

In Spirit
and in
Truth

In Spirit and in Truth

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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.

God had commanded ancient Israel to worship Him through repetitive, physical and symbolic ceremonies and offerings as it had no access to the holy spirits of the Godhead. However, since the day of Pentecost, God has a spiritual nation whose members are from all nations and they are to worship Him in spirit and in truth. How does one worship God in spirit and in truth?

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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In Old Testament times, the ancient physical nation of Israel's worship of God was through commanded physical rituals such as ceremonial washings and a variety of animal sacrifices, and food and drink offerings.

The unconverted physical nation of Israel could not worship God in spirit and in truth because Christ had not yet then died as the perfect sacrifice for sin (John 7:37), been glorified (John 17:5) and gone back to God the Father as the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who would come to the holy spirit God the Father's called and chosen ones to teach them all things (John 14:26).

As you will recall, the holy spirit God the Father calls men to salvation (John 6:44) and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman teaches all things (John 14:26) to God's chosen ones (those who have accepted their calling).

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 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.

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

The time when Christ would be in them would be after His return to His Father and glorification.

Joh 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost [the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman] was not yet given [available]; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

The disciples would have the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman (Jesus-Christ, God the Word made flesh) come to dwell in them on the day of Pentecost as would all true Christians until the end of God's plan of salvation for mankind.

Since the day of Pentecost, God has a spiritual nation of Israel whose circumcision is of the heart (now have an attitude of wanting to obey God in all things); not in the flesh (Rom 2:29). It is no longer a physical nation where one becomes a member of it by being born into it. Rather, it is a spiritual nation whose members are from the world's nations and they are not organized as a community of believers visible to the world which one can join after having reviewed its doctrines to determine to what extent they meet our personal beliefs about what is God's truth. Conversion, for the greatest part is not something physical/material that can be seen by others; it's a process that goes on in one's mind which is why in most instances, true believers are not aware of what other true Christians may be living around them. They are invisible to the world and to each other.

This pastors of this spiritual nations are the holy spirit God the Father (responsible for calling men to salvation) and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman whose responsibility is to teach all things to God the Father's called and chosen ones as they study God's word, the Holy Bible.

The Bible tells us that many are called but few are chosen (Mat 22:14) and that of the chosen, few remain faithful (Mat 7:13-14). That's why God's spiritual nation is the "little flock" mentioned by Jesus in Luke 12:32. It is not a group of believers headed up by a Pastor General who established doctrine for the Church. It has no headquarters organization owning large, professionally maintained real estate on which

we find buildings of great beauty and value with the largest and most impressive one being considered to be God's House.

All members of this little flock are being taught the mysteries of the Word of God by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman as they study their Bible, God's word or Christ in writing. Their growth in knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures is not as a result of men preaching to them; it is God's doing.

1Co 3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but **God** gave the increase. [in understanding]

Heb 12:2 Looking unto **Jesus the author and finisher of our faith**; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Jesus by his death on the stake made salvation possible for mankind and He is the one as the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who teaches the faithful and brings them to salvation.

Human pastors and teachers are not the source of God's truth nor are they the means used by God to call men to conversion or to give them understanding of His spiritual truth which can only be known by revelation from the mind of God to the minds of the truly converted.

Truly converted Christians are being taught by the holy spirit God the Father while being called and after accepting their calling and becoming chosen, by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman. Their relationship is a spiritual one with God the Father and God the Word who are both spirit beings.

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

But would there not be humans required to teach those called by God the Father?

God's First Century Church

When God's New Testament Church began it had a ministry of men some of whom occupied the ministerial offices listed in Ep4: 11.

Eph 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Some men were made apostles by Christ, others were made evangelists by the apostles and others were appointed as pastors and teachers and some were prophets.

These ministerial offices were possible in God's First Century Church as the apostles had been personally taught by Christ who gave them the foundational truths of God's Church. They taught those same truths to the evangelists, prophets, pastors and teachers of their days. The difference between those who today say they are apostles, evangelists, prophets, pastors or teachers is that they don't have the truth Christ taught His disciples. All they can teach is their personal interpretation of what they think the Bible means. There are not several true "truths." The many different so-called churches of God that we have today proves this to be true. They have doctrinal differences that keeps them apart and the root cause of those differences is that they don't have "THE" truth given the Church by Christ.

How did the truth given God's First Century Church become lost?

