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# The Mysteries Of God

It is the Glory of God to Conceal a Matter,  
It is the Glory of Kings to Search out a Matter.

*Proverbs 25:2*

# THE MYSTERIES OF GOD

## Introduction

Charles Pinkney

"You can access the life of God without being sidetracked by the pitfalls of religious tradition."

*"But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: 1 Corinthians 2:7 Which none of the princes of this world knew: (2:7) for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 1Co 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 1Co 2:10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God. Tools specific to 1Co 2:11 For what man knows the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knows no man, but the Spirit of God." But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Cor. 2:14*

## Inspiration and seeking God

**Inspiration, Searching, Knocking, Asking** are pathways that lead a seeker into the knowledge of the mysteries of God. "God is a Spirit," scripture clearly states. God's divine reality is one that can only be perceived and believed on a non-material level. If I were to say that I know God, whom you don't know nor see, you can only judge my assertions on the basis of my personal credibility. Some who testify of God's reality are more credible than others. The early apostles did not so much argue the existence of God as a theory or concept but demonstrated proof of His existence by supernatural evidence, by demonstrating the Power of God. (1Corinthians 2). So we face the matter of proving a non-materialistic being to a non-believing world that God is real and that He still has a part in the day to day affairs of this world. It is another very great mystery that it is God who calls us to have fellowship with Him. It is He who equips us to grow and minister through Him. It is He who preserves and keeps us until his coming to gather his people unto himself. We discover that it is less about our performance or goodness. The gift of God prevails throughout the life of a believer.

*(1 Corinthians 2:6 - 1 Corinthians 2:7) - - We do speak a message of wisdom, but not the wisdom of this world or of the rulers of this world, who are passing off the scene. (7) Instead, we speak about God's secret wisdom that has been hidden, which God destined for our glory before the world began.*

In our search for God our heart's motivation must be sincere and earnest. This is when revelation and inspiration will follow. While there are many who claim they hold the key to

divine wisdom, one must knock at the right door. Every religion and cult claim to be this door. But I can declare with certainty that this door IS found in The Holy Bible. The Bible is not an antique, out-dated document! I am sorry that it takes us so long to realize that fact. The Bible is the only document that holds a perfect record in the prophecies recorded on its pages that have come to pass. There is another factor to secure understanding. The Holy Spirit is The Spirit of Truth who proceeds from the one true God and reveals the Spirit of Understanding that was in Jesus the Messiah. God *the eternal one* is revealed by Jesus Christ. The pathway that leads a seeker into the knowledge of the mysteries of God is made possible **only** through Yeshua, Jesus the Messiah and him only. Religions and Religious organizations even some that purport to be Christian, will try to present their own institution as the only true way. Such institutions only lead a seeker into dogma and deception.

The scripture declares that "God is a Spirit." Heavenly things and God the Almighty are mysteries that remain cloaked to the eyes of those who have not received the "grace" to believe. The heavenly realm and its population consist of divine spiritual matter. The Spiritual can only be perceived, received and believed on a non-sensing, non academic level. If I say that I know God, who you have never known or seen, you can only judge my assertions on the basis of my personal credibility. Some who profess to be a spokes-persons for God are more credible to us than others owing to certain expressions of character.

We know that after the resurrection of Jesus, the original apostles did not debate the existence of God as a philosophical notion or intellectual theory but demonstrated God's existence by supernatural signs and attestations. They demonstrated heavenly proof through the Power of God. (Read Paul's letter to Corinthians Chapter 1 and 2). Yet many Christian apologists continue to strive to persuade a materialistic, non believing world based upon arguments, logic or intellectual proofs.

### **Progressive Revelation**

There are many who may disagree with the concept of progressive revelation. Some Religions wish to see their doctrines (essential truths) codified and etched in concrete for future generations. These understandings "doctrines of faith" can vary considerably as interpretations of a particular scripture passage. The response from the doctrinal watchdogs say these have been *the teachings and traditions of the fathers* and we stand upon our doctrines. These doctrines of course, represent their acknowledged view of that sect whether Catholic, Protestant, or the sub sects of Protestantism or a non Christian sect.

The Holy Spirit was introduced on the Jewish Feast of Pentecost, 50 days after the Passover. Jesus thus fulfilled that Jewish festival (*Moed=sacred Jewish festivals, moedim. Leviticus 23*) as

he fulfilled the previous three, *Passover, Unleavened Bread and First Fruits*. The festival of Pentecost was the time of the outpouring of spiritual power (*dunamis*) that was promised to the disciples by Jesus. The disciples were not to teach or testify until after this outpouring of Holy Spirit enablement came upon them.

This Holy Spirit (*the third person of the Godhead*) manifests through many kinds of supernatural expressions which we discuss later. One of these is the Spirit of Wisdom and understanding. *Wisdom* lies latent in the Word of God. (Bible) Yeshua also called the "Living Word speaks to the reader." This same Holy Spirit brings revelation and understanding, not merely "intellectual" understanding.

This is what makes the Bible unique. Not only does the information found in it prove valid but it has the power to reveal "*heavenly things*"- truth and understanding on a level beyond the factual or informational level. There are then two levels which experienced by those who read Scripture, informational and revelational. Believers who are Spirit born, and empowered by the Holy Spirit Baptism are illumined by "*The Rhema Word*." Rhema refers to the proceeding voice of God which enlivens the Scripture and makes it speak to the present needs of any reader. The Spirit brings life and understanding. Jesus said, "*The letter of the Scripture, kills*."

There are many who believe the Bible is mostly a fable or make believe. They have not yet received the necessary key to wisdom, belief and faith. With these we know that the stories of God's performing wonders in days of old are more than fables, they are assuredly true.

Jesus gave this testimony about his divine office and knowing the mysteries of God. "*I know Him, I am from Him, He sent me.*" (John 7:19) Yet, not everyone is, persuaded by these words. There are also many today don't believe that Yeshua is *the one mediator between God and Man and who truly speaks for God*. I myself, through the guidance of the Spirit and study, have learned that God is a God of mysteries and hidden things.

## **Parables**

The parables taught by Yeshua (Jesus) had within them kernels of truth on multiple levels; plain story-level truth, and higher spiritual levels of revelation. There is and always has been the matter of hidden truth, or 'hidden manna.' To Christ's disciples it was given to know the secrets of the Kingdom of God while others received no more than a moral homily. Why is it that God reveals himself to some and not to others?

*Mat 13:11 And he answered and said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.*

*Luk 8:10 And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to the rest in parables; that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.*

Heaven and its mysteries are not open to the vile and vulgar to intrude upon! There are defining limits between darkness and heavenly light. I have always puzzled that Bible TRUTH and the realities of God were not presented to the world in neatly delineated, point by point, topics. Wouldn't that be wonderful if all *the hidden mysteries and truths about God* and Heaven's realities were made accessible and easy to comprehend! But in God's wisdom, The Almighty has chosen to hide himself. He *dwells in a secret place*. (*psalm 91*) The Word of God is veiled. "The letter kills but the Spirit gives life." The "Truth" and Power of the Word of God must be accessed by a diligent seeker, with sincerity and diligence.

*Heb 11:6 “-and without faith it is impossible to be well-pleasing unto him; for he that comes to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that seek after him.”*

The unbeliever must set aside unbelief **before** he/she can make the first step of faith. Thus the key to unpacking and deciphering the Word of God can not be achieved strictly by academic skills and study alone. If that were true only the bookish could know God. The Divine Spirit, *Ruach ha kadash*, in Hebrew is called in King James vernacular the Holy Ghost., He is the one and only way to achieve valid revelations of God. The Spirit of God always reveals and glorifies Jesus. There are of course mystics from other religions and cultures who receive spiritual revelations but these are of another spirit and do not conform to biblical truth.

At best you can receive only a glimpse and hope to enter a deeper realm of revelations through the efforts of myself and others to encourage you in God. The insights I share were not what I learned from Christian institutions but were drawn entirely from my own studies and experience. Without the Holy Spirit, our teacher and discipler, one remains bound at an informational level. We are given understanding in the light of Jesus. "*The entrance of his word brings light.*" (*Psalms 119*) Understanding grows a little at a time. First, a line by line approach to scripture, then eventually, precept upon precept. Precepts are the understandings of what the literal word actually says in terms of the greater wisdom of God. Jesus is 'the Word of God made flesh.' This is in itself a profound mystery. When the Scripture (The Word of God) is made known in its completeness we shall See Him as He IS.

The following chapters deal with the subject of Mysteries. There are several topics that will seem to be familiar such as those addressed in a sermon or a Bible study. But though the topics sound familiar, I believe there are deeper and more profound revelations and understanding to be found. These topics are not in any hierarchy of order. Nor will I suggest that my thoughts on these topics are more than a glimmer of light upon yet deeper understanding. I can do little more than introduce the topics of God's mysteries. These are of course, just a few of the mysteries of the Bible. Many more remain to explore and mine.

## **Bible Commentaries**

It seems we all want to go to the expert when it comes to learning how and getting answers. That is where theological experts come in. They are found in abundance. They are known to write voluminously. They carry degrees from seminaries and prestigious universities. When you read a commentary by any scholar-teacher you will be presented with that person's best understandings. It may be right. It may not be right. We are to question and prove everything. For this reason, Bible commentaries from me or another, should never be taken as absolute or complete. It is God's purpose that many in the *Body of Christ* share what the Bible has revealed to each of us. This builds and edifies the Body (Those called to believe in him) with deeper and deeper understanding. God is vast and eternal, therefore there are mysteries and mysteries within mysteries only to be revealed in God's time. Revelation is progressive and ever deepening as **His** truth is being revealed by God's Holy Spirit **in God's time**.

It is clear in reading prophetic writings that God has withheld certain things from us (*sealed from access*) only to make them known at the due time. The mystery of the 'Church Age' was hidden and latent until it was revealed to Paul by the resurrected Jesus. Also details concerning *the resurrection* were not known until after the apostolic age. Certain matters dealing with *the end of the age* was sealed from Daniel. John received revelation in Revelation Chapter 10 that was not to be written until the time of the end.

Contrary to what some would assert, not all the knowledge or answers (facts) are revealed. God has a time and sequence to complete his plan are for The Church, for Israel and for the world. As God said to Daniel and to John in Revelations, go your way, these matters are to be 'sealed' and be revealed in a time yet to come.

## **EXAMPLES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BRINGING FORTH REVELATION**

*Matthew 16:16 "But who say ye that I am? Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter, answers and says, "You are the Messiah, the son of the Living God. " Jesus then tells Peter, "- - Flesh and blood have not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. This is an example of how we receive knowledge of hidden things,-" 1Corinthians 2:0 - - "Eye has not seen nor ear heard, neither has entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those that love him. 10: But God has revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11. For man knows the things of a man, save the Spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God, know man knows, but the Spirit of God.*

## Introduction to Bible Mysteries

The Bible, Word of God, is not an ordinary book. It is divinely inspired or more correctly, divinely authored. The word has an informational component, but more importantly it has a revelatory component. The word translated as "Word" has two forms in original Greek text. The Logos and the Rhema. The **Logos** pertains to the sum of the recorded word, the total counsel of God or the mind of God in its sum and its character. It may also be said that the Logos pertains to the *Law of God*. The **Rhema** is the word which means "spoken" or voiced, the Rhema component is the portion of the Word which is God breathed in the present moment. It is the **voice** of God which speaks spiritually to the mind and heart of the reader, or in this case "the hearer".

### Hearing

True hearing is a spiritual process. The Spirit of God releases us to hear. The human ears are not the organ for spiritual hearing. The scripture says, "Man can not live by bread only, but by every word, (Rhema) which proceeds from the mouth of God. " It is God himself who governs this flow of his revelation into the hearts (an organ of inner knowing) of the hearer and this by an act of Grace. Even understanding is through the Grace of God.

Though this Grace appears absent to many who pick up the Scriptures to read it is available to those who ask for it humbly in faith. It would be presumptuous, however, to assume that we are automatically entitled to it. It is equally presumptuous to assume we may understand or comprehend the mystery of the Word with only the natural mind. Again the apostle Paul reminds us, "the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life."(2Corinthians 3:6) The Holy Spirit is He who God has sent to teach all things which are from Christ and God. As I stated, I am only one commentator, and do not pretend to be the only person who has received this understanding and doctrine for God is without partiality without 'respect of persons. ' He will reveal Himself to any who seek Him.

Judge the words and spirit of any who profess to speak of/for God. You the reader or hearer must judge these words against the Logos, the written Scripture, the whole counsel of God. Then there is the inner witness; the AMEN of God is the FAITHFUL WITNESS. The knowledge of God is free to all. But, the knowledge of God is hidden or veiled until the veil is removed by the Spirit of Christ Jesus. We who are of the faith may say, "I was once blind, but now I see" (read, John Chapter 9.)

Many doctrines remain untaught or unrealized by nominal Christians, today. Yet, the teachings here are not esoteric or so-called "occult." Truths in the Bible are veiled until the HOLY SPIRIT reveals these truths to a believer. It remains apparent that all who read the Bible do not

apprehend the same doctrines or truths. Christian sects differ on what are the principle doctrines of the Bible because of the interpretation and understandings that they are guided to believe.  
{Links are found at top of page}

## Chapter Two – The Mystery of the Second Birth The Born Again Experience

# Born Again A Mystery Of God

**It's the most important message you may have never heard.  
Religion may have given you a negative view of the subject.**

**Religion may have given you absolutely nothing at all.**

**You will find it in John's Gospel Chapter 3 and verse 3.**

**Some say it is the most important verse in the Bible.**

**Well, in deed, it is a wonderful place to start.**

**Being BORN AGAIN is a supernatural experience.**

**It is what God Almighty does for those WHO BELIEVE and ASK!**

**Most folks who attend Churches have chosen RELIGION  
instead of relationship with the Living God.**

**They blaspheme spend most of their lives in UNBELIEF.**

**Do you believe that Jesus (Yeshua of Nazareth) is ALIVE,  
risen from death and alive in heaven's glory?**

**Do you believe that he (Jesus) is able to grant ETERNAL LIFE  
for those who believe in him and simply ask?**

**He has been given ALL POWER in heaven and earth.**

**He has power over DEATH, HELL, and the GRAVE!**

His name is **GREATER** than any other!

He has power to set the **CAPTIVE FREE**, and he can make the vilest of sinners, losers, addicts and moral reprobates into **SAINTS** who are being reshaped into Spiritual perfection.

He has come to destroy the works of the **EVIL ONE**.

He has come to make all things **NEW**. We become **NEW CREATIONS** in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17).

When **HE** calls you, you **WILL** answer.

His hand is extended to all who need and seek his **MERCY!** You can choose **LIFE** today.

He has come to redeem us from the **CURSE** of the law; to **SAVE US** from our fallen state!

Do you love this world? Do you seek its pleasures and approval? Then you may not be ready to receive the **GIFT**. Those who love this world and seek its approval are seeking things that will soon pass away.

There awaits for all us either **LIFE** and **BLESSING** or **DEATH**, the penalty of fallen humanity.

This day if you chose **LIFE** and ask the redeemer to set you free, He will make you **BRAND NEW**.

If you are ready and if you believe you can become a true Son or Daughter of God.

Jesus' blood bought you that right.

**IF THIS MESSAGE HAS SPOKEN TO YOUR SPIRIT,**

Go to **ROMANS** (it's in the Bible) Chapter 10, and find verses 9 and 10.

**Call upon him. Ask for his mercy.  
Acknowledge who HE IS, he is the I AM.  
If you mock his name and what he has done for  
every soul, then this is not your time.**

**THE BORN AGAIN EXPERIENCE  
Points to  
THE DOCTRINE OF SALVATION**

**Here are some of the important Bible Proof Texts  
Relating to "BEING SAVED"**

**WHAT MUST I DO TO BE "SAVED"?**

In Acts 16: The Phillipian Jailer: *"29, Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. 30, And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31, So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." 32, Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house."*

**BELIEVE WHAT ABOUT JESUS?** What is unique about Jesus?

**John 3: 18-19 - He (Jesus) is the only name under heaven by which we can be saved;** *"John 14:6, "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

**He is "The Way, The Truth, and The Life. - - John Chap.14: 5,** *"Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?" 6, Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

**Acts 4:12 -12, No Other Way:** *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."*

**What about those who do not believe he (Jesus) is "The WAY?"**

**John 3:17,** *"For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18, He that believes on him is not condemned: but he that believes not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."*

**The Question everyone must answer;** *"Who do YOU say that I (Jesus) am?"*

**John 1:2** *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."*

In the **Body** called **The Church**, (*Ekklesia*) **Each Believer is CALLED** and that calling is a supernatural calling: **John 6:44** “*No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.*”

### **Called by the Father:**

If we have been born of the Spirit, then it is affirmed that we are "**the called**" of God.

**Romans 8: 29** “*For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. **30** Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”*

### **The Called become believers and sons of God: Acts 13: 44**

(Paul and Barnabus minister at Antioch at Pisidia)

“*On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. **45** But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul. **46** Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, “It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. **47** For so the Lord has commanded us: ‘I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.’ **48** Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord.\* And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.” \***Those who God calls are foreknown.** He supplies “the measure of faith” necessary to prepare their hearts to believe.*

### **SALVATION BY THE POWER OF GOD -**

**ROMANS 1:16** “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the **power of God to salvation** for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. **1 CORINTHIANS 1:18** Christ (is) the Power and Wisdom of God. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is **the power of God.**” It is supernatural divine power (dunamis) that has the ability to transform a person into a new creation.*

### **What are we SAVED FROM? What are we called OUT OF?**

Obviously the first matter is that we are delivered from the judgment destined for all unbelievers. Sadly, those unbelievers will pay the eternal price of separation from God in HELL. Hell is described clearly by Jesus as a place of torment and separation from God.

