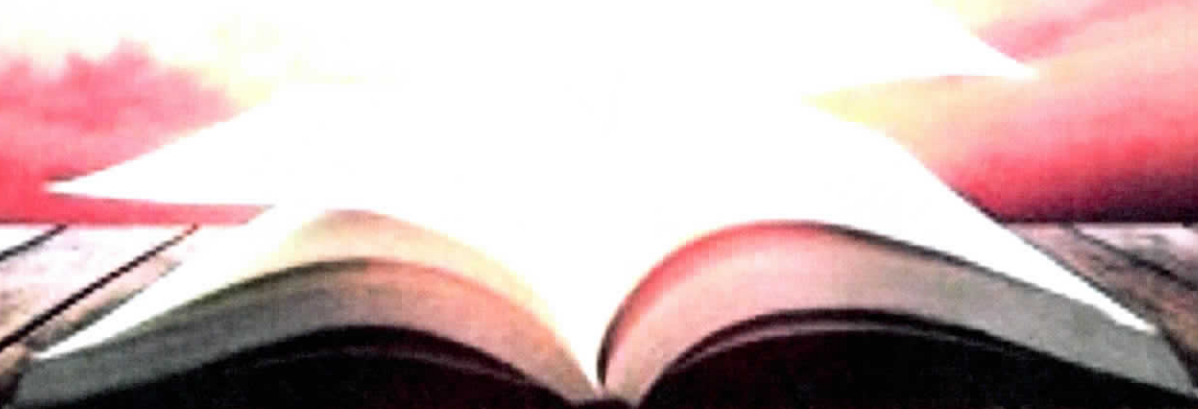




FAITH, LOVE & TRUTH PUBLICATIONS

EVIDENCE OF SALVATION OF THE NEW COVENANT
ACCORDING TO THE GOSPEL OF GOD AND
THE LORD JESUS CHRIST



Introduction

These days, it seems as though most people are going through something unpleasant—whether it be physical sickness/disease, mental illness, marital difficulties, troubles with children, lack of sufficient finances, family deaths, continuous natural and spiritual warfare, etc., and in some cases it is either difficult or next to impossible to relieve the discomfort, suffering, and torment that a person experiences in his particular situation.

When we first became aware of the COVID pandemic, many found this situation to be unbelievable. Aside from AIDS, there had not been a worldwide pandemic since the flu (influenza) and Hong Kong flu pandemics, which occurred during 1957-1958 and 1968-1969, with each lasting only one year. From that time, it would seem that serious pandemics were a thing of the past. Therefore, it is safe to say that the COVID pandemic caught everyone by surprise. Also, since the first occurrence of COVID, several mutations of the disease have occurred, requiring additional vaccines, several new viruses have surfaced, new strains of hepatitis from unknown sources have surfaced even in children, the Monkeypox virus has surfaced worldwide, and the list goes on.

Furthermore, whenever it is believed that control is gained over one disease, another strain or disease that is more potent surfaces, and while some of the new diseases target specific nations (for specific reasons), we continue to experience worldwide pandemics of various new viruses, and new

strains of Influenza, and COVID, while there are *claims* of no cures for ongoing diseases such as cancer and diabetes.

Epidemics and pandemics of diseases and other plagues, their sources, and their causes are mentioned throughout the Bible as forms of pestilence, and are linked to sin and disobedience against the commandments and Word of God.

As believing Christians, we have to wonder just what is happening and why. All of the answers to our questions can be answered in the Bible—the Word of God, and as the Word of God explains, times like these indicate that it is time for us to sincerely and whole heartedly turn to the Lord as never before, according to His written Word. He is the only one who can save us, and He is the only one who can bring real peace and comfort to our hearts and souls.

