

God's Church Today

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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.

What is God's Church today? Is it an organization of men advertising itself on social media, in the newspapers and on television? Is it a group that you can join after having determined which one best meets your personal requirements? Is there more than one true Church with all leading to salvation? Would it be big and wealthy with its leadership living in luxury and traveling around the world in their private jets doing what they call "the work"? How can you know if you are part of God's one true church that was never to die out?

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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There is a tendency to believe that the organization called the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) under the leadership of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong (HWA) represents the way God's church is supposed to exist.

HWA often said that the WCG was not God's church usual way of existence. He would say that the only reason that it was so big and rich was because God had allowed a big church to support a man specially called to be an apostle, himself. This man would have the responsibility of preaching the Gospel as a witness to all nations and after, the end would come.

Mat 24:14 *And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*

HWA shortly before his death, wrote in a co-worker letter dated March 19, 1981 on page 6 that no one would continue his work:

“But as I said at the beginning, some, even in the public press, are beginning to ask, WHO is the “heir apparent,” as the newspapers put it? WHO will rule the Church after Mr. Armstrong?

The answer is, NOBODY!”

After his death in January of 1986, there was the expectation that the end spoken of in Mat 24:14 would soon occur with God's faithful Philadelphia Era saints being taken to the place of safety before the coming of the Great Tribulation.

A new head of the WCG first appeared to be maintaining the teachings of HWA but in a relatively short amount of time, changes began to be introduced which modified what before had been the church's official teachings. At the same time, there was initiated a general relocation of local pastors who had built up relationships of trust with their congregations. The goal was to separate the congregations from pastors with whom they were familiar and introduce new ones. Neither the pastors nor the congregations would then be at ease with each other which facilitated the headquarters administration's efforts to introduce doctrinal changes.

People became frustrated with there being no signs of "the end" coming and of their being taken to the place of safety. The new ministers started preaching new truths never taught by HWA causing confusion. After a few years, they started to appear new, "true" churches of God started by some of the leading men and ministers who had left the WCG. People left the WCG to attend the new church of God which in their view best approximated the old WCG.

These several new churches of God have doctrinal differences which keep them apart. None would accept to come together with one of the other churches of God. They all want to preach the Gospel to the world as soon as their financial means allows them to get on television. Their reasoning is that since "the end" has not yet come, then it is necessary to continue preaching the Gospel. Some now speak in tongues and some have women covering their heads to attend services. Both of those practices are not Biblical if one really understands what the Bible says about these 2 things.

Would God's one true church be composed of several different churches with doctrinal differences that cannot be reconciled? Is it a physical organization of men with a pastor general who determines what its members are to believe? Is God divided and can those who say they are God's Church be divided? Was God's Church ever prophesied to be a large corporation visible to the world with its administrators living in luxury off the money they take from those who follow them?

From the Old to the New Testament significant changes occurred to God's Church with the Gospels and the epistles constituting a transition

point between who was God's nation and who it would be in the future. Another consideration of major importance is that the messages of the Old and New Testament are time specific which is to say, there is a progressing time line running through them. The Bible as a whole cannot be read nor viewed as a temporally static document whose state is for all of it to constantly be fully applicable to the present; in other words, not everything written is equally applicable to all times such as tithing and all the offerings commanded ancient Israel.

Sounds a bit enigmatic? Let's see if things cannot be made clearer.

Physical Israel

The ancient and unconverted physical nation of Israel was [God's church in the wilderness](#).

In the Book of Acts, Stephens, one of the deacons ordained by the apostles is involved in a dispute with one of the synagogue of the Jews

Act 6:9 Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen.

The members of this synagogue were making the following accusations against Stephen:

Act 6:13 And set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law:

Act 6:14 For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us.

Stephen responds to their accusations by saying:

Act 7:35 This Moses whom they [\[ancient Israel\]](#) refused, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge? the same did God send to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel [\[God the Word\]](#) which appeared to him [\[Moses\]](#) in the bush.

Act 7:36 He brought them out, after that he had shewed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red sea, and in the wilderness forty years.

Act 7:37 This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear.

Act 7:38 This is he, [Moses] that was in **the church in the wilderness** with the angel [God the Word] which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:

Act 7:39 To whom our fathers would not obey, but thrust him from them, and in their hearts turned back again into Egypt,

If you read all of Acts 7, you will see that Stephen tells the Jews of that synagogue that they are stiffnecked like their fathers, that they persecuted and killed the prophets and have not kept the law. Their reaction was to stone him.

The point of importance in these Scriptures for this study is Act 7:38.

