

# Jesus Said...

## “I and my Father are one”

There are many people who believe that Jesus lived here on the earth. There are others who believe that Jesus was merely a good man or a prophet of God. History tells us that He came as a normal baby, lived, and then died on a cross and was buried. There are still others who believe Jesus when He said, “I and my Father are one” (John 10:30). Jesus did come from Him and lived a sinless life and died and was raised from the dead (I Corinthians 15:3,4).

Jesus did not say He was God the Father. He said He and the Father are one in power, glory, character and honor. They are in perfect accord with each other. We read in John 1:1, 2: “In the beginning was the Word (Jesus) and the Word was with God and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.” We can see from these verses that Jesus is equal with God the Father. In John 14:9 Jesus said: “He that hath seen me hath seen the Father.”

There is another member of the God-head, the Holy Spirit, sometimes mentioned as the Holy Ghost. Some people refer to the Holy Spirit as the mind of God or the energy of God. But this is wrong! As a member of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit is as much a person as God the Father and God the Son are persons (John 16:13).

The first we know of the Holy Spirit is in Genesis 1:1: “In the beginning God created the

heavens and the earth.” In the Hebrew language in which the Old Testament was written, the word, “God,” was written “Gods,” meaning more than one. All three persons of the Trinity were involved in creation, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul writes in Colossians 1:15-20 that Jesus was very prominent in God’s plan in creation and in His plan for redeeming mankind. God the Holy Spirit is mentioned in the Old Testament as being active in guiding God’s people (I Samuel 10:10; II Chronicles 15:1 and Exodus 3:31:1).

The word “Trinity” is not used in the Bible. But the three persons in the God-head are mentioned many times. When Jesus was being baptized by John the Baptist, the Holy Spirit descended from heaven and sat on Him in the form of a dove. Then God talked from heaven saying, “This is my beloved Son” (Matthew 3:17). I John 5:7 says, “There are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word (Jesus), and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”

Yes, there are three different persons in the God-head. How is this possible? We can use water as an example. Water can be in several different forms. Water is a liquid. Steam is water in a gaseous form and ice is water in a solid form. A story is told about a man in England who was making a joke of the verse that is our title, “I and my Father are one.” He didn’t believe that there could be three persons in one God. He couldn’t find anyone to argue with him, so he asked one man directly, “Do you believe such nonsense?” The man answered, “Tell me how that candle burns.” The first man answered, “By the wax, the wick and the air.” The second man said, “Will you tell me how they are one in the other and are still just one light?” In referring to Jesus, the Apostle Paul says, “In him dwelleth the fullness of the God-head bodily” (Colossians 2:9).

The birth of Jesus was unique. He was the only one born of a virgin, without a human father. An angel from God came and told Jesus’ mother, Mary, “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).

Seven hundred years before Jesus was born, the Prophet Isaiah wrote, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign: Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14). It may be difficult for some people to believe that Jesus was born of a virgin. But this should be no problem to the person who believes that Jesus Himself did miracles. Isaiah also said that Jesus would be called, "The mighty God. (Isaiah 9:6).

Because mankind inherited a sinful nature from Adam and Eve, it was necessary for Jesus to be born of a virgin to give mankind a new start. Jesus had a human mother, Mary, and the Holy Spirit caused the perfect body and sinless nature to be formed in a virgin womb. Jesus' purpose in coming to the earth was to show men how to live and to shed His blood as a sacrifice for man's sin. If Jesus would have had a sinful nature, He would have needed to die for His own sins. Since Jesus was God and man, He is often called the "Son of God" and the "Son of Man." As Jesus lived here on the earth, He lived a spotless life. Not once did He sin in what He thought, said, or did.

Jesus' enemies were a powerful witness for Him. At the cross, after Jesus died, the captain and his soldiers said, "Truly, this was the Son of God" (Matthew 27:54). Once the Jews sent officers to arrest Jesus. They came back without Him saying, "Never man spake like this man" (John 7:46).

