

Simply put: God is God!!! The simple definition of the term "god" (not capitalized) is that it refers to a "supreme" ruler over a particular area in life. It is something that is considered to be perfect in power, wisdom, and goodness in a particular area of life. Therefore, ultimately, that deity is worshiped by people.

Of course, the truth is, the "one and **only**, true and living God" is the God who is "three distinct persons," the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, yet they are "One God." We must take note that in Judaism, they do believe in Yahweh and that He is a spirit being. However, they do not believe in or accept Jesus as their Messiah, their Savior or their Lord nor do they believe in a separate Holy Spirit. The true and living God is God the Father, God the Son, Jesus and God, the Holy Spirit.

For the true believer, the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are referred to as the "three in one" God or we can say the "Trinity." The term "Trinity" is not found within the entire Bible. A church leader by the name of Tertullian (AD 160–225) was the first to apply the term "Trinity" to God. However, the Council of Nicea in 325AD, officially confirmed the term "Trinity" as an official church doctrine and it is found in nearly every Christian community.

Although, there has been, and in some Communities/Denominations there still is, a large debate over this very aspect of God being a "three in one" God, our main source to find out the correct understanding needs to be and must be the Bible itself. For that, we see the answer is given in the very beginning of the Bible, in the first book of the Bible, in the first few verses of the Bible as found in Genesis 1:1-3. Imagine that!!!

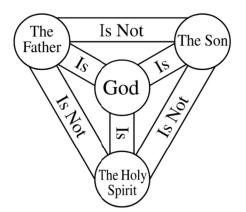
Genesis 1:1-3 states, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said..." The Father (God), the Spirit (God's power) and Jesus (the spoken Word of God) is revealed to us in the very beginning of God's Word to His people. Again, imagine that!!!

It is revealed to its fullest extent in the New Testament through the coming of, and in the life of, Jesus and then by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Book of Acts and the declaration of the Father confirming it all. We see this in the account given in the Gospels of the water baptism of Jesus.

When Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist and came up out of the water, we see Jesus (the Son of God), the Holy Spirit (God in the form of a dove) and we hear the Father (God) declare, *"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."* (Mark 3:16,17) We see the "three in one aspect" of God right there – again, imagine that!!!

However, let us go back and see how the "three in one God" revealed Himself in the very beginning of His Word back in Genesis. The Bible starts off in Genesis 1:1 stating, "*In the beginning God…*" The term "God" used here is the Hebrew word "'*ĕlōhîm*," which is literally a plural form (more than one) of the word God, (the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit) yet it is of a singular (one) understanding - God. That may seem a little confusing but yet it proves that there is "one God" but yet in that "oneness" there is a plurality – the "three in one."

Below is a diagram that will assist us in this concept.



The Father, the Son, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are individual, yet the three are not a part of God but each **IS GOD**!!!

As we continue on in Genesis 1 we read in verse 26, "*And God said, Let us make man in <u>our</u> image, after our likeness...*" Notice, the word "our." It is a plural word. Again it is clearly telling the reader and us today, that God is One but He is also plural in nature (Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit).

Our God created mankind to be in His image. Elohim created us to be just as our God was and is. We are each a three part being, a spirit, soul and body. Yet we are each one individual being. (1Thessalonians 5:23)

Adam was created with a spirit that was alive to God. He had a soul that was given the free will to think as God thinks and he lived in a body that was originally made from the dust of the earth. When God was finished Adam, he was to live for ever. Adam was a spirit (just like God) who had a soul (after the mind of God) who lived in a body (designed to live for eternity).

Unfortunately, we all know what happened. Man fell into sin and his spirit died. Man's soul was corrupted in sin and His body deteriorated and ultimately he would physically die. But God... In Genesis 3:15, God declared that salvation would become available through the *"bruising of the head"* of the devil (Jesus would defeat the devil by resurrecting from the dead) and the devil would *"bruise his heel"* (by Jesus dying for all of our sin on the cross).

As we return to our original thought, all three distinct "persons" of the Trinity comprise the one, perfect God. Yes, in our own natural understanding, this is difficult for us to truly grasp and understand. They share the same nature and essence, and they are all the "same" - God. However, each individual "person" of the Trinity is distinct and unique.