Act 7:38 This is he, [Moses] that was in **the church in the wilderness** with the angel [God the Word] which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:

Old Covenant Israel was referred to as being God's Church in the wilderness. The word "church" refers to a group of people who has been chosen by God; in this instance, physical Israel. God gave it a priesthood of men who taught and administered God's law and who were responsible for making the offerings and sacrifices brought by the people to the tabernacle of the congregation. God's law was then written on stone tables which were kept in ark of the covenant in the holy of holies

Deu 10:2 And I will write on the tables the words that were in the first tables which thou brakest, and thou shalt put them in the ark.

God's Church in the wilderness was a never converted physical nation as the holy spirit God the Word was not then yet made available to men except the prophets.

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.)

Jesus, is the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman who would come and teach all things to God the Father's called and chosen ones. (See the Preamble to this study at the beginning of this document for more information on this topic.)

Ancient Israel's worship of God could only occur at the physical/material level. This is why God gave them laborious, repetitive, ceremonial and symbolic rituals, offerings and sacrifices. It was a way for them to demonstrate their obedience to God in a physical/material way as without the holy spirits of the God family being made available to them, it was impossible for them to worship God in any other way.

The Jews (the tribes of Levi, Benjamin and Judah) after having gone into captivity added several requirements to the law Israel had received from God through Moses. They made it more severe and demanding as they wanted to make sure they would never go back into captivity for breaking it. These additions to God's law became known as Judaism. Christ at His First Coming to Israel, criticized the Jews for having made the observation of the law a burden.

The Scattering of God's First Century Church

The church that existed in the days of the apostles had a ministry of men.

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

It existed side-by-side with the Old Testament nation of Israel represented by the Jews who had returned to Jerusalem from their Persian captivity. The 2 were at odds with each other. The Jews saw themselves as God chosen people and the custodian of God's truth. The new Christian church that arose on the day of Pentecost was considered to be a false church and was persecuted by the Jews. There also arose a great new false Christian church which persecuted all other religions including Judaism which it considered to be an heresy.

False prophets entered into God's Church and some arose from within.

2Pe 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you,

who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

Act 20:30 Also of your own selves [elders in God's Church] shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

The persecutions became so intense that God's Church had to flee into the wilderness to escape being imprisoned or put to death.

Dan 7:25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall **wear out the saints of the most High**, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

The "he" mentioned in Dan 7:25 is the little horn mentioned in Dan 7:24 which is a great false Christians church which arose and dominated the Roman Empire. The empire had been invaded by the Herulis, the Ostrogoths and the Vandals and was about to fall but for the assistance of this little horn which represents a religious organization under whose direction these invaders were fully destroyed. This is why the Roman Empire came to be known as the "holy" Roman Empire as it was dominated by a great false Christian Church.

Following the death of the apostles and of the men they trained and the scattering of God's Church, much of the truth given the Church by the apostles became lost. There were no printing press, books (manuscripts) were expensive and had to be copied by hand, there was no detailed record of Christ's teachings to His disciples, the Old Testament was written in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek, the general population was uneducated and most couldn't read or write. Knowledge was transmitted principally by word-of-mouth which is not very precise. People remember and repeat things in different ways so that over time and from mouth to mouth, all but a few outstanding requirements such as the requirement to keep the Sabbath and the 10 Commandments became lost.

God's Church then existed in those who had been called and chosen and who were remaining faithful to whatever truth that was not lost. Remember that salvation does not depend on having a comprehensive understanding of the Bible. The servant with the 1 talent lost his salvation not because he had only 1 talent but because he did not do anything to increase it.

God's First Century Chuch as it was originally structured, ceased to exist. The foundational truths given by Christ to the Church were lost to a very great extent. In an ideal situation, these truths would have been passed on from one generation of Christians to another in an uninterrupted manner but this is not what happened.

Consequently, there are no men today who can honestly claim that they have the truths given God's Church by Christ. All they have is their personal interpretation of the meaning of the Bible. The very great diversity of Christian religious groups which supposedly take their teachings from the Bible should make that evident. The teachers of God's spiritual nation are the holy spirit God the Father and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman, not men and it is a process that goes on from the minds of the holy spirit of the God family to the minds of those called and chosen by God the Father as they study the sure word of God, the holy Bible.

Jer 3:14 Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:

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

Eze 34:10 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and **cause them to cease from feeding the flock**; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them.

The only possible true pastors of God's spiritual nation are God and the Word. God created mankind with absolute free moral agency (Deu 30:19) and will not force anyone to be faithful teachers of the truth which we know they don't have. All one has to do is consider how many different "churches of God" now exist who many suppose they have the truth and yet are divided by significant doctrinal differences.

