

SAVED FROM SIN

**(FROM THE INSPIRED SERMONS OF
ELDER ALONZO F. KILGORE)**



Volume I

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SAVED FROM SIN (Volume I)

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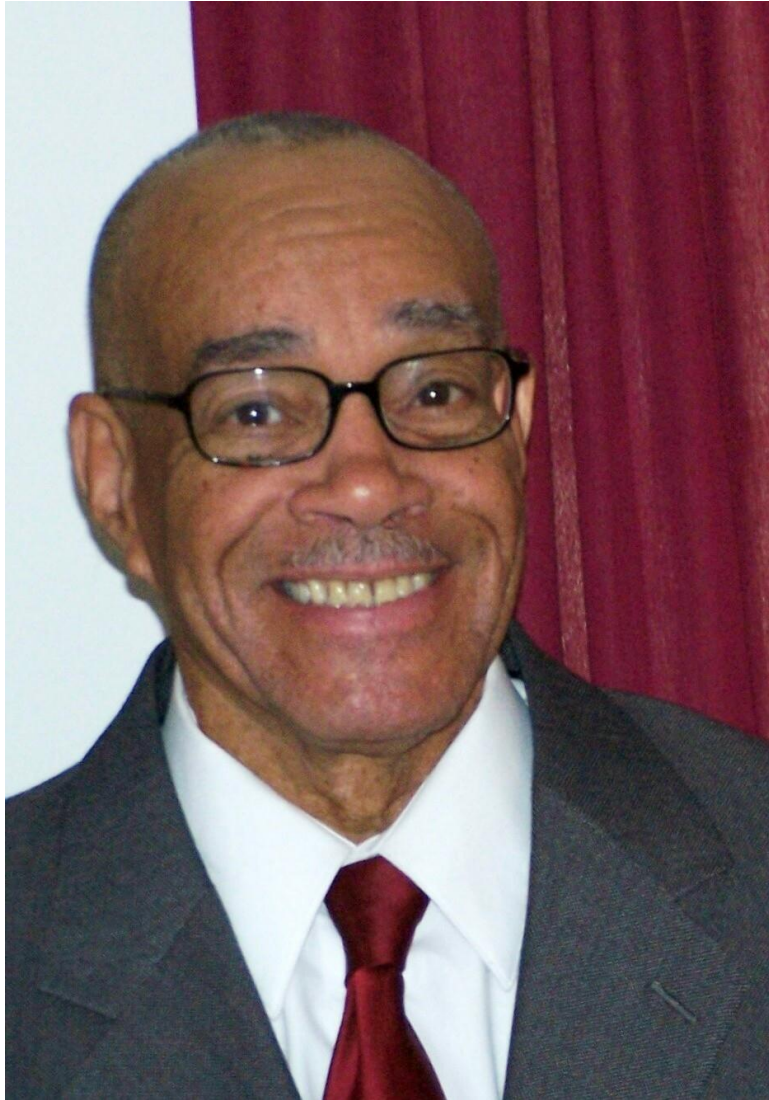
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR – ALONZO F. KILGORE

Alonzo Freeman Kilgore was born on November 29, 1941 in Badin North Carolina. He was the second of three children born to Harold and Tommie Kilgore. Young Alonzo and his family moved to Baltimore Maryland in 1942. Alonzo received a grade school education in the Baltimore County Public Schools. Through the earnest efforts of his parents, Alonzo's educational training continued at the University of Maryland, where he received a degree in Education. In September 1966, Alonzo became employed as an elementary school teacher with the Baltimore City Public School system.

In 1971, Alonzo had a vision. In this vision, he saw a bright light, and heard a voice speaking to him, telling him to go and help someone. Not understanding the meaning of the vision, Alonzo was troubled. Alonzo often spoke to his wife concerning the vision and indicated to her that he believed he would be required to help people in the future.

In November 1976, Alonzo's wife, Annette, who had received Christ into her life some three years prior, began to notice a change in her husband's way of living. She noticed that he began to separate himself from his well-loved social crowd. He began to withdraw from other worldly habits, such as using profanity, gambling and liquor drinking.

In about January 1977, Alonzo began to attend church services with his family. He also took an interest in reading the Bible and other religious literature. In March 1977, a miraculous change occurred in the life of Alonzo Kilgore. His dear wife relates to us the event of his spiritual conversion:

“It happened on a Thursday, the tenth day of March 1977, at about 10:45 p.m. Alonzo was watching one of Billy Graham's revival service programs on television. The sermon topic was “Is Your Name Written on the Lamb's Book of Life?” After listening to this sermon, Alonzo realized that in order for his name to be written on the Lamb's Book of Life, he would have to receive Jesus Christ into his life, and be saved from sin. When the call was made for people to come to Jesus Christ to be saved, Sporty, as Alonzo was called at the time, immediately jumped up from the bed where we were sitting, he went to the television and with outstretched arms accepted the Lord Jesus Christ into his heart. I immediately received the witness in my heart that God had saved my husband and filled him with the Holy Spirit.

God had truly performed a miracle right before my eyes. From that night to this day, Alonzo Kilgore has been a changed man. His entire family can witness to the fact that he has truly been born again”

On March 14, 1977, Alonzo Kilgore became a member of the church where his wife and children were members. In July 1977, Alonzo Kilgore was called by God into the ministry. He now understands that the light which he saw, and the voice which he heard in his vision of 1970 was the Lord telling him that one day he would be called to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, so that others could receive spiritual help and be saved from their sins. In February 1980, Elder Alonzo Kilgore was led by God to resign his job of fourteen years with the Baltimore City Public System, that he might give himself and his time totally to the ministry of the word of God.

Elder Alonzo Kilgore has proven to be a true minister and servant sent by God. The scripture teaches in Romans chapter 10, verse 15, “And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”

Elder Alonzo Kilgore is currently Pastor of The Church of God, Gospel of Peace Association, located at 33 Gopa Haven Drive in Brevard, North Carolina. The members of his congregation daily thank God for sending them such a pastor. Both Elder Kilgore and his wife, Annette Kilgore are dedicated to helping and serving others and ministering the word of God, that others may receive the light of Christ and be “saved from sin”.

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FOREWORD

Man's existence and end will be more devastating than he or she can imagine. According to the Original King James Version of the Bible, there is only one way out of the destruction that is sure to come. A plan has been revealed to pastor Elder Alonzo F. Kilgore that will deliver you from this destruction. Elder Kilgore is a God-sent, Holy Ghost filled preacher, prepared and sent by God to reveal God's plan of salvation (deliverance from sin) to whosoever will repent, hear, and believe the gospel.

If you truly want to be saved from your sins, and live eternally with Christ, the sermons contained within this book will guide you into the proper channels of salvation, and away from the paths of sin, the carnal nature, and the destruction soon to come.

"The Wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). If you want to escape the death of your soul, and eternal damnation, you will find the answer in this book. Please note, the scriptures quoted in this writing are taken from The Original King James Version of the Bible.

INTRODUCTION

So Shall The Coming Of The Son Of Man Be:

God suffered a record to be made concerning destructions that he sent to the earth in past times to show how indifferent people were concerning the warnings that were given by the prophets and those anointed by God to preach the gospel. Today, as it was in those days, people are indifferent toward the warnings of God. Nevertheless, the word of God points out that God is not willing that people be caught unprepared and perish, neither is God willing that heaven be filled with hypocrites and sinners. This is why God will never give advance notice of the time of Jesus' return. If He did, many hypocrites and sinners would dress for the occasion. They would look like saints and put on their best conduct like saints, because everyone would really like to go to heaven. If you desire to go to heaven, you must first receive the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8) in your life to give you the new birth in Christ to be able to live a life above sin in this present world (Titus 2:11-14).

A Heavenly Environment:

Heaven will not be a summer resort for the rich and lazy, like those accommodated by the French Riviera or Palm Springs. In heaven, everyone will love everyone. There will be no racial separations in denominational churches, or social levels of society based upon how wealthy some are, and how poor others are.

Heaven will be a new civilization of people consisting of God the Father, Jesus the Word of God, the Holy Spirit, holy angels and a population of children that cannot be numbered, along with saints who have suffered for the gospel in this present world. Heaven will not be merely a state of mind; it will be a physical environment as well as a spiritual environment where righteousness will indwell. Heaven will be properly implemented by the Holy Spirit to institute a standard of living that far exceeds the conduct that any previous civilization of people have ever experienced, seen or heard of on earth.

Heaven will be a society of oneness, where no laws will be necessary to control the actions of men. Love will be the only controlling force in heaven, and every citizen will be given unto services and duties generated by the power of God, which will be everlasting operations. All operations of heaven will be described and conducted around virtues that we presently know as "the fruit of the Holy Spirit" (Galatians 5:22). The fruit of the Spirit will produce qualities of character

in the citizens of heaven that will never lose its power or freshness. Kindness will be the basic attitude in all things that will be done in heaven. There will be no need for longsuffering because nobody will be indifferent toward another. There will be no need for apologies or corrections because all life and actions will be produced by the Holy Spirit, which will indwell the citizens in its fullness. Those who are born again today have a partial filling of the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 13:12); the remaining part of our earthly lives is generated by blood, which causes us to have weaknesses and to make mistakes, but not to commit sin (I John 3:9).

In heaven, your blood will be replaced prior to your arrival there (I Corinthians 15:50-52), and the Spirit of God will completely indwell you, giving you a new body of a more permanent sort which will never experience age, sicknesses, pains, discomforts, fatigue nor errors in your performances. Death will not be a word used in heaven (I Corinthians 15:54). All things will be new and permanent in heaven, never needing to be serviced, or replaced (Revelations 21:1).

Heaven will be an incorruptible kingdom full of joy, happiness and programs given to praise and honor God (I Corinthians 15:52-54; St. Luke 2:13-14, Revelation 21:24-26). The scenery in performances of heaven will not be artificial such as we prepare on earth today, made of such things as wood, papier-mâché, and tempera paint. The scenery of heaven will be true scenes with animals, plants, rivers, stars and the Spirit of God moving upon the atmosphere to generate a non-disturbing breeze. All animals will be peaceful with one another and none will be predators (Isaiah 11:6-8). There will be no dust, insects, rodents, inclement weather, or any thing to create uncomfortable living conditions.

The citizens of heaven will have different gifts to render different services in heaven, not for their needs and survival, but for the joy and pleasure of its citizens. Some of the citizens of the kingdom of heaven will be entertainers of music, landscape artists, program coordinators, food service personnel, and tour guides for natural scenes of heaven created new everyday. There will be no rushing to make appointments, because time will be no more. Things will be conducted and carried out according to the desires of the citizens. One day programs could last a thousand years, or a thousand years of programs could last one day (II Peter 3:8).

The Holy Spirit will be the power source of heaven by which things of heaven will receive energy, just as electricity is a power source by which things of the earth receive energy (Genesis 1:2-3). The energy generated by the Holy Spirit will far exceed the performance of electricity. The Holy Spirit will perform according to the desires of the citizens of heaven, just as it did for the prophet Ezekiel in the valley of the dry bones (Ezekiel 37:1-5).

The new citizens of heaven will only have desires that will seek to be satisfied by the things that God has prepared for those who love him while living on earth today (I Corinthians 2:9-10). Heaven will be a place of holiness. Anyone

who does not possess the Spirit of holiness while they are living in this present world will never see heaven (Revelation 22:11-12). Unless your ways of living on earth today are adjusted to the conditions of heaven and its requirements, you will not qualify to be a citizen of heaven (St. Matthew 6:10).

Why Take A Chance On Missing A New Life In This New Civilization?

God wants you to be ready to be part of this new summit in his kingdom. The plan is that he is going to create a new society where no law enforcement will be necessary. No germs will be able to enter in, and flowers will bloom forever. We are warning you of this great plan of God that will soon be coming down the pike. You must get an understanding through the information in this book about how to be ready. To disregard our warnings will leave you unprepared, and in the wrong place at the wrong time.

If you wake up one morning and see that you are left behind, you will remember our warnings, but it will be too late. You will then wish that you had taken heed. So, why take the chance of missing this new paradise? Repent now and believe the gospel so that sin will not be your ruin. Jesus is waiting to receive anyone who comes to God, because today is the day of salvation. Tomorrow may be too late. God's warning to you is to repent, believe the gospel and receive the Holy Ghost. When the Holy Ghost comes upon you, it will give you strength, understanding and power that will raise you up in the last day upon Jesus' return, whether you are dead or living. Regardless of the trouble that will come upon the earth in the last days, the Holy Ghost will be able to lift up a standard of righteousness in you that will allow you to be delivered.

My Prophecies Are Based Upon The Prophecies Of The Scriptures:

Please believe the words that I am teaching you, and they will keep you from being deceived. I am glad that I found the Lord, and am able to help someone else to find him. Jesus is looking for you, because he wants to save you. Don't let any false religious leader tell you that he knows the day or hour of Jesus' return, because the scriptures teach that no man knows the time of Jesus' return. If a man says he does, he is a liar, and the devil is his father, because the Bible teaches that Satan is a liar and the father of liars.

Jesus only gives us instructions concerning the signs that indicate when we are approaching or near the end of the world, and when to look for his return; otherwise, we don't know anything. All that I prophesy of is based upon prophecies that the scriptures teach have already been made, this protects me from being a false prophet. The scriptures cannot be broken, therefore, if I stay within

the scriptures, neither will my prophesies be broken. A false prophet will prophesy contrary to what the scriptures foretell, making himself a liar.

The Signs Of The Seasons Determine What Season Is Approaching:

Jesus teaches us, “Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come” (St. Matthew 24:42). “Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh” (St. Matthew 24:32).

The tender branches of a fig tree are a sign given by God through nature that summer is near. No matter what comes or goes, when you see this sign on a fig tree, you can be sure that summer is near, because this sign was prepared by God that we might know what season is approaching. So also will it be with the signs of the end of the world. When you see the signs that Jesus taught concerning the end of the world, such signs were fixed by God and nothing can change them. The signs are warnings of the approaching season. When you see this season approaching, no matter who you are, be found with God’s word hid in your heart that you might not sin against God.

Watch! Lest Coming Suddenly Jesus Will Take You By Surprise:

The scriptures teach in St. Luke 17:26, “And as it was in the days of No-e (Noah), so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man”. When the floods hit the Midwest in 1993, folk were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage and many did not know what had happened until their homes were surrounded by water. The next morning, the floodwater was in their houses. It is not that they were not warned, but they were not listening to the warnings or in some cases, they did not believe the warnings were serious.