Once we lay aside the notion that a "person" can only be a "human person" but they can be called and looked upon as a "spirit being," we can more readily understand how God can correctly be said to exist as three "spirit beings" yet still be one God. We are talking spiritually about God and therefore, we must grasp the fact that our human concepts do not necessarily, nor should they apply to God who is of the "spirit" realm.

We must fully grasp this aspect of who our God is. Jesus states this very fact to the woman at the well when he states in John 4:24, "*God is a <u>Spirit</u>: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*" God is not a "person," at least in the way that we can grasp that fact. Rather, we must understand that each one of the members of the "triune" God, the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, are each a "spirit being" yet they are one God.

I know that all of you are going to shake your head when I say what I am about to say but... God is very different than what we sometimes think. God is nothing like us. Yes, we are made in His image and likeness, I know. Yes, now we are His children through Jesus Christ our Lord. I know that. However, God is so much more in every aspect of who He is.

All I can say is that <u>**God IS God**</u>!!! The very fact that God always was, is and always will be is so much past our limited ability to truly understand that is just amazing. We simply must believe that God is who He says He is.

God puts it very clearly when He speaks to Moses in Exodus 3 when God revealed Himself to Moses. Moses was in the process of being called by God to be the one that God would use to set the Hebrew people free from the bondage of Egypt. Moses did not know this at the time. God was speaking to Moses through a "burning bush." In Exodus 3:14, when Moses asks who he should say is sending him, God declares to tell them, "...<u>I AM THAT I AM</u>: and He said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, <u>I AM</u> hath sent me unto you."

Yes, God declared who He was - and still is. He declared that He was and still is, "I AM." In Hebrew it is "*haw-yaw*," or we can say YHWH (Yahweh) – the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. It was the "three in one" God who was sending Moses. You see "I AM" and "YHWH" are the same in essence. Simply put, our God is the great "I AM." It is not necessarily His name but it is actually who He is.

Our God is everything that we need to live on this earth and He is the One who gives us even more than we need. He is the "I AM" who most importantly has given us a new "born again" spirit so that we now can, not just live on this earth in His fullness, but most importantly we will live for eternity with Him in a place called heaven and then the "New Jerusalem."

Throughout the Bible, God's Word to His people is that He is our **everything.** God continually tells us all that He is to us so that we can tap into Him as our source of life. We simply need to remember that God is our "I AM..." "I AM" your healer. "I AM" your redeemer. "I Am" your salvation. And much more!!! God is literally our everything!!!

Hebrews 11:6, tell us, "*But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that comes to God <u>must</u> believe that <u>He is</u>, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." As a true believer, we <u>must</u> believe that God is all that His Word tells us He is. This is the essence of our faith in who God is. It is that simple, childlike faith that pleases our God so much that He desires to pour out His blessings and His protection upon all those who believe.*

Remember, the Word of God is God, it is Jesus who is the Word who is God. Jesus, who is the Word, gave us the Holy Spirit, who is also God who will act upon the Word (Jesus) within us. This allows each one of us to act upon and live in the Word of God and experience the Father's love in a greater way.

Jesus told the woman at the well in John 4, that she was "going through the motions" of worship but she really did not truly know the One she wanted to worship. In John 4:22, Jesus told the woman, "You worship ye know not what..."

In that same scripture, Jesus tells us that the Jewish people did know <u>about</u> the true and living God. They did not really know Him in a <u>personal way</u>. It was a mechanical and very, very shallow and distant relationship. It was distant because the people made it distant, not God. It was not the personal relationship that God desired and still desires with us.

John 4:23 Jesus tell us, "*But the hour comes, and <u>now is</u>, when the <u>true worshipers</u> shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth…" Why will they be able to worship the true and living God in spirit and truth? It will be (and <u>it is</u> for us today) because they will know who their God really and truly is!!! They will <u>know</u> their God, spirit to Spirit!!!*

Knowing our God is vital in being the true worshiper that God is seeking after. To truly worship God you must not just only know about Him and do His works, but you must know Him - intimately. It must be a close intimate relationship and not just a passing notion or thought. Jesus tells us this in Matthew 7:21-23, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

Do we truly know who our God is? Our God is so great that He really does not have a name. He is simply "I AM..." We can refer to our God as many things. Yes, He is our Father. Yes, He is our Savior and Redeemer. Yes, He is the Holy Spirit who lives within His people. But our God is soooooo... much more. He is soooooo..... very, very good!!!

