

Was God's Church
Ever a Physical
Organization?

Was God's Church Ever a Physical Organization?

By Robert G. Theophilus

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.

Is God's Church a physical organization visible in the world? Does it own beautiful buildings on acres of professionally landscaped grounds? Is it organized in accordance with the civil, administrative and financial laws of the world? Or is it the "little flock" invisible to the world as truly converted Christians are to come out of the world and not proselytize? They are to be as sheep among wolves i.e., wise as serpents and harmless as doves (Mat 10:16). Let's examine what your Bible says is God's Church.

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 firstborn 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

biblical 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?](#)

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.

One of the things that has clouded the notion of what is God's Church and which continues to do so for many of us is the mental image that we all have had or, still have, of God's church being an organization of men headed up by a spiritual leader who appoints ministers to preach to church members. People become members of the church by accepting its teachings and the authority of its ministry which includes the requirement to financially support it.

In the days of the organization called the Worldwide Church of God headed up by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong (HWA), it was stated that God had allowed a large physical organization to come into being for the purpose of supporting an apostle (HWA) who had been raised up by God to preach the Gospel to the world. It was to be preached to the world and then the "end" would come. The "end" according to HWA was the end of the governments of men which would be taken over by Christ and His glorified saints at His Second Coming. This would lead to the creation of the Kingdom of God on earth over unconverted flesh-and-blood men during the Millennium. I will not get into the detail of why the kingdom of God cannot and will not be established over physical human beings following Christ's Second Coming or spend time explaining what is the "end" mentioned by Christ as this has been extensively covered in the following studies available on this site by clicking on the following hyperlinks: [Mass Conversion of the Nations during the Millennium?](#) and [What is the End of the World and When Will it Happen?](#)

HWA did indeed restore many biblical truths but, as he often said him-

self, it was possible for him to make errors and he did correct them whenever he became aware of them. I don't think he acted in bad faith but he was only a man and as such suffered from the frailties found in all human beings. This is why God places the responsibility for proving all things on the brethren who are wholly responsible for their own salvation. The only man HWA could ever save was himself and so it is for every truly converted individual Christian.

Now, let's go on with our review of the main topic of this study.

The OT physical and unconverted nation of Israel had a priesthood of men and God spoke to Israel through a human mediator, Moses. There was a physical place, the tent of meeting or tabernacle of the congregation which had the holy of holies. Later on, when Israel entered the Promise Land a temple was built which was considered to be the house of God and which was the place where the high priest officiated and people came to worship God and be taught the law.

But, since Christ's First Coming, His death on the stake as God's perfect sacrifice for sin, His resurrection to His former glory as the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman, the making available of the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman — Christ is now the high priest of God's Church — to those called and chosen by the holy spirit God the Father, God's NT Church does not have a physical temple. God's First Century Church had human ministers but persecutions began soon after the Church's foundation and it had to flee into the wilderness to save itself from being exterminated. After its scattering, it has been small and invisible to the world as it is right now as I write this study. It exists in truly converted individuals scattered all over the world who are either by themselves or in little groups who most of the time are not aware of one another's existence as is presently occurring. This should become evident to you as you go through this study.

God's New Covenant Church

God says He will make a new covenant with the ancient nation of Israel.

Jer 31:31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

This will occur after Christ's 2nd Coming with the end-time physical nation of Israel returned from its captivity among the Gentile nations. It will be the time of Israel's calling and conversion of those who follow their calling mentioned in the 11th chapter of the book of Romans. The

process will then continue with all those being called and chosen during the Millennium and during the Last Great Day. Please note that not everyone called becomes chosen (Mat 20:16; 22:14) and not all those chosen remain faithful (Mat 7:13).

All those called and chosen whether Israelites or Gentiles become part of God's new spiritual nation of Israel where the criterion for becoming part of it is to commit to obey God to the best of one's abilities when called. This commitment must be for life.

But what about God's NT spiritual nation of Israel which began hundreds of years ago on the Day of Pentecost? What covenant is God making with them? Is there one way of salvation for the physical nation of Israel and another for God's spiritual nation of Israel whose members predominantly are not physical descendants of ancient Israel.

God said He would provoke ancient Israel and their descendants with a foolish nation, His spiritual nation of Israel made up of those God would call from the Gentile nations of the world after Israel turned away from Him.

Deu 32:21 They [the ancient physical nation of Israel] have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God; [the idols they worshiped] they have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people; [God will call and choose men from the nations of the world and on becoming converted they will become His people. Being from different nations, they are not a nation physically speaking but once called and chosen, they become God's nation or people.] I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.