So was it also during Noah’s time. Noah warned the people for approximately 120 years, just as the weather bureau warned the people in the Midwest in 1993. It is of no profit to have a warning available such as our weather forecast systems of today, and not take heed to the warnings. God sends a prophet to warn you of the things that will soon come to pass. God will not do anything against mankind until he first warns man. The prophet of God will not speak presumptuously, but according to God’s foreknowledge. If you hear the prophet and take heed by following the instructions on how to avoid the coming destruction, as did Noah and his family, you will be saved.

All of the literature that God has given in this book is instructions on how to avoid the coming destruction. When you obey the instructions in our literature, you will be standing in the “holy place”. When you see the abomination of

desolation spoken of by Daniel, more trouble than Daniel warned us of is coming down the pike. Jesus said the warning of the end is the beginning of sorrows. So what Jesus has said unto one he says to all, **“Watch”!**

CHAPTER I

REPENTANCE

Subject: Repent And Believe The Gospel So That Your Sins Will Not Be Your Ruin:

Why take a chance? What I am teaching you to do to get yourself ready to meet Jesus certainly won't do you any harm. The preparations you make to meet Jesus will make your life so much happier while you wait. Such preparations will stop you from seeking the pleasures of sin, which have already made your life miserable. It will separate you from some folk you are keeping company with who don't mean you any good. It will bring you into closer communion and fellowship with good people, but it certainly won't hurt you.

My warning is that you "repent" and believe the gospel that your sins will not be your ruin. Afterwards, God will give you the gift of the Holy Ghost (Also known as The Holy Spirit) to help keep you from going back to a life of sin. The Holy Spirit in you will raise you up to meet Christ in the last day.

Subject: If You Are A Sinner Jesus Is Looking For You:

If you are a natural born sinner and you are not actively involved in any church, would you believe that God is not against you and that the entire plan of salvation was set up by God for your benefit? Jesus made it very plain to the people of his time that he did not come looking for righteous church folk to fellowship with, but he came to call sinners to repentance.

Jesus ate with sinners so that he could get to know them and teach them the new way of living. If you are a sinner, Jesus is looking for you. Jesus wants to help you repent of your sins. He wants you to learn to live above sin by the power that He is able to give you. If you are a church hypocrite, Jesus is further away from you than your voice can carry. When you confess your sins, Jesus is faithful and just to forgive your sins and to cleanse your life from all unrighteousness. Jesus came to be a friend of sinners because he came to save them from their sins.

Subject: Repentance:

To repent means to be sorry with godly sorrow. II Corinthians 7:10 reads: "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death."

If you have had an indifferent attitude towards your brothers and sisters of the faith, and upon discovering your attitude you begin to change to a better attitude, then such a change is repentance to God and God will accept your repentance only if you never intend to be indifferent again. Such repentance is a godly repentance if you do not intend to do it again.

Now to be merely sorry is not enough for your repentance to reach God. You must regret that you demonstrated such an attitude to the extent that every desire to repeat it will be completely removed. Godly repentance is an outward change or turn about, but it is manipulated by an inward conviction. You must be so convicted in your heart that it causes your outward turn about. Repentance is a deep spiritual revolution in you that makes you detest your sinful ways to the extent that you will never do them again. When a criminal is sent to prison for committing a crime, if he is indeed sorry, proof of his sorrow will be that when he is released from prison, he never commits the crime again.

St. Matthew 3:2-8 reads as follows:

Verse 2 - And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven
is at hand.

Verse 3 - For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias,
saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness,
Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

Verse 4 - And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and
a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was
locusts and wild honey.

Verse 5 - Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all
The region round about Jordan,

Verse 6 - And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

Verse 7 - But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees
come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation
of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath
to come?

Verse 8 - Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

John introduced repentance and preached that acceptable fruit of repentance would be acknowledged by God when a person repents with such a sincere heart that they would never commit such a transgression again.

You can't skip repentance and get the Holy Spirit. The process of salvation doesn't even start until after you repent. St. Matthew 3:11 reads, "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:" John taught that being filled with the Holy Ghost would not take place until the individual demonstrates fruit of repentance.

Upon hearing the gospel, the gospel reveals such faults; one must then fall under conviction first. When your repentance is perceived as being sincere before God, redemption from all sins will be accomplished by grace. A sincere repentance invites the Holy Spirit in, which is on stand-by while you are making up your mind.

St. Luke 15:21 reads: "And the son (prodigal son) said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son." Now there is a difference between remorse and repentance. Remorse means you are sorry for what you did, and it can be expressed by an apology to those that you offended. However, every sinner under conviction who comes to Christ and says in his or her heart, like the prodigal son, "Oh God, I have sinned against heaven and thee" is under repentance. Having felt the terrible consequences of sin, he is penitent, and wants Christ to deliver him. That is repentance. God is then moved by a sincere repentance and will come down and lift us from sin, wherein we will find forgiveness and peace.

**Subject: John Baptized With Water Unto Repentance But
Jesus Baptized With The Holy Ghost:**

The first gospel preacher of the kingdom of heaven was John the Baptist. John baptized the people with water unto repentance as a sign that they had turned from their sinful ways and accepted the instructions coming from the word of God. When you repent of your sins, you are honoring John's baptism, but when you are filled with the Holy Ghost, Jesus would have honored your repentance.

Subject: You Must Repent Of Your Sins To Get Help From Jesus:

When you live above sin, you take on a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. This means that the powers of heaven will be made available to you according to the discretion of Jesus. God does not acknowledge anybody who doesn't live above sin. If you are a church going Christian and think that Jesus is in your life, if you practice sin, Satan has deceived you. It is no big thing; Satan has deceived the whole world. Only Jesus can deliver you from the power of Satan's deceit if you are willing to repent of your sins, and put forth an effort to live above sin.

Subject: Two Kinds Of Wisdom:

There are two kinds of wisdom available for man to live by. One is the wisdom of God, and the other is the wisdom of the world. The wisdom of God leads man to be delivered from sin (salvation), but the wisdom of the world leads man to destruction. The wisdom of God is the fear of God. This fear is not to be afraid of God, as you would be afraid of a tyrant. However, this is to fear that you would offend Him, or that you would do something to displease, disrespect or transgress His teachings.

A man that is born in sin is born into the world with the nature to disrespect, dishonor or displease God. Such a man will spend his lifetime offending God, unless he repents of his sins and acquires grace to live above sin. If you practice sin, you are offending and disrespecting God everyday of your life. You must come to the knowledge of the truth in order that you might learn to live above the spirit of offending God. God loves man and has tolerated man's offenses for almost six thousand (6,000) years. However, he is now ready for man to repent of his offenses. Man must repent at an acceptable time in order to receive grace.

Subject: God Will Grant You Repentance If Your Repentance Is Sincere:

If you want to live right, God will give you power to do so. It takes power from God to do right continuously. Without the power of the Holy Spirit in your

life, you can start out doing right, but you won't be able to stay right when wrong puts pressure on you to give in to it.

You cannot resist strong temptations to please your fleshly (sinful) desires without God to help you. When you are sincere in your own ability to repent of the sins that you know are wrong, God will grant you assistance with the sins that will be too hard for you to repent of. It is God's repentance that gets you totally out of sin. Your repentance was simply an expression of a desire to seek help from God. You can only know that your repentance was sincere when you see yourself receiving assistance from God helping you to overcome the things that you could at one time not stop doing.

**Subject: God Saved Nineveh As A Witness To His Mercy
If Man Repents:**

The prophet is a mouthpiece for God in the earth. The prophet Noah spoke and warned the people telling them what would come. The prophet Abraham warned Sodom, which was burned up, root and branch, never to be a place for human habitation again. The city of Nineveh was warned by Jonah, but they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and God spared the entire city.

Repentance carries a lot of weight with God. Repentance gives you a place at the throne of grace, where you can receive mercy. God is full of mercy and is longsuffering to man, not desiring that man be destroyed. God has always prepared an example for us that we might have a witness to his mercy. This is why he saved Nineveh, even though Jonah was not such a merciful prophet.

Subject: Don't Harden Your Heart Against God's Warnings:

God through the Spirit spoke to the apostle Peter to warn us of this day and time. In II Peter 2:4, God warns us today that if he spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness to be reserved unto judgment, what do you think God is going to do with us of this day and time that continue in the practice of sin? God is warning man today and informing him that he is not in agreement with man's disobedience, giving man a chance to repent so that iniquity will not be his ruin.

God didn't spare the old world during Noah's time, but saved just Noah and his family. He saved Noah because Noah was a preacher of righteousness and he

warned the people against their sins. However, the people hardened their hearts and stiffened their necks and God destroyed them with an overflow. It is better to repent of your sins the day you hear God's voice, to avoid provocation

Subject: Why Not Repent Of Your Sins Now While You Are Living?

While you are alive, you are able to change your way of living with God to help you. Why not repent of your sins now, and God will give you credit for your acts of repentance while you live. Don't think for a minute that Jesus will be there to receive your soul at your death if you have failed to repent of your sins while you lived. You will go to hell when you die if you fail to repent, and become saved during your life on earth.

No matter how eloquent a speaker the preacher is who preaches your funeral about how God loved you best, you are going to hell if you fail to repent and receive the new birth in Christ while you live. Today is the day of salvation and not the day that they have your funeral.

God will not deliver you from sin in a casket no matter how nice you look in your funeral apparel. No matter how much a preacher lies about what a good person you were while you lived, if you were not saved, God will not hear the preacher's sermon at your funeral.

Subject: Going To Church Will Not Bring You Back To God- You Must Repent Of Your Sins:

It does not matter what kind of job you are doing in your church, if you are not living above sin, you are just a sin practicing church worker. Working in a church won't get you into God's kingdom. You are not saved by works, but by grace. Changing places doesn't change you. Churches are deceiving people everywhere by appeasing their consciences, but doing nothing about their sins.

Man did not become separated from God because he didn't go to church, but because he committed sin. Therefore, going to church won't bring you back to God if you are still living in sin. The disobedience of one man caused all men to be aliens from the Commonwealth of Heaven. Going to church won't bring you back to God. You must repent of your sins and put forth an effort to live above sin to get back to God. Isaiah 55:7 reads as follows:

“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

CHAPTER II
BEING BORN AGAIN

Subject: Being Born Again Is A Process:

Being born again is a process and not merely a verbal expression, whereas one might simply say that he or she has been born again. Unless you go through the experiences of the new birth in Christ, you have not been a partaker of the new birth.

The initial stage of the new birth is to be convinced and convicted of the wrong that you are doing. This will show you the need for repentance. Repentance is an effort by you towards acquiring the new birth. You have learned that the end of your way is death, and you are seeking another alternative for life. If your effort is sincere, you have God's attention. God will further deal with you through those who are already saved. You must then respect, honor and obey the instructions that you are given. Failure to obey instructions impedes your spiritual growth and progress in the Lord. Although God is longsuffering with your ignorance, he is not longsuffering with willful disobedience after you've come to the knowledge of the truth.

Subject: To Be Born Again Is To Receive A New Life Source:

You are only born again when you are begotten or produced by the word of God. The word of God is an incorruptible seed that has to be placed into your mind just like a new idea that a man conceives to build a different style house. When the idea has finished its course, you would see a new house. So is it also with the word of God when it is planted in your mind. When it is conceived in your mind, it will produce a new creature.

The word teaches righteousness, and when it brings forth life in a person's mind, they will live a life of righteousness according to the new life source that was conceived. When your father planted a seed in your mother's womb, it produced a new life source, which was after the image and life source of your mother and father. To be born again of the word of God is to receive a new life source after the life source that Christ lived.

Subject: Being Born Again Is A Rare Experience:

You cannot live above sin nor have you been born again until you love everybody. You will know that you love everybody because love works no ill to its neighbor. When you have truly been born again, you will not retain any evil thoughts in your mind, whereas you would wish any evil to come upon your worst enemy.

To be born again is to have the mind to live above the average ways of an ordinary person. You would then have become an unusual person, very rarely meeting any Christians who have a mind such as you have. The difference in your character, on many occasions, will provoke criticism, ridicule and rejection by many, especially your religious affiliates. God will then lead you to a new group of people who have the same mind, attitude and religious experiences that you have experienced. Such people will be the “Saints of God”, who will be qualified to lead you into the true channels of salvation.

Subject: How Can A Man Be Born When He Is Old? (St. John 3:1)

In St. John chapter 3, it teaches us that Nicodemus was a ruler of the Jews who came to Jesus by night to inquire about a subject that he did not ask about. That is to say, what Nicodemus asked Jesus about was not what was in his mind that he desired to know. Being a prominent ruler of the Jews and a Pharisee, Nicodemus was ashamed to acknowledge that he was ignorant of the gospel that Jesus taught, and desired further clarification of his teachings, so he came to Jesus by night for further consultation. Keep in mind that Jesus came from the lower class of Jews; his godfather Joseph was merely a carpenter. Nicodemus was from the more educated, higher class of Jews. He would not be caught dead consulting with Jesus by day, so he came to Jesus by night in fear of the embarrassment of being seen with Jesus.

The knowledge of the teachings of the kingdom of heaven is above and different from earthly knowledge. Such heavenly knowledge can be taught in simplicity when it is compared to earthly things. When Jesus taught Nicodemus concerning the kingdom of heaven, he taught him using examples of the most common knowledge known to all earthly men, and that is being born and being

buried. Christ used these two subjects to illustrate the most essential spiritual experiences concerning salvation.

Nicodemus did not have the nerve to ask Jesus out right “what must I do to be saved?” However, in actuality that is what was on Nicodemus’ mind. So Jesus, being compassionate toward Nicodemus, proceeded to answer the question that was in his mind, rather than what he had asked out of his mouth. Nicodemus’ introductory statement was words of flattery that Jesus completely ignored and made no response to. Nicodemus said to Jesus, “We know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him”, which was the highest honor a man could be given, but Jesus proceeded to respond with a statement that made no reference to what Nicodemus had said. Jesus said “*except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*”

If how to get to heaven had not been the question in Nicodemus’ mind, he would have reproved Jesus, being a much higher ranked Jew than Jesus was. Nevertheless, Nicodemus being relieved that Jesus had broken the ice by getting to the point, responded with questions reflecting a desperate desire to know how to get into the kingdom of heaven.

