

# The West End Herald

Second Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC



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**February 23, 2025**

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## Should We Only Pray to the Father in the Name of Jesus?

by Nicholas Batzig

**PART 1**

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As a young Christian, I would often go to a weekly prayer meeting at the local church I attended. It was there that I first noticed how many people began their prayers by addressing God as “Lord Jesus” or “Jesus” or “Christ,” rather than by addressing him as “Our Father” or “Our God.” I wasn’t sure whether or not it was right for us to pray directly to the Son and Spirit or whether we should specifically address the Father.

Occasionally, someone with whom I was praying would address God with the Trinitarian formula, “Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.” For whatever reason, I was more comfortable with that sort of address than I was with the singular address to the Son or Spirit. But was I right to be uncomfortable when prayer was addressed in this way?

### ■ THE SON IS GOD IN EVERY WAY THAT GOD IS GOD.

I was fully convinced from the Scriptures that the Son is God in every way that God is God. After all, the apostle Paul explicitly tells us that Christ has eternally been in “the form of God” (Phil. 2:6). B.B. Warfield explained the significance of that phrase when he wrote:

‘The form of God’ is the sum of the characteristics which make the being we call ‘God,’ specifically God, rather than some other being—an angel, say, or a man. When Our Lord is said to be in ‘the form of God,’ therefore, He is declared, in the most express manner possible, to be all that God is, to possess the whole fulness of attributes which make God God. (B.B. Warfield, *The Person of Christ*).

### ■ THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE SAME IN SUBSTANCE, EQUAL IN POWER AND GLORY, WITH THE FATHER AND THE SON.

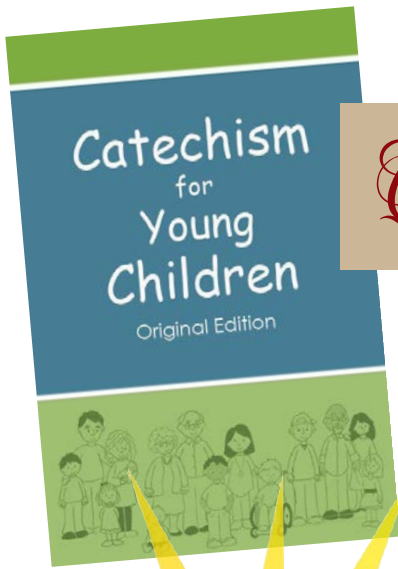
I was also fully convinced from the Scriptures that the Holy Spirit is a personal being rather than an impersonal force—he is the same in substance, equal in power and glory, with the Father and the Son. The writer of Hebrews appealed to the Spirit’s personal and divine authorship of Psalm 95 when he wrote, “Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: ‘Today, if you hear his voice...’” (Heb. 3:7; emphasis added). The

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# Mission Trip

A team of four men, Joel Barnett, Brendon Branigin, Hugh Player, and David Wright, traveled to Honduras from January 31 to February 5. The team worshiped with the congregation, met with our missionary partner and his team, visited two local mercy ministries, and discussed future opportunities for partnership in ministry through summer mission trips. ♦






## Question 119:

What do we pray for in the fifth petition?

## Answer:

That God would pardon our sins for Christ's sake, and enable us to forgive those who have injured us.



One of the hardest things for people to do is to forgive those who have hurt them or who have wronged them in some way. God requires us to forgive each other. He gives the Holy Spirit to His children. The Holy Spirit makes it possible for us to forgive others. It is an amazing thing when sinful human beings can forgive each other! A holy God can forgive our sins because of the sacrifice for sin that Christ Jesus made in our place. Surely we can forgive others because of the great forgiveness that God has shown to us. ♦

# Forgive

from *Training Hearts, Teaching Minds*, Starr Meade





at the corner of

*River & Rhett*

# **Sports Moment**

February 12, 2025



**Kevin Mobley, Jason Sauer (coaches), and Sean McGaughran (Sports & Fellowship Committee Chair) presented certificates to the Second Presbyterian Church boys basketball team.**



- 23 Mark Robertson, Bill VanDoodewaard
- 24 Andi Scoggins
- 25 Caleb Bailey, Alan Moss, Gibson Preston,  
Sandra Saragoni, Jack Tingle
- 26 Oskar Siemen
- 27 Ian Spell, Jude Windt
- 28 Kimberley Collins
- 1 Maggie Mae Billingsley, Katy Jones

