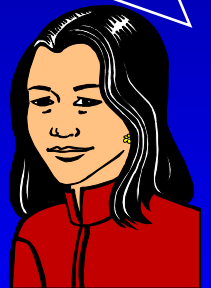


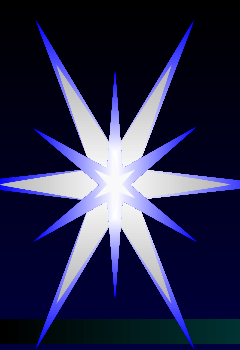
The Trinity

Class 2: The Basics

Vern S. Poythress
Lansdale Presbyterian Church

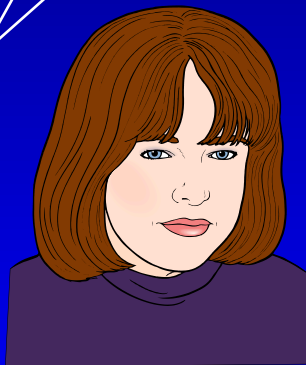
What is
the Trinity?





What Is the Trinity?

I can't understand
the Trinity.
So it is no use.



The Bible teaches clearly.





God Is Three Persons

1 Come, thou Almighty King,
... Father, all glorious, ...

2 Come, thou Incarnate Word,

3 Come, Holy Comforter,

4 To the great One in Three
eternal praises be



Come, thou Almighty King,
help us thy name to sing;
help us to praise:
Father, all glorious,
o'er all victorious,
come, and reign over us,
Ancient of Days.



Come, thou Incarnate Word,
gird on thy mighty sword,
our pray'r attend.

Come, and thy people bless,
and give thy Word success,
and let thy righteousness
on us descend.



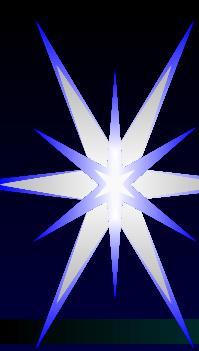
Come, Holy Comforter,
thy sacred witness bear
in this glad hour.

Thou who almighty art,
now rule in every heart,
and ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of pow'r.



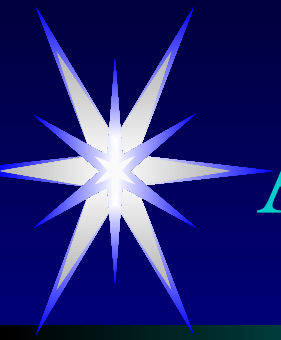
To the great One in Three
eternal praises be,
hence evermore.

His sov'reign majesty
may we in glory see,
and to eternity
love and adore.

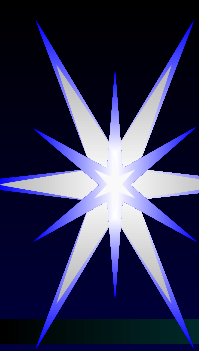


What May Happen to You

- ▶ You may close yourself down in resistance (Mark 4:1-20)
- ▶ You may grow in knowing God: "that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him" (Eph. 1:17)
- ▶ You may be transformed (2 Cor. 3:18)
- ▶ God may come to you: "epiphany" (Gen. 28:10-17)



A. The Apostles' Creed



The Apostles' Creed

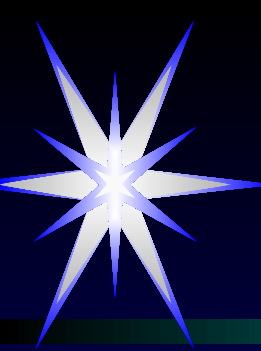
I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our
Lord,

...

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

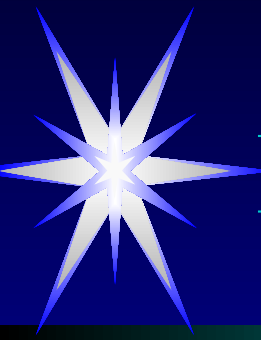
...