Nicodemus wanted to be saved, and he humbled himself to a level of social status that hardly any of the higher rank and order Jews would dare to have done. Therefore, he asked a question that did not reflect the intelligence that a man of his prominence and educational background would have asked. His question simply stripped him of all pride and dignity that a man of his status could have possessed. Had Jesus been a man of his status and position, such a question would have been an insult to Jesus, but such a question did not provoke Jesus because he knew that Nicodemus was serious and truly did not understand. Nicodemus asked, “How can a man be born when he is old?” What a question! Do you know the answer? Let us proceed to answer this question along the lines that Jesus taught, with the help of God.

Jesus knew that the only understanding Nicodemus had about birth was the delivery of a child by a mother at the end of pregnancy. In fact, this is all that Jesus wanted Nicodemus to know. When you know too much, it is difficult for your mind to comprehend spiritual things. A lot of worldly knowledge will often times interfere with your ability to receive and understand the simplicity of heavenly knowledge. With only a limited amount of knowledge concerning child conception and birth, Nicodemus would grasp the spiritual lesson without difficulty.

Jesus further taught that his reference was not to be born a second time of his mother, but that the second birth would be a spiritual birth, whereas the first birth with his mother was a flesh and blood physical birth. The spiritual birth would be

the birth of a new mind and nature (desires), whereas one would come forth with a righteous nature, desires and mind to obey God. This would be a holy birth, whereas the first birth was a carnal birth.

The righteous, holy birth takes place in two segments. The first segment would be being born of the Holy Spirit (a spiritual birth) by taking on the spiritual nature of God that is brought into a person's life by the Holy Spirit. This would give the person keeping power to control his or her life, keeping them from doing wrong.

The second segment would be the birth of water. This would be demonstrated through baptism of water by coming forth out of the water physically, leaving the carnal (sinful nature) buried in the water, and taking on the spiritual nature of a child of God to live righteously.

Christ gave this parable to make Nicodemus know that in his fleshly state, he could have no knowledge of God. That which is born of flesh is flesh and can only understand fleshly or earthly knowledge. Though Nicodemus came to seek knowledge, he could have no knowledge of God until he had been born again. Just as Jesus told Nicodemus, his gospel is still saying to all who hear him today, unless you are born again you will not see the Kingdom of God.

Subject: You Cannot Understand Salvation Unless You Have Been Born Again:

In the fleshly or unsaved state, you can receive no knowledge of God. You must be born again in order for your mind to receive the knowledge of God. No matter how much you go to church and read your Bible, you cannot be saved nor comprehend God's word unless you have truly experienced the new birth in Christ. No one can adequately describe the complete knowledge of the new birth to you; you must experience it yourself to receive this understanding. When you are living an unsaved life in the flesh, carnal or sinful knowledge dominates your understanding.

Therefore, to help Nicodemus, Jesus used an earthly parable that he could comprehend to help him perceive the unrevealed knowledge of the new birth. Because Nicodemus had some knowledge of childbirth, he was able to see that nobody could acquire such in depth knowledge from God unless they had the assistance of Jesus to aid them. Today Jesus is not on earth to aid anybody, only the Holy Spirit is available to assist all who repent and believe the gospel.

Subject: To Be Born Again Is To Be Brought Forth As A New Person (Babe In Christ) Living Free From Sin:

It is nice to read your Bible and quote scriptures in your testimony. But it is greater to have joy that comes from your own heart through the knowledge that you are truly saved. Knowing your redeemer lives in you brings a joy that is unspeakable, a joy that is lasting. You must have this joy yourself to appreciate it.

Jesus taught Nicodemus that you must be born again, because being born again is a process of salvation that a person is required to experience to qualify to live in heaven. You are hid in the water when you are baptized, and that is being conceived or being born, after you are brought forth out of the water. To be born of water (or baptized) is an outward sign of an operation, which should actually be the result of a change of life style that one experiences which results from a spiritual change in a person's nature. Such a person would be represented to have died to the old life style of sin, buried through the baptism of water, and then come forth as a new creature, like a newborn babe in Christ (beginner) to live a righteous life in Christ.

Subject: Saints Of God:

To be born again is to be born of the nature of God and to become a saint. You are not saved unless you are a saint. To be a saint is to be holy, which means your life has been consecrated, set a part, free from sin and you live according to the purpose of God. You are God's elect called according to his divine purpose unto good works. To live contrary to this is to live contrary to God's purpose for man. God created man for one purpose and that is to live holy or to be a saint. You don't become a saint after you die. You can only be a saint by the way you live. The dead know nothing; neither can they serve God. God is not a God of the dead, but of the living.

Subject: You Cannot Obey God Unless You Have His Nature:

When you have been born again of the Spirit of God, the spiritual nature of God controls your desires and actions, and keeps you from doing wrong. In the fleshly or sinful nature, you cannot obey God; this is why God replaces your nature

when he saves you, to make it possible for you to obey him. Nobody can live above sin in the fleshly nature that they are born with, neither can they live according to the instructions that God gives in his gospel.

The nature that you are born with from your mother's womb will cause you to fight against and reject the word of God. You were born in the carnal, fleshly or sinful nature, and this nature wars against the Spirit of God so that you cannot obey God even if you want to. Only the nature of God can obey God, and unless God gives you his nature, you will be an enemy of God.

**Subject: The Power Of God Can Save You From Your Sins
If You Believe It:**

The only true evidence that you have been born again is when you don't commit sin; I John 3:9 teaches "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." Any other sign of salvation is of no profit if you are still committing sin. Don't let any preacher fool you or tell you differently, anything different is a lie, and will curse you. This is what the true gospel teaches; if you fail to believe this gospel, you will be damned. The salvation of a man is by the power of God, and this power does not come according to your opinion of salvation, but according to what the word of God teaches.

If God teaches that you must live free from sin to have salvation, and you believe otherwise because of the traditions of your religious teachings, you will not experience the power of God working in your life and you will be yet in your sins. The power of God only goes to work for those who first believe it.

**Subject: You Don't Have To Continue Living In Sin Just
Because You Were Born In Sin:**

When a man is born in sin, it means he is a natural sinner. However, you don't have to live in sin because you were born in sin. It is possible in Christ for you to be born again in righteousness with the nature to live free from sin. To be born again in righteousness is to be born of an incorruptible seed, which is the word of God. When you are born in sin, you are born of your father's seed, which is a corruptible seed conceiving you with the nature to sin. So then, your second

birth of a righteous seed is of the word of God, which gives you a new mind rather than a new body. The new mind will cause you to have desires to live righteously rather than desires to commit sin.

Subject: The Good Spirit Versus The Evil Spirit:

The problem with members of the Christian Church who do not believe in living above sin is that they have never been born of God. Most Christians can't help sinners because they do the same things that non-Christians do. You cannot be an example to somebody when you are no different.

Let us explain what is involved in being born of God: Your first birth was when you were born of your mother and father's seed. This is the birth of your flesh and blood body. Your second birth should be the birth of the Spirit of God. Spiritual things are different from physical things.

Spiritual things are life consisting of principles, ideas, morals and virtues. When such things are not good, they are the result of the influence of the devil, who is using the sinful nature. On the other hand, when a person has taken on a life of good principles, morals and of living free from sin, the person would then be born of God's Spirit that delivers them from the works of the bad spirit or their sinful nature.

**Subject: Jesus Came To The World To Be An Example
Of How To Live Above Sin:**

The word of God teaches that Jesus came into the world to save his people from their sins. If you do not believe this, you have not been born again, and are not one of Jesus' people. Jesus did not come just to forgive you of your sins; he could have stayed in heaven and forgiven you, but he came to teach you how to live in this present world without practicing sin. Jesus came to be an example for the world, teaching and demonstrating how the world could live and not commit sin. When this principle has been established and implemented in your life, it means you have been born again of the Spirit of God.

**Subject: The New Birth Causes You To Be More Proficient
At Living Holy:**

When you experience a second birth in Christ, it means you were born of the word of God. If you listen to the word of God with the intent to believe and obey, it will take root in your mind. That is, it will take up a permanent residence, and it will work for you just as your ability to count your money helps you to manage your financial business. When you learned to count your money, that knowledge of mathematics stayed with you to assist you every time you need it. This is the same way the knowledge of the word of God works for you when you struggle to retain it. You did not learn mathematics overnight. You started in the elementary school and continued to learn math until you were proficient enough to use it to manage your money. When you practice living by the knowledge of the word of God you will through the years experience a mind that will be born again of the knowledge of God's word, helping you to be more proficient at living holy.



CHAPTER III
TESTING & TRIBULATION

Subject: The Acceptance Of The Word Of God Must Be Accompanied With Suffering:

After you receive the seed or the word of God into your heart, your body must suffer in order for the seed to grow and bring forth fruit. When the shell of the corn begins to die, it allows the seed on the inside of the body to germinate, grow, and later bring forth fruit. Jesus suffered on Calvary that his body might die and bring forth the fruit of the Holy Spirit, so that all who believed in him could be saved. Unless Jesus had suffered in the flesh, the seed of righteousness would not have been able to grow. When you hear and accept the word of God and suffer in the flesh, it will allow the word to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in your life.

You should always accept persecution and afflictions willingly, because they are for the word's sake, that you might grow thereby. Persecutions and afflictions weaken the body to allow the word of God to grow.

Subject: The Flood Will Try Your Religion To See Whether It Be Of God:

If you hear the true gospel preached and do not believe it, you will remain unborn. That is, you will remain in the sinful nature with the desires to continue to commit sin. The new birth in Christ takes away your desire to commit sin. This is the only way you can know that you have been born again. This experience should be followed by tests and trials to prove that your new righteous life is authentic and from heaven. If your religious conversion is not genuine, your test and trials will make you go back into sin.

In the nineteen seventies, many people experienced false conversions and are presently living a life in sin. A true conversion in Christ will not allow a person to backslide into sin again. His or her religion will be constructed upon a rock. A false conversion will be like a man who built his house on sand and when the flood came, it washed his house away. The flood is the test that the devil will send to try your conversion.

Subject: Your Test Will Prove Your Repentance And Conversion:

When you repent of your sins and experience a false conversion, it is because your repentance did not carry enough sincerity to get God's attention. God did not grant you a repentance from heaven. Therefore, when your test came, it carried you back into sin again (backslide). Your earthly repentance must be accompanied by a heavenly repentance, in order for your conversion to be true; otherwise, you will backslide.

You will know that God has accepted and honored your repentance when you observe your life maintaining its righteousness on the day of hard testing and temptations. You cannot know whether your repentance and conversion are sincere based upon the way you think. Your mind can be deceitful and fool you. You can only know that your repentance is sincere and is accepted by God when you see that your tests have not caused you to backslide.

Subject: You Will Have To Reject Your Relatives And Former Friends When You Come To Christ Unless They Are Truly Saved:

When you first come to the Lord, your relatives, friends and former church members will be the ones who will try to turn you from God. Hellish, devilish, hypocritical, ungodly relatives don't want to see you in a religious teaching that will condemn their way of living. Any religion that does not conform to the already non-effective, hypocritical sect denominations will be considered a cult by your relatives.

No matter how much help you get, hypocritical church friends and relatives will condemn, reject and criticize your religion, if it is not part of some weak, well established sect denomination, which tolerates sin. Jesus said, except you hate mother, father, sister, brother and even your own former life of sin, you could not be saved. Jesus means to hate their hypocritical worldly, sinful life style.

Subject: Your Love For God Is Proven When He Appears To Be Against You:

You must trust God though he slays you. In the book of Job chapter 13, verse 15, Job said, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust him". It pleased God for

Jesus to be crucified because Jesus was a righteous man. Never turn to unrighteousness no matter how unrighteous you are being treated. Abraham loved God even after God instructed him to kill his son Isaac for a sacrifice. You must love God in spite of all that he allows to come against you. Your love for God is proven when God appears to be against you.

Subject: God Caught Job Because His Hands Were Clean:

Jesus was a man acquainted with grief and trouble, and each of us will experience trouble before we find out where God is. The time that you will look for help is when you find trouble. There are certain kinds of trouble that to get out of, only Jesus can help you. If you don't see where God is working in your life during the time of trouble you will question him. You may ask why certain things are happening to you that leave you so heavy burdened. If you don't understand God's ways, you will ask questions as Job did.

Job knew his hands were clean; when Satan began to work on him, he questioned God in his mind. Neither you nor I ever have a right to question God, regardless of our condition. God knew what we were going to be into before our parents knew we would be in the world. Because Job questioned God, he went down to the lowest hell suffering until he got his mind right. However, because Job had good intentions, and he never charged God foolishly, God kept his hand on Job and brought him out.

The hand of God is not too short today that it cannot catch you as you fall, but your sins are between you and God. God will bring you out if you keep your mouth shut and your attitude in the right spirit. God caught Job because Job was perfect and upright, and one who eschewed evil (Job 1:1).

Subject: Never Question God:

When a test comes upon you, never question God as to why this has to happen to you. You may think in your mind that you would not question God, but if you question your leader or brothers and sisters of the faith, you are questioning God. There may be many reasons why you would want to question the details of the situation that is bringing a test upon you. God said you would have a test, and if it were not getting under your skin, it would not be much of a test.

If you don't have knowledge of Satan's ways you may ask, "Why is it I've done the things that I know and the best that I know, and this comes upon me?" You must understand why God allows such to come upon you, and then you would be more apt to accept it without question.

If you were not righteous, it would not be a test; it would be your own wicked ways bringing your trouble upon you. When you are living a righteous life, it is your righteousness being tried. This is to see whether your righteousness will endure, or if you would go back into sin, thinking you'd get some relief.

God told the devil that Job was a righteous man; God said Job was perfect. Job knew his hands were clean when the devil began to work on him, but Job had never been taught about a test, or such as was coming upon him. The examples of hard testing and trials started with Job. Therefore, Job questioned God. Today, because we have many examples of those who have been tested prior to us, it gives us an understanding of why we should not question God. You have no right as the clay to question the potter. The potter can let the clay fall into whatever hands he so desires.

If God desires that we fall into the hands of the devil for a while who are we to question God. Only God can deliver us. Why ask somebody else about your test? They cannot deliver you. Talk to God in prayer, and ask for strength to endure, and one day he will deliver you.

After God had completed his conversation with Job, Job lowered his head and said, now I humble myself in the dust "Who am I to contend with God?" Whatever God does in your life or allows the devil to do to you is right. So, when you are going through a test, never turn aside to unrighteousness, no matter how unrighteous you are treated. When other people are being used by the devil to try you, and you can't figure out why they are doing the things that they are doing to you, just remember, you are the one who is being tried.