Persecutions came upon God's Church right from its very beginning. It started with the Jews who considered Christ to be an impostor and His followers to be heretics who were undermining God's true religion, Judaism. Paul warned the faithful that there would be men appointed to teach them who would depart from the truth and try to get as many as they could to follow them.

Act 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost [spirit] hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Act 20:29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

Act 20:30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

Peter gives out a similar warning to the faithful.

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

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

2Pe 2:3 And through covetousness shall they with **feigned words** make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

Then there arose a great false Christian church which persecuted all other religious groups, Christian or not, which did not accept its teachings. The persecutions became so intense that truly converted Christians had to flee into the wilderness, away from the great cities, to escape being put in prison or killed.

The faithful and those who taught them were scattered and lost contact with each other. After the death of the apostles and those they had trained, and because of the scattering of God's Church, the truth taught by Christ to the apostles but for a few outstanding requirements such as the necessity of observing the Sabbath and the holy days became lost.

The existence of God's Church with human ministers is something that could only exist in God's First Century Church. They are the only ones who ever had the truth Christ taught His disciples. Since the dispersal of God's First Century Church God has been speaking to the faithful by His Son.

Heb 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

Heb 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

God's spiritual nation of Israel would no longer be taught by human pastors who have shown themselves to be unreliable and unfaithful teachers of God's law. They would be taught by the glorified Christ as this verse plainly says.

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.

What does God have to say about human preachers and teachers?

Pastors and Teachers

God was rather displeased with the human pastors and teachers who taught ancient Israel and He said He would give better pastors and teachers to His new nation of spiritual Israel.

Jer 3:15 And I will give **you pastors according to mine heart**, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

Jer 23:2 Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD.

Can and would God force men to act as pastors and teachers according to His heart that could be relied on to always teach the truth and never use preaching simply as a way to earn a living. (Tit 1:11; 1Tim 3:8)

No, God will not force mankind to obey Him. Mankind was created with absolute free, moral agency.

Rom 8:14 For as many as are **led** by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

When God calls someone, that person must accept to be **led** by the truth He is being given. God will not force the person to obey Him. Man has been given the absolute ability to choose so he can be a person of character. Character is choosing to obey God when called when nothing is forcing us to do so. It is a freely and knowingly taken decision.

Deu 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

God commands man to choose and for him to be able to choose there must be no higher power that can force him to choose something against his will. Otherwise, it would be that higher power's decision and not man's. This absolute freedom to choose is called free moral agency and it is impossible to be a person of character without it.

Since God will not force men to obey him, Christians can never place their trust in any man even truly converted ones. Having free moral agency, they can decide to no longer follow the truth and begin using deception to build group of followers for themselves from which they

can earn a living. The only pastors who will not exploit and abuse God's sheep are God Himself and the Word. This is why Christians are always to prove all things against their Bible and then hold on to what is true.

2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing [correctly understanding] the word of truth.

1Th 5:21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

This is why the Bible says that truly converted Christians *stand by their faith* i.e., by what it is *they* have chosen to believe after they have been given to know the truth which they have proven with their Bible.

2Co 1:24 Not for that we [apostles] have dominion [can force you to believe what we teach] over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand.

Some will believe all the truth, some only certain parts of it and some will turn away from it to maintain/go back to the beliefs they had before conversion. Christians remain members of God's Church only as long as they freely and willingly keep on believing and practicing the truth given them by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman. Christians stand by their faith, what they have chosen to believe, and not even God will force them to remain with the truth if they choose to depart from it.

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.

Your salvation is wholly between you and God; not between you, a human preacher/teacher and God.

Heb 9:15 And for this cause he [Christ] is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

1Ti 2:5 For there is one God, and **one mediator** between God and men, the man **Christ Jesus**;

The mediator between God and men called and chosen by God is Christ Jesus who after His glorification is the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who teaches all things to God's chosen ones. Christians are to worship God in spirit and in truth not through organizations of men performing repetitive, symbolic, physical rituals as in the days of the unconverted nation of ancient Israel. Today's rituals though different from those of ancient Israel are still not the way to worship God.

An important point to realize and that ties in well with what has been said up to now, is that since the day of Pentecost, those called and chosen are not New Testament Christians, they are New Covenant Christians.

Let's examine the relevant Scriptures that show this to be true.

God's Church —A New Covenant Church

God had said that there would come a time when He would make a new covenant with the physical house of Israel and with the physical house of Judah.