Ancient Israel and, their descendants in the days of Christ's First Coming, were so very sure they were God's people and correctly understood the Scriptures. But Israel will be greatly surprised to learn that by failing to have an open mind and verifying with the Scriptures Christ's teachings rather than outright rejecting them, God had turned away from them and to the Gentiles. Salvation would be opened up to the Gentiles before Israel though it would have been offered to them first.

Had ancient Israel obeyed God solely in the letter of the law, their descendants would have become part of His holy nation and kingdom of priests in embryo (those that would accept their calling) at the time when God started opening salvation to mankind on the Day of Pen-

tecost. But on the Day of Pentecost, the descendants of ancient Israel were holding ceremonies in the physical temple in Jerusalem. They were not with the disciples in the room where the promised Comforter came to them.

The problem was not so much that they were not physically present with the disciples when the promised Comforter. The reason why the Comforter did not come to them was because they were holding on to the traditions of their forefathers and had thoroughly rejected Christ's teachings.

On the Day of Pentecost, God began opening up salvation to mankind first by making the Comforter available to the disciples and then, to those the holy spirit God the Father would call.

Joh 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you [the disciples and future converts] another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; [The Comforter who was with the disciples was Christ, God in the flesh.]

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 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

Joh 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

And who is the Comforter that was to come to the disciples and to all true Christians?

Joh 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

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

Christ, after his glorification and ascension to His Father is

the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who teaches all things to truly converted Christians as they study God's holy Bible, Christ (the Word) in writing.

Joh 14:18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

Christ was the Comforter who was with the disciples and who after His ascension to His Father would come to them, and all those called and chosen by God the Father, to comfort them spiritually as He did when He was with them physically.

John 14:17 makes it clear that the Comforter or Spirit of Truth that would abide in all true Christians is none other than the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who is Christ following His death and resurrection by God the Father to the glory that He had before He became a man (Philippians 2:5-7).

Php 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Php 2:6 Who, [Christ] being in the form of God, [who was a God being like God the Father] thought it not robbery to be equal with God: [He was not taking anything away from God (robbing God) by saying He was also a God being. Christ was God in the flesh.]

Php 2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

In John 17:5, it is made clear that Jesus the Christ was the holy spirit God the Word as He asks His Father to give Him back the glory that He had with Him before the creation of the universe.

Joh 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

And, in the beginning before the creation of the physical universe, we had God and the Word.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word [who became Jesus the Christ] 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.

All things were created by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman.

Col 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: [Christ is the first human being to be born again by a resurrection from the dead to immortal spirit existence. He is the firstborn of God's plan of spiritual creation for mankind.]

Col 1:16 For by him [not by a third being called the "holy spirit"] 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.

Nothing existed before they were created by Christ, He is (He existed) before all things. The only 2 beings who existed in eternity before the creation of spirit beings and of the physical universe were God and the Word. Both of them are holy and spirit and are the holy spirits of God's Kingdom to which many more are to be added in accordance with God's plan of salvation.

The resurrected and glorified Christ is the head of the body, the church and is the first to be born again by a resurrection from the dead, the firstborn of God's plan of salvation for mankind.

Col 1:18 And he 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.

The head of God's NT spiritual nation of Israel is the resurrected and glorified Christ not any man who was appointed by an organization of men or who will appoint himself as a Pastor General, an evangelist or a prophet.

The New Covenant is the means to salvation as it provides access to the holy spirits of the God family while the Old Testament covenant did not and could not, for at that time, Christ had not yet become the perfect

sacrifice for sin and had not yet been glorified.

Joh 7:37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, **If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.**

Joh 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

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.) **[The glorified Christ, God the Father's Word and Spokesman is the holy spirit of the God family that works in the minds of the truly converted (Heb 1:1-2).]**

On the Day of Pentecost, after Christ's ascension to His Father, the promised Comforter and Spirit of Truth would come to the disciples and to all those God the Father would call until the end of His plan of salvation for mankind.

So, those being called and chosen since the Day of Pentecost are basically entering into the New Covenant that will also be made with the physical descendants of the nation of Israel after Christ's 2nd Coming following their return from their end-time captivity.

Eze 36:24 For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.

Eze 36:25 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: **[those that enter the New Covenant after Christ's 3 1/2 year ministry to them; not all will]** from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

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. **[They will be able to understand the spiritual truth of God while they are being called and those that commit to obeying God will be chosen and become part of God's spiritual nation of Israel.]**

An important point to consider here is that God will restore Israel to the Promised Land but it is not because Israel has become a fully obedient nation eagerly seeking God and striving to obey Him.

