



Statement of Faith - God – The Father

God the Father - God the Father is the first person of the Trinity (Godhead) who orders and disposes all things according to His own purpose and grace. His plans and purposes cannot be thwarted. He is faithful to all His promises, works all things together for good for those who love Him, and in His unfathomable grace gave His Son Christ Jesus for mankind's redemption. It was He who sent His only begotten Son Christ Jesus to be the Savior of the World; and raised His Son from the dead; and glorified His Son, seating Him at His right hand. Recognizing the authority of God the Father, God the Son obeyed the Father in all things. God the Father being the only Sovereign, upholds, governs and oversees all creation and creatures, for all exists for His glory. (Matthew 6:25-32, 28:18, Mark 16:19, Luke 22:39-42, John 1:14, 3:16, 8:27-29, 11:42, 12:49-50, 17:18-23, 14:16-17, 26, 15:26, 16:26-28, Acts 1:4, 2:22-24, 2:33, 3:13-15, 5:30-31, 10:39-41, 13:28-34, Romans 8:11, 11:36, 1 Corinthians 8:6, Gal.1:1, Eph 1:3-14, 1:18-23, 4:6, Phil. 2:5-11, Col. 3:1, 1 Thess. 1:9-10, Hebrews 1:3, 2:9, 10:12, 1 Peter 1:20-21, 1 John 4:14)

God the Father is the first person of the Trinity (Godhead) – As God relates to His creation both in providence and in redemption, the different members of the Godhead execute different roles or offices. An old adage speaks of God's work in redemption this way; "The Father planned, the Son accomplished it and the Spirit implements it." Thus we see these different roles or offices spoken of in scripture which make clear distinction between the different members of the Trinity.

When we speak of God as Father we are speaking *primarily* about His role in the Godhead. His unique office in the Trinity is as Father. He therefore is seen as the authority figure, whose plan and will, shall be carried out by the other members of the Godhead. God the Father is the one who planned from all eternity the work of creation.

Isaiah 25:1 - O LORD, Thou art my God; I will exalt Thee, I will give thanks to Thy name; For Thou hast worked wonders, **Plans formed long ago**, with perfect faithfulness. NASB

Isaiah 46:11 - I am calling a bird of prey from the east, The man of My purpose from a far country.

Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it. NASB

The other members of the Godhead are seen in subordinate roles carrying out the plans of the Father. This can be seen in language which describes the Spirit and the Son being "sent from the Father" to do the Father's will or accomplish His purpose. (John 14:26, 16:7)

John 6:38-40 - 38 "For I have come down from heaven, **not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.** 39 "And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. 40 "For **this is the will of My Father**, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day." NASB

John 15:26-27 - 26 "When the Helper comes, whom **I will send to you from the Father**, that is the Spirit of truth, **who proceeds from the Father**, He will bear witness of Me, 27 and you will bear witness also, because you have been with Me from the beginning. NASB

This submission by the Son to the Father is also seen in scripture which describes the obedience of the Son to the Father. (John 6:38, Heb 10:5-7)

Phil 2:8-11 - 8 And being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death**, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. NASB

Thus the role of Father is one of authority, direction and sending. Submission and respect for that authority, even within the Godhead, is seen from the Son and the Spirit. This does not negate the deity of either the Son or the Spirit, but simply shows they have a subordinate role. These roles are clearly pictured in scripture and will be covered in detail in the descriptions of each member, Father, Son and Holy Spirit in upcoming studies.

1 Cor 15:22-28 - 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, 24 then comes the end, when He delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death. 27 For He has put all things in subjection under His feet. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," **it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him**. 28 And when all things are subjected to Him, then **the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things** to Him, that God may be all in all. NASB

who orders and disposes all things according to His own purpose and grace. His plans and purposes cannot be thwarted. – When we speak of the purpose of God then we are referring to God the Father, He being the member of the Godhead who is *planning and directing* not only the other members of the Godhead, but also all other creatures in the entire creation. So the scripture speaks of the Father ordering and disposing everything according to His purposes and grace. This work of God is referred to as His Providence.

Ephesians 1:11-12 - 11 also we have obtained an inheritance, **having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will**, NASB

All of this great work of Providence is a “gracious work” of God. God was gracious to give us life, to call us into existence and grant everything that we need for life and the pursuit of joy. Therefore God is acting according to His grace with His creation both in special and in common grace.

Psalms 36:7-8 - 7 How precious is Thy lovingkindness, O God! And **the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Thy wings**. 8 **They drink their fill of the abundance of Thy house; And Thou dost give them to drink of the river of Thy delights**. NASB

Because God is omnipotent and sovereign, His purposes cannot be overthrown or challenged in any way. This is because, as we explained in a previous lesson, God is self-existent and all other creatures are dependent on God for their existence and provision from God must be given for them to continue existing. God is *all-powerful* so no one has greater power. God is *sovereign* so none one can overrule His decisions.