**We who are called to believe are Delivered from *the Wrath to Come* and the control of the Evil One. 1 Thes. 1:10 - 9** *“-and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.”* **John 17:16** *They are not of **the world**, just as I am not of **the world.**”*

**The Spirit of Truth** gives us discernment and helps keep us from the attacks and snares of the “*God of this world.*” **John 15:19:** *If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.* John 17:6: *“I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.”*

### **WHAT IS THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS?**

(This directs us to the essential Gospel message.)

**What is the gospel? What isn't the Gospel?** *“The cross, the shed blood of Jesus, and the resurrection”* was a standard message among the evangelical churches for a long time. That message is being replaced by another gospel of seeker sensitive and feel good religion.”

**Paul warns us not to turn from the message of the cross.**

*1 Corinthians 1:18* *“-For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”*

**Jude admonishes us to:** **Jude: v.3** *“I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.”*

**What distinguishes the validity of the Gospel and the beliefs of a Christian**

*2 Corinthians 11:3 and 4* *explains that we must have the - - the Right Jesus - - the Right Gospel - the Right Spirit.”* **4** *For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted –you may well put up with it!”*

**God's Chosen and Elect**  
**A Mystery Of God**

## Chapter 3: Who God Chooses

### *People and Nations Are Chosen by God*

Israel is known in scripture as God's Elect people. Abraham was called by God from Ur of the Caldes. God gave him the title of "The Father of Many Nations." Jacob (called Israel) is the son of Isaac. Isaac who is Abraham's "son of promise" was sired supernaturally in Sarah's old age. The question being examined should, I hope, bring clarity to the question, "Does God choose individuals and nations or is it the result of human will and action? We will look at a number of Bible texts.

"**Many are called but few are chosen.**" (*Matthew 22:14*) What do we understand about those who God calls? Many Christians consider themselves to be among **the chosen** by virtue of church doctrine. Others have been **converted**, through various life circumstances to become followers of the Messiah, Jesus. Many others it seems, can't be persuaded to believe. These constitute "*unbelievers*." They have chosen not to believe that there is any kind of transformative power from God (a god) that can make us into anything other than the familiar life that we were born into.

The doctrine of **the Election of God** is a doctrine debated by Biblical scholars. Theologians are quick to label a viewpoint and argue for or against it. The question of "Election" has been debated for centuries, since the time of Augustine and before. The first apostles had a clear understanding of the *supernatural* reality of becoming a Spirit-born creation. After the protestant reformation provided access to the Bible, new theological understandings were uncovered. One of these reformers of the mid 16th century was John Calvin who made an attempt at systematizing the theology of Protestantism. Today the label of "Calvinism" boils down to whether or not a human being has any measure of free will to choose to believe the gospel to be saved or not.

This widely debated view carries a stigma with it. I have personally never considered myself a Calvinist only a believer. Many of the "**reformers**" who followed Luther, Calvin and the Reformation affirmed this doctrine to some degree. The belief being that some souls are meant to be rejected.

What we must realize is that Luther and Calvin and others after the Reformation, carried the legacy of the doctrine of the priesthood and the precepts the traditions of the Roman church. They have held since the days of Luther the *Amillennial view* that that the church with its hierarchy of leadership represents the biblical '**Kingdom of God**' a doctrine taught by St. Augustine. This is a non-biblical teaching. The scripture refutes a great many of the Roman church practices. Scripture reveals

that *the Kingdom* is experienced in part Spiritually, is yet to be ushered in as a worldly reality. Amillennialists do not look for a literal kingdom ruled by the Messiah Jesus on earth. Premillennialists as myself look to a future judgment after the return of Christ the Messiah which is spoken of in the Old Covenant prophetically as 'the Day of the Lord.'

The reformers departed only slightly from their predecessors, holding to the view that Israel and Judaism had been replaced by the church, the doctrine of *replacement theology*. Church denominations that followed the reformation, to their shame and misfortune, thoroughly purged anything Judaic from their eschatology (study of last things). This resulted in hundreds of prophetic promises concerning Israel and the Messianic kingdom to come, were Spiritualized to point to the Christian church world and not to describe the place of Israel in the last days. This has resulted in a metaphorical, allegorical rendering of Old Testament prophecy, Jesus, the apostles, and The Revelation of John. This erroneous rendering of scripture has resulted in centuries of antisemitism and thousands of souls being slaughtered by the Roman church in the crusades, and by the Calvinists themselves. Then in WW2 it bore the fruit of Hitler's anti-Jewish, final solution, the holocaust.

The pathway of salvation which is the domain of power of Grace alone was displaced by Sacerdotalism, a term that focuses on priestly powers to ensure any promise of heaven. Church ordinances included infant baptism, and sacramentalism, another dangerous error. Even today in depictions of the Life of Jesus or the gospel we see Jesus and the apostles depicted as *not really Jewish*. A recent movie, *The Son of God*, fell into this same error.

### **More About What Calvinists Believe**

Theology and religious dogma is persistent. So today thousands of mainline churches remain in the grip of the doctrines in the theology of "**Calvinism**." Calvinism has certain tenets, some of which I believe are valid and some not. There is a *mnemonic* given to summarize the principles: "T U L I P"

#### **T-U-L-I-P:**

(T) **Total depravity of humankind**. I believe this tenet is thoroughly supported by scripture. Though not always evident, man is NOT essentially good, (a humanistic, Universalist view) nor can he be called a "child of God."

(See reference to [Who Are God's Children?](#))

(U) **Unmerited favor**. Yes, I believe this too is a valid principle. We recognize that scripturally, salvation is a **free gift** but it is also a **divine action**. Christ died for the sins of all! The **power of God** avails to any who reach out to accept it. Jesus' resurrection provided the hope and assurance of eternal life. It is this power that can make us into a regenerated being. Salvation is not the result of mere

mental ascent to an idea or kind of doctrine. There is an additional requirement, that we must believe *in our hearts* unto righteousness and confess before others that Jesus is Savior and Lord. It is this action that comes from a depth of belief that God plants within us a *heartfelt conviction*.

ARMENIAN DOCTRINE SAYS: "I owe my election to my faith." CALVINIST DOCTRINE says, I owe my faith to my election. (J I Packer) Packer, John Piper and R.C. Sproul are notable spokesmen for Calvinism. <http://nickvoss.wordpress.com/2012/05/23/and-as-many-as-were-appointed-to-eternal-life-believed/>

(L) **Limited atonement.** Calvinists hold that Jesus did not die for all while some remain objects of wrath. **Did Jesus die for all?** See 1 John: **1John 2:2** *"And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."*

My answer is "Yes, Christ died for all of humankind. But sadly, not all can be persuaded to believe. **John 1:12:**"As many who will come he gives the right to become "*children of God.*" - - "*But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.*" Redemption is free and for all. Yet, and this is a mystery to me, few receive this free gift! Mysteriously, God Almighty has in eternity past a foreknowledge of those who will have made the choice to believe in the one who is sent as Redeemer and Savior.

The Father in heaven does not force anyone to believe. Calvinists may say that He has not made salvation available to all. I can not support that notion. Our God is Loving and Fair. For whatever reason, some who are told **the Good News** still choose darkness over light. That is their FREELY CHOSEN WILL. Part of this mystery may be explained by the fact that God, who sees the end from the beginning, has foreknowledge of those who did choose to receive the free gift and persevere prayerfully from day to day until their days on earth are fulfilled.

(I) **Irresistible Grace.** According to this tenet of Calvinism no one who is God's elect can resist his call no matter how defiled in sin he/she may be. Yet, all must hear the Word of Truth that is preached. *"For how will they hear unless someone is sent to preach that word."* When the gospel is preached there are some who will receive the word and others that may not. (*The parable of the sower and the seed.* Mark 4:14) If grace is inevitable then evangelism is really nothing to be valued. Thus, this is a tenet of Calvinism that I believe to be flawed. We must remember that none come to the Father unless the Spirit draws them. This would give add validity to the mystery of the call of God. We who believe are called out of darkness into this light. **1Pe 2:9** *"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light-"*

(P) **Persistence of God's Grace** upon the believer.

Those who are saved are preserved and guaranteed not to depart from God's love and ultimate

destiny. This writer believes that we as believers who know God will continue in his Grace the provision of his continuous aid. We were saved, are being saved and will be saved hereafter. We will continue to be watchful, prayerful and repentant. And yes, this perseverance is enabled by the Power of God working in us. Any person who mentally assents to the gospel and who is a regular church attender is not automatically *a regenerated* believer, saved and born of the Spirit. The church today is filled with nominal Christians who do not reflect the nature of a person transformed by the power of God. There are those who are truly saved and born from above. These have their names written in the "Book of Life" inscribed in heaven. The **new creation** is a commodity of the "Church Age." Spiritual renewal places us on God's inscribed invitation list and a place reserved at the Lord's banqueting table.

There are believers and there are unbelievers. Unbelievers need not be pagans or people who belong to non-Christian religions. Unbelievers comprise the populations of the churches found in every community. There are conditions that determine our being among "**the called**". Some may call these believers, "*authentic Christians*." An authentic Christian has been Spiritually recreated and transformed by the supernatural Power of God. (2Cor.5:17) Remember this text which is powerfully relevant, "**The Gospel is The Power of God.**" (Romans 1:16; Romans 15:10)(1Cor.2:4)

We can be assured that getting saved and becoming a child of God with a new character and a new destiny is entirely by the providence of God Himself. Here is the text that expresses this. **John 6:44** "*No man can come to me, except the Father that sent me draw him: and I will raise him up in the last day.*" It is God who calls us and God who saves us. We respond to that call at a time of God's choosing. So it is clear that election and the call of God is initiated by heaven as we turn our thoughts heavenward.

**A Measure of God's Faith Is Needed to Come to God,** God supplies the measure of faith needed.

If we are **spiritually dead** in our natural state, as I am convinced is the case, then it is impossible for anyone to take the first step of faith to believe. We are like sleepers and dreamers who followed blindly, the course of this world before we are regenerated by *the power of God*. Now if we look at the world through a Biblical lens, we are told that it is characterized by lust, greed, selfishness, evil desires and every evil work. Yes, the Bible is very clear that there is "evil." The secularist avoids any reference to the notion of evil. It becomes simply "a choice."

There is a spiritual, and a chronological process for those who come to God. It may derive from the prayers of others. For some it may derive from the challenges of life's experience that molds us. **God works** both in our thoughts and in our circumstances. This is portrayed by the hands of the potter who molds the clay from pressure of his hands outside and within.

In the Bible references that I will show you, we will find clear proof that it is by God's power that we are selected (elected) and called out of [this fallen world of darkness into the God's Kingdom](#) of light and the knowledge of "Truth." (The link above is a graphic of the fallen world contrasted with God's Kingdom which is to be restored. (- a pdf file) The word for **church** in Greek is **Ekklesia** which means called out ones.

There is overwhelming proof that God's hand of grace is at work in our being called and the transforming work of salvation. The hand of grace continues as we mature as believers unto godliness, as we abide in the vine and bear the fruit as a child of God. Why do so many fail to pursue God or turn aside from the allurements of this present evil world? It is likely that they have not actually had the life changing encounter that is necessary to make them an authentic believer. A question remains to ponder: Are those who practice a pretense that is a *form of godliness* or seem to be only superficial (religious) Christians, destined to have a place in the glorious kingdom to come? I don't know but God knows.

### **SCRIPTURAL FOUNDATION PROOF for GOD'S ELECTION**

While God's foreknowledge and election is clear in scripture, the idea that some can never be saved is not.

- ◆ MATTHEW 20:16-20 *"So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few chosen."*
- ◆ JOHN 15:16 *"You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and (that) your fruit should remain,*
- ◆ JOHN 15:19 *"If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.*
- ◆ JOHN 17:2 *"as You (Heavenly Father) have given Him (Jesus) authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.*
- ◆ JOHN 17:9 *"I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You (Heavenly Father) have given Me, for they are Yours.*
- ◆ JOHN 6:37 *"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. (Truly chosen believers will be established and sustained.)*
- ◆ JOHN 10:27 *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.*
- ◆ JOHN 10:26 *"You do not believe because you are not my sheep" (children of the Evil One)*
- ◆ LUKE 10:21 *In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things (heavenly Truth) from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight.*

- ◆ MARK 13: 27 *And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect (the chosen children of God) from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven..*
- ◆ ACTS 13:48 *Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.*
- ◆ ROMANS 8:29 *For whom He foreknew, (this does not mean that the foreknown lived in a previous earth age as some teach.) He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. (He knew us before we were born as he sees to the end of time from the beginning.)*
- ◆ ROMANS 30- *Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?*
- ◆ ROMANS 8:38-9 - *For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- ◆ ROMANS 9:22 *What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much long-suffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, (whaaaat!) and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory,*
- ◆ ROMANS 9:24 *even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?*
- ◆ ROMANS 11:29 *For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable*
- ◆ EPHESIANS 1:4-5 *"He chose us in him before the foundation of the world - - " and predestined us to the adoption as sons - -"*
- ◆ EPHESIANS 1:11 *In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will,*
- ◆ 2THESSALONIAS 2:13 *"God has from the beginning, chosen you to salvation"*
- ◆ ROMANS 11:7-8 *" Israel has not obtained what it seeks but the elect have obtained it; the rest were blinded."*
- ◆ 1PETER 1:2 *elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ:*
- ◆ 1PETER 1:4 *to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,*
- ◆ LUKE 18:7 *7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them*

- ◆ JOHN 15:16 16 *Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.*
- ◆ MARK 13:20 20 *And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.*
- ◆ MATTHEW 24:22, 22 *And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened* 24: 31 31 *And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.*
- ◆ ROMANS 8:29 - *"For those he foreknew he predestined to be conformed to the image of his son-"*
- ◆ ROMANS 8:33 33 *Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifies*
- ◆ COLOSSIANS 3:12 12 *Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long suffering;*
- ◆ 2TIMOTHY 2:10 10 *Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.*
- ◆ TITUS 1:1 1 *Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness;*
- ◆ 1PETER 1:2 2 *Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.*
- ◆ 1PETER 5:13 13 *The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son*
- ◆ 2JOHN 1:1 1 *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;*
- ◆ 2JOHN 1:13 13 *The children of thy elect sister greet thee. Amen.*

EK-KLE-SI'A = Called ones The Church consists of those who are called out.

ARMENIAN DOCTRINE SAYS: "I owe my election to my faith."

CALVINIST DOCTRINE says, I owe my faith to my election. (J I Packer)

### **Do We Have Free Choice? Yes. It would seem so.**

We can have more and more of God. **If** we purpose to draw near to Him with fervent desire and sincerity. He will reward our asking, seeking and knocking. He will meet us as we desire to know the Lord better. The enemy however, will be always at hand and his desire is to side-track us from gaining a deeper and more profound assurance and experience in Christ Jesus the Messiah.

## Does Election Mean That We Have No Responsibility to Preach and Share the Gospel?

Certainly not! All believers will naturally reflect the character of God that will project and promote the way of Christ. Living the Christian life is a matter of choosing each day who we should serve. It does not mean that we must struggle to keep from falling into the snares of the evil one. We must persevere and pray for Grace to guide us in this pilgrim quest. How many of us like myself, rejected the gospel and the story of salvation that was proclaimed to us and later came to faith?

We all, in times past, have had our life style among the unsaved and the unredeemed. It is in God's own time and circumstance that we are provided with that "*measure of faith*" enabling us to believe and be drawn into his presence. Unless the Spirit draws us we can't come to God. We reject the gospel presentation for years and then in God's time we receive that which was before foolishness.

John 6:44: ***No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.***

**FOUR KINDS OF 'CHRISTIANS** from "FALSE ASSURANCE": (Teaching by R. C. Sproul)

### **Those who are:**

1. UNSAVED AND KNOW THEY ARE UNSAVED
2. SAVED AND KNOW THAT THEY ARE SAVED - - FULL ASSURANCE
3. SAVED BUT WHO DO NOT KNOW IT No one is half regenerate. It is fully complete at conversion. The conversion experience of individuals vary greatly. One should not determine their theology by their experience but by the Word of God.
4. MANY ARE NOT SAVED BUT HAVE "FALSE ASSURANCE" THAT THEY ARE SAVED.

### **REASONS FOR FALSE ASSURANCE:**

**FALSE THEOLOGY**, leads people to be of the mistaken belief that WHAT THEY BELIEVE qualifies them to be saved.

**UNIVERSALISM**: Doctrine of Universalism (all are saved) Justification simply by dying. All who die will go to heaven. UNIVERSALISM HOLDS THAT: There will be NO JUDGMENT or divine punishment. (Remember, Jesus taught more about hell than about heaven.)

**LEGALISM** or some accounting an accumulation of **WORKS RIGHTEOUSNESS**.

90% of people surveyed believe that: "I did this or that." Righteous self interest of righteous heart

**SACERDOTALISM** (Following the doctrines **the sacraments** and ordinances of the church)

The Roman Catholic church upholds the power of the priesthood to adjudicate another's entrance into heaven or hell. They, through ritual and ordinances affect God's destiny of an individual.