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# This Week

## MORNING SERMON

*Rev. William VanDoodewaard*

BE STRONG AND WORK

Haggai 1:1–2:9

## EVENING SERMON

*Mr. J. Vitor Cortial*

THE SONG OF SALVATION

Psalms 114:1–8

## Sunday, February 23

- 8:30 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP
- 9:55 A.M. Children's Chapel (*Sanctuary*)
- 10:00 A.M. Sunday School
- 10:00 A.M. Membership Class (*Room C-209*)
- 11:00 A.M. MORNING WORSHIP
- 5:30 P.M. Season of Prayer (*Chapel*)
- 6:00 P.M. EVENING WORSHIP
- 7:30 P.M. Evangelism Committee (*Fellowship Hall*)

## Monday, February 24

- 6:30 A.M. Men's Bible Study (*Fellowship Hall*)
- 9:30 A.M. Rafiki Bible Study (*Conference Room*)

## Tuesday, February 25

- 7:00 P.M. Basketball Fellowship (*Gym*)

## Wednesday, February 26

- 5:30 P.M. Christian Education Committee (*Conference Room*)
- 5:30 P.M. FAMILY NIGHT FELLOWSHIP SUPPER (*Gym*)
- 6:15 P.M. Hope Choir (K4–K5); Covenant Choir (Grades 1–6); Youth Choir (Grades 7–12)
- 6:45 P.M. Missions Moment (*Gym*)
- 7:00 P.M. CAT Kids (Ages 3–Grade 4); Covenant Kids (Grades 5–8)
- 7:00 P.M. Jr. & Sr. High Bible Studies
- 7:00 P.M. Adult Prayer Meeting & Bible Study (*Gym*)
- 7:30 P.M. Chancel Choir

## Thursday, February 27

- 4:00 P.M. Media Committee (*Zoom*)

## Friday, February 28

- 9:15 A.M. Raising Up Mothers (*Fellowship Hall*)
- 12:00 P.M. Men's Luncheon and Bible Study (*Gym*)
- 1:30 P.M. Mission to Main

# Upcoming Events

[spcgreenville.org/calendar](http://spcgreenville.org/calendar)

<b>March 7-8</b>	WIC Ladies Conference
<b>March 9</b>	Daylight Saving Time Begins
<b>March 14</b>	Friday Night Alive
<b>March 15</b>	Masculine Mandate
<b>March 16</b>	Communion in the Morning Services

*continued from page 2*

Spirit actively speaks through the Scriptures that he himself inspired through the prophets. When Simon Peter brought the indictment against Ananias and Sapphira for their lying to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:1–11), he said, “You have not lied to man, but to God.”

Additionally, when the apostle Paul gave the elders in Ephesus his parting admonition, he charged them in the following manner:

*Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, over which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood. (Acts 20:28)*

The Holy Spirit is a personal and active member of the Godhead, appointing men to be shepherds of the flock of God.

## **CAN WE ADDRESS GOD GENERALLY IN PRAYER? SHOULD WE ONLY PRAY TO THE FATHER IN THE NAME OF JESUS?**

Still, for right or wrong, there was something about hearing others address the second or third members of the Godhead that left me unconformable. In turn, I set out to study this issue in order to see whether or not my suspicions were right. What I needed then was to be settled about the following questions: Can we address God generally in prayer? Should we *only* pray to the Father in the name of Jesus? Is it right to pray directly to Jesus? Is it right to pray directly to the Holy Spirit?

Serious-minded Christians have, no doubt, considered these and related questions when they have approached the subject of prayer.



# Announcements

## **Basketball Night**

The last Tuesday night of every month, Sr. High youth and men are invited for basketball in the Church Gym from 7:00 to 8:30 P.M. See Sean McGaughran for more information.

## **Clemson R.U.F. (Reformed University Fellowship) Reunion**

**MARCH 28–30, 2025 40 Years Reunion Information & Registration**

Register at the link below for additional details. Registration ends March 21.

