

# How Much Knowledge is Required for Salvation?



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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.**

*How much knowledge of the Bible is required for salvation to be possible? Is it possible for someone to come to correctly understand at least some of the truths of the Bible without there being a man or an organization of men to teach them. And, is considerably more understanding required for salvation to be possible? Let's examine what information the Bible, our only sure source of truth, gives us.*



## *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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**J**ust how much knowledge of the Bible is required for salvation? Is it possible to be saved without there being organizations of men (churches) teaching what they consider to be the truth to others? Is it possible to be saved without belonging to one of the great number of Christian churches found all over the world?

What can be quite confusing is that they all say they take their teachings from the Bible but they all have significantly different doctrines which make it impossible for them to come together as one Christian church. How about the many different churches of God in existence today. In addition to the ones who trace their origin back to the Worldwide Church of God there are many others. How many? A quick Google search reveals there are thousands of them.

Religious groups have discovered that the Bible name for the one, true church is “Church of God” so it should not be all that surprising that there are so many who are now making sure to include the words “Church of God” somewhere in the title of their organization.

Given this great diversity of beliefs which supposedly are all based on the Bible can we have any confidence that any of them really know what is the truth? And, can they be considered to be a trustworthy source of information on what the Bible actually says on anything?

If organizations of men calling themselves churches are unreliable, then how can we come to know the truth and how much truth is needed for someone to be saved?

### **Why the Bible?**

Why has the Bible been preserved unchanged unto our days? How is it useful to those who want to know the truth about the origin of the universe and of mankind, of why man, what is his potential ultimate destiny, who and what is God, is there any meaning to the existence of mankind or are they just animals like all the others whose lives forever cease at the time of death, etc.? All these things remain a mystery even to our advanced modern science.

Essentially, the Bible is the physical point of contact between God and mankind. The Bible was written by men under the inspiration of God which is to say it was God who wrote it through men to give them the information they need to know for their salvation. Those who wrote the Bible didn't do so based on their own humanly-devised ideas of who and what is God, etc.? Much of the information contained in the Bible cannot be understood by men without God making this possible for them. This brings us to asking how can God, a spirit being who cannot be perceived by man's 5 physical senses, give men the correct understanding of the Bible?

### **The Spirit in Man**

Man is an animal like all the others created by God with one great difference and that is that the human brain is intelligent as opposed to that of all the other animals created by God whose whole existence is governed by instinct. Instinct is a number of predetermined responses to different situations an animal may encounter in its lifetime. Animals have a very limited ability to deviate from the instinctual responses governing their existence even if it is to save their lives.

But, men's brain have the ability to acquire vast amounts of knowledge and to use it to make decisions based on the situations they encounter; they are not locked into having to respond in specific and limited number of ways. They can analyze the conditions they find themselves in and using their intelligent brains, make a decision as to what is the best way of reacting to it that will be the most beneficial to them.

Of course, it remains a mystery to science how it is that a human brain is intelligent. A physical examination of men's brains reveals that they are not different from that of other animals whose brains in some instances are bigger than men's. And, there seems to be no relationship between the physical size of the brain and how intelligent is a person or other animals.

Why is it that science can't find why it is that human brains are intelligent? How can it acquire and use so much knowledge and from that knowledge develop new knowledge in a seemingly endless way?

Let's start our analysis at the very beginning with the creation of man and in the process we will go through many Scriptures.

Gen 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

The Hebrew word translated soul means: an air-breathing animal.

A first point of interest to us is who is the LORD God who created man?

Eph 3:9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in **God**, who created all things **by Jesus Christ**:

Jesus-Christ before His incarnation as a man was God the Word who dwelt with God in eternity. God created all things by Him.

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

The Word was with God and also had the very same nature which is that He was an eternal spirit being with the power to create all things: spirit and physical beings and the material universe.

Additionally, both God and the Word are spirit beings, and both are holy. Both of them are holy spirits.

**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.

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

God is a holy spirit and the Word who was also God, is also a holy spirit. They are the holy spirits of the Godhead or of the God family.

The holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman accepted to become a man to be the perfect sacrifice for sin.

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

Php 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be **equal** with God:

The holy spirit God the Word was equal to the holy spirit God; they were both God beings.

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

Keeping this knowledge in mind let's go back to the Book of Genesis.

Gen 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, **[with mind power and free will]** after our likeness: **[general physical appearance]** and let them have dominion **[rule]** over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Man would be able to rule the other animals created by God because of all the animals created, man is the only one who would have an intelligent brain, (the ability to acquire knowledge) mind power (the ability to think and use knowledge) and free will (the absolute freedom to make decisions).

