

3. What we Know About God

Papaw always introduces this topic by confessing that he feels inadequate to explain about God. We don't know everything about God but what we do know, we learn from the Bible. That is why the Bible introduces this course. Everything else in the course is taken from the Bible. We can learn most about the character of God in the

Old Testament. Some cultures believe in many gods but our Bible instructs us that there is one true God and he is a living God.

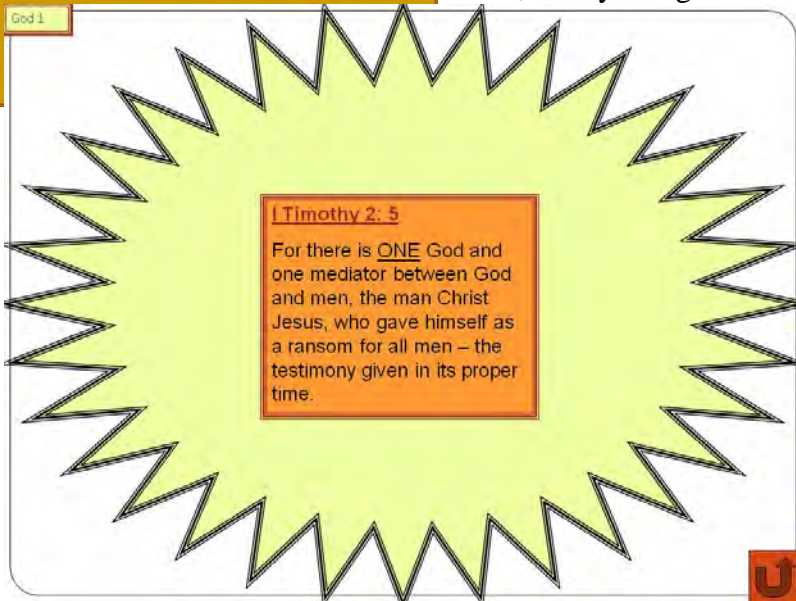
Papaw uses the sun to illustrate the nature of God. The sun radiates warmth in all directions. We are very dependent upon the sun for our lives. Without the sun we would surely perish! God's love, mercy and grace radiate



to all people and sustain life.

Throughout the New Testament, God is referred to as Father. Papaw asks his students to share their first thoughts in response to the phrase, "God the Father." Since students come from a great variety of

family backgrounds, some have more fond memories of their Dad than others. Fortunately some come from families with loving and caring Dads. Others come from broken homes where there was either no Dad or their Dad was hostile and overbearing. God is like the loving and caring Dad that protects and provides. An ideal Dad also disciplines his children so they will learn how to live properly with other people. Our God is that kind of loving Father.



Like those Dads that we have a high respect for, we know He will discipline us when we need it. We must have a fearful and reverent respect for our Heavenly Father. The Bible

teaches us that He will not only discipline us but will judge how we live while on Earth and use the resources he provides. As our creator, He is the provider of our skills, health, parents, etc. Like Him, we are spiritual beings. As mentioned earlier, we are eternal beings like God. Eternal God has no starting point in time; He does not have a birth date! Students are asked to define eternity. Ultimately, they give up because their minds cannot comprehend time with no beginning and no end. This

**GOD
The
Father**

**What Do You
Immediately
Think Of?**

Most Christians think of HIM as being Loving, Forgiving, Patient, Kind, etc. Most think that HE is Loving and Forgiving and really don't reflect on all of HIS Characteristics.

is typical of all of God's attributes. We cannot comprehend them. He is dependable because He never changes. He is exactly the same today as He was when the Old Testament writers wrote about Him. He is everywhere. If you could look through the best telescope available (say the Hubble telescope) and you could see far out through the

universe, God will be there! If you look through a modern electronic microscope at molecular structure, God is there! The Bible tells us that He is everywhere or omnipresent. We cannot get away from God even if we want to. People often think that they would like to get away from Him but they can't.

**HIS Holiness
Judges Us**

**HIS Love
Redeems Us**

The Two Major Characteristics of GOD that are usually emphasized are forgiveness and judgment.

