

The Only Power to Resist Sin

Keep the Commandments of God
and the Faith of The Third Person

	occurrences	original
Three great powers of heaven	29	15
Three highest powers	12	6
Third person of the Godhead	21	4
Threefold name	7	1
Three living persons of the heavenly trio	5	1
Three great worthies	4	1
Three holiest beings	2	1
Three holy dignitaries of heaven	1	1

These likenings are all imperfect. They rather hide than illustrate the tri-personality of the one God, for they are not persons but things, poor and

Ellen White wrote:

“All these spiritualistic representations are simply nothingness. They are imperfect, untrue. .. God can not be compared with the things His hands have made. .. The Father can not be described by the things of earth.” *Bible Training School*, March 1, 1906.

Third person of the Godhead	4
Second person of the Godhead	0
First person of the Godhead	0
God the Son	0
God the Holy Spirit	0
Persons in the Godhead	0*
Persons of the Godhead	0
Triune God	0
Trinity	0*

*Section titles supplied by editors

Before He left them, Christ gave His followers a positive promise that after His ascension He would send them the Holy Spirit. "Go ye therefore," He said, "and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father [a personal God] and of the Son [a personal Saviour], and of the Holy Ghost [sent from heaven to represent Christ]: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" [Matthew 28:19, 20]. {12MR 260.2}

Three Powers are clearly identified in Scripture

1. “The **power** of the **Most High**” Luke 1:35
“The **power** of **God**” Romans 1:16
2. “**Christ** the **power** and wisdom of God” 1Cor 1:24
“The **power** of our Lord **Jesus Christ**” 1Cor 5:4
3. “The **power** of the **Holy Spirit**” Romans 15:13
“The **power** of the **Spirit of God**” verse 19

Three Persons

The work is laid out before every soul that has acknowledged his faith in Jesus Christ by baptism, and has become a receiver of the pledge from **the three persons**—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (MS 57, 1900). {6BC 1074.9}

Two Personages are clearly identified in Scripture

John 17:3

The only true God

And Jesus Christ

Divinity

Humanity

Spirit

Spirit

Flesh

Gal 4:4

“The Spirit is all divine in its agency and demonstration.” Letter 77, 1895 Ev 299

Adventist Home p. 350

“Do not forget that you have **a Comforter**, the Holy Spirit, which Christ has appointed. You are never alone. If you will listen to the voice that now speaks to you, if you will respond without delay to the knocking at the door of your heart, "**Come in, Lord Jesus**, that I may sup with Thee, and Thee with me," the heavenly Guest will enter. When **this element**, which is **all divine**, abides with you, there is peace and rest.”

Desire of Ages p. 669

“The Holy Spirit is Christ's representative, but **divested of the personality of humanity**, and independent thereof. Cumbered with humanity, Christ could not be in every place personally.”

All divine in personality

14 MR p. 23

“Cumbered with humanity, **Christ** could not be in every place personally; therefore it was altogether for their advantage that **He** should leave them, go to **His** father, and send the **Holy Spirit** to be **His** successor on earth. The **Holy Spirit** is **Himself** divested of the personality of humanity and independent thereof.

He would represent **Himself** as present in all places by **His** Holy Spirit, as the Omnipresent.”

Feb 18, 1895

14 MR p. 23

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di-vest-ed tr. v.

1. to strip, as of clothes
2. to deprive, as of rights or property;
dispossess; to be free of; rid.
3. to dispose of

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by His Holy Spirit, as the Omnipresent.

Third person of the Godhead

“**Sin could be resisted and overcome only** through the mighty agency of the **Third Person of the Godhead**, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of **divine power.**” DA p. 671

“**Christ has given His Spirit** as a *divine power* to **overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil**, and to impress **His own character** upon His church.”

Desire of Ages p. 671

Third person of the Godhead

“**Sin could be resisted and overcome only** through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of **divine power.**” DA p. 671

“There is **but one power** that can break the hold of evil from the hearts of men, and that is **the power of God in Jesus Christ.**” *Testimonies* vol. 8 p. 291 1903

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“**Only** through the blood of the Crucified One is there cleansing from sin. **His grace alone** can enable us to **resist and subdue** the tendencies of our fallen nature.”

Testimonies vol. 8 p. 291 1903

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“...greater works than these shall he do; **because I go unto My Father.**” (John 14:12). He did not refer merely to miracle working, but to all that would take place under **the agency of the Holy Spirit.** The wonderful teaching of the apostles, their words of courage and trust, would assure all that it was not **in their own power** that they worked, but in **the power of Christ.**” AA p. 22

Third person of the Godhead

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“By **an agency** as unseen as the wind, **Christ** is constantly working upon the heart.”
Desire of Ages p. 172

Third person of the Godhead

“The prince of the power of evil can **only** be held in check by **the power of God in** the third person of **the Godhead**, the Holy Spirit.”

