete, is comprehensive enough to switch the light on, even in my simple mind. Surely all these similarities cannot be just chance? I think that God is trying to say something here – in fact I am sure of it - because He has confirmed it to me. How about you?

Yes, the pattern is there for all to see. The Christian walk is a journey towards maturity, not just an event. It saddens me to meet people whose only highlight in their walk with Jesus has been their salvation. This applies also to those who stop at the baptism,

or release, of the Holy Spirit. For there is so much more to be had! Today, God is calling us as individuals and a 'church', to a new level of faith, commitment and maturity in Him.

This progression is clearly illustrated in the pattern set down in the Feasts of the Lord, where we move through Passover to Pentecost, then on to participate in the Feast of Tabernacles. It certainly excites me! How about you? To be part of the promised final move of God, preparing the way for the return of Jesus! Nothing could be more spiritually satisfying and rewarding. Yes, we live in the days when the Lord's promises are finally being fulfilled.

But how do you know this with such confidence, David? Firstly, because the Lord has confirmed it to me. Secondly, and more importantly, because He has confirmed it through His word.

The table above summarises many but by no means all, of the patterns of scripture that point to the biblical pattern of a three-part God working in a three-part way in His dealings with His creation, humankind. Before looking further, we can draw some general conclusions from the table itself.

1. God does indeed have a "triune" (three-part) but unified nature.
2. His triune personality is revealed in many varying ways through His word.
3. The triune patterns of His nature are reflected in His dealings with us, His creation, both as individuals and as members of His church. And most importantly...
4. The way He has dealt with His people in the past is in accordance with His triune nature. This, in turn, establishes the pattern for His dealings with us now and in the future.

This is just another confirmation of Hebrews 13:8.

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

We generally view this as a comforting scripture, revealing that we can always depend upon God. But too, because God never changes, we can extrapolate from what He has done in the past, to see what He is doing now and will do in the future. That has certainly been a revelation to me and I hope will be to you too, if it hasn't already been.

In the pages ahead we are going to take a more detailed look at the course God has purposed for His people from the beginning of time. We will see how consistent God is in His dealings with us, for there is nothing new in God. What does change though, is our human perception or understanding of what He has done, is doing and will do. But this book is not intended to be the final word on the future of the church and God's people, but instead reflects what the Lord has graciously shown us at the present time. As He wills, and as we are ready to receive it, further enlightenment will undoubtedly be revealed. To reiterate, we are on a journey, not merely attending an event. For that is where so many churches and Christians are conned into participating in the lie of the devil - believing they have it all and need no longer seek more of their God.

For it is a truism that, those who have been at the forefront of the last move of God are sadly, very often, the loudest critics of the next. This is how denominations are formed - a truth is revealed and exalted so highly that no further revelation is desired or allowed. Another denomination. So what alternative does God have? He must find a new group of people to hear and implement His further revelation. And so the cycle continues.

Some say, this may be the case with others, but it doesn't apply to those of us in Pentecost! Well, sorry, I have some very bad, but also very good news for you! For not only is Pentecost not the final destination for God's church and people, but it too, has in many places, become formalised and institutionalised.

One particular, if extreme, example forcibly made this point to me. I read an article setting out the precise way one should raise their hands in worship of the Lord. Now I may be missing something, but I cannot for the life of me see anywhere in scripture where it states, "Thou shalt only praise the Lord with thy hands fully raised, thou palms facing forwards"! Now I must admit to being highly prejudiced in this very

important matter. For when I

raise my arms to the Lord my palms are generally upwards facing! I do realise that most people are not like me in this. But I refuse to feel condemned to eternal damnation, by the way I raise my hands in worship of my God. I am sure the Lord will forgive me if I am wrong in this, provided it is not the unpardonable sin of course! The huge internal battle I had to win when I first wanted to raise my hands in worship, in a church where it is not the norm, will I hope, stand in my favour. Besides, I have the excuse that I did not learn how to raise my hands in the right school! Yes, for me, hand raising was motivated by that feared word of religious people – spontaneity!

Well, that is enough of that. I do hope though, that it makes us all think of areas which have become "institutionalised" in our personal and church lives. For if we are to be enlightened by what God will reveal in the pages to follow, we need to put aside our preconceptions, and be prepared to embrace not only new ways of thinking, but also a new and greater commitment to action. If I haven't scared you off already, please join me on this journey. A journey to explore the exciting future that awaits us when we are prepared to truly embrace the final part of Revelation 12:11,

"they loved not their lives so much as to shrink from death."

The third part of this amazing verse must be missing in most Pentecostal bibles, as you rarely here it quoted along with the very popular first two parts! (It is probably not in the bible at all in more traditional churches, as you virtually never hear the verse quoted there, not even in part).

To find out more about the practical application of this special verse to our lives see the booklet 'Walking The Road With Jesus.'