Heb 8:8 For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:

And what is this new covenant?

Eze 36:26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

Eze 36:27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

The new covenant as regards *physical* Israel is the time when they will be called beginning with the remnant of Israel and Judah upon its return from their end-time captivity among the Gentiles when they are resettled in the original promised land and Christ spends 3 1/2 years confirming the covenant with them (Dan 9:27). That will be the beginning of the restoration of physical Israel which will continue during the Millennium and during the Last Great Day which is mentioned by Paul

(Rom 11:25-32). Physical Israelites must become part of God's spiritual nation of Israel to be saved.

Dan 9:27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

Christ's ministry to Israel was to last 7 years but was cut off after 3 1/2 years when He died on the stake. There is therefore another 3 1/2 years of Christ's ministry to physical Israel that has to be fulfilled. This completion of Christ's ministry to Israel will occur with the remnant of the end-time nations constituting physical Israel on their return from their captivity amongst the Gentile nations. Those that enter into the New Covenant at the end of Christ's 3 1/2 year ministry (not all will; many called, few chosen) become part of God's Church which is God's *spiritual* nation of Israel.

However, this new spiritual nation of Israel will not begin with end-time physical Israel's return from captivity. It began on the first day of the New Testament Pentecost when after the death and glorification of Christ (John 7:39), salvation was opened up to those who had been predestinated to be called from 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:

Eph 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being **predestinated** according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

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.

Before the glorification of Christ (John 7:39), only the prophets of God were given access to the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman

for the purpose of writing the books of the Bible and prophesying to ancient Israel. And, please note that being predestinated to be called is not the same things as being saved; it is merely an opportunity for salvation. When called one must accept God's calling and remain faithful to be saved.

God's spiritual nation of Israel or His New Covenant Church are all those who have been called, chosen and remained faithful that have lived since the day of Pentecost.

Rom 2:28 For he is not a Jew, [a spiritual Israelite] which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:

Rom 2:29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

Circumcision of the heart (mind) comes from being called and accepting to obey God as best we can. We then become spiritual Jews and members of God's spiritual nation of Israel. This nation began on the Day of Pentecost and those of the end-time physical nation of Israel who enter the New Covenant after Christ having spent 3 1/2 years confirming the covenant (Dan 9:27) with them will also become part of it. Physical Israelites during the Millennium and during the Last Great Day do not become part of God's spiritual nation of Israel unless they become and remain converted upon being called.

God has been making His New Covenant with the members of His new spiritual nation of Israel since the day of Pentecost.

So God's Church since the Day of Pentecost is a New Covenant Church for in order for sin to be forgiven and Christ's righteousness to be imputed, we have to have been called and have chosen to obey God. This is what the physical Israelites alive at the time of Christ's confirming the covenant with them will have to do. There is no other way of being saved. There is not one way of salvation for Israel and another one for everybody else.

However, New Covenant Christians find themselves having to fulfill a higher level requirement than ancient Israel. As physical human beings, most of us can easily perform physical tasks and engage in ceremonies and rituals but to be without any organization of men, any physical fellowship and without any specific physical things to do which confirm to us that we are being obedient to God, it makes things more difficult.

What do I mean?

In Spirit and in Truth

In the days of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) whose Pastor General was Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong (HWA), there were regular Sabbath day worship services, weekly Bible studies, organized sports, social activities, fund raising projects, special services on the annual holy days and organized work projects to help the poor in the Church.

Members were fully kept occupied with all of these activities and projects and most evaluated their degree of conversion by their level of participation in them. Some participated to demonstrate their inner conversion to others; some did so to please pastors and ministers and others still, were looking to be noticed to become deacons. Finally, it is a sure thing that some were doing it out of a sincere love of God and not to please men or for personal gain.

A point I would like to emphasize here is that God's Church is a spiritual entity made up of men but it is not an organization of men. In other words, it is not necessary for there to be organized groups of men holding worship services with some being preachers for God's Church to exist. Before the organization of men known as the Worldwide Church of God came into existence and after its collapse following the death of its founder (HWA), God's church had existed without interruption since the day of Pentecost, exists now and will continue to exist until the time of the Great White Throne Judgment. It was never to die out.

God's Church exists in those individually called and chosen by the holy spirit God the Father and who are being taught all things by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman. Whether by themselves or in smaller or greater groups, these individuals/groups spread all over the world, constitute God's one and only Church. There is no headquarters organization of men with a supreme spiritual leader through whom truth enters the Church.