Our God is so vast and wonderful that He has no distinct name. As mentioned previously, He is our everything!!! We simply can call Him what ever we need at that moment in time for He is our God!!! He is our source of true life – both here on this earth and forever and ever!!!

Isaiah 9:6 tell us, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." We usually read this as it relates to the birth of Jesus. However, if we notice, these attributes include all of who the Living God truly is-the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

The Father is our "Mighty God" and our "everlasting Father." Jesus is "Wonderful and He is "the Prince of Peace." The Holy Spirit is our "Counselor." This scripture is referring to the "triune" God that we now have relationship with because of and through the blood and work of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

This is telling us that we now have the one and only true and living God watching over us and dwelling within us - the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. This is all because of what Jesus did on the cross and rising from the grave. When we believed, received and accepted Jesus as our Savior and Lord, we entered into true relationship with the living God.

Yes, our God - the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, is the true and living God. He has saved us and He has given all those who believe in Him eternal life. However, God is much, much more. Below is a brief list of some of the things that our God is to and for us. We must all simply "tap into Him" so that we can be all that He desires for us to be in and through Him as we walk on this earth.

We must know who we are in our God <u>AND</u> we must must know and fully believe who our God truly is!!!

The Following are in no Particular Order – Be Blessed With Who our God is.

| I AM (Exodus 3:14) | God, The Joy of My Exaltation (Psalm 43:4) |
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| Elohim (Genesis 1:1) | The God Who Sees (Genesis 16:13) |
| God of The Beginning (Deuteronomy 33:27) | The God Of Glory (Psalm 29:3) |
| God of Hosts, or God Of Armies (2 Samuel 5:10) | The God of Knowledge (1 Samuel 2:3) |
| God of Justice (Isaiah 30:18) | The God of Eternity or The God Of The Universe (Genesis 21:33) |
| God of Heights (Micah 6:6) | The God of Truth (Psalm 31:6) |
| God Who Is Near (Jeremiah 23:23) | The Faithful God (Deuteronomy 32:4) |
| God of My Kindness (Psalm 59:11) | The God of My Salvation (Isaiah 12:2) |
| God of My Strength (Psalm 43:2) | The God of My Life (Psalm 42:9) |
| God of My Praise (Psalm 109:1) | The One God (Malachi 2:10) |
| God of My Salvation (Psalm 18:47, 25:5) | The God of Compassion (Deuteronomy 4:31) |
| God of Gods (Deuteronomy 10:17) | The Gracious God (Jonah 4:2) |
| God of The Rock Of My Salvation (2 Samuel 22:47) | The Jealous God (Deuteronomy 4:24) |
| God of All Flesh (Jeremiah 32:27) | The Righteous God (Isaiah 45:21) |
| God of The Spirits Of All Flesh (Numbers 16:22) | God The All-Sufficient (Genesis 17:1) |
| Holy God (Leviticus 19:2) | The Most High God (Genesis 14:18) |
| Living God (Jeremiah 10:10) | The Mighty God (Isaiah 9:6) |
| God of Forgiveness (Nehemiah 9:17) | God of Jerusalem (Ezra 7:19) |
| The Faithful God (Deuteronomy 7:9) | God of Israel (Ezra 5:1) |
| The Great God (Deuteronomy 10:17) | God of Heaven (Ezra 7:23) |
| The Holy God (Isaiah 5:16) | God of Heaven And Earth (Ezra 5:11) |
| The God of Israel (Psalm 68:36) | "YHVH" -"Lord" (Exodus 3:14-15). |
| The God of The Heavens (Psalm 136:26) | Adonai Rofehcha - The Lord Who Heals You (Exodus 15:26) |
| God of My Rock (Psalm 42:10) | Adonai Elohim - Lord God (Genesis 2:4) |

| Adonai O'saynu - The Lord Our Maker (Psalm 95:6) |
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| Creator (Ecclesiastes 12:1) |
| Creator Of Israel (Isaiah 43:15) |
| Maker (Psalm 115:15) |
| The Name "Ha Shem" (Leviticus 24:16) |
| The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob (Exodus 3:15) |
| God of Gods and Lord of Lords (Deuteronomy 10:17) |
| King of kings and Lord of lords (Revelations 19:16) |
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AND OUR GOD IS MUCH, MUCH MORE!!!