Eze 36:32 **Not for your sakes do I this**, saith the Lord GOD, be it known unto you: be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel.

First end-time Israel is brought back from their captivity to the Promised Land; then, Christ will spend 3 1/2 years confirming the covenant with them (Dan 9:27) and those who enter into the new covenant (not all of them will), will be cleansed from all their iniquities .

Eze 36:33 Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded.

Israel converted and unconverted will again inhabit the cities in the Promised Land and those areas laid waste by war will be rebuilt.

Now returning to the New Covenant.

If the New Covenant is the means to salvation for ancient Israel and their physical descendants then it also has to be the means of salvation for all those called and chosen from the Day of Pentecost onward. This therefore signifies, that God's spiritual nation of Israel or God's Church is a New Covenant Church.

Here again we have to be careful to keep in mind what is God's Church and that is it is all those called and chosen who are remaining faithful whether they be by themselves or in groups of different sizes which are more or less organized; collectively, they are God's Church. We must refrain from visualizing a physical organization with buildings and ministers preaching to people as being God's Church as maintaining this image in our minds greatly distorts what is the true nature of God's Church and is a major source of error in correctly understanding the Scriptures.

The New Covenant is being made with all those called and chosen since the Day of Pentecost, God's New Covenant Church which is His spiritual nation of Israel.

The High Priest of God's NT Spiritual Nation

Since the beginning of God's New Covenant Church on the Day of Pentecost, its high priest is no longer any man but Christ Himself.

Heb 3:1 Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider [the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus](#);

Heb 4:14 Seeing then that we have [a great high priest](#), that is passed into the heavens, [Jesus the Son of God](#), let us hold fast our profession.

Heb 5:8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; [\[experienced \]](#)

Heb 5:9 And being made perfect, [he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him](#);

Heb 5:10 Called of [\[by\]](#) God [an high priest after the order of Melchisedec](#).

Heb 7:11 If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?

There was no forgiveness of sin (perfection) possible under the priesthood of the order of Aaron (note: only Aaron and his sons were priests in OT times not every Levite was a priest). It was therefore necessary for another priesthood but this time after the order of Melchisedec which makes possible the forgiveness of sin or perfection.

The Priesthood in God's Church

Christ is the great high priest according to the order of Melchisedec and the head of the body, His Church but who are the priests in God's spiritual nation of Israel?

1Pe 2:5 Ye [\[God's called, chosen and faithful, God's saints\]](#) also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, [\[God's Church is a spiritual house whose living stones are the individual, truly converted Christians\]](#) [an holy priesthood](#), to offer up [spiritual sacrifices](#), acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

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.

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.

Col 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

Truly converted Christians are the living stones of the temple of God. They are God's holy priesthood offering themselves up daily in sacrifice to God, dying to their previous life of sin, putting to death their old man and striving to live in newness of life maintaining their attitude of wanting to obey God in all things to the best of their abilities.

2Co 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature [a new spiritual creation]: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

The high priest of God's church is the resurrected and glorified Christ, the priesthood of God's Church are all those called, chosen and faithful who serve God. They are a holy priesthood (1Pe 2:5) and they are priests unto God (Rev 1:6) through their attitude of obedience to Him in all things putting to death their old man, walking in newness of life and living their lives as living sacrifices unto God (1Pe 2:5; Rom12:1).

Rev 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

Rev 1:6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Those called, chosen and faithful of the 7 eras of God's Church are kings and priests unto God in embryo. They are begotten or conceived but not yet born as actual kings and priests as they will be in God's Kingdom in which there are many mansions or offices of responsibility (John 14:2) with different levels of authority (Luke 19:15-17) that will be allocated based on individual Christians' works.

Joh 14:2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

Luk 19:15 And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

Luk 19:16 Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.

Luk 19:17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

The faithful servants of the parable of the pounds were given different levels of authority (symbolized by the number of cities over which authority was given) based on their works i.e., the extent to which they had increased the pounds given them by their works. Please remember that the reward of the saved is not to rule over the cities of this world but over the new heaven and the new earth (Heb 2:6-8). Christ spoke in parables to hide the true meaning of what he was saying (Matt 13:10-11) by using symbols. The cities in the parable of the pounds represent or are symbolic of the different levels of authorities that will be given in God's Kingdom to the saved based on their works of obedience to God while flesh-and-blood human beings.