Some Harvard University students were once given a test that included this question; “Do you believe that God understands the principles of modern radar?” Most replied that they did not think God would understand such modern technology! The truth of the matter is that man is fulfilling scripture by dis-covering or un-covering what God has already

HE Is:

1. Eternal
2. Unchanging
3. Everywhere
4. Too Big for People to Understand
5. Timeless - No Birthday - Will Never Die
6. Knows All
7. All Powerful

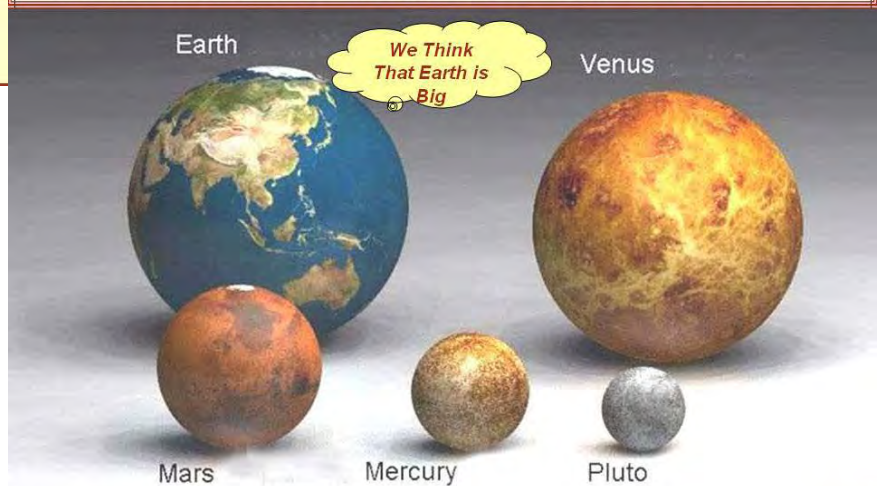
Think of the size of HIS Creation. We cannot contain the greatness of GOD in our minds

placed here on Earth (or throughout the universe.) God told Adam to fill the Earth and subdue it (Genesis 1: 28 - 29). The other creations that God placed on Earth were placed here for man’s benefit. God created bats, which use radar to navigate at night. They can locate tiny mosquitoes in the dark and feed on

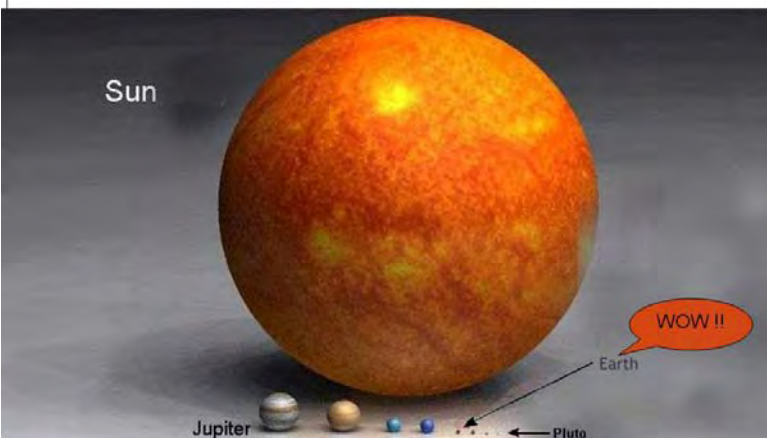
GOD IS SO POWERFUL THAT HE SPOKE AND THESE PLANETS CAME INTO BEING.

them. We need more bats on the Texas coast!

Papaw asks his students to name the most powerful thing they can think of. Some will say a tornado, others



The Universe is Sooo Hugh; See More →



claim volcanoes are the most powerful. Papaw then shares that when he was younger, he was a Special Weapons Officer in the US Air Force and his job was to handle nuclear and thermonuclear weapons. One of these thermonuclear weapons had enough power to completely destroy a city the size of

Houston, TX. If detonated above the city, the heat of the blast would melt the steel and bricks of the city's huge buildings, the shock wave would topple structure and the radiation would kill any living beings for many miles. God created our Sun which generates and radiates energy from a continuous thermonuclear reaction. God has the power to just speak and the universe came into being at his command. This is called divine fiat. There are many stars much

HE Is Moral:

1. HOLY - [No Sin Present]
2. Righteous - [Cannot Be in Sins Presence]
3. Truth
4. Love [Agape]

- The moral nature of GOD is the standard for HIS Universe.
- Holiness[light] is the opposite of Sin [darkness.] The two cannot exist together.
- Holy GOD cannot be In the Presence of Sin - Habakkuk 1: 12,13
- Sinful Man cannot come into the presence of Holy GOD.
- HIS Righteous demands judgment for Sin.
- The penalty for Sin is DEATH - Separation from Holy GOD. Romans 6:23
- This is why Adam and Eve were DRIVEN from the Garden. - Gen. 3:23
- Man has no way to remove his sin.
- Thus man is eternally destined to be separated from GOD unless GOD Himself provides a way for the removal of man's sin.

Habakkuk 1: 12 -13a.

Oh LORD, are you not from everlasting? My God, my Holy One, we will not die. O LORD, you have appointed them to execute judgment; Oh Rock, you have ordained them to punish. Your eyes are too pure to look on evil (sin); you cannot tolerate wrong.

Romans 6: 23

The wages of sin is Death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our LORD.

Genesis 3: 23

So the LORD God banished him (Adam) from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.

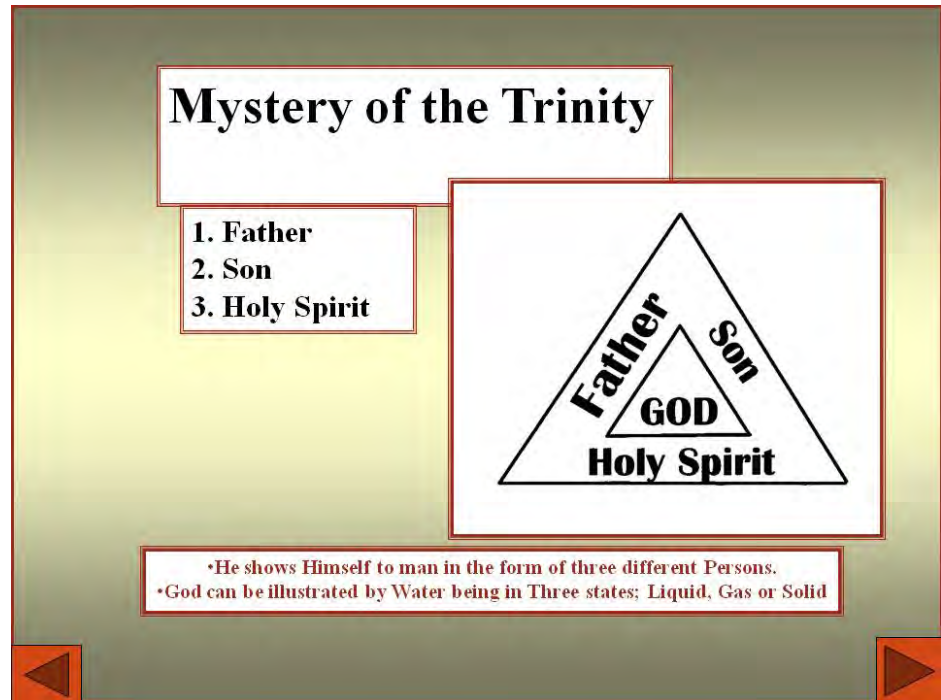
larger than our sun in God's universe. Some stars will not fit in the space between the Earth and our sun! Genesis 1:16 is the greatest understatement in recorded history. God only used five words to state; "*He also made the stars!*"

His character sets the definitions and standards for man's morality. The accepted moral standards of cultures vary and change with time but God's morality never changes. It was against God's nature to be envious or covetous in Old Testament times and it still is. God is holy which means that he is set apart in a totally sinless and moral state. He is righteous which means he is always right and fair in all of His judgments. In this respect he cannot even be in the presence of wrong or sin. The Bible often likens sin as darkness and holiness as light. Anyone can readily see that light and darkness cannot be together simultaneously. A room is either dark or has light.

He sets the standard for truth. It is inadequate to think of Him as being honest or truthful, HE IS TRUTH! In the same way, it is inadequate to think of Him as being loving, HE IS LOVE! He set the definition of truth and love.

