

WORKBOOK

50 TRUTHS
THAT TAKE ON
THE WORLD

THE

GOSPELWAY

GATECHISM

TREVIN WAX
AND THOMAS WEST

WORKBOOK

**THE
GOSPEL WAY
CATECHISM**



**TREVIN WAX
AND THOMAS WEST**



HARVEST HOUSE PUBLISHERS
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CONTENTS

| | |
|--|---|
| Introduction: Why Counter-Catechism? | 5 |
| How to Use This Workbook | 7 |

Part 1: God

| | |
|---|----|
| Question 1: What Is the Center and Point of Everything? | 10 |
| Question 2: How Do We See God and Come to Know Him? | 13 |
| Question 3: Who Does God Reveal Himself to Be? | 16 |
| Question 4: Who Is God the Father? | 19 |
| Question 5: Who Is God the Son? | 21 |
| Question 6: Who Is God the Spirit? | 24 |

Part 2: Creation and Identity

| | |
|---|----|
| Question 7: Why Did God Create the World? | 30 |
| Question 8: What Is the Unseen World? | 32 |
| Question 9: Why Did God Create Us? | 35 |
| Question 10: Who Are We? | 38 |
| Question 11: What Is Sexuality? | 40 |
| Question 12: What Is Our Responsibility? | 43 |
| Question 13: What Is Work? | 46 |
| Question 14: What Is Rest? | 48 |
| Question 15: What Is Freedom? | 51 |

Part 3: Fall and Sin

| | |
|---|----|
| Question 16: What Has Gone Wrong? | 56 |
| Question 17: What Form Does Our Sin Take Against God? | 59 |
| Question 18: What Form Does Our Sin Take Against One Another? | 62 |
| Question 19: How Does God Respond to Sin? | 65 |
| Question 20: Why Do We Feel Guilt and Shame? | 68 |
| Question 21: What Is Suffering? | 71 |

Part 4: The Story of Redemption

| | |
|---|----|
| Question 22: How Does God's Rescue Plan Unfold? | 76 |
| Question 23: What Do We Learn from Israel's Sacrificial System? | 79 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Question 24: What Do We Learn from Israel's Kings? | 82 |
| Question 25: What Do We Learn from Israel's Prophets? | 85 |
| Question 26: Who Is Jesus of Nazareth? | 88 |
| Question 27: What Happened on the Cross? | 91 |
| Question 28: What Happened on Easter? | 94 |
| Question 29: What Does the Ascension Tell Us About Jesus? | 97 |
| Question 30: What Happened on the Day of Pentecost? | 100 |

Part 5: Salvation by the Spirit

| | |
|---|-----|
| Question 31: What Is Repentance? | 106 |
| Question 32: What Is Faith? | 109 |
| Question 33: What Is Union with Christ? | 112 |
| Question 34: What Is Justification? | 115 |
| Question 35: What Is Sanctification? | 118 |
| Question 36: What Is Glorification? | 121 |

Part 6: The People of God

| | |
|--|-----|
| Question 37: What Is the Kingdom of God? | 126 |
| Question 38: What Is the Church? | 129 |
| Question 39: What Is Baptism? | 132 |
| Question 40: What Is the Lord's Supper? | 135 |
| Question 41: What Is the Bible? | 138 |
| Question 42: What Is Prayer? | 141 |
| Question 43: What Is the Mission of the Church? | 144 |
| Question 44: Why Do We Tell People About Jesus? | 147 |
| Question 45: Why Do We Love and Serve Our Neighbors? | 150 |
| Question 46: What Is Worship? | 153 |

Part 7: Future Hope

| | |
|---|-----|
| Question 47: What Happens When We Die? | 158 |
| Question 48: What Happens to Those Who Oppose God? | 161 |
| Question 49: What Is the Ultimate Hope for the Christian? | 164 |
| Question 50: What Does It Mean to Live in Light of the End? | 167 |

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| <i>Notes</i> | 171 |
|------------------------|-----|



INTRODUCTION

Why Counter-Catechism?

WELCOME TO *THE GOSPEL WAY Catechism Workbook!* This resource is designed to give you more than just a summary of truths or a set of fill-in-the-blank exercises. It's meant to help you take the truths in the primary resource, *The Gospel Way Catechism*, and dig deeper, reflect more fully, and take the ancient, countercultural truths of Christianity and incorporate them in your everyday life.