Background

Historically, many people were raised without church or God in their lives and taught to follow the ways of the world, whether good or bad. Others may have been raised in church as Christians, but were not taught about having any real connection with God. Still others may have been taught to follow rituals and traditions, while others may have been taught to follow sensationalism. Nonetheless, many have believed that God was just some vast, spiritual being that was completely out of their reach, and that they could never experience a real connection or relationship with Him. However, **the Lord, Jesus Christ changed all of that, and made it possible for each of us in the world to have a personal**

relationship with God—if we truly want to. Yet, often the most difficult people to teach, reach, convince, or change, are people who belong to specific denominations, who are convinced that the doctrine of their denomination is infallible. They are unwilling to change their minds, even when their beliefs are proven wrong in the Scriptures of the Bible, which they claim to believe in.

Many preachers of today make mention of a rule, word or doctrine that was told to them by their previous pastor/preacher, and over the years, various erroneous doctrines and practices, have been passed down to people by word of mouth by pastors and preachers who possibly never learned to read or write, and could not read and study the Word of God for themselves. Much of this occurred during slavery times, when it was forbidden for slaves to learn to read and write, and the preachers of that time were more of motivational speakers to the slaves, rather than ministers of the Word of God, and several churches were started by such.

Following the Azusa Street Revival where there was an outpouring of the Holy Ghost Baptism upon pastors, preachers, and others who were seeking the Holy Ghost Baptism as mentioned in the Bible book of Acts, some Pentecostal churches then began teaching that one initially experienced salvation from the Holy Ghost Baptism with speaking in tongues, speaking in tongues was evidence of the Holy Ghost Baptism, and speaking in tongues was the first biblical evidence of a person being filled with the Holy Spirit—this is **not true—the Bible does not teach or support this.**

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

FOR WITH THE HEART MAN BELIEVETH UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS AND WITH THE MOUTH CONFESSION IS MADE UNTO SALVATION. (Romans 10:9-10)

According to the Bible Scriptures, for a person to experience salvation, he needs to first hear the Word of God and the Gospel of Salvation, then come to believe in his heart the Word of God and Gospel that he has heard, and then he can confess with his mouth what he has truly believed in his heart, and realizes his need to repent for his past sins and unrighteousness. As he becomes rooted and grounded in the Word of God, his heart is gradually cleaned from wickedness—wicked thoughts and intentions, and replaced with the Word of God, which causes a change in heart, and a desire toward righteousness. He is then reconciled with God, and begins to live a new life according to the Word of God and the Gospel of Salvation. This is what it means to be reborn—born again of Spirit—reconnecting with God in Spirit. At this time, the well of living water containing a measure of the Holy Spirit is created within the reborn believer.

Several were filled with the Holy Spirit in the Old and New Testaments, and David and the Lord's (true) Prophets were filled with the Holy Spirit. Moses was also filled with the Holy Spirit (Isiah 63:11). As Jesus taught, the Word of God is also Spirit, and Ezekiel and John were told to eat the Word (book).

With the new birth of Christians (being born again, experiencing salvation), they initially receive a measure of the Holy Spirit within their hearts, referred to a well of living water being created within them, and the water symbolizes the Holy Spirit. As they become rooted and grounded in the Word of God and grow spiritually, they receive more and more of the Holy Spirit within them. (John 4:14) There are believing Christians who have experienced true salvation, who have not spoken in tongues, and **according to the Bible, the real evidence of one's salvation is a change in heart, followed by a change in character and conduct, and then obedience to the Word and commandments of God. This is what the Lord, God will be looking for when we stand before Him.**

To continue, there have been churches that encourage strangers—walk-ins and others who may have never even heard of Jesus Christ—to come to the altar and tarry (wait) for the Holy Ghost Baptism in order to become saved. Yet, **according to the Bible, and as preached and taught by Jesus Christ and His apostles, this is not God's order of experiencing salvation, and the Bible does NOT teach or support this.**

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed: and how shall they believe in whom they have not heard: and how shall they hear without a preacher?