Earlier, we stated that God was the One Living God. Well, the Bible tells us that He presents Himself to us in the form of THREE Persons!

One can think of a triangle as being a single object with three sides. You could name one side Father and the other two Son and Holy Spirit. Depending on which way one approaches the triangle; you might approach the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit side. It is still one triangle.



Another natural illustration of one being three is water. In the normal state, water appears to us as a liquid. You can drink it, wash things with it or even swim in it. If you heat the water above 212 degrees F, it begins to change state into steam or vapor. If you could capture each of the modules of mist from the evaporating water and count them, every bit of the liquid water could be accounted for. By cooling the vapor back below 212 degrees F, the mist returns to a liquid state. If the temperature continues to drop to 32 degrees F and lower, the liquid water begins to freeze or turn to solid ice. So we can easily see that two parts of Hydrogen and one part Oxygen (H₂O) is the very same chemical entity but can exist in three states.

In the introductory pages of the Bible (Genesis 1:26), we read, “Let Us make man in Our image and likeness to rule the fish of the sea, the birds of Heaven, the cattle, all wild animals on earth, and all reptiles that crawl upon the Earth.” Who was talking here? Adam had not yet come upon the scene of creation. It was God discussing the upcoming creation plan for mankind. It was the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit talking. They were all present at the time of the creation of life as we now know it.

As Christians, we frequently involve all three persons of God in our life. For instance, when we pray we pray to the Father in the name of the Son as urged by the Holy Spirit.

As Father, He is our great provider and protector (if we abide by the terms of our

AS FATHER

- 1. He Controls His Created Universe**
- 2. He Offers Us HIS Love**
- 3. He Becomes A Father to Christians Who Believe and Trust HIM**

- GOD is Sovereign; He controls the Universe and our Individual Circumstances.
- He has the Right to Do As HE Pleases.
- We are HIS Created Beings and as such are subject to HIS Will.
- He is Love and the Source of All Love - 1 John 4:7
- His Love is so great that he offers Man a way for the forgiveness of Sin. John 3:16
- He Wants to Restore Man to the Same Relationship as with Adam and Eve. 1 Tim. 2:4
- It is His Desire to be like a Father to Us.

contract). He literally controls the created universe and either directs or allows the

God 3

|John 4: 7 - 8
Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is Love.

|John 3: 16
For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son so that whosoever believed in Him would never perish but have eternal life.

|Timothy 2: 4
This is good and pleases our God our savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

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circumstances of our individual lives. He wants us to act as obedient children, members of His extended family. Our Christian lifestyle will function by how we think of God the Father.

As Father, his compassionate love is so great that He offers us a way to take care of our sin problem. Notice the word offer was used here. God never forces Himself on anyone.

Christianity would be so much easier if He would force us. In His sovereignty, he elected to honor our free will. This is the consistent theme of the Bible; to restore us to the same

fellowship with Him as initially set up with Adam. Remember, Christianity is an experiential relationship.

God the Son lived with the Father and Holy Spirit in Heaven before the beginning of time. In His great mercy, God came to Earth as the Son to rescue men from the penalty of their sins. He had an unusual birth as recorded in Matthew 1:18, 24 and Luke 1:26, 35. Though the Virgin Mary was

As Son

1. He Came Down From Heaven
2. He Was Born of A Virgin
3. He Never Sinned [Disobeyed GOD]
4. He Died Our Death for Our Sins
5. He Was Buried for Three Days
6. He Was Raised from Death To Life
7. He Is Now in Heaven with the Father
8. He is the Christian's Lawyer [Intercedes for Us]
9. He Will Return to Earth Again in Great Power
10. He Is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords

- We have inherited Adams Sin Nature. Mary, Jesus' Earthly Mother, was engaged to Joseph but she was visited by the Angel Gabrielle before their marriage. Luke 1: 26, 38
- Thus, Jesus did not inherit Adam's Sin Nature. He committed no sin while on Earth though he was tempted of all sin according to Hebrews 4:15
- Therefore, Jesus was the only sinless man that could come into the Holy presence of GOD.
- Jesus is our Advocate in Heaven according to Hebrews 4:16
- He will return and ALL knees will bow to HIM and declare Him to be Lord



God 4

Luke 1: 26, 30

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 30. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus."