Unlike the main catechism, which introduces you to the enduring truths of the faith, this workbook invites you into a more personal journey. Here you have space to wrestle with additional questions, think carefully, and respond thoughtfully. We hope these questions will spark reflection, challenge assumptions, and help you see how the Scriptures help you rethink and resist the prevalent cultural narratives of our time.

We live in a world that pulls us in a thousand directions. Moments of stillness—moments to reflect deeply on the things that matter most—are rare these days. This workbook is geared toward contemplation. It's more than a tool for study, or a checklist to rush through during the week. It's an invitation to slow down, to step back, and to consider more deeply how the story of Scripture shapes how we see ourselves, our world, and our Savior.

The goal of this resource is simple: to help you see Christianity not as a distant set of doctrines to observe, but as the lens through which to make sense of everything. Whether you're a longtime believer in need of a fresh reminder of how distinct and glorious the Christian faith is, or a new Christian learning how to think biblically in a changing world, this workbook is designed to lead you to deeper thought, greater clarity, and renewed joy in the gospel way of Jesus Christ.

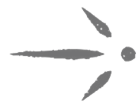


How to Use This Workbook

WORKING YOUR WAY THROUGH A catechism is a process designed for slowness and contemplation, not speed and superficiality. Here are a few suggestions on how to make the most of this workbook.

- **Memorize:** Catechism questions and answers are designed to be memorized. There is a rhythm and art to the wording, intended to aid the memory. We recommend spending five to ten minutes every day for a full week with each question, carefully considering the answer, and committing it to memory so you can recite it word for word.
- **Summary:** The summary for each question explains the concept in a little more detail, showing how Christianity stands in contrast to what often passes for common sense in the world today.
- **Reflection Questions:** The bold text is drawn from the book, *The Gospel Way Catechism*, but specific answers to the questions that follow aren't found in the book. Reflection questions give you an opportunity to look at your life in light of Christian teaching and then look for ways to apply the truth to your life. We recommend journaling through the reflection questions throughout the week, before moving on to the next question and answer. Pray through this part of the process.
- **Scriptures to Ponder:** The Bible verses we've included in this workbook will help you see how God's Word is the basis for the Christian truths expounded in the catechism. We've left space for you to journal your thoughts on these important passages of Scripture.
- **Prayer from Church History:** We are not the first Christians to encounter these foundational truths. We stand in a long line of faithfulness, bearing witness to the fruit of a tree planted two thousand years ago, with roots that go down deep. These prayers from church history are designed to help you align your voice and your heart with faithful men and women who have gone before us.
- **Find a partner or group:** One of the best ways to work through a catechism is with brothers and sisters in your church. We recommend enlisting a partner to walk through the process at the same time, for accountability and inspiration, or joining a church group that commits to this process for 50 weeks. Discussing the Christian faith with others will solidify these truths in ways that going solo will not.





PART 1



God



QUESTION 1

What Is the Center and Point of Everything?

ANSWER

God is the center and point of everything. In him, all things come to be and are held together. He has no rival.

SUMMARY

The gospel way challenges the contemporary notion that we are the masters of our fate and the captains of our souls. In modern Western culture, the constant emphasis on self-determination and individualism often leads to loneliness and exhaustion. The Bible changes the picture. Instead of seeking meaning within ourselves, we find true purpose and fulfillment in God. The Bible begins with God, emphasizing that our lives should revolve around him. When we place God at the center, we receive our identity and purpose from him, leading to a stable and fulfilling life. God, not us, is the center. His glory is the point of everything that exists.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Content in bold comes from *The Gospel Way Catechism*, pages 14-15.

1. **The world tells us, “My ultimate purposes are those which arise within me; the crucial meanings of things are those defined in my responses to them.”**¹ In a culture that promotes self-determined purpose, how does recognizing God as the ultimate source of meaning and purpose reshape your understanding of your own life’s significance? Reflect on how this shift in perspective can impact the way you make decisions and prioritize your goals.

2. **The world tells us, “You come first.”** Why does this seem at first like good news? Why would the Bible tell us it’s bad news? How does the truth that meaning and purpose come from God shape your understanding of your identity and purpose?

3. **We suffer under the weight and pressure of constantly having to figure out who we are, what our future should be, and what will make us happy. Jesus tells us, *Seek God first* (Matthew 6:33).** What risks and pressures are associated with having to figure out who we are, what our future looks like, and what determines our happiness?

