

Foundations Lesson #20

God & the Trinity

The Bible nowhere attempts to prove or argue the existence of God. The Scriptures below give us the Bible's approach to the subject of the existence of God:

“...because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists” (Hebrews 11:6)

“The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.'” (Psalm 14:1)

The writers of the Scripture, both Old and New Testaments, clearly portrayed the existence of God as a fact which was simply taken for granted, and rightly so. Whereas few people contend the existence of God, many contend about His nature. It is therefore very important for us to study what God has revealed about Himself in the Scripture.

I. the nature of God: in essence

- God is eternal. – Psalm 90:2 / I Timothy 1:17 / Genesis 21:33 / Revelation 22:13
- God is all-knowing (omniscient). – Psalm 147:5 / Proverbs 21:30 / I John 3:20
- God is present everywhere (omnipresent). – Psalm 139:7-10
- God is all-powerful (omnipotent). – Luke 1:37 / Jeremiah 32:17 / over 300x “the Almighty”
- God is a consuming fire. – Hebrews 12:28-29 / Deuteronomy 4:24 / Deuteronomy 9:3
- God is life. – I John 5:20 / John 14:6 / I Timothy 6:13
- God is light. – I John 1:5 / John 8:12 / I Timothy 6:15-16

II. the nature of God: in relationship

- God is creator, the builder of everything. – Hebrews 3:4 / Genesis 1:1 / Romans 1:25
- God is the sustainer of all things. – Psalm 3:5 / Hebrews 1:3 / Psalm 55:22
- God is king. – Psalm 47:7-8 / Psalm 115:3 / Malachi 1:14
- God is savior, deliverer. – Psalm 68:20 / Isaiah 43:3 / Psalm 18:2 / Psalm 34:17, 19
- God is just. – II Thessalonians 1:6 / Hebrews 6:10 / Isaiah 30:18
- God is impartial. – Deuteronomy 10:17 / Romans 2:11 / I Peter 1:17
- God is holy. – Psalm 99:9 / Revelation 4:8 / I Peter 1:15-16
- God is truth. – Isaiah 45:19 / Isaiah 65:16 / John 14:6
- God is faithful. – Deuteronomy 7:9 / Psalm 33:4 / Psalm 100:5 / II Thessalonians 3:3
- God is love. – Psalm 136 / Psalm 48:9 / Romans 5:8 / I John 4:8, 16
- God is merciful. – Deuteronomy 4:31 / Daniel 9:9 / Luke 6:36
- God is gracious and compassionate. – Exodus 34:6 / Joel 2:13 / Psalm 86:15
- God is a protector. – Psalm 46:1 / Psalm 62:8 / John 10:28-29
- God is for us. – Romans 8:31
- God is not willing that any should perish. – II Peter 3:9 / I Timothy 2:3-4

III. the nature of the trinity – The truth of the trinity can be found throughout the New Testament, yet it is not **explicitly** stated anywhere. The word “trinity” is defined as: *three persons who subsist in one nature, one divinity equal in glory and co-eternal in majesty; distinct, not separate or divided.*

- God is one. – Deuteronomy 6:4 / Isaiah 45:5-6 / Galatians 3:20
- Three are addressed as God in Scripture.
 - the Father – Romans 1:7 / I Corinthians 15:24 / etc.
 - the Son, Jesus Christ – John 1:1, 18 / Romans 9:5 / Titus 2:13 / Hebrews 1:8
 - the Holy Spirit – Acts 5:3-4
- Not only are these three God, they hold other things in common.

	<u>Father</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>Holy Spirit</u>
- called Lord	Luke 1:32	Acts 2:36	II Corinthians 3:17
- are eternal	Psalm 90:2	Revelation 2:8, 22:13	Hebrews 9:14
- created the universe	Genesis 1:1	Colossians 1:16	Genesis 1:2
- created man	Genesis 2:7	Colossians 1:16	Job 33:4
- spoken of similarly –	Matthew 28:19 / I Peter 1:2 / Romans 8:11 / II Corinthians 13:14		
- The three are distinct persons.
 - Matthew 3:16-17 – All three are active and distinct at Jesus' baptism.
 - John 14:16-17 – The Greek word for “another” means distinct but of the same kind.
 - Mark 13:32 (also Matthew 24:36) – The Father and the Son have distinct minds.
 - our prayers – Generally, we pray **to** the Father (Matthew 6:9), **through** the Son (Romans 5:1-2), **in** the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 6:18).

IV. the person of Jesus Christ

- the full deity of our Lord Jesus Christ
 - the declaration of Scripture – John 1:1, 18 / Romans 9:5 / Titus 2:13 / Hebrews 1:8
 - receiving and accepting worship – Matthew 14:33 / Matthew 28:17 / Hebrews 1:6
 - living a sinless life – Hebrews 4:15 / I Peter 2:21-22 / I John 3:5
 - existing before his physical birth – Micah 5:2 / John 1:1 / John 8:56-59
 - forgiving people their sins – Luke 5:20-21 / Luke 7:48
 - performing miracles – John 20:30 / Acts 2:22 / Acts 10:38
- the full humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ
 - Jesus was a man with a body of flesh. – I John 4:2-3 / Romans 1:3 / John 1:14
 - Jesus developed as other humans do. – Luke 2:40 / Luke 2:52
 - Jesus had human needs: hunger – Matthew 4:2 / thirst – John 19:28 / sleep – Mark 4:35-38 / weariness – John 4:6
- Jesus Christ: fully God and fully human
 - Philippians 2:5-11 – “Who, being in very **nature** God... found in **appearance** as a man...”
 - Galatians 4:4 – “God sent **his Son, born of a woman**,” (see also Matthew 1:18-25 / Luke 1:26-38 / Isaiah 7:14)

