

Not by Miracles

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By Robert G. Theophilus

THIS BOOKLET IS NOT TO BE SOLD. The information provided is for the benefit of former members of the congregations of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), and of current and prospective members of God's Church.

There are many today who say that had they personally seen Christ's miracles they would have believed. Or if they were to be alive at the time of Christ's 2nd Coming they would believe. But what does Christ tell us is how God's spiritual truth can be believed?

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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During the Great Tribulation and the Lord's day, there will be many extraordinary events taking place. When the 6th seal of the book of Revelation is opened the heavens are rolled back as a scroll and the face of Jesus-Christ who is sitting on right-hand side of God the Father appears in the sky for all to see.

Jesus spoke about this event occurring in the following verses of the books of Matthew and Mark:

Mat 26:64 Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

Mar 14:62 And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

What will be mankind's reaction at seeing this miraculous occurrence. Will all fall on their knees and worship God finally having become convinced by these awesome and terrifying signs in the heaven that God does really exist and that He is to be worshiped? Will there be a mass conversion of the nations?

Rev 6:12 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

Rev 6:13 And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

Rev 6:14 And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

Rev 6:15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

Rev 6:16 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

These verses indicate that men's reactions to the supernatural and extraordinary events that will attend Christ's 2nd Coming cause people to be terrified and to desperately try to find a safe place to hide.

Why?

Understanding God's Spiritual Truth

In John 6, we find Jesus saying things that those who had been following Him found very hard to understand and many were offended and no longer continued to follow Him. Jesus tells them that He is the bread of life and that any man who eats of it shall live forever. And the bread of life is His flesh that He will give for the life of the world.

Joh 6:48 I am that bread of life.

Joh 6:49 Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.

Joh 6:50 This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.

Joh 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

What was the reaction of those who heard Him?

Joh 6:52 The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat?

Joh 6:53 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

Joh 6:54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:55 For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

Joh 6:56 He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.

Joh 6:60 Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard *this*, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?

Those hearing Jesus were greatly perplexed not being able to find any reasonable meaning to what Jesus had just told them. They just could not understand it no matter how much they tried to reason it out in their minds.

What was Jesus' response to their bewilderment?

Joh 6:61 When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, *Doth this offend you?*

In other words, Jesus said: "Does what I just said cause you to no longer believe me because you find it to be so incredible and nonsensical? Jesus pursues by asking them what would you think if you were to see me ascend to where I was before? Would you then believe me?"

Joh 6:62 *What* and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?

In other words, would those that were offended believe Jesus if they were to see Him ascending to His Father where he was before? Would seeing this great miracle cause them to believe the hard-to-understand things Jesus had just told them? Jesus answers His own question and, in the process, tells them, and us today, why they could not understand what He had just said and why they were offended.

Joh 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.

Jesus' answer to them is that they must be able to understand in their spiritual dimension the words He had just spoken. Jesus had not come to teach them but His disciples. The understanding of spiritual truth was given to them and not to the crowds that followed Jesus.

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.

Jesus was the holy spirit being made flesh who was teaching His disciples who were called by the holy spirit God the Father.

Joh 17:12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: *those that thou gavest me I have kept*, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

It is through the holy spirit being called the Word who dwelt in eternity with God and who was made flesh that the understanding of God's spiritual truth is given. Upon repentance and belief of these spiritual truths, flesh-and-blood mortal human beings can become immortal glorified spirit beings i.e., be quickened. It is not by eating bread of any kind and it is not by drinking Christ's blood or eating His flesh. All these things are a figurative or symbolic way of speaking; no one is to literally drink Christ's blood or eat His flesh to be able to have eternal life. The crowds following Christ were not being called and could not understand the spiritual meaning of Christ's words.

In the next verse, Jesus continues explaining to them and us, that among those who followed Him, there were some who were seeking information they could later use to betray Him.

Joh 6:64 But there are some of you that believe not. *[that I am the promised Messiah]* For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.

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.

In John 6:65 Jesus tells us how it is that some are given to know that He is the promised Messiah while others are not. The words that Jesus spoke were spiritual i.e., He was speaking truths that to be understood, required that the holy spirit God the Father be calling them. God the Father would then have been with them and made it possible for them to understand the God level spiritual truth Christ was telling them.

