

What Do
We Do Now?

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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.

Those called and chosen who want to remain faithful are facing a difficult and very personal choice. Do they continue to associate with one of the many false churches of God that have come into existence since the death of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong or will they put their trust in God rather than in men?

Preamble

Please Note: All comments in brackets [] or in parentheses () as well as highlighted text (bolded and/or in blue) are from the author of this study. Bible quotations are in maroon.

I think it is essential to clarify the question of the “Holy Spirit” before we begin this study. If we say that who or what is the “Holy Spirit” is the question that needs to be answered, we are starting from the assumption that there exists such a being as the Holy Spirit and that it is a separate and distinct being from God and the Word. The question which should be asked is who are the beings the Bible tell us are holy, whose composition is spirit and who have existed eternally? Either the Bible plainly tells us who are the separate and distinct beings that existed from all eternity who created all things (spirit beings and the material universe) or we have no way of getting an answer to our question.

The Holy Spirits of the God Family

The Bible tells us in Gen 1:1 that:

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The Hebrew word translated “God” is “Eloheem” which is the plural form of “Eloah which means “God”. The word “Eloheem” refers to “gods.” It is a uniplural noun like family, group, team, etc. In the beginning, there was therefore more than one God being in existence but how many were there?

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

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In the beginning when God created the heaven and the earth there was God and there was another being with God who was also God, the Word. How can these two beings both be God; isn't that impossible?

The word God indicates the kind of existence of these 2 beings: their nature is to be God in the same way that all human beings have the same human nature. However, having the same nature does not mean that all human beings constitute a single being; indeed, they are all separate and distinct beings with their own personalities. God and the Word have in common the same nature or, level and type of existence, but they are separate and distinct beings just like all human beings who have the same human nature are separate and distinct beings.

God the Father

We read in the Bible that God became a father when the Word became flesh (Php 2:5-8) by being born of woman after having been conceived in the virgin Mary by the holy spirit being called God (Luke 1:35). God from that point on became God the Father and the Word, who was born as the flesh-and-blood Jesus of Nazareth became God's Son or the Son of God. He was both fully God (his father was God and fully human (his mother was the virgin Mary).

Jesus was God the Father's only begotten son at the time when He was conceived in Mary's womb but He was not to be the only one begotten of the Father. God the Father is the holy spirit being in the Godhead that calls men to salvation.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

Joh 18:9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou [God the Father] gavest me have I lost none.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

God the Word and Spokesman

The Bible term for being called is to be spiritually begotten by God the Father (1Pe 1:3). When we are begotten, we become a spiritual embryo that can be born again as a glorified spirit being with eternal life. Those begotten of the holy spirit God the Father who follow their calling are then able to come to the holy spirit being called the Word and Spokesman (John 6:44; 65; 18:9) who then teaches them. The glorified Jesus-Christ as God the Father's Word and Spokesman is the holy spirit being that works in the minds of God the Father's called and chosen ones.

Joh 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Jesus had to first be glorified for it to be possible for Christians to have access to the holy spirit called the Word and Spokesman because the glorified Christ is the holy spirit being who works in the minds of God's saints (John 14:17) in the same way that Satan is the evil spirit that works in the minds of the children of disobedience (Eph2:2).

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

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, [Satan] the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

The holy spirit God the Father calls men and those who follow their calling are then taught by the holy spirit called the Word and God the Father's Spokesman.

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

The Holy Ghost

The expression “Holy Ghost” used in the Bible is in error as there are no ghosts in the Godhead but rather 2 beings that are holy (John 17:11; Isa 6:3) and spirit (John 4:24).

Joh 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, holy, holy**, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

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

These 2 God beings who are holy and spirit are the holy spirit beings of the God family who existed in the beginning at the creation of all things.

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

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

And, the Word who was with God is before all things i.e., *nothing* existed before He created them whether made of spirit or matter.

Col 1:15 **[Christ]** Who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature:

Col 1:16 For by him [the Word who became Jesus-Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

In the beginning before anything either physical or spiritual was created, there was God and the Word who existed before all things and no other being is mentioned as having existed with them. There is no bib-

lical evidence that there ever existed a third, separate and distinct personage in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit” who dwelt in eternity with God and the Word.