Gen 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

So, what gives intelligence to the human brain?

Zec 12:1 The burden of the word of the LORD for Israel, saith the LORD, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and **formeth the spirit of man within him.**

Job 32:8 **But there is a spirit in man:** and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

God placed a spirit in man; in other words, He added a spiritual element or component to man's physical brain that gives it intelligence. This spiritual element is not a spirit being living in the man and who, when the physical body dies, rises up to heaven and continues man's existence. At the time of death, it simply returns to God and the body returns to the dust of the ground from which it was originally formed.

Ecc 12:7 Then shall the dust [man] return to the earth as it was: and the spirit [element] shall return unto God who gave it.

Ecc 3:19 For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity.

The spirit essence added to man's physical brain is what makes it possible for men to know and understand the things of men. They all have the same kind of mind which makes it possible for all of them to know and understand the physical/material world in a similar way which makes it possible for them to relate to each other.

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

But this human spirit doesn't give men's minds the ability to know and understand the things of God. This is why, God's holy Bible remains a mysterious and impossible to correctly understand book unless God adds another spirit to men's minds, the spirit of God.

1Co 2:14 But the natural man [has not had God's spirit added to his mind] 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.

However, truly converted Christians have had God's spirit added to their minds and can know and correctly understand God's spiritual truth.

1Co 2:12 Now we [truly converted Christians] have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

1Co 2:10 But God hath revealed them unto us [truly converted Christians] by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

So, now we know why it is that science cannot and will not ever discover how it is that the human animal brain is intelligent, has mind power and free will. Science is wholly limited to what can be perceived by man's physical senses of touch, smell, taste, sight and hearing. What makes man's animal brain intelligent is a spiritual element or component add-

ed to it. The existence of things spiritual cannot be confirmed by human scientific means and therefore do not exist.

The next question that needs to be answered is how and why is the spirit of God added to men's minds.

### The Link Between Men and God

God is a spirit who is invisible and unknowable to physical and mortal men but mankind was created as the means for God to reproduce Himself, to create other beings like Himself who would be spirit and immortal as He is. So, how can God communicate with mankind?

As we have been examining, God created mankind with a physical brain that has mind power, which can acquire, use and transform huge amounts of information, and which is conscious of its own existence. Science continues to struggle to find an explanation of what is consciousness and self-awareness and how it is only mankind that has it. As we know, it is because of the spirit in man, a spiritual essence from God, that man has consciousness and self-awareness. A self-aware being is one who knows it exists; animals have no ability to do so. They do not and cannot worry about growing old and dying.

The answer to the question of how a spirit being can communicate with man is that another spirit, in addition to the spirit in man, needs to be added to man's physical brain.

1Co 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart [mind] of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

It is not possible by physical means, by men using their physical senses, to know and believe the spiritual truth of God.

1Co 2:10 But God hath revealed them unto us [truly converted Christians] by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

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.

Basically, this verse is making a comparison between how it is men can know and understand in a similar way the physical world in which they live and how it is possible for men to come to know the things of God. The spirit of man limits man to having knowledge of the physical/ma-

terial world; it doesn't give him the ability to know God level spiritual truth. Another spirit has to be added to their minds, the spirit of God. Only then can men come to know, accept and understand God level spiritual truth.

Isa 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

Isa 55:9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Let's continue reading 1Co 2.

1Co 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we **might know** the things that are freely given to us of God.

1Co 2:13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost **[the holy spirit]** teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

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

Can men decide on their own that they want God's holy spirit and force God's hand to give it to them?

Rom 9:14 What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid.

Rom 9:15 For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

Rom 9:16 **So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.**

It is God and only God, not men who decides who He will call and when. Eventually, by the time of the end of God's plan of salvation for mankind, all will have been called and given an opportunity for salvation.

2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not

willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

The only way anyone can repent is that it is God who grants it to them.

Rom 2:4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that **the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?**

Being granted repentance means that someone has been called by God. When God calls someone, He gradually gives him sufficient information to bring him to the realization that He exists and that he has to decide to submit to Him or go back into the world. In other words, he has to repent which is to say, abandon his former life of sin and begin making an effort to obey God in all things to the best of his abilities. This is how God leads men to repentance.

During the Millennium, everyone will be called.

Joe 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

And, during the Last Great Day, all those never called since Adam and Eve will be called.

Isa 65:20 There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed.