Subject: Don't Allow Your Test To Turn You From Your Righteousness:

The devil will turn loose like a whirlwind on every person who comes to God and forsakes his or her sins. Satan will accuse you of every sin through your friends and relatives. If you fail to ask God for help to bear your load, you will go down. You must be willing to suffer your fair share of your burdens and ask God to take what you are not able to carry. If you fail to be willing to suffer your fair share, the thing that God allows to come against you will turn you from the Lord.

Job maintained his righteousness, and was willing to suffer and not allow his test to cause him to curse God. Job maintained his righteousness to the end of his trials. My advice to anyone who is going through a test is to not turn from your righteousness, but be sure that your witness is in heaven and your record is on high.

Subject: There Will Be No Special Crosses:

There will be no middle class cross for the middle class people; the well to do will have to suffer like the poor if they want to be saved. There will be a cross for everybody. It is by the way of the cross that you will obtain salvation. God doesn't prepare any plan or special trials for high class folk. If high-class folk want to be saved, they will have to follow the same course that God outlined for poor folk. God does not have a plan of salvation for V.I.P.s.

Subject: It Pleases God When You Can Endure Your Test:

Jesus withstood the contradiction of sinners, yet there was no sin or guile ever found in his mouth. Jesus maintained love for his enemies even when he was being crucified. Because of his faithfulness and obedience to God, God raised Him up to be the head of everything between heaven and the earth.

Faithfulness and obedience truly pleases God when you can maintain it during strong opposition. There is no limit to what God will do for you, if you endure fierce opposition and maintain your love for God and your enemies. If a person draws back from enduring hard testing, they cannot please God.

“For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love”. Today Jesus sits on the right hand of God waiting until every opposer of the faith, which God ordained that we should have, becomes his footstool. For the things that Jesus suffered, we must suffer a measure of them also.

CHAPTER IV
TEMPTATIONS

Subject: Temptations Should Be Taken Seriously:

Temptation is a test ever ready to try your righteousness. You are tempted when there is an attempt made to draw you away from your good, righteous conduct and you are enticed to commit sin. You must overcome temptations, and often times you will need assistance from God to help you. During some temptations, you will be able to resist by your own will to do right. You will need God to help you when the temptations are along the lines of your former desires to do wrong. Such desires could be sins that are likely to set you back.

You should watch, pray and seek assistance from God through the counsel and instructions of your leader when you are being seriously tempted to go back into sin. Experienced saints or your leaders will be a great asset during the time of serious temptations. God will work through their counsel to help restore you into good standing, if you seek counsel during the time of temptation. Temptations are not to be played lightly; they are serious and should be taken as soul threatening. Failure to give serious attention to temptations can result to you backsliding into a life of sin again.

Subject: Yielding To Temptation Is Sin:

Temptation is a test that the devil brings upon those who are trying to obey God. Satan only tries your obedience to God. We must overcome temptations in order for our obedience to be established. Temptations will bring sufferings, but they cannot defeat your stand for God if you really want to continue in righteousness. When you are heavily tempted you should pray and fast, and seek counsel from your religious leaders. If your religious leader is not saved, he will not be able to help you anymore than you will be able to help him.

Temptations do not come from God, but they are permitted by God; God allows us to be tempted. It is the only way that we can be perfected and be prepared for the eventual spiritual life that we hope to live in heaven. This helps us to know that temptations are good for us if we do not yield, for yielding to temptation is sin.

Subject: The Spirit Of God Will Help You To Resist The Temptations Of The Flesh:

Each victory that you acquire over temptations will help you to overcome the next temptation. Satan is busy day and night preparing temptations for a saved person. So he will never run out of temptations. Satan knows that temptations are good for saved people if they overcome, but he also knows that they are very damaging to those who do not overcome. Therefore, he dishes them out with the chance that we might not overcome.

Temptations are distributed by Satan and are appropriate to work on the weaknesses of the person being tempted. You cannot be tempted to do something that you have no taste nor desire to do. The act will definitely be sinful or something forbidden by the word of God. It will be something you know you cannot do and maintain your standing with God. Temptations that usually beset the saved person are inducements that satisfy the flesh or sinful nature. The main reason that yielding to such temptations would be forbidden by the word of God is because they nourish and strengthen the sinful nature of a man or woman and will cause them to resist the Spirit of God.

There is such a great contradiction between the flesh and Spirit that they cannot be reconciled. The operations of the Spirit of God and your old fleshly (carnal, sinful) nature will be at war trying to subdue your desires to practice sin again. They will always be at conflict because the flesh belongs to the devil while the Spirit belongs to God. Together they make life in these bodies. The body without the Spirit is dead (James 2:26). However, the flesh and Spirit will not be together in God's kingdom. The flesh will die and will be destroyed, because it is full of the devil and has been permanently marred by the devil.

However, if you are saved your spirit will return to God who gave it and God will give it a new and immortal body resembling this fleshly body, but glorified in every aspect. The new body and the Spirit will live with God in his kingdom forever, because they will both be like God.

Subject: The Holy Spirit Will Warn You During The Time Of Temptation:

Though temptations are serious and can be soul threatening, they are also necessary for you to stay saved. Temptations do not come from God, but they are allowed by God to come to us. This is done because God knows that this is the only way that we can be perfected in holiness, and be prepared for the life that we

hope to live in heaven. So then, we must conclude that temptations are good for us.

It is the devil who assigns and administers temptations to the saved person. Satan knows that temptations are good for the saint if they can overcome, but he also knows that they can be very damaging if they don't overcome, so he administers temptations with the chance that the saint will not overcome. Temptations are presented to work on the weaknesses of the saint; you cannot be tempted to do something that you have no desire to do. The Holy Spirit will give you very timely warnings during the time of temptation. You must learn to respond to and recognize the warnings of the Holy Spirit.

Subject: The Wrong Environment Will Cause You To Be Overcome By Temptations:

Temptations must come and if you are going to be saved, you must overcome them. Temptations were a part of God's plan for Jesus who had to do a great spiritual work. Unless you have been tempted, tried and proven to be a true servant of God, you won't be able to do anything for God. God will only use a person to do a work to his glory and honor after they have been tempted, tried and have successfully overcome. This is God's plan for us who must carry on in the name of Jesus.

Therefore, God is in full accord with the temptations that come upon us. It is important that you be full of the Holy Ghost when you are tempted, otherwise you will not be able to overcome. When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, he was full of the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost leads you to a proper setting for your temptations that will be suitable for you to overcome. Without the leadership of the Holy Ghost choosing a setting for you to endure temptations, you will not be able to overcome.

The wrong environment will put you at a disadvantage when you are tempted, causing you to be overtaken by the temptation. So when God chooses a place for you to go to be tempted, obey the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

Subject: Temptations For A Saved Person Will Be In A Different Environment:

A beginner in Christ would not likely encounter temptations in a wilderness type situation like Jesus encountered. When you are first starting out to be saved, Satan would not want you to be convinced of his reality, so he would use other people to tempt you in hope that your lack of knowledge would cause you to blame others for your temptations. Because Jesus knew of his reality, Satan found it more effective to tempt Jesus in the wilderness. A wilderness is a barren wasteland, a place of desolation and loneliness where mortal men and women don't usually dwell.

In big cities, where boulevards, bright lights and sultry music are, is where temptations are found for men and women. This is where the desires of the flesh are intensified and God is forgotten. However, if you are truly saved, this sort of place will be a wilderness to you though so much will be there to tempt you. To a saint such an environment would be a place of loneliness and desolation because there would be no desire to dwell there.

Subject: Our Temptation Will Be In Our Association With Other People:

While Jesus was being tempted in the wilderness, we must find our temptations through our association with others. When Satan uses other people to try our religion, he has a chance to accomplish two things. One would be to get some weak and foolish person to try a saint, and the other is to get the saved person to avenge him or herself. This could not be accomplished successfully in a wilderness, but such conditions are very accessible around other people, with whom you deal with daily. Therefore, you must practice loving and doing good deeds toward your enemies that you might be ready on the day of temptation.

Subject: Temptations Are Prepared According To Your Weaknesses:

“...That old serpent called the Devil and Satan” is the instigator of temptations; and he is busy while we are asleep preparing them for every person who is in their right mind. Satan knows that temptations are good for Saints who overcome, and are very damaging to those who do not overcome. Therefore, he dishes them out with the chance that you might not overcome, and he has been very successful in getting so called Christians to yield.

Temptations are prepared by Satan for people on an individual basis. They are carefully planned and distributed according to your weaknesses. Satan knows every person’s weakness, and he understands that you can’t be tempted to do something that you have no liking to, or desire to do. You can only be tempted to do that which you have an appetite to do. The act must be sinful or something the word of God forbids you to do. You will know that package is coming from Satan because it will be something that God’s word has instructed you not to do.

Subject: Temptations Are Good For You If You Don’t Yield:

Whether you are saved or not, you are going to be tempted. The difference is, when you are saved, your temptations will have the purpose of trying your righteousness. If you are not saved, you are most likely yielding to the temptations of Satan, and are not aware of it. Yielding to temptations is sin. Saved people acquire knowledge from God that they might know how to resist temptations. Being tempted means that the devil is trying to pull you away from your average good moral conduct, and is enticing you to do something that will be damaging to you and others, resulting to you being in further transgression of God’s word.

Temptations do not come from God, but God allows a saved person to be tempted because it is a means by which a saved person can be made perfect, and to be prepared for their spiritual life that they hope to live in heaven. So then, temptations are good for you. Each experience that you get victory over in temptations makes you more able to deal with the next experience.

Subject: Jesus Demonstrated How To Resist Temptations:

Jesus demonstrated how a saved person should resist temptations while he was being tempted in the wilderness for forty days. Saved people today would not find temptations in the wilderness. A wilderness is a place where mortals usually don't go, but in the big cities where the boulevards are, bright lights, worldly music and many activities promoting sin and hypocrisy for city Christians. In this type of environment, the desires of the flesh are intensified, and God is forgotten. Jesus taught that this is the broad way, where you will also find many Christians enjoying this type of environment. This sort of place and lifestyle is a wilderness to a saved person. No truly saved person would seek comfort or leisure in this type of environment.

However, Christ was tempted in the wilderness, not where bright lights were, or hilarious crowds could be found. It was a lonely, barren wasteland, away from people, relatives, and everything in existence, except the devil. When Christ was led in the wilderness for forty days to be tempted of the devil, he fasted for this time, that he might weaken the flesh, giving him more strength in the Spirit to better deal with the temptations of Satan. Just as temptations came to Christ, they will also come to those of us who obey Christ; temptations must come, and we must overcome.

That was God's plan for his only begotten Son, who had a spiritual work to do, this is his plan for us who must continue to work in Jesus' name. Therefore, God was in full accord with the temptations planned for Jesus, as he is also in full accord with the temptations planned for us.

Subject: Jesus Has Been Tempted At All Points Like We Are Experiencing:

Jesus was full of the Holy Ghost when he was led in the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. As we have said previously, you will not be able to endure the temptations of Satan unless you are full of the Holy Ghost, otherwise when Satan gets on your case, he will break you, causing you to fall from your steadfastness. Just merely having knowledge of the gospel is not enough.

Jesus was led to go through all manner of temptation for our benefit, *“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin”* (Hebrews 4:15). Jesus knows when we need extra strength to endure because he has been through what we are experiencing.

Subject: When Your Temptations And Sufferings Are Very Intense You Must Run For Shelter:

When you are under intense temptations that bring fear and suffering, you must run for shelter by fasting and praying. If you are new to the teachings of Christ, you should ask your leader and the more experienced saints to assist, counsel and to fast and pray with you. Under such intense suffering and temptations, Satan is trying to put enough pressure on you to turn you from the faith, and if you are not strong, he can do it. When your spiritual strength is small, you can faint on the day of adversity.

Often times you will not be able to get God's attention unless your leader or a more experienced saint is praying and counseling with you; so don't try to carry such burdens by yourself. As a beginner or experienced person in Christ, you must learn to obey the timely warnings of the Holy Spirit, which lead you to seek shelter when intense temptations are coming upon you.

Temptations and sufferings do not come from God, but God allows them to come upon us to bring us into closer touch with him. Sufferings and temptations can bring you closer to God more so than any other means. Such temptations build your trust and strengthen your relationship with God. They also cause you to see the need for more spiritual things in your life rather than simply being a loose Christian without a strong bond with God.

Intense sufferings and temptations help to prepare us for the spiritual work that God has called us to do. Temptations nourish and strengthen your carnal nature to weaken your bond with God. However, when you endure temptations and sufferings, they will in the long run do just the opposite; they will strengthen your relationship with God.

CHAPTER V
THE HOLY SPIRIT

Subject: What Does It Mean To Be Filled With The Holy Spirit?

You must be filled with the Holy Spirit to get to heaven. This means that the Spirit of God must dwell in your life in its fullness (completion), and be at complete control over your life's operations. Such operations will be righteous or above sin. You receive the Holy Spirit based upon the sincerity of your repentance. After you have repented of the things that you are able to stop doing wrong, God will then give you the Holy Spirit to help you repent of the things you could not stop doing wrong. You will be able to observe your life to see that you have the Holy Spirit. After you receive the Holy Spirit, it will continue throughout the remainder of your life on earth to construct the righteousness of Christ in your life little by little, as you learn from God's word what is required to be a saint. The Holy Spirit will correct you of your faults leading you to an objective of perfection according to God's word.

Subject: You Must Be Filled With The Holy Spirit When Jesus Returns If You Want To Go To Heaven:

Though the baptism of water is a very necessary part of the plan of salvation, it alone will not get you into the kingdom of heaven. You must experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit to get into the kingdom. The baptism of water is a symbol of the burial and resurrection of Jesus. The Holy Spirit in you will cause you to be resurrected if you are dead in Christ, and to be changed if you are walking the streets alive when Jesus returns. You cannot enter the kingdom of heaven without the Holy Spirit. You must be filled with the Holy Spirit when Jesus returns for his church. Being filled with the Holy Spirit makes you a member of The Church of God.

Subject: The Two Most Important Works Of The Holy Spirit:

The Holy Spirit has many jobs that it performs for those who come to Christ. Probably the two most important functions of the Holy Spirit are to take away your appetite or desire to commit sin, and to give you power to obey God under adverse conditions. When a person believes the teachings of Christ and puts forth an effort

to repent of everything they can, God gives such a person the Holy Spirit to help them to continue in their repentance and obedience to God. The Holy Spirit is extra power to live above your previous sins. St. John 1:12 reads as follows:

Verse 12 - 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:

Living in the carnal or sinful nature does not allow a person to have enough strength to continue to obey many commandments that God teaches them. It is necessary that a person receive divine power from God to continue in their obedience to God. Under the influence, company and power of the Holy Spirit, an individual can be a true witness for God everywhere they go. Acts 1:8 reads as follows:

Verse 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 Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Prior to Peter receiving the Holy Ghost, his testimony of Christ did not make it to Calvary with Jesus. Peter had no power to maintain his testimony when pressure was applied by Satan. Jesus said that the cock would crow to remind Peter that his strength in Christ was limited. When you faint on the day of adversity, your strength is small. However, after Peter received the Holy Ghost, he went to jail and later died to maintain his testimony in Christ, also when he healed the lame man. Acts 4:7-10 reads as follows:

Verse 7 - And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?