4. **The world doesn't revolve around us, and neither does God. It is *we* who revolve around *him*.** How does the realization that we revolve around God, rather than him revolving around us, change your perspective on your daily decisions and priorities? How can understanding that God is the center around which we revolve help you build a more God-centered approach to worship and prayer?

5. **The Bible begins with these words: “In the beginning God...” (Genesis 1:1).** Why is it important that the Bible begins with God as the first character to appear? How does starting with God as the center influence the way you live your daily life?

SCRIPTURES TO PONDER

What do these Scripture passages tell us about God's action in creating the world, and his ultimate purpose?

- **Genesis 1:1:** “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”


- **Colossians 1:16-17:** “Everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and by him all things hold together.”

- **Matthew 6:33:** “Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you.”

PRAYER FROM CHURCH HISTORY

You, oh Lord, are great and worthy of exceeding praise. Your great virtue and your wisdom are beyond comprehension. Humanity, though merely creatures, longs to praise you—the same humanity that bears the weight of mortality, the testimony of sin, and the reminder that you resist the proud. Still, humanity, this small part of your creation, inherently desires to praise you. You enkindle in us a longing to praise you because you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.

—AUGUSTINE OF HIPPO (354–430)²



QUESTION 2

How Do We See God and Come to Know Him?

ANSWER

We see God by the light of his revelation, not by our imagination. God reveals his character and purposes through his Word and works.

SUMMARY

The gospel way focuses on the importance of divine revelation over personal imagination in understanding God. Modern secular thought often posits that individuals create their own meaning and reality. This perspective is epitomized by Protagoras's statement, "Man is the measure of all things."¹ In contrast, the Bible asserts that true understanding comes from God's revelation. There are two types of revelation: general (through creation) and special (through Scripture). While creation reveals something of God's character, it is through the Bible that we see God most clearly. Scripture acts as a lens, helping us interpret reality and understand God's nature and purposes.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Content in bold comes from *The Gospel Way Catechism*, pages 17-18.

1. **We set the standard. We determine morality.** How does this statement contrast with the biblical perspective that God's revelation is the ultimate standard for adjudicating truth? How do these contrasting perspectives shape one's understanding of reality and morality?

2. **We can either seek to interpret the world through the story told in the Scriptures or through the story of self.** Do you struggle to keep these two stories separated in your own thinking and living? In what ways do you practically experience these stories competing for your attention and affection?

3. **Creation bears his fingerprints. General revelation is wonderful, but it only takes us so far.** What are some attributes of God that are made plain to you as you observe God's creation? What can we learn about God's character and works?
4. **Special revelation refers to God's Word (the Bible). We see God most clearly in how he reveals himself through his Word.** What are some of the attributes of God that are made clear to us in Scripture? In what ways has the Bible provided you with a clearer understanding of God's character and his purpose for your life?
5. **In the end, we know God because God has made himself known. We do not conjure up God as we'd like to imagine; we encounter God as he has revealed himself.** How does regular engagement with Scripture—the enduring Word of God that remains forever—shape how you interpret events, make choices, and interact with others?

SCRIPTURES TO PONDER

What do we learn about God from these Scriptures about creation?

- **Psalm 19:1-2:** “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the expanse proclaims the work of his hands. Day after day they pour out speech; night after night they communicate knowledge.”

- **Romans 1:20:** “His invisible attributes, that is, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being understood through what he has made. As a result, people are without excuse.”

What does this passage about the Scriptures teach us about God’s purpose in revealing himself?

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17:** “All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”

PRAYER FROM CHURCH HISTORY

O my God, teach my heart where and how to seek you, where and how to find you. You are my God and you are my all and I have never seen you. You have made me and remade me, you have showered upon me all the good things I possess, still I do not know you. I have not yet done that for which I was made. Teach me to seek you. I cannot seek you unless you teach me or find you unless you show yourself to me. Let me seek you in my desire, let me desire you in my seeking. Let me find you by loving you, let me love you when I find you.

—ANSELM OF CANTERBURY (1033–1109)²



QUESTION 3

Who Does God Reveal Himself to Be?

ANSWER

He is the Lord, the great I AM, one God in three persons: Father, Son, and Spirit. He is the Creator and Ruler of all that is, seen and unseen.