At the beginning of the Last Great Day there will be a resurrection to flesh-and-blood which is described in Ez 37. This chapter is speaking about how all those of Israel who were never called (includes all of mankind who lived during the first 4,000 years of mankind's existence and those never called since the day of Pentecost until Christ's 2nd Coming) will live again, be called and given their first and only opportunity for salvation. They will all be given to live for 100 years and then the Great White Throne Judgment will occur. This is why the sinner being a hundred will be accursed which is to say, will lose his salvation.

All who have ever lived will be given their opportunity to be saved. The process begins with being called by the holy spirit God the Father.

### The Conversion Process

The first part of the process is to be called. What does it mean to be called? Is it something that occurs as a result of any man's doing. And, is it that, if certain men were not there to call men to salvation, God's plan of salvation would not be able to continue and would be on hold until the right men came along to continue God's plan of salvation. Is God's ability to call men dependent on men?

Isa 50:2 Wherefore, when I came, was there no man? when I called, was there none to answer? **Is my hand shortened at all, that it cannot redeem? or have I no power to deliver?** behold, at my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness: their fish stinketh, because there is no water, and dieth for thirst.

Isa 50:3 I clothe the heavens with blackness, and I make sack-cloth their covering.

Isa 59:1 Behold, **the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save;** neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

God the Father is the one who calls men and is the only one who can do so.

**John 6:44 No man can come to me, [Christ who after His ascension resumed His existence as the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman] except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I [Christ] will raise him up at the last day. [At the time of the Great White Throne Judgment which occurs at the end of the Last Great Day.]**

Why is it that no man can call another man to salvation? It is because being called is a spiritual process where the holy spirit God the Father by a great one time miracle opens up the minds of men to be able to receive God level spiritual truth. They are then given enough truth for them to come to the point where they know God exists and that they have to decide whether to commit themselves to obeying Him as best they can in all things or to remain in the world.

This is not something that can be done by any man, even truly converted ones.

Being called is the first step in the conversion process and being called means to be given access to Christ who after His ascension is the holy

spirit God the Word and Spokesman. Why is He called the Spokesman? It is because He is the holy spirit God the Father's spokesman to His called and chosen ones.

Heb 1:1 God, [the Father] 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 [His Son] also he [God the Father] made the worlds;

Why is God called the Father? It is because He is the Father of Christ and He is the one who spiritually conceives men or in other words, He is the one who calls men. Those called and chosen are spiritual embryos, they are only conceived, they are not yet born. Upon being called and chosen, they begin a lifelong process of spiritual growth in knowledge and understanding of the Bible and of growth in the perfect holy righteous character as much as is possible for a human being to do.

Why did Christ say that men have to be called of the Father for them to be able to come to Him and why is it that they have to come to Him?

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

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

Christ is the Comforter who was with the disciples and He would come to the disciples and all truly converted Christians through the ages and what would He do.

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.

The glorified Christ would teach all things to God the Father's called and chosen ones; He would give them understanding of the spiritual content of the Bible in the same way He explained to His disciples the spiritual meaning of the parables He spoke to the multitudes who followed Him. We have an example of this in the parable of the Bread of Life which is also why Christ spoke the words of John 6:44 to the crowd that was before Him.

Christ had just told the crowd that followed Him that He was the bread of life which they had to eat to have immortal life; He said that they had to eat his body and drink his blood. The story is found in John 6: 48-58 which you can read in your own Bible. They were totally confused by what He told them because they could only understand what He said on the physical level. They couldn't understand the spiritual message in what He said. They thought they would have to actually eat Christ's flesh and drink His blood and it just didn't make any sense to them.

They could not understand the spiritual message in what Christ told them because they were not being called by God the Father and therefore did not have access to Christ which is to say, He would not explain to them as He did to His disciples the spiritual meaning of what He said.

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

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

Mat 13:36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare [explain] unto us the parable of the tares of the field.

The glorified Christ is the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman, in God's plan of salvation for mankind, who has the responsibility of teaching all things to those called and chosen by God the Father.

Once called and chosen, men begin a lifelong process of changing their lives as much as they can to live it as Christ lived His life while on the earth. This is a goal that can never be reached as a human being but Christians are to never stop trying to do so.

### **Christians Remain Sinners**

The Bible tells us that it is impossible for men to perfectly obey God because of the limitations of the flesh of all physical human beings.

1Jn 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

Even the most zealous and fully converted human being is unable to perfectly keep God's spiritual law. This is what God plainly tells us through Paul who despairs, despite wanting to do so more than anything else, of

not being able to fulfill the requirements of God's perfect spiritual law.