Following any of a number of prescribed religious practices: Baptism, Joining a particular denomination; Faithful church attendance. [\*Other Articles and Studies by Charles Pinkney\*](#)

# Accessing The Hidden God A Mystery

## Chapter 4:

### ACCESSING THE GOD WHO SEEMS SO HIDDEN!

#### The Mystery of Accessing God

A young child when told about believing in God and how you can pray to him responded. “How come we can’t see him and why doesn’t he talk?” That is actually a very good question and the beginning of unraveling miles of torturous theology. He calls us or perhaps more properly he leads us into His fellowship. John 10 says that “*His sheep know his voice.*” Yes, he has a voice. Sometimes it is an inward nudge or witness, other times it may be very clear and dramatic, sometimes it is audible but this not very often. Finally he speaks to us with a leading and an inner sense of connecting to the texts we have read in the Bible. The disciples of Jesus knew what it meant to be “in the Spirit.” This is a clear inspiration that leads and directs our thoughts as heaven guides us through the Holy Spirit.

Anyone can pray. People pray to anyone or anything. Pagans and animists find god in anything in the physical world. They may pray to creatures, mountains, rocks, rivers or volcanoes or ancestors. Yes, this counts as prayer but it is only a form of godliness and it is idolatry.

There are so called spiritual books which purport to reveal truths about God and Cosmology. “The Quran”, “The Book of Mormon”, “Urantia”, “The Masonic Order”, Percival’s “Thinking and Destiny” and others. These very often reference the Bible and may be written in a way that affects the style of Biblical scripture, but their doctrines and authorship do not align with the Bible. What is not pure truth is demonic.

There are many gods who occupy the spirit realm as well. They have many names but they are those demonic entities associated with Lucifer's fall. In the time of the exodus, tribes of Canaan called upon Baal, Ashteroth, Milcom, Dagon and a host of others demon gods. These were called "abominations" by "JHVH. The Israelites were commanded to destroy every trace of the demon worshiping tribes lest they would become a snare to the covenant people. For an interesting account of these encounters read the book of Joshua and his conquest of Canaan after the death of Moses.

**The Heavenly Father seeks True Worshipers, those who worship in Spirit and in Truth.**

(John Chapter.4)

#### **Access and Intimacy**

Access to God The Father

**Jesus said, “*I am the way, the truth, and the life.*”**

***No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6)***

" ***No one comes to the Father accept through me.***" Understand that the Son of God, Jesus, the lamb, the Messiah, is *the One and only Way, the Door*. It is he who can remove the shrouded veil of the “God of this world” who keeps us separated from God Almighty. Those who enter thereby receive the right to become adopted into His royal family of Kings and Priests. (Exodus 19)

## **Rethinking Prayer**

The Spiritual life is a life of prayer. Most of us think of "saying prayers" when we hear about this *religious* topic. My dad would listen to me recite my bedtime prayer as a child. But prayer is less about saying prayers than it is an attitude continuous communion with God's Spiritual presence with our own spirit. In order to enter the holy place of intimacy we may need to remember that we are *prodigals who have lost our way in an ungodly world and desire to return to the Father's house*. We must be of a mind that we can be totally welcome, loved and restored to full “*sonship*” and authority in the Father's name. The wall of partition which once separated us from God has been removed by Jesus' blood and sacrifice. I have found that many who have lived in this prodigal life think they are too evil and depraved to ever be made whole and righteous again. The reality is that he can make the foulest sinner clean again, yes even serial killers! That is why Jesus died for the worst of sinners who had all lost their way. **Prayer begins with a worshipful acknowledgment that we are weak, helpless and without ability in our natural selves.** The *Gk. proscuneo* refers to the mangy dog licking the master's hand, knowing full well what we would be without his care.

Father God invites us to enter in to His presence. We must turn aside from the continuous crush of worldly cares. *Remember Moses, who turned aside to enter into God's holy presence* at the burning bush. We come to a place of rest where there is fellowship, help, comfort and restoration. We become positioned to share a place of righteousness in the heavenly places. We do not travel there by a space shuttle, but by coming to the temple that is within where your heart is the alter. You are welcomed by a loving Father.

Prayer has many facets but not all need be spoken or expressed outwardly. We have the “Disciple’s Prayer” that Jesus gave as a general guide to petition the Father when we pray. Part of that prayer is honoring the father, giving him praise and reverence; part of prayer is receiving. Part of prayer is sharing your needs and petitioning the Lord to act on our behalfs. The greatest time portion of prayer is resting in his presence. It is a time in which we are simply aware of abiding in him and being surrounded by his love.

There is also fellowship (communion) in the Word of God. When we are reading the Word of Truth the Spirit of God makes us a partaker heaven's fellowship. He, The Spirit instructs us by illuminating the Word for our present needs through his *Rhema voice*. In words of spoken praise we come unto his presence. In the consuming fullness of His glory in the inner court we partake of his Glory and Holiness. In the silence of Prayer *we listen* and hear his voice *and see* him demonstrate the actions we should follow. In worship God reaches down to touch us supernaturally to anoint us with supernatural virtues and abilities. In this audience he directs us in a way to go forth. *In his presence there is freedom and fullness of joy*. When the cares of life seem overwhelming it is hard to sense God's presence and his support, but know it his there even when it seems eclipsed by life's pain or sorrow.

Declaring his will and promises become words of faith to lean upon. The faith empowered trust in His word establishes our way. The prayer of faith establishes God's will for ourselves or for others, as we speak with kingly authority in the earth.

In the Spirit of Holiness the fear of the Lord is established. At times of greatest intimacy, in the deepest moments of worship we are aware of the unspeakable wonder of God and our total inadequacy and limitations. In this worship we are the dog who licks the masters hand. (Gr. *Proscuneo*)

We Can Minister Only Those Things Which We Have Received: In earlier stages of the relationship IN CHRIST we are children needing to be nurtured; later we learn to rely more fully on God's Word and upon God's voice. We can only minister that which we have received. If we have received living Manna we will minister with mature authority, if not we will weakly echo vanity and human double-mindedness.

**1 Peter 4:10** *"As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."* **1 Corinthians 2:12** *"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God."*

Eventually if we pursue spiritual things which God is pleased to supply and if we remain free from the encumbering unbelief of men's tradition we may begin to function as Jesus did in the world. As an adopted son of God.

*"But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"* **(John 1:12)** *"And of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace."* **(John 1:16)**

## **Apostolic Authority Comes from First Hand Witness (A personal encounter with the risen Christ)**

Why did the Lord Jesus operate in such authority? Because of His FIRST HAND knowledge through FELLOWSHIP with his Father. The Lord walked, talked and communed with his heavenly Father as the Begotten Son of God. Why did the apostles operate with such power and authority? Because of the same intimacy. Now as adopted sons of God. Jesus has given us the same opportunity to fellowship and to know God FIRST HAND. (1 John 4:17) "As he is so are we in this world."

*"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness." (John 3:11) "John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven." (John 3:27) "He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true." (John 3:33)*

The "Promise of the Father" provided the necessary tools for being a first-hand witness. He sends the Holy Spirit to all those who believe. The Holy Spirit is the teacher and the helper who will lead us in the Spiritual life. *"Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it sees him not, neither knows him: but ye know him; for he dwells with you, and shall be in you." (John 16:14) "He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you." (John 16:15) "All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you." (John 16:24) "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."*

### **Here are other important Scriptures to show the foundation of receiving Spiritual enablement from God.**

- Acts 1:8 *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."*
- Acts 2:33 *"Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear."*
- (1 Corinthians 2:12-14) *"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God." "Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Ghost teaches; comparing spiritual things with spiritual." "But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."*

Paul reminds us not to get carried away with personal glory & pride. If you are ministering God you have not done any of it by your own strength or by natural talents.

*(1 Corinthians 4:7) "For who makes thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?"*

**1 Corinthians 11** *"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you,-") -- ("That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:")*

### **Unbelievers and “religious” persons blindly follow second hand doctrines & presumptions**

There are unbelieving *ministers* saying that God no longer minister or are instructed as Paul was instructed. They are in error. That is precisely how we are instructed and why the Holy Spirit was given. Jude in his short epistle urges us to continue in the faith of the first apostles. **Jude 3** *“Beloved, while I was giving all diligence to write unto you of our common salvation, I was constrained to write unto you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints.”*

The question of doctrine can not hinge on direct revelation alone, as the Bible contains all of the precepts for study. Direct revelation will support and acknowledge that the Lord still works the same today as he did in times of first apostles. Great Bible scholars like C. H. Spurgeon are known to say that each time they delve into a passage in the Word, even after years of familiarity, they come out with additional insights and understanding. This is the miracle of the “Living Word”.

A believer may have a religious mentor or mentors who may teach a broad range of doctrines. The understandings that we follow may be a mental assent to a teacher’s point of view. Some of these doctrines may be correct but it is better to know than to presume. The term “fact check is a popular phrase these days and should always be employed by disciples. Spiritual authority comes from the assurance that one has received directly through the Holy Spirit who teaches deep and eternal things which are always in accord with Scripture. Check out the facts and verify that what is taught is Biblical as the Bereans did in Acts: **Acts 17:11** *“Now these were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of the mind, examining the Scriptures daily, whether these things were so.”* The Bible used of course was the Tenack, the Old Testament Bible.

### **Double mindedness is an Obstacle to Receiving from God**

Too great a measure of worldly interests of appetites of the flesh preclude a person from receiving from God. Why? Because such a person focus their affections and worship upon other things or themselves. Man can serve only one master, that master gets his worship. James 1:7 *"For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord."* James 1:8 *"A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."*

The Teacher whom Jesus sends to attend us is this very moment, waiting to share a bounty of God's Love, Grace, Wisdom, Knowledge and Power. Behold his hand is still stretched out to us and we are bidden to partake and to share. *1 John 2:27 "But the anointing which ye have received of him abides in you, and ye need not that any man teach you-"*

## **Laying On Hands**

### **Empowerment by Spiritual Transfer**

Throughout the Bible we see the evidence of the power associated with the laying on of hands. In the book of Hebrews Chapter 5 in verse 1, it is included as a foundational spiritual doctrine to be followed by believers. Moses laid his hands upon Joshua in the closing chapter of Deuteronomy to transfer *his anointing* on the future leader of Israel with Power and Wisdom. The gift of God and the power displayed by Moses was a physical manifestation capable of being transmitted. For this reason it is efficacious to have only a spiritual (Spirit-filled) person lay hands upon you for prayer or for blessing. If anyone has not proven to be a believer and well grounded in the faith, or an unclean person (someone who is spiritually defiled) should not lay hands upon you, even if they claim to be a Christian. Spiritual transmission is a reality for good or for evil and darker inclinations can be transmitted in one's own life or the life of others.

It is advantageous to have a spirit-filled believer who is manifesting the right spiritual fruits and the grace of God in his own life to lay hands upon you because the spirit (like fire) is transmitted and spreads. It is also advantageous to know how to give thanks in praise and to worship. God will personally manifest in praise and worship (He desires true worshipers, and seeks such; John 4:23) He inhabits the praises of Israel-his people" (Psalm 22:3.)

### **Perseverance and Resistance in Receiving the Spirit**

God is faithful and will not refuse those who ask. Those who seek and those who knock. He knows how to give good gifts. He will not give a serpent if you ask for a fish or give a stone if you ask for bread.

Our spiritual adversary, Satan is not at all desirous of our receiving any endowment of Spiritual powers given by God, he may cloud your mind or trouble you and give you thoughts that say, "I'm not worthy;" or "this never works for me." Thoughts like, "I can't be forgiven; I can't receive it now. Etc." You may also have a residue of idolatry to the other lord, Satan, from your previous life style. This can be purged out with heartfelt repentance before God can complete His work in you. If you have been active in witchcraft, Satanism, or practice a lifestyle which anti Biblical which you do not want to give

up, this could hinder your receiving the Promise of the Father. God must own you first or know that you are sincere in desiring a brand new life with Him.

It is effective to address Satan and give him notice, saying, "Satan, I give you notice that you will not affect my life again in any way. I renounce you in my life, in my body, my mind and my spirit. I declare to you that I am God's property through Jesus Christ the Lamb!" This will sanctify every act that will follow.

### **The Inner Witness of the Spirit: The Great Amen of GOD**

The message and wisdom that the Gospel teaches is a gift provided by God and not necessarily generated by academic studies or psychological principals. The witness that the Holy Spirit provides us comes with a still, small voice of witness. The Holy Spirit is the Teacher, the Counselor, The Comforter and the Shepherd's Voice. It is almost impossible to explain to someone who has not experienced it themselves. It is the love of God spread abroad in our hearts. It is the spirit that caused John the Baptist to leap up in his mother's womb in the presence of Mary before the birth of her son.

He will provide the same first-hand witness that Peter and Paul knew and preached. The present inner-voice is a first-hand witness of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. It is the witness of the fellowship of our Savior, God's Son. It is the witness of 'Darkness' fleeing before the light and years of bondage and confusion fleeing from the presence of God. It is the witness of a new creation. It is the witness of things our eyes have seen, that which we have touched and our hands of handled pertaining to the Word of Life. (1<sup>st</sup> John 1) Christ Jesus our Lord. To him be all glory and praise, forever! Amen.

**The Body Of Christ**  
**The Mystery Of The Church**

**Chapter 5**  
**THE MYSTERY OF THE BODY**

CHRIST'S LIVING PRESENCE  
IS MINISTERING ON THE EARTH  
THROUGH BELIEVERS

"You can access the life of God  
without being sidetracked by the pitfalls of religious tradition."

The Body is the Church

An Encounter With God

Characteristics & Definitions of Religion

The Church is Not a Building

The Church is the Living Body of Christ on Earth

The Body Manifests Christ's Love

Our Heart's First Call is to Fellowship with God

The Church's First Call is to Fellowship

Who Ministers "The Gospel?"

Growing into the Stature of Christ

THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS SUGGEST  
HOW THE TRUE CHURCH SHOULD LOOK  
AND HOW TRADITION HAS CHANGED IT

What is the nature of fellowship in God? How does the concept of "The Church" relate to the life of believers? What is the importance of ritual and programs in the life of a "Church?" The following will address the question of the nature of the true church and the nature of the fellowship of

all believers. Institutional Christianity has done disservice to us by presenting the life of God as being predicated upon church-house activities, services that occur inside a physical edifice!

## **The TRUE Church is a Spiritual Body Comprised of All Believers**

Christianity is not a philosophical belief system. Christianity is not an ideology. Christianity is not a social club that solicits members. Christians are not Christians by virtue of their attending a particular church or denominational fellowship. We are not a Christian because our mother or father told us that we were. We are not Christians by default because we are not Buddhist, Hindu or Muslim. God has no second generation Christians. "*God has no grandchildren!*) We are not even a Christian by virtue of an act of your own will or choosing! We become a Christian believer because Almighty God enabled you to believe through His hand of Grace upon you. You are brought into the fellowship of the son of his love, Jesus the anointed. You are baptized into His Body when you are born again. John 3:3.

## **An Encounter With God**

The Gospel message teaches that believers are supernaturally placed into an elect (CHOSEN) spiritual body after our names have been written in the *Book of Life*. Our names are not written in the Book of Life by God without knowing it ourselves! The day we become a believer is the day that we have our personal God ENCOUNTER! *Rather it should be said, the day we have our personal God encounter is the day we become a believer!* In this encounter he touches us and even the angels look upon us and rejoice! Immediately the Lord begins to lead and transform us. He fills us to overflowing with his presence. We will never walk in the darkness of unbelief again! ***God is experiential not theoretical.*** "*Behold all things become new!*" (2 Corinthians Chapter 5;17.) In the years that we live in this world we witness a lot of religious behavior through 'church-related' activities but we have witnessed very little of the 'manifestation of God' occurring within the institutional church.

## **Forms of Godliness Without Power**

Writing in the second letter to the 2-Corinthians in Chapter 6.14, Paul exhorts believers not to 'unequally yoked' to unbelievers. The unredeemed remain under the domain of darkness of the world and its bondage. Paul's admonition concludes that we should dis-attach ourselves from that which has an appearance of Godliness but is without (spiritual) Power! This exhortation is also part of the serious admonition Paul has written to Timothy, both in 1

Timothy C.4 and in 2nd Timothy C.3 We are advised to have no fellowship with those practicing a "form" of godliness but have no experience of the "power of God."

Most of what we see in our culture as representing Christianity in no more than formalistic, tradition-bound religion. It does not teach or emphasize the power of God or the reality his fellowship with us.

### **Here are some practical definitions of religion**

Man's attempt to explain God or God's ways; Second hand or third-handed accounts about God or understand the truth revealed in God's word; Rituals and customs which are presumed to gain favor with God; Forms of Godliness without manifesting God's presence or power; Things that happen inside of church buildings *The Church is not a Building*

The Greek word "Ek-kles-sia" is the word translated "church." Its definition refers clearly to those who are called out, "the called out ones." In the writing of Peter's letter, Peter a disciple and apostle declares: "*You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a special and peculiar people, that may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.*" (1 Peter 2:9.)

The "Church" is this body of called out people. The word church to most of us has come to refer to a building or a place of worship. Some habitually call the church building "God's house." However, the true church is a NOT a building but the spiritual body to which we gave reference. The apostle said, "*Do you not know that you are the temple?*" When believers come together even as few as two or three and we gather in Jesus' name, he promises to manifest himself in their midst. Thus the body of Christ gathers itself together in fellowship. This is the church, the body of believers. (See 1 Corinthians 12: 12-24)

The Body is the Living Body of Christ in the Earth  
(See 1 Corinthians 12: 12-24)

Jesus walked the earth and ministered in the flesh. He is now the head of the church and walking in the flesh in us as the body of those who believe. *Any who do not believe that Jesus has come in the flesh expresses the spirit of anti-Christ.* (1John 2,3) This also addresses the Gnostic heresy prevalent from the first century and afterword.