Verse 8 - Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,

Verse 9 - If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;

Verse 10 - 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.

Subject: You Need The Spirit Of God:

When you believe the words of Jesus Christ and obey them, you become partaker of his Spirit. Whenever you listen to the words of a man and believe them, you will take on the man's spirit. When you follow the teachings of the word of God, you are being led by the Spirit of God. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Romans 8:14). Without God's Spirit, you are none of his. Your witness that you have God's Spirit is that you will be happy. Jesus adopts us into the family of God by the Spirit of God.

Subject: When You Believe The Gospel You Will Receive The Holy Spirit:

If you listen to a person talk about salvation, they can change your mind if you believe them. If you listen to the gospel of Jesus Christ being preached condemning sin and you believe it, you can be born again. If you don't believe the gospel, it will manifest no power to save you. The power in the gospel of Jesus Christ can only go to work for you when you believe it. Unbelief turns the positive affects of the gospel away from you, leaving you in condemnation.

If you believe the gospel you will be baptized by the Holy Spirit, and you will be saved. If you think you believe the gospel and don't receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, it is because your mind has deceived you, and you really did not believe the gospel. To believe the gospel is to obey and suffer for the gospel. When you receive the strength to suffer as a result of your obedience, it is evidence that you have the Holy Spirit, if you can continue in your obedience.

Subject: The Works Of The Holy Spirit:

"And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed"? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost". (Acts 19:1-2.) Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed? Most religious evangelists have failed to tell people that they must receive the Holy Ghost to be saved. Because this knowledge is kept from them, people don't know whether there is any Holy Ghost. St. Matthew 3:11 reads as follows:

Verse 11 - I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

John the Baptist came reproofing a world of sin, and he didn't fail to tell people who repented that, "there cometh one after me who shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and fire". Now the Holy Ghost is not foolishness, putting on shameful exhibitions; God does not give his Spirit to demonstrate, but to administrate. It is not given to show off that you can heal or speak in tongues. Those who receive the Holy Ghost are humble, retiring (not excessively or overly involved in the works of God) and all they say and do is about Jesus, to the glory of God. St. John 16:13 reads as follows:

Verse 13 - Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Jesus came to bear witness of the Father, and he never talked about himself. Whatever the Spirit does through you or me is done to the glory of Jesus and not any praise or credit to us. The Holy Ghost makes us a light in the church, the community and in the world. We who have the Spirit are only little lights to be lit up by the great light. As the moon gets its light from the sun, we get our light from the Holy Ghost. Now the light cannot shine to the glory of God unless the church is filled with the Holy Ghost.

The early church convicted a world of sin and righteousness during the day of Pentecost. When the truth is preached today and the true mission of the church is made known, thousands will come to Christ.

The distinct teaching of the scriptures is that after you believe, you must receive the Holy Ghost, if you care to let the light of the gospel shine in you to dispel the darkness of sin. There is only one match for the devil and that is God's Spirit.

Faith justifies, but the Spirit sanctifies, and that is the complete work of grace. The Holy Spirit separates you from sin and sinners to the end that you have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. When sinners come around you, your life will reprove them. Ephesians 5:11 reads as follows:

Verse 11 - And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

The devil has been successful in putting out the light of righteousness in churches today by false demonstrations of the Holy Spirit that shock and embarrass the true of heart.

The Holy Spirit will manifest itself in your life without any effort on your part. The spirit of humility will keep you from showing off. You cannot use the Spirit; the Spirit uses you. It makes you refined, intelligent, dignified, godly, meek, and always ready to give an answer for the hope that is within you, to the end that you condemn sin.

Subject: Joy Of Heart Comes To The Saved Person:

Man cannot have joy of heart or peace of mind when he is doing evil. Evil is not compatible with happiness and joy. You can only rejoice in your heart when there is no condemnation in your heart. What builder rejoices over a condemned house? He is only happy with a house that the inspectors approve of. When you have done things to help another or said something to encourage a person, you feel good about yourself. On the other hand, if you have unjustly done something wrong, you will be condemned in your conscience for such deeds. When you receive the Spirit of God, you live every day doing and saying good things to people, being free of condemnation

Subject: Have You Received The Holy Ghost Since You Believed (Acts 19:1)?

Many people are ignorant of the works of the Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit makes you whole-hearted, first to God then to your fellowman. This means your heart, or mind is without deceitful reservations, and you are pure in heart (St. Matthew 5:8). Many people in churches today don't know anything about the Holy Ghost. The knowledge that they do have is erroneous, such as, speaking in unknown tongues is an indication that one is filled with the Holy Ghost.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God; it is the power of God. It is one of the three parts of God. There is God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost, and they are one in administration. You learn about the Holy Ghost through the word of God. The purpose of God giving you the Holy Ghost is to guide you, to keep you saved and to direct you through life.

The Holy Ghost is a teacher. You cannot learn about God, and you cannot learn how to be saved just through hearing me preach. The Holy Ghost is an intercessor; it works between what I am preaching and your mind. The Holy Ghost must filter what I am preaching in order for your mind to receive and apply it to your efforts to obey God. Without the Holy Ghost being a relay transmitter to your mind, what I am preaching will be of non-effect to you.

You can get the Holy Ghost by asking God for it. You must really want it when you ask for it. You can also get the Holy Ghost by obeying the word of God. The Holy Ghost carries fire from God (St. Matthew 3:11), not like fire that burns you and brings pain, but fire that purifies your presence before God (Exodus 3:1-4). Before you receive the Holy Ghost, your sins make you spiritually unclean, and in order for God to receive you and acknowledge your presence, the Holy Ghost must bring fire to you to purify your life of your sins (Acts 9:3-6). When you are not filled with the Holy Ghost, God will not deal directly with you. He will allow someone else to deal with you (Acts 9:17). The Holy Ghost will stop you from committing sins that you ordinarily would not be able to stop doing.

Repentance: is a very necessary part of receiving the Holy Ghost, but is not the Holy Ghost. It is an expression of remorse, sorrow and your sincerity. Repentance is an apology to God for the sins that you have committed. Repentance should be followed by a conversion, or the change in a person's life from bad habits, associations and social endeavors that lead to a life of sin.

Conversion: should be followed by the baptism of water. The baptism of water is a symbol of the burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. After being buried in the water, you come up out of the water, which symbolizes Jesus' resurrection. You can't be buried in six feet of dirt and expect to get up, so God has ordained that water be used. Burial under the water symbolizes Jesus' death.

It is the will of God that you know about the Holy Ghost and that you receive it. The Holy Ghost is a gift from God to all who repent of their sins, with the intent of heart never to commit sin again.



CHAPTER VI
SANCTIFICATION

Subject: Sanctification Is Necessary For Salvation:

If you want to be saved from sin, you must come out from among those church folk who believe that nobody can live above sin. You cannot be made righteous contrary to the righteousness of Christ. You will never be strengthened spiritually in such churches because hypocrites will fight you to the end if you try to live right. The average church person today does not approve of, believe, nor desire to live right. Try to live right in an average Christian church and you will be at war against most members.

A righteous person condemns Christians who believe that living in sin is acceptable for salvation; such hypocrite Christians will be quick to defend themselves, and to contend with you if you try to live right. Such confused Christians believe that Jesus' death is a sacrifice for as many sins as a person desires to commit. The Bible teaches very plainly, "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; ..." (I John 3:9). If a person believes otherwise, they will discover that they are a fool after they die.

Subject: If God Is Not In Your Church What Are You Doing There?

If you go to church to sing, preach, pray and shout, and you are not living right you are mocking God. To mock God is to fool yourself. Don't let the spirit of your church deceive you. Follow the word of God, not the people, and you may later discover that you are worshipping with the wrong people. If the people in your church are not right, then the place where you are worshipping is not right. The righteousness of God cannot be in your church if it is not in the people. It is good to keep your eyes on Jesus, but when you can't find him in the people in your church, you are looking in the wrong place. If God is not in your church, what are you doing there? If you want to be in heaven with God later, you had better be in church with him now.

Subject: What Fellowship Hath Light With Darkness?

When you are not one with the people in your church, you are not one with God, because God's word teaches you to be of the same mind one to another. To be of a different mind in the same church is to be contrary to God's word. In order

for everybody to have the same mind in the church, they must have the same spirit. If you are right and your fellow members are wrong, what fellowship hath light with darkness? Under these conditions, God's word teaches you to come out from among them and be ye separate. To stay among such people is to be disobedient to God (II Corinthians 6:14).

Light separates darkness from its company; when the lights are turned on, darkness leaves. Unrighteous people will have no fellowship with righteous people. They will not go to the same church, because the unrighteous are enemies of the cross of Christ. It was unrighteous people who had Jesus crucified. A church with unrighteous people is a church that is not going to heaven. In I Corinthians 6:9 the Apostle Paul teaches, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?"

Subject: Holiness And Sanctification:

A man or woman who does not live holy will not enter into the kingdom of God. God does not call saved people unto uncleanness, but unto holiness and sanctification of His Spirit. When you are not holy and sanctified (set apart from sin and sinners), you are not being kept by the power of God. Through sanctification and holiness, you will then understand that you are not supposed to yield to temptations to commit sin. Temptations are not sin, and when you are holy, you won't yield to temptations, because the power of the Holy Spirit helps you to remain holy. The Holy Spirit has more power than temptations to commit sin. This power is made available to all who accept Jesus of a truth.

Subject: The Leaders Of Christian Churches Are Causing The People Of America To Get Further Away From God:

The biggest problem with Christian churches of America is that the religious leaders of America need to sit down and allow somebody to teach them the truth, then perhaps their followers would be able to get help. Such leaders need to see true examples of how the works of God are carried on, rather than to be working under the influence of Satan. All the works of the Holy Spirit, through the saints of God, are conducted, motivated, and inspired by the one main principle and that is "love".

When church leaders of America are contentious and divided, the love of God is not working through them. This will be revealed by observing our Christian society getting further away from the principles of righteousness taught by Jesus Christ. When we see our society becoming more wicked every year due to crime and violence, it is because the churches of America have failed to bring their people closer to God.

Subject: The Spirit Of Jesus' Sufferings:

In spite of all the mocking and physical abuse that they put on Jesus while he struggled with his cross on Calvary, he never said a mumbling word, or showed a harsh look of resentment to those who were doing it. This attitude of Jesus moved one of the thieves to ask what manner of man Jesus was, who could take so much, and had done nothing wrong to deserve it.

This thief on the right then turned to Jesus hanging on the cross and said, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." The scripture tells us that Jesus stopped dying and said, *"Verily I say unto thee, To-day shalt thou be with me in paradise."*

Subject: Justification And Sanctification

The thief never had a chance to go down to the Jordan River, or to any other river to be baptized, as I have said. But right then and there, the Holy Spirit overshadowed him. Though he had been a criminal for many years, all the condemnation from many years rolled away and his faith justified him in the sight of God. Justification comes when you believe the word of God and confess that you believe. Justification is one of the works of grace.

One of the other works of grace is sanctification. It comes when you are set apart by the Holy Spirit to prove to the world that you have found something that keeps you living above sin.

**Subject: The Dying Thief Rejoice To See That Fountain
In His Day:**

Just before dying, the thief on the cross beside Jesus had faith in Jesus Christ that moved him to confess to his companion, who was also hanging on the cross beside Jesus, that this man, who they say is not the Son of God, must be the Son of God. This led the repenting thief to rebuke his companion who mocked Jesus, because the mob that was crucifying Jesus cried out with statements of ridicule and mockery to Jesus.

The repenting thief on Jesus' right had watched Jesus as he climbed Calvary and saw an expression upon Jesus' face that did not reflect hatred or vengeance towards those who were treating him so brutally. The repenting thief rejoiced to see that fountain of blood drawn from Immanuel's veins in that day.

Today Jesus' blood has not lost its power, and it doesn't matter if you are a drunkard, liar, thief, adulterer or fornicator there is a fountain still filled with blood drawn from Immanuel's veins. When sinners plunge beneath that flood, they will be like the dying thief. They will lose all of their guilty stains, because the blood of that dying lamb will wash all of their sins away.

**Subject: God Wants To Save You From Sin And Keep You Saved
Until Jesus Returns For You:**

The Lord is now trying to get you saved. He doesn't desire that the harvest pass, the summer end and you be lost. There must be a final settling up. There must be a day of reckoning, because the wicked will continue to get worse, the longer Jesus prolongs his coming. The world today is much worse than it was fifty years ago. It will not get any better because nothing gets better if it is spoiled.

Sin is a spoiler of mankind, and each generation becomes more contaminated than the generation prior to it. If you are not saved, you are a more sophisticated sinner than your father is, if he was not saved. Sinners get worse just like spoiled food. To be saved means to be preserved from the corruption of sin.

If you want to be saved, you must break off fellowship with sinners, even if they belong to a church. A church sinner is no better than a street sinner is. You can minister to sinners and try to help them turn to Christ, but if they only want to fellowship with you and not repent of their sins, you must break off your fellowship with them. This is because they will not get any better in sin and neither will you, if you fellowship with them. When a person makes up in their mind that they want to obey God, God will help them. However, if they are going

to stand in the valley of indecision, halt between two opinions, not knowing whether they want to serve God or the world, the harvest will pass while they are trying to make up their minds, and they will not be saved.

You must make a decision to serve God. You must be willing to surrender all that you are involved with in the world that is contrary to God's word. The moment that you give your old mind to God, he will hang it on Calvary on Jesus' cross, and give you a new mind. The carnal mind in you causes you to sin and God is able to take it out. When God saves and justifies you, he puts the Holy Spirit in you to keep you from going back into sin. I don't care how many millions of Christians that say they have repented of their sins and are saved, if they go back to practice sin, they did not have, and do not have the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God is able to save and keep you from sin, and don't let anyone tell you differently. You can only go to heaven when you are filled with the Holy Spirit.

