

THE TRINITY

In Chronological Order, As Light Was Revealed To Ellen G. White

INTRODUCTION

The word “trinity” does not appear in Scripture, neither does it appear in the writings of Mrs. White. However, when a search is done in <https://egwwritings.org> for the word “trinity,” the following 3 results come up:

1. *Evangelism*, page 616. The compilers of this volume used the word “Trinity” to refer to Manuscript 130, 1901 where Mrs. White is speaking of the Godhead but does not mention the word “trinity” in the Manuscript.
2. *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Volume 7A, page 437. The compilers of this volume used the word “Trinity” to provide a study on the Godhead. However, the word “trinity” is not found anywhere in the Ellen G. White’s references provided in the study itself.
3. *Letter 43*, 1898. This is the only reference where Mrs. White uses the word “trinity,” and the context has nothing to do with the Godhead.
 - a. “Beware of that which the old writers called the world’s **trinity**—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. If you trifle and tamper with these, they will prove your ruin.” — Ellen G. White, *Letter 143*, 1898.

GOOGLE SEARCH FOR THE TRINITY

“The doctrine of the Trinity is the Christian belief that: There is One God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. ... *The Trinity is a controversial doctrine; many Christians admit they don't understand it, while many more Christians don't understand it but think they do.*” [The Trinity | BBC, July 21, 2011](#)

From 1840 to 1890 most of our pioneers were anti-trinitarian, because they could not accept the Catholic teaching on the trinity. In fact, James White probably died an anti-trinitarian in 1881, since it was not until 1890 that Mrs. White began receiving light to clarify the difference between the trinity and the Godhead.

Is it important to recognize the difference between the two? Important enough to merit the strongest warning from Jesus Himself when He said:

“He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad. Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but *the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.* And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: *but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him,* neither in this world, neither in the world to come.” —*Matthew 12:30-32.*

“Thus, in the words of the Athanasian Creed: ‘the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God and yet there are not three Gods but one God.’ In this Trinity of Persons the Son is **begotten** of the Father by an eternal generation, and the Holy Spirit **proceeds** by an eternal procession from the Father and the Son. Yet, notwithstanding this difference as to origin, the Persons are **co-eternal** and co-equal: all alike are **uncreated** and omnipotent.” —The Catholic Encyclopedia Online, Article: *The Blessed Trinity*, June 6, 2021

There is an inconsistency in this Catholic dogma. If the 3 Persons are co-eternal and uncreated, then Jesus cannot be “begotten” of the Father by an “eternal” generation. Neither can the Holy Spirit “proceed” by an “eternal” procession from the Father and the Son. This was the reason why our Adventist Pioneers were anti-trinitarians!

“Definition of begotten (Entry 2 of 2): “brought into existence by or as if by a parent.” —*Merriam-Webster Dictionary Online*, June 6, 2021

“And the angel answered and said unto her, 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.”
–Luke 1:35

If you believe that Jesus was “begotten” of the Father any time before Luke 1:35, then, you are a Trinitarian!

“The doctrine of the Catholic Church concerning the Holy Ghost forms an integral part of her teaching on the mystery of the Holy Trinity . . . The essential points of the dogma may be resumed in the following propositions:

- The Holy Ghost is the Third Person of the Blessed Trinity.
- He proceeds, not by way of generation, but by way of spiration, from the Father and the Son together, as from a single principle.” –The Catholic Encyclopedia Online, Article: *Holy Ghost*, June 6, 2021

“Definition of spiration

- obsolete: the action of breathing as a creative or life-giving function of the Deity
- the act by or manner in which the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father or from the Father and the Son.”
–Merriam-Webster Dictionary Online, June 6, 2021

If you believe that the Holy Spirit is the spirit of the Father and/or the Son, then, you are a Trinitarian!

“Is there only one God?”– Yes, there is only one God . . . There can be only one God, because only one can be supreme, all-powerful, and independent of all. . . . We speak of three ‘Persons’ in God because to each belongs something we cannot attribute to any other: His distinct origin. From all eternity the Father begets the Son, and the Son proceeds from the Father. From all eternity the Father and Son breathe forth the Holy Ghost, and He proceeds from Them, as from one Source.” www.catholicbook.com

What follows is a chronological study from Mrs. White’ writings. Note that the “original sources” have been given on references found in devotionals or other compilations.