God's Church since the day of Pentecost is a spiritual entity where each and every member has a personal relationship with God and is responsible to God for the good or bad actions that he takes. Their mediator is Christ, not any man or any organization of men. The truly converted are the holy priests of God offering themselves in daily sacrifice as they work at putting to death their old man (previous unconverted ways of living) and putting forth effort to live in newness of life accepting to be led by God's truth.

1Pe 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, [an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices](#), acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

They are the living stones of God's spiritual house or temple. The sacrifices that they offer is themselves dying to their previous life of sin.

1Pe 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, **a royal priesthood**, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

They are God's royal priesthood; they are God's holy nation of kings and priests.

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that **ye present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

They are putting to death the lusts of their flesh as best as they can which is the sacrifice that is holy and acceptable to God.

Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the **body of sin might be destroyed**, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Rom 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so **we also should walk in newness of life**.

Rom 7:6 But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that **we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter**.

The Worldwide Church of God was an organization of men organized according to the administrative and business rules of this world with a CEO or Pastor General in a top-down hierarchical authority structure. There is no such top-down hierarchical structure of authority in God's Church.

God's Church, the body of Christ and the temple of God is being built by God's spirit, not by human preachers and teachers.

Zec 4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but **by my spirit**, saith the LORD of hosts.

God's church are the faithful not an organization of men who decide

doctrine and rule over the spiritual lives of the members of God's Church.

The understanding of God's truth is by the holy spirits of the God family. The holy spirit God the Father calls men to salvation and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman teaches them all things. It is not the doing of men.

1Co 3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.[\[in understanding\]](#)

God also clearly tells us that all Christians are saved or stand by faith, that is, those things they have decided to believe. No one can force them to believe something against their will, not God, not preachers, not teachers.

2Co 1:24 Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for [by faith ye stand](#).

The question that then arises in many's minds is how much knowledge and understanding of God's spiritual truth is required for salvation. Would salvation be possible without preachers and teachers and wouldn't the faithful be reduced to knowing just a small number of the very many truths contained in the Bible?

The parable of the talents and of the pounds allow us to know that for salvation it is only necessary to have a basic knowledge of the Scriptures. The individual with one talent didn't lose his salvation because he did not have more talents. No, he lost it for not having studied to increase the talent he had received. Had he increased it by only one, he would have been saved. Salvation is not based on how many talents one has but on how many more talents one has gained by studying his Bible. So there is no set amount of knowledge required but rather a continuing effort to acquire more by studying God's holy Bible.

At the time of our calling by the holy spirit God the Father we all received a certain number of talents. But, no matter how many we got, we have to make them grow or lose our salvation. The knowledge and understanding leading to our being called were given us by God not men. And even when there are preachers and teachers, as we have seen, the increase in understanding comes from God, not men (1Co 3:6).

Conversion and salvation is a process that goes on between individuals and God not between individuals through a human mediator and God. The holy spirit God the Word teaches all things to the holy spirit

God the father's chosen. The principal agents in the salvation process for mankind are God and the Word and it would follow that true Christian fellowship is primarily with God and the Word and secondarily with other truly converted Christians as we will see in the next section of this study.

Our Fellowship

Is our spiritual fellowship with God, or with God through men acting as intermediaries (the ordained ministry)?

1Jn 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly **our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.**

The First century congregations of God's Church were often on their own because of the rudimentary means of travel then available. We can see by Paul letters that it was from reports from some in those congregations that he was informed of what was going on in them. And, the correction and encouragements given them were often done by letters (the epistles).

In 1 Jn 1:3, John's fellowship with his congregations was sharing with them those things he had seen and heard when Christ was with them (the disciples). But, he adds, the true or real fellowship of all truly converted Christians is with the Father and his Son. By John sharing with them what he had personally seen and heard from Christ, he and they were having fellowship with God the Father and His Son.

However, apart from the apostles, there are no other men alive today who can claim that those things they teach is having fellowship with the Father and His son; none of them have had first-hand knowledge of Christ's teachings as the apostles had. Rather, since the death of the apostles, the faithful's fellowship is with God the Father and his Son. It is the Father and the Son who give understanding to true Christians of the Bible as they study it.