The persecutions caused God's Church to go from an organization of men to one that is wholly spiritual. In the following section of this study we will examine the nature of this changeover.

God's New Testament Church

Christ at His First Coming to the Old Testament nation of Israel spent 3 1/2 years teaching His disciples and proclaiming the Kingdom of God. However, He spoke in parables to the crowds that followed Him so they would not understand the true message hidden in the symbolic language He used.

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

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

After Christ's death, resurrection and glorification on the day of Pentecost, God's New Testament Church began with the holy spirits of the God family being made available to men called by the holy spirit God the Father. Those following their calling would then be taught all things by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman. (See the Preamble to this study for more information on this topic.)

Act 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

Act 2:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

Act 2:3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

Act 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, [spirit] and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

With the coming into being of God's New Testament Church there is a fundamental change in how God is to be worshiped.

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

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

After Pentecost, the worship of God MUST be in spirit and in truth. God's worship can no longer be through physical rituals, ceremonies, animal sacrifices, etc. nor can it be by any physical rituals of men.

With the coming into existence of God's NT church there is a radical change in the priesthood. The priesthood of Aaron would cease.

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?**

A new priesthood not of the order of Aaron was needed because the sacrifices offered under that priesthood never forgave sin.

Heb 10:4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

Heb 7:12 For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law.

In NT times there is a change in the law. The law of physical offerings and sacrifices that could not forgive sin is replaced by God's spiritual law which makes it possible for sin to be forgiven upon repentance and belief. A new high priest was needed who would be not of the order of Aaron but of the order of Melchisedec.

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

Heb 5:10 Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

God's NT spiritual nation of Israel has a spirit being, God the Word, as its high priest, not any man.

There is also only one mediator between men and God.

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

There is no man or organization of men between God's called and chosen ones and God.

The high priest is changed and so also are the priests and God's temple.

1Pe 2:5 Ye [God the Father's called and chosen ones] also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

God's called and chosen ones are the living stones of God spiritual house or temple. There is no physical temple or building which can be said to be God's house.

Act 7:48 Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet,

1Co 3:16 Know ye [God's called and chosen ones] not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

God's saints are a holy priesthood, they are the holy priests of God's spiritual nation. They are holy because of God's presence in them. They offer spiritual sacrifices instead of physical sacrifices.

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

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

NT Christians are delivered from the law of works of the Old Testament. They worship God in spirit and in truth and not by faithfully performing physical rituals and ceremonies.

The daily sacrifice that they offer to God as living sacrifices is their bodies which is to say, that every day they are putting to death their old man of sin and striving to live their lives in accordance with the spiritual truth of God (the new man) made available to them by the holy spirits of the God family.

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.

Eph 4:22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation [conduct] the old man [of sin], which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

Eph 4:23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

Eph 4:24 And that ye put on **the new man**, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Christians are God's spiritual creature or creation; not men's.

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

God is the one who is building his spiritual nation which is His Church.

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

God's spiritual nation is being built by His spirit; not men.

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

Zerubbabel was involved in building God's 2nd temple in Jerusalem. It was a physical temple built by men but God tells Zerubbabel, there is a much more glorious temple to be built and that its building will not be done by the might of or power of men but by His spirit.

God in OT times spoke to His physical nation or church in the wilderness by the prophets but in NT times, He is speaking to His spiritual nation of Israel or church by His Son, the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman.

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;

We have been in the last days since the day of Pentecost. Christ came

at the beginning of God's 5th day of His great master plan of salvation which is to last 7 days. Each day, is a 1,000 years in accomplishment.

2Pe 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

The teachers of God's spiritual nation are the holy spirits of the God family.

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 know him; for he [I, Christ] dwelleth with you [the disciples], and shall be in you. [in them and all true Christians across the ages]

Joh 14:18 I will not leave you comfortless: I [Christ] will come to you. [and comfort 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.

The holy spirit God the Father is the one who 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.

Upon being called, God the Father gives men understanding of sufficient spiritual truth for them, for the first time in their lives, to realize that He exists and that He is to be worshiped by their submitting themselves to Him. They are given a clear choice which they cannot avoid making. Refusing to choose is making the choice not to choose life.

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:

Those who choose life are then taught all things by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman to God's called and chosen ones.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, [spirit] 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.

Man's animal brain is given mind power by a spirit essence placed in it by God which in the Bible is called the spirit of man. This was done for the express purpose of enabling God, a spirit being, to communicate with men, who are physical/material beings for whom spirit beings are unknowable by their physical senses.

