

# Apostles Today

IDCCST® Christian Education

*Learn why God is restoring apostles to the church today.*

**Series 2**

Returning the church to the Apostolic Pattern

IDCCST®  
Christian Education

## Simple Faith

# Apostles Today

Second 8th Week® Ministries  
Bridge of hope to the world

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## Introduction

This Bible study course is written to aid a Christian to understand God’s plan for church government, how God planned for them to receive truth from the stewardship of the apostle’s office, and to understand that this truth is the one and only doctrine of Christ. For us to abide in the truth we must follow the pattern that God established: Jesus teaches His apostles, and His apostles teach the church.

We will learn God’s divine order for church government, why God’s plan begins with apostles, what the Bible says about apostles, why faith needs knowledge to function correctly, and why knowledge follows the pattern God set in Jesus Christ.

This course will define what an apostle does and how an apostle functions. We will also spend a little time understanding the confusion that exists in the church today about church government and what that confusion produced.

We will study apostolic authority and answer questions such as, “Should an apostle hide his calling?” We will also look at what happens when apostles are not active in the church, how faith does not function as it should and gets complicated, how Christians are not unified in one faith, how knowledge does not reflect Christ, and faith does not have the substance it needs to please God.

It is safe to say that people fear what they do not understand and in many cases the fear of the new gets inflamed by Satan, which leads people to resist what they do not understand. We will take a look at why Satan is fighting so hard against apostles, and lay the necessary groundwork for you to take confidence in the will of God for apostles today. You will learn about the 3 fold cord of government, truth, and Spirit and how to keep this chain of your faith strong.

This exciting course is divided into eleven (11) lessons, followed by 2 additional Study Guides: Getting a Fresh Start and Summary Notes, both of which are packed full of information that will assist you in your faith. You can use the review questions at the end of each lesson to help you get the most of your studies. Even though several answer choices may be true, students must identify the choice which has the most support in the lesson.

I am confident that as you prayerfully study this course God will issue grace for your understanding and grant you an experience in Him for your spiritual growth. All scripture quotations are from the King James version of the Bible.



## LESSON 1

### The Divine Order for Church Government

God wants us to understand His divine order for church government. When was the last time you thought, “I wish I knew how to walk in God’s truth more powerfully?” Or, “There seems to be something missing from my faith.” These are common complaints voiced by many people today. What has been missing from your faith is truth. That is, the knowledge you need to function in your faith.

You might not get that right away, that you need knowledge to function in your faith. So let’s talk about what that means, and start with the basics, that knowledge equals function. For example, you would not expect to function as a doctor unless you first received the knowledge and training to perform medical procedures. The same is true for scientists, educators, and everything that happens in the world of business. You would not expect to function in any of these fields unless you first had knowledge. Knowledge equals function, or function follows knowledge. That is easy to understand because we understand that knowledge has purpose.

Here is another example to help clarify the relation between knowledge and function: If you want to build a house, but you don’t have the knowledge or experience to do so, you would hire someone who does. Knowledge is tested by function. If you moved into your new house and saw that the floors were uneven, the stairs were not finished, the bathroom had everything but a toilet, and the rooms were only 5 feet in height, you would wonder about the person you hired to build your house.

As you gaze around your new home you might say, “There seems to be something wrong—there seems to be something missing.” You cannot function in this house as you would like to and need to because the knowledge used to build the house was inadequate. So you can understand why we say that function follows knowledge, and why, when you say that something is missing from your faith, that “something” is truth.

There are many things that people believe about God and faith in Jesus Christ that are not true. And so we should not be surprised when people say that something is missing from their faith. They have noticed that their faith is not functioning as it should.



We can now understand that we express faith according to the knowledge we possess and that you have to build your faith with the right knowledge in order for your faith to function correctly.

The vitally important that the Body of Christ return to true Apostolic Governance and come unto the knowledge of the truth that God wants believers to have for their function in Christ. This truth focuses faith on the 12 Elements of the Gospel as the proper foundation we need to give faith true purpose in Jesus Christ. For just as a house needs a proper foundation to raise a stable and strong building, faith needs the foundation of the 12 Elements of the Gospel to be strong in Christ.

Truth prepares the heart to serve and worship God perfectly. Truth brings us into one mind in Christ. This is why God's plan begins with apostles. They are the master builders. Jesus gave the apostles the blueprint of truth to lay the foundation of truth in the heart of the believer.

### ***Apostles First***

Church government begins with apostles. The scriptures tell us, "And God hath set some in the church, **first** apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers," 1 Corinthians 12:28. This is God's divine order for spiritual government. Why apostles first? Apostles are first because God wants us to come into one understanding of truth to function with His knowledge. God's plan is that the church receive the knowledge of Jesus Christ through the apostles He chooses.

The apostles teach the other callings of church government listed in Ephesians 4:11, the prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. The church grows by the grace God gives to each calling.

**Apostles are master builders of faith:** The Lord points out to us, "According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon," 1 Corinthians 3:10.

When we are converted to the faith we do not have the foundation laid, we have one brick, which is grace. We are demonstrating faith by our choice to come into covenant with God. God baptized us in the Holy Spirit. We are righteous. We are holy. The Elements of the Gospel are already at work in us, we are living it. We just haven't put the language to it yet. The language



identifies these experiences for us. This is why we need to have the foundation of truth set in the heart, it defines these experiences for us and enables us to share these common experiences with others.