**Subject: Who Can Bring A Clean Thing Out Of An Unclean?
Not One:**

If you think that you were saved in a spiritually unclean church where the members practice adultery, fornication, homosexuality, drink alcoholic beverages, and participate in any sinful habits, then you have been deceived. Natural existence teaches us that it is not practical to get something clean out of something unclean. Things that are contaminated with bacteria, fungus, or some viral infection usually produce and spread germs just like themselves. Nothing in existence has the power to be different from that which produced it.

God does not receive a person until they come out of an unclean church, no matter how much they think or feel that they have Jesus in their lives. Feelings can be deceiving. Your salvation has to be witnessed and measured by the word of God, comparing your spiritual life with the spiritual word. I Corinthians 2:13 reads as follows:

Verse 13 - Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

God commands everybody who wants to be saved to come out from among the spiritually unclean or unsaved. To think that you were saved before you came out from the unclean is to make void the commandments of God. II Corinthians 6:17 reads as follows:

Verse 17 - Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

God warns us that we cannot be spiritually clean unless we separate from the unclean. A little uncleanness will spread through the entire church, just as a little yeast can leaven a large amount of bread. Under such conditions your praising and worshiping God is not good. I Corinthians 5:6 reads as follows:

Verse 6 - Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?

When God saves you, he saves you from all uncleanness. Ephesians 5:3 reads as follows:

Verse 3 - But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

An unclean fellowship defiles a saved person. Ephesians 5:11 reads as follows:

Verse 11 - And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

Saved people are the temple of God, if a saved person defiles one's self by fellowshiping and worshiping with the unsaved, then God will destroy all involved. I Corinthians 3:16-17 reads as follows:

Verse 16 - Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

Verse 17 - If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy (clean), which temple ye are.

Subject: God's Church Is Set Apart:

Those who are born of God's Spirit are members of his body. Jesus is the head of the body and we as members make up the church; the Bible teaches us this. If anyone can find errors in the Bible concerning the plan of salvation, then they need to close up all the church doors and discharge all the preachers.

The Church of God should be described as the Bible teaches. You may see many little storefront churches where they speak in unknown tongues, beat their tambourines, sing and shout, and at the same time they may be having each other's wives. God's word teaches that his church must be holy and sanctified in Christ Jesus. This means to be set apart from all unrighteousness and uncleanness. Nothing is fit for service unless it is clean.

VII

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE HOLY?

Subject: To Be Holy Is To Live Without Sin:

To be holy is to live without sin in your life. When you become holy, you will be made so by the power of God. Being holy means that your life is blameless, and neither God nor man can condemn you. You will then be able to walk in the presence of the Almighty God in a perfect way. Under such conditions, God will accompany you in all of your endeavors. This is the will of God and your sanctification, that your vessel (body) be clean, blameless, and free from condemnation.

When you reach this point in your salvation pleasing God, you will not be pleasing most men. You cannot please God and man. When Enoch walked with God in a perfect way, he had a testimony that pleased God and the Lord took him (Hebrews 11:5). You don't know what God will do for you when you please him. There are no limits to what God will do for a person who pleases him.

Subject: It Is God's Plan That Men And Women Be Holy:

It is God's plan that men and women be holy; without acquiring holiness, no man will see God. You must first understand the character of a holy person in order to accept the principles of holiness. True holiness is to be the opposite of the way our present religious society is living. True holiness is to be free from sin (living above sin) and all worldly ways that people are following after. True holiness is to live following the principles of righteousness that the word of God teaches. True holiness is the opposite of everything that you know is wrong. True holiness is a way of life and not a religious denomination.

God does not have any people on earth that are part of a religious denomination; God has holy people who live above sin. When you stop doing wrong, you are becoming familiar with the principles of true holiness. When you start doing right, you are becoming perfected in the principles of true holiness.

Subject: What Is Living Above Sin?

You will be blessed when you do what God tells you to do the way that he tells you to do it. If you are willing to obey God, you will put forth an effort

though you may not have the ability. Afterwards, when God sees that you have the will to do, he will supply the ability and strength.

As a young man, I did not see how a person could live without committing sin. However, after I acquired the knowledge of what sins are, and was motivated by the Spirit of God to put forth an effort not to commit sin, I found that it is easier to live without committing sin than it is to live committing sin.

It is hard to tell lies, commit adultery, drink liquor, and try to go to work the next day. It is much easier to live without doing such things. If you think living above sin is hard to do, keep living in sin and see how your life will turn out. Every murder, divorce, rape, separation, and crime committed is because folk commit sins. It is much easier to live in Christ. He will show you how to keep your wife and family together, how to be honest in your dealings with people, and how to get along with your neighbors.

If you are a sinner, you are living a difficult life. When you attempt to live above sin, Jesus will show you how. Jesus deals with people who want to live above sin. He doesn't deal with anybody else. Believe me, Jesus will show you how much easier it is living free from sin than it is living in sin. Living above sin is simply doing what is right. Sometimes doing right might appear to be hard, but I guarantee you doing wrong is harder. When you live right according to the teachings of Christ, you will receive joy, peace, and contentment in your life, along with church hypocrites criticizing you.

Subject: God Will Not Help You Unless You Are Trying To Live A Life Above Sin:

The devil does not care how much you pray, testify, do good religious works, or what church you belong to, just as long as you do not believe that you can live above sin he can control your life. This is because he knows you are not getting any help from God. Under such conditions when Satan gets ready, he can destroy you. It is only by living a life free from sin that you can receive help from God. Though you go to church faithfully, if you practice sin, your life is not getting any better because nobody can get better in sin. II Timothy 3:13 reads as follows:

Verse 13 - But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.

Living in sin means that your life is spoiled. Only Jesus can save you from such a life, if you believe that you can live above sin. If your religion or church is teaching you that it is not necessary to live above sin, then your church has no saving power. It is like salt that has no savor or ability to preserve food. What good is salt or refrigeration that cannot keep food from spoiling? When your religion does not have any saving power, it is then good for nothing; St. Matthew 5:13 reads as follows:

Verse 13 - *Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted?*

The Christian religion is supposed to have a teaching that is able to save others, but if it is not saving anybody, what is it good for?

Verse 13 - (continued) *it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.*

You receive strength to live above sin by eating the word of God just as you eat your daily food. Your food builds up your resistance to reject germs and other diseases, but the word of God builds up your spiritual resistance to reject the temptation to commit sin. You must hear, believe, and practice living according to the word of God everyday to be able to resist the temptations of Satan. Nobody can be saved going to a church once a week and not receiving the teachings of the word of God to the effect that it will help them to resist sin. You must hear or read the gospel everyday to receive strength enough to live above sin.

Subject: It Takes Time To Learn To Live Holy:

There are many ungodly qualities that you must get rid of when you are saved, and you will not be able to get rid of them overnight. You will need a knowledgeable religious leader to teach you. God's counsel is a necessity when you are trying to be saved. You must find the people of God, and be under the instructions and influence of the Holy Spirit when you start out with God, otherwise, the devil will use your besetting sin to set you back. However, don't give up if this happens. God will help you according to the intent of your heart.

As a beginner, you must read and listen to the gospel on a regular basis, and it will moderate you and help to establish, settle, and make you perfect over the

faults you once had. The best way to start out being separate from sin is to be separate from sinners socially and not worship with them.

It is our job in The Church of God to try to get people to see that they can live above sin. We take them into the church on a trial status and watch over them, if they will sit in The Church of God and learn that every sin can be washed out of their lives by the power of God. We admonish them to be careful once they attempt to get out of sin, and not to let the world, their unsaved relatives, former friends, and church members drive them back into sin. You can only maintain salvation by living above sin.

Subject: There Must First Be A Willing Mind To Acquire True Holiness And To Live Above Sin:

God had planned from the beginning that man should be holy and walk in his ways. When man fails to be holy, he has fallen short of God's purpose. All of God's labor and help for man is to bring him up to the standard of true holiness. Many today want to profess to being saved yet they do not want to come up to the standard of true holiness that God's word teaches. Most Christians of today profess that they would rather be religiously weak because it is impossible to live up to the standard that God's word teaches. They say that it is impossible to be holy and live above sin.

The Bible teaches that with God nothing shall be impossible. When weak religious leaders teach these weak principles of salvation, they break down people's ability to resist sin. You don't need a serious ailment like cancer or heart trouble to die, all that is necessary is for you to believe you can't live and lose your will to live and you will die. When a preacher teaches that you cannot live without sinning, he breaks down your will to live without sinning, and you will live in sin when you don't have to.

**Subject: For God Hath Not Called Us Unto Uncleanness
But Unto Holiness:**

If you are not living a clean life free from sin and worldly habits, though you may be a Christian who belongs to some church, it is not likely that God has called you to be saved. God doesn't call you to be unclean, but to be holy.

To be holy means that you no longer practice unclean habits, such as smoking, drinking alcoholic beverages, committing adultery or fornication, nor do you associate with other Christians who practice such habits or lifestyles. To be holy means to be set apart from these kinds of worldly ways, this is called sanctification. *1 Thessalonians 4:3-4* read as follows:

Verse 3 - For this is the will of God, even your sanctification,
that ye should abstain from fornication:

Verse 4 - That every one of you should know how to possess his
vessel (body) in sanctification and honour;

Whenever someone calls you, he or she usually has a reason for calling you, whether it is your friend or relative. If you were already doing what they called you to do, then most likely, they wouldn't call you for that reason, but for another reason. The average intelligent person will always have a reason for calling another person, so certainly God is far more intelligent than man is. So let us conclude that if God called you for something, it would not be to do the same thing that you are already doing. If you are already living an unclean life in sin, God would not call you to continue to live an unclean life in sin; you are already doing that: he called you to live a holy life. If you are not living a holy life, then God didn't call you, or you have ignored his calling. In order to live a holy life, you must separate from your unholy associates, even if they are church people. You must be in a holy society, a society living free from sin, and worldly ways.

God doesn't call us from the world to continue to live like people of the world. After you are saved, you do not live your old life anymore. If you live your old life as you did before you were saved, you will do the same things that the fellows do who you once ran with. However, now you live the life of Christ and you do so in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, letting your light shine. Now you don't have to condemn your old associates, your life condemns them. You don't ever have to open your mouth, just live the life, if you do, they will be troubled and concerned. Should they ask you questions, you could answer them. You can tell them, "I was once a sinner; I did just as you do, but I don't do

those things anymore”. It is because you have received help from God. You have conceived the nature of God, which enables you to live holy, because God is holy. Your conversation and interests are different. You have taken on a new citizenship though you still live in this present society. You have a certificate of eligibility to inherit the kingdom of heaven when the time comes. Your name is now written in the Lamb’s Fair Book of Life. You are certified to be a part of the first resurrection. When Jesus presents himself to you, you will be his presentation to God (his bride). Your vessel is filled with oil (The Holy Spirit).

Subject: You Must Be Adorned In True Holiness To Meet Jesus:

The word of God tells a story of the day that we shall meet the King of Kings (Jesus). The word of God first teaches you that you have to be prepared to meet the King. If you were invited to meet a very important person, it would be proper for you to dress according to the occasion. It will be the same when you are going to meet the King of Kings. In order for Jesus to receive you, you must be properly adorned, just as a bride to be joined to her bridegroom is adorned. If you are not properly adorned to meet Jesus, it will cause him to reject you when he comes. St. Matthew 22:11-14 reads as follows:

Verse 11 - *And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment:*

Verse 12 - *And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.*

Verse 13 - *Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

Verse 14 - *For many are called, but few are chosen.*

Many people are invited to meet the King of Kings, but unless they are properly prepared, they will be rejected when he comes. You must be adorned with true holiness to meet Jesus, and not necessarily in garments of clothing or dress apparel. In order to put on true holiness, you must be sure that you have put

off concerning your former desires of sin and lust in the world, and have put on a new man. Ephesians 4:22-24 reads as follows:

Verse 22 - That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

Verse 23 - And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

Verse 24 - And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Subject: Holy Means To Be Redeemed From The Power Of The Grave:

To be “holy” means you have been redeemed from the power of the grave. When Jesus comes to claim the saved people, if you died living a holy life, the grave will not be able to hold you. Isaiah 62:12 teaches, “And they shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the Lord...” If you die living an unholy life, you will not move when Jesus returns for The Church of God. The earth will not respond for you upon Jesus’ return if you die unholy. Your name will cause you to have no power to be resurrected to receive Jesus. Only the “holy people” will be resurrected to meet Jesus in the air, and to be carried to meet God the Father. The Holy Spirit will only give power to those to be resurrected from the grave that lived a holy life and used the name “holy”. All others will be damned, and will enter into eternity being separated from the family of God.

Subject: The Character Of God:

When you take on the character of God, which is “holiness”, God will exalt you. Under such conditions, God would be exalting the character of Jesus. The character of Jesus is made known by his love for mankind. Jesus demonstrated this love in the life he lived free from sin, and doing good deeds toward his neighbors, and even his enemies.

God’s character is his love for mankind without any partiality, favoritism, selfishness, hatred, jealousy, strife, contention or emulation being incorporated in

his love. Man's love will often times incorporate some of the above. The character of God is contrary to the nature, or inborn tendencies of man. Before a man can take on the character of God, it is necessary that he lose his own natural character. The natural character of man is to be high-minded, proud and think that he is more than what he is. If you have a big picture of yourself in your mind, you will eventually kill yourself (spiritually speaking), not necessarily suicide, but possibly that also.

God sent Samuel to anoint Saul to be king over Israel when Saul was nobody (I Samuel 15:17), or unknown in Israel at the time. Saul was a mule driver from the smallest tribe of Israel. God chose Saul and set him up to rule all twelve tribes of Israel. Afterward, Saul was lifted up in his mind, which resulted to him later being cut down. A haughty spirit reproduces a reaction of self-destruction, in time. Proverbs 16:18 reads as follows

Verse 18 - Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Satan was the first example of a proud and high-minded spirit that exalted him self and was cut-down afterwards. Ezekiel 28: 17 reads as follows:

Verse 17 - Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

In Isaiah 14:12-15 it teaches that Satan fell by means of the way that he became lifted up.

Verse 12 - How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

It states that he failed by being lifted up in his heart.

Verse 13 - For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

Verse 14 - I will ascend above the heights of the clouds;
I will be like the most High.

Verse 15 - Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the
sides of the pit.

CHAPTER VIII
PERFECTION

Subject: The Simplicity Of Perfection:

To be perfect is simply to live above the things God said not to do. When you acquire the mind not to do the things that God speaks against, you will not do them. This will result to no condemnation being in the life of the person whose mind is established in this principle.