1Co 3:8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

All will be kings i.e., be given authority over others, rule over others as per the parable of the pounds. A king is one that rules over a smaller or larger number of individuals. For an explanation of how the Kingdom of God will be structured, please see the following study which you can access by clicking on the following hyperlink: [What is God's Kingdom?](#) (pages 11- 16)

Now, let's go back to our review of who are the priests of God's NT Church.

In OT Israel, the priesthood served God by administering and teaching the law. In God's spiritual nation of Israel, individual Christians are God's priests that serve Him by offering their lives to God as living sacrifices as they put to death their old man and walk in newness of life; dying to their previous life of sin and being a new creation in Christ which now seeks to obey God to the best of his abilities.

2Co 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature [creation]: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

And now, of particular importance to Christians in determining whether

God's church is a physical organization or not, is identifying who is the mediator of God's New Covenant Church i.e., the church of which you are presently a member if you have been called, chosen and are remaining faithful.

Christ Mediator of the New Covenant

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

Heb 8:6 But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he **[Christ] is the mediator of a better covenant**, which was established upon better promises.

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.

The New Covenant makes the forgiveness of sin possible for those who are called and chosen, and on the Day of Pentecost, the holy spirit God the Father started calling men to salvation and those chosen i.e., who followed their calling are then covered by the New Covenant. Their sins are forgiven and they will receive an eternal inheritance as members in embryo of God's family at the time of their being born again by a resurrection from the dead to eternal, glorified, holy spirit life. We today who are part of God's Church have had our sins forgiven because we are under the New Covenant which is the only means by which sins can be forgiven (Heb 9:15) i.e., through Christ's perfect sacrifice being applied to us. Again, this is why God's Church since the Day of Pentecost, is a New Covenant Church.

And, Christ is the mediator of God's New Covenant spiritual nation of Israel, not any man or organization of men. God the Father's mediation work is done through Christ, the mediator of the New Covenant, directly with each and every called and chosen ones by He, God the Word, sharing thoughts from His mind to their minds according to their individual needs as they study God's holy Bible. It is not through a ministry of men nor through any man.

The Ministry in God's Spiritual Nation

In the Bible we read that Christ gave some to hold different offices of responsibility within the body of Christ which is the church. How do we

then reconcile individual members being the priesthood and the temple in which God and the Word live, and what is said in Eph 4:11.

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

It should be understood that there would not always be a requirement for men to fulfill the offices mentioned in that verse for the administration of God's plan of salvation to be successful.

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;

The "last days" started with the foundation of God's Church on the Day of Pentecost. It was then the beginning of the 5th day of God's master plan of salvation which is to last 7 days where a prophetic day in fulfillment is 1,000 years (2Pe 3:8). Since the glorification of Christ and His ascension to His Father, Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant and He is the means used by God the Father to teach all truly converted Christians.

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.

So when were there apostles, evangelists, prophets, etc. as stated in Eph 4: 11 in God's Church?

They existed and were possible in the days of [God's First Century Church](#) before the death of its founding members and its scattering because of the great persecutions that came upon it.

Christ is the one who had personally ordained some men to be apostles, namely, His disciples and Paul. Apostles are not appointed by men or organizations of men who gave themselves the authority to appoint other men as apostles.

Col 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ [by the will of God](#), and
Timotheus our brother,

But for the apostles appointed by Christ, there are none other men-

tioned in the Bible nor are any instructions given regarding what process men could follow to create more apostles. If more apostles were to be appointed in God's Church, the Bible would surely give us the means by which men can do this, but there is nothing to that effect mentioned in the Bible.

What about the other ministerial offices mentioned in Eph 4:11?

In order to be able to serve God as prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers it is first necessary for men to have the truth Christ taught to His disciples at His First Coming, the foundational truths of God's Church. Otherwise, all men have to teach others is their personal understanding of the Bible. The very great number of different Christians denominations in the world clearly show the many different understanding that men have of the Bible message. Which one if any is the correct one? All denominations maintain that their understanding of the Bible is the right one and are not willing to change.

It should be evident that it is not possible to have many different **correct** understandings of the Bible. And, it should also be evident that there are no men today, even in the organizations of men calling themselves "church of God" who have the truth given Christ's disciples. The weird teachings coming out from most of them should be more than enough proof that their teachings are from their imagination. They, like the churches of this world just mentioned, all have their own version of the truth and though all claiming to be God's Church, their doctrinal differences keeps them apart but God says:

1Co 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Eph 4:4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

Eph 4:5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

Eph 4:6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

The First Century Church of God had the knowledge given the disciples as well as did the men they trained to be pastors, teachers, etc. However, since the great scattering of God's First Century Church and the consequent loss of most of the knowledge that Church had, men no longer have the knowledge given the disciples for them to be preachers and teachers.