**Apostles Teach the Doctrine of Christ:** The apostles teach the doctrine of Christ, the how-to's of Christianity. That is simply what they are called of God to do. Apostles set order to the knowledge of Christ so that a person can have the full knowledge of God to walk in. This is why God calls them stewards of the mystery of Christ: "Let a man so account of us [apostles], as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God," 1 Corinthians 4:1.

Apostolic stewardship of the church simply means that apostles are teaching the mysteries of Christ. The simple truth is that a person cannot know God, nor walk in any of these things that are made possible in Christ, unless living apostles are teaching the church. We see this in the book of Acts and the epistles:

**Acts 2:42**

"And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."

**1 Timothy 4:6**

"If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained."

***Are You Walking in the True Christian Faith?***

One of the things you can do to get a perspective on the importance of the apostle's office is to sit down and make a list of all things you believe the Bible says are yours to walk in because of faith in Jesus Christ. Your list may look something like this:

1. To be established in the faith, to have a firm faith, to have a powerful faith
2. To be led of the Spirit
3. To overcome the devil
4. To have the fruit of Christ growing in the inner man
5. To experience an intimate relationship with God
6. To rule over sin
7. To know with confidence that God hears and answers prayers
8. To have an abundance of joy and peace





9. To walk in newness of life
10. To be used of God to minister to others

Now ask yourself if you are walking in these things perfectly every day, or if you are waiting for God to show you how to do this. I ask that because today's Christian journalists reporting on the state of the church continue to bring to our attention that all is not well in the church. God is shaking pulpits, and breaking up old foundations, and going to the root of the problems in the church.

So, what is the root of the problem? The problem is that when apostles are not active, the church builds faith upon knowledge that God did not sanctify (enter into) and that is the reason why believers today cannot walk in the things that are in Christ. The normal Christian life that God wants you to have is always just out of reach.

So, what is the root of the problem? The problem is that when apostles are not active, the church builds faith upon knowledge that God did not sanctify (enter into) and that is the reason why believers today cannot walk in the things that are in Christ. The normal Christian life that God wants you to have is always just out of reach.

Meaning, you will not be established in the faith, you will not have a firm faith, you will not have a powerful faith, you will not be led of the Spirit, you will not overcome the devil, you will not have the fruit of Christ growing in the inner man, you will not experience an intimate relationship with God, you will not rule over sin, you will not know with confidence that God hears and answers prayers, you will not have an abundance of joy and peace, you will not walk in newness of life, you will not be used of God to minister to others.

Knowing the importance God places upon apostles teaching the church, why do we see such resistance to God's divine order? It is safe to say that people fear what they do not understand and in many cases that fear of the new gets inflamed by Satan's inspiration, which leads people to resist what they do not understand. Satan is fighting so hard against apostles today because it is the only way he can continue to keep people ignorant of their true hope in Christ, and bound to the flesh.

As believers begin to awaken to their true spiritual state many are heard to say that they are confused. If that describes you, know that you are not confused, you are just beginning to realize the truth.



## QUIZ

*Take a moment to review what you have just learned.*

1. When we said that knowledge equals function we were emphasizing that
  - A. you have to know what you are doing when you build a house
  - B. you have to build your faith with the right knowledge in order for your faith to function correctly.
  - C. you cannot be a doctor if you are not trained

B. Right. When we said that knowledge equals function we were emphasizing that you have to build your faith with the right knowledge in order for your faith to function correctly. We express faith according to the knowledge we possess. There are many things that people believe about God and faith in Jesus Christ that are not true. And so we should not be surprised when people say that something is missing from their faith. They have noticed that their faith is not functioning as it should.

We can understand now why it is of vital importance that the Body of Christ return to true Apostolic Governance and come unto the knowledge of the truth that God wants believers to have for their function in Christ. Truth prepares the heart to serve and worship God perfectly. Truth brings us into one mind in Christ. This is why God's plan begins with apostles. They are

the master builders. Jesus gave the apostles the blueprint of truth to lay the foundation of truth in the heart of the believer.

2. Fill in the missing word in the sentence: The Bible says, "And God hath set some in the church, FIRST \_\_\_\_\_."
  - A. pastors
  - B. prophets
  - C. apostles

C. Right. God hath set some in the church, first apostles. This is God's divine order for spiritual government. Apostles are first because God wants us to come into one understanding of truth to function with His knowledge. God's plan is that the church receive the knowledge of Jesus Christ through the apostles He chooses.

3. When we said that the apostles teach doctrine, the how-to's of Christianity, we meant that



- A. apostles set order to the knowledge of Christ so that a person can have the full knowledge of God to walk in
- B. each person sees truth in their own personal way
- C. the apostles doctrine is the many biblical truths God shows us when we read the Bible

A. Right. When we said that the apostles teach doctrine, the how-to's of Christianity, we meant that apostles set order to the knowledge of Christ so that a person can have the full knowledge of God to walk in. This is why God calls them “stewards of the mystery of Christ”: “Let a man so account of us [apostles], as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God,” 1 Corinthians 4:1.

Apostolic stewardship of the church simply means that apostles are teaching the mysteries of Christ. The simple truth is that a person cannot know God, nor walk in any of these things that are made possible in Christ, unless living apostles are teaching the church.