Child of God: Gal. 4:4-6

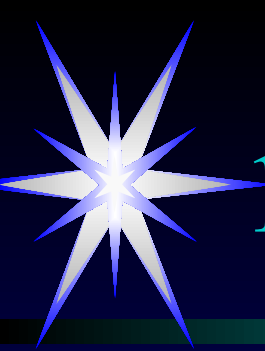
4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

➤ Gal. 4:1-7; Rom. 8:14-17; Eph. 1:5; John 1:12-13.



B. Points to Grasp

- One God
- Each of three persons is God
- The persons are distinct from each other

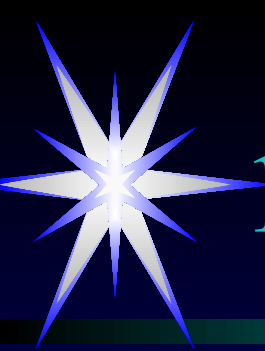


1. One God: Deut. 6:4

Hear, O Israel: The LORD God, the LORD is one.

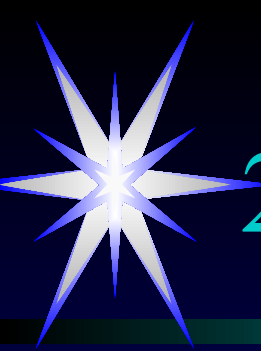
Also: Mark 12:29, quoted by Jesus.

► Deut. 4:35, 39; 1 Cor. 8:4-6; James 2:19.



1. One God: James 2:19

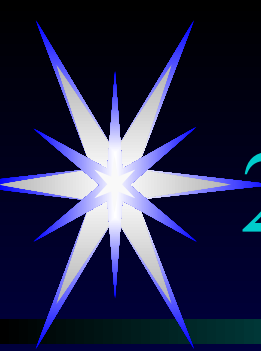
You believe that God is one; you do well.
Even the demons believe—and shudder!



2a. The Father is God: 1 Cor. 8:6

yet for us there is one God, the Father,
from whom are all things and for whom
we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ,
through whom are all things and through
whom we exist.

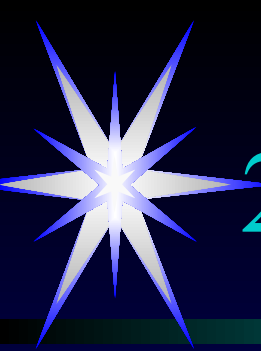
- Rom. 1:7; 15:6; 1 Cor. 1:3; 15:24; 2 Cor. 1:2-3; Gal. 1:3; 2 Cor. 13:14.



2b. The Son is God: John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

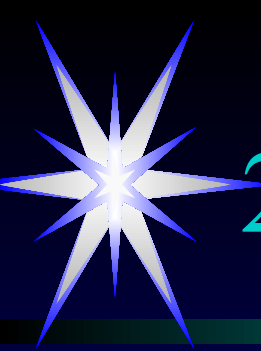
- John 1:3; 20:28; 1 Cor. 8:6; Phil. 2:6; Col. 1:16-17; Col. 2:9; Joel 2:32; Rom. 10:13, 9; John 8:58; Ex. 3:13-14.



2b. The Son is God: John 20:28-29

Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

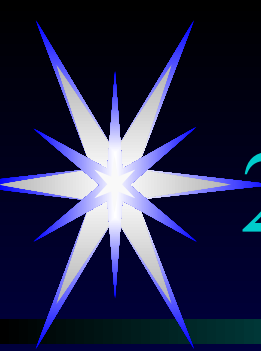
- John 1:3; 20:28; 1 Cor. 8:6; Phil. 2:6; Col. 1:16-17; Col. 2:9; Joel 2:32; Rom. 10:13, 9; John 8:58; Ex. 3:13-14.



2b. The Son is God: John 8:58-59

Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

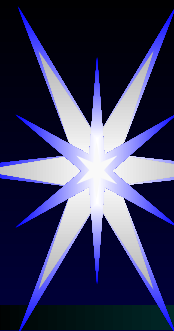
- John 1:3; 20:28; 1 Cor. 8:6; Phil. 2:6; Col. 1:16-17; Col. 2:9; Joel 2:32; Rom. 10:13, 9; John 8:58; Ex. 3:13-14.