<https://gather.ruf.org/event/clemson-ruf-40-year-reunion/>

Email any questions to Daniel Hightower, Campus Minister:

[Daniel.hightower@ruf.org](mailto:Daniel.hightower@ruf.org)

## **Bridal Shower for Charlotte Therrell on February 15**



The fact of the matter is that Scripture treats this subject both with more care and less specificity than one might suppose. A brief survey of pertinent passages will prove to be extremely beneficial as we seek to draw conclusions about the person(s) of the Godhead to whom we should address our prayers.

## THE PATRIARCHS

In the Old Testament era (prior to the full unfolding of the mystery of God's triunity), believers addressed God in prayer, employing the many names by which he revealed himself to them in redemptive history. The names that God revealed to his people carried with them significance in relation to either his attributes or acts. Here are a few of God's names that we find believers using when addressing God or speaking about Him in the Old Testament:

El Shaddai (Lord God Almighty; first occurrence in Genesis 17:1)

El Elyon (The Most High God; first occurrence in Genesis 14:18)

Adonai (Lord, Master; first occurrence in Genesis 15:2)

Yahweh (the Covenant Lord, Jehovah; first occurrence in Genesis 2:4)

Jehovah Nissi (The Covenant Lord My Banner; occurs once in Exodus 17:15)

Jehovah-Raah (The Covenant Lord My Shepherd; occurs once in Psalm 23:1)

Jehovah Rapha (The Covenant Lord That Heals; occurs once in Exodus 15:26)

Jehovah Shammah (The Covenant Lord Is There; occurs once in Ezekiel 48:35)

El Olam (The Everlasting God; first occurrence in Genesis 21:33)

Elohim (the Creator God; first occurrence in Genesis 1:1)

Qanna (Jealous; first occurrence in Exodus 20:5)

Jehovah Jireh (The Covenant Lord Will Provide)

Jehovah Shalom (The Covenant Lord Is Peace; occurs once in Judges 6:24)

Jehovah Sabaoth (The Covenant Lord of Hosts; occurs 1 Samuel 1:3)

## THE WISDOM LITERATURE

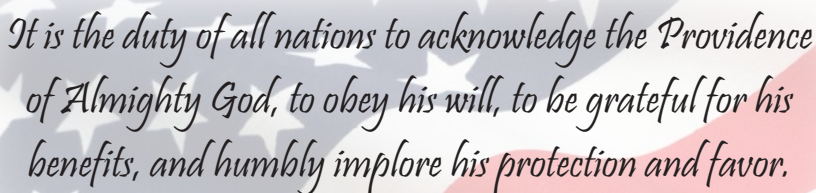
In the Psalms, David often addressed God in a variety of ways. Sometimes he made his prayer to *Elohim* (i.e., the Creator God). At other times he appealed to *Yahweh* (i.e., Jehovah—the Covenant Lord), especially when he cried out for salvation or deliverance. Of course, David also addressed God with the name *Adonai* (i.e., Lord, Master). The author of Hebrews highlighted the fact

that the dialogue between *Yahweh* and *Adonai* (“the Lord said to my Lord”) in Psalm 110:1 revealed the mystery of the Trinity. It does so by showcasing the communion that exists between the first two persons in the Godhead (Matt. 22:41–46; Heb. 1:13). We learn from that passage that the members of the Godhead exist in perfect unity, yet maintain their distinction in personal subsistence. This varied use of names teaches us that, even in the old covenant economy, the different members of the Godhead can be addressed in prayer.

## THE PROPHETS

Before and during Israel’s exile in Babylon, the prophets addressed God in a variety of ways that are instructive to us regarding our prayer life. Many times, the prophets addressed God in prayer as the Covenant Lord (i.e., *Yahweh*) and sometimes as the Mighty One or the Creator (i.e., *Elohim*). One of the most significant prophetic prayers is found in the prophecy of Ezekiel. When the Lord called Ezekiel out to the valley of dry bones (a symbol of the spiritual deadness of the covenant people), he commanded Ezekiel to “prophesy to the breath...” (Ezek. 37:9). There the Lord was commanding Ezekiel to pray to the Spirit. Apart from being a proof text for the deity of the Holy Spirit, this passage teaches us that it is right for us to pray directly to the Holy Spirit for his promised work of regeneration.

Look for the conclusion of this article in the next issue of *The West End Herald*.



*It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the Providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly implore his protection and favor.*

George Washington