Special Testimonies, Series A, No. 10, p. 37. (1897); Ev 617

The prince of this world came
and had nothing in Jesus (John 14:30) because

“The Father who **dwelleth in me**,
He doeth the works” John 14:10

Third person of the Godhead

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Special Testimonies, Series A, No. 10, p. 37. (1897); Ev 617

“**God anointed Jesus** of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with **power**: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for **God was with him**” Acts 10:38

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Special Testimonies, Series A, No. 10, p. 37. (1897); Ev 617

“The **only defense against evil** is the indwelling of **Christ in the heart** through faith in His righteousness.” *Desire of Ages* p. 324

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“Christ is the source of every right impulse. He is **the only one that can** implant in the heart **enmity against sin.**” *Steps to Christ* p. 26 1893

“The Christian’s life is not a modification or improvement of the old, but a **transformation of nature**. There is a death to self and sin, and a new life altogether. This change can be brought about **only by** the effectual working of **the Holy Spirit.**” DA p. 172

“that **transformation of character** which can be wrought **only** by the **Spirit of God.**” DA p. 605

“The **power of Christ alone** can work the **transformation** in heart and mind” RH March 19, 1908

“We are to **commune with God** through the **agency of the Holy Spirit**” ST Jan 16, 1893

“through **Christ alone** will the Lord hold communication with man.” RH Feb 24, 1874

“**The Spirit** will bear witness with your spirit that you are indeed children of God. You may **commune with Christ**, who will be within you a hope of glory.”

RH Nov 9, 1886

“Only by the word could He resist temptation.”

Desire of Ages p. 123

“Thy word have I hid in mine heart,
that I might not sin against Thee.” Psalm 119:11

**“Without Me you cannot overcome one sin,
or resist one temptation.”** *Desire of Ages* p. 676

“Only Christ can cleanse the soul temple” p. 161

“There is no **comforter** like Christ, so tender and so true. He is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. **His Spirit** speaks to the heart.”

“The influence of the **Holy Spirit is the life of Christ** in the soul.”

Review and Herald Oct 26, 1897

His Spirit = the life of Christ

“It is our privilege to **have Jesus with us at all times and in all places**. In order to have this mighty Helper by our side, we must empty the soul of everything that would corrupt or tarnish it. This is our work; it is to keep the eye fixed upon the glory of God, and be constantly seeking to yoke up with Christ as our companion and friend” *Review and Herald* July 12, 1887

“They have a teachable spirit; they feel their dependence upon God, and **the Holy Spirit** is with them to help their infirmities. **It** will quicken and energize the mind, direct their thoughts, and aid in the presentation of truth.” *Christian Education* p. 141 1893

“**Christ alone** can direct the thoughts aright. **He alone** can give us noble aspirations, and fashion our characters after the divine similitude.”

Counsels to Parents, Teachers and Students p. 323 1913

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“By partaking of the **Spirit of God**, conforming to the law of God, man becomes a partaker of the **divine nature**. Christ brings His disciples into a living union **with Himself and with the Father**.

The **Spirit of God** = the **divine nature**

The Spirit of Christ and Spirit of the Father

“We will come and make our abode with him”

to the world of the majesty and **virtue of Christ**, and of **His power to take away sin.**” *Our Father Cares* p. 36,

“By partaking of the **Spirit of God**, conforming to the law of God, man becomes a partaker of the **divine nature**. **Christ**

Christ’s power can take away sin

only he won the victory over sin. “For in that he himself has suffered being tempted, he is able to help them that are tempted” (Heb 2:18).

Our Father Cares p. 36,

Sons and Daughters of God p. 286

John 14:16

I will pray **the Father**

And **He** shall give you another **Comforter**

That **He** may abide with you for ever

The Father gives another Comforter

There are two Comforters

“If a man love me...my Father will love him,

and **we** will come unto him

and make **our** abode with him” verse 23

John 15:26

When the Comforter is come
whom I will send unto you

from the Father

Which proceeds **from the Father**

The Father gives another Comforter

Jesus sends the Comforter

The Comforter comes from the Father

The Comforter proceeds from the Father

Third Person of the Godhead

“He determined to give **His representative**, the **third person of the Godhead**. This gift could not be excelled. He would give all gifts in one, and therefore **the divine Spirit**, that converting, enlightening, and **sanctifying power**, would be His donation.”