Hebrews 4: 15

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin

Hebrews 4: 16

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.



engaged (betrothed) to Joseph, they had not consummated their marriage. The Holy Spirit conceived God the Son in the virgin's womb. Thus the Son who was named Jesus did not have an earthly Dad which would have passed a sin nature to Him from Adam. The Son, Jesus, was without the sin nature that the rest

of us have and He never sinned by disobeying the Father. Consequently Jesus the Son of God had no sin and was the only perfect, flawless, unblemished person on Earth. John the Baptist called Jesus the "Lamb of God" in John 1:29.

The New Testament basically fulfills the Old Testament covenant, God established a new covenant whereby if a man has faith to believe that his sins have been transferred to the Lamb of God, God the Father will accept the sacrificial death of Jesus as payment for

those sins and God will look upon that person (Christian) as having no sin. If a person has no sin, then that person may approach Holy God. Such a person can fellowship with God, commune with God and expect to have his prayers answered, etc. The difference in the two covenants is the original depended upon the sacrificial death of innocent animals and the new covenant depends upon the sacrificial death of the innocent Lamb of God.

Jesus, the Son allowed men to execute him. He certainly could have defended Himself, but knew from the beginning that it would be necessary for him to be killed for our sake if He was to become our sin offering. Therefore, He willingly left Heaven and came to Earth for that purpose. Following his cruel death, He was buried for three days and then God the Holy Spirit raised Him back to life by resurrecting Him from the grave.

Jesus the Son has now returned to Heaven (where there can be no sin) and serves as our lawyer, advocate, representative, and intercessor to the Father.

The Bible tells us that Jesus will return a second time to Earth. This will occur at the end of time, as we know it. Jesus' first visit to earth started the "present age" that we now live in. On His return, He will end this age and start "the age to come." All mankind will then recognize Him as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

As the Holy Spirit, God inspired the writing of the Bible and assists Christians in understanding the Bible. He also warns us of pending temptation and convicts us when we do sin.

Rejection of His conviction can be the most serious sin that any human can make. If a lost person consciously rejects the truth of salvation offered by God this is called blaspheming the Holy Spirit.

According to Mark 3:29 this is unpardonable or unforgivable!! God designed all with a free will and He does not force His grace on anyone. Acceptance or rejection is up to each person.

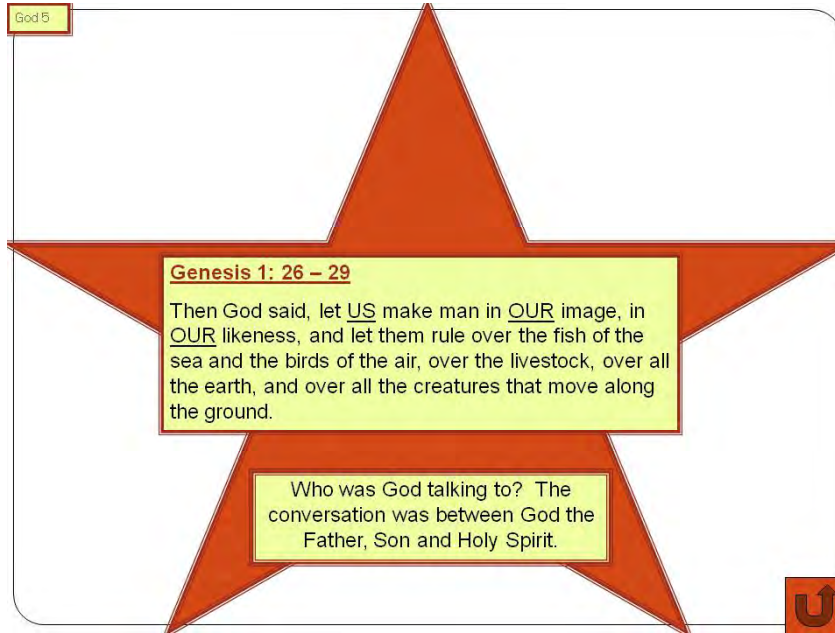
As Holy Spirit

- 1. Told Men What to Write in the Bible [Inspired Scripture]
- 2. Tells Us What the Bible Means [Interprets]
- 3. Lets Us Know When We Sin [Convicts]
- 4. Changes Christians [Converts and Transforms]
- 5. Comforts People in Time of Grief and Need
- 6. Seals the Christian's Salvation
- 7. Lives in Christians
- 8. Gives Spiritual Gifts