2c. The Spirit is God: Acts 5:3-4

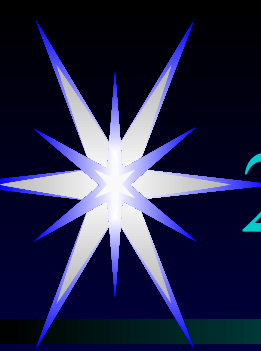
3 But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? 4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to man but to God.”

► Heb. 1:6; Acts 1:16; 2 Sam. 23:1-3; 1 Cor. 2:9-11.



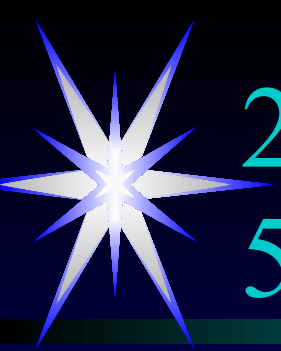
2c. The Spirit is God: 1 Cor. 2:10-11

10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. 11 For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.



2c. The Spirit is God: Ps. 104:30

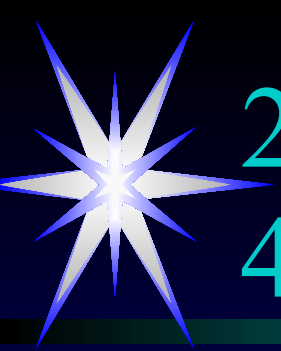
When you send forth your Spirit,
they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground.



2d. The Spirit is a Person: Acts 5:3

But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?

► John 16:13; Rom. 8:26-27; Eph. 4:30; John 14:16.



2d. The Spirit is a Person: Eph. 4:30

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

► John 16:13; Rom. 8:26-27; Eph. 4:30; John 14:16.

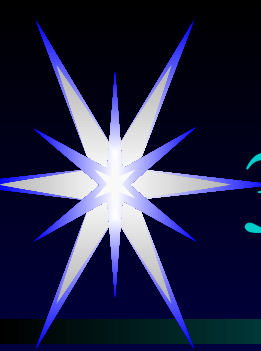


3. The Persons are Distinct: John 1:1

a. Father and Son

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

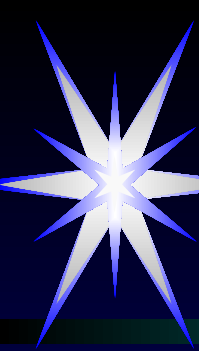
► John 1:18; Gal. 4:4; John 17:1-5.



3b. Father and Spirit: John 14:26

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

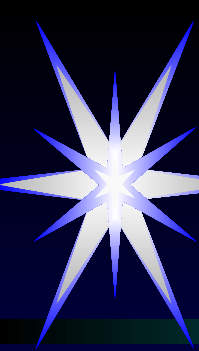
► John 15:26; 14:16-17.



3c. Son and Spirit: John 14:16-17

And I [Jesus] will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth,

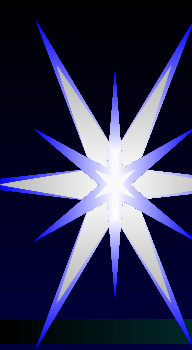
► John 14:26; 15:26.



