

Overview of the Salvation Process

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THIS BOOKLET IS NOT TO BE SOLD. The information provided is for the benefit of former members of the congregations of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), and of current and prospective members of God's Church.

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What are the criteria established by God for men to be saved? Is being called all that is needed or are there other equally important requirements? Find out if you are on your way to salvation or not.

Preamble

Please Note: All comments in brackets [] or in parentheses () as well as highlighted text (bolded and/or in blue) are from the author of this study. Bible quotations are in maroon.

I think it is essential to clarify the question of the “Holy Spirit” before we begin this study. If we say that who or what is the “Holy Spirit” is the question that needs to be answered, we are starting from the assumption that there exists such a being as the Holy Spirit and that it is a separate and distinct being from God and the Word. The question which should be asked is who are the beings the Bible tell us are holy, whose composition is spirit and who have existed eternally? Either the Bible plainly tells us who are the separate and distinct beings that existed from all eternity who created all things (spirit beings and the material universe) or we have no way of getting an answer to our question.

The Holy Spirits of the God Family

The Bible tells us in Gen 1:1 that:

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The Hebrew word translated “God” is “Eloheem” which is the plural form of “Eloah which means “God”. The word “Eloheem” refers to “gods.” It is a uniplural noun like family, group, team, etc. In the beginning, there was therefore more than one God being in existence but how many were there?

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In the beginning when God created the heaven and the earth there was God and there was another being with God who was also God, the Word. How can these two beings both be God; isn't that impossible?

The word God indicates the kind of existence of these 2 beings: their nature is to be God in the same way that all human beings have the same human nature. However, having the same nature does not mean that all human beings constitute a single being; indeed, they are all separate and distinct beings with their own personalities. God and the Word have in common the same nature or, level and type of existence, but they are separate and distinct beings just like all human beings who have the same human nature are separate and distinct beings.

God the Father

We read in the Bible that God became a father when the Word became flesh (Php 2:5-8) by being born of woman after having been conceived in the virgin Mary by the holy spirit being called God (Luke 1:35). God from that point on became God the Father and the Word, who was born as the flesh-and-blood Jesus of Nazareth became God's Son or the Son of God. He was both fully God (his father was God and fully human (his mother was the virgin Mary).

Jesus was God the Father's only begotten son at the time when He was conceived in Mary's womb but He was not to be the only one begotten of the Father. God the Father is the holy spirit being in the Godhead that calls men to salvation.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

Joh 18:9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou [God the Father] gavest me have I lost none.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

God the Word and Spokesman

The Bible term for being called is to be spiritually begotten by God the Father (1Pe 1:3). When we are begotten, we become a spiritual embryo that can be born again as a glorified spirit being with eternal life. Those begotten of the holy spirit God the Father who follow their calling are then able to come to the holy spirit being called the Word and Spokesman (John 6:44; 65; 18:9) who then teaches them. The glorified Jesus-Christ as God the Father's Word and Spokesman is the holy spirit being that works in the minds of God the Father's called and chosen ones.

Joh 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Jesus had to first be glorified for it to be possible for Christians to have access to the holy spirit called the Word and Spokesman because the glorified Christ is the holy spirit being who works in the minds of God's saints (John 14:17) in the same way that Satan is the evil spirit that works in the minds of the children of disobedience (Eph2:2).

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he [Christ] dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. [On the day of Pentecost, it would be in them and in all true Christians.]

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, [Satan] the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

The holy spirit God the Father calls men and those who follow their calling are then taught by the holy spirit called the Word and God the Father's Spokesman.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

The Holy Ghost

The expression "Holy Ghost" used in the Bible is in error as there are no ghosts in the Godhead but rather 2 beings that are holy (John 17:11; Isa 6:3) and spirit (John 4:24).

Joh 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy**, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Joh 4:24 **God is a Spirit**: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

These 2 God beings who are holy and spirit are the holy spirit beings of the God family who existed in the beginning at the creation of all things.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

And, the Word who was with God is before all things i.e., *nothing* existed before He created them whether made of spirit or matter.