According to Genesis 1: 26 - 29, The Holy Spirit was Present at the Time of Creation; "Let Us Make Man in Our Image and Likeness to Rule Over the Earth."



The Spirit performs a transforming or changing process in the new Christian. The new Christian is to live as though his old sin nature inherited from Adam has been executed



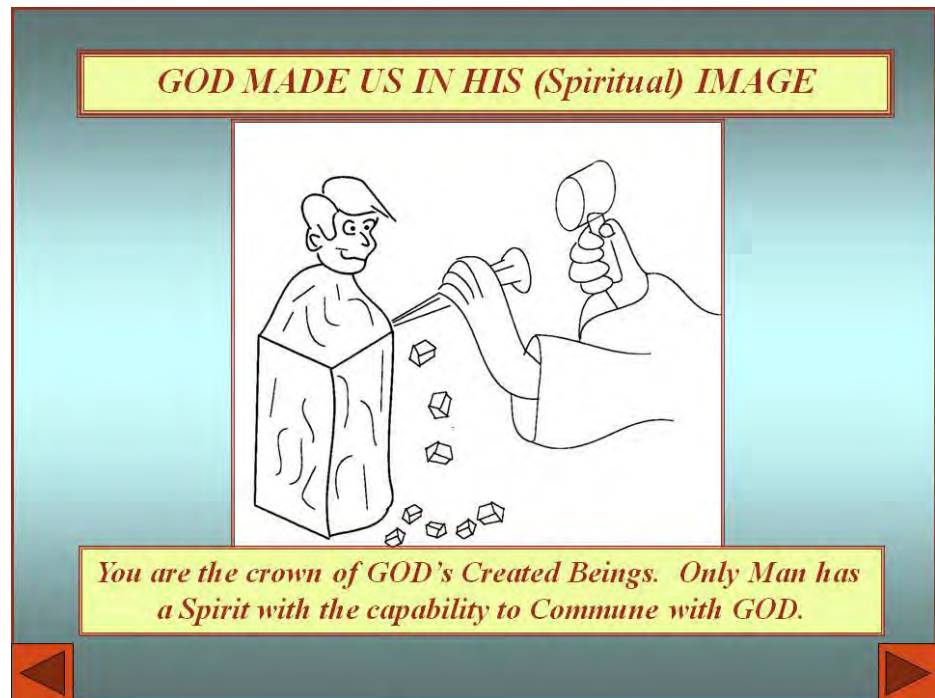
with Christ (Galatians 2:20). The rate of change is different for each Christian. The rate of change depends upon the sincerity and discipline of the new Christian.

It is the role of the Holy Spirit to provide comfort to the Christian during times of sorrow and grief. The most striking example of this is during the

grieving period following the death of a loved one.

The Holy Spirit takes up residence in the new Christian once that person asserts faith that the Son has paid his sin penalty, and repents (changes his lifestyle.) This is a sealing or guaranteeing act by God that the new Christian will always be a Christian and nothing will ever be able to separate that person from God again.

When Papaw was young and first started thinking about God, he heard that he was created in the image of God. This was confusing because there were other people of race, females, etc.



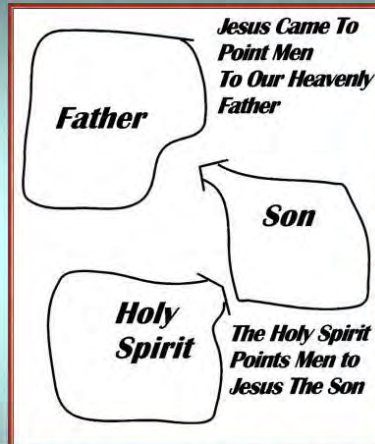
that were physically different from Papaw. Later, he realized that the likeness is spiritual

rather than physical. We are made in the spiritual image of God. As such, we are the

nearest living beings on Earth to what God is like. We have emotions and feelings as God does.