Signs of the Times Dec 1, 1898

Next two sentences... 35

“Standing near His trial, condemnation, and crucifixion, Christ said: "I tell you the truth: It is expedient for you that I go away; for **if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you;** but if I depart, I will send **Him** unto you. And when **He** is come, **He** will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." "I will not leave you comfortless: **I will come to you.**”

Signs of the Times Dec 1, 1898

“The impartation of **the Spirit**
is the impartation of **the life of Christ.**”

The Desire of Ages, p. 805

“Christ gives them the **breath of His own spirit,**
the **life of His own life.** The Holy Spirit puts forth
its highest energies to work in heart and mind.”

Desire of Ages, p. 827. 1898

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Review and Herald, January 5, 1911

“The plant, the child, grows by receiving from its surroundings that which ministers to its life —air, sunshine, and food. What these gifts of nature are to animal and plant, such is **Christ** to those who trust in Him. He [Christ] is their “everlasting light,” “a sun and shield.” Isaiah 60:19; Psalm 84:11. He [Christ] shall be as “**the dew** unto Israel.” “He [Christ] **shall come down like rain** upon the mown grass.” Hosea 14:5; Psalm 72:6. He [Christ] is **the living water**, “the Bread of God . . . which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.” John 6:33. *Steps to Christ*, pp. 67, 68

“As the plant receives the sunshine, the dew, and the rain, we are to open our hearts to **the Holy Spirit**. The work is to be done “not by might, nor by power, but by **My Spirit**, saith the Lord of hosts.” Zech. 4:6. If we keep our minds stayed upon **Christ, He will come unto us “as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.”** Hosea 6:3.

COL, pp. 66, 67

“that your sins may be blotted out, when the **times of refreshing** shall come from **the presence** of the Lord; And **he shall send Jesus Christ.**”

Acts 3:19,20

Baptism of Jesus

Never before have the angels listened to such a prayer. They are eager to bear to their loved Commander a message of assurance and comfort. But no; **the Father Himself** will answer the petition of His Son. Direct from the throne issue the beams of **His glory**. The heavens are opened, and upon the Saviour's head descends a dovelike form of purest **light**,--**fit emblem of Him**, the meek and lowly One.

Desire of Ages p. 112

Baptism of Jesus

Of the vast throng at the Jordan, few except John discerned the heavenly vision. Yet the solemnity of **the divine Presence** rested upon the assembly. The people stood silently gazing upon Christ. His form was bathed in **the light that ever surrounds the throne of God.**

Desire of Ages p. 112

Baptism of Jesus

“When He had come up out of the water, He bowed upon Jordan's banks and pleaded with the great Eternal for strength to endure the conflict with the fallen foe. The opening of the heavens and the **descent of the excellent glory** attested His divine character. The voice from the Father declared the close relation of Christ to His Infinite Majesty: ‘This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’ ” *RH* Feb 24, 1874

Three powers: **self-originated**, or
by **inheritance**

Baptism of Jesus

and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the **Spirit of God** descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

And lo **a voice** from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son
Matthew 3:16,17

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the **power** of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost
Matthew 28:19

All power is **given** unto me in heaven and earth
Matthew 28:18

Three great powers of heaven

"Go ye therefore," he said, "and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father [a personal God], and of the Son [a personal Prince and Saviour], and of the Holy Ghost [sent from heaven to represent Christ]"

Review & Herald Oct 26, 1897 [brackets in original]

Three great powers of heaven

“They are baptized in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Thus they are united with the **three great powers of heaven.**”

Evangelism p. 307, Letter 129, 1903

The same year she wrote:

“By partaking of **the Spirit of God**, conforming to the law of God, man becomes a **partaker of the divine nature. Christ** brings His disciples into a **living union with Himself and with the Father.** Through the working of the **Holy Spirit** upon the human **mind**, man is made complete **in Christ Jesus.**

“**Unity with Christ** establishes a bond of unity with one another. This unity is the most convincing proof to the world of the majesty and **virtue of Christ**, and of **His power to take away sin.**”

MS 111, 1903

The same year she wrote:

“The Saviour is our Comforter.

This I have proved Him to be.” 8MR p. 49

“As by faith we look to Jesus, our faith pierces the shadow, and we adore God for His wondrous love in giving **Jesus the Comforter.**” 19MR 297

The same year she wrote:

“Let them study the seventeenth of John, and learn how to pray and how to live the prayer of **Christ**. **He is the Comforter**. He will abide in their hearts, making their joy full. His words will be to them as the bread of life...” RH Jan 27, 1903

The same year she wrote:

“Our sanctification is **the work of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit**. It is the fulfilment of the covenant that **God** has made with those who bind themselves up with **Him**, to stand with **Him**, with **His Son**, and with **His Spirit** in holy fellowship. Have you been born again? Have you become a new being in Christ Jesus? Then co-operate with **the three great powers of heaven** who are working in your behalf.”

