

IDENTITY WITH THE TRINITY

There's Nothing Greater Bible Study Lesson
Week 8

Scripture Lesson

Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,

***baptizing them in the name of the
Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy***

Ghost: ²⁰ *Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matthew 28:16–20, KJV 1900).*

- I. Introduction - We see it so much that it has become commonplace....
 - A. We Identify With Things, People, and Place.....
 1. We Identify with Teams
 - Some are Cowboys fans, while others are cheering for the Texans
 - Some are Spurs fans, while others identify with the Nicks
 - Some identify with the Astros, while others stand with Yankees
 2. We Identify with Brands
 - Some people only wear Polo, while others identify with Nike
 - Some people identify with Dooney while others wear Fendi
 - Some folks identify with Ford while others only drive Chevy
 3. We Identify with Political Parties
 - Some are liberal democrats
 - While others are conservative republicans
 4. We identify Schools and Alma Maters
 - Who you rooting for PVU? That means you're a Panther
 - Do you wear maroon and gray? You're a TSU Tiger all day!
 5. We even Identify with Denominations and Churches
 - Catholics do the Rosary
 - Baptist have Bibles, shout when they feel it and sing hymns
 - Apostolics speak in tongues
 - Methodists are big on litany

-Assemblies of God wear no make up and dance all over the place

B. Narrative:

1. Not long ago I attended the funeral of a lady who was a die-hard Dallas Cowboys fan. To celebrate her commitment to her team she told her family to bury her in a coffin that displayed the star the Cowboys are known for. It was her way of telling the world, even in death, that her team was the men on the grid-iron that wore the blue, the silver and the white: the Dallas Cowboys. In this regard, we readily understand identification in everyday life. We identify with the teams we cheer for, the places that we are from, the schools we have attended, social groups that we are affiliated with and the communities we belong to. That identification shapes how we think, how we speak, and how we behave. What we identify with eventually defines us.

2. In an even greater way, Jesus wants His followers to identify with Him. He wants believers to attach themselves to Him fully, intentionally, and visibly. Baptism is not just about being dipped in a pool of water; it is about getting connected to the one who made the water molecule. When we identify with Christ, our values change, our priorities shift, and our lives begin to reflect the One we belong to. Water may mark the moment, but identification with Jesus marks a life that is hidden in Him forever!

C. Inclusion: The truth about Baptism and our Identity with the Trinity

1. Baptism has long been understood by the Christian church as immersion in water, symbolizing repentance, cleansing, burial, and resurrection. This understanding is both biblical and meaningful. However, Jesus' command in the Great Commission reveals that baptism is not limited to a physical act involving water. In His words, no water is mentioned, which suggests that He is emphasizing something deeper and more redemptive. The Greek word *baptizō* carries the idea not only of immersion, but also of identification. To baptize someone is to bring them into union with, alignment with, and association with another. Jesus teaches that making disciples involves helping people identify with Him. More specifically, to identify with His authority, His mission, His message, His mandates, and His life. Water baptism becomes the outward testimony of this inward identification, but the real core of baptism is who you truly identify with; who you really belong to.

2. Jesus Christ reveals that baptism is not merely about where someone goes to church or what ritual they participate in, but about who they are now connected to. To be baptized in His name is to take on His identity, to live under His Lordship, and to be publicly and privately aligned yourself with Him. With this in mind, Jesus is calling His followers for more than a moment. He is calling them into a new identity rooted in a personal relationship with Him.

D. Analysis of the Passage

1. When Jesus commands His disciples to baptize believers in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, He reveals a profound truth about identity. This declaration points to the triune nature of God: three distinct persons, yet one divine essence. Baptism, therefore, is an invitation to identify fully with the complete nature of God as He has revealed Himself to us.

2. When Jesus commissioned His disciples in Matthew 28:19, He commanded them to baptize believers “in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” This command is far more than a formula to be recited during a baptismal service; it is a profound declaration of the believer’s new identity and relationship with God. The Greek word for “baptize” (*baptizō*) means “to immerse,” “to dip,” or “to identify with,” conveying the idea of being brought into union with another. Likewise, the phrase “in the name” comes from the Greek expression *eis to onoma*, literally meaning “into the name.” The preposition *eis* speaks of entering into or being brought into a new relationship, while *onoma* refers not merely to a title but to one’s authority, character, ownership, and identity. Thus, Jesus teaches that baptism is the public act by which a believer openly identifies with and enters into covenant relationship under the authority of the one true God.