And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

So then FAITH COMETH BY HEARING, AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD. (Romans 10:14-15,17)

Bishop Charles H. Mason
(His Azusa Street Revival Experience)

Like other preachers of the time, Bishop Charles H. Mason (1864 or 1866-1961), who later Founded The Church of God In Christ (COGIC), was the son of former slaves, worked as a sharecropper, and was not formally educated in his early youth. Later around 1893, after apparently receiving an education, receiving a license to minister, and attending a Baptist College, Mason became a Baptist Preacher.

Prior to attending the Azusa Street Revival, Bishop Mason, expressed his desire to know the God of the Bible (for himself). Apparently, he was sincere about this as he was willing to take a stand for the Word of God. He did not limit his knowledge of God's Word to a specific denomination or set of beliefs, when although he was a Baptist Preacher, he adopted the teachings of holiness and sanctification from the autobiography of Amanda Berry Smith, an A.M.E. (African Methodist Episcopal) church evangelist. He was eventually expelled from the Baptist Association and later his own church for following God and professing salvation, including holiness and sanctification, as the Bible teaches.

In 1906, in addition to preachers and others, Bishop Mason attended the Azusa Street Revival. Bishop Mason was sent by his church to investigate Azusa Street Revival and the Holy Ghost Baptism, and he desired to receive the Baptism as mentioned in Acts, chapter 2. He was fully aware that the Holy Ghost Baptism was a promise to those who were already believers, and they had been cleaned and sanctified by the Word of God and the Gospel of Salvation. Therefore, they had already been converted (born again of Spirit), justified before the Lord, and were to expect the promise of the Holy Ghost

Baptism—the fullness of the Holy Ghost. He expressed that in a vision, prior to him receiving the Holy Ghost Baptism, similar to Ezekiel and John, he was to (first) eat the whole book—receive the Word of God into his spirit and heart. Once he had received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, he remarked that his soul was then satisfied.

It is important for us to keep in mind that **God is a God of precise order**, and to truly experience, serve, and follow Him, His order as outlined in the Scriptures of the Bible must be obeyed. There are no short-cuts, and we cannot establish our own, man-made methods of doing things pertaining to God. Otherwise, we will be in error. One should experience the spiritual rebirth—to be born again—re-born of the Spirit of God, which is the initial salvation experience prior to receiving the Holy Ghost Baptism.

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. (1 Peter 1:23)

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. (John 3:3, 6,8)

He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, OUT OF HIS BELLY SHALL FLOW RIVERS OF LIVING WATER.

(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.). (John 7:38-39)

. . . The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel. (Mark 1:15)

Now YE ARE CLEAN THROUGH THE WORD which I have spoken unto you. (John 15:3)

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: THE WORDS THAT I SPEAK UNTO YOU, THEY ARE SPIRIT, AND THEY ARE LIFE. (John 6:63)

When one is born again of Spirit, he receives a fill of the Spirit, which is not visible to others with the eye. However, a person has a personal experience within himself, which brings about a change in heart. When one receives the Holy Ghost Baptism, as Jesus said in John 7:38, the rivers of living water—the Holy Ghost—shall flow out of his belly. The experience is similar to a volcano erupting from deep within, filling and baptizing from within, and then erupting to baptize the whole person. The person receives the fullness of the Holy Ghost first inwardly, as the Jesus within a person for comfort, teaching, leading and guiding, and then outwardly as the anointing and spiritual ability for specific service unto the Lord. The

speaking in tongues originates from within him and it is (supposed to be) the Spirit that is giving one utterance (the words, the vocal sounds) and not the person. (Acts 2:4; Romans 8:26-27)

However, regarding receiving the Holy Ghost Baptism and not following the proper order of experiencing salvation, Jesus explained the following:

Neither do men put NEW WINE into OLD BOTTLES: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles and both are preserved.
(Matthew 9:17)

When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.

Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished.

Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation. (Matthew 12:43-45)

The above-mentioned Scriptures explain to us that by not following the correct order of experiencing salvation, and by trying to put the new wine—the Holy Ghost, into an old bottle—our old, sinful selves, without experiencing salvation through belief, faith, and cleaning from the Word of God and the

Gospel, and being full of unrighteousness and wickedness, will cause the wine to run out. A person cannot add to an already completely filled vessel. Due to the mercy of God, a person may experience speaking in tongues, some spiritual sprinkling, and some changes from the Spirit from certain habits such as smoking, drugs, etc. Yet, there may be no genuine changes in his heart and character, and he may continue to conduct himself the same as before, although he may be deceived into thinking that he has been saved.

Furthermore, should the person be delivered from an unclean spirit during this process, unless he submits himself to the Biblical process of Salvation as mentioned above, and continues to fill himself with the Word of God, when that unclean spirit comes back to him and finds no faith or Word of God in his heart, and finds his former house empty, he will go and find seven other devils more wicked than himself and move back in, and the person will end up worse than they originally were—a more wicked heart and character, becoming an even more wicked person than they were before. It is spiritually dangerous for a person to be in this situation—mistakenly believing and claiming to be saved when he actually is not. This explains why there are some who quickly backslide and leave church almost as soon as they arrive, and why some face unjust embarrassment and excommunication from churches that teach erroneous doctrine and practices. This also explains why there are some that profess to be saved, but there are no positive changes in their lives toward learning and doing what is right, and this also explains why there are those who attend church regularly, and likewise, there are no positive

changes toward righteousness in their lives. **This is the deception and trick of the enemy to deceive men in order to damn their souls.**

Yet, the Lord is good and merciful, and always provides for the needs of His people, and we should think of Him as a personal, loving Father who provides for the needs of His children like a Father should. Therefore, **if a person is sincere in his heart and desire for salvation**, the Lord will make sure that he receives the Word of God and whatever else that he needs to become a true believing Christian and genuinely receive salvation, even if and when the correct order many not have been followed.

NOTE: It is crucial to note that **there is a difference between the Holy Spirit that men received in the Old Testament and the Holy Ghost Baptism of the New Testament**, although both are of the Spirit of God. Up until the death, resurrection, and return to heaven of the Lord, Jesus Christ, men received only a measure of the Holy Spirit upon them. **No mere human man can ever receive the fullness of the Spirit of the Almighty God.** However, being the Son of God, Jesus Christ received the Holy Spirit of God without measure—without limits (John 3:34), to do the work that the Father assigned Him to do here on earth among men. The Holy Ghost Baptism is the Baptism—the immersion from the inside out **with the Holy Spirit, in the measure and fullness of the Lord, Jesus Christ**, who was human as well as God. The **Holy Ghost Baptism** is the **Spirit of Jesus Christ in His fullness**, and could not be sent upon men in the earth until His death, resurrection, and return to heaven. Although John the Baptist and his parents, Elizabeth and Zacharias) were **filled** with the Holy Ghost, no one was Baptized—receiving the

fullness of the Holy Ghost, until Jesus ascended back to heaven, so He could send us of His Spirit. The name **Holy Ghost** is only mentioned in the New Testament, under the New Covenant.

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I WILL SEND HIM UNTO YOU.

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak, and he will shew you things to come.

He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. (John 16:7, 13-14)

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.

I will not leave you comfortless: I WILL COME TO YOU. (John 14:17-18)

The Spirit of Truth is the Word of God, and the Word of God manifested in the flesh is the Lord, Jesus Christ.

The New Covenant

With all that is occurring in the world, our nation, our cities, etc., from the wars, tyrannies, lifestyle changes, diversity disputes, to all the new and different sicknesses and diseases, and the many deaths, as Bible believing Christians, we have to know in our hearts that the Lord, God Almighty is watching all of this, and according to His Word, He is not pleased with man, and He has sent or allowed the many pestilences that are occurring everywhere. In His Word, he warns people of reaping the results of their sin (Romans 1:27; Hebrews 2:2), and of the pestilences that He will send upon the earth, nations, and people as judgement because of pride, disobedience, oppression, and sin.