Subject: Correction Is Perfection:

In the book of St. Matthew 5:48 it teaches us, “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect”. This scripture did not come from any man on earth; it came from God. So then, if the scripture originated from God, then God should be the one to set the standard and meaning of the word “perfection”. God gave Abraham the command to be perfect before the English language came into existence.

The most probable reason that many Christians reject St. Matthew 5:48 is because they have personally set the standard of perfection in their minds, based upon the conclusion that nobody can be perfect. When a man invents or discovers something, he sets the rules for how his invention should be operated. So then, why not let God set the standard for perfection since the idea came from him. The word “perfection” as it is defined by man means without errors, faults or free from mistakes. When the word “perfection” is defined by God, it means to correct errors, faults, or mistakes.

There is a difference between the above two definitions. If a person believes that something should be without errors or faults, then it is their belief that it should come forth, or be created without errors, faults or subject to mistakes. On the other hand, if a person believes that something can be made with faults or mistakes in it, and can later be corrected of its faults and errors, then it is the mind to accept one of the two beliefs that would lead a person to understand the meaning of perfection.

Perfection means measuring up to a standard of correction as it was set by God. God does not set any standard asking us to do something that cannot be done. God’s standard of perfection is simply having the mind to be perfect by the correction of mistakes, faults, and errors in a person’s life.

If you can get a perfect score on your test in school, why can’t you get a perfect score in righteousness? The answer is you have a mind to get a perfect score in school. However, as for righteousness, you have no mind for it simply because somebody told you it could not be done. The reason we disregard the

standard of perfection set by God is that we are blinded by devotion to our religious customs, traditions, man made laws and the beliefs of our unsaved ancestors.

Perfection is correcting mistakes you make. When wrong is corrected, it becomes right. For something to be right is for it to be perfect. Correction is reviewing a mistake and making changes to bring it up to the standard of perfection given to you by God as your guide. If you use your opinion as your guide, it will cause you to rationalize and compromise with your error, leading you away from correction. As a result, you will reject the doctrine of perfection. If you have a desire to be perfect, you can learn how to be. First, Christ will teach you the standard. Then Christ will help you to measure up to the standard of perfection.

Subject: When You Don't Have An Understanding Of God's Purpose You Will Reject The Principles Of Perfection:

God sent Jesus to teach us how to be perfect. When you are not willing to learn how to be perfect in holiness, you are rejecting Jesus. There are many who reject the principles of perfection as they are taught in the gospel, simply because they know how weak and faulty human beings are. When you don't understand something, you usually reject it.

The problem with rejecting the principles of perfection is that people will be encouraged by the fact that because all humans are weak and subject to error, they will with this frame of mind willfully do wrong. To reject the principles of being perfect will cause you not to put forth much effort to do right when doing wrong is more convenient.

Though man has the nature to sin, he can become sinless with the help of God. Man cannot of his own human nature stop committing sin nor be perfect; he will fail in every attempt unless Jesus helps him. Jesus is the only means by which a man can be sinless and acquire the spiritual status of perfection. Perfection is not merely the result of an effort to do right, though an effort is quite necessary, but it is a gift from God. When God saves you, he gives you the gift of perfection and uses an itemized listing of your human weaknesses to help you to acquire this spiritual status.

**Subject: If You Can Get A Perfect Score In School Surely
You Can Get A Perfect Score In Righteousness:**

When you acquire a level of perfection in your life, God is establishing his character in you. God has perfect character that he is able to work into the lives of men, but man must first desire to be perfect. This means they would have to get the mind to be perfect. You will not likely get the mind to be perfect when you don't understand the substance of perfection as God has set for man.

Perfection simply means measuring up to the standard set by God. God composed the standard, and when you believe God, he gives you the ability to measure up to the standard. The only thing that really comes from you is the willingness to believe that you can be perfect. If you try to reason with God's program for perfection, your opinion will confuse you. If you can get a perfect score on a test in school, why can't you get a perfect score in righteousness? The answer is, you have a mind to get a perfect score in school.

Subject: The Standard Of Perfection Is Not Set By Man:

The standard of perfection is set by God, not by man, the church, nor by the government. It is definitely not related to nor set by customs and traditions of the religious teaching of your ancestors. It is not styled after any religious sect church rituals. The reason that most people disregard the standard of perfection set by God is because they have been blinded by devotion to vain religious customs, traditions and man made religious teachings and rituals that cannot and have not saved man from his sins.

You are human and are subject to mistakes and errors. This happens because of the flesh (weak sinful desires) which makes so many demands on you that you cannot gratify it without committing sin. When your carnal nature pressures you with desires that you think will bring you relief, you will sin. For example, you were under so much pressure at the office, that you thought you could get relief by committing adultery with your secretary, but instead of getting relief, you ended up with a divorce. You see, when your mind has an agreeable relationship with your sinful desires, your mind will lead you wrong, and you will make mistakes and sin. However, when your mind is taught principles above the tendencies of your nature to sin, you won't look for relief in some sinful fantasy; you will seek to achieve the higher level of relief. Under these conditions, God will help you.

When you give into sinful desires, you pamper the flesh. When you think above sinful desires, God will help you to live above them. When you get the mind to live above your sinful desires, mistakes will not overtake you, and you will begin to see yourself acquiring perfection. Under these conditions the goodness of God will maintain its position of control in spite of the desires of the flesh, and you will be able to deny your sinful cravings (appetite) of the flesh within due bounds of good behavior. The result will be that you will quickly measure up to the standard of perfection set by God unto the stature of the fullness of Christ, and consequently will be perfect, “even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect” (St. Matthew 5:48).

**Subject: If You Are Not Trying To Be Perfect The Devil
Nor God Is Concerned About You (Job 1:7-8):**

God asked Satan a question concerning Job, and if you are trying to obey God today, he’s asking Satan a question concerning you. It is God’s will that the devil try you, if you are trying to be perfect. If you are not trying to be perfect, God is not concerned about you, and neither is the devil. Job 1:7-8 reads as follows:

Verse 7 - And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou?
Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From
going to and fro in the earth, and from walking
up and down in it.

Verse 8 - And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered
my servant Job, that there is none like him in the
earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that
feareth God, and escheweth evil?

Now this is the endorsement that the Lord gave Job. He was a perfect man and upright, and one that hated evil. When you are living a life that is acceptable to God, you have to hate evil. To hate evil is not to hate those that do evil. There is a difference between the person who does evil and the evil deed, just as there is a difference between sin and the sinner. When a person ceases to do evil, they are no longer an evil person. For example, in I Corinthians 5:9-13 it reads:

Verse 9 - I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:

- Verse 10 - Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with Idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world.
- Verse 11 - But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.
- Verse 12 - For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?
- Verse 13 - But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.

Now this scripture does mean that you should not keep company with the fornicators of the world. God judges the fornicator of the world. This reference is to the fornicator in your church. Therefore, when you find a fornicator worshipping among you, you should put him out. You have nothing to do with fornicators in the world, because a saved person is not in the world. However, on the other hand when a person repents of their fornication, the person will become justified in the sight of God and no longer be labeled as a fornicator.

Subject: If You Correct Your Sins God Will Not Charge Them Against You:

No matter how much you appear to be prospering in life, you cannot get anywhere for long unless you obey God. People in the world are being destroyed because of the lack of knowledge. God said Job was perfect. If you are a child of God, you are not above making mistakes, but when a man takes a bottle of liquor and drinks it, he cannot mistake it for tea. His tongue will be able to help him to discern liquor from tea. Therefore, to participate in such an act would not be a mistake, and the man would be charged by God as a transgressor of his word.

Today you will find the main problem with Christians is that they would rather have excuses and justifications for their sins than to correct them. When you correct a sin or fault, it is no longer charged against you by God, if you correct it with the intent not to do it again.

Subject: He That Offendeth Not With Words The Same Is A Perfect Man:

You will know when you are getting close to perfection when you speak with the intent and purpose not to offend the other person. If you have spoken unintentionally in what appeared to be an offensive manner, you will apologize and God will help the other person to accept your apology with the understanding that you did not intend to do it. “If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man,” (James 3:2).

When God’s word comes forth to correct you, its purpose is not to offend you. When a person speaks to offend another, their words will be deployed with the purpose of intimidating or hurting the feelings of another person. It would be a malicious intent of word usage to do damage to another person’s character or reputation. Such intent of offense will be charged by God as a sin.



CHAPTER IX

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHEN YOU HAVE THE HOLY SPIRIT?

**Subject: Salvation Is Good Common Sense Monitored By
The Holy Spirit:**

You may be able to exercise good common sense to help accomplish many of your daily tasks in life, but you will not be able to exercise good common sense in your religion unless you have the Holy Spirit. Without the assistance of the Holy Spirit, Satan will blight or confuse your religious judgment causing you to exercise poor discretion in things pertaining to salvation.

Though you may be a successful doctor, lawyer, mechanic or businessman, you will fall short of understanding what is required for you to obtain salvation unless you possess the Holy Spirit. Such successes in the world will deceive your better judgment causing you to believe that you can acquire mastery in understanding how to apply the knowledge of the word of God to your life also.

However, unlike in worldly endeavors, you have an adversary called Satan who is an intercessor of interference between God and man. Unless God gives you the Holy Spirit, Satan will confuse the knowledge of salvation by distorting your ability to use common sense, causing you to cast your better judgment to the wind.

Subject: A Person Who Is Filled With The Spirit Will Be Peculiar:

When you are filled with the Holy Spirit of God, you cannot be an ordinary person as you were before you were filled with the Holy Spirit. A person who is filled with the Holy Spirit will be very unusual in comparison to other people of the world. The verbal conversation of a Spirit filled person will not lean towards sinful things of the world, but in the direction of spiritual things of God. The spiritual things of God are above sinful entertainment and pleasures of this life.

The presence of Spirit filled people will create an atmosphere of a heavenly place by their attitudes, love, conduct, and conversation. The Spirit filled people of God will have a common character among each of them that will ignite honesty, integrity, faithfulness, love, meekness, peacefulness, and submissiveness to one another. These virtues will create the fellowship of the Holy Spirit in the midst of the people of God. You will know them by this spirit of fellowship, and the love that they have one for another. I John 1:7 reads as follows:

Verse 7 - But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,
we have fellowship one with another, and the blood
of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Spirit filled people of God will not fellowship with religious people or other people of the world. I John 2:15 reads as follows:

Verse 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.

Spirit filled people of God will appear peculiar to the world because they will have overcome the sinful desires and pleasures of the world. When such people are of God, worldly things do not have a place in the desires of their nature. I John 4:4 reads as follows:

Verse 4 - Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

To be filled with the Holy Spirit is to have greater desires than those who desire sinful activities of the world. When you are truly saved, God is in your life by means of his Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives you a greater desire to please God than to desire sinful pleasures of the world. The saved Spirit filled people of God will be able to discern the good things of the world from the sinful things of the world. Such people will be able to exercise good judgment over how to enjoy the good of the land, and to refrain from the evil of the land. Isaiah 1:19 reads as follows:

Verse 19 - If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land:

There are good and decent things in the world that God will give Spirit filled people the wisdom to enjoy, and to reject the evil. St. John 17:15 reads as follows:

Verse 15 - I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil.

Subject: The Spirit Of God Makes You Different:

If you have an ear to hear what God's Spirit has to say to you, it will make you different. You cannot make yourself different; you must receive the Spirit of God to be able to do so. Though you may struggle to do right, until you receive the power of the Holy Spirit, you will not be able to do any better than most sinners do. The power of the Holy Spirit comes in through the word of God. When you take in God's word to obey it, his Spirit will bear witness to his word. You will then receive assurance that you are in the way of salvation.

Subject: When You Are Filled With The Holy Spirit You Will See Things Differently:

The Spirit of God opens up the eyes of your understanding enabling you to see life from a different perspective. No matter how intelligent and well educated you are, if you don't have the Holy Spirit, your ability to comprehend the knowledge of God's way will be limited. When you don't have the Holy Spirit, you are without the ability to discern the things that are right and wrong according to God's standard of right and wrong.

The absence of the Holy Spirit leaves you trying to exercise good judgment in life with only your natural ability to recognize spiritual things. The natural ability without the Spirit of God will leave you deficient in trying to apply the knowledge of God's word to your life. Under these conditions, you will find yourself unskillful in the word of righteousness, like a baby trying to eat meat without teeth. Hebrews 5:13-14 read as follows:

Verse 13 - For everyone that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

Verse 14 - But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

It takes the Spirit of God to help you to exercise your human senses to discern both good and evil. If you don't have the Spirit of God, you will be clumsy in using the word of God to give you good judgment in life.

Having the Holy Spirit is like a person walking through the forest with an experienced naturalist to pinpoint the dangers and advantages of the natural

environment. A naturalist gives instructions about dangerous animals and insects that are harmful when proper precautions are not taken. The naturalist opens your eyes to the beauty of trees, streams, rocks and wildlife, of which you had no knowledge. The naturalist awakens you to the beauties and dangers around you. So is it also with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit teaches you the things that are harmful, and shows the things that God has prepared for you that are a blessing in life if you obey God. The Holy Spirit primarily pinpoints sin in your life, or sinful temptations that might be approaching you.

**Subject: The Course Of Suffering Brings You Unto Subjection
To The Word Of God That You Might Obey It:**

You will not be able to understand, retain, nor completely receive the gospel unless the Holy Spirit leads you into a course of suffering that it might bring you unto subjection to the word of God. When you have acquired this spirit of humility through suffering, you will be able to obey the word of God. Without being placed on a course of suffering, you will not be able to continue your obedience. Jesus learned obedience through the things which he suffered. Hebrews 5:8 reads as follows:

Verse 8 - Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

Suffering gives you understanding of the fact that you can only be delivered from your hardships through obedience. Without suffering you will not be desperate enough to obey God, neither will you see clearly that this is an avenue of escape from your trials.

Through suffering, you will learn that obedience brings relief from your trials. You will come to the realization that the only way out of a hardship is through the channels of obedience made known to you after you get into a test. If you get into a trying situation and do not continue to obey God, your test will separate you from God, and eventually destroy you. Failure to continue obeying God in a test is to neglect your salvation or deliverance. Hebrews 2: 3 and 10 read as follows:

Verse 3 - How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

Your salvation is made complete, effective, and perfect through suffering. Suffering is the finality or ultimate segment of salvation. Suffering is the ingredient that makes all the other segments of salvation work. Verse 10 reads as follows:

Verse 10 - For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Many Christians have tried to follow Christ and avoid their tests and trials and as a result have been led of Satan to abort the plan of salvation. To draw back from a test is to draw back unto destruction. Hebrews 10:38-39 read as follows:

Verse 38 - Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

Verse 39 - But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition (destruction); but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

Subject: The Holy Spirit Is A Gift That The World Does Not Have:

When you have been blessed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, it is a spiritual gift and all, who do not have it, will not be able to understand the blessing that has come upon you. The unsaved Christian world knows nothing about the gift of the Holy Spirit. It has not been given to the Christian world, but to those who have been blessed with a spiritual blessing.

