



## Questions That were asked on Sundays (3/2/25) Call

### 1. Understanding the Trinity

While the word "Trinity" is not explicitly used in the Bible, the concept of the **Godhead** is evident. In Catholicism, the word Trinity is used everywhere.

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are presented as distinct persons who are one in essence and purpose.

- **John 14:16-17 (NKJV)** – *“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”*
  - **Context:** Jesus is speaking to His disciples, explaining the coming of the Holy Spirit after His departure. This passage shows the distinct roles of the Father, the Son (Jesus), and the Holy Spirit in the work of salvation.
- **Matthew 28:18-20 (NKJV)** – *“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.’”*
  - **Context:** Jesus’ commission to His disciples to go into the world, baptizing new believers in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This reveals a partnership between all three persons of the Godhead.

- **2 Corinthians 13:14 (NKJV)** – *“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.”*
  - **Context:** Paul’s closing words in his second letter to the Corinthians. This verse reflects the unity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in the life of the believer, with each person of the Trinity offering distinct blessings.
- **John 10:30 (NKJV)** – *“I and My Father are one.”*
  - **Context:** Jesus speaks of His unity with the Father. Although the Trinity(Godhead) is a mystery, this verse highlights the oneness of essence between Jesus and the Father.

## **2. Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit indwells believers at salvation, but the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a distinct experience that empowers believers for service and spiritual gifts.

- **Indwelling of the Holy Spirit (at Salvation):**
  - **John 14:17 (NKJV)** – *“The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”*
    - **Context:** Jesus speaks of the Holy Spirit coming to dwell in believers after He departs, indicating the indwelling of the Spirit at salvation.
  - **Romans 8:9-11 (NKJV)** – *“But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised*

*Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.”*

- **Context:** Paul emphasizes that the Holy Spirit’s indwelling is essential for being in Christ, giving new life to believers.

- **Baptism in the Holy Spirit (Empowerment for Ministry):**

- **Acts 1:5 (NKJV)** – *“For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”*

- **Context:** Jesus promises the coming baptism of the Holy Spirit, a distinct experience for empowering His disciples for their ministry.

- **Acts 2:4 (NKJV)** – *“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*

- **Context:** This is the fulfillment of the promise in Acts 1:5 on the Day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit baptized the disciples, enabling them to speak in tongues and fulfill their mission.

- **Acts 1:8 (NKJV)** – *“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

- **Context:** Jesus explains that the baptism in the Holy Spirit will empower believers to be His witnesses, highlighting the purpose of this experience.

### 3. Baptism in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Jesus Himself instructed His disciples on how baptism should be performed, as recorded in **Matthew 28:18-20**. This is what we go by. We follow the teachings of Jesus Christ. Yes, there may be other Apostles that baptized differently, but as followers of Christ, we explicitly follow the example he gave.

- **Matthew 28:18-20 (NKJV)** – *“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.**’”*
  - **Context:** Jesus commands His disciples to go into all the world, baptizing new believers in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This is the authoritative instruction from Jesus on how baptism should be performed.
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- **Mark 16:15-16 (NKJV)** – *“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.’”*
  - **Context:** Jesus emphasizes the importance of both belief and baptism for salvation, further reinforcing the necessity of baptism in the process of discipleship.

### 4. Speaking in Tongues and Interpretation in the Church

The issue Paul addressed regarding speaking in tongues in the church of Corinth in **1 Corinthians 14** was due to disorder and confusion in their gatherings. The church in Corinth was experiencing misuse of spiritual gifts, particularly tongues, which led to an environment of chaos instead of edification. Paul’s instructions were designed to restore order and ensure that

the gifts of the Spirit were used for their intended purpose: building up the body of Christ.

Here's a breakdown of the situation in Corinth and the context of Paul's teachings on tongues:

### **The Context of the Corinthian Church**

The Corinthian church was known for its spiritual enthusiasm and zealotry for the gifts of the Holy Spirit. However, this enthusiasm was not always exercised in an orderly and edifying way. Some in the church were speaking in tongues during services without any interpretation, causing confusion for those present, especially for unbelievers who might visit.

Paul addresses several issues in **1 Corinthians 14** that reflect the challenges the Corinthian church was facing:

#### **1. The improper use of tongues in public worship (1 Corinthians 14:23):**

- **1 Corinthians 14:23 (NKJV)** – *“Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind?”*
- **Context:** Paul warns that if the church gathers and everyone is speaking in tongues without interpretation, it will be unintelligible to outsiders or unbelievers, who may think the believers are mad. The purpose of tongues is to edify believers, and without interpretation, it does not serve that purpose in a public setting.

#### **2. The importance of interpretation (1 Corinthians 14:27-28):**

- **1 Corinthians 14:27-28 (NKJV)** – *“If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret. But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God.”*
- **Context:** Paul sets a guideline for speaking in tongues: if tongues are spoken publicly in the church, there must be an interpreter so

that the church can be edified. Without an interpreter, the speaker should remain silent. The priority is that the body is built up and not confused by unintelligible speech.