Men today, no matter how well intentioned and knowledgeable cannot ever truthfully claim to be true representatives of the foundational truths given to the Church by Christ. According to your Bible the truth of a matter is established in the mouth of 2 or 3 first-hand witnesses; second hand reports are not credible. Since the death of the apostles and of those people who saw Christ, there are no possible first-hand witnesses of Christ and His teachings alive today.

Mat 18:16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of **two or three witnesses** every word may be established.

2Co 13:1 This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of **two or three witnesses** shall every word be established.

The fellowship of Christians is therefore with God and the Word as they study their Bible and prophesy. Prophesying occurs when Christians assemble to discuss truth they have found while studying their Bible. Paul makes it clear he has no objection to them doing so and even that all should covet to prophesy i.e., have biblical truth to discuss with other Christians when they assemble.

1Co 14:39 Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.

This subject has already been extensively covered in the following study available to you by clicking on the following hyperlink: [The Ministry and God's Truth](#).

The purpose of these discussions is to verify and refine individual findings which, in some cases results in their invalidation, through their being shared with the assembly who will use the Bible as their sole reliable means of confirming or disproving what is being said. Sometimes no definite resolution can be obtained and the faithful will continue studying into the matter which sometimes may never be resolved.

All true Christians have minds enabled to understand spiritual truth by the in-dwelling presence of the holy spirit God the Word. Not everyone, every time they assemble, will have discovered a new truth to discuss with the group and not all discoveries will be shown to be true. But all true Christians will come to understand Scriptures which they didn't before as they study their Bible. If this weren't possible, Christians would not be able to grow their talent(s) and would lose their salvation.

Through the process of discussing new Bible understandings with other true Christians, these Christians are having spiritual fellowship with God and the Word who inspires them as they study their Bible, Christ in writing, and who inspires those listening to those presenting their discoveries to the assembly.

One important point made by Paul to all true Christians is that the foundational truths of God's Church that he teaches are from Christ and are

not to be debated in their assemblies. This is made clear by Paul when he says that his writings are not his own personal thoughts or comprehensions of the meaning of the Scriptures obtained from his own study of the Bible but the foundational truths of God's Church he received directly from Christ.

1Co 14:37 If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.

No man is above the Bible and no man's pronouncements are to be considered as revealed truth from God which no one is to question. The ministry when a true one existed, did not and has never had a monopoly on the truth. They are but men who also have to study their Bible to have personal growth in knowledge of the Scriptures so as to not lose their own salvation. ([The Ministry and God's Truth](#))

We know that in the end-time a second Elijah is to come to restore all things. What is to be restored are the foundational truths given the disciples by Christ at His First Coming. That Christ says they would need to be restored makes it evident that after the death of the apostles, they would become lost.

Mar 9:11 And they asked him, saying, Why say the scribes that Elias must first come?

Mar 9:12 And he answered and told them, **Elias verily cometh first, and restoreth all things; and how it is written of the Son of man, that he must suffer many things, and be set at nought.**

Please notice, here Christ is telling His disciples that Elias or Elijah must first come to whom? The physical nation of Israel not to the world. Christ at His 2nd Coming is coming to Israel not the world. Israel when Christ was there was a conquered nation living under Roman rule. When Christ spoke about establishing His Kingdom the disciples thought He meant, Israel would be freed from the Romans and again be an independent and sovereign nation.

Act 1:6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt **thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?**

Mal 4:5 Behold, I will send you [the physical nation of Israel] Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

From Adam and Eve to Christ there is 4,000 years and from Christ to our time, some 2,000 years have gone by. We are about to enter the 7th day of God's plan of salvation, the Millennium. The great and dreadful day of the Lord spoken of by Christ in Mal 4:5 is not the day of the Lord which occurs during the Great Tribulation which is the time of God's vengeance. Notice that Christ says Elijah is to come before the great and dreadful day of the Lord. Christ's Second Coming takes place at the blowing of the 7th trumpet of the 7th seal of the book of Revelation.

At that time, Israel is still scattered among the Gentile nations; Christ has yet to gather them and restore them to the Promised Land. For Christ as the promised 2nd Elijah to come to Israel before the great and dreadful day of the Lord, He would have to have been among Israel resettled in the Promised land before the beginning of the events of the 7th seal of the book of Revelation which is the Lord's day i.e., the time when God intervenes in the affairs of men. Please consult the following study for more detail on how Christ is the 2nd Elijah that is to come to Israel: [The Second Elijah and the Great and Dreadful Day of the Lord.](#)

Therefore, the great and dreadful day of the Lord mentioned in Mal 4:5 has to be another event than the Lord's day of the 7th trumpet of the 7th seal of the Apocalypse.