Col 1:15 **[Christ]** Who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature:

Col 1:16 For by him [the Word who became Jesus-Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

In the beginning before anything either physical or spiritual was created, there was God and the Word who existed before all things and no other being is mentioned as having existed with them. There is no bib-

lical evidence that there ever existed a third, separate and distinct personage in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit” who dwelt in eternity with God and the Word.

God is a Family

Throughout the Bible we can find many verses which clearly indicates the existence of family relations between God and the Word and God’s called, chosen and faithful.

Mat 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Mat 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Joh 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but o to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

God is clearly a family in which many can be ultimately born again by a resurrection from the dead to eternal, glorified spirit life in God’s Kingdom.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he [\[God’s Son\]](#) might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Col 1:18 And he [\[the glorified Christ\]](#) is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Christ was the first to be born again by a resurrection from the dead to be followed by many brethren.

Bible Writing Convention

The practice in the Bible has been to simply use the expression “the Holy Spirit” without indicating which God personage in the Godhead the expression represents. Over time, because of this practice, just about everybody has come to believe that the Holy Spirit is a separate and distinct God being in the Godhead but, there is no single verse or group of verses in the Bible that prove the existence of such a third being in the Godhead. The words “holy” and “spirit” are adjectives that describe the nature of

God the Father and of God the Word i.e., they are holy beings made of spirit.

Whenever we encounter the expressions the “Holy Spirit” or simply the “Holy Spirit” in the Bible we must look at the context to determine of which holy spirit being of the Godhead the Bible is talking about: the holy spirit, God the Father or the holy spirit, the Word and Spokesman.

The Word is the holy spirit being in the Godhead who carries out the instructions and wishes of the holy spirit, God. He is the faithful son who seeks to do his father’s will in all things. He is the member of the God family that did the work of creating the heaven and the earth, who ruled over ancient Israel through Moses and his human successors, He is the one who became a man who suffered and died to be God the Father’s perfect sacrifice for sin and make the salvation of mankind possible, etc. and He came to reveal the Father to those who follow the Father’s calling.

Making Things Clearer

In this study, when referring to God’s spirit who, depending on the circumstances can be the holy spirit personage called God the Father or the holy spirit personage called God the Word and Spokesman, I will not capitalize either of the adjectives “holy” and “spirit”. This is in order to not perpetuate the false impression in the minds of readers that there is a 3rd being in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit.” Instead, I will refer to either of the holy spirits in the God family as being God’s spirit without capitalizing the word “spirit” to make it plain that we are not referring to a third God being in the God family called the “Holy Spirit” but to one of the 2 God beings in the Godhead.

God’s family is presently made up of 2 holy spirit beings to which are to be added thousands and possibly millions of other holy spirit beings when God’s plan of salvation for mankind has reached its end. The saints that endure in the faith until the end of their natural human life, will be resurrected as individual holy spirit beings in God’s Kingdom when it is established.

There are two studies which you can read regarding what is the “Holy Spirit” and decide for yourself in light of the Bible-based evidence offered if such a being exists in the Godhead. These studies are: [What is the Holy Spirit? Cliff Notes Version](#) and [Who or What is the Holy Spirit?](#)

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The purpose of this document is to simplify and make clear to the extent possible God's plan of salvation as knowable from the Bible by those to whom it has been given to know.

Mat 13:10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?

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

Mat 13:12 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.

Mat 13:13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

Christ spoke in parables to the masses that followed Him so that they would not understand Him. At the time of His First Coming He came to teach only His disciples. And since the foundation of God's New Testament Spirit-begotten Church, the holy spirit God the Father is calling only a select few whose minds He opens to understand spiritual truth which is only possible for a human being to know by revelation. During the calling out

process, the holy spirit God the Father is with the individual teaching him enough truth to bring him to the point where he has to make the decision to either follow his calling or go back into the world out of which he is being called out.

Those that are called before Christ's 2nd Coming are those who have been predestinated to be called before the foundation of the world.

Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Rom 8:29 For whom he did [foreknow](#), he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Rom 8:30 Moreover whom he did [predestinate](#), them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Please note, to be predestinated to be called doesn't mean guaranteed salvation. It merely means being given the opportunity to know God's spiritual truth and to choose whether to commit ourselves to obeying God for the rest of our lives or to go back into the world.