1Co 2:11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save [but by] the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but [by] the Spirit of God.

When the holy spirits of the God family come to dwell in men who are called and chosen, their minds become able to understand the God level spiritual truth contained in the Bible as they are revealed to them as they study God's holy bible.

After having followed their calling men begin a lifelong work of growing in knowledge and understanding of the truths of the holy bible and of changing their lives to eliminate as much sin as they can from it and in this way grow as much as is possible for a human being in the perfect, holy, righteous character of Christ.

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

Only the holy spirits of the God family can give men understanding of the spiritual truth of the Bible. The unconverted world has knowledge of the Scriptures but they don't have understanding of them nor can they. People memorize and quote Scriptures but they don't know what they really mean.

Knowledge and understanding are two different things. For example, I may be able to name all the parts of a given machine which is knowledge but I only have understanding when I know how all the parts correctly fit and work together.

Some Historical Perspective

Men have always had an interest in religion and there has always been religions of one kind or another. Some are very ancient and some are relatively recent. Mortal men who know they will die have always wanted to find a way of escaping death and to somehow in some way live forever.

Throughout the centuries of man's existence there has been no lack of men who claimed to have discovered how it would be possible to live forever. They claim to have a knowledge of a being who has lived forever and who can give others the same ability. They become the high priests of this being and appoint other people to become priests to administer the worshiping of this being. Only they know what needs to be done to obtain the favours of this being who will give them immortality. People come to them to learn the way to immortality and will do anything to make sure they don't miss out. The priesthood then become all powerful and uses its great influence over the people to live like kings.

This is the world in which OT spiritual Israel lived and the one in which Christ came the first time and in which we live today. Men continue to set up idols of all kinds with their respective priesthoods and all claim to have the knowledge needed for their followers to become immortal in some way or another. Others, simply promise to save men from extinction because of overpopulation causing worldwide famines, climate change causing people to freeze to death, or perish in unbearable heat or be drowned by rising oceans. The threat is always existential, unless people faithfully do what they say they have to do, most of them or all of them will die.

Those religious groups who claim to be God's Church all claim to be the ones who will be able to save people from the coming Great Tribulation which is always soon coming. Other Christian groups, say to those who follow them that when they die, their soul will go up to heaven where they will live forever in a state of never ending bliss. The unconverted live in a world of unresolvable spiritual confusion (Rev 12:9) as do the formerly truly converted (Heb 6:4-6).

Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which **deceiveth the whole world**: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Heb 6:4 For **it is impossible** for those who were once enlight-

ened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

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

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

False religion has existed since the very beginning of mankind and has been used as a means of exercising power over others and by its leaders to enrich themselves.

What is the big mistake being made, knowingly or on purpose, by those who today are administering big, rich, visible in the world religious organizations including those who have the words "church of God" somewhere in the title of their corporation.

The Great Fallacy

There is a timeline flowing throughout the Bible regarding how God is proceeding in the administration of His great master plan of salvation for mankind.

There was a time when God chose a physical people, the nation of Israel with the intent of having them become his holy nation and kingdom of priest.

Exo 19:6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

At the time when Israel began its existence as a physical nation following God freeing them from their Egyptian slavery and bringing them into the Promised Land, the holy spirits of the God family were not available but by exception to the prophets who wrote the books of the Old Testament. Ancient Israel remained an unconverted nation with whom God could not communicate except through Moses. God spoke to Moses and Aaron his brother, spoke to Israel on his behalf. Moses had a speech impediment.

Exo 4:10 And Moses said unto the LORD, O my Lord, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.

Exo 4:14 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses, and he said, Is not Aaron the Levite thy brother? I know that he can speak well. And also, behold, he cometh forth to meet thee: and when he seeth thee, he will be glad in his heart.

Exo 4:15 And thou shalt speak unto him, and put words in his mouth: and I will be with thy mouth, and with his mouth, and will teach you what ye shall do.

Exo 4:16 And he shall be thy spokesman unto the people: and he shall be, even he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God.

Exo 7:1 And the LORD said unto Moses, See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.

In New Testament times, God no longer has a physical nation to which He speaks through men He has specially chosen. God's nation is now spiritual. Men become part of God's nation by God the Father calling them and God the Word and Spokesman teaches them all things.

Heb 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake **in time past** unto the fathers **[God's physical nation of Israel]** by the prophets,

Heb 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us **[His spiritual nation of Israel]** by his Son, **[the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman]** whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

God's spiritual nation is composed of all those who have been called and chosen by the holy spirit God the Father. God is called the Father because He is the one who spiritually begets or conceives men upon belief and repentance. They become spiritual embryos to be born again by a resurrection from the dead at Christ's 2nd Coming or at the time of the Great White Throne Judgment.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, **[Christ, the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman]** except the Father **[the holy spirit God the Father]** which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Christ was the first one to be born from the dead.