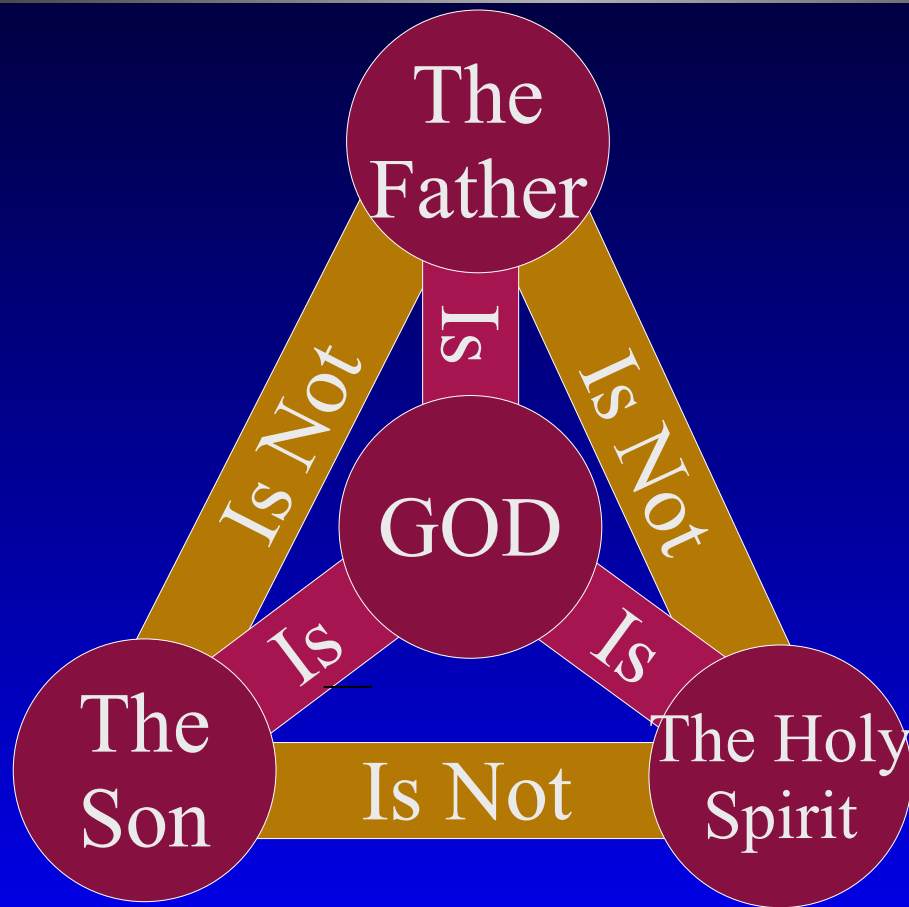
3c. Son and Spirit: John 14:16-17

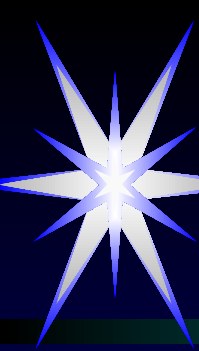
And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth,

► John 14:26; 15:26.



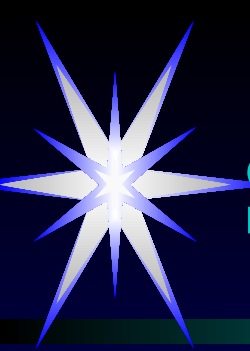
The Shield of the Trinity





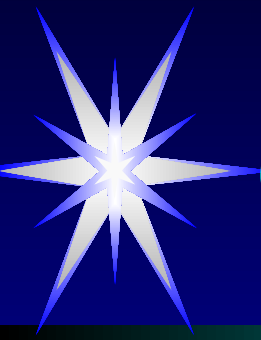
Summary: Matt. 3:16-17

And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; 17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

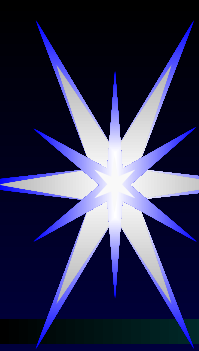


Summary: Matt. 28:19

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,



C. Creeds



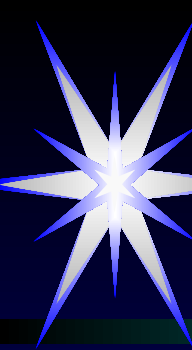
Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 5. Are there more Gods than one?

A. There is but one only, the living and true God.

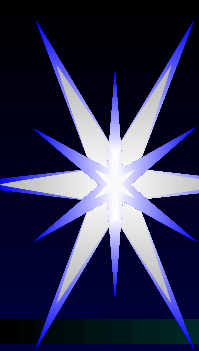
Q. 6. How many persons are there in the Godhead?

A. There are three persons in the Godhead; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.



Westminster Confession of Faith 2.3

In the unity of the Godhead there be three persons, of one substance, power, and eternity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost: the Father is of none, neither begotten, nor proceeding; the Son is eternally begotten of the Father; the Holy Ghost eternally proceeding from the Father and the Son.