The second Elijah, Christ, at His Second Coming will come to the physical nation of Israel to restore all things to it once it is gathered from the nations where it had been scattered and resettled in the original Promised Land. This is something that occurs after the Great Tribulation and after that part of it which is called the Day of the Lord.

It will happen before the great and dreadful day of the Lord which is the time of the Great White Throne Judgment at the end of the Last Great Day which brings to an end God's plan of salvation for mankind. At that time all who are saved become glorified immortal spirit beings and all the wicked are burnt up in the Lake of Fire which then expands to engulf the universe. God then created a new heaven and a new earth. This is why the GWTJ is called the great and dreadful Day of the Lord.

The Dilemma

God's Church consists of physical men who have been called, chosen and are remaining faithful. As physical/material beings they relate to the world basically by what they can perceive with their physical senses. If all that was needed for salvation was the accomplishment of certain physical tasks, then it is relatively easy for men to engage in doing so and to evaluate to what extent they are being successful in accomplishing them.

But when it comes to spiritual things, it becomes more difficult to have specific goals that can be readily evaluated. Let's use an example to illustrate the problem.

Christians are to keep the Sabbath day holy and they are to celebrate the holy days. However, how does one keep the Sabbath day holy and how does one celebrate the holy days in the absence of organized worship services which supposedly met God's requirements for keeping the Sabbath and the annual holy days holy?

It used to be that on the Sabbath, the faithful got ready to attend services by dressing up and then driving to a hall where services were being held. On the annual holy days, services were held in the morning and in the afternoon and sermonettes and sermons were made on the meaning of the day. This was followed by a period of fellowship between the faithful.

It used to be that performing the physical requirements of getting ready for services, attending services, and giving offerings gave us the comfort that we were keeping the Sabbath day holy, correctly celebrating the holy days, were fulfilling our Christian duties and were on the road to salvation but what about when there are no organizations of men?

For most of its existence, the members of God's Church have been on their own in keeping the Sabbath and celebrating the annual holy days. How did they do it when there were no organized worship services to celebrate them? And, was it ever a requirement for *New Testament* Christians to worship God through organizations of men holding worship services based on their understanding of what needed to be done to keep those days holy as required by God?

New Testament Christians were mostly by themselves or in small non-organized groups as they are now and will be during the Millennium and during the Last Great Day. How can they know how to observe the weekly and annual Sabbaths?

Conversion is an individual matter between each Christian and God. It then becomes wholly a personal responsibility where all have to study to determine how to keep the Sabbath and the holy days in ways acceptable to God. This is where things could be said to become more difficult as the drive and motivation to obey God has to come from the individual and not from following a group with established routines.

This is the dilemma faced by NT Christians who are to worship God in spirit and in truth and not through repetitive, physical and symbolic

rituals and ceremonies, or through organized worship services on the weekly Sabbaths and on the annual holy days.

What's wrong with organized services is that God's Church is not a visible organization of men that all coming to conversion must find and then become members of it. God's Church is all those called, chosen and faithful who individually have Christ as their head and teacher whether by themselves or in small congregations. They are to worship God by living their lives as living sacrifices by dying to their former unconverted ways of life and trying to live as best they can according to God's spiritual law. The holy days are times of study, meditation, prayer and fellowship with other truly converted Christians when some are known.

God's Answer

Is there a requirement for NT Christians to go to any specific geographical location, be part of a group, attend organized worship services, perform specific physical rituals and ceremonies to find God and God's truth?

Rom 10:5 For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.

In the days of ancient Israel, the requirement was for the Israelites to live according to the letter of the law they had received. In doing so they were considered to be righteous (on a physical level) i.e., to be obeying God. However their obedience at a physical level of God's law did not give them the righteousness that comes from obeying God's spiritual law which is possible only for NT Christians through God the Father imputing Christ's righteousness to them because they are maintaining their attitude of wanting to obey Him to the best of their abilities in all things. This is the righteousness of which Paul speaks in the following verses.