Jesus has come to live and manifest his life within us!

Jesus has come to live and manifest his life within us!

Jesus has come to live and manifest his life within us!

Sometimes things have to be repeated to jolt us out of our lethargy. The reality of Christ in the flesh has got to impact our theology! It is so amazing so full wonderment that for it to be a mere concept is to indicate a kind of spiritual deadness.

The Body of Christ is comprised of many members. (See 1 Corinthians 12, Romans 12, 1 Per 4.) The BODY has many parts and many needful giftings which God has chosen to impart. Each member has a part to play, each member is needed and has significance. We are members of him and one another. Each is a part of Jesus Himself. Christ's love characterizes his Body. He is one with it as a husband and his bride are one. The union of the body is a great mystery. Christ is the head over it. The fullness of the spirit which filled Christ is fully and freely available to every member of The Body. We honor the Body. We love its members. We do not declare war against ourselves by speaking evil against a brother or sister in Christ. We also are given the task of sharing in its growth and edification, therefore each of must contribute of our gifts to its growth and health.

### **A Mystical and Spiritual Life**

The true church is a spiritual body chosen from heaven. It is connected to heaven by the Holy Spirit to the enthroned Christ. In the book of the Acts, people heard the Gospel, believed the word preached, and made a public witness confirming that they believed that Jesus was the one begotten Son of God who was given as a sacrifice for them. They were given power and authority (right to) become "*sons of God*". When this public confession is made the Spirit of God came upon them and us with transforming power with the experienced of *the miracle of the New Birth*. Old things pass away and new things come,

(2 Corinthians 5;17.)

*New Godly love came upon the believer*, a new bond of fellowship came with it also. They gathered into houses and praised and worshiped God. Men and women prophesied, The Scriptures were read with enlightenment and they knew God and Christ were assuredly in their midst. This was the church of the Book of Acts. Since that day his body has never left it was only added-to. It is the same spiritual body that we may join. The attributes of Jesus Spirit were the source of the transformation. It was and is not achieved by self effort! The parable of "abiding in the vine" illustrates this phenomena.

### **The Body Must Manifest the Love of Jesus**

*"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knows us not, because it knew him not."* (1 John 3:1) *"Hereby perceive we the*

*love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."*

(1 John 3:16)

The power and redemptive quality of God's love has to have a place to manifest and to shine as a light. It is in this body of believers that it shines. Those who see enlightened believers who are Spiritually aflame see kindness and affection that is unlike the rest of the world.

In the fellowship of Christ there is openness (or the bond) of affection among true believers not mere civility. It is "unfeigned love." There is a sense of care and sharing because we have the nature of God's love within us. *Perfect love, the Scripture says, casts away all fear.*

The self consciousness of the unredeemed man or woman does not allow freedom and openness in shared affection. The unredeemed person is fearful of being hurt or looking foolish in such openness and vulnerability, these fears vanish in the life of the Spirit of Christ.

### **Our Heart's First Call is to Fellowship**

*For generations the church institution has exalted leadership while fellowship in terms of horizontal relationships has been impoverished and neglected!*

All of us crave companionship and fellowship. Believers crave and hunger for the fellowship of others of like faith. It is not only this inner desire fueled by God's nature but the fact that "*we are edified through love*" in this fellowship. Thus all are prepared to share this common life with others. This is why that fellowship is essential.

### **The word for this fellowship that God initiates in us is called in the Greek "*Koinonia*."**

Koinonia has several important meanings associated to it; sharing, fellowship, communion, support, and participation. All of these things describe the fellowship we have with God and through God. Because of the power (an empowering grace) that God supplies we are first able to share his Spirit and his nature, we therefore have fellowship with Him. We become partakers of the Divine nature of God. We become "*bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh,*" an expression used to describe 'marriage.' It is this "*Bond of Love*" that is Jesus' description of the church, His Body (Ephesians 4) and His Bride, (Revelation 21).

*We are each are given the ability through supernatural enablements to do the works that Jesus did. (For this purpose the son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the Devil.)* This was the mission that God gave to Jesus. Jesus announced his mission by reading the prophetic text, in Isaiah 61 as recorded in Luke 4:18, "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,*" You might also note that the scripture Jesus quoted omitted the portion that address wrath and judgment which

are in another dispensation **beyond the age of grace**.

### **No Believer is Expected to Minister or Live the Christian Life by His Own Strength or Natural Ability**

The power from God (the Holy Spirit outpouring at Pentecost) empowered or enabled *all of the disciples* to receive supernatural abilities: Many theological traditions exclude this divine enablement extending into today. Some see the life of first century disciples described in the Bible book of Acts as different from God's operation in the present day. This '**cessationist**' doctrine is extremely unfortunate. Any doctrine that is denied or excluded can't will not be sought by faith. Please be assured of the reality that God's power of spiritual provision exists today. Spiritual enablement exists for anyone who can set aside his or her own natural limitations to seek, with faith, and to receive the "*down payment of our divine inheritance*," (read Ephesians 1:13,14). regarding the gifting from the Holy Spirit.

### **Who Ministers the Gospel?**

The disciples of Jesus saw and heard many wonderful things as they walked with the Master, the Son of God. But after 3 years of walking with Him, seeing all the wonders, and hearing all the teaching, they were told, " - ***wait in this city (Jerusalem) until you are supplied with POWER from heaven.***" Jesus' disciples needed a power which was above their own, a power divinely enabled by God, to minister with the intentions that Jesus required of them. With their natural abilities they could have told amazing stories, recounting Jesus' life and teachings, but the Lord wanted something more than this to qualify these disciples for ministry. He wanted them to share in the same empowered mission to proclaim the gift of redemption, the new life of adopted sons and daughters and the *gospel of the Kingdom*. The disciples were equipped with the same manner of executing the Gospel as Jesus himself. The disciples were to be equipped with a new kind of love a love empowered by God to perfectly love one another. The disciples were to be equipped with the same Spirit which empowered the Messiah.

The Holy Spirit provided power, love and a new mind. The disciple who was to minister needed a spiritual transplant so they could be after His image.

### **Making Disciples**

Disciples were chosen by Jesus as He walked the shores of Galilee. He is still making disciples today and he is still choosing men and women. He reveals himself to them. He changes their nature. He prepares them with wonderful gifts from heaven that are freely given by grace.

### **Growing into the stature of Christ**

Disciples reach out to make other disciples. Christ's Spirit works in them to reveal a love and compassion which cares about the lost and the hurting; to have a heart for those who are oppressed and bound.

- ◆ We do not minister with the objective of enrolling a candidate for church membership.
- ◆ We help to meet their needs and share the promises of Christ. God's provides God's best for each person. Ministry is what we each do to provide or make possible God's best for each person. We follow the doctrine of the apostles; the way of demonstrating the reality and power of the Kingdom of God.
- ◆ We are invested with Powers granted through Christ Jesus, the power of the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ We share a bond of fellowship with those who we rescue from the fire.
- ◆ We bless them and instruct them in the way of God.
- ◆ We remove the grave clothes from their lives just as Jesus instructed his disciples to do after Lazarus was called forth still bound from the tomb.
- ◆ We share the joy of salvation with singing and rejoicing, and making melody in our hearts.
- ◆ We praise God with songs, hymns and spiritual songs.
- ◆ We share and rejoice in the wonderful testimonies of deliverance.
- ◆ We lay on hands to heal the wounds of the afflicted and we take authority over demonic powers which would attempt continued harassment of a the fledgling believer, who is still struggling to sort out things which are spiritual from things which are psychological or "soulish" a term referring to the natural man.
- ◆ We feed the young with milk and the old share meat.
- ◆ We are not owned by any other but hold another's interest in common with our own.
- ◆ We know the ruthless operations of a spiritual enemy who is always at work to enter into the fellowship, to steal the glory, to divide and conquer, to steal our confidence and our joy.
- ◆ We are not ignorant of the devices of the enemy. We stand against him. *The zeal of the father's house has eaten us.* Church should not a matter of scheduled meeting times for the believer, The doors are never closed in the temple of the human heart. The altar is not mortar or wood, it is a place within us, a holy place sanctified by God by the blood of a lamb most Holy, A lamb without spot or blemish.

**A DEFINITION OF LOVE** *LOVE is God's best for each person.*

*MINISTRY is What We Do To Make it Possible for Someone  
to Receive God's Best for Them*

**Chapter 6**  
**THE MYSTERY OF THE CROSS**

**Crucified With Christ**  
**The Mystery Of The Cross**

*1Corinthians 2:0 - -"Eye has not seen nor ear heard, neither has entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those that love him. 10: But God has revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. 11. For man knows the things of a man, save the sprit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God, know man knows, but the Spirit of God.*

**THE MYSTERY OF THE CROSS**

Jesus Was Crucified For US & with US

The Mystery of Baptism

The Paradox of Losing One's own Life

The Only Good Christian is a Dead Christian

Warfare and Battling in the Mind and in the Flesh

Attributes of A flesh-Centered Person

Walking In The Spirit

Offloading the Burdens of our Lower Nature

An effort to Change our Worship or' Meditations'

Tears of Cleansing Reveal Restoration

The Cross has been the universal symbol identifying Christians for hundreds of years. It is a popular adornment as jewelry. It is also popular as a tattoo. But it is far more than a superficial emblem or a device to discourage vampires. It represents the entire catalog of damnable offenses which are filed under our human sin-nature that were laid upon the lamb of God *who became sin for us*. There was a supernatural exchange made on that cross, the sins of

the world were laid upon one man. In that exchange we received the right to become children of God and freed from the penalties of God's wrath. The pathway to redemption was opened to any who avail themselves of the gift the cross provides. He *became sin who knew no sin that we might become the righteous* adopted children of God. **2Co 5:21** *"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."*

## Calvary

For a moment let us revisit Calvary where Christ was crucified. There were three crosses. Jesus was the one who was *chosen* to take the place of Barabbas, a notable prisoner who was *chosen* to be set free. I believe we can say that Barabbas is a picture of you and me. To fulfill his calling and divine destiny Jesus, after being mocked and scourged, was nailed to the cross by Roman executioners to die between two other malefactors.

## Destined to Die For the Sins of Many

*"Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulders."* – (Isaiah 9:6) Yeshua Jesus was born for one reason, that reason was to take upon himself the sins of the world and by his death destroy the bondage of the human race by Satan. His reason for living was ultimately to die for you and me. During his life and mission on earth he proclaimed his credentials as being the sinless, Son of God which enabled him to be the unblemished sacrifice. He did the miraculous signs that verified he was the prophesied Messiah of Israel.

In the account of Jesus' birth the angels announced to shepherds they would see a newborn child "wrapped in swaddling clothes" and *this would be a sign*. There was something different about the child's first clothing that made it "a sign." The clothes were wrapped in the manner of a burial shroud. Even the baby's birth bore witness to his life's destiny. There hasn't been much preaching about this at Christmas time.

The Jews determined that Jesus was sentenced to die in the place of a condemned man, Barabbas, who represents a notable sinner. Surely Barabbas portrays every person without God.

Jesus called his death "**his baptism**." Paul states that, *"as many who are baptized into Christ are baptized into His death."* We are also likened to have risen with Him, a figurative picture portrayed in coming forth out of the water in immersion baptism. **(Romans 6:3,4 kjv)** *"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? - Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."*

*"Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole." (Acts 4:10) (1 Corinthians 1:23,24 kjv)"But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling-block, and unto the Greeks foolishness;" "But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God."*

## **Baptism, A Supernatural Mystery**

Baptism is more than a token sacramental, religious act: Jesus meant it to usher in a supernatural life within believers. This is a mystery worth investigating; that we are crucified with Jesus and risen from death into life with him. It is the spiritual realization that the old self, the unregenerate, unsaved self, would die when plunged under the water and a new self will ascend out of these waters. Not to understand this would render baptism as a merely religious ritual failing to understand the power that is ascribed to it. To fully understand it is to become crucified to the world -NOW- in this life! That is why the apostle Paul can say, *"It is no longer I who lives but Christ who lives in me."*

## **The Thief on the Cross, First Citizen of Christ's Kingdom**

It is a popular notion that the thief on the cross was exempt from the gospel's requirement of baptism. This is ignorance on the part of those who hold and teach that view. The repentant thief literally *died Christ's death on the cross* and received the promise that "that day he would be with Jesus in paradise." *He was literally baptized into Christ's baptism.*

Baptism is an act of faith which has been performed [as a sacramental religious act](#) for a very long time. A sacrament it is *done as a religious requirement to a person* who most likely is ignorant of its true power. It is through Baptism that the believer yields to the power of the cross. It is through baptism that the believer exchanges the old life with its sins and weaknesses that ruled their lives in the past comes to an end. It was in John's baptism when Jesus was released into the fullness of his ministry as he received the Holy Spirit in full measure.

It is in baptism where the old nature is acknowledged and put to death. Demonic strongholds can't remain in a person who is dead! Fleshly appetites are no longer a problem when a body is dead. A dead man can no longer function as a sinner. If Baptism were explained more fully, instead of being a mere religious act, the believer would quickly leave the old life, nature, and natural limitations behind. The unnamed thief on a cross near Jesus was "baptized" into Jesus' death in the most literal sense. He became the first to enter in the Kingdom of heaven taking his place among the redeemed, a new creation. This is baptism in its truest sense!

Nowadays people are not sentenced to die on crosses. We are instructed to know that it is a powerful force to initiate a Spiritual life by faith by which we can access its promise and potential. After being immersed, we come forth from the water, in a figure of resurrection. We come forth from the water, in the power of the Christ life within. We come forth from the water, separated from the old nature with its lusts. We have symbolically put the old "me" to death. The Ethiopian eunuch who Phillip ministered to in Gaza (*Acts 8:27*) was taught the essentials of Christ fulfilling the prophetic scripture that he was reading in a Scroll of (*53 Isaiah*). It described the lamb who was led to slaughter to be the sacrificed. From this scripture, Phillip explained the nature of Christ sacrifice for all humanity and taught the purpose of Baptism to him. When they came upon a place having water Phillip baptized the man. The eunuch immediately continued on his way to Ethiopia in the power of the Spirit. This was the extent of his discipling but we can be assured that it was enough and fully empowered by the Holy Spirit. It was this man who carried the Gospel in power and simplicity to thousands in his own land, who provided a tradition of apostolic Christianity which lasted a thousand years.

Infants who have not yet reached the age of reason may be dedicated or blessed, in a special act of faith, but this is not Biblical baptism which is a dedicatory act of a believer which is to be done with an affirmation of belief and understanding of the true meaning. Baptism is to submerge in water to come up out of the water symbolizing *the crucifixion* of the old man and the entry into a new resurrected life.

### **Paradox of Losing One's Life**

(Luke 9:24 and 17:23) "*Whoever would lose his life for my sake will find it; whoever will save his own life will lose it.*"

Jesus addresses the issue of two lives each in opposition to the other. Within the mysteries of God numerous paradoxes are introduced one of these, is about a seed which needs to fall and die before it can bring forth any fruit (*John 12:24*). Though the outer manifestation of the seed form disappears it is necessary to an end of its original identity before it can bring forth a crop or fruit. Decreasing to our own self interests is essential before God can use us. This is portrayed in the "pruning of the vine" in another parable.

There is life and then there is *a more abundant life*. The call of Jesus sets us on the course of replacing our old lives for a new one. But this abundant spiritual life lies in contradiction to the goals that worldly-minded persons value or seek. As we grow spiritually, God causes us to feel alienated from the world, distinct and apart from it. The values and attitudes of the crucified life are different and the treasures we seek are focused on heavenly rather than the treasures the

world seeks after. We can not simply "will" to despise worldliness it is something which the Spirit begins to grow in us as a fruit of righteousness.

**1John 2:15** *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.* Jesus taught his disciples exhaustively about being separate from the world and its thinking and aims. In John 17 the phrase "the world" occurs 17 times.

The Holy Spirit gives us a witness of the crass failings of a worldly-focused life and reveals to us that there is no heavenly legacy in eating of her dainties and being acclaimed by its princes. We eventually begin to *hate* the ways of the world and to understand its impact on our own lives and the lives of others. This world abounds in its pettiness, shallowness and limitations and a roll call of the lusts of the flesh! Empowered by the spiritually cleansing flow of the Holy Spirit we become "crucified to the world and the world to us." We truly feel the loneliness of a sojourner away from his or her true home.

In the beginning of our spiritual walk, that which some call spiritual infancy, we tend to feel the pull back to a former life we had known. We had a familiar lifestyle and a pattern of thinking, speaking and reacting to others. Our old nature included our habitual excesses, our reputations for good or evil, our self pride, our name, our looks, our offices, our talents, our careers and educations and also our fears and insecurities. These things do not impress God never did. Until we regard them as "dung," as Paul stated in his letter to the Phillipians (*Chapter 3 and verse 8*). We do not yet have a heavenly perspective. Our *vanities* were forged in the semblance of this world and its vain idolatries will pass as the fog in the morning." (**Galatians 6:3**) "*-if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.*"

Jesus reminds us to not cling to this life nor any of its apparent treasures. Which are merely passing things, apparitions which soon vanish like the dew of morning. "*Take up your cross daily and follow after me.*" (**Mark 8:34**) "*-And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*"

Taking up your cross is a reminder that you are already reckoned to be dead to yourself, crucified in your human lower nature, and alive to a higher calling. We remember that we have been raised to new life, resurrected and seated positionally with Christ.