Rom 7:14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

Basically, this means that it is impossible for men to always be successful in resisting sin because as physical beings they eventually weaken and sin. This is what the Bible refers to as being "...our infirmities...."

Heb 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of **our infirmities**; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Let's continue reading Rom 7.

Rom 7:15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I.

Rom 7:16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good.

Rom 7:17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. **[That is his inability to never sin because of the infirmities or weaknesses of his flesh.]**

Rom 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not.

Rom 7:19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.

Rom 7:20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. **[The infirmities of my flesh.]**

Rom 7:21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.

Rom 7:22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

Rom 7:23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

Rom 7:24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

Rom 7:25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

The problem facing Paul and all truly converted Christians is that it is impossible for a human being to perfectly keep God's perfect spiritual law. We can certainly be perfect in our desire to keep God's spiritual law and this is what God expects of us as it is something we can do as human beings but He knows that because of the infirmities or weaknesses of our flesh, it will always be impossible for us to do so. If we could, Christ's sacrifice would not have been required and we could save ourselves by our own strength. As long as we are trying as best we can to come out of sin, God ignores our sins.

Psa 103:10 He hath not dealt with us after [in accordance with] our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

Psa 103:11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. [Whose attitude it is to try to obey Him in all things as best they can.]

Psa 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

Psa 103:13 Like as a father pitith his children, so the LORD pitith them that fear him. [Whose attitude it is to obey Him as much as they can.]

A father does not punish a child when he makes a mistake if it was not intentional and in rebellion against him. A simple example is that of a child who is learning to use a spoon and who accidentally drops it on the floor. There will be no punishment and a clean spoon will be given him so he can keep on learning. It is as though it never happened.

Psa 103:14 For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

God knows we don't have the ability to always resist temptation and that despite our best efforts and sincere desire not to sin, we will sin. God looks on the heart; are we really trying to obey Him as best we can or not. We can fool men but not God.

### **Judging Another Man's Servant**

This brings me to talk about something which is important for us to know. In the many false churches of God, even the ones who are offshoots of the

Worldwide Church of God, there is this erroneous belief that the Pastor General represents God's government on the earth and that failure to agree with what he preaches is being in rebellion against God. Continuing to be in opposition to some of the things he teaches leads to being expelled from what they say is God's Church and losing one's salvation but what does God say to them.

**Rom 14:4 Who art thou that judgest another man's servant?  
to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be  
holden up: for God is able to make him stand.**

In other words, God says "Who gave you the authority to judge my servant? I am the one and the only one, not you, who can decide whether or not he is acceptable or not to Me."

No man has the authority or the ability to declare one of God's servants as having lost his salvation. Salvation does not depend on being a member of any organization of men claiming to be God's Church and not being a part of any of the many false churches of God does not in any way affect our standing with God. If anything, true Christians are NOT to remain with or be part of organizations of men whom they have discovered are not teaching the truth.

Salvation is a process that is originated by God and which is between the called and chosen one, and God the Father through Christ. There is no man or organization of men standing between God's called and chosen ones and God. The salvation process is personal and individual between God and the men He has chosen through Christ.

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

So now, we come to the point in this study where we can begin to answer the question of just how much knowledge is required for salvation. Some, possibly many, think that if there is no ministry to teach them, it will never be possible for them to have enough knowledge of the truth to be saved. Let's see what the Bible says about this matter.

### **Knowledge Required for Salvation**

Is there a specific amount of knowledge of God's truth required for salvation to occur? As previously mentioned, the teachers of God's Church in NT times are the holy spirit God the Father and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman and what they teach is "all things."

Does this mean that there will come a time in a truly converted Chris-

tian's life when they will have a complete understanding of the Bible? God can give understanding of any of the things that are written in the Bible but He does not give a full comprehension of everything written in the Bible to any of those He calls and chooses. No, God will give Christians the knowledge they need for salvation as they study God's holy Bible. Will it be a lot or a little? Let's see what the Bible tells us.

In Matthew 25 we have the parable of the talents which here I will paraphrase and which you can read for yourself in your Bible.

A man travels to a far country and before leaving gives his servants a portion of his goods or talents. A talent is a symbol for the amount of knowledge God the Father gives men at the time of their calling. Some receive a lot of knowledge, 10 talents; some receive 5 talents, and some receive only 1 talent. What were the servants required to do with their talents? They were required to increase them which is to say, Christians are required to increase the knowledge given them at the time of their being called and chosen.