God is a Family

Throughout the Bible we can find many verses which clearly indicates the existence of family relations between God and the Word and God’s called, chosen and faithful.

Mat 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Mat 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Joh 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but o to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

God is clearly a family in which many can be ultimately born again by a resurrection from the dead to eternal, glorified spirit life in God’s Kingdom.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he [\[God’s Son\]](#) might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Col 1:18 And he [\[the glorified Christ\]](#) is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Christ was the first to be born again by a resurrection from the dead to be followed by many brethren.

Bible Writing Convention

The practice in the Bible has been to simply use the expression “the Holy Spirit” without indicating which God personage in the Godhead the expression represents. Over time, because of this practice, just about everybody has come to believe that the Holy Spirit is a separate and distinct God being in the Godhead but, there is no single verse or group of verses in the Bible that prove the existence of such a third being in the Godhead. The words “holy” and “spirit” are adjectives that describe the nature of

God the Father and of God the Word i.e., they are holy beings made of spirit.

Whenever we encounter the expressions the “Holy Spirit” or simply the “Holy Spirit” in the Bible we must look at the context to determine of which holy spirit being of the Godhead the Bible is talking about: the holy spirit, God the Father or the holy spirit, the Word and Spokesman.

The Word is the holy spirit being in the Godhead who carries out the instructions and wishes of the holy spirit, God. He is the faithful son who seeks to do his father’s will in all things. He is the member of the God family that did the work of creating the heaven and the earth, who ruled over ancient Israel through Moses and his human successors, He is the one who became a man who suffered and died to be God the Father’s perfect sacrifice for sin and make the salvation of mankind possible, etc. and He came to reveal the Father to those who follow the Father’s calling.

Making Things Clearer

In this study, when referring to God’s spirit who, depending on the circumstances can be the holy spirit personage called God the Father or the holy spirit personage called God the Word and Spokesman, I will not capitalize either of the adjectives “holy” and “spirit”. This is in order to not perpetuate the false impression in the minds of readers that there is a 3rd being in the Godhead called the “Holy Spirit.” Instead, I will refer to either of the holy spirits in the God family as being God’s spirit without capitalizing the word “spirit” to make it plain that we are not referring to a third God being in the God family called the “Holy Spirit” but to one of the 2 God beings in the Godhead.

God’s family is presently made up of 2 holy spirit beings to which are to be added thousands and possibly millions of other holy spirit beings when God’s plan of salvation for mankind has reached its end. The saints that endure in the faith until the end of their natural human life, will be resurrected as individual holy spirit beings in God’s Kingdom when it is established.

There are two studies which you can read regarding what is the “Holy Spirit” and decide for yourself in light of the Bible-based evidence offered if such a being exists in the Godhead. These studies are: [What is the Holy Spirit? Cliff Notes Version](#) and [Who or What is the Holy Spirit?](#)

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Anyone who has been reading through the different studies posted on this site has probably come to understand what is the nature of God's Church in New Testament times.

Those of us who for a time, fellowshipped with the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) under the leadership of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong (HWA) have wondered what was going on when after his death, his chosen successor, began to change the doctrines of the Church. Most of the members of the church stayed on with the WCG while hoping the church would soon be going to the Place of Safety before the start of the Great Tribulation. But the years went by and the Great Tribulation wasn't arriving, and neither was Christ's much anticipated Second Coming. And, more doctrinal changes kept on being introduced by the new Pastor General.

After the death of HWA, there were sermons warning everyone to be on their guards about any changes being made to the Church's teachings no matter how small. The story about the frog being slowly boiled to death as the temperature of the water in the pot was very gradually increased was used as an example of how the acceptance of the introduction of small changes, would lead to more changes which would get bigger and bigger until a complete transformation would be achieved of the church's doctrines.