Certain basic knowledge remained such as the need to observe the 10 Commandments and to keep God's Sabbath but even this knowledge has not been correctly maintained. There is no universal agreement that Saturday is God's Sabbath or which annual holy days are to be kept and how they should be kept.

And, even when there was a true ministry in existence in God's First Century Church, the understanding of God's spiritual truth was by the holy spirits of the God family. It was not the doing of any man.

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

Also, the ministry has no power to force men to believe the truth, to remain with the truth or to return to it after having left it (2Co 1:24) because of the absolute free moral agency given man by God (Deu 30:19).

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

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:

Mankind was created with absolute free moral agency which means that no one can force them to believe something they have not chosen to believe. As HWA used to say: "A man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still."

True Christians stand or fall as member of God's spiritual nation of Israel by what they choose to believe (their faith) and no one can force them to believe something against their will. Therefore, the role of the ministry, even when a true one existed in the First Century Church, is not nearly as important as may have once been thought. The criterion for salvation is being called and chosen because we have committed to obeying God and remain faithful until the end of our lives. The holy spirit God the Father calls men to salvation and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman, teaches them all things. The Word's teachings gives understanding of the Scriptures which is something no man can do.

Salvation is not a matter of how much truth one has but of how much one is sincerely trying to live his life in accordance with the truth he has

been given to know which includes the requirement to continue studying the Scriptures to grow in knowledge and understanding. As we study the Bible, God is the one who adds to our understanding of the truth. It was somethings that not even the truly converted ministers of God's First Century Church could do as made clear by 1Co 3:6; Deu 30:19; 2Co 1:24 and other Scriptures.

For a relatively short time after its creation, God's Church had truly converted men who had the knowledge required to be able to teach those coming to conversion. Newcomers to the faith were taught the very same truth the disciples had received from Christ. Since the great scattering of God's First Century Church, and especially more than 1,900 years after the foundation of God's spiritual nation, there is no one alive today who has the truths given the disciples but for a few which survived over the centuries.

God's First Century Church served as a point of transition between the OT physical nation of Israel and God's NT spiritual nation whose teachers would not be men but the holy spirits of the God family, God the Father and God the Word.

God's Church a Spiritual Nation

The continuing difficulty in correctly understanding what is God's Church is reconciling that it is made of physical, flesh-and-blood human beings that all can see and is at the same time a spiritual thing that is invisible to human beings. Closely related to this problem is that of the Church being made up of individuals and small groups who are not aware of each other's existence and are scattered all over the world but who yet, collectively, are God's Church. Their understanding of God's Word, the Holy Bible (Christ in writing) is by God and the Word sharing thoughts from their minds to the minds of those being called, and of those chosen, giving them understanding of the Bible as they study it.

It is not necessary, essential or desirable that men teach them because as we have just been discussing, they don't have the truth given the disciples and the best they can do is teach their interpretation of the Scriptures. This is why there are so many different Christian churches all having their own and different sets of beliefs.

The only and wholly reliable teachers of those called and chosen are the holy spirits of the God family. Sometimes other converted men can be contributors to the process but all they say always has to be proven by the called and chosen ones against their Bible. ([Are Christians Responsible for Proving all Things?](#))

God's Church is not a glistening, towering building of great beauty high on a hill in which we find the high priest and ministers who have been given to know the truth of God and who are the means whereby all true Christians are to be instructed and who exercise authority over all congregations of Christians in the world. This is the organizational model of the churches of this world. Quite the opposite is the truth when it comes to God's Church.

The Head of the Church is the resurrected and glorified Christ.

Col 1:18 And he 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.

The body of Christ, the Church is God's holy nation of spiritual Israel and its priests are every truly converted Christian who daily offers his life as a living sacrifice to God, dying to his old sinful way of life and striving to live in newness of life.

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:

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 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 God's begotten and yet-to-be-born holy nation and kingdom of priests who will become part of God's Kingdom at Christ's 2nd Coming (for those called and chosen since the Day of Pentecost) and at the time of the Great White Throne Judgment (for those called and chosen during the Millennium and the Last Great Day).

True Christians are now citizens-to-be of God's new Jerusalem (Heb 11:10) that will come down from heaven after the creation of the new heaven and of the new earth (Rev 21:1-2).

Heb 11:10 For he [\[Abraham\]](#) looked for a city which [hath foundations](#), whose builder and maker is God.