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## LESSON 2

### Knowledge Must Reflect Christ

The need for knowledge for faith is the corner stone of faith. This is why Jesus identified Himself as truth (John 14:6) and why the apostles of Jesus identified Him as the cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20). Because knowledge is so important for faith, we know that Satan will fight against it. One of the things that Satan often says is that faith should not be complicated with knowledge, it should be made simple by focusing on love and our feelings for God and learning how to love one another to make this world a better place.

But simple faith is not about taking away the need for knowledge, for if we do that, then we throw away the key to the true liberty God wants us to have. Simple Faith means having the knowledge you need to reflect Christ rather than yourself.

When we say “reflect” it means that when God looks at us He wants to see His Son in us. To determine this, God looks at what's going on in the soul. Do we work with an earthly knowledge, which reflects our own earthly ambitions to have a worldly peace that will free us from earthly contradictions and thus upsets our rest, or do we labor with the knowledge from above, which works the peace of Jesus Christ, surpasses all understanding, and is not disturbed by the issues of this world?

**Always remember:** When knowledge reflects yourself it is severed from the covenant and is powerless to save you.

### *Knowledge Gives Faith Substance to Work With*

“Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen,” Hebrews 11:1. Let’s talk a bit about “substance” to be sure we understand what God is getting at. When God talks about substance He is first emphasizing “contents”. Knowledge holds the contents (substance) faith needs to work with to be pleasing to God. Think of how food is the contents of your refrigerator and how the food is meant to give substance to your body when you eat it. If your refrigerator is empty that means you do not have substance for your body. Or, if there is



nothing but junk food in the refrigerator, then your body does not have the right kind of food (substance) to maintain good health. Knowledge is like the refrigerator. It contains the truth you need to sustain your faith. We are talking specifically about the 12 Elements of the Gospel, the knowledge that carries the likeness of Christ.

Each Element must carry the same meaning for us as it does for God. Each Element must retain the likeness of Christ exactly as God designed it. This is why truth is called wholesome doctrine. It contains all the ingredients (Elements) necessary for healthy growth to take place.

If we now related that to the current condition of the church where we see over 30,000 different Christian denominations, all claiming different truths, we can see that when apostles are not teaching the church, the knowledge the church embraces does not contain the right substance for faith. The church is operating with an empty refrigerator, or a refrigerator that is full of junk food, or worse yet, a refrigerator filled with spoiled, rotten food (false knowledge). We can then understand that if the contents of truth is this corrupt knowledge then we do not have the right substance for faith to live and be productive. We can then understand that if the contents of truth is corrupt knowledge then we do not have the right substance for faith to live and be productive.

### ***The Substance of the Soul is Dependent on the Substance of Knowledge***

The mind functions with knowledge. Our thinking processes is spiritual labor. The soul is always laboring with knowledge of some kind. When the mind stops, you are dead. The substance in your soul is conditional. It all depends on the substance of knowledge that your mind works with. The substance of the knowledge of this world is inspired by the spirit of this world and leaves the soul dead to God.

A young man in his mid 20's recently asked, "Why is it that I feel dead? I feel dead in myself. I have no feelings of life in me." False knowledge will not produce the substance of life in you. So, all the knowledge of the world this young man was using was actually numbing his emotions. We can be sure that being of that age he found a lot of things to pour his emotions into, but it all left him feeling empty inside and dead towards God.

The knowledge of this world is like a corpse—it is dead. There is no substance in the knowledge of the world that we can use to reciprocate to God, whereas in the knowledge of God, the



substance is there, and it reciprocates. The knowledge of God produces faith, and faith is a reciprocator—it responds. A corpse does not respond.

Satan promises fulfillment with his knowledge. He promises that his knowledge will bring life and that you will feel full and complete and whole and abounding in hope, but it can only deliver temporal fulfillment. The soul knows its Maker and will never be satisfied with anything less than God Himself.

The knowledge of this world cannot produce the substance of Christ—it cannot produce Christ. The knowledge of this world cannot leave any substance in the heart for faith. And this is why the heart feels empty and void of life. This is why many people ask, “Why is it that I feel dead in myself? I have no feelings of life within me.”

On the other hand, the knowledge God gives will produce a substance because it was designed that way. By His divine power we reciprocate His likeness. This is what the soul craves and why Paul wrote:

**Romans 8:29**

“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

When your faith is about goals you do not achieve, your faith is complicated because your faith has been put on a false journey towards elusive promises, rather than focused on the covenant of Jesus Christ and His reality.

When your faith is about goals you do not achieve, your faith is further complicated by questions of doubt. You doubt yourself, you doubt God, you doubt your faith. You battle against doubt, but never win. You strive to come to a place of peace, but the peace is not lasting. After each endeavor you feel empty. Your faith is complicated by frustration and anger because you seem to be reading things in the Bible about a spiritual walk that you are not experiencing.

**Always remember:** God’s plan for church government begins with apostles. They are the master builders. Jesus gave the apostles the blueprint of truth to lay the foundation of truth in the heart of the believer. That is what we experience when we are in covenant with God, that His knowledge sets us free from the lie of Satan which kept us bound in darkness. And it is this living knowledge which brings healing to the soul so that is why truth is the ointment that heals the soul.