We may not have a pocket full of money, but in our hearts, we have joy that the world cannot take away. Therefore, we give praises to God who has blessed us with spiritual gifts in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Subject: What Does The Holy Spirit Do For You?

The Holy Spirit will guide you into the knowledge of the truth; St. John 16:13 reads as follows:

Verse 13 - Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:

The Holy Spirit is a teacher, sent from God that reminds you of the teachings of Christ, and works through your conscience to remind you of the things you were taught. The Holy Spirit also works through a God-sent preacher to give you the gospel to revive your conscience from time to time, and to improve further your knowledge. The Holy Spirit does not initiate efforts for you to obey God, you must initiate the first effort towards obeying God, and when you have trouble, the Holy Spirit will help you. It will only help your efforts, it will not take your place in obeying God, and it will only give you strength during the time of weakness.

The Holy Spirit will not carry your burdens in a test without you carrying your fair share. It knows when your strength has expired, and will only assist you at that point in your test. The Holy Spirit will not be your righteousness for you. You must develop your righteous life with the instructions and assistance of the Holy Spirit. Romans 8:26 reads as follows:

Verse 26 - Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities:

When something helps your weaknesses, it means it gives assistance to an already established effort that cannot complete its task or purpose. The Holy Spirit will also correct you when you are going contrary to God's will. It directs you into a way of better judgment. St. John 16:8 reads as follows:

Verse 8 - And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

If you inadvertently ignore the timely warnings of the Holy Spirit, it will allow you to run into conflict, to the extent that you will reconsider your course, and go back to find a better way of doing whatever you are trying to accomplish.

Subject: What Is Being Filled With The Holy Ghost?

When you make up in your mind that you don't want to displease God by doing wrong, he gives you the power that takes away your appetite to do wrong. When you don't have an appetite to commit sin or do wrong, you will lose your desire to do wrong and doing wrong will become weak in your life. This allows the desire to do right to be in control of your life. Under these conditions you should then be able to walk in the Spirit; you are then filled with the Holy Spirit. You only become filled with the Holy Ghost when you are filled with a desire to do right.

Subject: The Description of The Holy Ghost Must Be The Same Today As It Was In The Early Church:

When a group of church people believes the word of God, they will have all things common. To believe the word of God truly is to conform to the instructions of the word that a people might display a description of the principles and teachings of the word. Acts 2:44 reads as follows:

Verse 44 - And all that believed were together, and had all things common.

When the people of the early church were filled with the Holy Ghost, the word of God gives a description of the people according to what it is teaching. The people must look like what the word is teaching. If the people of the early church are different from the description that the word is giving, then it means, according to the description, the people don't have the Holy Ghost. The same thing holds true today. The description that the word of God gave of the people who had the Holy Ghost in the early church, must be the same description of people today who say they have the Holy Ghost. Acts 2:1 reads as follows:

Verse 1 - And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

If the day of Pentecost comes again, the description of the people should be the same as it was when the Holy Ghost fell in the early church. It is not practical for a group of people to come up with their own description of their spiritual condition

to receive the Holy Ghost. They must have the same description as the apostles in the early church. Acts 4: 31–35 read as follows:

Verse 31 - And when they prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Verse 32 - And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that aught of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

Verse 33 - And with great power, gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

So then, we see that the description of the situation in receiving the Holy Ghost is not just a spiritual condition, but a material condition also (financial). The material condition of the early church is a witness to the love of God in the midst of the people. The Holy Ghost is not just a spirit, but it shows the material works of love also (people must put their money where their spirit is). Without the material works of love in the midst of a people confessing the Holy Spirit, we must accept the fact that the spirit of the people is in error, based upon the description given in the Bible.

Verse 34 - Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold.

Verse 35 - And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need.

Subject: Have You Received The Holy Ghost Since You Believed?

You can only be saved under the instructions and leadership of the true prophet or preacher sent by God. There may be many other preachers, or so called

prophets teaching, prophesying, and preaching the gospel, but the Holy Ghost will only come into your life when you are under the teachings of the prophet sent by God. God will only send the Holy Spirit into your life when you are being reproved and taught by the preacher that God ordained the Holy Ghost to be given to others through. Peter, John, and the Apostle Paul were the only apostles ordained by God to administer the Holy Spirit to others. Though Philip ministered faithfully doing many notable miracles in the city of Samaria, people did not get the Holy Spirit until Peter and John laid hands on them and prayed for them.

Acts 8:14-17 read as follows:

Verse 14 - Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

Verse 15 - Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

Verse 16 - For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Verse 17 - Then laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

There were also many faithful disciples at Ephesus who had been partakers of the baptism of John the Baptist yet did not receive the Holy Ghost until Paul laid hands on them and prayed. Acts 19:1- 6 reads as follows:

Verse 1 - And it came to pass, that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and certain disciples,

Verse 2 - He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, we have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

Verse 3 - And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

Verse 4 - Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should

believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

Verse 5 - When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Verse 6 - And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

This means they testified in their own native languages.

Subject: Are You Trying To Follow The Teachings Of Jesus Christ In The Flesh?

If you are trying to follow the teachings of the gospel in the flesh, (sinful nature), you are wasting your time. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is a spiritual teaching (righteous teaching). A person who lives in the fleshly nature has tendencies or desires to live just the opposite of the way the gospel teaches. The spiritual nature and the fleshly nature are opposite or contrary to one another. It is hard to live righteous when you desire to live unrighteous. In the book of Galatians 5:17 it reads as follows:

Verse 17 - For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

To live in the fleshly nature means such a person minds, or thinks about pleasing the desires of the flesh; and if they are trying to follow the gospel of Jesus Christ, they will mind the things of the flesh in a very modest way. Such a person may not commit adultery, steal, lie or drink liquor, but they could be selfish or harbor malice, envy and evil thoughts in their mind, which to them may not appear to be too bad. However, the Bible teaches, to be fleshly minded is sin though such a person may not practice open acts of sin. In Romans 8:5-8 it teaches like this:

Verse 5 - For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

To mind the things of the flesh is to desire to fulfill the lust of the flesh, but to mind the things of the Spirit is to desire to fulfill the will of God. So then whatever desires dominate your mind will tell you whether you have the spirit of the fleshly nature or not.

Verse 6 - For to be carnally minded (fleshly minded) is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

A carnal or fleshly minded person will never have any peace in their mind, though they may be trying to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ; such a person will be morally good, and sinful minded. This type of person has not gotten the Holy Spirit because they did not repent with a sincere heart or intent to please God totally. Such a person probably serves God for material benefits and not for the love of God.

Verse 7- Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

A fleshly or carnal minded person cannot subject themselves totally to the teachings of the gospel, though they may be able to follow some things, they will ignore or not recognize the parts of the gospel that they really need. Such a person in the flesh cannot please God.

Verse 8 - So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

A fleshly-minded person cannot totally receive the teachings of the Spirit of God. This would be foolishness to the person in the flesh. In the book of I Corinthians 2:14 it reads as follows:

Verse 14 - But the natural man (fleshly man) receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

The teachings of Jesus Christ can only be followed, and understood by a person who is filled with The Holy Spirit. This is why Jesus used worldly parables when he taught the gospel, because he knew that those in the flesh could not understand a spiritual teaching. Jesus knew that if he could not get the people to receive his earthly parables, that there was no way they would be able to receive heavenly or spiritual parables. In St. John 3:12 it reads as follows:

Verse 12 - If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not,
how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?



CHAPTER X
UNKNOWN TONGUES

**Subject: In Other Tongues Did The Apostles Speak
Not Unknown Tongues:**

As you study the scriptures, you will find that on the Day of Pentecost, when the Holy Ghost was given, those who received the Holy Ghost spoke with other tongues, not unknown tongues. The reference here is other languages.

When you study the Bible and get the wrong message, it is because the Holy Spirit is not helping you to “rightly divide” the word of truth. This could happen for many reasons, mostly because you are not qualified nor ordained to go into the scriptures by yourself. You need to be instructed by a God-sent leader.

“Other tongues” in the Bible refers primarily to other languages. In America, the primary language is English. Many clean Christians today, who desire to have salvation by some foolish signs, have taken the interpretation of some man and are held captive in some religious delusion.

Nobody has to interpret the Bible, it is revealed to you along the lines of good common sense and intelligence. Most people professing holiness are in a delusion. The majority of them claim that when you receive the Holy Ghost, you speak in an “unknown” tongue. The Bible teaches that in “other” tongues (languages) did the apostles speak, and every man heard the gospel in his own tongue (language). The Holy Ghost came and expressed the prophecies of the book in a “known” tongue.

Peter on that day spoke and said, that which you see is of the Holy Ghost, and this is the fulfillment of the prophecy of Joel, who prophesied that in the last days, God would pour out his Spirit upon all flesh, and that your sons and daughters shall prophesy or testify, a prophesy is a testimony of Christ. If you stray from this principle, the devil has deceived you. You see many different (religious) groups claiming to be holy, saying they have the Holy Spirit, yet they cannot come together. The evidence that they do not have the Holy Spirit is the fact that they are all different, and they belong to different churches and sects. God is not a part of divisions.

Subject: Tongues!

If you have a mind that is subject to following a false religious teaching, you will very easily be led of Satan to take many scriptures out of context from the Bible to help you go wrong. The Bible helps you according to the mind that you have. If you have a mind to obey God, then the Holy Spirit will give you the

proper understanding of God's word, and keep you from improperly dividing the wrong teaching from the Bible.

Many groups of religious people believe that on the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Ghost came down, those who were the recipients of the Holy Ghost spoke in "unknown tongues". The word unknown has replaced the word other among the tongue-speaking sects. There is no place among truly saved people for the spirit of speaking in unknown tongues. Speaking in unknown tongues is a kind of religious, barbaric, uncivilized, and illiterate ignorance. Unknown tongues have no sensible, profound, relevant meaning that is related to being saved.

Many use unknown tongues as a sign of salvation or the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, "An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign;" (St. Matthew 12:39). The Bible teaches of no intellectual or spiritual relationship between unknown tongues and holiness. Holiness means to be free from sin. The word unknown means ignorance, or not having understanding or information about something. Unknown means that a person is uneducated or illiterate about a subject or topic. Unknown means to not be made aware of or left in darkness about something. Unknown means not having access to a source of information pertaining to a special interest. Unknown means not having directions to reach a certain destination. Unknown means to be dumb, dull, without the ability to perceive or reason through a situation. God doesn't do anything for his people in an unknown way. Unknown means darkness. Jesus is light. Before Jesus came into the world, the plan of salvation was unknown to mankind, but Jesus brought light or understanding of what the will of God was. "In him (Jesus) was life; and the life was the light of men" (St. John 1:4).

The Spirit of God would never give us something to do that is unknown to those with whom we are seeking to share the knowledge of the word of God. On the day of Pentecost, it teaches that those who were filled with the Holy Ghost spoke with other tongues not unknown tongues. Acts 2:4 reads as follows, "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance".

The reference here is that they spoke in other languages, that is, each spoke using their own native language or tongue. To have a gift that allows you to do something in a way that is not made known to others edifies you and not those who are in your presence. Such a gift would be conceited, selfish and certainly not from heaven (I Corinthians 14:4). Every good and perfect gift comes from above to be shared with others (James 1:17).

Concerning spiritual gifts, God would not have us to be ignorant. In the book of I Corinthians 12:1 and 7 it reads:

Verse 1 - Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

Verse 7 - But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

Subject: There Are Many Kinds Of Voices In The World But No Intelligent Voice Is Without Signification:

If a German or French person, who doesn't know how to speak the English language came to your church, unless your church has someone who knows the French or German language, your English language would be an unknown tongue to the German or French person. If your church doesn't get an interpreter for them, your worshipping with them would cause you to be like barbarians to one another, because your languages would be unknown to one another. Under such conditions, neither nationality would know the meaning of the voices that are speaking. I Corinthians 14:11 reads: "Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me".

Every intelligent voice that speaks in the world or in the church is not without signification. Verse 10 reads, "There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification".

Subject: The Unsaved Think That Unknown Tongue Worshipers Are Mad:

Folk who practice the unknown tongue ritual may think that such a practice is impressive to the unlearned or unsaved person, but the Bible teaches that the unsaved, intelligent person thinks that such religious folk are crazy. I Corinthians 14:23-25 read as follows:

Verse 23 - If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say ye are mad?

Verse 24 - But if all prophesy (testify), and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all:

Verse 25 - And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face, he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.

**Subject: Communication Should Be With An Understanding
(I Corinthians 14:16):**

Whenever you talk to a person and they cannot answer because they do not understand your language, the person who is using the unknown language is foolish. What good is it to talk to a person and they are not able to respond to you, or you are not able to respond to them? When a person talks to me, I want to be able to answer them so that they can know that I am intelligent enough to understand what they are talking about, otherwise, we would be foolishly attempting to communicate with one another, but not getting anywhere.

I Corinthians 14:16-19 read as follows:

Verse 16 - Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?

Verse 17 - For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.

Verse 18 - I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:

Verse 19 - Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.

Subject: Unknown Tongues Is One Of The Biggest Religious Tricks Of The Devil:

When you get a delusion concerning salvation and evidence of the Holy Spirit, your imagination will fool you, and nobody will be able to tell you anything. It is bad to go to hell as a religious fool. A vain imagination with false religious concepts can be brought under subjection by the word of God if a person would hear the word; otherwise, they will go down like the Titanic.

A false religion is like being on a sinking ship, and you can't hear anybody telling you that the ship is sinking. When you have been deceived religiously by some false teaching, you will be a perfect fool. Monkeys in a zoo have better judgment than such a person has.

False religious teachings feed upon your vain imagination, and they will destroy your good common sense. Who has ever heard of God giving somebody a language to speak and neither the person nor others know what they are saying? A person who speaks in unknown tongues is probably the capitol institution of all religious fools. I would not give a person who believes in salvation by unknown tongues a chance to introduce their beliefs to me or the church that I pastor. It takes a foolish person to degrade God's intelligence to such a low standard of honoring God.