Rom 10:6 But the righteousness which is of **faith** speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)

Rom 10:7 Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)

There is no need to go anywhere or do anything physical/material such as ascending into heaven or descending into the deep even if we were able to do so to have the righteousness (forgiveness of sin and imputa-

tion of Christ's righteousness) available by faith to Christians since the death, resurrection, glorification and ascent of Christ back to His Father (John 7:37). For Jewish and Gentile converts alike, there is no need for them to continue, nor should they, with the different physical rituals and ceremonies of their previous (Jewish and Gentile) religion. Then in the following verses, Paul tells us what is the New Testament Christian way of having God's righteousness.

Rom 10:8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

The word of faith given them from Paul which they and us who are not eyewitnesses of Christ's resurrection are to believe is that Jesus was the son of God who after His death on the stake was raised from the dead.

Rom 10:9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Rom 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

A Christian's conversion is something that occurs in the mind, a changed attitude from one of resistance to God to one of trying to obey Him as best as he can. It is not as a result of performing, participating in or attending repetitive, symbolic ceremonies and rituals whether they be those of Old Testament Israel or those of the many New Testament religious organizations of men all claiming to possess the keys to the Kingdom of God; they don't and never have. God's Church is not a physical organization of men performing repetitive, symbolic worship rituals.

Worshiping in Spirit and in Truth

How can God be worshiped in spirit and in truth? God's NT Christians are given to understand the Scriptures in their spiritual intent i.e., they correctly understand their meaning by the in-dwelling presence of the holy spirit God the Word and of the holy spirit God the Father.

Joh 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, **If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.**

They do not only have knowledge but also understanding which the unconverted world does not have and cannot have no matter how much

time they may spend studying the Bible. They are required to obey God according to the spiritual understanding given them of the truths of the Bible. They can and must apply the principle, intent or spirit of the law to their lives. The law says you shall not steal i.e., take another's possession for your own use without his permission and not ever return it. This simple statement of law covers every imaginable ways of stealing. There doesn't have to be a specific law for every possible ways of stealing; all stealing of any kind is forbidden.

NT Christians' lives are to be governed by the truth of the Bible. As a Christian through personal studies of the Bible discovers a truth he did not know before, he must make the decision to follow it and cease to follow any past beliefs he now knows to be false. He must accept to be corrected by the truth as he becomes aware of it.

The fulfillment of God's command to worship Him in spirit and in truth does not require one to be part of an organization of men calling itself God's Church.

Individual Christians ARE the Church wherever they may be in the world, by themselves or in little groups, organized or not.

The head of God's Church is Christ (Col 1:18), its priests are its members (1Pe 2:9) and the sacrifice that they offer is themselves dying daily to their previous unconverted lives (Rom 6:6) and striving to live according to the truth they have from God (Rom 6:4). Even when pastors and teachers existed in God's First Century Church, their role was simply to be helpers of the joy of the truly converted (2Co 1:24); they were not the criterion of truth in the Church nor the source of it (Heb 12:2). Christ is the author and the finisher of the faith of those called and chosen by God the Father; not men, even truly converted men. Christians are to prove all things (1Thes 5:21) whenever using their Bible to do so, Christ in writing, their only sure and true means of sorting truth from error and protecting themselves from the many false prophets.

Worshiping God in spirit and in truth has been the requirement for true Christians since the day of Pentecost and it will be during the Millennium and during the Last Great Day. There will not exist any large and visible organization in the world that will be God's Church to which the nations will eagerly travel to hear the truth and become converted. The salvation process will continue to be a spiritual one between individuals personally called and chosen, and Christ the head of the church. There is not one way of salvation from the Day of Pentecost until Christ's Second Coming and a different one during the Millennium and the Last Great Day.

Since Pentecost, God has required that He be worshiped in spirit and in truth.

Joh 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

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

However, men reading the Bible have concluded that God's Church was an organization of men having pastors, preachers, teachers, elders and deacons and that there should exist a central, headquarters organization which provides spiritual leadership to all congregations and a supreme leader through whom truth enters into God's church and is disseminated by ministers appointed by the national headquarters organization to the local congregations of the church.

This type of organizational model is the same as that of the papacy and of business organizations in the world. It is the Roman form of government that the Pope liked so much that he applied it to his own organization. This copy of the Roman mode of government is called the image of the beast in your Bible. It cannot be the way God governs His church and it isn't.