3. Please notice that Jesus did not say, “in the names” of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, but “in the name.” This a singular expression that powerfully affirms the unity of the Godhead while recognizing the three distinct Persons of the Trinity. In baptism, the believer is publicly confessing that he now belongs to the Father, who has adopted him into His family; to the Son, whose death, burial, and resurrection have secured his redemption and forgiveness; and to the Holy Spirit, who now indwells, seals, sanctifies, comforts, teaches, and empowers him to live the Christian life. The Father planned redemption, the Son accomplished redemption, and the Holy Spirit applies redemption, revealing the beautiful harmony of God’s saving work.

4. Baptism, therefore, is not the means by which salvation is obtained, for salvation comes by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone. Rather, baptism

is the outward testimony of the inward transformation that has already taken place through faith. It is the believer's public declaration before God, the Church, and the world that the old life has been buried and a new life has begun. It marks not the completion of the Christian journey but its beginning, for Jesus immediately follows the command to baptize with the command to teach believers "to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Baptism, then, is the public entrance into a lifelong process of discipleship to which we identify with Jesus by faith through grace. It is a visible sign that the believer now belongs to the Father, has been redeemed by the Son, and lives daily under the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit. In baptism, every believer boldly proclaims, "I have a new Father, a new Savior, a new Helper, a new family, a new identity, and a new mission," declaring to heaven and earth that they now belong to the Lord Jesus Christ.

E. Proposition: So then, how do we as believers connect our identity with the Trinity?

II. WE IDENTIFY WITH THE FATHER'S FAMILY

A. Practical Idea-Every believer has exchanged spiritual orphanhood for divine sonship. Through Jesus Christ, we no longer simply know about God, we belong to Him as our heavenly Father.

B. Principle-Jesus begins with "the Father" because salvation begins with God's eternal purpose. Before we ever sought Him, the Father sought us. He planned redemption before the foundation of the world, sent His Son into the world, and adopts every believer into His family. To be baptized into the Father's name means that we publicly identify ourselves as members of His covenant household. Baptism declares that we are no longer strangers or outsiders but beloved children who live under the Father's care, authority, and love.

C. Application-Because God is our Father, we never have to live as though we are abandoned, unwanted, or forgotten. We bear His name, enjoy His provision, trust His discipline, and rest in His promises. Every day we should live with the confidence of children who know they are deeply loved and eternally secure in their Father's hands.

D. Philosophy-Here's the doctrinal truth that resonates from the Great Commission: we have been adopted into God's family. He belongs to us and we belong to Him. Adoption means several things that are designed by the Lord to bless you.

-We Have Access

-We Have Acceptance

-We Have Advocacy

E. Biblical Illustration-The story of the Parable of the Prodigal Son beautifully illustrates this truth. The younger son returned expecting to be treated as a servant, but his father restored him as a son. Before the son could earn anything, the father embraced him, clothed him, and celebrated his return. That is exactly what our heavenly Father has done for every believer through Christ.

In Ephesians 1:3-6 The Apostle Paul lays out the work of the Father as it relates to those who believe. Here is what it says.....

Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: ⁴ According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: ⁵ Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved (Ephesians 1:3–6, KJV 1900)

F. Practical Illustration-Imagine a child who has spent years in foster care without a permanent home. One day a loving family legally adopts the child, gives him their last name, welcomes him into their home, and says, "Everything we have is now yours because you are ours." The child no longer wonders where he belongs because his identity has changed forever. In an even greater way, salvation places every believer into God's eternal family.

III. IDENTIFY WITH THE SON'S SACRIFICE

A. Practical Idea-Our greatest identity is not found in what we have done but in what Jesus Christ has already done for us.