Daniel 4:35 - 35 "And all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, But **He does according to His will in the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of earth; And no one can ward off His hand** Or say to Him, 'What hast Thou done?' NASB

Isaiah 43:13 - 13 "Even from eternity I am He; And **there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?"** NASB

Isaiah 14:27- 27 "**For the LORD of hosts has planned, and who can frustrate it?** And as for His stretched-out hand, who can turn it back?" NASB

He is faithful to all His promises, works all things together for good for those who love Him, - God has made many promises in the bible both of blessing for obedience to

His will and cursing and consequence for disobedience to His will. We can be sure that He will be faithful to bring about all that He has said, for this is His nature, God is faithful.

Deuteronomy 7:8-11 - 9 Know therefore that the LORD your God, **He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness** to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments; 10 but **repays those who hate Him to their faces, to destroy them; He will not delay with him who hates Him, He will repay him to his face.** 11 Therefore, you shall keep the commandment and the statutes and the judgments which I am commanding you today, to do them. NASB

Lamentations 3:22-24 - 22 The LORD'S lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail. 23 They are new every morning; **Great is Thy faithfulness** . 24 "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I have hope in Him." NASB

It follows then that since God has gracious plans of redemption for *His people* that He will be *faithful* to carry out those good promises which He has made and bring these plans to completion. The bible explicitly states that God has good intentions to bless his people and work every circumstance in their lives for the ultimate good.

Romans 8:28 - 28 And we know that **God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God**, to those who are called according to His purpose. NASB

Jeremiah 29:11-14 - 11'For I know **the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD,' plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.** 12'Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13'And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. 14'And I will be found by you,' declares the LORD,' NASB

and in His unfathomable grace gave His Son Christ Jesus for mankind's redemption. It was He who sent His only begotten Son Christ Jesus to be the Savior of the World; and raised His Son from the dead; and glorified His Son, seating Him at His right hand. – The salvation of God which He has accomplished through the sacrifice of Christ Jesus the Son, was an act of unfathomable grace. Even all the benefits afforded to the believer are so vast that they cannot be fully grasped, so they are referred to as “the surpassing riches of His grace.”

Ephesians 2:3-9 - 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus, 7 **in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.** 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, that no one should boast. NASB

This grace of God in Christ has provided a salvation from sins and the wrath of God for mankind by redeeming Him from the debt and curse of the law. It was God the Father who sent the Son, Christ Jesus to be the Savior according to His purpose and grace.

2 Timothy 1:9-10 - 9 who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but **according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity,** 10 but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, NASB

1 John 4:14 - 14 And we have beheld and bear witness that **the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.** NASB

Furthermore, the scripture speaks plainly about the fact that the Father *raised* the Son from the dead and *glorified* Him, finally *seating* Him at His right hand.

Romans 8:11 - 11 But if the Spirit of **Him who raised Jesus from the dead** dwells in you, **He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead** will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you. NASB

Acts 3:13 - 13 "The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the **God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus**, the one whom you delivered up, and disowned in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release Him. NASB

Ephesians 1:19-23 - 19 and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the strength of His might 20 which He brought about in Christ, when **He raised Him from the dead**, and **seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places**, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. 22 And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is His body, the fulness of Him who fills all in all. NASB

Recognizing the authority of God the Father, God the Son obeyed the Father in all things. – These marvelous wonders of salvation were all accomplished by the Son in His obedience to the will of the Father. The Son came and carried out the plans and purposes of God, fulfilling the law and the prophets and bring to completion all that was necessary for God's redemption of the creation. This obedience to the Father's direction is even to the very words that Jesus has spoken. (**John 8:28-29, 10:18**)

John 12:49-50 - 49 "For I did not speak on My own initiative, but **the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me commandment, what to say, and what to speak.** 50 "And I know that His commandment is eternal life; therefore the things I speak, **I speak just as the Father has told Me.**" NASB

God the Father being the only Sovereign, upholds, governs and oversees all creation and creatures, for all exists for His glory. – God then is the only sovereign, meaning that He is the supreme authority in the universe. In His authority He governs and oversees all of the circumstances of human history. It is His purposes and plans which will be accomplished and established throughout all eternity.

Isaiah 46:9-10 - 9 "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, 10 **Declaring the end from the beginning And from ancient times things which have not been done,** Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure'; NAS

Lamentations 3:37-40 - 37 Who is there who speaks and it comes to pass, Unless the Lord has commanded it? 38 **Is it not from the mouth of the Most High That both good and ill go forth?** 39 Why should any living mortal, or any man, Offer complaint in view of his sins? 40 Let us examine and probe our ways, And let us return to the LORD. NASB

Ecclesiastes 7:13-14 - 13 Consider the work of God, For who is able to straighten what He has bent? 14 In the day of prosperity be happy, But in the day of adversity consider- **God has made the one as well as the other** So that man may not discover anything that will be after him. NASB

In this great providence God is literally sustaining all things by His power. Indeed all things exist, even minute by minute, by Him and for Him.

Col 1:16-18 - 16 For **by Him all things were created**, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created by Him and for Him. 17 And **He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.** NASB

Acts 17:24-31 - 24 "The God who made the world and everything in it is **the Lord of heaven and earth** and does not live in temples built by hands. 25 And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because **he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else.** 26 From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. 27 *God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him,* though he is not far from each one of us.