## QUIZ

*Take a moment to review what you have just learned.*

1. When we said that simple faith means having the knowledge you need to reflect Christ rather than yourself we were emphasizing that

- A. faith is so big, who can understand it all
- B. when God looks at us He wants to see His Son in us
- C. it's good to set goals

B. Right. When we said that simple faith means having the knowledge you need to reflect Christ rather than yourself we were emphasizing that when God looks at us He wants to see His Son in us. To determine this, God looks at what's going on in the soul. Do we work with an earthly knowledge, which reflects our own earthly ambitions to have a worldly peace that will free us from earthly contradictions and thus upsets our rest, or do we labor with the knowledge from above, which works the peace of Jesus Christ, surpasses all understanding, and is not disturbed by the issues of this world?

2. How does knowledge give faith substance to work with?

- A. knowledge holds the contents (substance) faith needs to be pleasing to God
- B. knowledge is good
- C. knowledge is evil

A. Right. Knowledge holds the contents (substance) faith needs to be pleasing to God. If faith does not have the substance of knowledge we cannot please God. Knowledge holds the contents (substance) faith needs to work with to be pleasing to God. Think of how food is the contents of your refrigerator and how the food is meant to give substance to your body when you eat it. If your refrigerator is empty that means you do not have substance for your body. Or, if there is nothing but junk food in the refrigerator, then your body does not have the right kind of food (substance) to maintain good health. Knowledge is like the refrigerator. It contains the truth you need to sustain your faith. We are talking specifically about the 12 Elements of the Gospel, the knowledge that carries the likeness of Christ.



Each Element must carry the same meaning for us as it does for God. Each Element must retain the likeness of Christ exactly as God designed it. This is why truth is called wholesome doctrine. It contains all the ingredients (Elements) necessary for healthy growth to take place.

3. How is the knowledge of this world like a corpse?

A. it is dead. It does not respond. There is no substance in the knowledge of the world that we can use to reciprocate to God

B. it is buried

C. it stinks

A. Right. The knowledge of this world is like a corpse—it is dead. There is no substance in the knowledge of the world that we can use to reciprocate to God, whereas in the knowledge of God, the substance is there, and it reciprocates. The knowledge of God produces faith, and faith is a reciprocator—it responds. A corpse does not respond.

Satan promises fulfillment with his knowledge. He promises that his knowledge will bring life and that you will feel full and complete and whole and abounding in hope, but it can only deliver temporal fulfillment. The soul knows its Maker and will never be satisfied with anything less than God Himself.

The knowledge of this world cannot produce the substance of Christ—it cannot produce Christ. The knowledge of this world cannot leave any substance in the heart for faith. And this is why the heart feels empty and void of life. This is why many people ask, “Why is it that I feel dead in myself? I have no feelings of life within me.”





## LESSON 3

### Knowledge Needs a Frame

Where Christ is preached a tethering of knowledge takes place that carries the living expression of Jesus Christ. Why a tethering of knowledge? Because God has bound Himself to His Word, to carry all those of faith by this knowledge of Christ. Ours souls are renewed and refreshed by knowledge.

God's knowledge must not be as a pile of wood sitting on the ground. Otherwise, it will be of no use to you or to God. Just like wood takes the frame of a house for you to function in the house, so also knowledge must take a frame for you to function in God's kingdom.

When wood takes the frame of a house you can enter into the house and use all all of its functions freely. You can cook and eat your meals in the house, be warmed, have light, take rest, and enjoy companionship. You can cleanse yourself, work, and play in the house. In addition, when you move into your house you bring with you all your precious things and fill your house with your substance. Can you see? The frame is for function, and the result of that function is substance by which you increase.

God's knowledge is that way. The frame of knowledge (the 12 Elements of the Gospel) is designed by God for you to function in His kingdom that He may fill your soul with His substance by which you increase. The knowledge we embrace produces substance in the heart.

In the previous lesson we talked about "substance". We said that when God talks about substance He is first emphasizing "contents". Knowledge holds the contents (substance) faith needs to work with to be pleasing to God. In addition, when God talks about substance He is speaking of His desire to fill your soul with the fruit of Christ. He desires to beautify the house of your soul with the virtues of Christ. This is what God calls giving "substance" to your soul.

Just as God instructed Moses to build a tabernacle (a house) for Him in which the Israelites were to practice their faith, in the same way we have to build a spiritual house or temple for the Lord in which to practice our faith. Faith needs a house in which to function. Without the knowledge we will not be able to function in God's house.



Another way to look at this is to think of the knowledge of Christ as a mold into which God pours your faith. The mold is for the purpose of preserving the image of Christ, and that you take on His likeness (Galatians 4:19). God is not producing “robots”. He is producing children according to the likeness of Christ.

It is a well known fact in the world that knowledge shapes the mind. So that is something that is commonly understood and accepted. Should it seem strange to you that God also would like to give knowledge to shape you into the image of Christ? There are a few objections to God using one standard of knowledge to accomplish this. People are afraid of losing their individuality.

Don't worry, God does not rob you of your individuality. This will become clear to you as you begin to experience the life of Christ according to covenant. When people focus on their individuality, it is because they do not know how faith functions. Take for example the apple tree. The tree does not look at its neighbor and say, “You look too much like me, I don't feel like an individual anymore. Your branches look like my branches, your leaves look like my leaves, and your fruit looks like my fruit.” The trees of the orchard are not in competition with each other. It is humans that want to set themselves apart for the purpose of identifying themselves.