B. Principle-Jesus intentionally places Himself alongside the Father and the Holy Spirit, revealing His full equality within the Godhead. To be baptized into the Son's name is to publicly identify with His death, burial, and resurrection. The believer declares that Christ's cross has become his cross, Christ's victory has become his victory, and Christ's righteousness has become his righteousness. Baptism symbolizes the burial of the old life and the resurrection of the new life in Christ.

C. Application-Every believer should daily live from the finished work of Christ rather than from guilt, shame, fear, or personal performance. We do not fight for victory; we fight from the victory Christ has already secured. Our confidence rests in His grace rather than our achievements. With this in mind, we serve as believers not so that we can be saved, but because we are saved! Here's what true servant believers say from their souls concerning the altruistic service they give to the Lord.....

1. I serve with my life because I owe Him everything.
2. I serve with my hands because it's the least I can do after He stretched out His hands for me.
3. I serve with my feet because they pierced His feet so I could walk in newness of life.
4. I serve with my money because every dollar I possess first came from Him.
5. I serve with my time because every day I live is a gift from His hand.
6. I serve with my voice because He gave me a testimony worth telling.
7. I serve with my heart because He first loved me when I was unlovable.
8. I serve with my mind because He transformed my thinking through His truth.
9. I serve with my strength because every ounce of strength I have comes from His power.
10. I serve with my gifts because He entrusted them to me for His glory, not my own.
11. I serve with my worship because He alone is worthy of all honor, glory, and praise.
12. I serve with my obedience because His commands always lead to abundant life.
13. I serve with my compassion because He showed mercy when I deserved judgment.
14. I serve with my forgiveness because He forgave a debt I could never repay.
15. I serve with my generosity because He gave His only begotten Son for me.

16. I serve with my witness because someone once shared the gospel with me.
17. I serve with humility because the King of kings became a servant for my salvation.
18. I serve with perseverance because He never gave up on me.
19. I serve with joy because serving Christ is a privilege, not a burden.
20. I serve with great expectation because the One I serve has promised, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

D. Philosophy-Christian service is not the means by which believers earn salvation; it is the grateful response of those who have already been saved by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ. When a believer is baptized in the name of the Son, he publicly identifies with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This union with Christ signifies that the old life of self-centered living has been crucified, buried, and replaced by a new life devoted to the glory of God. Therefore, service is not merely something Christians do, it is the natural expression of who Christians have become in Christ.

Theologically, every believer is united with Christ by faith. Because we are "in Christ," His life becomes the pattern for our lives. Jesus declared, "**For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many**" (Gospel of Mark 10:45, KJV). The disciple, therefore, does not simply admire the Servant King; he follows the Servant King. Baptism into the Son's name is a public declaration that we have died to living for ourselves and have risen to live for Christ and for the good of others. Our service becomes an act of worship, our labor becomes an expression of love, and our sacrifice becomes a testimony that Christ truly lives within us.

Christian service is rooted in gratitude rather than guilt, love rather than legalism, and devotion rather than duty. We do not serve because we are trying to gain God's acceptance; we serve because we have already been accepted in His beloved Son. Every act of obedience, every ministry rendered, every sacrifice made, and every soul reached is an offering of thanksgiving to the One who first loved us and gave Himself for us. The cross is both the foundation of our salvation and the motivation for our service. Because Christ gave His all for us, we joyfully offer our all to Him.

E. Biblical Illustration-Saul of Tarsus persecuted the Church until he encountered the risen Christ on the road to Damascus. After that encounter, the man who once opposed Jesus became His devoted servant. Paul's identity was no longer rooted in his past but in his relationship with Christ.

F. Practical Illustration-A judge grants a full pardon to a prisoner who deserved punishment. The prison doors open, the record is cleared, and the former prisoner walks away as a free citizen. Yet if he continues living as though he were still imprisoned, he has failed to embrace his new reality. Christ has not merely opened our prison door, He has given us a completely new identity.

IV. IDENTIFY WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT'S POWER

A. Practical Idea-God never calls His people to accomplish His mission by their own strength. He gives them His own presence and power.