It used to be church pastors stayed a long time with the same congregation building friendships and earning the trust of those they taught. But, suddenly, contrary to past practices, a massive relocation of pastors and ministers began. The unspoken objective was to separate congregations from their long time and trusted pastors and ministers as this would facilitate the introduction of changes in the beliefs of the

church. Members would no longer have a trusted pastor they could go to and get their views on the changes that were being made. The brethren wouldn't be at ease with the new pastors and wouldn't be sure of how their worries about what was going on in the church would be received by them. So, the tendency would be for them not to bring the changes up with their new pastors and ministers.

New, special deacon and elder meetings were held to work at convincing them of the need for change since the death of HWA. Their cooperation would be useful in facilitating the introduction and acceptance of the doctrinal changes that were to come from the Pasadena headquarters of the Church. What was said in these meetings was never divulged to Church members.

A very slow and deliberate process of change was initiated by the new administration. Sermons and sermonettes began to feel like psychological counseling sessions seeking to ease the anxiety felt by Church members because, since the death of HWA, events were not developing as they had thought they would. In fact, at one of the Feast of Tabernacles celebration, the song by Bobby McFerrin titled "Don't Worry, Be Happy" was played at all the feast sites in an effort to dispel the discouragement felt by many and to elevate their mood that everything would be fine even if HWA was no longer heading up the Church.

It used to be that Church members were discouraged from celebrating Christmas and every year when that time came around, sermons were made about the pagan origin of Christmas and Church activities were held to keep people's minds from thinking about Christmas. But all of a sudden the negativity associated with Christmas began to be toned down. The ministry began preaching about how beautiful was Christmas music, that it had been created by great composers and basically, whenever a person was seen in a Santa Claus suit there was no real need to run off in the opposite direction with our fingers stuck in our ears. Then the church's teaching started to mention and dwell on the great beauty of Christ as a spirit being and His great importance and centrality in God's plan of salvation. The person of Christ became the focus of many sermons and the cross began to appear in the publications of the WCG, first in little fragmented pictures showing a piece of the cross with the hand of Jesus nailed to it and finally, the whole cross.

Then, civil rights icons like Martin Luther King Jr began to be of interest to the Church and was mentioned here and there in sermons and sermonettes. What was the relationship between salvation and the

celebration of Martin Luther King Jr Day was a mystery to some of the members. It was something that had never before been mentioned in the church given the church is not to be involved nor concerned with the politics of this world.

The frog (the WCG attendees) was slowly being boiled to death. Small changes that built on one another were slowly and gradually working at changing WCG members concept and understanding of salvation, Jesus, prophecy, Sabbath-keeping, etc. The goal was to eliminate the teachings of HWA and lead the brethren into believing the new doctrines being introduced by the new Pastor General which were really nothing more than the old doctrines of modern-day pagan Christianity.

The reason why the changes were not suddenly made had to do with the need to keep as many members as possible so as not to put in peril the church's 100 million yearly budget which had a lot of people feeding off of it.

Recent History of the WCG

HWA had taught the Church that God works through only one man at a time and that He was the only one through which truth entered the Church. He used to say: "If it's not from me, it's not doctrine."

All ministers had to periodically attend what was called the ministerial refresher course which required that they travel to the Pasadena headquarters of the Church to review and be updated on any new truth having entered the Church through HWA. The Church had ministers in many different countries, and these refreshers were necessary to ensure all were teaching the right things.

Being a minister in the WCG meant earning a good salary and having a late model automobile provided at the Church's expenses and other perks (See Appendix "A" at end of this document). There was no public detailed accounting of how the WCG spent the very large amount of money it was getting every year. It would not be exaggerated to say minister's financial wellbeing became dependent on the money they received from the WCG. It was their one and only job and source of income. Being suddenly terminated from their position would have been a major disaster for most if not all of them. Their financial survival and the wellbeing of their family would make it very difficult for them to oppose themselves to teachings coming from the Church's headquarters organization.

It was thought by Church members, that the ministry had a superior

understanding of the Bible and that they could be relied upon to be teaching them the truth. If this is indeed true, why is it that these very same preachers participated in spreading the many doctrinal changes which we now clearly know, were nothing more than the doctrines of mainstream Christianity rooted in paganism? Why would they have gone along with the changes?