Jesus the Son repeatedly stated that He obeyed what the Father told Him to do

The Holy Spirit Glorifies the Son



The primary purpose of the Holy Spirit is to Glorify the Son just as the Son said that He did the things the Father told him. The Holy Spirit urges Christians to Pray to the Father in the Son's Name; Never in the Holy Spirit's name.

while here on Earth. His task was to point people to the Father. In a similar manner, the Holy Spirit's principle task is to point people to Jesus the Son. We are to worship the Father in the name of the Son but we are never instructed to worship the Holy Spirit nor pray in the name of the Holy Spirit.

We Are The Temple of the Holy Spirit

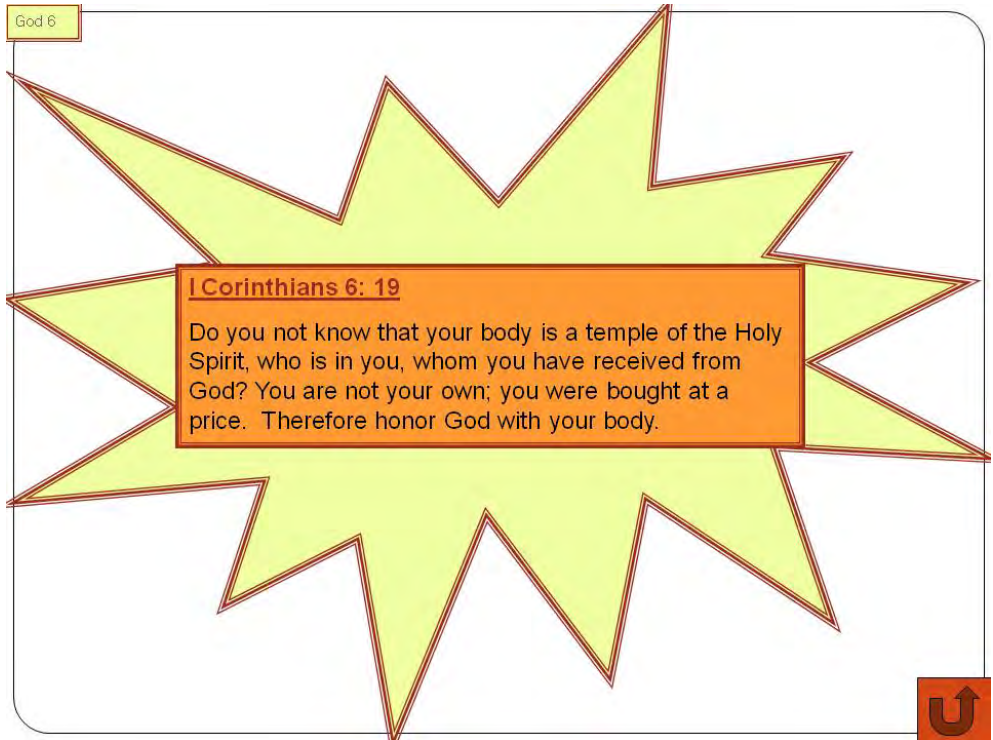
1 Cor 6: 19



Cor. 6:19

- The Christian's Body is the Home of the Holy Spirit
- The Christian Takes the Holy Spirit with him everywhere he goes.
- Some say that the Holy Spirit lives in the Christian's Heart.
- Technically the Holy Spirit lives in Man's Spirit.

The final slide of the section about God is one that illustrates that we Christians are the abode, temple, house, and residence of the Holy Spirit. He takes up his residence in our body at the moment we assert trusting faith that Jesus, the Son, has paid our sin debt and we are saved from the penalty of our sins. He is our constant companion and never leaves us. We take Him with us wherever we go. He is aware of our very thoughts and places Godly thoughts into our minds.



Following the session on God, pray before or after reading the Bible each morning. Address God as Heavenly Father. Worship Him as the Creator, Sovereign, King of kings and Lord of lords, provider of Grace, Love, and Truth (this is prayer of adoration.)