With that said, we should agree that **now is a good time for us to examine and re-examine ourselves against the Word of God to assure ourselves that we are indeed living and operating in agreement with the Lord and His Word.**

Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from Iniquity. (2 Timothy 2:19)

The Bible lists the fruit (evidence) of the indwelling Holy Spirit within us as follows:

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23) KJV

The Living Bible gives a clearer picture:

But WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT CONTROLS OUR LIVES he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control; and here there is no conflict with Jewish laws. (Galatians 5:22-23) TLB

Yet, the Bible also lists the works of the flesh, which being willful, deliberate, and exhibited on an ongoing basis, and not mistakes, are evidence of the absence of the indwelling Holy Spirit within us and lack of salvation as follows:

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. (Galatians 5:19-21) KJV

The Living Bible gives a clearer picture:

But WHEN YOU FOLLOW YOUR OWN WRONG INCLINATIONS, you lives will produce these evil results: impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, idolatry, spiritism (that is encouraging the activity of demons), hatred and fighting, jealousy and anger, constant effort to get the best for yourself, complaints and criticisms, the feeling that everyone else is wrong except those in your own little group-and there will be wrong doctrine, envy, murder, drunkenness, wild parties, and all that sort of thing. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. (Galatians 5:19-21) TLB

As believing Christians, are we living and operating in the **fruit of the Spirit?** Or are we living and operating according to the **works of the flesh?**

In the Old Testament, under the Old Covenant, man was provided with a set of laws, some of which he could not obey merely in flesh—in his own natural ability. So, from the beginning, the Lord spoke of a New and better Covenant which would be received and sown inwardly within the hearts of man.

Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:

Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt: which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord:

But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their INWARD parts, and WRITE IT IN THEIR HEARTS; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. (Jeremiah 31:31-33)

As believing Christians, have we merely memorized Scriptures? Do we only have knowledge of the Scriptures in our minds? Or do we have the Scriptures **sown in our hearts**? Having the Word of God sown and baptized in our hearts brings about change in our lives toward the Lord and others, and toward His righteousness, salvation, and obedience to the Word of God.

It is impossible to truly experience salvation, obey, follow, and serve the Lord without the indwelling Word of God and His Spirit sown in one's heart, and we are given proof of this in the Old Testament. For the most part, most of the people lacked the fear and reverence of God, they did not feel any genuine love for God, they were unfaithful, they continuously involved themselves in idolatry, they continuously murmured and complained, and they were only focused on their fleshly lusts, and the natural.

In contrast, the specific people that God chose as His own were inwardly filled with His Word and Holy Spirit, in their **hearts**, which enabled them to communicate with Him, have a relationship with Him, remain faithful to Him, and do the work that He assigned them to do. They did not merely have an **outward** anointing of the Spirit upon them for service, they had the Word (which is Spirit) and the **indwelling Spirit sown in their hearts**, which caused them to live and operate in righteousness toward

the Lord and others, in addition to perform service unto the Lord and His people. Abraham was called the friend of God (James 2:23), the Lord spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend, and God considered Moses as faithful in all His house (Exodus 33:11, Numbers 12:7-8), and David was considered a man after God's own heart.

So, what is the difference between the **outward anointing (only)**—the Spirit coming **upon** someone for service, and in addition to the outward anointing, the **inward filling and anointing** dwelling of the Holy Spirit within someone's **heart**?

Saul vs. David

King Saul is an example of someone with only an outward anointing of the Spirit for service. Although anointed as King of the people of God, and commanded to obey God, Saul manifested the epitome of pride, arrogance, self-will, rebellion, stubbornness, envy, hatred, cruelty, and cold-blooded murder, all for his own selfishness and to maintain his position as king, even when God had rejected him.