God gave us Jesus Christ as a gift of salvation that we might all identify with Him. There is no completion for the branches of His tree because all His branches are focused on their function, to bear fruit. In the natural, every part of the tree has a function towards the production of fruit. The form of the leaves of the tree, for example, is related to all their functions. Leaves turn sunlight into food energy for the tree. Roots fulfill their function by anchoring the tree to the soil and absorbing water and soil minerals needed for growth.

Now take that to the covenant. Each of the 12 Elements of the Gospel and each tool of the covenant has a function towards the production of the fruit of Christ in you. The purpose of your faith is that Christ be formed in you. The purpose of knowledge is to bring you into one mind with Christ even as Paul said, “Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind,” (Philippians 2:2). And, “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment,” 1 Corinthians 1:10. This like mindedness describes the unity of the faith when we all embrace the same knowledge of Christ. Knowledge is the mold of Christ.



## ***Knowledge Stewards***

The question is, who are the stewards to whom God entrusts His knowledge to give it to the church? Here is where church government comes in. Just as Moses had to teach the Israelites how to function in faith in the tabernacle, the apostles today teach the church the knowledge of how to function in our spiritual temple so we can please God.

By the knowledge of Christ we are enabled to enter into this house and use all of its functions freely. “Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is in you,*” 1 Corinthians 6:19. We can now understand what a knowledge steward is and why they are important to God. Moses was the knowledge steward of the First Covenant, apostles are the knowledge stewards of the Second (New) Covenant.

The frame of God’s knowledge begins with the foundation of truth, which, as we have been saying, is the 12 Elements of the Gospel: grace, faith, righteousness, justification, sanctification, holiness, peace, rest, charity, truth, regeneration, and the renewing of the mind. Your studies with Second 8<sup>th</sup> Week Ministries will build this foundation of truth in your heart.

## ***Holy knowledge***

The knowledge of Christ is holy because it reflects Jesus Christ perfectly, it is holy because it is separated from all other knowledge, it does not follow the wisdom of the world, nor the spirit of this world.

Holy knowledge is the truth of Jesus Christ. God sanctified (separated for purpose) His truth for our salvation. Titus 2:4 reads, “Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.” Sinners need knowledge to be saved, and believers need knowledge to live unto God and grow in His grace.

If false knowledge is a token of death then God’s holy knowledge is a token of life. It is the divine knowledge of His kingdom. It is necessary for your faith. By joining yourself to it, Jesus takes ownership of you. That means that you are part of His sanctification.

Jesus said, I sanctify Myself. We read this in John 17:19, where He says, “And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.” Jesus was saying to the Father, “I separate Myself to your will to accomplish your will. What I accomplish on the cross to establish a covenant in My blood is My sanctification, that those who believe on Me, would



also enter into My sanctification, and also partake of you as I partake of you. I offer Myself as a token of their separation to you. That I would be the token of faith for all those who believe and show faith through My name.”

We can understand that as Jesus sanctified Himself to the Father, so also His truth is sanctified—it is holy. This means that His knowledge is separate from all other knowledge, and that when we separate ourselves to it, we also are sanctified through truth. This is why knowledge is a token and why government is a token, because the knowledge of Christ is dispensed through the government.

Jesus passed the cup for all his apostles to drink, showing us that we are all to partake of the same knowledge. When the apostles drank the wine that Jesus poured into the cup, they were coming into agreement with His sanctification. Jesus was showing that when I am gone they will carry this same tradition of knowledge and pass it on to the church.

To abandon the token of knowledge is to abandon your sanctification. That makes you a child of wrath and the children of wrath are being smitten by God so that they would cry out and that they would enter into His sanctification -- covenant with Him.

### ***Ordered knowledge***

God sets order to the knowledge of Jesus Christ. God sets in order our understanding about grace and faith, righteousness, justification, sanctification, holiness, the gifts of the Spirit and how they operation, the devil and how he operates, how spiritual growth takes place, how Jesus mediates the covenant, how the Spirit forms Christ within. Knowledge that is not ordered by the Lord follows the logic of man and the wisdom of the world. Knowledge that is not set in order does not reflect Christ.

As you study the 12 Elements of the Gospel your understanding of Jesus Christ and the power of salvation is being set in order. God is placing in you the same mind as He has so that your fellowship is on the same level. He will save, heal, and deliver. When the knowledge of God is not set in order there is a lack of unity in the church and believers do not experience the life of Christ setting them free of sin.



## QUIZ

*Take a moment to review what you have just learned.*

1. When we said that knowledge needs a frame we were emphasizing that
  - A. faith does not need knowledge
  - B. a believer does not need to build
  - C. the frame of knowledge is designed by God for you to function in His kingdom

C. Right. When we said that knowledge needs a frame we were emphasizing that the frame of knowledge is designed by God for you to function in His kingdom that He may fill your soul with His substance by which you increase. The knowledge we embrace produces substance in the heart.

Just like Moses had to teach the Israelites how to function in faith in the tabernacle, the apostles today teach the church the knowledge of how to function in our spiritual temple so we can please God. By the knowledge of Christ we are enabled to enter into this house and use all of its functions freely. “Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you,” 1 Corinthians 6:19.

