



Helping Adventists find their roots thru discernment of truth and error

## Three Living Personalities of the Heavenly trio

**“There are three living persons of the heavenly trio; in the name of these three great powers - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit - those who receive Christ by living faith are baptized.”**

— (Ellen White, Special Testimonies, Series B, No. 7, pp. 62, 63, 1905) — Evangelism p. 615.1

Lets address the thought of the holy spirit being called a person by so many. I think they would die being steadfast to this belief without understanding a larger picture that pertains to the Spirit’s identity. And “a third person” is not laid out in scripture, but in the Spirit of Prophecy. Where did it come from? It actually came from Sunday keepers. One in particular, Herbert Camden Lacey. More on that in a little bit. Another is a Pentecostal writer, William Boardman who Sister White borrowed some thoughts from, but modified to reflect her actual beliefs. His original book was, “The Higher Christian Life”, was written in 1858. It was well known for her to have other author’s books in her library. Boardman had written “three persons” and in Sister White’s mind and hand, she wrote, “three personalities.”

Lets examine the quote, “There are three living persons of the heavenly trio.” As you will see in the attached transcript written by Ellen White, she wrote, “There are the living three personalities of the heavenly trio.” Her concept and thought about what comes up as arguments today over person-hood, is that she viewed it as personalities. She worded it that so it couldn’t be misconstrued into something else. Such as a literal, actual third person. She saw Christ coming to us in the Spirit as a second personality of Himself.

And here it is, typewritten out on the left below, comparing with what got published on the right. And you will see there are additions and changes besides just what was mentioned up above. This should leave you wondering about what you are told vs what is reality.

### ORIGINAL MANUSCRIPT WRITING

the Father is not to be described by the earthly  
The Father is all the fullness of the God head  
invisible to mortal earthly sight

The Son is all the fullness of the God head  
~~revealed~~ manifested, He is the express image of his  
Fathers person  
For God so loved the world that he gave  
his only begotten Son that whosoever  
believeth in him should not perish but have  
everlasting life. Here is the personality of the Father.

The Spirit, the Comforter whom Christ  
promised to send after he ascended to heaven  
~~is Christ~~ is the Spirit in all the fullness  
of the God head making manifest to the ....  
All who receive him and believe in Him.

There are the living three personalities of the heavenly  
trio in which every soul repenting of their  
sins ~~believing~~ receiving Christ by a living  
faith to them who are baptized ~~in the name~~  
~~of Jesus Christ to them~~ In the Name of the  
Father and of the Son and of the Holy  
Ghost there high dignified personalities

### ACTUAL PUBLISHED WRITING - BTS, March 1, 1906

The Father can not be described by the things of earth.  
The Father is all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and is  
invisible to mortal sight.

The Son is all the fullness of the Godhead manifested. The  
word of God declares Him to be “the express image of His  
person.”  
“God so loved the world that He gave  
His only begotten Son, that whosoever  
believeth in Him should not perish, but have  
everlasting life.” Here is shown the personality of the Father.

The Comforter that Christ  
promised to send after He ascended to heaven,  
is the Spirit in all the fullness  
of the Godhead, making manifest the power of divine grace  
to all who receive and believe in Christ as a personal Saviour.

There are three living persons of the heavenly  
trio. In the name of these three powers, - Father, the Son, and  
Holy Ghost, those who receive Christ by living  
faith are baptized, and these powers will cooperate with the  
obedient subjects of heaven in their efforts to live the  
new life of Christ.

Give power to the obedient subjects because they are Gods property to be called the Sons of God, what is the sinner to do, believe in Jesus Christ because they are his property which he hath purchased with his own blood through the ?? and ?? to which he has subjected to redeem from the slavery

What is the sinner to do? - Believe in Christ. He is Christ's property, bought with the blood of the Son of God. Through test and trial the Saviour redeemed human beings from the slavery of sin. What then must we do to be saved from sin? Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as the sin-pardoning Saviour.

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The Son is all the fullness of the God head  
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The Spirit the Comforter whom Christ  
 promised to send after he ascended to heaven  
 is Christ is the Spirit in all the fullness  
 of the God head manifest to the  
 world receive him and believe in him  
 there are <sup>the</sup> living three persons of the Deity  
 in which every soul repenting of their  
 sins believing receiving Christ by a living  
 faith to them also are baptized <sup>in the name</sup>  
 of Jesus Christ to them in the name of the  
 Father and of the Son and of the Holy  
 Spirit these high dignified personalities

x Give power <sup>to the obedient subjects</sup> because they are Gods property  
 to be called the Sons of God, what is the sinner  
 to do, believe in Jesus Christ because they  
 are his property which he hath purchased  
 with his own blood through the test and trial  
 to which he has subjected to redeem from the slavery

If we read and study what and how Sister White referred to three persons or personalities, or three great powers, she identifies the third as the Holy Spirit. But who does she say is the Holy Spirit?

**“The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ.”** - 14MR, p. 84.3

She also calls the Spirit of Christ a person with a distinct personality and hence three living persons or personalities. **“Remember the words of Christ, remember that He is the unseen presence in the person of the Holy Spirit.”** - Daughters of God, p. 185.2, Letter 124, March 7, 1897.

Back in the early 1890's, Herbert Camden Lacey was presenting a theme on the Personality and work of the Holy Ghost. His version of this Personality and the identity of the spirit as “the” or “a” “third person of the godhead” is documented in his letters. This was the last page to a letter on August 30, 1945 written to Leroy Froom. Refer to the letter below.

