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One of the most popular views of the nature of God has been the Doctrine of the Trinity.

The Trinity is the belief that God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit are three distinct persons who are united as one God and are coequal. This belief was firmly established by the 4th century AD as a key part of Christian doctrine.

The Church has always recognized both God the Father and Christ as God, and has understood the Holy Spirit to be the power of God. Some people today, however, view God and Jesus in a way similar to Trinitarians, considering them essentially the same. As a result, they often apply the names and titles for God in the Bible equally to both God the Father and Jesus Christ.

However, this approach can blur the clear distinctions between God the Father and Jesus Christ. Many names and titles for God in the Bible are unique and apply specifically to either God the Father or Jesus Christ, not both. By not acknowledging these unique names and titles, readers may misunderstand or overlook the individual identities and roles of God the Father and Jesus Christ.

This distinction is important for understanding the relationship between the Father, *God* and the Son, *Christ* as presented in the Bible. Recognizing the specific roles and titles of each helps maintain a clear and accurate view of the Christian faith.

Scripture does not leave us confused about who God is or how we should live. Instead, God is revealed through creation and, most importantly, through Jesus Christ. Understanding God and scripture comes from studying Christ and His life. It's essential to follow Christ's directive to connect with God the Father, which is central to the Christian faith and provides clarity in the spiritual journey.

According to Scripture, God promises that you can find Him, *(God)*, if you seek God with all your heart. Jeremiah 29:13 says, "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart." Similarly, Deuteronomy 4:29 states that you will find God if you search for Him with all your heart and soul.

The Bible helps us clearly understand who God is and how to live. God is revealed through creation and especially through Jesus Christ. Studying

Christ's life helps us understand God better. It's also important to follow Christ's direction to connect with God the Father, which is key to the Christian faith and brings clarity in our spiritual journey.

This is summarized in the commandments to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Ultimately, the overarching theme is that God wants a *personal and intimate* relationship with individuals, characterized by love, surrender, and righteousness.

The apostle Paul talks about a higher, better wisdom that he teaches to mature believers who have God's Spirit. This wisdom from God is secret and hidden, planned by God before time began, for the benefit of those who believe in Christ.

God's wisdom is secret and hidden in the sense that it cannot be obtained by mere observation of the world. Evidence can point towards God (Psalm 19:1), but it won't help those who don't want to seek God (Matthew 7:7– 8). God's wisdom is above and beyond what humans can perceive in our natural state apart from Him (Isaiah 55:8–9). God must reveal Wisdom to us, or we will not be aware of it.

Paul explains that human wisdom, with its limited view, is not enough to fully understand the gospel of Jesus Christ. While reason and evidence are important, they do not make someone accept the truth.

In the 1600s Jakob Boehme wrote about finding God:

"**The Disciple** asked the **Master**: Master, how may I come to the *hidden Wisdom of God*, so that I may see God, and hear God speak?

The Master answered and said: When you can throw yourself into That, where no Creature dwells, if only for a Moment, then you will hear God speak.

Disciple. Is that place where no Creature dwells near at hand; or is it far off?

Master. It is in you. And if you can, for a time, cease from all your own thinking and willing, then you will hear the unspeakable Words of God.

Disciple. How can I hear God speak, when I stand still from thinking and willing?

Master. When you stop focusing on yourself and quiet your mind and will, allowing yourself to be open to God's Word and Spirit, your soul rises above the material world. In this state, you experience God's eternal presence, and God communicates through you. Your spirit hears God's voice, as you become an instrument of God's Spirit.

Eternal Hearing, Seeing, and Speaking will be revealed in you; and so, God hears and sees through you, being now the Organ of God's Spirit; and so,

God speaks in you, and whispers to your Spirit, and your Spirit hears God's Voice.

Blessed are you therefore if you can stand still from *Self*-thinking and *Self*-willing and can stop the prevailing of your Imagination and Senses; for thus you may arrive at length to see the great Salvation of God being and be in earnest. What is there required of you, but to stand still, and see the Salvation of your God?

And could you want anything less? For God knows what is best; and if you can but trust God will most certainly do better for you, than if you were left to your own Choice".

Overarching Promise

The overarching promise is that by knowing God intimately, we will experience Gods faithfulness, His power to transform us, and Gods unbreakable love - even during life's difficulties. The more we seek to truly know God, the more we will see these promises fulfilled in our lives. Meeting God in silence is not about hearing a specific message, but about simply being present with Him. It's about acknowledging God's control and finding intimacy and peace through His presence.

Shalom

Scripture has a special word for the character of pre-Fall life in the Garden — Shalom, which means full human flourishing in every dimension of life. Shalom means a perfect and harmonious prospering... economically, relationally, spiritually. So, if life was already perfect, what exactly was God asking humankind to *do*? Fundamentally, God gave us the task of stewarding, enlarging, and enhancing the conditions for human flourishing. God clearly envisioned a much larger humankind than that with which he was starting. Given that, the conditions for shalom would need to be *enlarged*. Productivity would need to be increased; new kinds of value created. God gifted us, if you will, with Garden 1.0 and said, 'Here, take this precious gift and make it even more valuable — enlarge and enhance it into Garden 2.0.