2. What is holy knowledge?
  - A. the knowledge of Christ is holy because it reflects Jesus Christ perfectly
  - B. it is special
  - C. it is new

A. Right. The knowledge of Christ is holy because it reflects Jesus Christ perfectly, it is holy because it is separated from all other knowledge, it does not follow the wisdom of the world, nor the spirit of this world. Holy knowledge is the truth of Jesus Christ. God sanctified (separate for purpose) His truth for our salvation. Titus 2:4 reads, “Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.” Sinners need knowledge to be saved, and believers need knowledge to live unto God and grow in His grace.



3. When we said that God sets order to the knowledge of Jesus Christ we were emphasizing that

- A. God wants you to get your life in order
- B. God wants you to be a well organized person
- C. knowledge that is not ordered by the Lord logic of man and the wisdom of the world

C. Right. When we said that God sets order to the knowledge of Jesus Christ we were emphasizing that knowledge that is not ordered by the Lord follows the logic of man and the wisdom of the world. God sets order to the knowledge of Jesus Christ. God sets in order our understanding about grace and faith, righteousness, justification, sanctification, holiness, the gifts of the Spirit and how they operation, the devil and how he operates, how spiritual growth takes place, how Jesus mediates the covenant, how the Spirit forms Christ within.

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## LESSON 4

### Understanding Lack of Unity

If we were to take a sample of Christians from all different denominations and assembly them in one room and ask them to explain basic questions about their faith: what grace is, what faith is, what truth is, what the Second Covenant is, which law works righteousness, is tongues for today, and what spiritual warfare is all about, you are sure to get a lot of different answers and heated debates.

It will soon become clear that in the absence of apostles, Christians are not unified in one faith. If we were to ask this same group of Christians to explain further how their faith works, what they can expect to happen, and how they know when spiritual operations are taking place: Do you know what to do with your faith? Do you understand faith in the context of spiritual growth? Do you understand how to reciprocate your faith? Do you understand how to function in your priesthood? You are sure to get a lot of more heated debates, ideas, philosophies, and some blank looks as well.

It is no coincidence that this confusion has given rise to the question, “What is church government?” God is in the process of awaking the church to His true purpose for church government, to know that when apostles are not teaching the church, Christians cannot make the simple connections they need to make for their faith.

The Bible says that when the government is sick the body is sick. Let us consider what the Spirit of the Lord says through Isaiah:

#### **Isaiah 1:5-7**

5. Why should ye be stricken anymore? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.
6. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment.
7. Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers.



When we relate the condition of Israel at that time to the church today it is clear to see that the same thing applies. When the government of God (head) is sick (lacking the true stewardship of apostles), the heart of the body is faint, lacking the nourishment, wisdom, strength, and soundness that God gives the Body when church government is properly structured.

Remember that every time you do not know how faith works you are describing a faith that is blind and a church without proper government.

**This is God’s will:** The unity of the Body. “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism,” Ephesians 4:3-5. Apostles are designed by God to bring the church into one faith—one doctrine. That is their function.

**This is God’s will:** That the church continue to receive doctrine from living apostles. Acts 2:42, “And they (all believers) continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship.” God put apostles in this mold, to bring the church into the fellowship of one doctrine.

There are many ways in which a person will pretend to accept a thing, yet work to reject it. We see this take place in many apostolic movements today. While appearing to accept apostles, most assign them to function as group mentors, or the builders of large physical structures, or missionaries, or organizers, and continue to excuse and justify diversity of doctrine. Thus, rejecting God’s true purpose for apostles.

As a result, truth is absent from faith, the foundation of truth is not being built, and from the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in the church, but wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores that have never been bound up, neither mollified with ointment.

Apostles have one purpose—to unify the Body in one truth. So, whether Paul planted the seed of truth and Apollos watered the seed of truth, both were teaching the same truth. This is not diversity, this is the unity of the faith. Truth is the ointment of the Spirit to bring healing to the Body.





## QUIZ

*Take a moment to review what you have just learned.*

1. If we were to take a group of Christians from all different denominations and ask them basic questions about their faith, will they all agree?

- A. yes
- B. no
- C. maybe

B. Right. If we were to take a group of Christians from all different denominations and ask them basic questions about their faith: what grace is, what faith is, what truth is, what the Second Covenant is, which law works righteousness, is tongues for today, and what spiritual warfare is all about, you are sure to get a lot of different answers and heated debates. It will soon become clear that in the absence of apostles, Christians are not unified in one faith.

It is no coincidence that this confusion has given rise to the question, “What is church government?” God is in the process of awaking the church to His true purpose for church government, to know that when apostles are not teaching the church, Christians cannot make the simple connections they need to make for their faith.

2. What does it mean when you do not know how faith works?

- A. you are describing a faith that is blind
- B. you are humble
- C. you are stupid

A. Right. When apostles are not teaching the church, Christians cannot make these simple connections. Remember, every time you do not know how faith works you are describing a faith that is blind. The Bible says that when the government is sick the body is sick. When the government of God (head) is sick (lacking the true stewardship of apostles), the heart of the body is faint, lacking the nourishment, wisdom, strength, and soundness that God gives the Body when church government is properly structured.



3. Fill in the missing word in the scripture: “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ faith, one baptism,”

- A. many
- B. few
- C. one

C. Right. “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism,” Ephesians 4:3-5. Apostles are designed by God to bring the church into one faith—one doctrine. That is their function.

Acts 2:42, “And they (all believers) continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship.” God put apostles in this mold, to bring the church into the fellowship of one doctrine.