SUMMARY

The gospel way contrasts sharply with the nihilistic vision of Friedrich Nietzsche, who saw life as meaningless and God as a great deception. In contrast, Christianity reveals a purposeful life rooted in the existence of God, who is not just the greatest being but Being itself. God is personal, relational, the Creator and Sustainer of all things, and reveals himself in Scripture as the Great I AM. This name, revealed to Moses, signifies God's eternal presence, self-sufficiency, and sovereign power. The Bible further reveals God as the Trinity—Father, Son, and Spirit—providing a relational framework for understanding purpose, meaning, and community. This triune God is the source of transcendence and a fountain of self-giving love.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Content in bold comes from *The Gospel Way Catechism*, pages 20-21.

1. **In a world that often lives as if there is no God, or as if God is whatever we imagine him to be, or as if God is just one of many potential deities, Christianity, like a comet streaking across the sky, declares the identity of the God who made us.** What are some differences between these ways of living: (1) as if there is no God, (2) as if God is whatever we want him to be, (3) as if God is just one of many gods, or (4) according to the Bible's presentation of who God is?
2. The first sentence of the Bible says, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (Genesis 1:1). What are the implications of viewing God as the source of all creation rather than seeing the universe as a product of random chance? How does the belief that God is the Creator affect your perspective on your relationship with the world and others? How does accepting God as the Creator challenge the pressure to define yourself by societal standards or personal achievements?

3. **God revealed his name to Moses in Exodus 3:14: “I AM WHO I AM.”** How does understanding God as unchanging and eternal influence the way you approach life’s uncertainties and challenges? In what ways do God’s attributes of wisdom and power provide comfort and guidance in times of decision-making? How do God’s unchanging nature and truth impact your trust in his promises, even when circumstances seem uncertain?

4. **As you move through the Bible, the revelation of God grows brighter and clearer. The one true God, the Great I AM, is the Father, the Son, and the Spirit.** How does the relational nature of the Trinity offer a framework for understanding purpose, meaning, and community?

5. **Christianity claims the majestic, awe-inspiring, holy God of love exists as Father, Son, and Spirit, that self-giving love is the key to the mystery of life, and that all the goodness and happiness in the world can be traced back to the fountain of all joy, the divine dance of God at the center of all things.** How does believing God as the ultimate authority and sustainer of all things shape your understanding of reality and influence your daily decisions, values, and sense of security?

SCRIPTURES TO PONDER

What do these Scriptures show us about who God is and what our response to his revelation should be?

- **Exodus 3:14:** “God replied to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: I AM has sent me to you.’”



- **Isaiah 43:10:** “‘You are my witnesses’—this is the LORD’s declaration—‘and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. No god was formed before me, and there will be none after me.’”

- **John 1:1-3:** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created.”

PRAYER FROM CHURCH HISTORY

Almighty and everlasting God, you have given to us your servants grace, by the confession of a true faith, to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity, and in the power of your divine Majesty to worship the Unity: Keep us steadfast in this faith and worship, and bring us at last to see you in your one and eternal glory, O Father; who with the Son and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

—*THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER*¹



QUESTION 4

Who Is God the Father?

ANSWER

God the Father is the Almighty One, infinitely great and good, whose name is hallowed in heaven and on earth. He is not a distant authority, but a holy God filled with fatherly love.

SUMMARY

The gospel way teaches us to see God the Father not through the lens of our earthly experiences but through the revelation of Scripture. While many may struggle with the idea of God as Father due to negative paternal experiences, the Bible consistently portrays God as the perfect Father—infinately great, good, and filled with fatherly love. He is life-giving, majestic, and compassionate, providing wisdom, comfort, and discipline. This understanding of God reshapes our view of authority and power, showing us a God who delights in loving and guiding us, inviting us to trust in his plans and draw close to him.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Content in bold comes from *The Gospel Way Catechism*, pages 24-25.

1. **The Apostles' Creed begins this way: "I believe in God the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth."** What is the significance of recognizing God as both loving Father and almighty Creator? What goes wrong if only one aspect is emphasized, to the exclusion of the other?
2. **He is not a distant authority, but a holy God filled with fatherly love.** Reflect on how this understanding of God influences your relationship with him. How does seeing God as both authoritative and loving change your perspective on obedience and trust?
3. **God the Father is the Almighty One, infinitely great and good.** In what ways does recognizing God's greatness and goodness affect your daily life and decisions? How does this shape your understanding of God's plans for you?

4. **The Bible consistently portrays God as the perfect Father—infinately great, good, and filled with fatherly love.** What are some ways that earthly fathers give us a glimpse of our heavenly Father? What are some ways that earthly fathers always fall short of God’s infinite goodness?
5. **He is life-giving, majestic, and compassionate, providing wisdom, comfort, and discipline.** Reflect on these attributes of God and why it’s important that they go together and are not separated or isolated from a comprehensive portrait of who God the Father reveals himself to be.