JESUS — SON OF GOD

“And the Son of God declares concerning Himself: The Lord possessed Me in the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I was set up from everlasting.... When He appointed the foundations of the earth: then I was by Him, as one brought up with Him: and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him.’ Proverbs 8:22-30.” –Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, **1890**, page 34

“A complete offering has been made; for ‘God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son,’—not a son by creation, as were the angels, nor a son by adoption, as is the forgiven sinner, but a Son begotten in the express image of the Father’s person, and in all the brightness of his majesty and glory, one equal with God in authority, dignity, and divine perfection. In him dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.” –Ellen G. White, *Signs of the Times*, May 30, **1895**

“He was equal with God, infinite and omnipotent. . . . He is the eternal, self-existent Son. Manuscript 101, **1897**.” –Ellen G. White, *Evangelism*, page 615. **Note:** “Self-existent definition is – existing of or by oneself or itself independently of any other being or cause : not caused to exist by someone or something else.” – www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/self-existent

“From the days of eternity the Lord Jesus Christ was one with the Father; He was ‘the image of God,’ the image of His greatness and majesty, ‘the outshining of His glory.’ It was to manifest this glory that He came to our world. . . . By coming to dwell with us, Jesus was to reveal God both to men and to angels. He was the Word of God,—God’s thought made audible . . . But not alone for His earthborn children was this revelation given. Our

little world is the lesson book of the universe. God's wonderful purpose of grace, the mystery of redeeming love, is the theme into which 'angels desire to look,' and it will be their study throughout endless ages." –Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, **1898**, page 19

"The Holy Spirit is Christ's representative, but divested of the personality of humanity, and independent thereof. Cumbered with humanity, Christ could not be in every place personally. Therefore it was for their interest that He should go to the Father, and send the Spirit to be His successor on earth. No one could then have any advantage because of his location or his personal contact with Christ. By the Spirit the Saviour would be accessible to all. In this sense He would be nearer to them than if He had not ascended on high." –Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, **1898**, page 669

"Christ is the pre-existent, self-existent Son of God In speaking of his pre-existence, Christ carries the mind back through dateless ages. He assures us that there never was a time when He was not in close fellowship with the eternal God . . . Signs of the Times, Aug. 29, **1900.**" –Ellen G. White, *Evangelism*, page 615.

"In His incarnation He gained in a new sense the title of the Son of God. Said the angel to Mary, '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.' While the Son of a human being, He became the Son of God in a new sense. Thus He stood in our world—the Son of God, yet allied by birth to the human race." –Ellen G. White, *The Signs of the Times*, August 2, **1905** (*Selected Messages*, Book 1, pages 226, 227)

" 'The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever.' Deuteronomy 29:29. The revelation of Himself that God has given in His word is for our study. This we may seek to understand. But beyond this we are not to penetrate. The highest intellect may tax itself until it is wearied out in conjectures regarding the nature of God, but the effort will be fruitless. This problem has not been given us to solve. No human mind can comprehend God. None are to indulge in speculation regarding His nature. Here silence is eloquence. The Omniscient One is above discussion." –Ellen G. White, *Ministry of Healing*, **1905** Edition, page 429

"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him." –*Colossians 1:16*. **Note:** "All" things were created by Him, not just the things on earth.

"The world was made by him, 'and without him was not anything made that was made [John 1:3.]' If Christ made all things, he existed before all things. The words spoken in regard to this are so decisive that no one need be left in doubt. Christ was God essentially, and in the highest sense. He was with God from all eternity, God over all, blessed forevermore." –Ellen G. White, *The Review and Herald*, April 5, **1906.** [Emphasis in brackets supplied.]

"And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him." –*Hebrews 1:6*. **Note:** This scripture clearly shows that "firstbegotten" applies to the incarnation of Jesus, otherwise how could angels worship Him, if He Himself created the angels (*Colossians 1:14-17*)?

"If men reject the testimony of the inspired Scriptures concerning the deity of Christ, it is in vain to argue the point with them; for no argument, however conclusive, could convince them." –Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, **1911** Edition, page 524

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." –*John 1:14*. **Note:** Again, "only begotten" is referring to His incarnation!

"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, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” –*Isaiah 9:6*

“For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.” –*John 17:8*

“Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.” –*John 18:37*

THE THREE PERSONS OF THE GODHEAD

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” –*John 14:26*. **Note:** 3 Persons Of The Godhead!

“Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.” –*2 Corinthians 1:21, 22*. **Note:** 3 Persons Of The Godhead!

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.” –*2 Corinthians 13:14*. **Note:** 3 Persons Of The Godhead!

“God works by the manifestation of His Spirit to reprove and convict the sinner; and if the Spirit’s work is finally rejected, there is no more that God can do for the soul. The last resource of divine mercy has been employed. The transgressor has cut himself off from God, and sin has no remedy to cure itself. There is no reserved power by which God can work to convict and convert the sinner. ‘Let him alone’ (Hosea 4:17) is the divine command. Then ‘there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.’ Hebrews 10:26, 27.” –Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, **1890** Edition, page 405

“To reject the Holy Spirit, through whose power we conquer the forces of evil, is the sin that surpasses all others; for it cuts us off from the source of our power,—from Christ and communion with him.” –Ellen G. White, *The Review and Herald*, August 25, **1896**

“Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the **Third Person** of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power.” –Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, **1898**, page 671