The Signs of the Times, June 19, 1901.

(MS 11, 1901). 7BC 908

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“Behold the Son of God
bowed in **prayer to His Father!**
Though He is the **Son of God,**
He strengthens His faith by prayer,
and by **communion with heaven**
gathers to **Himself power to resist evil**
and to minister to the needs of men.”

Acts of the Apostles p. 56

“The **three great powers of heaven** pledge themselves to furnish the Christian with all the assistance he requires. **The Spirit changes the heart** of stone to the heart of flesh. And by partaking of the Word of God, Christians obtain an experience that is after the divine similitude. When **Christ abides in the heart** by faith, the Christian is the temple of God.” Ephesians 3:16; 2Cor 6:16

Letter 53 to WW Prescott January 25, 1904,
Signs of the Times Aug 16, 1905; 4MR No. 242 p. 368₅₄

“The Godhead was stirred with pity for the race, and the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit **gave themselves** to the working out of the plan of redemption.”

Counsels on Health, p. 222. 7ABC 442

“The Godhead was stirred with pity for the race...

“Messages bearing Divine credentials have been sent to God’s people; the glory, the majesty, the righteousness of Christ, full of goodness and truth, have been presented; **the fullness of the Godhead in Jesus Christ has been set forth among us** with beauty and loveliness, to charm all whose hearts were not closed to prejudice. We know that God has wrought among us.”

Review and Herald May 27, 1890

Ellen White treats the Spirit of God quite differently than the way she addresses the Son of God. *Signs of the Times*, March 8, 1910:

“The Holy Spirit is a free, working, independent **agency**. The God of heaven uses **His Spirit** as **it** pleases Him; and human minds, human judgment, and human methods can no more set boundaries to **its** working, or prescribe the channel through which **it** shall operate, than they can say to the wind, "I bid you to blow in a certain direction, and to conduct yourself in such and such a manner.”

“Through **His representative**, the Holy Spirit,
God in Christ still ministers to the children of men.”

Australian Union Conference Record June 1, 1900

“The Lord **Jesus acts through** the Holy Spirit,
for **it is his representative**. Through **it** he infuses
spiritual life into the soul...”

Review & Herald, Feb 10, 1903

“the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you [John 14:16, 17].” **This refers to the omnipresence of the Spirit of Christ, called the Comforter.** 14MR p.179 June 11, 1891

“the three powers”

two beings and a free independent agency

used by the Father and Son to be present with us

“Think of Christ’s humiliation...He united **humanity with divinity: a divine spirit** dwelt in a temple of flesh. He united himself with the temple.”

Youth’s Instructor, December 20, 1900

“They [Jews] did not yield themselves as holy temples for the **Divine Spirit.**” DA p. 161

“The **divine Spirit** works through the powers and faculties given to man.” *Acts of the Apostles* p. 482

“the presence and agency of the **divine Spirit** that filled his [Paul’s] soul” AA p. 510

“Only through the **divine Spirit** will the word be living and powerful to renew the soul unto eternal life.” COL p. 64

“**a divine hand** that is leading them--**a divine spirit** impressing their hearts” Letter 56, 1886

“Peter also, writing under the illumination of the **divine Spirit** ... [spoke of] the daystar” “God is light; and in the words, “I am the light of the world,” **Christ** declared His oneness with God,” “He was **the spiritual light**” DA p. 464

“the **Spirit of life** in Christ Jesus” Rom 8:2

We shall learn the value of the human soul when we learn to value the love of God for us. A divine Saviour died for all, that all might find in Him their divine Source. In Christ Jesus we are one, lifted to the same rank, members of the royal family, children of the heavenly King, by the utterance of one name, “Our Father,” through Jesus Christ who loved us and gave His life a ransom for us. This places an equal value upon all. **To the poor and oppressed and downtrodden of earth, Christ says, “If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, even the Spirit of truth, (which is Christ formed within the hope of glory,)** whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not: but ye know him, for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless.”

{Ms24-1898}

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.” **“And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him because we keep his commandments and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.”** “And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. Little children keep yourselves from idols.” The Lord is soon to come. We want that complete and perfect understanding which the Lord alone can give. It is not safe to catch the spirit from another. **We want the Holy Spirit, which is Jesus Christ.** If we commune with God, we shall have strength and grace and efficiency. {Lt66-1894}