Money, money , money, money.

Minister's financial security depended on their ministerial salaries and perquisites or perks. Having become dependent on this money, it would not have been an easy thing for them to deliberately walk away from it. Another important consideration is whether they really believed that what they were teaching was the absolute truth of the Bible which doesn't change over time.

Were they only pretending to believe them to have gainful employment as a minister? Or, if they really believed what they taught, did they lack the courage to leave when they realized the Church's new doctrines were wrong. Was not jeopardizing their financial security more important? It would seem that for many, it was.

What about the preachers in the several, doctrinally different new churches of God who once were ministers in the WCG and who are teaching new "truths" never taught in the WCG and which in some cases are the very opposite of what was taught in the WCG? Do they really believe what they are teaching or is it a necessary evil for them to teach heresies to be able to keep receiving a pay cheque?

Money is one of the evils spoken of in the Bible and is something that is especially treacherous when preaching becomes a means of earning a living. Such preachers then find themselves at the mercy of the organization they serve. Their livelihood depends on it. Can they possibly refuse to preach what they are told to preach even if they know it is a distortion or an outright negation of what the Bible says? What happened with the WCG should be a warning to all those who want to hold on to the truth that he who preaches for money will preach what he is told to preach by those who pay him no matter what the Bible says.

This is why preaching for money and the truth of the Bible are 2 basically incompatible things. Those who would want to be preachers of God's truth cannot be trusted to be preaching the truth and to never change what they are preaching as long as their financial wellbeing

and survival depends on satisfying the needs of an organization which pays them.

This is why in the New Testament (NT) teachings of Christ, money is not a requirement for someone to be a preacher. When Christ sent the disciples out to preach, He told them to depend on those who were worthy, which is to say, on those who were receptive to their message, to provide them with the basics of life (food and shelter while they were among them; not money).

Mat 10:5 These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, **Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:**

Mat 10:6 **But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**

Mat 10:7 **And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.**

Mat 10:8 **Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.**

Mat 10:9 **Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses,**

Mat 10:10 **Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat.**

Mat 10:11 **And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence.**

Christ told those who wanted to follow Him that they shouldn't expect to become rich as a result of their doing so, as the Son of man did not have anywhere to lay His head.

Mat 8:19 **And a certain scribe came, and said unto him, Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest.**

Mat 8:20 **And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.**

The unspoken answer was: "Do you really want to follow me given it will not lead to riches."

Those whose livelihood is from preaching have essentially become slaves of the money they earn and this makes them all highly dependent on the organization that pays them. Many of the former WCG ministers can now be found preaching in the several new, churches of God and even, in the mainstream Christianity churches of this world. They have come to fully rely on preaching as a way to earn their living and basically, will preach whatever their employer requires of them so as to have a job that pays well.

In Spirit and in Truth

Since the day of Pentecost, and the great scattering of God's First Century Church there has occurred a fundamental change in the nature of God's Church.

It is no longer a visible-to-the-world organization of men.

How can we know this for sure?

God says that He is a spirit and that He is to be worshiped in spirit and in truth.

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

And God says that in NT times, the true pastors of God's Church who will never abuse them and use them for their own benefit will not be men but Himself, God the Father and His Son, the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman. God the Father and God the Son are the ones responsible for the successful administration of God's plan of salvation for mankind.

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;

And,

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.

As you may recall this was spoken to a crowd that had been following Christ since He had fed them with fish and bread; they wanted more food. Christ told them that He was the bread of life that they had to eat to have eternal life. Of course, they understood what Jesus said as being that they had to eat His body. Why? Because they were not being called by God the Father and since they were not being called by God the Father, Christ could not explain to them the spiritual message in the words He had just told them.

This is why Christ said to them:

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.

So, understanding comes from God the Father giving men access to His Son who will explain to them the spiritual truths contained in the Bible. It does not come from men or organizations of men. This also means that those who can teach men and give them understanding of the God level spiritual truth found in the Bible are God the Father and God the Word.