This city is New Jerusalem whose walls had foundations and whose builder and maker is God (Rev 21:14; 19).

Rev 21:1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

Rev 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Like Abraham, true Christians are strangers living in a strange land which they are to inherit in the future at the time of the completion of God's master plan of salvation for mankind. They are in this world but are no longer of this world's ways of thinking and acting.

Rom 12:2 And **be not conformed to this world**: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Their status as truly converted Christians was not the result of any man's doing but God's. He is the only one who can renew the minds of men.

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.

True Christians are God's workmanship not men's.

Eph 2:10 For we are his **[God the Father]** workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

True Christians are God's building which is a spiritual house (1Pe 2:5) where truly converted Christians are its lively stones (1Pe 2:5). God's Church is a spiritual house which is invisible to the world.

1Pe 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up **a spiritual house**, an **holy priesthood**, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, **[themselves are the living sacrifices offered every day of their lives]** acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

God is the one who is doing the building of His spiritual temple or Church.

1Co 3:8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.

1Co 3:9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

Paul and the apostles were labourers with God as were the pastors and teachers of the First Century Church but it is God who was doing the building not men who have no ability to enable men's minds to understand God level spiritual truth.

1Co 3:7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but **God that giveth the increase.**

God gives them understanding of the Scriptures and they believe it because they have chosen to believe it. It is not something that can be imposed on them by anyone. Members of God's Church stand by their faith as the Scriptures say:

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

They remain part of God's Church only so long as they choose to continue believing the truth. No one can force them to believe the truth or to remain with it should they decide to no longer follow it because of the absolute free moral agency given mankind by God.

Christians in NT times are taught by the holy spirits of the God family.

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 the Father calls men to salvation (John 6:44) which is something no man can do and God the Word and Spokesman teaches them all things (John 14:26).

Moreover, Christ tells us that Christians are to call no man Father.

Mat 23:9 And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.

God the Father is the one who spiritually begets Christians at the time of

their calling. This is not something that any man can do.

Mat 23:10 Neither be ye called masters: for one is your Master, even Christ.

A master is a teacher and no man is to be called master as there is only one teacher who can give understanding of the Scriptures and that is God the Word and Spokesman. No man can be considered as the spiritual leader of Christians.

All true Christians are taught by God not men.

Joh 6:45 It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, [the called and chosen] cometh unto me [Christ, the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman to all true Christians following His resurrection and glorification by God the Father.]

All true Christians will be taught of God. Firstly, by the holy spirit God the Father who calls men (Every man therefore that hath heard and hath learned of the Father) and then upon being chosen, by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who is the Comforter and the Spirit of Truth.

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 dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

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.

And who is the Comforter that was to come to the disciples and all true Christians?

Joh 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye [the disciples] know him; for he dwelleth with you [Christ dwelt with the disciples while on earth], and shall be in you. [After Christ's glorification (John 7:38-39).]

The Comforter is the Spirit of truth that dwelt with the disciples and which after Christ's resurrection and ascension to His Father would come to the disciples on the Day of Pentecost and be in them as it will be in all true Christians through the ages. Christ will then teach them all things as the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman that will dwell in them with 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.**

God's Government in God's Church

There are some, maybe many, who wonder how can God's government be administered in God's Church without pastors and teachers or in other words without ministers? It is because God's government is not administered through other truly converted Christians or the ministry but by each truly converted Christian having committed himself to obeying God in all things to the best of his ability.

Jer 31:33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, **I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts;** and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

New Covenant Christians have God's law written in their hearts or minds by God, not men. Their calling was from God and their teacher once chosen is the resurrected Christ. The truth revealed to true Christians becomes part of their mind (their heart) and they try to follow it as best they can. This is how God's government is administered in God's Church; it is not nor can be the doing of any man. Any man claiming that failure to obey him is to go against God's government is a fraud.

God's Church is Spiritual

If we take into consideration and have understood everything that has been written so far we should be beginning to more correctly understand what is the essential nature of God's Church in New Testament times.

In the Old Testament, God's congregation or church was a physical nation, Israel. As a physical organization, it had a physical priesthood, a religion based on ceremonial washings, symbolic offerings, a physical holy place, the tent of meeting and once having entered the Promised Land, a physical temple.

God's New Testament church does not have a physical temple, the members of God's Church, individually and collectively are the temple in which the holy spirit God the Father and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman live.