For those that have a DEATH GRIP on a few quotes from Evangelism, not everything appears to be what you are told from the pulpit or the General Conference. We should want to have a teachable spirit so we are not hardened against truth when presented.

Did you know that Herbert Lacey came out of the Church of England into the SDA church? His mother was the organist in the local ANGELICAN CHURCH (she just loved those trinitarian hymns so much). And after his family was baptized into the SDA church, THEY KEPT ON SUNDAY KEEPING UNTIL SHE DIED a number of years later. This is the kind of stuff hardly anyone knows about. And they want to repeat First person, second person, third person, trio, heavenly, this, that, and they have no idea it came from people like Lacey, and William Warren Prescott and magnified from there by others. None of these labels are found in scripture. And the first and second person labels are not even found in the Spirit of Prophecy. More on Lacey can be found under the header, "The Issues" on this website.

So why do some people repeat this language like a zombie? The devil has taken our church from behind while we are looking out in front of us for the Papacy.

Marian Davis who worked for Sister White caught the virus as she was an attendee of a presentation by Lacey. Per his letter on the next page, you will note that Sister Davis “took copious notes.” And A.G. Daniells who was a General Conference President for 22 plus years, took appreciation to it.

The Desire of Ages would eventually come out and Daniells notes the language used by Lacey from that presentation previously in this letter from Lacey to Leroy Froom. And in it is the expression, “third person of the Godhead.” Additionally, also found is the expression, **“there are three living persons in the heavenly trio.”**

And Lacey notes in the letter that as he taught previously, it was “exactly as I endeavoured to teach 9 years previously.”

So Lacey admits to this teaching and gives us a timeline somewhat of it happening originally 9 years prior to. And at some time later on, the word on the street would be that Lacey was getting credit for his part in writing the Desire of Ages. He was called out for it and had to write letters to remove those thoughts from others years later. This took place in 1936.

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Well now, one thing I noticed vividly; the emphasis placed by all these teachers upon the ministry of the 'Holy Ghost' in our lives as God's servants and missionaries, a ministry as of a real, definite, divine person, always with us, and in us; the Comforter as taught in Jesus Christ in His...

... in his last pascal discourse, and as revealed in the book of Acts, and presented everywhere throughout the Epistles and the Revelation.

On the voyage back to Australia during September 1895, I made that theme, the Personality and Work of the Holy Ghost, a special subject of Bible Study. And I became convinced for myself! So when I was asked to conduct a series of Bible Studies at the 9:00 o'clock hour in a convention in Cooranbong in 1896, I presented that theme very much to the interest (I well remember!) of Sr Marian Davis, who took copious notes, and also to that of Elder A.G. Daniells, who was frequently present, and expressed conservative appreciation.

When the "Desire of Ages" came out in 1898, Brother Daniells himself called my attention to the expression found on page 671, where the Spirit is spoken of as 'the third person of the Godhead' (I had not at that time seen a printed copy) and made some kindly comments. Later, in 'Testimonies for the Church, Series B, No 7' on page 65 (Nov 1905) I found this paragraph:-

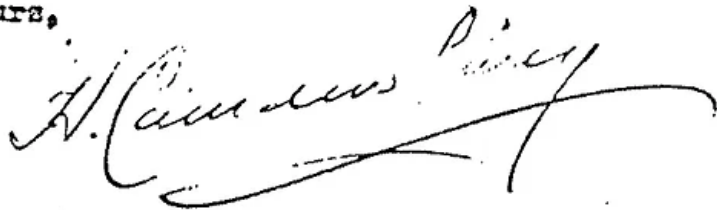
"The Comforter that Christ promised to send after He ascended to heaven, is the Spirit in all the fulness of the Godhead, making manifest the power of divine grace to all who believe in Christ as a personal Saviour. **THERE ARE THREE LIVING PERSONS IN THE HEAVENLY TRIO**; in the name of these three great powers - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit - those who receive Christ by living faith are baptized; and these powers will cooperate with the obedient subjects of heaven in their efforts to live the new life in Christ."

exactly as I had endeavoured to teach 9 years previously.

In this same connection I was interested to note the language used in the article "The Holy Spirit in our Schools" found in ST.61,62, and bearing date 'May 10, 1896' Cooranbong N.S.W., where every time the Holy Spirit is referred to, the pronouns 'He,' 'Him,' 'His' are employed. And He is called a 'heavenly messenger' 'The heavenly guest' repeatedly, and apparently 'the great Teacher Himself.'

Well, I fear this reply has dragged on too long! Please forgive me for any undue loquacity. But I was mightily interested in these matters over there in Cooranbong, and am still, for that matter, and shall be pleased to communicate with you further, if you wish it.

Very fraternally yours,



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Getting back to the Spirit of Prophecy, lets see what Sister White wrote on the topic.

**"The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ, which is sent to all men to give them sufficiency,"** — Ellen White, Manuscript Releases, vol. 14, p. 84.3

**"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.” — Ellen White to W.W. Prescott, Letter 66, par. 18, April 10, 1894**

**“but it is the leaven of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, which is sent down from heaven, called the Holy Ghost,” — Ellen White, Manuscript 36, 1891**

Many fail to realize that the “Spirit of Christ” can function like a person separate to Himself so it is like it is “another” person. However it is not a literal person of course. So we do have a heavenly trio, but not a heavenly trinity. Ellen White taught that the Father and Son are one in Spirit and that the SPIRIT OF GOD comes to us through His only begotten Son. Thus she called the Holy Spirit the Spirit of Christ.

**“They have one God and one Saviour; and one Spirit--the Spirit of Christ--” — Ellen White, Testimonies for the Church, vol. 9, p. 189.3, 1909**