On Being Called and Chosen

God the Father's calling is the first part of the salvation process. Being called is not the same thing as becoming converted and conversion is not the same thing as salvation. There has been a tendency for people to think that all that needs to occur for someone to become part of God's Church is to be called. Isn't the church the "called out ones" they say? Indeed, it is but being called out is not the only factor that needs to be taken into consideration.

What does Christ say on the topic of "being called out"?

Mat 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

This is the concluding statement of the parable of the wedding feast. God says that He is calling many but that most of those called do not follow their calling and as a result they are not chosen. They refuse to come out of the world and live in newness of life seeking to the best of their abilities to obey God in all things. They

prefer to remain the highest authority in their own lives and live them as they best see fit; not to have God as the supreme ruler in their lives.

Simply being called is not sufficient, we must also be chosen. We are chosen when we self-willingly and without any coercion whatsoever voluntarily accept God as being the highest authority in our lives rather than ourselves.

But, does being called and chosen necessarily lead to salvation?

Overcoming

The Bible is clear that it is those who are called, chosen and who are overcomers who are to inherit salvation. They are those who upon being called choose God's way of life and commit to changing their lives as much as humanly possible for them to be as much as possible like Christ's life. He lived a perfect, sinless life though He was tempted in all ways as we are (Heb 4:15).

Rev 2:7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that [overcometh](#) will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Rev 2:11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that [overcometh](#) shall not be hurt of the second death.

Rev 2:17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that [overcometh](#) will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

Rev 2:26 And he that [overcometh](#), and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

Rev 3:5 He that [overcometh](#), the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

Rev 3:12 Him that [overcometh](#) will I make a pillar in the temple

of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

Rev 3:21 To him that **overcometh** will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

Rev 21:7 He that **overcometh** shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Being a Christian is much more than simply knowing the truth. Christians must put the truth that they have in practice in their everyday lives. Being teachable means not only to be able to acquire new knowledge but also to believe what is taught us; belief that leads us to put that knowledge to use. Simply knowing and believing is not enough, our faith, what we believe, must express itself in concrete actions or works.

Faith Without Works is Dead

God through James makes it clear that simply saying we believe the truth is not enough. If we really believe what we say we believe then this will result in our changing what we do, how we live our lives, how we treat others, how we interact with the saints and our attitude toward what Paul calls “this present evil world.” Essentially, God says that what we do is the true indicator of what we say we believe.

Jas 2:18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

Jas 2:20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

Jas 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

What counts for God is what we do, **not what we say** as explained in the following lesson given by Christ to His disciples.

Mat 21:28 But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard.

Mat 21:29 He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went.

Mat 21:30 And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not.

Mat 21:31 Whether of them twain did the will of his father?

The answer should be plain to all of us, the one who went to work in his father's vineyard after having said he wouldn't go. Actions speak louder than words as we say today; a mere profession of belief is not enough; it must be followed up with action or "works" as the Bible calls it.

There is one more requirement to inherit salvation.

Being Faithful Unto the End

The Bible gives out a very serious warning to all those who have been called and chosen. There is no certainty that after having started off on the road to conversion we cannot ever decide to no longer remain under God's authority. God makes it very clear that if ever a converted person decides to go back into the world, it will never again be possible for that person to recapture the truth they once had.

Heb 6:4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

Heb 6:5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

Heb 6:6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

The holy spirit, God the Word and Spokesman who teaches all things to the holy spirit God the Father's chosen ones, will then leave the person and they will again become blind as they were before; they will have lost their salvation.

How blind are they?

They do not even realize they have left the truth and this is why it is impossible to reason with them as in their minds they are still being faithful to the truth though they no longer believe the truth originally given them.

For salvation to be possible, we must endure or remain faithful to the truth until the end of our natural lives.

Rev 17:14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are **called, and chosen, and faithful.**

For salvation to occur, we must be called, chosen and faithful i.e., endure in the truth until the time of our death. True Christians must be ever careful not to slowly drift back to their old ways of living while thinking everything is fine because they are part of a congregation of the Church of God, are keeping the Sabbath and the Holy days and are tithing. These things are certainly good and necessary and something which all true Christians must do but simply doing these things will not make our calling and election sure; they will not by themselves ensure our salvation.