Spiritual truth is truth that is on a higher and different plane than human truth. God's truth are God's thoughts from God's mind which are inaccessible to the mind with which all are born. Being spiritual is not spending a lot of time talking about the Bible and religion; being spiritual is knowing and understanding the mind of God as He reveals Himself to those He calls. It is God the Father who calls men; it is by thoughts from His minds to the minds of those being called. It is not men who call men to God and in the following verses of 1 Corinthians we are told how this process works.

1Co 2:6 Howbeit we [apostles] speak wisdom [God's truth revealed to us apostles by Christ Himself] among them that are perfect: [in their attitude of obedience to God after having been called but without being perfect in their obedience which is not possible for human beings] yet not the wisdom of this world, [those things which the world cut off from God consider to be good and beneficial] nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:

1Co 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

The wisdom of God spoken by the apostles is a mystery to those not called by the Father. It is wisdom hidden from them as to understand it, one must have his mind rendered capable of doing so by the holy spirit God the Father dwelling with them. This wisdom is a great gift from God the Father to those He calls and He gives it to them to enable them to be ultimately glorified. They don't fully have God's nature yet; they are given to know and understand some of God's thoughts and His mind but in the resurrection as the children of God, they will have the very same nature as God their Father.

1Co 2:8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

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

It is impossible for men without the holy spirit God the Father revealing it to them to know any of God's truth or wisdom and none have ever known it or can know it through their physical senses that are wholly limited to obtaining knowledge from the physical and material world.

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

The one and only way for men to know the mystery of the wisdom of God; the hidden truth of God is for God the Father to reveal it to them by sharing his thoughts with men. The presence of the holy spirit God the Father with those being called enables their minds to understand God level spiritual truth. This would be like what happens when a new program is added to a computer which gives it new functionalities.

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

Men know and understand the things of other men i.e., how they think, how they behave, how they live their lives, their joys and sadnesses, etc. because they have the same human spirit which gives them all the same or a very similar understanding of the material world and by which they experience the world in similar ways.

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.

The spirit of the world is the human spirit we all have which gives our animal brains mind power enabling us to know, understand and live in the physical world and with other human beings. But the holy spirit God the Father sharing His thoughts with men when they are being called which is what enables men to understand God's spiritual truth.

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

The spiritual truth of God cannot be explained simply by using the different physical languages of men; it's not a matter of putting the right

sequence of words together and suddenly, those listening begin to understand God's spiritual truth.

Why?

1Co 2:14 But the natural man [those whose minds are not enabled by the holy spirit God the Father to understand spiritual truth] receiveth not [does not accept nor understand] the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. [through the holy spirit God the Father working with man's human spirit; not by God turning men to a new pure language of men.]

1Co 2:15 But he that is spiritual [whose mind has been enabled to understand spiritual truth] judgeth all things, [whether they be good or bad using as His criterion the truth of God] yet he himself is judged of no man. [the ideas and judgments of men who have not been called are not a criterion of truth for a Christian.]

1Co 2:16 For who [among the natural men] hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? [None of them] But we [the apostles and those called and chosen by the holy spirit God the Father] have the mind of Christ. [so that we apostles can instruct you, God's called and chosen ones who can judge all things whether they be good or evil and be judged of no man who is unconverted as he does not have the mind to know and understand God's truth.]

So, as we have been exploring and reviewing, the understanding of God's spiritual truth requires that one be called by the holy spirit God the Father and when the called out one accepts his calling, he becomes chosen and the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman becomes responsible for teaching him all things.

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

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

But is it possible for to come to understand God's spiritual truth by witnessing and experiencing extraordinary and supernatural events in the world like those that will occur at the time of Christ's Second Coming or during the Lord's day?

Signs and Wonders

As has been previously explained, some of the people following Christ but who were not His disciples, were offended by the things He said such as Him being the bread of life that one must eat to have eternal life. So, Christ says the following to them:

Joh 6:61 When Jesus knew in himself that his disciples murmured at it, he said unto them, Doth this offend you?

Joh 6:62 What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?