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## LESSON 5

### When Apostles Teach, Satan's Lie is Exposed

When we see the need for truth we will then understand God's purpose for apostles. When apostles teach the church, Satan's lie is exposed. This is what God wants. God wants you to have the knowledge of the truth that you may see the lie of Satan for what it is, and choose to stand in God's knowledge. By giving us knowledge for faith, God is giving us the means to choose faith so that He might then reward us for that choice.

Let's look at what happens in the absence of God's knowledge. In the absence of God's knowledge the soul goes to sleep. This is why God likens ignorance to the darkness of night. We see this preached in nature, how that man and much of the animal kingdom shuts down at night.

So, in the absence of knowledge there is darkness. The scriptures testify to this by saying, "And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not," John 1:5. So now, let's look at how darkness is the absence of knowledge. When someone lies to us about a certain matter, we are ignorant concerning the truth, we are in the dark. When we are told the truth by someone else concerning that matter, we say we are enlightened, and the lie loses its power.

#### ***Satan's Lies are Hidden in Promises and his Promises are Hidden in a Journey***

Satan's lies are hidden in promises and his promises are hidden in a journey. Every promise Satan makes to mankind begins a new journey, which ends in despair. Satan wants to rob your soul of faith and bring you to a place of hopelessness, completely exhausted, running after his illusions.

Satan promises that God will love you, understand you, and reach out to you if only you would use his keys of knowledge. Satan promises victory, wisdom, excellence, increase, power, and advancement. Here we are talking about all the different doctrines that have surfaced about how to lock onto God's blessings, how to unlock God's power in your life, how to be a winner for God, how to walk in God's love, how to walk in forgiveness, how to walk in joy, how to



overcome the battles in the mind, how to walk in humbleness. These are all promises Satan makes.

Why do I say that these are Satan's promises? Surely God wants us to live a powerful faith. I say that these are Satan's promises, because he is making promise to the aspiration, not faith. And the knowledge he is using with the promise has no substance to it.

All Satan wants to do is distract you from God's knowledge. He does this by sending your faith on a never ending journey of promise. How many times has this happened to you, where you purchased this really good book from the Christian bookstore and you got all excited about it, only to find out months later that your journey with that knowledge led you in a circle. You are right back where you started. Jesus said this about Satan:

#### **John 8:44**

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

No one would willingly embrace Satan's lies. That is why he makes his lies sound like promises. Something good that you are looking for. The lie is powerful because it draws upon the witness of the flesh. The flesh says that this is what you want, that this is possible, and that this is what God's will is. Yes, it is God's will that you experience His love, it is God's will that you overcome the battles that take place in the mind, it is God's will that you walk in the humbleness of His grace. God has the substance for faith to take this path. God has provided a covenant for you to walk this path with Him. Satan has no substance to make his promises come true. So his promises are lies. His plan is to deceive you with false knowledge.

For the lie of Satan to lose its power in our lives we need to be enlightened by the truth, which is found in the knowledge of Christ. That is why, "By His knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many." Isaiah 53:11. When we are enlightened by the living knowledge of Jesus Christ, we are able to stand justified before God. When we try to use the knowledge of man, we are continually under condemnation.

Where Christ is preached the compassion of God is seen. The light of His knowledge awakens the soul of man from sleep. Man shakes himself and rises up in the power of true holiness to walk with His Maker by His precious gift of life, made possible through Jesus Christ.



The last thing Satan wants is for you to awaken to God’s knowledge, to know God’s plan and to walk in it. Satan wants man to live by his emotions, which are like the sand, always shifting. But God wants you to live by His knowledge, which is the truth of Christ and which will never move. This is why it is vital that you take this knowledge and build a strong faith in Jesus Christ.

What we see God doing by giving us knowledge for faith is giving us the means to choose faith. Faith has to be a cognitive choice of the will. God not only shows us clearly Jesus Christ, but makes clear what false knowledge is and how it holds no substance for the soul.

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## QUIZ

*Take a moment to review what you have just learned.*

1. Fill in the missing word in the sentence: By giving us knowledge for faith, God is giving us the means to \_\_\_\_\_ faith so that He might then reward us for that choice.

- A. remember
- B. forget
- C. choose

C. Right. By giving us knowledge for faith, God is giving us the means to choose faith so that He might then reward us for that choice. When people see the need for truth they will then understand God’s purpose for apostles. When apostles teach the church, Satan’s lie is exposed. This is what God wants. God wants you to have the knowledge of the truth that you may see Satan’s lie for what it is, and choose to stand in God’s knowledge.

2. When we said that in the absence of God’s knowledge the soul goes to sleep we meant that

- A. people hate each other
- B. God likens ignorance to darkness
- C. people judge one another

B. Right. When we said that in the absence of God’s knowledge the soul goes to sleep we meant that God likens ignorance to darkness of night. In the absence of knowledge there is darkness.



The scriptures testify to this by saying, “And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not,” John 1:5. So now, let’s look at how darkness is the absence of knowledge. When someone lies to us about a certain matter, we are ignorant concerning the

truth, we are in the dark. When we are told the truth by someone else concerning that matter, we say we are enlightened, and the lie loses its power.

3. What do we need for the lie of Satan to lost its power?

- A. we need to do spiritual warfare
- B. we need to be enlightened by the truth
- C. we need to acknowledge the sin in our life

B. Right. For the lie of Satan to lose its power in our lives we need to be enlightened by the truth, which is found in the knowledge of Christ. That is why, “By His knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many.” Isaiah 53:11. When we are enlightened by the living knowledge of Jesus Christ, we are able to stand justified before God.