This changeover of teachers that was to come in the NT had been signaled by God in the book of Jeremiah and in the book of Ezekiel.

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

Eze 34:7 Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD;

Eze 34:8 As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock;

Eze 34:9 Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD;

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. **[A way for them to earn a living.]****

God's Church would no longer be taught by men who despite their best intentions remain unreliable teachers of those truths of God which they have been given to know.

For a relatively short time in the existence of God's NT church, in the days of the apostles, they and the men they trained, taught new Christians but intense persecutions and the death of the apostles and of the men they had trained caused God's Church to cease to be a physical organization. The truth given the apostles by Christ became lost as the link between them and new Christians was broken. From then on, God's Church became wholly spiritual; its teachers would be spirit beings. God the Father would call and choose men and God the Word and Spokesman would teach them all things as they studied God's holy Bible, their only sure source of truth.

The holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman (John 1: 1-2) who dwelled in eternity with God would divest Himself of His Godhead to become a man (Php 2: 6-7) born of woman (Luke 1:35) and subject to the second death for sin to lead a perfect sinless life while being tempted in all ways (Heb 4: 15) and to die as the perfect sacrifice (Php 2:8) for the sins of mankind. He would then go back to His Father who would restore Him to the glory He had before becoming a man (John 17:5) as the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman.

Christ knew He would leave His disciples and He wanted to reassure them. He was the Comforter who was with them and so, He tells them that He will give them another Comforter.

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

Christ tells them, the disciples, that they knew who is the Comforter that the Father would send to them.

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, and shall be in you.

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

And what will the Comforter do when He comes to them and all true Christians?

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 disciples had been taught by the holy spirit God the Word made flesh and after His ascension to His Father they would be taught all things by the holy spirit God the Word who would be in them and all truly converted Christians

There no longer would be any man or organization of men standing between truly converted Christians and God the Father.

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

Is God who created the heavens and the earth and who will create the new heaven and the new earth capable of teaching men or would it be impossible without certain men giving themselves the commission of preaching God's Bible truth to men. As we have just seen in Heb 1:1-2 God is not using men to teach those that are called to salvation and the main reason is that God will not force anyone to do His will.

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

God will not force anyone to be saved; it has to be their own freely taken decision. And, He will not force anyone to be a faithful teacher of the truth. So, it is only God the Father and God the Word who are and can be the pastors who will never abuse the sheep. The success or failure of God's great master plan of salvation for mankind cannot and has never depended on men who despite their best efforts and intentions will always be unreliable because of the weaknesses of their flesh. Men have a poor record of resisting the corruptive influence of money, power and fame.

The Priests of God's NT Spiritual Nation

I'm sure that it will come as a surprise to many that the ministry in God's NT spiritual nation or Church are God the Father's called and chosen ones which is to say, His saints. They are the priests of God offering themselves in daily sacrifice to God as they put forth effort to die to their former lives of sin (their old man) and live in newness of life (the new man). They are the living stones of God's spiritual temple in which God and the Word live.

1Pe 2:5 Ye [truly converted Christians] also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, [God's temple] an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, [dying daily to their former lives of sin] acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

1Pe2:9 But ye [truly converted Christians] 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:

1Co 3:17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye [truly converted Christians] are.

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. [the new man]

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

Rom12:1 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.

God the Word is the author and finisher of the faith of God the Father's called and chosen ones, not men or any organization of men.

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

God's Church a Physical Organization of Men?

We all have had the tendency to see a church as being a visible organization of men. We are physical beings living in a material world and we have minds that enable us to relate to the material things that are in the world. This is why it is harder to see God's Church as being a non-physical thing as it is not real to our physical senses.

Unconverted men have read the Bible and come away with the conclusion that God's church is a physical organization of men in which are found the offices of responsibility mentioned in Eph4:11 (apostles,

evangelists, prophets, teachers, pastors). So, religious groups have appointed men to be apostles, evangelists, etc. If we look out into the world at the many different Christian churches, we see that to a very great extent they all have most if not all of the offices mentioned in Eph 4:11.