Col 1:18 And he [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.

God the Father called and chosen ones are being taught all things by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman as they pray, meditate and study the sure word of God, God's holy Bible.

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.

Christ tells us clearly that all those who are part of God's spiritual nation will be taught by the God beings of the God family.

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, cometh unto me.

No man can come to Christ unless called by God the Father. It is not nor can ever be the result of any man's doing. NT Christians are being taught by God the Father while being called and by God the Word once chosen. They are all taught by God, not through the intermediary of men.

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

God's called and chosen ones are from the nations of the world, speak a very large number of different languages, are geographically scattered, and are invisible to the world and to each other. Conversion is something that occurs in the mind and is not something outwardly visible to others.

Though being from many different nations spread across the earth, they become God's spiritual nation of Israel when called and chosen by God the Father and remaining faithful.

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:

1Pe 2:10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now

the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy

Those called and chosen by God are from the nations of the world. They were then physical members of the nation they lived in and were they to find themselves together, they would not constitute a nation, they would continue to simply be from other nations and members of them. However, when called and chosen by God, though being from the different nations of the world they become a people, God's people and spiritual nation of Israel.

The link and relationship between them and God is spiritual.

If God's nation is spiritual it cannot be at the same time physical. 1 Pe 2:10 makes that evident. But for being called and chosen, men would still simply be physical citizens of physical nations.

Let's continue our analysis.

God's First Century Church or apostolic church began with a ministry of men. Christ taught His disciples who became apostles and who after Christ's ascension to His Father ministered to those called and chosen by God the Father.

They appointed men to be evangelists, pastors and teachers. Christ gave some to be evangelists and prophets.

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

For a time, God's Church had a ministry of men and this was made possible as they had the truth Christ had taught the apostles but this situation was not to endure. The new true Christianity came under violent persecution from the Jews and then from a great false Christian church. God's saints were scattered as they fled into the wilderness to escape being put to death.

As the apostles and the men they had trained died out, the truth they had became lost for the greatest part.

After the scattering of God's Church there ceased to be a ministry of men as no man had the truth originally given the apostles by Christ. The Bible does not give us any instructions on how men could appoint any other apostles or appoint men as pastors and teachers. Who would be the men that would have the authority to do so and from where would

they have gotten that authority and how could it be known that they indeed had the authority to represent God?

The link between the apostles and the truth they had was broken by the great persecution that came upon God's Church. God's truth is what a true ministry of God is to preach and there are no men who now have it. The very great diversity of Christian churches in the world who supposedly take their doctrines from the Bible shows this to be true. It's the same Bible but they all have different understandings of it. This is also true for the many different so-called churches of God in existence today.

God's Church since its scattering has become spiritual. The means (knowledge of the truth given the apostles by Christ) no longer exist for it to be a physical organization of men. Each and every Christian has a relationship with God the Father through God the Word who is the one mediator between them and God and it is from them that truly converted Christians are given to know the truth; it cannot be from men.

Gal 1:11 But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.

Gal 1:12 For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the **revelation** of Jesus Christ.

Eph 3:3 How that by **revelation** he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,

1Co 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are **spiritually discerned**.

The great error committed by men reading the Bible is to think that the ministerial offices mentioned in Eph 4:11 were to continue and that God's Church would always be a physical organization of men. Men don't have the truth to be able to do so and the Bible does not give us any indication as to how men would have the authority to appoint men as apostles, evangelists, prophets, preachers, teachers, etc.

God once had a physical people with a physical priesthood, ancient Israel. Since the coming of Christ, His nation is a spiritual one which does not exist in a specific geographical location, nation or city. God's nation since the day of Pentecost is a spiritual one whose members are from the nations of the world and who constitute a nation not because they are together occupying a given land but because they individually have a relationship with God no matter where they may live in the world and

whether alone or in small scattered groups.

What are Christians then to do?

Spiritual Fellowship

God's ability to call men and reveal to them the truth is not reliant on there being men acting as apostles, evangelists, prophets, preachers and teachers. The success or failure of God's plan of salvation does not depend on men. Even when there were men that were used by God, any understanding of the truth came not from them but by the action of the holy spirits of the God family. Anyone can have knowledge of the Bible but only God's called and chosen ones can have understanding and it comes from God the Father and God the Word on an individual and personal basis to truly converted Christians as they study God's holy Bible.