“Whatever the sin, if the soul repents and believes, the guilt is washed away in the blood of Christ; but he who rejects the work of the Holy Spirit is placing himself where repentance and faith cannot come to him. It is by the Spirit that God works upon the heart; when men willfully reject the Spirit, and declare It to be from Satan, they cut off the channel by which God can communicate with them. When the Spirit is finally rejected, there is no more that God can do for the soul.” –Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, **1898**, page 322

But how do we reject the work of the Holy Spirit? “No one need look upon the sin against the Holy Ghost as something mysterious and indefinable. The sin against the Holy Ghost is the sin of persistent refusal to respond to the invitation to repent (RH June 29, **1897**).” –Ellen G. White, *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, Volume 5, page 1093

“And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? . . . and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. . . . But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.” –*1 Samuel 16:1, 13, 14*

Probation had not closed for the world, but probation had closed for Saul, from 1 Samuel 16 until his death in 1 Samuel 31. This goes on every day!

“A silent witness guards every soul that lives, seeking to win and draw him to Christ. As long as there is hope, until they resist the Holy Spirit to their eternal ruin, men are guarded by heavenly intelligences.” –Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, 1900 Edition, Volume 6, page 366

“Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church.” –Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, **1898**, page 671

“We need to realize that the Holy Spirit, who is as much a person as God is a person, is walking through these grounds. Manuscript 66, **1899**.” –Ellen G. White, *Evangelism*, page 616

“The Father is all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and is invisible to mortal sight. The Son is all the fullness of the Godhead manifested. . . The Comforter that Christ promised to send after He ascended to heaven, is the Spirit in all the fullness of the Godhead, making manifest the power of divine grace to all who receive and believe in Christ as a personal Saviour. There are three living persons of the heavenly trio; in the name of these three great powers — the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit — those who receive Christ by living faith are baptized . . . Special Testimonies, Series B., No. 7, pp. 62, 63 **(1905)**.” –Ellen G. White, *Evangelism*, pages 614, 615

“And **I** will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.” –*John 14:16, 17*

“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.” –*1 John 5:7*

“We are to co-operate with the three highest powers in heaven, —the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, — and these powers will work through us, making us workers together with God. Special Testimonies, Series B, No. 7, p. 51. **(1905)**.” –Ellen G. White, *Evangelism*, page 617

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” –*Matthew 28:19*

“There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” –*Ephesians 4:4-6*

“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the. . . elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.” –*1 Peter 1:1, 2*

“But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me.” –*John 15:26*.

“The Holy Spirit is a person, for He beareth witness with our spirits that we are the children of God. When this witness is borne, it carries with it its own evidence. At such times we believe and are sure that we are the children of God. . . . The Holy Spirit has a personality, else He could not bear witness to our spirits and with our spirits that we are the children of God. He must also be a divine person, else He could not search out the secrets which lie hidden in the mind of God. ‘For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him?’

even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. 1 Corinthians 2:11. —Manuscript 20, **1906.**”
—Ellen G. White, *Evangelism*, pages 616, 617

“It is not essential for us to be able to define just what the Holy Spirit is. Christ tells us that the Spirit is the Comforter, ‘the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father.’ It is plainly declared regarding the Holy Spirit that, in His work of guiding men into all truth, ‘He shall not speak of Himself.’ John 15:26; 16:13.” —Ellen G. White, *Acts of the Apostles*, **1911**, Edition, page 51.

“The Godhead was stirred with pity for the race, and the **Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit** gave themselves to the working out of the plan of redemption. In order fully to carry out this plan, it was decided that Christ, the only begotten Son of God, should give himself an offering for sin.” —Ellen G. White, *The Review and Herald*, May 2, **1912**. **Note:** The Holy Spirit Was Part Of That Conversation!

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. . . . **And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.**” —*Genesis 1:1, 2*. **Note:** The Holy Spirit was involved in the creation!

“And **Jesus**, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw **the Spirit of God** descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: and lo **a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son,** in whom I am well pleased.” —*Matthew 3:16, 17*. **Note:** All 3 Persons were present at His baptism!

“But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, and kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to **lie to the Holy Ghost**, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? **thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.**” —*Acts 5:1-4*. **Note:** Peter knew the Holy Ghost is the third Person of the Godhead!

“Satan has ability to suggest doubts and to devise objections to the **pointed testimony that God sends**, and many think it a virtue, a mark of intelligence in them, to be unbelieving and to question and quibble. **Those who desire to doubt will have plenty of room.** God does not propose to remove all occasion for unbelief. He gives evidence, which must be carefully investigated with a humble mind and a teachable spirit, and **all should decide from the weight of evidence.** God gives sufficient evidence for the candid mind to believe; but **he who turns from the weight of evidence because there are a few things which he cannot make plain** to his finite understanding will be left in the cold, chilling atmosphere of unbelief and questioning doubts, and **will make shipwreck of faith.**” —Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, Volume 5, pages 675, 676

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