B. Principle-The Holy Spirit is included equally with the Father and the Son because He is fully God. Baptism into the Holy Spirit's name signifies that believers now live under His continual influence and leadership. The Spirit indwells every believer, sanctifies the believer's character, equips believers with spiritual gifts, and empowers them to fulfill Christ's mission. The Great Commission cannot be accomplished by human ability but only through the enabling presence of the Holy Spirit.

C. Application-Every day we must surrender ourselves to the Spirit's direction rather than depending upon our own wisdom, talent, or strength. The Christian life is not self-improvement; it is Spirit-empowerment. As we yield to Him, He produces Christlike character and equips us to witness boldly in a world that desperately needs the gospel.

In short, the Holy Ghost is our internal download that gives us our strength each and everyday!

1. **The Holy Spirit convicts me when I wander from God's will.**
He lovingly points me back to righteousness.
2. **The Holy Spirit converts me by bringing me to faith in Jesus Christ.**
No one comes to Christ apart from His drawing power.
3. **The Holy Spirit regenerates me into a new creation.**
He gives spiritual life where there was once spiritual death.

4. **The Holy Spirit indwells me permanently.**
God no longer lives only above me—He now lives within me.
5. **The Holy Spirit seals me until the day of redemption.**
He is God's guarantee that I belong to Him forever.
6. **The Holy Spirit adopts me into God's family.**
He teaches my heart to cry, "Abba, Father."
7. **The Holy Spirit assures me of my salvation.**
He bears witness with my spirit that I am a child of God.
8. **The Holy Spirit sanctifies my character.**
Day by day He makes me look more like Jesus Christ.
9. **The Holy Spirit renews my mind through God's Word.**
He changes the way I think so I can change the way I live.
10. **The Holy Spirit teaches me the truth of Scripture.**
The Bible becomes alive because its Author lives within me.
11. **The Holy Spirit guides my decisions.**
He directs my steps when I submit my ways to Him.
12. **The Holy Spirit empowers my witness.**
He gives ordinary believers extraordinary boldness to proclaim Christ.
13. **The Holy Spirit equips me with spiritual gifts.**
Every believer has been gifted to strengthen Christ's Church.
14. **The Holy Spirit produces spiritual fruit in my life.**
Love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance become visible evidence of His presence.
15. **The Holy Spirit strengthens me in seasons of weakness.**
When my strength ends, His power begins.
16. **The Holy Spirit comforts me in the midst of suffering.**
He becomes my divine Comforter when life becomes unbearable.
17. **The Holy Spirit intercedes for me when I cannot pray.**
He takes the groanings of my heart to the throne of God.
18. **The Holy Spirit gives me victory over the power of sin.**
He enables me to overcome what I could never conquer alone.
19. **The Holy Spirit unifies me with the Body of Christ.**
He binds believers together into one family for one mission.
20. **The Holy Spirit prepares me for eternity.**
Every day He is shaping me for the day I stand before Jesus Christ.

D. Philosophy-At the moment of belief in Jesus Christ believers are filled and sealed with the Holy Spirit. The seal is once and for all. However, the filling of the Holy Spirit happens over and over again.

E. Biblical Illustration-

1. Ephesians 1:13-14

In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:13–14, KJV 1900)

2. Acts 4:31 (KJV)

And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

This is significant because these same believers had already received the Holy Spirit in Acts chapter 2 at Pentecost. Yet in Acts 4 they are **filled again** for boldness in ministry. This demonstrates that believers may experience repeated fillings of the Spirit for empowerment and service.

3. Acts 2:4 (KJV)

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

This is the initial filling on the Day of Pentecost.

4. Acts 13:9 (KJV)

Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him.

Here Paul the Apostle is filled with the Holy Spirit for a specific moment of ministry and confrontation.

5. Acts 13:52 (KJV)

And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.

Again, believers are described as being filled while carrying out their ministry.

6. Ephesians 5:18 (KJV)

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.