This is why God says He is building His Church by His spirit.

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

Christ, a spirit being, is the author (the beginning) and the finisher of the faith of Christians.

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.

Christians are God's spiritual creature or creation.

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

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

They are the temple of God.

2Co 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

They are the living stones of God's temple and God's holy priesthood.

1Pe2:5 Ye also, as **lively stones**, are built up a **spiritual house**, an **holy priesthood**, to offer up **spiritual sacrifices**, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

They are God's royal priesthood.

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

They are the daily sacrifice being offered in God's temple.

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.

All those called and chosen by the holy spirit God the Father and who are being taught all things by the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman as they study God's holy Bible, wherever they may be in the world, by themselves or in little groups of faithful ARE God's Church and spiritual nation of Israel.

As previously mentioned, conversion is something which occurs in the mind and is not visible to others which makes it difficult for truly converted Christians to have spiritual fellowship with other truly converted Christians. However, as John tells us, truly our Christian fellowship is with the Father and Christ.

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

Even when John, an apostle, was among them, when they were having fellowship with him they were having fellowship with God the Father and Christ. John and them all had God's spiritual truth revealed to them by the holy spirits of the God family and when they met and spoke to each other about the truth they had received, they were fellowshipping through each other with the Father and His Son.

When truly converted Christians get together and are speaking to each other of the truth they are discovering in the Bible as the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman reveals it to them, they are effectively having fellowship with God the Father and His Son.

Christians' spiritual fellowship is not with God and the Word through an organization built by a man who gave himself the authority to appoint evangelists, pastors, preachers and teachers.

The difficulty nowadays is coming into contact with other truly converted Christians as conversion is not something you can see just by looking at someone. It is a change of attitude from one of being in opposition to God to one of wanting to obey Him in all things as best we can.

True Christians formerly were hunted down and put to death and today, their viewpoints are certainly not welcome in the public square where all kinds of perversions are being glamorized, celebrated and normalized as simply being lifestyle choices which are just as valid as any other and which all are to uncritically accept.

Christians are to be like sheep among wolves.

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.

Mat7:6 Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

Christians are not to be in the face of the unconverted as they will turn against them and tear them to shreds. They are to live invisibly among the unconverted. They don't have any commission to try to convert anyone. Only God the Father can call men and only God the Word can give them understanding of the truth. None of our clear presentations of the truth will ever convince anyone to accept the truth that we have.

Though a rare occurrence, it will sometimes be possible to get to know someone who is a truly converted Christians and when we do, we are then to have spiritual fellowship with them on days such like on the Sabbaths and the annual holy days.

When Christians come together, God requires that things be done in such a way as to not create confusion.

Covet to Prophesy

There are certain Scriptures which were never used in the WCG and in most likelihood are not being used in any of the many churches of God that have arisen since the end of the Worldwide Church of God. Some of them have to do with prophesying. Let's together explore what God

means when he says that Christians are to not despise prophesying and even, they are to covet to prophesy.

1Th 5:20 Despise not **prophesying**.

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

But, what is prophesying? Fortunately for us, the Bible gives us an example in the 14th Chapter of 1Co.

1Co 14:26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

Christians from the congregations raised up by Paul were assembling and discussing among themselves the truths they had discovered as they studied their Bible. Paul wrote to them to explain how things were to be done when they got together. It is obvious that they were meeting on their own and not under the supervision of anyone.

1Co 14:27 If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.

A tongue here is simply a language that was then spoken and which could be made understandable by others through an interpreter. It was not incomprehensible gibberish which corresponded to no known human language and for which there could be no interpreter. But if there were no interpreter then Paul says that the one speaking the unknown language must remain silent in the church. He is to speak to himself, and to God. And, they were to speak by course which is to say, not all together; it had to be one at a time as all things had to be done unto edifying those who were listening to them as per 1Co 14:26.

1Co 14:29 Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.

1Co 14:30 If any thing be revealed to another that sitteth by, let the first hold his peace.

1Co 14:31 For ye may all prophesy **one by one**, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.

1Co 14:32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.

All Christians have the holy spirits of the God family dwelling in them and all Christians are to quietly and attentively listen to each other when they assemble so that all can profit from what is being said.

Why?

1Co 14:33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

Christians in whom dwell the holy spirits of the God family, when they assemble, are not to create confusion by all trying to speak at the same time and over each other.

1Co 14:34 Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law.

Women are not to participate in the deliberations of the assembly as they discuss their Bible findings.

1Co 14:35 And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.