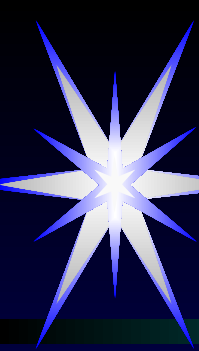
The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our
Lord,

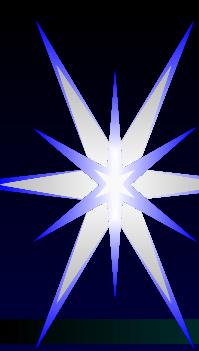
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.



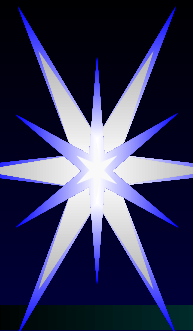
The Apostles' Creed (2)

The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the God the
Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living
and the dead.



The Apostles' Creed (3)

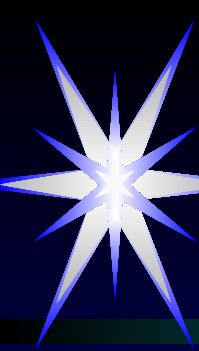
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.



The Nicene Creed

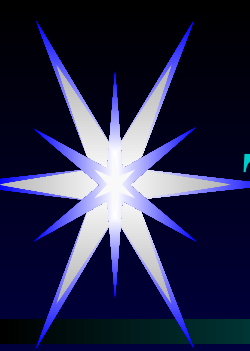
We believe in one God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,



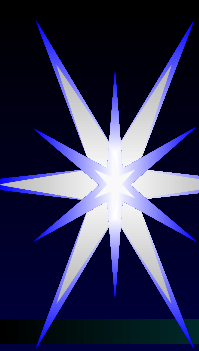
The Nicene Creed (2)

begotten, not made,
being of the same essence as the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit
of the virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us
under Pontius Pilate;



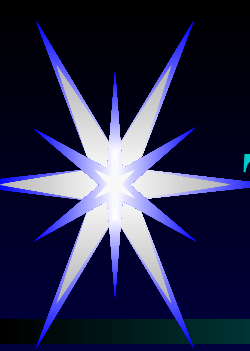
The Nicene Creed (3)

he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again
according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge the living and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.



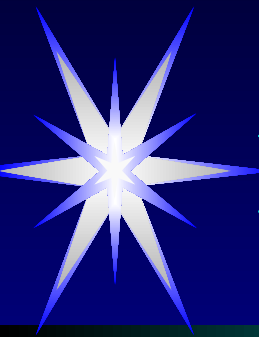
The Nicene Creed (4)

And we believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshiped and glorified;
who spoke by the prophets;
and we believe in one holy catholic
and apostolic church;

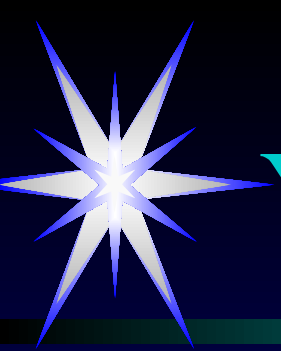


The Nicene Creed (5)

we acknowledge one baptism
for the remission of sins;
and we look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.



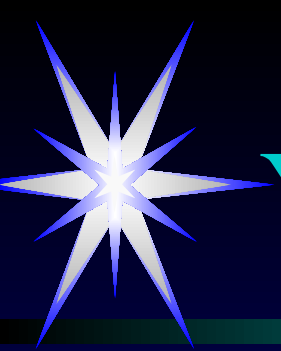
D. Applications



You Are Child of God: Gal. 4:4-6

4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

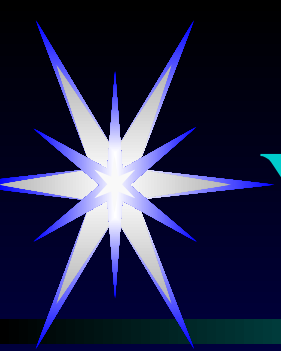
➤ Gal. 4:1-7; Rom. 8:14-17; Eph. 1:5; John 1:12-13.



You Hear God: John 17:8

For I [Jesus] have given them [the disciples] the words that you [the Father] gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.