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

The priests are the individual members who offer themselves on a daily basis as living sacrifices dying to their previous life of sin (their old man) and living in newness of life i.e., in accordance with the requirements of God's law to the best of their abilities. God's law is not written on stone tablets but is in their hearts (minds) and God's authority or government is exercised over them by their self-willingly and freely submitting themselves to God's law not through their obedience to any man claiming to represent God's government.

God's Church is all those called and chosen who are remaining faithful wherever they may be in the world whether by themselves or in smaller or larger groups. They are being taught by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who is the mediator of God's New Covenant. Christ called His Church, the little flock (Luke 12:32) which means that relative to all the humans existing at any given time, it will always be small because as Christ clearly tells us, many are called but few are chosen (Mat 22:14) and of the chosen, few are those who remain faithful (Mat 7:13).

Moreover, God's church is invisible to the unconverted world because the difference between a converted and an unconverted individuals is something that is in the mind: an attitude of obedience to God. This is not something visible to the world. And, when Christ sent the disciples to preach He gave them the following guidance.

Mat 10:16 Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

They were not to incite or provoke aggression by others by what they did or said. Today, we would say that they were to keep a low profile to avoid attracting unwanted attention. The disciples and all true Christians are to behave this way. No one is required to carry a sign saying: "I'm a Christian, kick me." Christians are also not required to seek to convert others. If they understand how people are called, they know that they have no ability whatsoever to make men receptive to God's truth. It is only God who through a great one-time miracle can do so for

each individual when being called. God's truth is not made understandable by red-faced ministers with bulging eyes haranguing the masses to give their hearts to Jesus to avoid burning in hell forever nor is it by the clear explanations of the truly converted. It is clear to them but foolishness to the unconverted.

True Christians are to remain in the world while not being part of it i.e., of its ways of thinking and acting.

Joh 17:15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

Joh 17:16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Given these considerations, it should not be all that surprising that Christians are not visible in the world or to each other. It is not something one can outwardly see in an individual as Christians are not to be in the face of anyone trying to convert them nor are they to attract attention by making themselves prominent among the unconverted (Mat 10:16).

This is why God's Church who are those people who have committed themselves to obeying God after having been called is invisible to the world. It is small in number and scattered all over the world. This is its manner of existence since its foundation on the Day of Pentecost. Do you know who are the other true Christians that may be living in your area; or that live in other countries? Can you pick them out in a crowd? Being invisible in the world and unknown to each other, it is not surprising that they are not organized into groups or into a single, massive organization with a headquarters church determining for everyone what is the truth of the Bible.

The truly converted are not headed by a Pastor General who is the spiritual leader of all true Christians around the world and whose pronouncements are to be considered as revealed truth from God. There is also no requirement for the truly converted to form groups or become part of a group. This is not to say that true believers are not to ever get together. Paul states that Christians are to covet to prophesy when they assemble.

Covet to Prophecy

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

All of 1Co 14:26 -40 is talking about how brethren are to behave when they assemble. As you read through these verses you will notice that these brethren are assembling without any minister being present at their meetings where they discuss among themselves the different things they are learning as they study their Bible. There are no objections to their doing so; even, as stated in 1Co 14:39 by God through Paul, brethren are to covet to prophesy, they are to have a very strong desire to do so but there are a few rules they must follow.

Prophesying in this context is what we call today spiritual fellowship.

No one is to speak in tongues i.e., in a language not known by the majority in the assembly unless there be someone to translate (1Co 14:27-28); not all are to talk at once (1Co 14: 29-31); women are to remain silent during the meetings (1Co 14: 34-35); and finally, the teachings of Paul which he received directly from Jesus are not to be subject to discussion or debated in those meetings (1Co 14: 36-37); they were learned directly from Christ who was God in the flesh.

As previously stated, the brethren were encouraged by God through Paul to assemble and discuss among themselves their findings as they studied the Scriptures with the assembly providing feedback based on the Scriptures that confirmed or invalidated individual brethren's findings.

The ultimate requirement and reason for these requirements is that God is not the author of confusion (1Co 14:33) and so, the assemblies of brethren should not be held in such a manner as to create confusion. Ultimately, assemblies and prophesying are strongly encouraged as long as all things are done decently and in order (1Co 14:40) so that all may profit from what is being said and discussed. All this has been covered in great detail in the following study available on this site by clicking on the following hyperlink: [Unity in God's Church](#)

The main thing to notice is that these First Century Church of God congregations were meeting without there being any requirement for the presence of a pastor, elder or teacher and neither was there a central headquarters congregation that set the doctrines that the brethren were to believe. The only requirement was that the teachings of Paul being directly from Christ were not to be debated/discussed in the brethren's meetings.

