

Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words;"

f. The three Persons are mentioned together in certain Scriptures

Matthew 3:16-17 -- And after being baptized, Jesus went immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.'"

Matthew 28:19 -- "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit."

I Corinthians 12:4-6 -- "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are varieties of ministries, and the same Lord. And there are varieties of effects, but the same God who works all things in all persons."

II Corinthians 13:14 -- "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all."

I Peter 1:1-2 -- "Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure."

These Scriptures stress mainly the distinctions between the Persons of the Godhead. Further Scripture evidence for the Trinity may be found in those references which reveal the deity of Christ and the personality and deity of the Holy Spirit.

C. Development of the Doctrine

1. A summary of the biblical teaching

The Bible does not use the word "trinity", but it does teach each of the distinct truths out of which the theological doctrine of the Trinity has been constructed. The Bible simply tells us that God is one (Deuteronomy 6:4); and that there are three distinct Persons who are God. The Father is called God (Jude 1 -- "to those who are the called, beloved in God the Father"); the Son is called God (Titus 2:13 -- "looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus."); and the Spirit is called God (Acts 5:3-4 -- "But Peter said, 'Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back some of the price of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men, but to God.'").