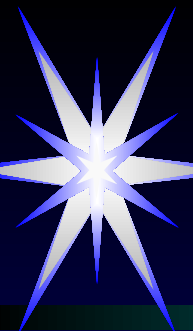
► John 1:1; 15:26; 16:12-15; Heb. 1:1-2.



You Hear God: John 17:8

For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me.

► John 1:1; 15:26; 16:12-15; Heb. 1:1-2.



God Speaks for Plants (Gen. 1:11)



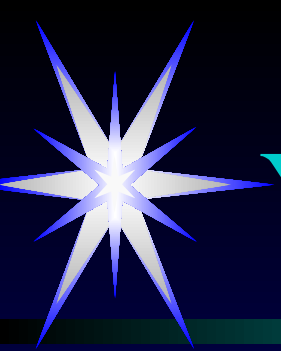
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God Speaks for Plants (Gen. 1:11)



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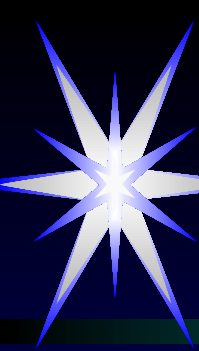
And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees bearing fruit in which is their seed, each according to its kind, on the earth.” And it was so.



You Have New Life: Rom. 8:11

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

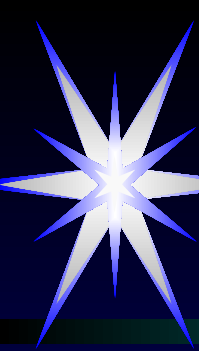
- Rom. 6:3-11; Eph. 2:6; Col. 2:20; 3:1-4; 1 Pet. 1:3-5



You Pray: Rom. 8:26-27

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. 27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

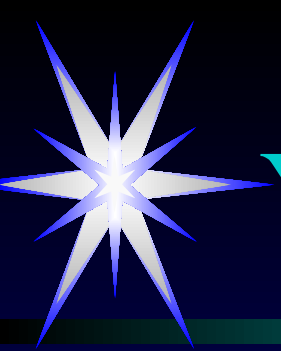
► Eph. 1:15-17; Heb. 7:23-25; 10:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:5.



You Pray: Rom. 8:34

Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

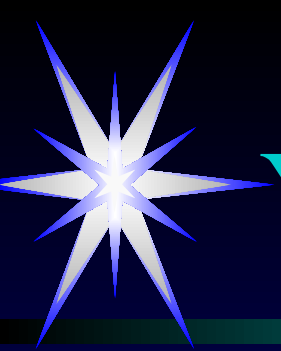
► Eph. 1:15-17; Heb. 7:23-25; 10:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:5.



You Are Being Saved: Gal. 4:4-5

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

- Eph. 1:15-17; Heb. 7:23-25; 10:19-22; 1 Pet. 2:5.

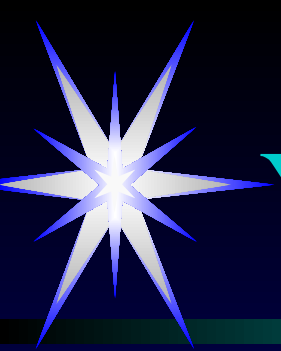


You Are Indwelt: Rom. 8:9-10

9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

10 But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

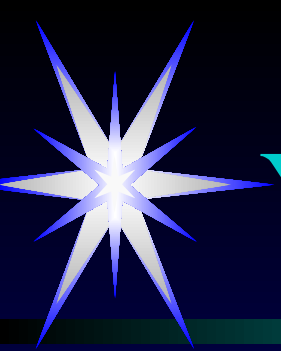
► John 14:23; 17:21-23; 1 Cor. 6:19.



You Are Under Care: Eph. 1:22

And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,

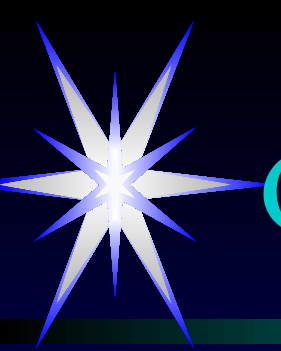
► Eph. 1:20-23; Heb. 13:20-21; John 10:14-18.