Each member of God's Church was individually called by God the Father and those following their calling are taught by Christ. The called out ones do not report nor are they accountable to men whether converted or not. They all *individually* report directly to God. God's government in God's Church is found in each member voluntarily submitting as best as he can to God's law. It is not as a result of pastors and ministers exercising authority over them. Christians are not under the authority of any members of the ministry; their head is Christ, their standard is God's law and their obedience is to God.

Men in the ministry of the churches of this world as well as in the many so-called churches of God have had the very unfortunate habit of thinking that by their office they are given the right to exercise authority over church members and their beliefs. They are not and cannot; every man stands justified before God by faith (the truth of God revealed to him and that he has chosen to believe) not by being coerced into believing what a man says is the truth.

Conclusion

New Testament Christians or more precisely, New Covenant Christians whether by themselves, in small local congregations or part of a large congregation, stand by their faith. Their faith is to freely and without physical or psychological coercion, believe and make an effort to put into application the truth they are individually taught by the holy spirit God the Father while being called and by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman after having become chosen by accepting their calling.

Since the passage of Christ, God speaks to His called and chosen ones by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman, His holy bible, Christ in writing.

Heb 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

Heb 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

There are no more apostles, evangelists and prophets to come. Apostles are ordained by God not men.

1Ti 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;

2Ti 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,

Evangelists were appointed to help the apostles. When there are no apostles, there can be no evangelists. And, as made clear in Heb 1:1, there are no more prophets to come except God's Two Witnesses whose message will be to the world who will hate them and put them to death.

Jesus, not men, is the author and finisher of the faith of God the Father's called and chosen ones.

Heb 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

The apostles and those they appointed had no authority to impose their views on the church; even, it is impossible for them to force anyone to believe something he has not himself chosen to believe.

2Co 1:24 Not for that we [apostles] have dominion [can impose on you what to believe] over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand.

Christians' salvation depend on what they have decided to believe and apply in their lives. No one can force them to believe something against their will.

And the understanding of God's truth is from God.

1Co 3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

There is no physical building that is God's house. God's temple are the truly converted.

1Co 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

God's Church is, since the Day of Pentecost, what we would call today, a virtual organization. This is a type of organization that does not exist in a particular geographic location. Its members individually report to a person who is the head of the group with no other levels of management or supervision between them and the head of the organization. They are geographically dispersed and hold in common a given set of objectives that all are attempting to achieve using their personal knowledge and abilities which they all are to increase as time goes by.

Salvation is an individual process between truly converted Christians and God. Other truly converted men are not and cannot serve as intermediaries between them and God. Every Christian stands alone before God in this life as he will on judgment day. Each Christian will stand or fall on his own merits and be rewarded according to the works of spiritual growth he has had in his life as a result of studying his Bible.

Worshiping God in spirit and in truth requires the continuing study of God's holy Bible so as to have growth in knowledge and understanding of the truth it contains; abandoning previous false beliefs as they become evident and putting forth effort to conduct our lives as best we can in conformity to the spiritual truth of God we have been given to know.

Salvation is not a question of following the right man, being part of the right organization or participating in organized worship services on the Sabbath and the annual holy days. For most of its existence, God's Church has existed as it exists now. True Christians are by themselves or in little groups all over the world. Conversion oc-

curs in the mind of believers, a change in attitude from one of opposition to God to one of wanting to obey Him in all things when called whether they be by themselves, or in smaller or larger congregations, organized or not.

Maintaining this attitude of obedience to God until the end of our lives, based on the spiritual truth of God we are given to know, whether it be a little or a lot, leads to salvation. Worshiping God in spirit and truth is a process of growth in knowledge and understanding of the Bible, Christ in writing, as we study it and in applying to our lives the truth we are given by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman as best we can.

Men have repeatedly shown themselves to be unable to resist the lure of fame and money and good intentions always become corrupted by the lust for money. Paul had his own job as a tent maker and refused to be supported by the congregations God raised up through him.

In today's world that would mean no executive jet with specially-trained personnel to serve the needs of the Pastor General as he travels in style around the world doing the "work." There would be no ministerial gated community on professionally landscaped properties with select ministers living in housing and driving vehicles paid with tithes and offerings. And, Paul did not expect to be given movie star celebrity treatment and respect when he met people or visited congregations as do modern-day preachers even the ones who are claiming to be truly converted.

This is why since Pentecost, God and the Word are the true pastors of God's Church who will never deceive them to financially exploit them.

They are both spirit beings and are to be worshiped in spirit and in truth.