In NT times, God's speaks directly to His called and chosen ones through the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman (Heb 1:1-2) as they study their Bible.

There can exist and, probably there are in existence as I write this study, here and there in the world, congregations of God's true Church of different sizes but who are invisible to the world and, to a very great extent to each other, and who are engaged in prophesying as explained by Paul in 1Co 14: 26-40 and as mentioned by God in Mal 3:16-17.

Mal 3:16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.

These individuals were not sitting in an assembly headed up by any priest. They were speaking to one another about the knowledge they had received and using it to understand what was going on in their days when the priesthood had departed from the truth they had been given. They were not talking to one another about the weather, how well their garden was growing or what a good week they were having and as a result God says:

Mal 3:17 And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.

Individually and together, congregations of different sizes as well as isolated true Christians all over the world ARE God's Church i.e., those who have been called, chosen and are remaining faithful.

Every truly converted Christian whether alone or part of a congregation, has a personal relationship with the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who teaches him all things i.e., that reveals to him God's spiritual truth as he studies the Bible. It is not something done or which can be done by any man no matter how deeply converted he may be. Every truly converted Christian stands by faith which is the truth that has been revealed to him, that continues to be revealed to him as he studies the holy Bible, that he has chosen to believe and is applying in his life as well as he can.

Conclusion

God's Church are all truly converted Christians either by themselves or in congregations of different sizes scattered all over the world who are faithfully holding on to the truth and spending quality time study-

ing their Bible to increase the truth that they have as required by God (Mat 25: 25-30).

They do not report to a central headquarters congregation with a Pastor General that sets doctrine for the Church and who is considered to be the means used by God to give God's truth to the non-ordained members of God's Church.

The resurrected and glorified Christ is the high priest of God's Church according to the order of Melchisedec; he is the head of the body (God's Church) and he is the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who teaches all things to God the Father's called, chosen and faithful. The priesthood of God's Church are the individual members who offer themselves daily as living sacrifices putting to death their old man or previous life of sin and striving to obey God as well as they can. All Christians have a personal relationship with the holy spirits of the God family. The holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman is the member of the Godhead responsible for revealing God the Father's spiritual truth to those called and chosen by the holy spirit God the Father as they study their Bible. God's temple is not a physical building nor a visible organization of men but individual truly converted Christians in which God the Father and God the Word dwell.

God's Church is a spiritual nation i.e., a nation of individuals who are from all over the world and who believe and are applying the truth that has been revealed to them after having been called and chosen.

The most disconcerting fact to most of you reading this study will probably be that God's Church is not in any significant way a physical organization and that even when there were pastors and teachers in the days of the First Century Church, their role was minimal in the conversion and salvation process. As Paul says, their role could only be helpers of the joy of the brethren (2Co 1:24) as well as having the following responsibilities:

Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

They provided assistance but the understanding of the spiritual knowledge of the Scriptures is only by the holy spirits of the God family.

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

And, Christ is the author and finisher of the faith of true Christians not the ministry.

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 conversion process begins with the holy spirit God the Father calling men and those who are chosen because they commit to obeying God to the best of their abilities until the end of their natural lives then become the responsibility of the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who teaches them all things as they study God's word, the holy Bible. This is why and how Christ is the finisher of the faith of the truly converted.

True Christians wherever they may be in the world, alone or in little groups, together they ARE God's Church; his spiritual house (1Pe 2:5) or spiritual nation of Israel who in the resurrection will become members of God's Kingdom.

Was God's Church ever a physical organization of men? The First Century Church until the death of the apostles and its scattering in the wilderness because of the great persecutions that came upon it, was for a relatively brief time, a physical organization of men. However, these men had been with Christ, were taught by Him and consequently had "the" truth. What they taught was not their personal interpretation of the Scriptures but even then they had no power to compel anyone to believe what they taught. The knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures still occurred by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman to God the Father's called and chosen ones. It was still God the Father who called men to salvation and it was still only Him who could do it.

God's Church exists by the power of the holy spirits God the Father and God the Word. It is not and cannot be the doing of any man even if they had and were preaching the very truth Christ gave the apostles. Nowadays all any man who would be a preacher has is his own interpretation of the Bible or what an organization of men calling itself a "church" tells them to preach. God's Church is spiritual, it exists by the power of God to call men and to open their mind to understand the Bible. It is not and was not the doing of men even in the days of the apostles and even less today, more than 1,900 years since Christ's First Coming to the physical nation of Israel.