He apparently came to think of himself as a god, as he illegally intruded into the God ordained office of another (Samuel, Priest & Prophet of God), and usurped the God ordained, given, and rightful authority of another (offering the sacrifice, and not waiting for Samuel). While Saul was quick to intrude into Samuel's office and offer the sacrifice, which only Samuel as priest was to do, he failed to operate in his own office as king, by failing to obey God's Words through Samuel, failing to obey God's commandment to completely destroy the enemy—King Agag and his people, the Amalekites—all the

people and all of their possessions. Instead of obeying God's commandment, Saul kept king Agag alive, and kept the best of the livestock and possessions of the Amalekites. This displeased the Lord, caused Him to repent of setting up Saul to be king, and caused Him to reject Saul as king (1 Samuel 15:1-11). Following the disobedience and rebellion of Saul, the Lord sent Samuel to anoint David as king, to eventually replace Saul, and as Saul neglected to do his job as commanded by God in destroying the enemy (Agag), Samuel followed God's orders and destroyed Agag.

When confronted by Samuel about not doing what God had commanded, he made light of it as if it did not matter, and wanted Samuel to appear with him before the people, for show. When confronted by others about his conduct, he became furiously angry and attempted to kill those who challenged him, even his own son (1 Samuel 20:32-33), and because God had rejected him, and would not answer him, he eventually sought counsel from a medium with a familiar spirit, which God had forbidden. (Leviticus 20:27; 1 Samuel 28:7-9)

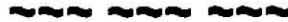
Saul continued on with his wicked, rebellious conduct and actions until his death, and he continued to have an **unrepentant heart**. Because of his intense envy of David, God's chosen, Saul continuously sought to kill David all the days of his life, until David finally departed out of the land of Israel to escape.

During one of Saul's attempts to kill David, when he came to Ramah where Samuel and David were together, Saul "tapped into" the Spirit (outwardly upon him) and the Spirit of God compelled him to strip off his clothes, fall down on the ground, and praise and worship God through prophecy along with the

prophets of God. (1 Samuel 19:22-24) However, as soon as he was away from the Spirit, he continued on with his pursuit to kill David—murder David in cold-blood. (1 Samuel 20:31-33)

Yet, because of the Holy Spirit dwelling **within** him—**within** his **heart**, David always had a forgiving heart toward Saul, while he always had a grudge against David, who had **done him no wrong**. Saul had a problem with the very existence of David because David was everything that he was not. David not only had the outward anointing of the Spirit for service, **he also had the indwelling anointing of the Holy Spirit within his heart**.

Having the Spirit upon one and “tapping into” the Spirit may produce a spiritual word or event, but as we can see with Saul, the outward anointing (**only**) of the Spirit does not change the inward heart and character of a man. The outward anointing can be compared to a talent or ability, which all men have. The Lord gave gifts to all men including the rebellious. (Psalm 68:18; Ephesians 4:8). As the Lord will make sure that His people have what they need, and as He spoke through a donkey in the Bible (Numbers 22:28), the Lord, God Almighty can use anyone and anything, even the most evil and wicked to say or do a good thing toward His people if and when the situation warrants it. Yet, the Lord does not want us to be ignorant of the devices of the devil, and he wants us to be able to rightly discern between good and evil, between the true and the false, and between the genuine and the fake/counterfeit. (Malachi 3:18) Although Saul prophesied, **in heart he was a prideful, cruel premeditated murderer** of an innocent man, without cause, who was God’s chosen.



Revisiting the topic of the outward anointing (only), today within several churches emphasis is placed on (outward) spiritual gifts, while according to the Bible it is shown that God places emphasis on (inward) righteous character, which comes from true salvation. Gifts are free, God has given gifts (talents, abilities, etc.) to all people including the unrighteous and rebellious, and gifts require no commitment or sacrifice to receive them. In fact, most do not appreciate gifts, they take them for granted, and they misuse them.

