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Living by Faith

from Forerunners4Him



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OUR GOD: THE THREE IN ONE

Holy, Holy, Holy

***Get ready for Enigma, Riddle and Paradox.** These aren't exactly Biblical names for God, but they might as well be. Solomon wrote that it is the glory of God to conceal things and the glory of kings to search them out (Proverbs 25:2). In seeking to know our God better we all hope to be "crowned" with true understanding of all the "hidden" things about Him. Be forewarned: just as often as you may feel that crown upon your head, you will want to throw it down at His feet in humble submission to Someone you really don't know as well as you think you do. Now multiply that Mystery by Three...*



Trinity Symbol

Go to [The Three in One](#) to read the complete article and others about Our God.

NOTE: This email newsletter is a brand new companion to Healing Streams' newsletter "A Heart Set Free." Where Healing Streams is all about emotional healing from recovery to mastery, Forerunners is about the fullness of life set before those whose "hearts are free" to pursue the Lord in liberated love and service. These articles will be about salvation, the new life of grace, life in the Spirit, and our fabulous God(s) -- Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

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A Simple Analogy

Let's not make this more difficult than it has to be. Imagine for a moment a man and a woman whose thoughts, feelings and desires are so much in synch that they experience perfect harmony. Maybe you have never seen it or experienced it, but you have caught glimpses of it as a possibility. Of course for us this can never last very long since we are all so tragically self-centered and off-center that we can't stay centered with anyone else.



Juggling Practice

God just doesn't have our problems. We are told in scripture about an amazing love story between a Father and His Son that has been endlessly (and beginning-lessly) going on. In perfect harmony. A divine dance of love in which neither ever misses a step--so perfectly attuned are their great hearts to all that is good, beautiful and true.

It only gets more complicated. Do you remember when you first tried your hand at juggling oranges? (Let's hope it wasn't glasses or light bulbs.) At first you were doing reasonably well with only two. But that couldn't last. You knew you had to add in at least one more to honestly call it juggling. Then things really got out of hand! Again, some things are hard, even impossible for us, but not so with God. As hard as it is to juggle the idea of endless harmony between the Father and Son, we have to add in the Holy Spirit to get the complete picture. Why? Because both the Father and the Son speak of the Spirit as somehow different or separate from themselves. Now you are hopelessly confused!

Fortunately for us they answer to all three Names. Because they are God, all Three are present with us at all times. Because they are a Unity, they are each One inside the Other (John 17:20-21). Still, it can be difficult to recognize and relate to Them whenever They are not making a clear manifestation of Who it is we are encountering at the time. Don't worry about that!

For now just take it in faith (we have to do this a lot) that God will be delighted however you relate to Him. If you have most recently encountered Jesus, go with Him! It is always wise to keep our inner focus on Jesus. Just know that there is much more for you to grow into in the future and stay open to being taught and guided. ***Jesus won't steer you wrong!***

For some insight-filled perspectives on our Lord see [Jesus Our Savior](#) at our website.

Previews of Plurality in God

Naturally enough, God didn't suddenly split into Father, Son and Holy Spirit just as the New Testament opens. Even to think of a division occurring is to let our thoughts go in the wrong direction. Any such division would be an unthinkable catastrophe for "Them" and for their creation. The Three in One are seamlessly united in a perfect harmony. That unity in God was apparently the first thought that the Lord wanted to get across to us.



Torah Scroll

The paganism which surrounded Israel--whether of Greece or Rome, Egypt or Babylon--thoroughly believed in a plurality of gods. What they rarely conceived was the idea that there might be only one God and that that one God was thoroughly good. Hence, Israel was instructed repeatedly that the holy God is *one* God. As carriers of this revelation they were "set apart" from the pagan world. In the form of the *Shema* ("Hear, O Israel" translates *shema yisrael*) this became their national statement both of God's identity and of themselves as God's chosen children.

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one." Deuteronomy 6:4 ESV

Evidently, the Lord didn't want to leave it at that. All throughout the Old Testament our God scattered hints or glimpses that are highly suggestive of a plurality in God. Looking back it is easy to see this as a trail of "bread crumbs" leading to the fuller revelation of the Three in One that would come to us. These precursors greatly enhance our faith, but if Israel was meant to read the signs, that just didn't happen.

When Jesus announced that He and the Father were "one" (John 10:30), He signed His own death warrant, so to speak, since every faithful Jewish ruler "knew" that God was only one God. But was He? If they could have connected the dots...

See the Trinity in [Passover, Pentecost and Booths](#) at our website.

Three Suggestive Signs

1) Elohim. The first name given for God in scripture is *elohim*. As it happens *elohim* is the plural form of the word for God. It is used over 4000 times in the Bible and it rarely ever occurs in plural form anywhere else. It is a description of God unique to scripture. Accordingly, a more accurate translation of the first verse of the Bible would be "in the beginning God_s created."



School of Fish - A Plural Unity

In the beginning, God [elohim = Gods] created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1 ESV

2) Let us. The unexpected appearance of plural pronouns is also a clue. This occurs in four separate verses. Clearly, a plurality is being revealed, but how many are included in the "us" and "our"? None of these six precursors can be pinned down as describing a Triune God, but they certainly point to a plurality in God.

Then God [elohim = Gods] said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." Genesis 1:26 ESV

3) Ehad. Even the Shema carries a hint of something more going on than meets the unschooled eye. The Hebrew word, *echad*, which is translated as "one" often indicates a plurality held together in unity: a composite unity.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God [elohim again], the Lord is one [ehad]. Deuteronomy 6:4 ESV

There are three more "precursors" listed at [Three in One](#) on our website!

The Best Reason of All

What is the main reason why we believe in the Three in One?
Because Jesus did!

"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, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20 ESV



Jesus Looking to His Father

"But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me." John 15:26-27 ESV

Read more fascinating truths about [Our God](#) on our website!

FORERUNNERS4HIM

Forerunners4Him is intended to provide inspiration, encouragement, and humor for entering into the life of freedom, joy and peace that Jesus died to give us. Salvation often "drops in out of the blue" but real progress living the new life of faith usually requires the hard work of

facing God and deep issues, trying to make sense of the scriptures and gain positive guidance under pressure. Let us help you with that!

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)



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Living by faith requires intentional cultivation...

We have five books at Amazon (paperback and Kindle editions): The Missing Peace, Matters of the Heart, An Illustrated Guide to the Spirit Life, Salvation Basics and Rescued from Hell, which tells the incredible story of my late 1960s journey into insanity and the full restoration and healing Jesus brought me into over a decade later. [Books at Amazon](#)



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