Theology of Work

Here's how the Theology of Work Project puts it: "God brought into being a flawless creation, an ideal platform, and then created humanity to continue the creation project . . . God could have created everything imaginable and filled the earth himself. But he chose to create humanity to collaborate with him to actualize the universe's potential, to take part in God's own work. It is remarkable that God trusts us to conduct this amazing task of building on the good earth he has given us. Through our work God brings forth food and drink, products and services, knowledge and beauty, organizations and communities, growth and health, and praise and glory to himself.

This continues to be the work of Jesus' followers. In the two parables Jesus talked about vocation and purpose, i.e., the stories about servants given sums of money, the job of the servants was to *enlarge* what had been entrusted to them by the master — i.e., the same task as the one originally assigned in the creation mandate. There is one difference, however. Pre-Fall, God's intention for humankind, and the task to which we were assigned, was to see shalom enlarged. Post-Fall, God's purpose took on a further thrust to see shalom restored. We see this especially clearly in the fact that all of Jesus' miracles were to restore shalom: hungry people were fed, broken bodies were made whole, the dead were restored to life. The shalom mission of God's people now shares this duality. We are meant both to *enlarge* and to *restore* shalom on the earth.

Dominion

One other important topic. A notable aspect of God's mandate to humankind is that of dominion. We see this especially in the specific commands to "subdue" the earth and to "rule over" all the other created creatures. Bible scholars widely note, however, that God has entrusted humankind with a *delegated* authority, i.e., a viceroy-like dominion that must be exercised entirely in keeping with the larger purpose(s) and directives of the Sovereign. It is a stewardlike administration, not a self-centered or arbitrary rulership. The *Theology of Work Project* puts it especially nicely: "Dominion is not the authority to work *against* God's creation, but the ability to work *for* it." In the context of (**Genesis 1:26**), God grants humanity dominion over the earth and its creatures. However, this dominion is not a license to exploit or harm creation. Instead, it is a sacred responsibility—a divine contract—to care for and steward God's handiwork.

Evidence Surrendered

Keyways to evidence our surrendered control of life over to God: A deep trust and surrender to God's sovereignty: Truly believing and understanding that God is in complete control of all things, even the smallest details of our lives, is crucial.

This involves letting go of the control of yourself:

✓ Rely on God's promises and character: The passages

highlight that as you get to know God through Gods Word, your confidence in God goodness, love, and perfect plan will grow. This allows you to rest in Gods sovereignty rather than fearing the unknown.

- ✓ See God working all things together for good: Even when you don't understand your circumstances, you can trust that God is using them for your ultimate benefit and Gods purposes, as Romans 8:28 promises.
- ✓ Experience decreased anxiety and fear: Truly grasping God's control should alleviate your worries and fears, because you know God is in charge, not you.
- ✓ Be willing to submit plans and decisions to God: Rather than trying to control your own life, humbly acknowledge that God's purposes will stand, not our own. You seek Gods will above your own.

Become "**unself-ed**" and let go of the ego and its chatter to hear the voice of God speaking within

"When you stand still from the thinking of Self, and the willing of Self; when both your intellect and will are quiet, and passive to the Expressions of the Eternal Word and Spirit." In these lines, we sense an invitation to surrender—to step beyond the confines of our ego-driven thoughts and desires. = "**unself-ed**"

Let's break it down:

Standing Still: Imagine a moment of stillness—a pause in the ceaseless movement of our minds. It's as if time suspends, and we become aware of something greater.

Thinking of Self: Our thoughts often revolve around ourselves—our needs, fears, ambitions. But what if we release that self-centered focus?

Willing of Self: Our will—the force that drives our actions—is often directed toward personal goals. But what if we relinquish control?

Quiet Intellect: The intellect, with its analytical power, can be noisy. Yet, in silence, we may hear whispers of deeper truths.

Passive to the Eternal Word and Spirit: Here lies the heart of the matter. To be passive—to surrender—is to open ourselves to the Divine. The "Eternal Word" suggests a cosmic language—an expression beyond mere words.

(1 Kings 19) describes how God spoke to Elijah not in the strong

wind, earthquake, or fire, but in a "low whisper" or "sound of thin silence." This suggests that to hear God, we create space for silence and solitude, rather than being consumed by the noise and busyness of life.

Psalms) also emphasize waiting on God in silence, as the psalmist says, "For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from God". This implies that it takes faith and trust to patiently wait for **God-in-the-silence**, rather than rushing ahead or filling the silence with our own noise.

What is the Hardship in this? God knows what is best; and if you can simply trust that God will most certainly do better for you, than when you are left to your own devises.

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