However, character requires sincere, faithful commitment, sacrifice, and responsibility on our parts, and God is looking for those who possess righteous character, and not only gifts. In fact, Jesus states that he never knew and will reject those who claim to have performed gifts in His name, while they have been full of injustice, hypocrisy, unrighteousness, and wickedness. (Matthew 7:21-23)

Those who strive only for gifts and not character exhibit characteristics of unfaithfulness, cheating, and selling out, when they only want to take the easy way and receive immediate benefits and gains. They are not willing to put in the sacrifice and work required to achieve the true benefits—the Lord, His righteousness, and eternal life with Him. They also exhibit lack of courage and dedication to endure unpleasanties like the persecution that all true, believing Christians **must** endure as followers of Christ, from whatever source, according to the Word of God. (Matthew 13:21; Mark 4:17; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:13; 2 Thessalonians 1:4-5)

Evidence of Salvation

The **entire EPISTLE 1 JOHN** is an excellent source for providing direct evidence of our Salvation according to the Gospel and Word of God as noted in the following verses, which are self-explanatory:

And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him, And herby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. (1 John 3:23-24, 22)

If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth. (1 John 1:6)

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will he heareth us:

And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him. (1 John 5:14-15)

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not is us.

If we say that we have not sinned, we make him, a liar, and his word is not is us.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8,10,9)

And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. (1 John 2:3-5)

He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.

He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blindeth his eyes. (1 John 2:9-11)

Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

Whoso HATETH his brother is a MURDERER: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. (1 John 3:12-15)

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. (1 John 2:15-17)

Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ: He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also. (1 John 2:22-23)

If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.

Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. (1 John 2:29; 3:7,10)

However, in consideration of the above-mentioned Scriptures, it is important for us to keep in mind that it is impossible to truly experience salvation, obey, follow, and serve the Lord without the indwelling Word of God and His Spirit sown in one's heart. We cannot obey God in our flesh, or in our natural state without being re-connected with Him by being born again of His Spirit.

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## **“Bonus” - Introduction to Salvation**

### **What is the GOSPEL of Salvation?**

The Gospel of Salvation is the **good news** of the overall Salvation, deliverance, forgiveness and remittance of sins, redemption, reconciliation, and restoration of man by God. God loves man so much that He, Himself in the person of Jesus Christ came down to earth from heaven to visit man, identify with man, shepherd and teach man, heal and deliver man, and save, redeem, and restore man back to Himself (God), by suffering man’s punishment, and sacrificing His own life for man and his sins on the cross. The Gospel of Salvation as presented by Jesus Christ provides all of mankind with the good news and establishment of following:

- God, Himself in the person and body of Jesus Christ came down from heaven to personally visit man, identify with man, to teach, heal, deliver, save, redeem, and restore man back unto Himself. By suffering **undue** punishment and death on the cross, Jesus paid the penalty of sin on behalf of man, once and for all. This was the visitation promised to man throughout Old Testament Scriptures beginning in the Bible Book of Genesis.
- Jesus came to save us from our true, spiritual enemy—the devil, his evil power, his works and his influence.
- Man can receive forgiveness of his overall sinful condition, of all personal sins of the past, and of sins, mistakes, and errors of the future, provided that he **acknowledges** and **confesses** them **to the Lord**, and **sincerely repents**.

With the Salvation of the Lord, we have the choice to no longer allow ourselves to be controlled by the influence of evil, sin, and disobedience to the Lord, His Word, and His will. We can change our direction in life toward the Lord and can live the remainder of our lives in righteousness unto Him.

Included with the Salvation of the Lord is the promise of deliverance, healing, restoration, and Salvation (by faith) from the powers and works of the devil and evil, such as all spiritual, mental, and physical sickness, disease, infirmity, torment, heartache, hurt, pain, suffering, affliction, etc., which were all caused by the devil's introduction of sin, evil, wickedness, and unrighteousness into the world, which were all designed to destroy man.