### **The Only Good Christian is a Dead Christian**

(**Romans 6:5-11**) "*For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.*" *Romans 6:5; "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified*

*with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin." 6:6; "For he that is dead is freed from sin." 6:7; "Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:"6:8 "Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him." 6:9; "Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

*(1 Corinthians 13:4) "For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you."*

*(Galatians 2:20) "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."*

### **Warfare and Battling in the Mind and in the Flesh**

Our bodies and our lives were once under the power of Satan! You may personally have a higher view of your own present or past lifestyle than this, but nonetheless it is the scripturally correct viewpoint which we must adopt. A life without redemption was a life lived in Satan's domain. The '*god of this world*' wants desperately for us to continue in it.

### **Attributes of A CARNAL-Centered Person**

The following list describes attributes of the natural man man or woman, carnal, that is to say the unredeemed and soulish, self-centered personality

*(Galatians 5:19-21) "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness," "Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies," "Envyng, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God"*

### **Walking in the Spirit**

Walking in the Spirit comes down to living with an awareness of God's presence and being led by communication with the Holy Spirit. Scriptural *proof passages* describe the serious limitation of the human soul in its natural state. The natural man can not know God. Now, we know that many people are marvelously gifted with natural virtues and abilities. Many are gifted intellectually, physically, some musically, some poetically. Some are skilled planners, designers or marvelous organizers. These natural abilities alone remain inadequate to do what the Lord

wishes to do through us. We need to have some insights on how we can go beyond natural abilities or natural limitations. How does God instruct us to overcome these natural abilities or limitations?

Walking in the Spirit is more than having knowledge about God or the Bible. It is even more than renewed attitudes and beliefs, it is walking in a present-moment awareness of the life of God within us. To walk in the Spirit is to be aware that we are enshrouded and encompassed by Christ's life and Spirit. Walking in the Spirit is a state of spiritual consciousness that we are actually partaking of the mind of God.

There is a way of entering into this state of being. Paul used the expression "*pray without ceasing.*" They who are born of the Spirit by the gracious hand of God learn to live in faith and yield to the voice of the Spirit. It provides an awareness of being receptive to the Spirit's leading. Preparing the heart may take some attention. Each day we must turn from things which held us emotionally bound. Cares, fears, other voices inside have to be stilled. We give place to God, both through our will and our word. Walking in the Spirit means letting go of our own self-life, our burdens, lusts and idols.

One can not partake of this life with hatred or rage, jealousy, unforgiveness or bitterness in their heart. One can not partake of this life. We must unload all burdens, set aside all anger and dark thoughts. Then we can enter in. "*Cast your cares on him, for he cares (anxieties) for you.*" (1Peter 5:7)

### **Offloading the Burdens of our Lower Nature**

The things we do and the things we think regulate spiritual life. David the psalmist king of Israel knew this and dealt with the whole issue saying, (Psalm 19:4) "*May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable unto you O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.*"

The purity and integrity of our spiritual lives is based upon the meditation(s) of our hearts, those things which occupy our thought life when no one is around and no one activities influence our behavior.

Jesus taught that *it is in the heart where man's treasure lies*. As we value and treasure things we give thought and meditation to these things. After thinking and meditating on the matters of greatest interest to us we are likely to respond with words and actions which will map our treasures.

Jesus spoke of good treasures and evil treasures and said that we speak as an overflow from the abundance of our hearts, thus we may bring forth either good or evil. Evil meditations will ultimately bring forth corrupted worship. It is the thing which we worship most highly which occupies the meditation of our hearts.

## **An effort to Change our Worship - Meditation**

In a spoken petition you might say something like this; *"Jesus, I ask you to be my burden bearer. Jesus, I know you want to walk with me and carry my burden as your yoke. Even as you take my burden from me let me partake of your yoke of a higher life."* *"Relieve me of my burden of ---."* (supply the name of the thing.) *"I cast down my idol of ----."* (supply the name of that thing.)

*"Father in Heaven, I call upon you in Jesus' name. Cleanse me, make me pure. Remember me TODAY in your kingdom. Give me your Spirit now so that I become a child of God. Release me in the Spirit to worship and praise you! Father, I thank you for receiving me into your presence. Saying these things with your mouth will activate your faith and God's response." Say it only if you mean it!*

## **Tears of Cleansing Reveals the Spirit at Work**

Allow this token of cleansing to do its work, It is part of the seed dying and the vessel being broken so it can give forth a new incense out of your life, an incense of praise unto GOD.

Press into the Holy place which is that secret place of the most high, revealed in your spirit. This process may take minutes, hours or even days. Wait upon the Lord for Him to complete you. Give praise to God. Speak to Him and listen to Him respond to you. Begin to walk in the Spirit.

*"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."* (Galatians 5:25) *"Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another."* (Galatians 5:26) *"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."* (Galatians 6:2) *"But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."* (Galatians 6:14)

## **Chapter 7 THE MYSTERY OF GRACE**

**Grace God's Hand On Us  
A Mystery Of God's Provision**

## Why Is Grace a Mystery?

Grace is a mystery because typical denominational Christians think only in religious definitions and understanding. This kind of thinking is by nature based upon the teaching of leaders, who are trained in the meanings and terminology of their professors and popular theologians. Sometimes popular theology may hinder other applications or meaning.

Grace is at the center of the Bible mysteries as it pertains to the very heart of Spiritual *power* which proceeds forth from God Almighty to his creation. The hand of God stretched forth from a primordial void and brought the cosmos into being. Grace details the interaction of the Spiritual world and the world as a habitable place for humanity. Grace marks the Bible as a supernatural book in the which forces of a spiritual kind are in continuous warfare with each other for dominion over the inhabitants of the earth.

Theologians give Christianity easy to remember definitions for grace, such as; "God's Richest At Christ's Expense" or simply "unmerited favor" that is extended to humanity from God. These definitions are useful to a degree and have instructed many congregations world wide.

The apostle Paul when he brought the "Gospel of Grace" to the gentile world, had to immediately deal with the matter of the "*natural man*" who functions only in natural thinking and understanding. Paul when he began minister to the gentiles at Corinth, declared that the natural man (person) *psuchikos gk.* can not received anything from God because wisdom is Spiritually discerned. God delivers knowledge of a Spiritual kind to the Spiritual side of people once they are made alive in Christ Jesus.

Grace is God's power available to us. "The gospel is the power of God to us who believe to the Jew first and also to the Greek." (*Romans 1:16*) The power of Grace is a supernatural commodity, far removed from the realm of the natural world and its understandings. This power re-animates a fallen human being and produces an adopted son or daughter of God. This power redeems a life from destruction and grants one to have an eternal destiny in the fellowship of the heaven-borne family. We become the recipients of numbers of great and precious promises and are delivered from the wrath to come. (*1 Thessalonians 1:10*)

The early apostles did not so much argue the existence of God as a concept but proved His existence by supernatural attestations, demonstrating the Power of God. (**1Corinthians 2**). So we have the matter of proving to a materialistic non believing world that God is real and that He still has a part in the day to day affairs of this world and its occupants.

**1Corinthians 2:0** - -"*Eye has not seen nor ear heard, neither has entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those that love him. 10: But God has revealed them unto us*

*by his Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.”*

11. For man knows the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God, know man knows, but the Spirit of God.

### **MYSTERY OF GRACE – (Through Faith)**

The Age of Grace is the current dispensation of how God interacts with humanity. It is the time that Jesus presented as the "**acceptable year of the Lord**" or the time of God's favor. This dispensation was introduced when Jesus, Yeshua of Nazareth, proclaimed that the Scripture he read, written by Isaiah in **Isaiah 61**, was fulfilled.

*“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to [a]heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, And the day of vengeance of our God;*

Jesus ended the reading before the passage that spoke of the 'day of vengeance' and judgment.

This is the time to depart from the day of adherence to Torah and Judaic law and ceremony. The season of Grace had come to those who would believe in the name of the Messiah Jesus. Since the first Pentecost to fall after Jesus' resurrection Grace has been the hallmark of faith. Jesus told his disciples that they were to wait until the promise of the Father was manifest. It was the baptism of power (dunamis) Holy Spirit derived power. Now the disciples were truly equipt with supernatural ability and might. They would possess the same abilities that Jesus employed in his earthly ministry.

Paul the apostle was chosen by Christ to declare and expound the message of grace to the nations, (goyim). In the first century of the 'church age' there was only a small remnant of Jews who were converted from Torah into the endowment of God's grace and power. For the most part, however, Paul was resisted and threatened by those Jews who considered Jesus to be a false messiah. This hostility to the gospel of Grace followed Paul from city to city; from country to country throughout his life of ministry to his death in 67 a.d. Paul described the Gospel, the good news of salvation without works, as the "Gospel of Power." In this church age, or age of Grace. It is God's power that saves a soul supernaturally and changes the believer into a spiritually reborn creation (2 Corinthians 5:17). We who are born of the Spirit are now "the children of God." We are persevering in faith until the day that the church age comes to a close with the removal of believers from the world. Judgment will follow and the final years will close the age as described in John's prophetic document, "[Revelation](#)."

Paul writes about the gift of salvation by grace in the book (epistle) of Galatians. In it he makes a powerful admonition that those who are saved by grace (a supernatural act of God) must be

matured and perfected by the same process, God's work within the soul and spirit of every believer. Religion has committed grievous error requiring additional conditions for redemption by requiring "man made" requirements or sacramental duties. This turns the gospel of grace into works about which was emphatic in saying. "Let them be accursed" anathema." Such religions are non Christian cults according to biblical Truth.

### **Grace Works Through Faith**

***Grace is everything that God has provided, Is providing,  
and will provide, on our behalf.  
It is the power of God given to Us!  
Grace is everything God does,  
Believing, yielding and obeying is all that we need to do.***

Jesus brings the principle of Grace sharply into focus when he proclaimed, "I in myself can do nothing, It is the Father in me who does the work." and; "Why do you call me good? There is none good but God."

Religion places the obligation upon fallible humanity to "be good" and to do the work of God in our own strength. If Jesus can do nothing in himself, then why would we attempt to do anything on our own strength and ability? Grace is the answer to living the Godly life and doing the works that Christ commands. An essential key to remember when we try to understand GRACE is that we can do nothing in ourselves. It is the same declaration that Jesus made. He worked in *dependence with* and was *submitted to* that which he saw the Father do and what he heard the Father say. The apostle Paul notes that there is nothing that we have that was not a gift from another; a gift of God.

What predominates in church activity today are individuals who are greatly *gifted* in knowledge and personal skills but this is not the same as being empowered by Grace through the Holy Spirit. "If any speak let him speak as the *oracle of God*, if any minister let it be by the ability that God provides. 1 Peter 4:11" Human abilities may be rich, charismatic in the literal sense, but we see too little of the abilities that God supplies. It is the anointing and its numerous manifestations (See [the 7 Spirits of God](#) )that attest to the Power that God supplies.

The Word of Faith movement may have taken Biblical Faith and gone a step too far, turning faith into a method or process that has the effect of removing God's hand from the ministering believer. The kingdom of God in reality expresses, "It is the work of God to will and to do..." all things on our behalf. The faith-filled Christian must not lose sight of the fact that, as Jesus himself said, "In himself he can do nothing - -" It is still the Father that does the work. It is

through *GRACE that is God's action*, which works on our behalf through Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

Grace in common Christian terminology has been given a limited theological meaning. Essentially that grace is the gift of God that saved us. We believed and confessed unto salvation. This occurs once when we believe and are born into the kingdom of God. This is the first act of grace. Grace is present of course in this blessed moment. The Spirit of Grace brought us to salvation. But grace continues in a dramatic sense for any and all of the children of God. As we read in the book of Acts, "Great grace was upon all the believers." This is the continuing endowment of Power to those who believe. **Growing in (through) grace and truth is the mechanism of maturing as believers.** The activation of grace in our inner spirit is enabled through the study and understanding of the Word of truth. i.e. Scripture.

The apostle Paul, in each epistle blesses each believer who he addresses with the phrase "Grace be unto you, in Christ Jesus." Or familiar variations of this phrase. The apostle acknowledges that God wishes to become all the more empouring to the life of the believer. We can grow in Grace. Through grace we access God and his knowledge, abilities and spiritual attributes, all coming to us through grace.

Grace is a supernatural empowerment of God to us who believe. We can not truly grasp all that God has for those who love and seek him. We can pray that we grow in grace and in the depth of knowledge of God. In the process of turning from the world and the affections and lusts thereof. God becomes all the more present. We in most cases have just barely touched the world of God's unlimited grace, glory wisdom and favor in this world. The active Christian life in reality is a quest to access the reservoirs of Grace in the Kingdom. Essentially sampling of the world to come and bringing the Kingdom of God to come upon the earth. Where we can now profess, Heaven is our home and earth is our footstool. - - The prayers of Jesus in John 17 are an outline of the things which are provided by salvation which has produced another son or daughter for an heavenly inheritance.

### [A Bible Example of Faith in Action](#)

#### [Faith and Grace](#)

#### [Faith Grows as a Fruit as we study the Word of God](#)

#### [Jesus Lived by Faith](#)

#### [Jesus Taught and Demonstrated Faith in Action](#)

## A Bible Example of Faith in Action

To continue the idea of response to God or his Word, we can find it portrayed in the Gospel story in Matthew 14:28. In this account, Peter sees Jesus walking upon the surface of the water, an act quite impossible in the natural world unless of course the water be frozen. Peter, always adventurous, tells Jesus that he would like to join him in walking on the water, but only if it truly is Jesus. The faith sequence is portrayed by Jesus telling Peter to "come." Peter himself, then proceeds to approach Jesus, walking on the water. When he removes his eyes from the master and begins to sink, Peter began to notice the waves and the storm, when his faith was replaced by reason and doubt, Peter began to sink.

An indispensable element of the equation is the fact that Jesus spoke directly to Peter and said, "Come." Jesus spoke this Rhema, or spoken word, and Peter acted upon that word from the Lord. It was not Peter's ability to transcend the laws of nature but the power of the Word of God, which formed all of the natural world in the beginning. This Word held Peter up miraculously. This was faith in action.

In the present day we do not often get rhemas to walk on water but if His voice tells you, "Walk." you should respond. If it tells you, "Sing." you should resound. If it tells you "Go." you should respond. If it tells you, "Stop." you should respond. This is acting in response upon faith.

## Faith Unlocks the Actions of Grace

The natural human mind, emotions and will (the human soul) would not seek God, could not believe, and it has no inherent goodness in itself. Though not all of our souls are that of arch villains or wholly reprobate, everyone in the human race " *-falls short of the glory of God.*" Therefore our faith is first given to us by God. His provision or spiritual endowment is GRACE.

Grace is everything which God has provided and will provide, working (spiritually) on our behalf. Grace is what God does! Yielding and obeying is what we do!

In the beginning all of Paul's epistles, Paul pronounces a certain phrase. I believe these words were written by the Spirit of God to provide a living rhema capable of empowering our faith as we read. This by the apostle and charged with Spiritual Power, that phrase is, "**Grace be unto you -**," sometimes it is accompanied by "**and Peace** -- " This "invocation" has come to be ritualized in church ceremonies but in its initial form, I believe it was Paul's intent that it be, a prayer of faith. [A prayer of faith is a spoken proclamation which is intended to achieve a Spiritual result.](#) (Link above is to my video commentary, less than 5 minutes, Prayer of Salvation.)

Grace is the working of a Spiritual God on our behalf. Grace is linked to the term "**anointing**", which is the manifestation of power and presence of God working upon one of his servants at a certain time.

It is the Father in heaven who sends His Spirit to help us in every way including to believe. This is an act of GRACE. **Grace is that which God does or supplies freely on our behalf.** Grace too is spiritual. It is a "Spiritual Fuel" which allows faith to work.

Salvation through grace and faith is described in Ephesians 2:8, "*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*"

### **Faith Grows as a Fruit as we study the Word of God**

Faith grows as a consequence of studying the Scriptures which are the repository of God's mind and wisdom. The entrance of God's word brings "life" and "light" as the psalmist declares. God's Word begins to redirect our thought processes and renews our minds to conform to God's thought. If we have little understanding of the Word, it follows that we can not be persons of faith. But again I promise you, God provides Grace and anointing to follow Him and know His word.

Faith is cumulative, like a living entity it grows and develops. Hearing the Word of God spoken builds faith. (Faith comes by hearing.) Reading the Scriptures aloud is a powerful faith building exercise. Speaking the Word of God with our own mouths builds and activates faith.

For example when it says in Scripture, "Fear not, for I the Lord am with you." We may activate faith by saying aloud, "I will not fear for you Lord, are with me."

*If we believe we shall see the glory of God.* If we do not believe, we can not see God's manifested glory. Unbelief does not activate faith. God does not violate our unyielding will and unbelief. As we move toward God in faith, he moves toward us.

### **Jesus Lived by Faith**

Though some may wish to argue that Jesus born in the image and likeness of God, the very Son of the Father, was thus exempted from the life of faith that is required of us. I do not believe that this was the case. I believe that Jesus of Nazareth, acting as the "*son of man*," exercised faith continuously from His youth onward. It is said of Jesus, that *he was full of Grace and Truth*. Two things are evident here: First that Jesus lived by the Word (Scriptures) and the Scriptures are the source of Faith. The son of God did not operate as God in this world but as the son of man, thus he operated under faith which pleases God and so demonstrated this principle to all of us! "This is my beloved son in whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17, Luke 3:22) Jesus from his youth up was aware of who he was but thought it not "robbery" to equal himself with God. Jeshua

accessed the Father with intimacy and developed this to a level we can not imagine. He said the things I see my Father do, I do. The things I hear my Father say, I say.

He also said to his disciples, "If you had faith as a mustard seed *you would say . . .* " So, faith is saying and believing that the things you say will come to pass.