The WCG reinforced that image by itself being an organization of men with all the offices of responsibility of Eph 4:11. The organization of the WCG under HWA is the reason why after His death and the end of the WCG, WCG members set out to find another organization of men that looked like the WCG. To their minds, the WCG represented physically what God's Church looked like.

HWA said, often, that the organization of the WCG was not typical nor representative of the way God's Church had existed through the ages but it would seem no one believed what he said.

HWA knew that God's Church was prophesied to be a little flock for many are called, few are chosen and few of the chosen remain on the strait and narrow way that leads to life.

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

Mat 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

Mat 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

Mat 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

So what are truly converted NT Christians to do?

Spiritual Fellowshiping

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 main source of truth for Christians is their fellowship with the Father and his Son. This fellowship occurs as they study God's holy bible and as God works in their minds revealing to them the correct meaning of the spiritual truths it contains.

Truly converted Christians are also to have spiritual fellowship with other truly converted Christians when some are known. Why do I say, when some are known? It is because being a Christian is the result of a change in attitude from being hostile and in opposition to God to one of wanting to obey Him in all things to the best of our abilities. This is not something outwardly visible to others. Christians don't dress in certain ways, don't wear on their clothes symbols of their faith that all can see and are not in the face of anyone seeking to have them give their heart to Jesus. Christians are to be like sheep among wolves; the sheep are not to provoke the wolves so as not to get eaten.

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.

Mat 7:6 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 walk unknown and unnoticed among the unconverted of the world. Do any of my neighbors and friends know that I am a Christian? Can any of the people that see me when I go out shopping, know that I am a Christian? Can you tell who is a Christian in a crowd watching a hockey or a football game? The obvious answer is that you can't.

However, it does sometimes become possible to know someone who is truly converted and whenever that occurs, if possible, spiritual fellowship should occur.

What else can members of God's spiritual nation do?

Despise not Prophesyings

The Bible tells Christians not to despise prophesying; what is that all about?

1Th 5:20 Despise not prophesyings.

Not only are Christians to not despise prophesyings they are to covet to prophesy.

1Co 14:39 Wherefore, brethren, covet [have a great desire to do something, in this instance, prophesying] to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues.

In order to understand what the Bible is saying here, we need to have a correct definition of what it means to be a prophet. In most people's mind a prophet is someone to whom God has given knowledge of events to occur in the future and which he is to make known to certain people. The OT prophets carried messages from God to Israel; God spoke to it by the prophets He sent them.

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

Essentially, a prophet is someone who speaks or relays to others a message on behalf of another person or group of people. The following verses of Exodus 7 give us an example of this process.

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.

Aaron would speak Moses' words to Pharaoh. He would be Moses' prophet.

Exo 7:2 Thou 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.

But, being a prophet doesn't necessarily and always have to do with religion, and it is not always someone sent by God. In the book of Nehemiah, we find an example of prophets who were to give out basically what we would call today, a political message.

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 was overseeing the reconstruction of the walls of Jerusalem, and the enemies of Israel didn't want the wall to be rebuilt. They wanted to get Nehemiah to go to them so they could kill him. Nehemiah knew it and told them he was too busy to go see them. So, they made up the story that Nehemiah had appointed prophets to proclaim in Judah that there is a king in Judah (himself0 hoping this would cause Nehemiah to go to them to deny the story and they could then kill him.

So, here we have an example of where a prophet is simply a man ap-

pointed by another man to deliver a message on his behalf.

In the book of 1 Corinthians, Paul explains what it means for a Christian to prophesy.

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 with other Christians to share with them the latest things they had discovered while studying their Bible without there being a minister to supervise their meetings.

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.

Here we come up against the “tongue” question which has been thoroughly misunderstood by many. The first thing to notice is that the tongue mentioned is an intelligible language spoken by someone, but which is not known by those listening to him. How do we know for sure that a “tongue” is not incomprehensible sounds coming from the mouth of someone that corresponds to no known human language. The very next verse tells us why.