All of the master's servants increased the talents given them except the servant who had received only 1 talent. Here is what Christ, the man or master of the servants in the parable, told him.

Mat 25:26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strayed:

Mat 25:27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

Mat 25:28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

Mat 25:29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

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

Why did the servant with the 1 talent lose his salvation? Was it because he only had 1 talent? No, it was because he did not increase it. God expects truly converted Christians to grow the knowledge given them at the time of their calling.

2Pe 3:18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Pro 4:5 Get wisdom, [knowledge and understanding of God's truth] get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

Pro 4:7 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

Pro 16:16 How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!

Pro 3:13 Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

Pro 3:14 For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.

Pro 3:15 She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.

Christians are in competition with themselves. It doesn't matter how much more knowledge someone else may have, what matters is you growing the knowledge given you. All are held to the same standard, all must grow the knowledge they were given at the time of their calling no matter how much or how little.

It's not how much knowledge you have that determines your salvation but (among many other factors) whether you increased the knowledge given you at the time of your calling.

### How to Have Growth

Bibles are available just about anywhere and often for free. God's holy Bible, not men, is your physical point of contact with God. A truly converted Christian has the holy spirits of the God family dwelling in them.

Joh 14:20 At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

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

And, why do the holy spirits of the God family come to dwell in truly converted Christians.

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

The holy spirit God the Father teaches those being called and once they become chosen, the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman teaches them all things. However, this teaching process is not one-sided; knowledge and understanding requires effort on the part of Christians. God tells them all that they are to study.

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

They are to study God's holy Bible. This is how they grow in knowledge and understanding. Christians are rewarded according to their works not that of others. In addition to increasing in knowledge, they have to make an effort to come out as much as they can of the sin that is in their lives and for following the truth as it is revealed to them by God. No one else can do it for them.

Christians are responsible for growing in knowledge and understanding and in the grace of Christ, His perfect holy righteous character. This is the challenge facing all Christians. Salvation is a personal and individual relationship with God through God the Word, Christ the only mediator between them and God.

Salvation is not a matter of belonging to or following the right group, being in submission to the dictates of a man claiming to be the one receiving truth from God or believing the same things others around you believe. You are on your own with God and the Word and with other truly converted Christians whenever it becomes possible to know some of them.

### **Spiritual Fellowship**

I think it would be a good thing to finish off this study by reviewing what it means to have spiritual fellowship, with whom such fellowship can be had and the manner in which it should be conducted when it is possible to come in contact with other truly converted Christians.

Spiritual fellowship is the very essence of what is God's Church and is

the only way God's Church has been existing since the day of Pentecost.

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

The first thing to know and understand is that there are no men who have absolute truth that all are under obligation to believe. God's truth is not only being revealed to certain men who then are to teach it to God's called and chosen ones. All those called and chosen have dwelling in them the holy spirit God the Father and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman whose role is to teach them all things as they study God's holy Bible.

Not every Christian will come to understand the same truths at the same time as they study their Bible and this is where spiritual fellowship, when possible, can be useful as a means of increasing our knowledge of the truths of the Bible.

### **Prophesying**

What is God saying when He is telling His called and chosen ones that they should not despise prophesying and that even, they should covet to prophesy?

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

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

What!!!

Is it not only certain specially chosen men who can prophesy?

Isn't prophecy always about events that are to take place far into the future which God has revealed to only certain specially chosen men?

Let's see what the Bible says about what it means to prophesy.

In the book of Exodus, God tells us that Aaron is to be a prophet for Moses.

**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.

And how was Aaron to be a prophet for Moses?

Exo 7:2 Thou **[Moses]** shalt speak all that I command thee: and Aaron thy brother shall speak unto Pharaoh, that he send the children of Israel out of his land.

God would have used Moses to be His spokesman or prophet to Pharaoh but 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 4:11 And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?

Exo 4:12 Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say.

Exo 4:13 And he said, O my Lord, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send.

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.

God would speak to Moses and he would be as a god to Aaron. Moses would relay God's words to Aaron and Aaron would speak them to Pharaoh on behalf of Moses and in this way be Moses' prophet or spokesman.

In the book of Nehemiah we are given more information on what is a prophet.

Neh 6:7 And thou **[Nehemiah]** hast also appointed proph-

ets to preach of thee at Jerusalem, saying, There is a king in Judah: and now shall it be reported to the king according to these words. Come now therefore, and let us take counsel together.