F. Practical Illustration-While on the road in revival I often lodge at different hotels. With this in mind, I have stayed at the Four Seasons Hotel, the Four Seasonings Hotel, and the Motel 6 in San Francisco. I have lodged just about everywhere. Not long ago while in Buffalo, New York doing a city wide crusade I was the guest of the Salvatore's Grand Hotel and Steakhouse. It was nice! When I arrived in my room it was a suite fully furnished with a study, a kitchen table, a sitting area and a jacuzzi tub. I said to myself, "Well look at God!" I needed some light in the room and hit the switch and nothing happened. I noticed a gorgeous lamp on the night stand. It was made of Waterford Chrystal and it was stunning. However, when I turned it on nothing happened. I thought it was the bulb so I called for hotel operations and within minutes a maintenance man was there. He reached down and plugged the lamp up. I felt horrible. He left and I tipped him to say thanks.

I sat for a moment and the Lord made me see that we are just like that lamp in many ways. We have been handcrafted by the finest. But if we do not stay connected to the source we have no light, no strength, no power and no purpose. In short, without the Holy Ghost we have nothing!

V. Conclusion and Celebration

A. Here's the bottom line for this study.....MY IDENTITY IS WITH THE TRINITY

1.

I identify with the Father because He adopted me into His family.

Romans 8:15

I identify with the Son because He redeemed me by His blood.

Ephesians 1:7

I identify with the Holy Spirit because He now lives within me.

1 Corinthians 6:19

2.

I identify with the Father because He gives me a new family.

Ephesians 2:19

I identify with the Son because He gives me a new life.

2 Corinthians 5:17

I identify with the Holy Spirit because He gives me new power.

Acts 1:8

3.

I identify with the Father because He lovingly provides for me.

Philippians 4:19

I identify with the Son because He faithfully intercedes for me.

Hebrews 7:25

I identify with the Holy Spirit because He continually guides me.

Romans 8:14

4.

I identify with the Father because He disciplines me as His child.

Hebrews 12:6

I identify with the Son because He is my perfect example.

1 Peter 2:21

I identify with the Holy Spirit because He teaches me God's truth.

John 14:26

5.

I identify with the Father because His love never fails me.

1 John 3:1

I identify with the Son because His grace is always sufficient for me.

2 Corinthians 12:9

I identify with the Holy Spirit because He comforts me in every trial.

John 14:16

6.

I identify with the Father because He hears my prayers.

Matthew 6:9

I identify with the Son because He opened my access to God.

Hebrews 10:19–22

I identify with the Holy Spirit because He helps me pray when words fail me.

Romans 8:26

7.

I identify with the Father because He planned my salvation.

Ephesians 1:4–5

I identify with the Son because He purchased my salvation.

1 Peter 1:18–19

I identify with the Holy Spirit because He applies that salvation to my life.

Titus 3:5

8.

I identify with the Father because I trust His will.

Matthew 6:10

I identify with the Son because I follow His footsteps.

Luke 9:23

I identify with the Holy Spirit because I walk in His power.

Galatians 5:16

9.

I identify with the Father because I bear His name.

1 John 3:1

I identify with the Son because I bear His cross.

Luke 14:27

I identify with the Holy Spirit because I bear His fruit.

Galatians 5:22–23

10.

I identify with the Father because I am His child.

Romans 8:16

I identify with the Son because I am His disciple.

John 8:31

I identify with the Holy Spirit because I am His temple.

1 Corinthians 6:19

HERE'S THE SHOUT.....

The Father adopted me.

The Son redeemed me.

The Holy Spirit indwells me.

The Father planned my salvation.

The Son purchased my salvation.

The Holy Spirit empowers my sanctification.

The Father claimed me.

The Son cleansed me.

The Holy Spirit changed me.

The Father loved me.

The Son saved me.

The Holy Spirit leads me.

And because I have been baptized into one Name, I will live every day for the glory of the Father, through the grace of the Son, and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- B. And Through the Trinity comes out Victory
 1. Here's what the Bible says.....

1. 1 Corinthians 15:57

“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

2. 1 John 5:4

“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”

3. Romans 8:37

“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”

4. 2 Corinthians 2:14

“Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.”

5. Romans 8:31

“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?”

6. Psalm 60:12

“Through God we shall do valiantly: for he it is that shall tread down our enemies.”

7. Deuteronomy 20:4

“For the LORD your God is he that goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you.”

8. Joshua 1:9

“Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”

9. Isaiah 54:17

“No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.”

10. Hebrews 13:5–6

“Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.”