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

A “tongue” is a human language that can be made understandable by others if there is someone who can interpret it for the benefits of those listening. Nonsensical sounds pouring out of a person’s mouth is NOT, as is believed by mainstream Christianity churches, a sign of the presence of the holy spirit in a person. And, if there is no one who can interpret then the foreign language speaker is to speak to himself and to God. In other words, he is to remain silent

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

All truly converted Christians are prophets when they are relating to others, their understanding of certain Scriptures that was given them by revelation from God as they studied their Bible. They are then giving to others a message they have received from God. They are then prophesying.

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.

They were to speak one by one so that everyone could benefit from what they had to say.

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

God is not the author of confusion and their meeting were not to be held in such a way as to create confusion with all trying to speak at the same time.

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.

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.

Women attending their meetings basically, are not to participate in their discussions of the Scriptures but they can otherwise speak.

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.

Here Paul tells them that God is not only revealing truth to them but has also revealed truth to him with this major difference that he was personally trained by Christ. Therefore, the brethren have to recognize that the things Paul writes to them is not and cannot be the subject of debate in their meetings.

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

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

Paul's conclusion is that brethren are to covet to prophesy and not to forbid speaking in tongues if there is someone present in the group who can interpret the language spoken.

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

So, prophesying is spiritual fellowshiping between Christians. And, Christians are to have a great desire to fellowship with other truly converted Christians when some are known.

What to do Now?

Since the great scattering of God's First Century Church truly converted Christians are on their own with the truth God gives them as they study their Bible. For many of us, our understanding of what is God's Church has been shaped by what we have seen in the world and by our experience in the WCG. We then thought of God's church as being an organization of men, highly visible in the world, with ministers, pastors, teachers, etc. with a commission to preach the Gospel to the unconverted world. The WCG as organized under HWA was just like all the other churches of the world and even like the Roman catholic church where all doctrines are set by the Pope.

However, that concept of what is God's Church is wrong. God's church is not being revealed nor given understanding of God's spiritual truth by men. Revelation is from and by God.

God's Church is a spiritual nation invisible to the world. Its teachers are 2 holy spirit beings, the holy spirit God the Father while being called and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman once chosen. Conversion is a process that occurs in the mind and as such is not visible to the world.

What we all need to understand is that our status as Christians is to be students of God's truth through our Bible which is the physical point of contact between us and God. As we study it God works in our minds to reveal to us the meaning of the spiritual truth it contains by sharing thoughts from His mind to our minds. This is the very reason why man was created with mind power. It is to allow God and the Word who are spirit beings to have contact with men who are physical/material beings and to teach them. God and the Word are the teachers of God's NT spiritual nation.

Truly converted Christian are alone with God the Father, God the Word

and Spokesman and God's holy Bible. And, sometimes they can have spiritual fellowship with other truly converted Christians.

Is there really any need for anything else to make your salvation possible?

The obvious answer is NO.

WCG Ministerial Compensation Package

Housing and Parsonage

Many ministers received subsidized or provided housing (sometimes called a parsonage), often rent-free, which was not taxable — this reduced living expenses significantly.

Fleet Cars / Transportation

The church frequently provided late-model vehicles for ministers, with gasoline, insurance, and repairs paid by the church. This could be worth hundreds of dollars per month in value.

Festival Expense Coverage

Festival expenses (attendance at the annual holy days) were often paid by the church for ministers and their families.

Tax and Tithing Advantages

Ministers were typically: Exempt from paying second and third tithes

Often exempt from Social Security tax on ministerial earnings under U.S. tax law (a common practice for clergy in many denominations)

This meant their effective after-tax income was higher than equivalent secular salaries.

Additional Perks

Larger perks, especially for ministers at headquarters, reportedly included:

Free meals during work hours

Children attending church-operated or subsidized schools at reduced cost

Transparency and Secrecy

The WCG refused to disclose specific salaries publicly even into the 1990s, and many records remain internal or unofficial.

Some reports offered conflicting figures or rumors (e.g., claims that leadership salaries exceeded \$100,000 by the 1990s), but these are not verified official figures.