You Serve: Eph. 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

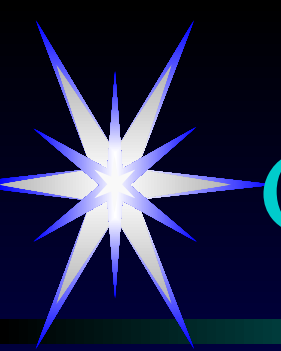
► Eph. 4:10-13; Phil. 2:12-13; Col. 3:10-13.



God Sustains You: Heb. 1:3

He [the Son] is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

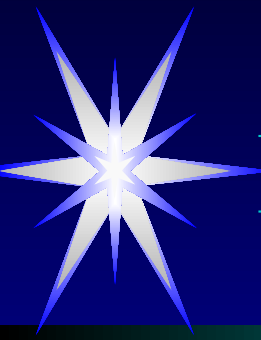
► 1 Cor. 15:24-28; Eph. 1:20-23; Rev. 1:18.



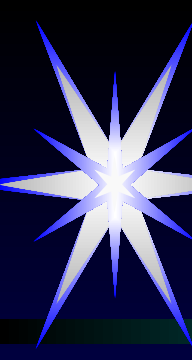
God Sustains You: Heb. 1:3

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

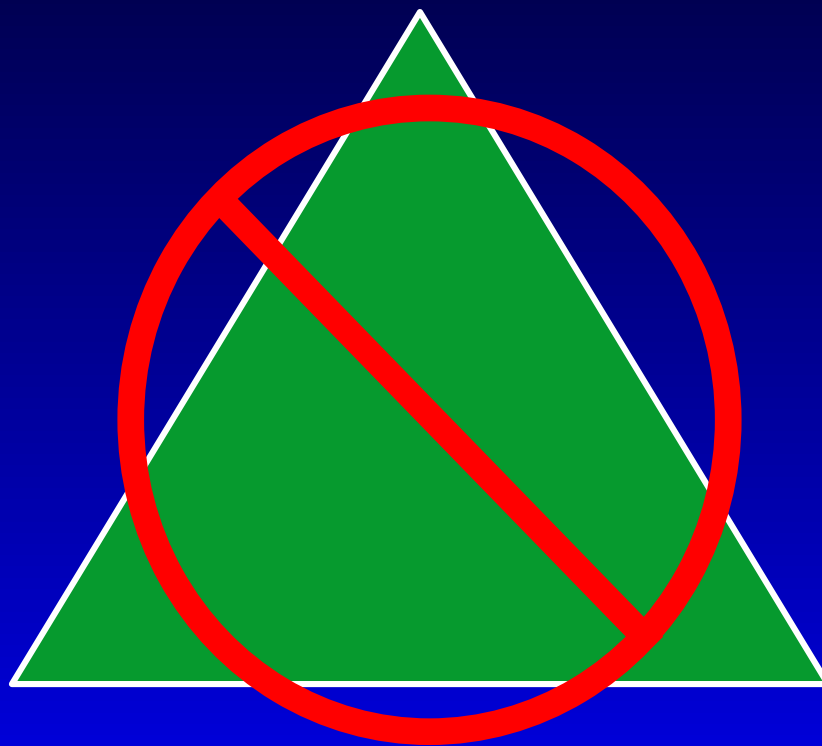
► 1 Cor. 15:24-28; Eph. 1:20-23; Rev. 1:18.

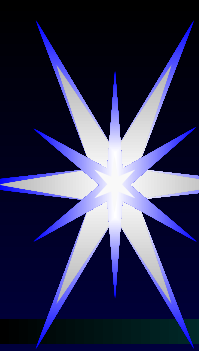


E. Analogies



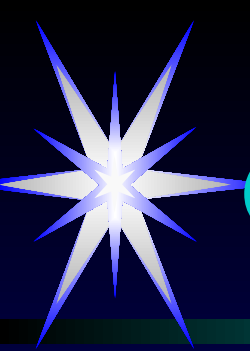
Triangle with Three Sides





Water with Three States

- ▶ Solid (ice)
- ▶ Liquid (water)
- ▶ Gaseous (water vapor)



Creator Does Not Equal Creature

God the Creator

All Creatures