The problem is not so much speaking as participating in the discussions of the assembly. They can certainly speak otherwise. They are not to remain silent all the time they are in an assembly of the church as though they had lost their ability to speak.

1Co 14:36 What? came the word of God out from you? or came it unto you only?

Paul acknowledges that individual Christians will be revealed truth as they study their Bible but the warning that he gives them is that the truth which he teaches is not to be discussed in their assembly. He received them directly from Christ and they are sure. This is what he further specifies in the following verse.

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

1Co 14:38 But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.

If anyone in the assembly has nothing to discuss at that particular time then he can remain ignorant; he doesn't necessarily have to make up something to present to the assembly.

1Co 14:39 Wherefore, brethren, **covet to prophesy**, and forbide not to speak with tongues. **[As long as there is someone to interpret for the group.]**

Paul's conclusion is that, keeping in mind the conditions he has set for them to discuss Bible truths when they assemble, *they should covet to prophesy which is to say, they should have a strong desire to do so.* Paul's final command to them is given in the next verse.

1Co 14:40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

I think we are now ready to do a comprehensive comparison of the differences between God's OT never converted, physical nation of Israel who was God's Church in the wilderness and God's spiritual nation of Israel. We have covered the applicable Scriptures and I won't repeat them here except where something new is introduced as the comparison is made between God's OT and NT Church of God.

OT vs NT Church of God

God's OT Church in the wilderness was a never converted physical people. Its mediator between God and them, was Moses, diverse physical sacrifices were offered, a priesthood of men existed to offer the sacrifices on behalf of the people, the people's trespasses or sins were forgiven on a ceremonial basis only, God's law was written on stone tablets kept in the ark of the covenant in the holy of holies, God resided in the inner tent of the tabernacle of the congregation, the holy of holies. For certains trespasses there were no atoning sacrifice in the law and the perpetrator died such as in the case for rape, fornication, adultery and murder. Once OT Israel entered the Promised Land there was a physical temple. One became part of God's church in the wilderness by being born into it. Ancient Israel was a physical and visible nation in the world.

God's NT Church's spiritual nation of Israel's high priest is Christ who is after the order of Melchisedec (Christ, an immortal being), the individual members called and chosen by God the Father are God's holy and royal priesthood, the sacrifice they offer is themselves every day dying to their old life of sin (their old man) and striving to live in newness of life (the new man), they are God's spiritual creature or creation, they are the living stones of God's temple, their bodies are the temple of God, their only mediator between them and God is Jesus-Christ, God's law is written in their hearts (minds), it is God's government in their lives, they become part of God's spiritual nation by being called and chosen by God the Father and remaining faithful; they obey God because they have freely, willingly and knowingly chosen to do so.

The members of God's NT spiritual nation of Israel are its holy and royal priesthood, its sacrifice, its temple and God's family, people, nation and kingdom in embryo. They are taught by God the Father while being called and if they follow their calling they are then taught all things by the God the Word and Spokesman.

They were called to demonstrate to God their desire to obey Him as best they can. God's spiritual nation is invisible in the world and its members for the greatest part do not know each other. Conversion is something that occurs in the mind, a change in attitude from being in opposition to God to wanting to obey Him in all things as much as we can. This change of attitude is not something that can be seen by others, not even by other truly converted men. God's saints live invisibly among the unconverted and being invisible to each other, cannot gather to become large organizations visible to the world.

God calls the little people of the world to be His NT spiritual church.

1Co 1:26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

They have no commission individually or as a group to preach the Gospel to the unconverted world. The Gospel is spiritual knowledge which the carnal minded always reject. The Gospel is not the means used by God to call men to salvation.

God's spiritual nation is God's little flock.

Luk 12:32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

Their challenge is to grow the knowledge and understanding given them at the time of their calling by their personal study of God's word, the holy Bible. And they are to grow in the perfect holy righteous character of Christ as much as they can. Whenever it happens that other truly converted Christians are known, they are then to have spiritual fellowship with them. Spiritual fellowship is what God calls prophesying.

God the Father at the time of our calling gives us the information we need to choose between life and death. If we choose life then God the Word teaches us all things as we study God's word, the holy Bible.

God's plan of salvation for mankind is administered by the holy spirits of the God family and its success does not depend in any way on men.

Christ is the author and finisher of the salvation of God the Father's called and chosen ones.

God's NT Church is spiritual because its members are called by God and taught by God the Word with no men being their teachers as they don't have the knowledge to do so.