In order to understand what is going on here, we will have to go through the following verses:

Neh 6:1 Now it came to pass, when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies, heard that I had builded the wall, and that there was no breach left therein; (though at that time I had not set up the doors upon the gates;)

Neh 6:2 That Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief.

Neh 6:3 And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you?

Neh 6:4 Yet they sent unto me four times after this sort; and I answered them after the same manner.

Neh 6:5 Then sent Sanballat his servant unto me in like manner the fifth time with an open letter in his hand;

Neh 6:6 Wherein was written, It is reported among the heathen, and Gashmu saith it, that thou and the Jews think to rebel: for which cause thou buildest the wall, that thou mayest be their king, according to these words.

Neh 6:7 And thou [Nehemiah] hast also appointed **prophets** to preach of thee at Jerusalem, saying, There is a king in Judah: and now shall it be reported to the king according to these words. Come now therefore, and let us take counsel together.

Nehemiah's enemies were trying to get him to go to them so they could kill him as they didn't want the walls of Jerusalem to be restored. They accused him of wanting to become king of Judah and oppose the king that was ruling over the land, Artaxerxes (King of Persia). Nehemiah had been given permission by the king of Persia to go to Jerusalem and

rebuild the walls of the city and Nehemiah's enemies, who didn't want to see the walls of Jerusalem rebuilt, were falsely accusing him of wanting to proclaim himself as king over Judah.

And here is the point of interest to us, their accusation was that he had appointed prophets to proclaim that there is a king in Judah, namely himself, Nehemiah. This was not true but this is what what they said these prophets were doing?

Who were these prophets? Had they been sent by God? No. Who were they representing, on whose behalf were they speaking? God, no, they were speaking on behalf of Nehemiah. Was their message a message from God? No, their message was supposedly from Nehemiah.

In this context, prophesying meant that some men had been appointed by another man to represent him and proclaim a certain message on his behalf; to be his spokesmen.

Basically, a prophet is someone representing and giving out a message on behalf of another and that other is not necessarily and always, God as we just saw. Let's look at another example that illustrates this point.

In the book of 1 Kings we have the story of the confrontation between the prophets of Baal and Elijah, the prophet of God.

1Ki 18:17 And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel?

1Ki 18:18 And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim.

1Ki 18:19 Now therefore send, and gather to me all Israel unto mount Carmel, and the prophets of Baal four hundred and fifty, and the prophets of the groves four hundred, which eat at Jezebel's table.

1Ki 18:20 So Ahab sent unto all the children of Israel, and gathered the prophets together unto mount Carmel.

1Ki 18:21 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

1Ki 18:22 Then said Elijah unto the people, I, even I only, remain a prophet of the LORD; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men.

Baal was a pagan god that Israel was following rather than the true God. Baal had his prophets who were speaking to the people on his behalf and giving out his message to them. Elijah was God's prophet who was speaking to Israel on behalf of God and giving them God's message.

Both Baal and God had prophets but their messages were quite different from one another. One represented the true God and the other a made-up god from the imagination of men. The point of importance we need to notice is that being a prophet basically means to be someone who represents and speaks on behalf of another to give out that person's message to others. The prophets of Baal were the prophets or spokesmen for the imaginary god, Baal and Elijah was the prophet or spokesman for the one true God.

The word "prophet" does not always refer to a person who has a message given him by God regarding events that are to occur in the future.

And, the word does not always have a religious meaning. As we have seen in the book of Nehemiah, the prophets were men that Nehemiah had supposedly appointed to represent him and be his spokesmen in telling the people that he was the new king of Judah. Their message was not religious but social and political.

The essential definition of the word "prophet" is that it is someone who represents another and speaks on his behalf. God's prophets are given truth by God and they speak it to others on God's behalf.

This understanding of what is a prophet as provided by God's holy Bible will allow us to better understand how God is feeding His flock in NT times.

One last Scripture which is important in understanding what it means to prophesy, is Joel 2: 28 which speaks about the time when all men will be called.

Joe 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

Joe 2:29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

The same message was repeated by Peter in his sermon on the day of Pentecost to the Jews from all nations dwelling in Jerusalem (Act 2:5).

Act 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

Act 2:18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

What does it mean for their sons and daughters to prophesy? Will they all begin to speak about events that will occur in the future? Or, is it that of all those who will have followed their calling when the holy spirit God the Father calls all men, will begin to speak to each other about the amazing truths of God they have been given to know while being taught by the holy spirit God the Father while they were being called.

