

Your Conversion's Deadly Enemy

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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.

There is a very real and grave danger present in the lives of all truly converted Christians. It is impossible to avoid it and it is one of the hardest battle Christians will ever face. It is ever-present, unrelenting and progressively will cause YOU to lose your salvation. If you do not beware and fail to take action you will surely become one of its many victims. What is this unrelenting force that wars against your salvation, we will explore in this study.

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 (Phi 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 go 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 the Bible, there is an oft-repeated warning to all true Christians about a silent and ever-present element that surely works against conversion and which requires constant effort to prevent it from causing us to lose our salvation.

It is not something that can be avoided or eliminated from our lives. We have to remain vigilant to ensure we have not fallen victim to this ever present element in all our lives.

It is the single, most widespread and effective means of losing one's salvation to which all are exposed and which has been the cause of not a few losing their salvation as a result of its subtle and progressive effect on Christians.

Let's get started examining God's Holy Bible to identify what is this grave danger for all Christians and determine what we can do to prevent it from taking hold of us.

God's Calling

In Rev 2: 1-7 we learn that God's Ephesus Era Church congregations lost their first love of the truth they had been given by the holy spirits of the God family: God the Father and God the Word.

Rev 2:4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

You will recall that when we are first called, we are filled with boundless energy and enthusiasm for the truth. We are like the man who has discovered a hidden treasure in a field.

Mat 13:44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. In order to obtain the treasure, he sells all he has to buy the field containing the treasure.

There is then nothing more important in his life and he is willing to sacrifice all he has to get it. He is like a merchant who had been looking for valuable pearls.

Mat 13:45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:

Mat 13:46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

This merchant had been looking for pearls of great value and when he finally finds one, he sells all he has to buy it. When we are given knowledge and understanding of some of God's truth, it is like discovering a hidden treasure in a field or finding a pearl of great value. We can't believe that these things actually existed, were right before us and that we had never seen them. We are overjoyed and are then ready to sacrifice all we have so we can have this knowledge.

All of our previous goals, priorities, interests, etc. become secondary in our lives as we seek to obtain more of God's amazing truth which had always been there but which we never knew existed. But, this initial great love of God's truth is not something that can be maintained without any effort. Our previous life's interests and goals begin slowly to reassert themselves in our lives and want to again become dominant.

Calling Pitfalls

In the parable of the sower, Christ uses the example of a man sowing seeds to illustrate the different reactions of those who are given to know God's truth (the seeds) and why knowing God's truth is less or more profitable to them. The seeds are sown when we are called and what we do with the truth initially given determines whether we will accept the truth, whether we will lose the truth we have been given, whether it will increase for a time only to be lost and whether it will greatly increase. Christ spoke the parable but the disciples did not un-

derstand it nor did the great multitude who was gathered around Jesus and heard it as made plain by Mar 4:11 which we will get to shortly. Let's start by reading through the parable of the sower.

Mar 4:1 And he began again to teach by the sea side: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land.

Mar 4:2 And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine,

Mar 4:3 Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow:

Mar 4:4 And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.

Mar 4:5 And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth:

Mar 4:6 But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

Mar 4:7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.

Mar 4:8 And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.

Mar 4:9 And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

In order to understand the spiritual message hidden in the imagery used by Christ one had to have the eyes to do so. This is a rather enigmatic statement on its own and requires further explanation which thankfully, Christ gives us in the following verses of Mark 4.

Mar 4:10 And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable.

Mar 4:11 And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know [you have been given the ears] the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:

Mar 4:12 That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.

Traditional Christianity teaches that Christ spoke in parables to make the meaning of what He said clearer to those listening to Him. However, as plainly stated in Mark 4:11-12, Christ told the disciples that the reason why He spoke in parables to the crowds who followed Him was so they would not understand what He really meant.

Why?

It was not given to them to know the mystery of the Kingdom of God. God the Father was not calling them; He was not enabling their minds to understand the God level spiritual truth in the illustrations used by Christ in speaking to them. But, the disciples chosen by Christ were called and Christ would explain the intended meaning of the parable to them in non-figurative language so they would easily understand what He said. And so it is starting with Mark 4:13, Christ, the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman made flesh that dwelt among men and who is the spirit of truth explained the parable to His disciples.

Mar 4:13 And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables?

Mar 4:14 The sower soweth the word.

Mar 4:15 And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.

This kind of situation occurs when God calls someone who becomes interested and starts discussing with husband, wife, relatives, friends and neighbors the amazing things he has suddenly come to understand. The person is amazed and astonished and is eager to share his newly found truth with others which he is sure will understand them as easily and as clearly as he does. But, to that person's great dismay, he is mercilessly ridiculed and mocked by those whom he considered to be close and trusted friends and made to feel like an idiot.

He becomes discouraged, doesn't want to continue being harassed and belittled, he doesn't want to lose wife, friends, etc. so he abandons the truth he had been given and goes back into the world as though he had never known it.

Mar 4:16 And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

Mar 4:17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

This called out person reacts very favorably to learning the truth but as soon as living in accordance with it causes him problems, he quickly ceases his efforts to try to follow it and returns into the world.

Mar 4:18 And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word,

Mar 4:19 And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

This is a Christian who was doing well initially but whose zeal and interest are gradually worn down to nothing as his worldly interests again come to dominate his life. He again becomes so consumed by material and financial pursuits that he has no more time to devote to the truth he has received.

Mar 4:20 And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.

This last Christian is one who spends quality time studying the Bible and who tries to the best of his abilities to obey God in all things. He is not letting the cares of this world overwhelm him leaving him with no time for the things of God. Christians have to self-discipline to prevent their conversion and salvation from being choked off by the cares of this world. In a physical world, material and financial matters need to be attended to but care must be taken that they do not come to dominate our thinking.