SCRIPTURES TO PONDER

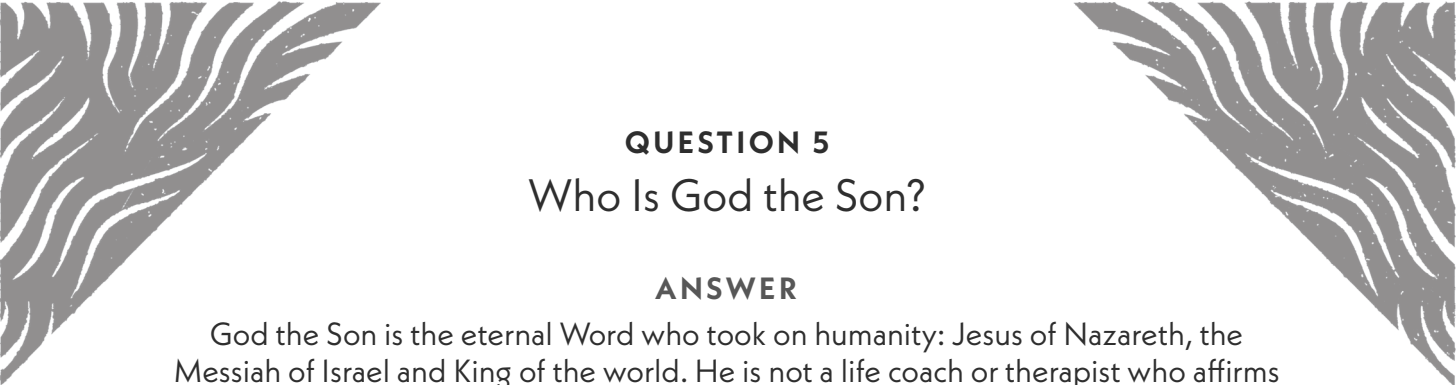
What do these Scriptures teach us about relating to God as our Father?

- **Deuteronomy 32:6:** “Is this how you repay the LORD, you foolish and senseless people? Isn’t he your Father and Creator? Didn’t he make you and sustain you?”
- **Psalms 103:13:** “As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.”
- **Matthew 6:9:** “You should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, your name be honored as holy.”

PRAYER FROM CHURCH HISTORY

In your mercy, place in our hearts a comfortable confidence in your fatherly love. Make us taste and feel the sweetness of childlike trust, so that we may with joy call you Father. So that we may know and love you. So that we may call upon you for everything we need... You are not like an earthly father who cannot help himself. You have shown us how immeasurably better a Father you are. So grant us, Father, that we may also be your heavenly children.

—MARTIN LUTHER (1483–1546)¹



QUESTION 5

Who Is God the Son?

ANSWER

God the Son is the eternal Word who took on humanity: Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah of Israel and King of the world. He is not a life coach or therapist who affirms all our desires, but the Great Physician whose blood heals our sin-sick hearts.

SUMMARY

The gospel way teaches us that God the Son is not a manufactured version of a life coach or therapist who merely affirms our desires. Jesus of Nazareth, as revealed in the Gospels, is the eternal Word, the Messiah of Israel, and the King of the world. He took on humanity, fulfilling ancient prophecies and claiming his role as the climax of Israel's story. Jesus is the Great Physician, offering healing for our deepest needs through his self-sacrifice. Unlike cultural or personal versions of Jesus that align with our preferences, the true Jesus challenges us, offering a new direction and a profound transformation of our hearts.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Content in bold comes from *The Gospel Way Catechism*, pages 27-28.

1. **The world is full of manufactured ideas about Jesus. You can find just about any version of Jesus that suits you.** What are some of the most common versions of Jesus we see in society today?

2. **God the Son is the eternal Word who took on humanity: Jesus of Nazareth, the Messiah of Israel and King of the world.** How does this definition differ from worldly, manufactured ideas about Jesus?



3. **In the end, we don't need a coach; we need a Savior. We don't need an anesthetic; we need a surgeon. We don't need a heart tune-up; we need a heart transplant.** Our need for Jesus is far greater than we can understand because the depths of our sin are deeper than we imagine. Why is it so easy for people today to settle for a lesser Jesus than what we see in the Gospels?