If we recall what happened at the time of our calling, we couldn't believe that we had never understood the truths revealed to us by God and for a while, we couldn't understand why others didn't also as it was so very clear to us. We tried sharing this new knowledge with our family and friends only to be astounded that none of them believed what we said and even became hostile towards us if we kept trying to explain it to them.

When all are called during the Millennium, those who follow their calling — not everyone will and this is the way it has always been (Mat 20:16; 22:14; 7:13) — they will do what all new converts do and that is speak eagerly to each other about the wonderful truths of God they have been given to know and about which they are completely amazed. They will prophesy.

Those called out and chosen are the only ones with whom God's revealed truths can be shared as they are no longer hostile to it as they were before (Rom8:7). Their minds have been regenerated by the presence in it of the holy spirits of the Godhead.

Tit 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we [who have been called and chosen] have done, but according to his [God's] mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

Those called and chosen who are remaining faithful will prophesy to each other during the Millennium in the same way that those who have

been called, chosen and faithful since the day of Pentecost have been doing and are doing now. Those who will rise up in the 2nd resurrection at the beginning of the Last Great Day, if faithful to their calling, will also be prophesying to each other.

### **Prophesying to Each Other?**

What does it mean in practical terms for Christians to prophesy to each other? How is this done?

As already mentioned, God's is not revealing truth to only certain specially chosen men who are then responsible to teach it to others. God is no longer using men as His spokesman. His spokesman to NT Christians is the holy spirit God the Word.

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;

All truly converted Christians are taught by the holy spirit God the Father while being called and by the holy spirit God the Word if they accept their calling. In the following Scriptures we will review together, we will find an explanation of what it means for Christians to prophesy. To do so, we will focus on an epistle addressed to the Corinthian congregations but which is wholly applicable to all truly converted Christians: 1Co 14: 26-39.

Small congregations of true Christians in the early days of God's Church were scattered and of course, distance and the number of congregations that then existed, made it impossible for Paul to be at every meeting, and even to be at some of their meetings. In the verses we will review, there are no apostle, evangelist or elder acting as a moderator for the group; they are meeting on their own.

Wouldn't that be something that God through Paul would forbid Christians from doing as mistakes could be made in their discussions with no one in authority to correct them? Let's go through 1Co 14: 26-39.

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.

These Christians were meeting possibly on the Sabbaths and on God's annual holy days as well as at other times and they all had something they wanted to share with their group. Paul's only concern was that when they met, things should be done to edify and in the following verses, he tells us what he means.

1Co 14:27 If any man speak in an unknown tongue, [speak in a language unknown to the majority of the group] let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.

1Co 14:28 But if there be no interpreter, [translator] let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

Contrary to popular belief in the world, speaking in tongues is not someone suddenly breaking out in incomprehensible gibberish and saying that this is God speaking through him. It is clear that if there is no one who understands the foreign language being spoken and who can translate for the group, then that person is to remain silent. If what is said can be translated then it means that when speaking in "tongues" is mentioned in the Bible it is referring to one of the world's languages. If a "tongue" is not one of the languages spoken in the world, no one could translate what is being said so the others could understand.

Unintelligible gobbledegook is not a human language which can be interpreted or translated. Incomprehensible noise coming from someone's mouth, it is not to be part of any meetings of truly converted Christians.

The goal is to edify and what is being said must be understood by those who are listening.

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

Here is that word again, prophet. Why is Paul calling true Christians prophets? They are prophets because when they talk to the group about the truths God has given them as they studied their Bible, they are speaking on behalf of God in the same way that God spoke to Moses and Aaron spoke to Pharaoh on behalf of Moses.

The prophets or speakers are to present their Bible study findings to the group and the group is to judge or evaluate their presentation against what the Bible says. Two or three are to speak but of course not at the same time as the goal is always that everybody be able to understand what is being said 1Co 14:31).

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

Notice here that Paul is talking about things being revealed by God to some of those who are sitting silently listening to what is being said. Something in what the speaker said brought something new to the mind of one or more of those in the meeting but what are they then to do?

They are to remain silent and in the following verse, we are told why.

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

There are only to speak one at a time so that the whole group may learn from what is being said.

Something interesting here, truly converted Christians can learn from one another by sharing with other truly converted Christians the truth God the Word has revealed to them in their personal Bible studies. But isn't it that God reveals truth to only one person at a time to prevent confusion and division in what is believed?

No, all truly converted Christians are being taught all things by the holy spirit God the Word as they study their Bible. They are being taught by God; not men.