A second obvious proof that Jesus walked in faith is the Scripture which we quote from Habakuk 2:4, "*-the just shall live by his faith.*" Whose faith we may ask? The answer I believe, is the faith Christ (the Lord.) Therefore if it is his faith which empowers us, he must therefore be preeminent in the exercise and use of faith.

Jesus obeyed the word of the Father with whom he was in **Spiritual union**. It was the Father's voice and Jesus' response to his Father's voice, the Rhema, which characterizes Christ's life of faith for all of us, his disciples.

### **Jesus Taught and Demonstrated Faith in Action**

Jesus likewise, demonstrated faith by action. Thus both Jesus' words and actions initiated a life under God's control. His spoken words were with the tone of authority, they brought a result which was often miraculous. Miracles are spiritual intervention in the natural order, thus they are considered supernatural.

To receive any manifestation from God we must act upon faith. We must say or do something. (Romans 10:9,10, we see the principle of Faith described that results in the new birth "for with the heart we believe and with the mouth we confess.") Only true and sincere belief causes God to honor faith. God looks upon the heart of man. We can not in faith through another's belief. We can not walk on water because Jesus told Peter to come forth. Our faith must be personal and it must be sincere knowing with assurance that his Word was given to us.

Finally, friend of God, to summarize: All spiritual promises are reached through the door of faith. To see the promises of God actualized requires faith. With faith all things are possible. "

## Chapter 8

### THE MYSTERY OF POWER FROM ON HIGH

“The Gospel is the Power Of God”

# The Gospel Of Power

## The Mystery Of Power From On High

### **The Gospel of the Kingdom is Manifested Power**

*"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believes; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek."(Romans 1:16)*

*"Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the Gospel of Christ." (Romans 15:19)"*

### A God of Power Today? Power From on High

#### The Two Words for Power

#### God Baptized Jesus Supernatural Ability, Power and Might to Minister

#### A Matter of Moments To Become a New Creation

#### That was Then, What About Now?

#### How You May Receive the Promise of the Father

#### Speaking in other Tongues [Spiritual Languages)

#### Prayer language and Holy Spirit Ministry

#### Intercession, a Spiritual Ministry

## A God of Power Today?

Suggested Reading: Mark 16; 1Corinthians 12; 1Corinthians 14; Luke 4: Matt. 28 end, Acts 1 & Acts 2, and Others listed in the paragraphs following:

### TOPICS:

Two Words for Power

God Baptized Jesus With Supernatural Ability, Power and Might

Becoming a New Creation

Power of God Then, What About Now?

Receiving "the Promise of the Father "

Speaking in other Tongues [Spiritual Languages)

Tongues and Holy Spirit Ministry Intercession, a Spiritual Ministry

### **A God of Power Today?**

God almighty created the Heavens and the Earth. We are told of miraculous deeds done in time past by the power of God; stopping of the sun's movement to allow time to give Joshua a military victory; miracles and signs done by Moses and Aaron in Egypt; opening of the Red Sea; or the power of God which came down as fire to consume Elijah's sacrifice. We know that Jesus performed miracles outside of realm of natural law; healing, raising the dead, walking on the water, changing water into wine; as well as miracles to know the thoughts of men, and foretelling events of the future. We also know that the disciples of Christ duplicated Jesus' miracles when they ministered with the power of God, as recorded in the book of The Acts of the Apostles.

How should we look upon these accounts? Shall we say they are only myths that did not occur? Or, shall we say that God has changed and left the domain of interacting with human beings? The Bible states that God does not change. He is "*the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.*" ([Hebrews 13:8](#)) He will continue the same way in the present as in times past. We also know that the disciples of Christ duplicated Jesus' miracles when they ministered with the power of God, as recorded in the Book of Acts of the Apostles.

This writer grew up attending churches which had no manifestation of God's presence. Neither was there teaching that God was to be an intimate part of church experience. Sadly, there was no reality of God being a good God who brought benefits from day to day. Hymns were sung

without conviction or zeal. How can anyone give heart felt praise when they do not know the God they praise? (John 4) "*You worship what you do not know* - -" It is amazing to me that people continue to support traditions in which there are no manifestations which attest the truth in the words which are preached. For all practical purposes one could easily preach that "God is dead." One might say that faith was equated to believing in the God of Glory without any way to test that assertion. No person, no disciple or believer in Jesus the Messiah can understand or experience the fullness of this truth nor act as a manifested child of the Most High without supernatural enablement. "- -No man knows the things of God except for the Spirit of God - - (1Corinthians 1:11,12)

Thank God for His excellent Grace, He has provided that which is necessary to walk as a child of God, walking in Jesus' footsteps. It is ***dunamis*** power which Jesus promised to all his true disciples. This power is God-Power from the Holy Spirit. This manifestation is God in us which God has provided to fulfill his word and provide us with a first hand witness of the promises and provisions stated in the Bible. Supernatural power is also manifested toward us and another aspect of God's interveniary power. This power is scripturally promised for Disciples of Jesus Christ to use to perform the outreaches of the Gospel of the Kingdom, also called the work of ministry.

If we are not taught about this provision in the Word ministered to us, how can we believe it and appropriate it. If we have only heard a contrary Gospel, then we are encumbered to have to unlearn that wrong doctrine. There is a spirit of unbelief, a spirit of slumber, the leaven of Pharisees, which masquerades as scripturally correct doctrine. This religious tradition is not unlike the spirit which the Pharisees manifested to withstand Jesus in the time of his earthly ministry. Bible training centers and seminaries are training practitioners of a form of godliness without power, presenting many teachings which contradict the promises of God, namely that the Power of the Spirit and His ministry gifts are no longer being manifested today. Jesus said, *If you believe you will see the glory of God.*

Paul stated that he did not bring words of spell-binding oratory or philosophy (intellectual reasoning) but rather, the demonstration of the Holy Spirit and his Power. Today institutional Christianity abounds as a religion without power. If by chance power it is taught as a doctrine many look upon it as something questionable. On the other hand, folks have the tendency to exalt the man by whose hand these miracles occurred, placing him on a pedestal. Note in the Book of Acts disciples Paul and Barnabus had to constrain people from deifying them when powers from God were displayed.

## **The Two Words for Power**

The Bible mentions two kinds of power, power (dunamis) and power (exousia). Both words have a place in understanding the power which is granted to every believer. Exousia power is the authority to act granted by God. Jesus declares after his resurrection, All power (exousia authority) in heaven and on earth have been given to me -- you go therefore -- and the commission to his disciples is given to take the Gospel into every nation. Jesus states in his prayer to the Father in John Chapter 17, "*the glory you have given me, I have given to them-*" The glory of God is, I believe, a physical manifestation of God's presence, therefore it must be equated with Power.

Jesus speaks of "*the promise of the Father*" power from God when he tells the disciples, "*to wait in Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.*" God Baptized Jesus with the Same Dunamis Power of the Spirit. The anointing of Holy Spirit power came upon Jesus when John baptized him in the Jordan river, it was only after this that Jesus began to perform mighty works and began His ministry. "*- how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power who went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil.*" (Acts10:38)

## **Supernatural Ability**

The ministry of Jesus was a four-fold ministry; teaching, preaching the kingdom, healing, and deliverance. All demonstrated the Kingdom of God. The divine power he commanded was directed against the forces of Satan. As described in Luke Chapter 4:18, there is an emphasis on power in order to fulfill the commission of the Gospel of the Kingdom. It was Jesus' declaration when he spoke the prophecy of Isaiah Chapter 61 in the synagogue in Nazareth. (Isaiah 61)  
*V1. The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; Isa 61:2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor- .."*

Power ministry is heart of the Gospel of the Kingdom. It can be summarized as freeing people and restoring them from conditions (Luke Chapter 4:18 - body, soul and spirit) which Satan had placed upon mankind in general and upon ourselves and our families individually. Lack of wholeness through the bondage of Satan in sickness; Lack of wholeness through the bondage of Satan through mental oppression; Lack of wholeness through the bondage of Satan which are demonic in nature; Lack of: wholeness through the bondage of Satan through various kinds of curses; Lack of wholeness through the bondage of Satan in lacks and limitation, and in fears; Lack of wholeness through the bondage of Satan in connections to unclean, destructive and dehumanizing forces. Where the ministry of the Gospel is taught the adversary, (the enemy of

God) must never be omitted for he remains the enemy and has oppressed the race of man since the beginning. Satan has not retired in Florida since the victory of Christ Jesus was proclaimed in the heavens and in the earth!

**A Gospel without power is a false Gospel.** Likewise any Gospel which does not introduce us to the spiritual powers of the enemy which are against us is a false Gospel. The faith life is to a large degree spent in enforcing God's authority in the earth with respect to our own lives, our families and other who we care for. Satan's team is positioned to take advantage of our ignorance. They will take an offensive action against us unless we are poised to stand our ground. Satan comes to steal, kill, destroy & deceive, and to perpetuate false Gospels. The Promise of the Father Help from the Spirit of God for Every Disciple The book of acts introduces the promise of the Father, What is this promise of the Father? It is Power from on high!. The Holy Spirit came to ordinary men and gave them supernatural knowledge, ability and might. They were clothed with the Glory of God's fire. Under the power of the Spirit, they manifested total loss of normal mental self control, they began to utter language which was not their own. They became witnesses. After being touched by Power (dunamis) we also bear witnesses that our lives are being remade, renewed, blessed in wholeness, through an agency which is totally beyond man's natural enablements. but that is something heavenly.

A Matter of Moments to Become a New Creation

The disciples of Jesus, men and women, waited in an upper room of the temple that day of Pentecost. They were all believers in Jesus. They all knew him. They all walked with him and knew his voice and his sayings but they were not yet able to minister as God desired them to minister. It was not enough to have known Jesus personally, face to face. They and ourselves can not minister from knowledge and experience and natural ability alone! The kind of ministry that Jesus and the Father had prepared for his disciples was to replicate Christ within each of disciple! Suddenly at the appointed moment each man and woman experienced what the prophets had written: The prophet Joel writing states: "It shall come to pass in the latter days that I will pour out of my spirit upon all flesh --' The prophet Ezekiel writes: "-- a new heart will I give you, and put a new spirit in you; I will remove the heart of stone and put in a heart of flesh-"(Ezekiel Chapter 36:26) I will write my laws upon your heart " and David the psalmist prophet writes: "- Let this be written for a future generation, a people not yet created shall Praise the Lord" -- (Psalm 102,18)

That was Then, What About Now?

Religious tradition has relegated the book of Acts to "stories" or fables about unique and favored saints and apostles. Some imagine God no longer wishes to make disciples and to use them, as he once did; nor any longer empower them with power from on high as at the time of Peter, James and John. Remember God does not lie, if he made any promise he will certainly fulfill that

promise. The "promise of the Father" was specifically that of receiving divine, enabling power. It is the prophetic bottom line enabling the ministry of Jesus Christ to continue in the church age. The Gospel of the Kingdom has not changed in its objectives or methods. However, hundreds of years of religious myths and baggage has to be examined and if it is necessary, trashed. Unbelief keeps us from entering the upper room and emerging a vibrant 'New Testament church' ALIVE with the first-hand witness of God's power and blessing.

How You May Receive the Promise of the Father

Only believers can receive the Holy Spirit. This may require some personal self-evaluation.

### **Do you believe? What do you believe?**

Do you believe that you are a sinner alienated from the life and promises of God? Do you believe that you have until this time either knowingly or unknowingly followed a life which was ruled by Satan's nature, pride, rebellion, self-serving and uncleanness? Do you believe you need a Savior? Do you believe that Jesus was the lamb of God whose blood cleansed us from all of our sins and offenses? Do you believe that his blood has the power to restore you in perfect accord with God the Father? Do you believe that God loves you and wants to forgive you? Do you believe that He has the power to make your life entire over again and to make you a new creation?

If so, Hallelujah! An ordinary person like you and me, who are called outcasts, or sinners in the Bible, may begin a spiritual life by talking to God and asking Him to do something in our life. I can assure you of the truth in this. You need to do two things, the first is to believe. Kindly note and consider the things discussed above, for these are the essential elements of believing in the Gospel of Christ. The second is a spoken confession or petition to God. The psalmist states, "I spoke unto the Lord with my voice and He heard me out of His holy hill." (Psalm 3:4 and Psalm 77:1) You confess (say with your own words) what you know of the provisions provided through the cross by Jesus. Speak these things in a way that is personal and honest to you.

It is not a ritual but simply your getting honest with God and telling Him that you need Him and that you accept the sacrifice of his Son for your sins. The words which provide a change in our lives begins with a confession of our need. It follows with a statement of believing that Jesus has met that need. God honors this confession. He will change you in an instant and take you into His family. However, you must act in sincerity and faith. Believe that you will most assuredly receive this new birth and this new status, forgiven which is righteousness in Christ Jesus.

This is the first step of receiving the Promise of the Father, the gift of the Holy Spirit. If you are already a believer and have a sure witness of the fact that God has restored your spirit, you are eligible to become a disciple filled with power. The experience of being born of the Spirit and

made new is a good example of how God (Through Christ Jesus) works on our behalf. All transactions of faith operate through a similar sequence of action to that demonstrated above (Romans Chapter 10, verses 9 and 10.) Belief is followed by action. We believe in our hearts and express the belief vocally, that the Father is anxious to give you out of His Kingdom. (Luke 12,32). We know and confess that Jesus died for this cause, to make you a completed disciple. We know and confess that God has not changed nor will He ever change. We know and confess BELIEVING that God empowered all of his first disciples and that you believe He wishes to give you a good gift and empower you. Expect Jesus to do that greater work. Receiving the "Baptism of the Holy Spirit" is God's desire for you. As he commanded the first disciples he likewise commands us so that we can function as a child of God. In the process of being filled with the Spirit the disciples in the second chapter of Acts came together to seek the promise of the Father. They sought it prayerfully. After the Holy Spirit was poured out there were manifestations for each disciples. They did not proceed to go out and minister without this experience. Then when the moment of fulfillment came - -They began to praise God and to prophecy and to speak in other languages that the Holy Spirit gave to them.

### **Speaking in other Tongues - -**

We find two varieties of tongues. They are unknown actual languages and heavenly or spiritual languages. Understanding and receiving these spiritual languages are a problem for many believers. Not thinking too much, is a weird kind of thing for people to do. Releasing the language utterance is a little confusing. Do you try or try not to try? It is hard to release words you do not know by not thinking. But the wisdom of God has made it possible to bypass the normal function of natural mental processes. Your thought processes are mostly by-passed in the tongues of God. These are not words you "learn" such as learning vocabulary words. The language of tongues are real languages a form of speech. They are not usually identified as any human dialect.

### **Two Kinds of Tongues**

Paul refers to 2 kinds of tongues; of men; and of angels (1Cor 13). Nevertheless, tongues are messages from God, to allow us to give God perfect praise back to him. At times tongues along with a spiritual interpretation occurs as a message to edify others. Tongues edify and instruct ourselves on a spiritual level. Tongues bring revelatory wisdom. Tongues open the door to Spiritual experiences of all kinds. Tongues build our faith and open understanding of the Scripture. Prayer language and Holy Spirit Ministry The gift of Tongues as listed in 1 Corinthians, Chapter 12 is the ability to speak a language having never learned it. An example is described in Acts Chapter two. Where Galileans spoke the languages known to many nations who were

present. Experience has taught me that languages can be a part of messages given publicly in meetings although this is not seen too often. As we pray in the Spirit our minds are rendered quiescent. the language of the Spirit has no predictability or conscious control. We find in it many kinds of expressions both in word and in tones of expression.

### Uses of Tongues and Praying in the Spirit

Praying in the Spirit, expresses in a Spiritual language God's perfect will on matters. When we do not know how to pray in particular the Holy Spirit provides the necessary words. Romans, 8: 26, describes groanings or expressions beyond words. This is also called praying in the Spirit.

Intercessors will lapse into prayers beyond words where sounds come forth that are very strange to listen to and may not sound at all like language. We can also at times, receive the understanding of prayers that we pray or that are prayed in the Spirit by others.

Sometimes understanding come into our minds spontaneously after we have spoken in tongues or after someone else has been heard to utter something in a spiritual language. You may seek and ask the Lord to reveal these that you pray about so that you mind may also be fruitful. (1Cor 14) Interpreted tongues equal prophecy. Intercession, a Spiritual Ministry The ministry of divine intercession is empowered through the language of the Spirit.

## **Intercession Is A Spiritual Ministry**

God calls forth true intercession into manifestation. Some are given this ministry gift in a unique and powerful way. The Holy Spirit causes such individuals to yield to the Spirit and bring out the words necessary to enforce the perfect will of God for many things. It has been testified how people awaken in the night to bring forth prayers for people they know or for those in ministry undergoing trials and crisis.

The power of praying God's will for people, circumstances or nations, need not depend upon the leading of the rational mind. Sometimes visions and revelations can accompany intercession where God allows his servant to see the nature of the circumstances for which he or she is praying. Praying in the Spirit and the ministry of intercession is not learned through natural means, although it may be seen demonstrated by men or women with the gift. God is willing and happy to train any person who wishes to explore and learn Spiritual things.

It is continued practice which brings ability and fruitfulness in the learning and application of Spiritual things. Practice ministering through prayer, according to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Ask the Lord to train you and lead you in the Spirit. Surely it His will and pleasure to develop his children to become mature "sons or daughters of God."