God is the only who can preach the Gospel to each and every person who has ever lived since Adam and Eve to the time of the Great White Throne Judgment. This includes those who have died in the first 4,000 years of mankind's existence, those alive today who will not be called, those who will be born during Millennium and those who will rise up in the 2nd resurrection to flesh-and-blood at the beginning of the Last Great Day. No man or organization of men could ever do so.

This is why and how God's Church in NT times since the scattering of God's First Century Church is wholly spiritual and invisible to the world.

Conclusion

As has just been demonstrated, God's spiritual nation of Israel is just that, it is spiritual. It is not any man or organization of men's doing. It exists by the work of the holy spirit God the Father calling men and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman to God's the Father's called and chosen ones teaching them all things as they study God's holy Bible.

Individual Christians are to grow in knowledge and understanding of the Bible by their own studies and in fellowship with other true Christians when some are known and they have to grow in the perfect holy righteous character of Christ as much as is possible for a human being to do. Failure to have growth leads to loss of salvation.

Mat 25:30 And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

God's New Covenant spiritual nation of Israel fulfills the requirement for Israel to be God's holy nation and kingdom of priests mentioned in Exo 19:6.

Exo 19:6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

This is something that could never be done by the Old Covenant physical nation of Israel which remained unconverted as they were never given access to the holy spirits of the God family. At Christ's 2nd Coming which

will be to the physical descendants of the ancient nation of Israel, they will be given their opportunity to become part of God's holy nation and kingdom of priests which is God's **spiritual** nation of Israel. Their long dead forefathers will have their chance for salvation in the 2nd resurrection to flesh-and-blood at the beginning of the Last Great Day.

Ultimately, all of mankind will have been called and made to choose between life and death, repenting and believing or to remain in the world. Upon repentance and belief they will become part of God's spiritual nation of Israel and inherit salvation if they remain faithful until the end of their natural lives.

Finally, some may be eager to say that I am in contradiction with this study since I am providing information to others. These would be the priesthood of the many different so-called churches of God who are eager to protect their status as great teachers of God's truth. However, there are several huge differences between what I do and say and what they do and say.

The studies posted on this Web site are expressly not for the purpose of developing a following that I can financially exploit and I am not claiming to have absolute truth that all are to believe. My one and only intention is for these studies to be a means of having spiritual fellowship with other truly converted Christians. It is most likely I will never know any of those who may chance upon these studies and this is not of any importance. My only hope is that they will be of some use to some of those who will read some of them. I very strongly encourage everybody to prove all things with their Bible and if anything I have written is proven to be wrong, then by all means DON'T believe it.

Individual Christians are fully responsible for their own salvation.

The only man anyone can save is himself and no man will be saved by the works of others.

Do study, prophesy and always prove all things, reject what is false and do keep what is good.

Summary of Main Point

- God's Church is Spiritual, Not Physical: The true Church of God is not a physical organization or a visible institution led by men. Instead, it is a spiritual entity composed of individuals called and chosen by God the Father and taught by the holy spirit God the Word (Jesus Christ).
- There are no third being in the Godhead: the "Holy Spirit" is not a separate being in the Godhead but refers to the nature of God the Father and God the Word, who are both holy and spirit.
- God's Church is Invisible: The Church is not a large, visible organization of men but consists of scattered individuals who are spiritually connected to God. Conversion is internal and not outwardly visible.
- The holy spirit (God the Father) calls individuals to salvation, and the holy spirit (God the Word) teaches and guides them in understanding the Bible and living a righteous life.
- No Human Leadership: Since the scattering of the first-century Church, there is no longer a human ministry or leadership with divine authority. The truth of God is revealed directly to individuals by God, not through men.
- Spiritual Fellowship: True Christians may have fellowship with one another when possible, but their primary fellowship is with God the Father and Jesus Christ. This fellowship involves discussing and sharing insights from the Bible.
- God's Plan of Salvation: The success of God's plan of salvation does not depend on human efforts or organizations. It is entirely administered by holy spirits of the God family.
- Individual Responsibility: Each Christian is responsible for their own salvation. They must study the Bible, grow in understanding, and develop Christ-like character. Salvation cannot be achieved through the works or teachings of others.
- Modern Churches of God: Modern churches that claim to be the true Church of God, are divided, doctrinally inconsistent, and financially exploit their followers.
- Prove All Things: All are encouraged to study the Bible for themselves, prove all things, and reject anything that contradicts Scripture.
- Studies not authoritative: The studies posted on this Web site are not

authoritative but are meant to encourage spiritual fellowship and personal study.

- Overall Summary: God's Church is a spiritual, invisible body of believers directly taught by God, with no reliance on human organizations or leadership. Each individual is responsible for their own spiritual growth and salvation.