Included with the Salvation of the Lord is the gift of the Holy Ghost dwelling within us to lead us, guide us, teach us, correct us, etc., to help us to spiritually grow and develop, and to help us to live godly and righteously unto the Lord throughout our lives. The Holy Ghost was sent to earth and to man to act in the place of Jesus Christ, and to continue His spiritual work within and among man.

Salvation for man begins with our inner selves and hearts, the person we are **within**, and involves the following:

- **Firstly**, we hear, believe, and receive into our hearts Jesus Christ, the Word of God, and the Gospel of Salvation as preached and taught by Jesus Christ; **(Romans 1:16-17, 10:9-15; Mark 1:15)**
- **Secondly**, we come to **realize** and **acknowledge** that all men are born into sin, and we realize and acknowledge the condition of our **own**, personal sinful state. We then acquire sincere, godly sorrow and a repentant heart toward the Lord for our sins and unrighteousness. **(Romans 3:22-25; 5:11-12)**

- **Thirdly**, we experience conviction of our sins and unrighteousness, we genuinely and sincerely **acknowledge** and **confess** our sins to the Lord, and we **repent** of our past sins. Then we experience a change of hearts and minds toward God and man, and we desire and intend to change our directions from the influence of evil and from our own selfish desires, toward the Lord, His influence, His righteousness, and His overall desires for our lives. **(Mark 1:14-15; Luke 13:3; Acts 2:37-39; 3:19; 17:30)**
- **Fourthly**, after we have truly believed in our hearts and confessed with our mouths Jesus Christ as the Son of God and our Lord and Savior, that He died for our sins, and that God raised Him from the dead, we are born again (born of Spirit), we receive a measure of the Lord's Spirit into our hearts, and we experience new spiritual Salvation and unity with the Lord, and restoration unto the Lord. **(Romans 10:9-10)**
- **Fifthly**, we receive the Lord into our hearts, we receive His Salvation, and we are **rescued** and saved from **spiritual** death, punishment, eternal condemnation, damnation, and destruction for our past sins, our past sinful state, and the past sinful condition of our souls.

**Note:** At this time, we seek to be Water Baptized as the outward exhibition of what we have experienced in our hearts, and that we have died and buried our old, sinful selves, and are resurrected anew in the Lord.

Afterward, we may ask the Heavenly Father **in the name of Jesus Christ** to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost Baptism, which is promised to all Believers who have been born again. **(John 14:26)**.

Throughout our lives we continue to abide in the Lord and His Word, we continue to learn, develop, grow, and proceed on in the direction toward the Lord and His righteousness, becoming stronger, more righteous, and Christ-like unto the Lord. As we continue to grow in the Lord, we are also eventually delivered (step-by-step) from the powers and works of the devil that have been operating in specific areas of our lives. **(John 15:4-7)**

Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Son of man, is the one who provides Salvation for **all mankind**.

- Jesus saves and rescues mankind from spiritual death, eternal judgment, condemnation, damnation, and destruction.
- He saves and delivers man from the control and power of evil over our lives.
- He restores us spiritually unto God, and He transforms us into righteous beings.
- He provides continuous cleansing, deliverance, Salvation, spiritual growth, and transformation for us throughout our lives, through His Word and Holy Spirit.

However, before we can begin to truly experience Salvation, we must hear, believe, and receive into our hearts the Word of God and the Gospel of Salvation as preached and taught by Jesus Christ, we must believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God sent by God to save and redeem man, and believe in Jesus as our Lord and Savior. **Otherwise**, we will not truly experience Salvation, which will be evidenced by no or lack of change toward righteousness in heart, mind, character, and conduct, and there will be no lasting evidence or results of Salvation, which will be exhibited by our continued unrighteous behavior/conduct and lack of genuine love toward the Lord, others, and in life.