## Chapter 9 The Domain of Spirit Beings

# Mysteries Of God A World Of Spirits

## MYSTERIES OF GOD-A WORLD OF SPIRITS

### The Mystery of Spirit Beings

Do Angels Manifest in Revival (Worship -Images)

Satan the Lord of this World, the Prince of Deceivers

The World is Under a Curse

Angels are Eternal Spirit Beings that God Created

Fear Not, Flock of God

Satan and the Powers of Darkness are Subject to the Believer

There are More of Us Than There are of Them

**" -- For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places-"**  
(Ephesians 6,12 kjv) Paul the Apostle regarding spirit beings in operation.

I am very familiar with individuals who are convinced like the Sadducees in Jesus' day, that there are no angels, no demons, no heaven or hell, and no spiritual world. These individuals don't believe in ghosts, goblins, elves or the tooth fairy. Where their own line of sight ends is where

their experience of the non-physical world ends. The anthropologist Margaret Meade defined religion as *the belief in spirits*. She was aware that in all primitive cultures there were individuals who through shamanistic rituals and magical substances were able to bridge the gap between the natural world and domain of spirits. The indigenous people of Australia, America and throughout the ancient world left images, pictographs, and carvings detailing beings who evidently were interacting with the persons who populate the world beyond our visible one.

The natural world appears to a familiar physical world bound in by our 5 senses. In the course of the last few years behaviors are more out of range bordering on erratic. We are seeing some bizarre and devious exceptions as recent times seem to bear witness. Things are not always as they appear. Could it be that unseen influences could be making themselves known?

### **Scripture is Replete With Descriptions of the Activities of the Angelic Hosts**

- Genesis 19: Angels are dispatched to Sodom to bring judgment to the city and to rescue Lot and his family.
- Genesis 28: Jacob envisions the angels of heaven ascending and descending on a ladder from heaven.
- Psalm 68:17 “The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels: the Lord is among them-”
- Psalm 91:11: For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.
- Matthew 4:11: After Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, the devil left him, and angels came and ministered unto him.
- Matthew 13:39: Jesus described the harvest of the wheat and the tares. He explained that the enemy that sowed the tares is the devil; the harvest is at the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.
- Matthew 16:27: When Jesus, the Son of man return to establish his Kingdom, he will come “in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.”
- Matthew 18:10: Jesus speaks of the little children whose angels always behold the face of his Father.
- Matthew 26:53: During the time of Christ’s trial and crucifixion he declared that he could call upon 12 legions of angels if he desired to do so.
- John 20:12: Mary visits the tomb of the crucified Jesus and sees two angels where his body once lay, one at the head, the other at the foot. 2 Kings 19:

- 2Ki 19:35 And that night the angel of the LORD went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians. And when people arose early in the morning, behold, these were all dead bodies. The angel of the Lord often describes JHVH before his incarnation or a ‘theophany.’ What is notable is the extreme lethality wielded by heavenly persons.
- Revelation 10:8 The greatness and majesty of heavenly angels is unimaginable. We read of a mighty angel standing with one foot on the sea and the other on the land.
- Job 38:7 In this passage Job is remanded to consider God’s manifold works and reminds him of how the hosts of heavens the morning stars and *the sons of God* were witness to the works of creation as it unfolded and sang for joy.
- Hebrews 13:12: Reminds us that we may encounter strangers who are in reality angels. It appears that angels can manifest physically for various purposes. Perhaps you can recall a time when such a possibility occurred in your life.
- Heb 1:14: We are told that angels are “ministering spirits” assigned to come to the assistance of God’s people. *Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?*

## **Satan the Lord of this World, the Prince of Deceivers**

We read where Satan who was called “*the anointed cherub*” was banished from heaven due to his pride and opposition to God’s order and authority. It is inferred in Revelation 12:4 and 12:9 that a third of the angels fell with Satan. We also learn some detail concerning the rebellion in heaven by passages from Isaiah and Ezekiel. Isaiah 14:12 “How art thou fallen from heaven, O day-star, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, that didst lay low the nations! Isaiah 14:13 And thou said in thy heart, “*I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; and I will sit upon the mount of congregation, in the uttermost parts of the north;*” In this account we hear the repeated phrase “I will” followed by his prideful declarations of ambition to ascend to greatness beyond that of his creator.

Ezekiel 28:14-18 and following gives further detail of the prideful sins of Lucifer which caused his expulsion from his original exalted role in heaven.

Because few people actually see angels or demons it is easy to be drawn into weird speculations about the nature of life in the spiritual dimension. From a practical standpoint what we need to know has been outlined in the Bible for our benefit. If we are ignorant of Satan (the prince over all of the dominions and powers of darkness) then we are subject to his deceptions. The blind and the ignorant may say, there are no angels, no demons, nor even any god. Such people are deceived. The enemy works principally through lies and deceit. For centuries he has actually owned billions who say they don't believe in him.

## The World is Under a Curse

The "Fall of Man" is recorded in the first book of the Bible, Genesis. We may regard this account of the first man and woman who were driven from the "Garden of Eden" to be just a curious and meaningless fable. The reality is historically more real and more profound than we know.

What was the world like before the fall of man? What was perfect fellowship like with Adam and Eve walking with God the creator? What happened to human destiny when the Glory of God was removed from the original parents of the human race? The first consequence was that the couple made in the image of God lost their immortality and were made subject to death. Even the earth was subject to a curse. The second consequence was that Adam lost the dominion over all things on the earth and it was taken over by the deceiver, Lucifer aka "the Serpent." He that usurped the title of "the god of this world." The third consequence is that the children of Adam and Eve no longer remained in the semblance of God but in the semblance of their fallen parents, Adam and Eve, mortal and subject to the curse of mortality. This condition has been in force until those conditions were altered when one perfect man, bore upon himself the sins of fallen man and in so doing redeemed fallen man from the curse. Our full and complete immortality awaits the final "redemption" with the resurrection and the return of the Messiah Jesus for his own.

Until Jesus personally disarmed Satan and stripped him of any legal authority, this world was under the dominion of Lucifer, the devil. If you follow the Gospel book of Luke we see Jesus tempted by Satan. Satan was willing to make a deal with Jesus the lawful son and heir to the earth. Lawful because he was born in the flesh in the world, into the earth, the sheepfold (see John Chapter 10.) Satan was willing to share rulership with Jesus if Jesus would offer Satan worship. Satan declared, "All of thee kingdoms are under my control and I give them to whomever I choose." Jesus declined. At the end of the Gospel of Matthew it states that at the time before his physical ascension he declared that *all the authority of both heaven and the earth had been given to him*. These are some of the most important words in the Gospel writings. (Read, Matthew 4:9 and Matthew 28:18)

It was the vindication of Almighty God the Father that declared that Jesus had suffered death unlawfully and thus raised him to life again, the resurrection of the Just.

The earth has displayed the manifestation of the Edenic curse for thousands of years unto the present. (Genesis 3;16-19) Nature bears this mark in several ways that reveal Satan's handiwork; weeds, thorns, poisonous substances, violence in animals, violence in human life, death and

decay. Beelzebub another name for Satan translates Lord of the Flies which is an attribute to destruction and decay.

A new heaven and a new earth are promised which will be without the slightest tinge of corruption. The prophetic reference of the Lion lying down with the lamb is a picture of the earth without the serpent's corruption any longer at work. Then Satan will be bound and banished from a perfect world.

The culmination time of Satan's influence will eventually come. He will be given one last chance to gather his own and rule the nations through his own spurious "messiah.". The world will be taken into deception and death in this "tribulation" period. The "mystery of iniquity" refers to a kind of contractual agreement between God Almighty and Lucifer, He has been given a finite time to do his work against the children of men, until his license term eventually expires. In the time of the end, the earth will be purged of iniquity. This awaited time grows closer and closer and is known prophetically as the "Day of the Lord".

### **Angels are Eternal Spirit Beings that God Created**

In the far off past at the dawn of creation the stars and the cosmos were created, the "Hosts of Heaven," represented the perfection of created being. The heavenly hosts accounted for countless millions of angels. After a time Lucifer, an exalted cherub became self deceived and in an act of pride wish to make himself "equal with God". It is written that he attempted to exalt himself above God even demanding worship. For this he was cast out of the heaven of God and found his way into the earth. The details and exact chronology are obscure. (Isaiah 14) One third of the angels followed Lucifer. They still follow him today. Their spiritual ranks are clearly defined having a clear hierarchy of command. Archangels, Thrones, Dominions, Principalities, Powers of darkness, Spiritual Wickedness in the heavens and Demons (Gr. *Daimonion*). (Read the attributes of Lucifer in Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28.) Later in the earliest chapters of Genesis another cadre of angelic beings known as The Watchers broke free of their legal position among the heavenly host and transgressed by descending into the domain of the humans who were populating the earth in the first thousand years or so following the Edenic fall. This is only sketched briefly in Genesis Chapter six but are elaborated upon in depth in the "Book of Enoch." This historical account was well known to the Jews in the days of Jesus' ministry. Transcriptions of Enoch were found among the Quran scrolls discovered in 1947.

## Deliverance and Authority of Demons

Jesus made it clear that demons were to be subdued and cast out with the authority of his name. Jesus made provision for his disciples to be given this same authority. **Matt:10** speaks of Jesus sending his disciples out first the twelve and then seventy giving them the authority to cast out demons. Numerous details are related in the Gospels of Jesus dealing with a variety of unclean spirits (demons). The ministry and message that was called the Gospel of the Kingdom was predicated upon the existence of two opposing spiritual kingdoms, the kingdom of life and light against the kingdom of death and bondage. Deliverance is the ministry of freeing people from bondage and hurts that Satan inflicts upon people.

Demonic powers continue to live upon the earth and seek to fulfill their natures with human (sometimes animal) hosts. Their names are their natures like "lust." Modern psychology and psychotherapy would never allow that disorders of the mind or body would be caused by demons. To make such an inference would be insane! Demons were active in Jesus' day and before and I believe are no less active afflicting humanity now. They are likened unto flies, serpents, scorpions. Their assignment is to bring hurt, bondage, destruction, disease and evil behavior. One of Satan's most amazing deceptions is to persuade the intelligent and wise of humanity that he does not exist. Today, no secularist or psychological clinician gives any credence to such a notion as the existence of demons. Psychologists today attribute behavior attributes and choices to mere thoughts and human motivation, this was not the understanding of the Lord Jesus. He came to address those powers and to subdue them.

To describe all of the demonic influence which abounds is too lengthy a theme for this writing. Suffice it to say most human life and personality is tinged by it. Today's society is so totally depraved that wickedness pervades all levels of society and innocence is all but lost.

When Jesus announces that he has "*come to bring life and more abundant life*," Jesus is framed and delineated as the source. Abundant life is a life free from all curses, limitations, afflictions under which Satan holds all human life until we are delivered "out of his dominion."

How much of this demonic residue remains with us after we are redeemed can be argued. Some say these curses of bondage should drop off and eventually leave us free from any tarnish of Satan's cruelties. Total healing and restoration from our genetic and consequential choices from earlier days are things that we still may need to carry until these mortal bodies are replaced by our eternal resurrect ones.

Unless we are begotten in Christ Jesus, we are still under the domain of demonic influence and by default the dominion of Satan. This demonic can influence evil thoughts, evil speaking,

lusts and perversions, addictions, hatred, enmity, strife, seditions, blasphemies, uncleanness, drunkenness, excesses and various other indulgences of the flesh.

### **Fear Not, Flock of God**

The children of God have no need to fear demons or Satan's power for we have been given authority over them. However through ignorance we may still live and function as one who has no knowledge or power. Satan is delighted at Christians who are ignorant of the Power which resides in Jesus' name. Satan is delighted when Christians are ignorant of Jesus' victory over darkness, disease and death. God said, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. " (*Hosea 4,6*)

### **Satan and the Powers of Darkness are Subject to the Believer**

Jesus commissioned his disciples to heal the sick, raise the dead, cast out demons (*Matthew Chapter 10:8 Mark Chapter 16:17*). Before any man or woman is given this authority he must have his name written in the book of life. It does no good to minister 'deliverance' to a person who returns to a life of their the old sin. An unregenerate person must be saved, born from above, before Satan relinquishes control and ownership of that person. Even then he will try to keep us ignorant of his devices. We may begin to awaken to his whiles when we catch him with his hand in your pocket.

Once a person is born of the spirit and is Holy Spirit baptized, he or she begins to fill his heart with the Spirit of the Word (hidden manna from God.) The light and life that is in the word will cause the influence of the demonic to melt away as snow in the sun. Without continuing in the word or prayer however, darkness may still have a *place* in a believer. Jesus says, "*The prince of this world comes and he has nothing in me,*" (John 14,30) -and in the epistle of James, "*submit yourself to God, resist the Devil and he will flee from you* " (James 4,7) and from Ephesians, " - *do not give the devil a foot hold, (give no place to the devil.)*" (Ephesians, 4,27.)

### **There are More of Us Than There are of Them**

Angels in the heavenly realms are also a present reality. They are called ministering spirits we are told, who are servants to the heirs of salvation. We know that we should should learn more about our understanding of benefits that may be available with these unseen servants. We know that the angels in heaven rejoice with each sinner who is saved and brought to the knowledge of the truth. We know that angels and men surround the throne of God in an ongoing chorus of praise. They are ministering servants sometimes even manifesting as alive-in-the-flesh beings without our being aware of it. Sometimes they bring messages. Sometimes they protect us. They are of many sorts, some look like mighty men, some radiant, some appear as women.

Angels though invisible to us may occasionally pay us a visit in dreams or in the physical world. But no angel from God would permit us to worship them. Angel worship is false doctrine. Any angel that would request worship would be, absolutely, the wrong breed of angel. The angels have a particular fascination for the privileges humans are afforded in God's kingdom. Humans are called the heirs of salvation, a very honored privilege. Some fallen angels have tried to cross the line and mix with the human race. These angels mentioned earlier (Heb. *Nephilim*) were judged harshly by God! The hybrid races which resulted from their interbreeding with the human race was one important reason that the flood of Noah came to purge the earth of its evil.

Angels are part of the family of God who, one day, will be as familiar to us as we are to them, for we shall see them as well as they can now see us. We are surrounded by an innumerable cloud of witnesses as the apostle Paul records, the Word of God says the angels share in our praises as well as rejoice in our victories of faith. I am interested to learn more about these unseen eyes that are following our progress through our trials and successes of life.

Glory, Honor and Praise to Him who sets on the Throne for ever and ever. Amen And all of the white robed elders said, Amen. And the shining hosts of heaven bowed and said, Amen.

Chapter 10  
THE BIBLE, THE WORD, THE LIVING WORD

# The Bible And The Living Word

## A Mystery Of God

### The Living Word

#### The Bible: A Miraculous Document

It is the Glory of God to Conceal a Matter,  
It is the Glory of Kings to Search out a Matter.

*Proverbs 25:2*

*"But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: 1 Corinthians 2:7 Which none of the princes of this world knew: (2:7) for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 1Co 2:9 ¶ But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 1Co 2:10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searches all things, yea, the deep things of God. Tools specific to (1Co 2:11) For what man knows the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knows no man, but the Spirit of God." But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Cor. 2:14*

MANY BIBLICAL TRUTHS REMAIN UNREALIZED BY NOMINAL CHRISTIANS. HOWEVER, THE TEACHINGS I AM EXPLORING HERE ARE NOT HIDDEN OR ESOTERIC AS MANY SO-CALLED OCCULT AND NEW AGE TEACHINGS CLAIM TO BE. BIBLE TRUTHS ARE VEILED TO OUR NATURAL UNDERSTANDING. THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEALS THEM TO US. MANY TRY TO READ THE BIBLE, BUT THOSE WHO READ THE BIBLE DO NOT RECEIVE THE SAME UNDERSTANDINGS.

***"The Word of God is Living, powerful, Sharper than any two edged sword, Penetrating and dividing the soul and the Spirit; The thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)***

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[Progressive revelation and understanding of the Word](#)

***What is truth? "Thy word is TRUTH!" (John 17:17)***

*The Word of God is described as a **double-edged sword**, the Spirit and the letter comprise the two edges. The Logos and the Rhema are two Greek words defining the two aspects of the Word of God. The Word **logos** is the all encompassing knowledge of God. It is settled and unchanging the greatest mystery of all. It is alive. **The Word is a person**. He was made flesh and dwelt among us. (**John 1:14**) (HE is settled forever in heaven. The **Word** became flesh and dwelt among us. There are 3 who bear record in heaven, The Father, the Spirit and **the Word**, and these 3 agree as one. (1 John 5:7)*

**Two Aspects of the Word of God**

Man can not live by bread alone (*Deuteronomy 8:3 and Luke 4:4*) but by every word (*Rhema*) that proceeds out of the mouth of God. The word of God when spoken is a power that created and now sustains the Universe. He watches over His Word to perform it. God sent the Word and he sent the Spirit went forth to perform the Word. Perfect faith is perfect knowledge and application of the Word. Faith itself has a multitude of aspects which study reveals. One is to the basic belief that there is a God, that He is a Person/personality; that He can be revealed to

ourselves in a personal way; that He is present to act on our behalf. Faith might also be described this way: That God is at work on our personal behalf at all times and in all circumstance. This is the life lived "in faith."

**Rhema**, the **proceeding word** is the revelatory word in operation which speaks **truth** to a believer. Rhema provides the bedrock of understanding. Rhema is manifested by the "anointing" of the Spirit so that it can be shared (or ministered) to nurture the flock of God. The Holy Spirit is the Wonderful Counselor, the Helper who comes alongside to help us (Gk. *paraclete*), our Friend and our Guide.