As Jesus moved about here on the earth, He healed the bodies of many people. He was not like a doctor, but because He was God, He could heal merely by speaking. He healed the blind, the lepers, the cripples and others. One example of His power was when He healed a sick boy who was miles away (John 4:53).

Not only did Jesus heal bodies, but He also healed minds. Jesus cast demons out of people who were possessed. Once some men brought a man to Jesus who was blind, could not talk, and was possessed by demons. Jesus healed him, and his eyes, tongue and mind were restored (Mat-

thew 12:22). We must believe Jesus when He said, "I and my Father are one." Jesus was God.

Jesus plainly explained the reason for His healing ministry. He said, "That ye may know that the Son of Man hath power upon earth to forgive sins" (Luke 5:24). The Jews were right when they said that no one could forgive sins but God (Mark 2:7).

As God, Jesus knew everything (Colossians 2:3 and Romans 11:33-36). As He taught, He knew what His hearers were thinking and what they needed to hear. Even the men who listened to Jesus, trying to cause trouble, felt the result of His knowing what they were thinking. In His answers to their questions and statements, He often embarrassed them and they would leave Him.

The angels worshiped Jesus when He was here (Hebrews 1:6). They had a special assignment in ushering Him into this world. They ministered to Him at His temptation. Before His death on the cross, an angel strengthened Him in the Garden of Gethsemane. An angel rolled the rock away from the tomb to show that Jesus had already risen. Then the angel told the women there that He had risen as He said He would. No other person has been given so much attention by the angels. In Matthew 24:31 we read that the angels will share in His glory when he comes again.

Because Jesus and God are one, He is adored by the angels and feared by the devil and his demons. Often the demons yelled at Jesus, saying, "Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, Thou Jesus of Nazareth? Art thou come to destroy us? I know who thou art, the Holy One of God" (Luke 4:34). In James 2:19 we read, "The devils believe and tremble." The devils have a good reason to tremble. Someday Jesus will sentence them to everlasting fire (Matthew 25:41).

After Jesus died on the cross, He was raised to life again by His own power. He lived for forty more days here on the earth. During this time He taught His disciples more about who He was. Then He was taken up and disappeared into a cloud. The disciples knew He was in heaven be-

cause they had seen Him go. Then two angels came and told them that "this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

Not long after this, when Stephen was being stoned for preaching about Jesus, he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing on the right hand of God" (Acts 7:56).

Jesus said, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:1-3). Paul says in Titus 2:13, "Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."

The man Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God. He said, "My Father and I are one." As God He always has been. But for a short time He took on human flesh and became a man to bring mankind back into right standing with God the Father. Now He is at the Father's right hand interceding for man and waiting to come back for His people (Hebrews 7:25).

It is important for each one of us to know Jesus as God personally. Our only way to God is through His Son Jesus. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me" (John 14:6).

In the end of time Jesus as God will be the judge of all people. "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: that all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father" (John 5:22-23).

How can we honor God the Son? It takes more than just knowing about Him. We must believe that He is who He said He is. To truly believe in Jesus is to receive Him as manager of our lives, and as our Saviour and friend forever.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to con-

demn the world; but that the world through him might be saved" (John 3:16,17). "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:9, 10).

Now it is up to you! Do you believe that Jesus is who He says He is? Is Jesus the Lord of your life? Or, have you decided to reject Him and suffer in hell forever? If you want to believe in Him and accept Him as your Saviour and Lord, bow your head and pray this prayer:

Father in heaven, I know that I am a sinner and I want Jesus to be my Saviour and manager of my life. I am sorry for my sins and want to have them forgiven. Prepare my heart so that I can be with you and Jesus in heaven. Help me to be faithful to your will and to grow more like Jesus. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

When you have made the greatest and most important choice of your life—taking Jesus as your Lord and receiving forgiveness for your sins—I would be happy to hear from you. If you have any questions about being born again, or if you need any Gospel help, please feel free to contact the person whose name appears below.

—Raymond P. Brunk

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