What is the problem?

Stumbling Blocks on the Way to Salvation

Christ said that many are called but few are chosen preferring to remain in the world out of which they are being called. And as for those who have embarked on a lifelong conversion process as members of God's Church, Christ says the following to them.

Mat 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

Mat 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

These verses are a prophesy of what those who have accepted their calling and have been chosen would do once they become part of God's Church.

Christ urges all of them to enter into God's Church by the strait and nar-

row gate i.e., by striving to observe God's law to the best of their ability. Why does He do so? The next part of the verse gives us the answer: **".... for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat."**

Christ warns all new converts entering God's Church not to compromise with the truth they have been given. That is the wide gate which is so easy to go through because it requires less effort, commitment and self-sacrifice. Christ says that many of the truly converted will begin to reason their way around the law to give themselves permission to keep on with certain of their past beliefs and sinful conduct which they now know to be wrong but which they are unwilling to forsake. Christ says compromising which is continuing to believe past false religious teachings and not wanting to change behaviors which we now know to be sin, is the broad way that leads to perdition. The Scriptures are plain that no one can serve two masters.

Mat 6:24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Compromise with the world inevitably leads to loss of salvation and Christ says it is the many coming into God's Church that take the broad way.

Why does compromising lead to loss of salvation?

It is because compromising is an attitude of mind which allows us to reason around the requirements of God's law to allow ourselves to go back to some of our former ways which we were to forsake upon coming into God's Church. We may have forsaken them on first coming into God's Church but in time we find ourselves back doing the same thing but this time while being in God's Church. The same mental processes that allowed us to override certain parts of God's law that was cutting us off from some of the things we used to do that we found so pleasurable before we were called but which we now know to be sin, will also allow us to override more and more truth that we find uncomfortable. In time, though still attending services, we become members of the Church on the physical level only; we are no longer part of God's Church which is a spiritual organism solely made up of those whose attitude is to try to obey God in all things.

Conclusion

In order for salvation to occur we must be called, chosen and faithful and never allow ourselves to get into a spirit of compromise with the world which is the great temptation and peril facing all those coming into God's Church. It is the broad way that Christ warns newcomers to the faith about and which unfortunately, the many take and lose their salvation.

Matt 7: 13-14 and Matt 6:24 are a grave warning given by Christ to God's Church throughout the ages and these verses are also prophetic of how men would react to God's truth when given to know it. They would for the most part not give it the highest of importance in their lives and seek to go around it when it prevents them from carrying on with their former lives.

The history of the first century Church recorded in the Bible makes it abundantly clear that converts would for the most part not remain with the truth.

Gal 1:6 I marvel [I am astounded] that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

2Ti 4:3 For the time will come when they [truly converted Christians] will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

2Ti 4:4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

2Pe 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, [the congregations of God's Church] who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

2Pe 2:2 And many [of the truly converted of God's Church] shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be

evil spoken of.

We also have the recent example of the debacle that occurred after the death of Mr. Armstrong which abundantly proves that it is indeed the many — including the ministry — that take the broad way and the few that enter by the narrow gate as unfortunate as that may be and as much as we would like salvation to be a story with a happy ending for everyone. This is not what has been happening or will happen.

God has given man the command to choose (Deu 30:19) which means that He has given him the ability to choose. This also means there is no higher power that can force him to choose something against his will; otherwise, if there were such a higher power that could force man to choose something against his will, man could not be held responsible for the decisions he takes as it would not be his own decisions freely taken but that of the higher power dominating him. God could not then judge mankind in the same way that mankind is not now under judgment (1 Peter 4:17) because it does not know the truth and therefore cannot choose it.

God put life and death before man and commands man to choose life but if he chooses death He will respect his freedom to choose; He will not try to prevent him from choosing death or put pressure on him to change his decision.

Salvation is a battle between us and the lusts of our mind and of our flesh.

Jas 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

Jas 1:14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

Jas 1:15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Having the absolute freedom to choose makes it possible for us to lust. It is something we must resist to the best of our abilities by learning to control ourselves. Controlling ourselves in order to obey God when there is no one forcing us to do so is what character is all about and having character is what will make it possible for us to become part of God's Kingdom.