### **3. Edification over personal display (1 Corinthians 14:4):**

- **1 Corinthians 14:4 (NKJV)** – *“He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.”*
- **Context:** Paul contrasts the gift of tongues with prophecy. While speaking in tongues edifies the individual believer, prophecy edifies the whole church because it is intelligible and can be understood by all. Paul stresses that in the church setting, the goal should be mutual edification, where everyone is encouraged, not just the individual speaking.

### **4. The purpose of spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 14:12):**

- **1 Corinthians 14:12 (NKJV)** – *“Even so you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, let it be for the edification of the church that you seek to excel.”*
- **Context:** Paul acknowledges the Corinthians’ zeal for spiritual gifts but urges them to focus on how those gifts can serve the church. The gifts are not for personal display but for the strengthening of the body of Christ. The Corinthians were encouraged to excel in the gifts, particularly prophecy, which is more beneficial in a church service than tongues without interpretation.

### **5. God’s desire for order, not confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33):**

- **1 Corinthians 14:33 (NKJV)** – *“For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.”*
- **Context:** This statement sums up Paul's guidance on the use of spiritual gifts in the church. God desires order, not confusion. The exercise of spiritual gifts, including tongues, should contribute to peace and unity within the church, rather than creating disorder.

### **Why Paul Made These Instructions:**

In Corinth, the practice of speaking in tongues was being used in a way that caused disruption rather than contributing to the church’s growth. The

Corinthian church was not distinguishing between the private use of tongues (for personal prayer and edification) and the public use of tongues in a congregational setting.

Paul's instructions were meant to correct this imbalance and bring order. He wanted the believers to understand that spiritual gifts, especially tongues, should be used in a way that builds up the body of Christ, promotes understanding, and brings glory to God. The focus was on the clarity of the message and edification of the church rather than a personal spiritual experience.

### ***Our Final Thoughts:***

#### **1. Understanding the Trinity**

The concept of the Trinity—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—is central to the Christian faith, though the term “Trinity” itself is not found in Scripture. Instead, the Bible teaches about the unity of the Godhead, where the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct but fully united in essence and purpose. Understanding this requires reading passages that highlight their roles in salvation and the life of believers, such as **John 14:16-17**, **Matthew 28:19**, and **2 Corinthians 13:14**. It's important to approach these scriptures with an understanding that although each Person of the Godhead has unique roles, they are one in essence. For further understanding, one can study the various roles of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit throughout Scripture, including the creation, redemption, and sanctification of believers.

#### **2. Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

The difference between having the Holy Spirit indwelling a believer at salvation and receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit as an empowerment for ministry is significant in Scripture. **John 14:17** speaks of the Holy Spirit coming to dwell in believers at the moment of

salvation. This is known as the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. On the other hand, **Acts 1:5** and **Acts 2:4** speak of the baptism in the Holy Spirit, which empowers believers for service and spiritual gifts, such as speaking in tongues. It's vital to understand the context of these experiences—indwelling at salvation brings about new life in Christ, while the baptism in the Holy Spirit equips believers for power, boldness, and ministry.

### **3. Baptism in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**

Jesus gave specific instructions on how baptism should be performed in **Matthew 28:19**, where He commands His disciples to baptize in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This clear directive from Jesus should guide how baptism is carried out in the church. While there are other references in Acts and Paul's epistles, it is essential to anchor the practice in Jesus' direct command, ensuring it's not influenced by the apostles' individual interpretations but remains consistent with Christ's own teaching.

### **4. Speaking in Tongues and Interpretation in the Church**

In the Corinthian church, there was disorder surrounding the use of tongues during public worship. **1 Corinthians 14** highlights Paul's correction, instructing the church to maintain order, especially when speaking in tongues. Paul emphasizes that speaking in tongues without interpretation serves no purpose in edifying the congregation, as it's unintelligible to others. He calls for a structured approach—only two or three people should speak in tongues in a meeting, and there must be an interpreter (1 Corinthians 14:27-28). This ensures that the gifts, including tongues, build up the church rather than cause confusion. Paul also stresses that God is not a God of confusion but of peace (1 Corinthians 14:33). This correction in Corinth underscores the importance of clarity and edification in the use of spiritual gifts within the body of Christ.

## **Final Reflection on Context:**

For all of these questions, understanding the full context of the Scriptures is key to forming a complete and accurate biblical view. The Bible is not just a collection of isolated verses but a cohesive narrative that must be read in light of its whole message. As we study topics like the Godhead, baptism in the Holy Spirit, baptism in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and the use of spiritual gifts like tongues, we must be mindful of the historical and cultural context in which these teachings were given.

By carefully studying the scriptures in context, seeking to understand both the immediate and broader message of the passages, and applying the teachings of the Bible holistically, we can gain deeper insight into how to live out the faith and minister effectively to others. It is always beneficial to approach these subjects with prayer, seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance for understanding and application.

God Bless

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