Thy **Word (Gr. *logos*) is Truth**. The *logos* is the mind of God and the recorded Word of God. It is His unchangeable and unalterable will. The *Logos* is the full counsel of God it delineates and defines all truth. If you continue in my word (*Logos*) then are you my true disciples and you will know the Truth and the Truth will make you free. Knowing the *truth that will make you free* is one of the most notable of 'half quoted' scripture. The qualifying clause is "If you continue in my word, you are my true disciple.. "

The way of God is a mystery. The Truth of God is a mystery. The Holy Spirit reveals it. We who are of the faith may say, "I was once blind, but now I see." -*John 9- Psalm 91*, -"**The Secret Place**" *The secret place of the most high God*, is another hint that not all know that place, it is hidden and secret to those who are blinded by the 'god of this world.'

### **Misinformation About the Word of God**

Aren't all people equal? Hasn't God shared his revelation with every kindred, tribe and nation? Haven't Buddha, Krishna and Mohammad all heard from God? Should not their witness of truth be equal to the "Christian revelation" from the mouth of God? The question is universally asked and man has come up with his own answer with the help of certain spirits of deception! Can we dare to assert that many if not most of the world's religions are worshiping demons? There are many religions, many faiths, many religious writings and books. Who has knowledge of God? Which is true? Are they all true? Are they all from the same God as some say?

**The hardest thing to argue is that God has limited access to His revelation of Truth.** He chose only one covenant people unto whom he would reveal himself. The Jews, the children of the patriarch Abraham, were the people, a nation set aside from the nations on the earth. The recorded word (*Logos*) was given unto them by Moses and later by the mouths of prophets and holy men of old. Yes, there were other peoples who had their priests and prophets also. The Egyptians, the Chaldeans, the Persians, the Canaanites, and many others. Jehovah (JHVH *Adonai*) instructed his people to destroy those nation who worshiped demonic, false gods. They were to be annihilated down to the last man, woman and child. These nations were corrupted by

demonic influence. Unlike today's world of ecumenicism, God would have nothing to do with His covenant people risking being defiled by them. Thus the children of Abraham were sanctified and set apart. As the history of the Hebrew nation reveals they were seduced into the idolatry of the nations about them and faced God's judgment. The time for the final judgment against the influence of Lucifer on this planet is approaching. He will face the wrath of God along with those who have been seduced by him. The Devil's plan for mankind has no eternal rewards but it has eternal consequences.

## **The Bible is Revealed as the Word of TRUTH**

It is a major revelation from God when we realize that **the Bible is indeed divinely inspired and infallible** book. Only God could have prepared that word and preserved it despite the handling of it over countless centuries by mortal men. We know that heaven and earth shall pass away but that Word shall abide forever.

The teachings of liberal theologians have reached the point that they question the Bible's infallibility. They scoff at those who are so gullible to believe the accounts of supernatural events found within its pages. There could be no actual great fish! There could be no actual Red Sea crossing! There could be no actual virgin birth! There could be no actual resurrection! There could be no actual foretelling of the end of the age! There could be no actual belief that God has a chosen people who shall be the homeland of the eternal Messiah!

We who God has called, know that Holy men of old were moved by God's Spirit to write the accounts in the Bible. Prophets moved by the Spirit declared the thoughts of God and the intentions of God. In the Law of God any prophet whose words proved untrue must be killed. Because nothing pertaining to God is of a lie. Satan however, is a liar. Jesus called him a deceiver, a liar from the beginning. God makes a clear line to go out from the heavens. This line separates light and darkness. The line of the Word separates truth and error. Satan however, is also at work constantly to steal and subvert the Word. It is Lucifer's intent to deceive, to kill, and to bring destruction.

After finding God by faith we continue to grow in knowledge of the Truth. What is truth? In the book of John (Gospel, John 17:17) Jesus says to the Father, "*Sanctify them with your truth, your Word is Truth?*" Again, to sanctify means to set apart and preserve a thing for God's particular purposes.

Of all the books written to explain Almighty God or speak for Him, only the Bible is infallible! This is a bold and absolute statement. Others do not believe this. I do. This is a statement of faith. I did not always know this. Now I do know this. He has written his word in my heart. When he

does this it is established and nothing can persuade us otherwise. We would die to defend this truth as many have died because this truth was planted in their soul and spirit.

## **Jesus the Incarnation of the Word of God**

Scripture declares that by Him were the worlds made. **The Word has power.** In Geneses 1:3 we read, "*And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.*" In Geneses 1:6, "*And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.*" And again in Genesis 1:26, "*And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.*" Thus God spoke the Word and the worlds were created.

### **Before Creation**

In John Chapter 17 Jesus speaks to the Heavenly Father and hearkens back to a time when he shared fellowship with the Father in Glory, *before the world was*. The Word was the first manifestation of the creation. The word proceeded from God and created the heavens and the earth. "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*" (John 1:1 and Colossians 1:15))

**The Word is a Living Entity.** Christ is the incarnation of the Word. "The word became flesh." This is a mystery. (John 1:1) "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*" (John 1:3) "*All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*" Thus before the world was, Christ was. He created all things. He was with the Father. (John 17:1,2)

That which is called the Word (the "Logos") is the written or recorded counsel of God, the mind of God. There is a single purpose and plan of God for this earth. It is described in one Book, the Bible, for His people to be the praise of the whole earth. This Word shall pass the test of time. Jesus' own words are recorded in **Matthew 24:31; (Mark 13:35 and Luke 21:33)** when he declared "***Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my Word shall shall never pass away.***" The word of God is called a sure word. The word outlines the plan of God spoken to his servants the prophets in time past in the spirit of prophecy, the testimony of Jesus. This word is suitable for doctrine and for correction and edification; it is the "***Spirit of Wisdom and Truth.***"

### **Faith Trusts in the Infallibility of the Word**

Spoken words have a spiritual force (life) in this world. We will also come to realize that human words that are out of character with God's Word can undo the Power of Faith. God's Word was spoken and established the manifested universe. Words still have power to create and empower to some extent in our lives. Words are effective in prayer and may activate angels and demonic powers. Words are Not to be Taken Lightly! Those who take this precept seriously and never waste a words thoughtlessly can use this force of God.

Words are misused by nearly everyone as it describes in James, a flow of sweet or bitter water from the same fountain. In the epistle of James, who was a younger brother of Jesus, (Yes Mary had several children after Jesus was born according to the Gospels) James writes to say that our tongues are unruly and impossible to tame, but if it could they be tamed we could become a Perfect Man! Evil easily takes over our words and we give place to another spirit which is not of/from God but against Him. (James 3:11) Anyone who bridles his tongue and makes no offense in speaking is near to what is called a perfect man, a truly mature person. It is these who carry the power of life and death in their tongues.

In Matthew Chapter 12 verse 26, Jesus addresses the necessity of guarding every word we speak. He teaches or rather gives warning that "*we will give an account for every idle word,*" at a time of future reckoning.

### **A Veil is Upon the Word Until the Veil is Removed**

Because the "Living Word" is a Spiritual substance, or more correctly, a person, the light and truth of the Word is hidden until the veil is removed. Only Jesus has the power to penetrate the veil of understanding. I and others can testify how reading the Bible was at one time, a meaningless chore until Christ's Spirit became our mentor and teacher and allowed truth to be unveiled.

The link of Faith to the Word is evident building up the mind and soul of all who read. It is God's Word that brings light to our understanding. It is His word which shall never pass away. He watches over His word to perform it. Amen.

# Mile Markers To Apostasy

## A Departure From The Faith

### Chapter 11

#### Mile Markers On The Road to Apostasy

#### Departure From Our Biblical Faith

**1 Timothy 4:1** “-Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;”

**2 Peter 2:1** “-But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

**2Pe 2:2** And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. “

#### **Christianity Is Progressing Toward The Final Antichrist Religion**

Christian churches are dramatically departing from biblical authority. Traditional denominations, in the interest of accommodating cultural changes are progressing toward the final GREAT apostasy. We have ill-informed

congregations who have followed the teachings of their chosen leaders and have not sought to verify the messages spoken from the pulpit. Seeker friendly teachers and Emergent Christianity celebrities have proclaimed *another gospel* (2 Cor 11:2) and deleted the essential doctrines preached by Christ's apostles.

Paul even in first days of his ministry forewarned the young churches of conditions he foresaw from his time even to the days we are living in today. In his letters to Timothy we are told in **1 Timothy 4:1 and 2 Timothy 3:1**; *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.* (Christian Leaders, pastors and theologians will be responsible for this.)

2 Timothy 3,1; *But know this, that in the last days grievous times shall come. 2Ti 3:2 For men shall be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, haughty, railers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 2Ti 3:3 without natural affection, implacable, slanderers, without self-control, fierce, no lovers of good, 2Ti 3:4 traitors, headstrong, puffed up, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; 2Ti 3:5 holding a form of godliness, but having denied the power thereof: from these also turn away.*

If you are among those who read this, it is time that you seriously examine what sort of Christian life and doctrine you are experiencing, especially if you still attend a church. With this in view there remains a remnant of congregations where preaching remains biblically faithful, who have not submitted to false teachers who make merchandise of their congregations, and promise spirituality outside of the guidelines of the original apostolic

doctrines. There are several end time scenarios that main line denominations are teaching. The differences pertain to:

- The future of God's kingdom on earth.
- Is there are future Kingdom?
- What does or will it look like?
- Will God's grace allow all to experience salvation?
- Does everyone go to heaven?
- What will become of Israel and the Jews?
- Will the church go through the tribulation?
- Is there "only one way" to God the Father or many?
- Will all the religions unite with their understanding that "we are all God's children"?

Each question above is dealt with by leading Christian leaders and theologians.

## **What Did God Say Was the Duty of Every Disciple?**

### **Prove all things.**

1 Thessalonians 5:21 *"-Prove all things; hold fast that which is good."*

(The Bereans examined the message against the Scriptures.)

Test every spirit. 1 John 4:1 *"-Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world.*

## **Flee from unbiblical, apostate, leadership.**

*1 Timothy 6:11.. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.*

## **Contend for the Faith that was presented by Christ's first apostles.**

*Jude vs.3: Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*

## **Sign Posts That Point To A Departure From The Faith**

### **1. Departure from the idea of Scriptural Inerrancy**

### **2. The belief in tolerance and de-emphasis on the doctrine of “Judgment”**

### **3. Universalism; we of any religion are all are God’s children and all will be saved**

### **4. A broad road rather than a narrow road to salvation, *we are all worthy of a heavenly reward.***

### **5. Emergent Christianity, New Age infusion into Christian thought;**

Leaders include: Henry Nouwen, Eckhart Tolle, Brian McLaren, Tony Jones, Oprah Winfrey, Pope Francis (Big tent Christianity, the pope states that we all worship the same God and can fellowship with one another, Muslim, Catholic, Protestant) Chrislam, Rick Warren. Seeker friendly church; To some degree or another they all depart from scripture seeking spirituality from various sources.

### **6. Dominion Theology and Kingdom Now theology; The 7 Mountains theology to regain by "the church." The seven mountains include the mountains of global society; Media, Government, Education, Economy, Religion, Entertainment and Family. The church should conquer these**

areas of influence, this the key to taking the world for the kingdom of God.

7. **The N. A. R. (New Apostolic Reformation is associated with Apostolic-Prophet movement: Super apostles and prophetic leadership;** This is the super-spiritual arm of the Charismatic, Pentecostal church. It is characterized by its teachings on signs and wonders, “greater works”, glorious manifested powers of the spirit.

The NAR is a growing movement in which there is an emphasis on signs of God’s presence and manifested glory. Dreams and visions involve visits to heaven, visits with Jesus and the Father, interviews and directives from angels. Leading exponents often go beyond fundamental, traditional biblical doctrines or **add to** scripture that go beyond the teachings of the first apostles. Note also that worship tends to point to “me messages.”

8. The Antichrist church will demonstrate supernatural, lying signs and wonders to fool if it were possible, even the elect! **Mark 13:22** “-Mar 13:22 *For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.*

**2 Thess.2:9** “-*Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:”*

Those among us who have been discipled in the Word of God and who see themselves as *Watchmen on the walls* in this time of dramatic societal upheaval occurring over the last few decades have sensed that this is a time to awaken a church and draw attention to the messages being taught and respond

accordingly. Speak up for truth, hold to that which is true and if necessary, flee from that which is evil and voices that teach “another gospel.”

# End Times Apostasy Imagining The Antichrist Religion

## IMAGINING WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE ANTI CHRIST RELIGION:

The religious climate of today is already an indicator of how it will look and who will partake in it.

### (PAUL WARNS OF LAST DAY DECEPTION)

*2Th 2:8 And then shall that Wicked (person) be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: 2Th 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, 2 Th 2:10 And with all deception of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 2Th 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie:*

- ◆ *The Antichrist religion will be a one in which the Antichrist, man of sin will validate his identity through persuasive displays of god-like powers. I expect it to be a supernatural religion displaying supernatural signs and wonders. Satanic power will be in full display.*

- ◆ *The Antichrist religion will be a universal religion. It will be inclusive, open to all the religions and sects of the world. It will be a fully ecumenical religion.*
- ◆ *The Antichrist religion will be a socially inclusive religion, open to all life styles. Deviancy in any form will be tolerated since the people will be considered personally selected for a great purpose in the Antichrist's kingdom.*
- ◆ *People will be flattered into believing that they are among those who are advanced spiritually and about to evolve into God-likeness.*
- ◆ *Extra-Terrestrials will at last openly manifest. The mystery of the purpose and source of UFOs/UAPS will be in full disclosure.*
- ◆ *These "Star People" will announce to the world that the Earth can at last, progress to inclusion in the community of advanced universal civilizations. It will be stated that these "*star people*" have been secretly visiting the planet for many years and at will finally make their existence and mission known openly.*
- ◆ *The mystery of so-called space beings will be revealed as the progenitors of humanity. One of the greatest lies will be revealed by these "star people."*
- ◆ *It will be said those who resisted the next advance of evolution have been taken away. These backward non spiritual people (born again Christians) have been taken to a place where they can grow and evolve in the proper understanding.*

## **"END TIME" THEOLOGY OFFERS DIFFERING EXPECTATIONS OF THE FUTURE (Eschatological doctrines)**

### **AMILLENIAL THEOLOGY**

Amillennialism holds that the "Kingdom Of God" on earth began with the ascension of Christ and will go on, more or less, in its present form until Christ

returns. These do not expect a literal reign of Christ on earth and prophecies concerning the Jews have been subsumed by the church, Therefore there is no future prophetic role or unique status for the Jews.

**Amillennial doctrine; many mainline denominations include:** Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Roman Catholic Church, Lutheran, Reformed, Anglican, Methodist, Amish, Old Order Mennonite, Conservative Mennonites, Churches of Christ, Christian Church/Disciples of Christ, Christian churches and churches of Christ, Association of Grace Baptist Churches in England.

### **DOMINIONISTS (Kingdom Now Theology)**

This theology holds to the idea that the 'church' has been given the mandate of bringing the Gospel to the nations and to entirely restore the DOMINION that Adam forfeited. The 5 fold ministry and inspired Apostolic leadership will restore the nations in righteousness. Societal institutions will be brought back to the righteous rule of Christ. The following are in the Kingdom and Dominion camp.

- ◆ N A R, New Apostolic Reformation and its associated ministries (Bill Johnson), Bethel Church, Redding CA; also the following:
- ◆ Hillsong mega church (Brian Huston) of Sidney, NSW Australia;
- ◆ IHOP Kansas City, International House of Prayer and the Kansas City Prophets (Kingdom “Forerunners)
- ◆ 7 Mountains movement (Lance Walnau Dr. Bill Hamon, Dr. Bill Bright and Loren Cunningham and others)The notion is to restore and bring under submission to Christ *7 domains of social institutions*: 1) Education; 2) Religion; 3) Family; 4) Business; 5) Government/Military, 6) Arts/Entertainment; 7) Media
- ◆ Morning Star Ministries, Rick Joyner of Fort Mills, SC

- ◆ Vineyard Ministries International: The Vineyard is growing around the world, with over 2,500 churches in six continents.
- ◆ Calvinist Reconstructionists also have a view to bring in God's Kingdom through the church.

Dominion Theology is a top down authoritarian expression of Christianity. On the topmost level of the order is the anointed Apostle, Then the prophets and descending down to the local leadership. The base of the pyramid is the supporting Laity who serve to support those who are in the higher order. This has always been the structure of the Roman church which is a top down authoritarian institution commanding great power over its subjects. This is the very expression of the doctrine of the Nicolaitins spoken of in Revelation 2:6. and described by Jesus in Matthew 23:10-12, also see *3John1:9*

THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD DENOMINATIONS IS UNCERTAIN

It is my belief, however, that many of the Assembly of God congregations, depending on the training and associations of the leadership, are moving toward the camp of Kingdom Now or Dominionist theology. Evidence that might point to this would be a lack of teaching on the prophetic future of the church (Preaching eschatology). Or preaching that does not clearly reflect unfolding signs of the times or clearly prophetic happenings in the middle east, Israel being God's time clock.

Another possible evidence of the focus on Kingdom restoration in a congregation might be the inclusion of worship forms and music which derive from either The Vineyard, or *Jesus Culture* music of Redding CA, Bill Johnson's mega church whose music reflects their non-sensationalist theology.

This will be the last of the studies I will offer whose purpose has been to give some insights into the state of *the church at large* which approaches a time of trials and transition. I think there should be a healthy curiosity about where

we are as Christians that should go beyond the familiar boundaries of church life. It is right to question and challenge what you see and hear using the Bible as our guide that we may rely upon with confidence. C. Pinkney

*Index of Charles Pinkney Biblical articles and essays*

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