- **Hebrews 1:1-3:** “Long ago God spoke to our ancestors by the prophets at different times and in different ways. In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son. God has appointed him heir of all things and made the universe through him. The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact expression of his nature, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

PRAYER FROM CHURCH HISTORY

Grant, most sweet and loving Jesus, that I may seek my repose in you above every creature; above all health and beauty; above every honor and glory; every power and dignity; above all knowledge and cleverness, all riches and arts, all joy and gladness; above all fame and praise, all sweetness and consolation; above every hope and promise, every merit and desire; above all the gifts and favors that you can give or pour down on me; above all the joy and exultation that the mind can receive and feel; and finally, above the angels and archangels and all the heavenly host; above all things visible and invisible; and may I seek my repose in you above everything that is not you, my God. For you, O Lord my God, are above all things the best. You alone are most high, you alone most powerful. You alone are most sufficient and most satisfying. You alone most sweet and consoling. You alone are most beautiful and loving, you alone most noble and glorious above all things. In you is every perfection that has been or ever will be. Therefore, whatever you give me besides yourself, whatever you reveal to me concerning yourself, and whatever you promise, is too small and insufficient when I do not see and fully enjoy you alone. For my heart cannot rest or be fully content until, rising above all gifts and every created thing, it rests in you.

—THOMAS A KEMPIS (1380–1471)¹



QUESTION 6

Who Is God the Spirit?

ANSWER

God the Spirit is the empowering presence of God in the world—the Lord, the giver of life. We are defined not by our inner self or spirituality, but by the Spirit’s presence as he makes us new and blesses the world through our service in Jesus’s name.

SUMMARY

The gospel way challenges the contemporary notion of spirituality as a personalized quest for transcendence, often expressed through self-focused practices like mindfulness and wellness rituals. True fulfillment is found not in these individualistic pursuits but in the Holy Spirit, who is presented in the Bible as God’s personal and active presence in believers’ lives. The Holy Spirit guides, convicts, empowers, and aligns believers with God’s purpose. The Nicene Creed describes the Spirit as “the Lord, the giver of life,” highlighting his role in creation and renewal. True life change and service to others come through the Spirit’s power, embodying the glory of the Trinity.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

Content in bold comes from *The Gospel Way Catechism*, pages 31-32.

1. **The Nicene Creed (AD 381), which lays out a clear description of the Trinity—one God in three persons—describes the Holy Spirit as “the Lord, the giver of life.”** Why is it important to see the Holy Spirit as “the Lord”—equal with God the Father and God the Son, and what does his identity as the “giver of life” mean for you for as a believer?

2. **The Spirit is available not to bring about personal enlightenment or to give us a “spiritual side,” but to align our lives with God’s purpose and standard.** Describe the dangers of looking to God for a dash of “spirituality” in your life rather than relying on the Spirit to align your life with God’s plan.

3. **It's common for people to think of the Spirit as a kind of energy or force, but the Scriptures describe the Spirit in personal terms.** What do we miss when we think of the Spirit and his work in impersonal ways? Why does it matter that the Spirit is a person, not merely a force?

4. **In a world where people are attracted to all kinds of spiritual practices, the Bible reminds us of the importance of the Spirit in bringing about real and lasting life change.** What are some ways we attempt to bring about life change apart from the power of the Spirit? Why are these attempts so often temporary instead of long-lasting?

5. **This is the glory of the Trinity, the central tenet of the Christian faith: the Father, the Son, and the Spirit are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.** What are some aspects of this teaching about God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit that you find difficult to understand? Why is this doctrine about God so important?

SCRIPTURES TO PONDER

What do these Scriptures teach us about God the Spirit and his work in our lives?

- **John 16:13:** “When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth. For he will not speak on his own, but he will speak whatever he hears. He will also declare to you what is to come.”

- **Ephesians 1:13-14:** “In him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed. The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory.”

- **Romans 8:26-27:** “In the same way the Spirit also helps us in our weakness, because we do not know what to pray for as we should, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with inexpressible groanings. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because he intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”

PRAYER FROM CHURCH HISTORY

Holy Spirit, our hearts are naturally polluted: come into them, we pray, and work sin out, and work grace in. Make our hearts temples of purity and a paradise for pleasantness. Sanctify our imaginations, causing them to mint holy meditations. Sanctify our wills, biasing them to good, so it will be as delightful for us to serve God as once it was to sin against him. Perfume us with holiness and make our hearts a map of heaven.

—THOMAS WATSON (1620–1686)¹