Joh 6:45 It is written in the prophets, And **they shall be all taught of God**. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

Let's continue with our review of 1Co 14.

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

Each meeting attendee is to respect the other attendees; they all have the holy spirits of the God family dwelling in them and revealing truth to them as they study their Bible in obedience to God's command to study (2Tim 2:15).

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

And in 1Co 14:33 we have the main caution Paul is giving to Christians when they get together. Things are to be done in an orderly fashion so

that their meetings do not become chaotic and no one can profit from what is being said.

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.

This Scripture has been interpreted to mean that women cannot say anything when attending meetings with their husbands. However, it is not so much that they are not allowed to talk at all as they are not permitted to enter into the group's discussion and evaluation of the Bible findings of the group.

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.

Again, what is forbidden in my estimation, is women participating in discussions and seeking to dominate the group or strenuously arguing to validate their points of view on the Scriptures or to engage in heated disputes of certain points with which they personally disagree. It would appear the time for them to debate is with their husbands and not with other members of the group.

In the following verses, Paul introduces another topic which is directly related to the prophesying done by members when meetings occur.

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

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.

If any man sees himself as someone to whom God is revealing truth as he studies God's Bible, and that would be all truly converted Christians, then he has to recognize that Paul's teachings are the commandments of the Lord. They are truths which he learned directly from Christ and they are not to be the subject of debate by the group when they meet or to be placed in doubt by individual Christians.

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

This Scripture, in my opinion, is not clear in what it is saying and is subject to being variously interpreted. It is doubtful that Paul is saying that if any of them do not know that what he teaches is not to subject to

debate then he is to remain in his ignorance. It may be that Paul is saying that if someone participating in a meeting has not at that time had any revelation from God then he does not have to make something up so as to have a contribution to make to the group. For the moment, the actual meaning of this verse remains unclear to me but the next one is very clear.

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

To covet is to have a very great desire for something or to really want to do something. Christians are to have a very great desire to prophesy and they are not to forbid speaking in tongues if there is someone who can translate for the group.

Essentially, prophesying as described in these verses is having spiritual fellowship with other truly converted Christians for the purpose of increasing each others knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures.

All true Christians have the holy spirit God the Father and the holy spirit God the Word dwelling in them and when they engage in spiritual fellowship with one another they are fellowshipping with the Father and the Son who teaches them all things.

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.

When spiritually fellowshipping the following requirements must be observed: first, everything must be done in order; second, no speaking in a language or tongue not spoken by the majority of the group if there is no translator and; three, Paul's teachings are not to be debated by the group as they are directly from Christ. They are absolute truths which are part of the foundational truths of God's Church Christ taught His disciples.

The verses we have just examined also are an indication that there wasn't any requirement for the many little congregations to come together as one congregation on the weekly and annual holy days. And, there is also nothing in the NT that would lead us to believe that individual congregations were controlled by a central organization headed up by Peter the chief apostle who set doctrine for all of them and prescribed what could be taught in them. This is nonsensical in light of the Bible truths we have been reviewing.

Salvation is a personal and individual process between men and God through Christ, their one and only mediator between themselves and God.

### Conclusion

So, how much knowledge and understanding of the spiritual truth of the Bible is required for salvation?

The parable of the talent, tells us that one talent is enough which is to say, not a whole lot of knowledge. What are Christians to do with the knowledge given them? They must by their personal study of the Bible try to increase the knowledge given them at the time of their calling. The Bible is our only sure source of truth; not men or the books written by men about what they think the Bible says. And, Christians must be making an effort to apply in their lives the knowledge given them.

Act 5:32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, [spirit] whom God hath given to them that obey him.

Growing the knowledge given us at the time of our calling and applying it in our lives is how we have and maintain God's spirit in us after having been called and chosen.

In NT times, the most that all truly converted Christians can be is students of the Scriptures. No one can be the great teachers of God's truth which all are to accept. Through spiritual fellowship or prophesying, Christians test the truth they have discovered by their studies of the Bible. Sometimes, what has been discovered will be proven false, sometimes, it will be found to be true, sometimes, the conclusion will be that more study is needed to come to a definite resolution of the matter and sometimes, it will be something that will remain unresolved.

What God wants from His called and chosen ones is their obedience to the truth He gives them by their studies and in fellowship with other true Christians when some are known. There is no need to have a comprehensive knowledge of the Bible. All have to try to grow their knowledge as much as they can but for some it will never be a great amount and that is not a problem as long as they have been trying and have kept on trying to do so until the end of their natural lives.