All those things mentioned in the parable of the sower are God's perspective on how different people react to their calling but there is also something else which is of great concern especially to Christians who are in it for the long term. As we have seen, new Christians are typically full of zeal and think of themselves as being able to remain on-fire Christians for the rest of their lives. They are determined to obey God, learn more about His truth and don't think anything would ever be so

bad that it could cause them to abandon their conversion.

At this time, in the history of mankind, we are blessed with living in a time of peace, security and abundance, at least in the Western world. Newly-converted members of God's Church don't have to face persecution or lack of food and shelter. We are living in good times where life is easy.

In the days of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), church members' interest was maintained by the thought of the soon coming Great Tribulation which was to come once the Gospel of the Kingdom of God had been preached to the world. Mr. Armstrong, the Pastor General of the WCG saw himself as an apostle specially raised up by God to preach the Gospel to the world. It was thought that once this was done, the end would come, The "end" was taught to be Christ after His 2nd Coming taking over the governments of this world with the resurrected saints thus ending the government of men over men. It would be God ruling over the nations of this world, the reign of man would be over; it would be the end of this present evil world.

Mr. Armstrong died and the WCG became a church of this world with many new so-called churches of God led by former leading men from the WCG springing up after his death. Many are all still eagerly waiting for Christ's Second Coming and thinking about fleeing to the promised Place of Safety to escape the Great Tribulation. Mr. Armstrong now has been dead for some 36 years and still Christ has not returned. This has caused much consternation on the part of many who don't really know any more what to believe.

There are some who never joined any of the splinter groups and who chose to remain at home in order to hold on to the truth taught by the WCG. Time is continuing to go by and nothing is happening. People are getting more and more distracted by the cares of this world but the biggest danger to those Christians wanting to hold on to the truth is the continuing passage of time. As the years go by, and the longest one has been converted, the greater the effort required to be about the business of our Father.

The fervor of our initial conversion has subsided and there is no thought of significant events soon happening in the world. There is a feeling that things are stagnant and there is a sure and gradual loss of interest which if unchecked is deadly. This is the greatest danger looming over Christians. Much self-discipline and ingenuity are required for one to find ways of keeping interested and active in studying the Bible, having

a prayer life, fellowshipping with other true Christians when some are known that want to do so. In most instances, there is no desire and great reluctance to engage in spiritual fellowship. There is no desire to discuss the truths of the Bible in an iron sharpen iron attitude where the goal is not to have one idea triumph over another but rather to critically review in an amicable manner the Bible truths we have discovered through our personal studies and correct any error in understanding that then can come to light.

This process is called prophesying in the Bible and God says that all are to covet prophesying. 1Co 14:39 Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.(See The Ministry and God's Truth for a detailed explanation of what it means for a Christian to prophesy.)

True Christians find themselves on their own and isolated from other Christians. Their challenge is to remain engaged, interested and active in studying the Bible, observing the weekly and annual holy days and in maintaining a prayerful relationship with God. The effect of the passage of time, if we are not careful to prevent it is to cause a cooling down of our initial enthusiasm, a reduction in the time spent studying, meditating, praying, etc. as the cares of this world and material/financial pursuits steal our attention.

If no effort is made, time will cause the most ardent Christian to grow cold, spiritually speaking. They will lose interest to the point of no longer even being able to care about the fact they are losing their conversion. They have become so apathetic they can no longer react like someone drowning going down for the last time, exhausted and no longer able to struggle to prevent his watery death.

Conclusion

Keeping ourselves stirred up and growing in knowledge and understanding of the wonderful truth we have received is the ultimate challenge to all long term Christians and this, in the absence of the support that can be provided by other truly converted Christians who have not grown cold and who are willing to engage in spiritual fellowship. As dispiriting as it may seem but which is however the truth, true Christians are on their own and have been by themselves many times since the foundation of God's Church but Christ reassured us all that He would always be with us.

Mat 28:16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

Mat 28:17 And when they saw him, they worshiped him: but some doubted.

Mat 28:18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Mat

28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

There are times in the history of God's true Church where true Christians have had to flee to save their lives and others endured unimaginable sufferings and died for their faith. They were horrible times which would try the faith of even the most deeply converted Christians. Fortunately, current day Christians are not facing torture and death. Their life and death struggle is in preventing in their spiritual lives the sure, slow, deadening effect of the passage of time. As time goes by there is a natural tendency for people to lose their enthusiasm, especially when there is no evidence of prophecy being fulfilled. In time their calling is no longer their first priority in their lives and they wake up one day to realize that they have been basically back to living in the world as they were before their conversion though continuing to assemble with other truly converted Christians when some are known, keeping the weekly and annual holy day and the 10 Commandments.

We need to ensure we maintain our commitment to the truth and spend the required time and energy to keep ourselves growing in knowledge and understanding of the great treasure of spiritual truth given us by God.

Eph 5:14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

Eph 5:15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

Eph 5:16 **Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.**

Eph 5:17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

Eph 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

Eph 5:19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

Eph 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

Let us make sure we do what is necessary to remain live spiritual embryos that can be born as glorified, immortal, spirit beings in the resurrection at Christ's 2nd Coming or in that of the Great White Throne Judgment when the sheep inherit the Kingdom of God. Let us make our calling and election sure by making the effort required not to lose our interest in God's spiritual truth, becoming spiritually inactive and losing our salvation i.e., perishing in the Lake of Fire which is the second death from which no resurrection will ever be possible.