Would they have believed what Christ had just heard from Christ if they were to see Him rise in the air through the clouds in the sky as He returned to His Father. That would be an astounding miracle but would it enable them to understand in their spiritual dimension Christ's words?

Does seeing miracles lead to men understanding spiritual truth and becoming converted. Christ Himself gives us the answer.

*Joh 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.*

The only way those following Christ would be able to understand what He had just said would be through having their minds enabled to do so. Christ was God in the flesh and the Spirit of truth that dwelt with the disciples.

Joh14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Christ's disciples were called by the holy spirit God the Father.

*Joh 6:39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of *all which he hath given me* I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.*

Joh 17:9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.

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 17:24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

Christ was the Spirit of truth that dwelt with them teaching them spiritual truth. Understanding the spiritual truth of God is what gives life; it is how you can be saved i.e., receive eternal life in the resurrection. The flesh i.e., the mind with which you were born is carnal i.e., it is unable to understand God's spiritual truth. Christ was telling those that heard Him that it was impossible for them to understand His words in their spiritual intent and dimension. The words He spoke to them were spiritual, they were God level truth which require that the holy spirit God the Father be with them or that the holy spirit God the Word and Spokesman be in them for them to be able to understand it.

In other words, great miracles and extraordinary events do not lead people to repent and believe because they do not give people understanding of the spiritual truth of God. Miracles no matter how spectacular do not lead men to conversion as they do not enable men to understand God's spiritual truth.

The Great Tribulation and the Lord's day

There is no lack of individuals who came into God's Church believing that seeing miracles brings people to belief and repentance. They think that those seeing the signs in the heaven, the events of the Lord's day and Christ's 2nd Coming would believe and repent as they think they, themselves would, if they saw those events.

A related false belief is that the purpose of the events of the Lord's day is one last great and desperate attempt by God to bring mankind to repentance to save the greatest possible number of them. They believe that pain, suffering, and terror are tools used by God to bring men to repentance and to refine their character once they repent and believe.

But what about the fact that the holy spirits of the God family only

ever lead; they never force anyone to believe and repent (Rom 8:14)? And, what about the requirement for those to be saved to be beings of character i.e., they have to self-willingly and freely make the decision to submit to God when called and they must continue to maintain their attitude of wanting to obey God to the best of their abilities in all things until the end of their lives with no one or anything forcing them to do so? It must be by their exercising their free will to do so.

Character is the unforced commitment to obey God.

If it would be possible for God to accomplish His goal of reproducing Himself through the human beings He created specifically for that purpose by forcing them to obey Him by sending physical and psychological trials of increasing intensity on them until they could no longer bear it, would He not have done so a long time ago?

But the Bible tells us that men's mind cannot be changed by the infliction of pain; that a man convinced against his will is of the same opinion still. Why?

Deu 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

God commands man to choose and a choice cannot be made if there are powers in the universe that can override the decisions men make. In other words, if there is a power in the universe that can effectively change men's minds against their will then men are not free to choose or to maintain the choices they make and God could not have commanded man to choose (Deu 30:19). Also, this power would be greater than that of God.

The purpose of the Great Tribulation and of the events of the Lord's day is not to bring men to repentance by pain and suffering. It is for other reasons which are covered in the following study available on this site: [Why End-Time Plagues on the Unconverted Nations of the World and on Prophetic Israel?](#)

In Conclusion

As Jesus clearly tells those who have eyes to see and ears to hear, miracles no matter how spectacular are ineffective in bringing men to repentance. The awesome and dreadful events of the Great Tribulation and of the Lord's day are not the means by which God brings men to

repentance. The one and only way men can come to repentance is by being called by the holy spirit God the Father (Rom 2:4; John 6:44; 65) and if they accept their calling they are then given over to Christ who teaches them.

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

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

And what will this spirit of truth (Christ), the Comforter (the glorified Christ in true believers) do?

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.

Repentance is from the holy spirit God the Father (Rom 2:4) and knowledge of God's spiritual truth is by the holy spirit being called the Word and God's Spokesman who for a time dwelt with those chosen to become God's apostles and founding members of God's Church. This same spirit now dwells in all those who have been called, chosen, and are remaining faithful.

Repentance is not by seeing miracles or being subjected by God to pain and suffering.