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## LESSON 6

### Doctrinal Cleansing

What is doctrinal cleansing? When we are enlightened by truth and Satan's lie is exposed and we then choose to embrace the truth, we are separating ourselves from the lie. What is happening is that the soul is being cleansed. Satan defiled the soul with his false knowledge and God is using truth, as soap, to remove false knowledge from the soul. This is doctrinal cleansing.

Why is doctrinal cleansing necessary? When error is mixed with truth it is like mixing what Satan says with what God says and thinking that you can remain pure and please God some other way. It is not God's will to mix error with truth. God wants us to learn His truth to separate ourselves from the error. There is no other way to please God.

This idea of truth being pure from error is perhaps the most difficult thing for a person to grasp. Satan acculturated man to believe that many truths can please God. But Jesus was very clear on this point. He taught that the presence of error changes truth just like leaven changes bread. Jesus used the word "leaven" to point out to us that error mixed with truth is not pleasing to God. False doctrine is the mixture of truth with error.

#### **Matthew.16:6,11,12**

<sup>6</sup>Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

<sup>11</sup>How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees?

<sup>12</sup>Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

Jesus was not warning about the bakery goods of the Pharisees, but their doctrine. They were mixing the philosophy of man, the tradition of man, and the thinking of man into truth. This doctrine, mixed with truth affected truth, making what they believed to be a lie and not pleasing to God.



The Spirit of the Lord carried this understanding over into the first century church when writing through Paul, “Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?” 1 Corinthians 5:6.

We understand that God is bringing to the attention of the current Christian culture that the tradition of man has crept into the church. Meaning, the doctrine that is embraced is leavened with the lies of Satan. This is what God means when He says that the knowledge of the world is in the church.

What I want us to understand is that when God challenges the church for change, His rebuke is not a criticism. Even as Jesus said, “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent,” Revelation 3:19.

**Never forget:** The job of apostles today is to remove leaven from Christ’s truth by laying the original (unleavened) foundation of truth within the heart of each believer.

### ***Doctrinal Cleansing Prepares You the Priesthood***

Moses represented church government in the First Covenant. Moses was an individual selected by God to preserve knowledge and sanctify the people. This is why the Lord spoke to Moses to cleanse the Levites. God’s purpose in cleansing the Levites was to prepare them to serve Him as priests:

#### **Numbers 8:5-7**

"And the Lord spoke unto Moses, saying, Take the Levites from among the children of Israel, and cleanse them. Thus shall you do unto them, to cleanse them: Sprinkle water of purifying upon them, and let them shave all their flesh, and let them wash their clothes, and so make themselves clean."

The Levites had to be cleansed before they could serve God in their priesthood. So then, after they were cleansed by spiritual government, the Levites functioned in their priesthood, serving God by the pattern, which God showed Moses: Hebrews.8:5, “Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.”





Moses was a type and shadow of Christ and by this example we understand the need for separation and cleansing through God’s governmental head. Apostles (as Moses) are individuals selected by God to preserve the knowledge of Christ and sanctify the people for their priestly service to God at the altar of Jesus Christ. Today, all believers are called “priests” because they do priestly service to the Lord through the spiritual sacrifices of their faith (1 Peter 2:5; 1Peter 2:9).

Moses was the knowledge steward of the Old Covenant; apostles are the knowledge stewards of the New Covenant. Just as the Levites needed to first be cleansed by Moses before they could function in their priesthood, so must believers also be first prepared in truth before they can function in their priesthood to serve God through Jesus Christ.

If you have never heard about the believer’s priesthood, you are not alone. Satan, knowing how important your priesthood is to God, hid this knowledge from the church and gave the church a priesthood of the flesh to observe. What this means is that instead of faith working with the eternal knowledge of Jesus Christ, faith was working with the temporal knowledge of this world.

The priesthood is given as a gift to the church, that as we serve God at the altar of Christ, He might sustain us, nurture us, and fellowship with us. Before you can function in your priesthood, you need to be properly prepared in truth.

**Truth cleanses:** Jesus is returning the proper church government and to the purity of the faith. Moses used water to cleanse the Levite priests, but Jesus uses truth to cleanse believers, called to be priests of the Second Covenant. As He said, “Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you,” John 15:3.

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## QUIZ

*Take a moment to review what you have just learned.*

1. When we said that God is using truth as soap to remove false knowledge from the soul we were emphasizing that
  - A. people should wash more often
  - B. people should not lie



C. doctrinal cleansing is necessary

C. Right. When we said that God is using truth as soap to remove false knowledge from the soul we were emphasizing that doctrinal cleansing is necessary. What is doctrinal cleansing? When we are enlightened by truth and Satan's lie is exposed and we then choose to embrace the truth, we are separating ourselves from the lie. What is happening is that the soul is being cleansed. Satan defiled the soul with his false knowledge and God is using truth, as soap, to remove false knowledge from the soul. This is doctrinal cleansing.

Why is doctrinal cleansing necessary? When error is mixed with truth it is like mixing what Satan says with what God says and thinking that you can remain pure and please God some other way. It is not God's will to mix error with truth. God wants us to learn His truth to separate ourselves from the error. There is no other way to please God. The presence of error changes truth just like leaven changes bread.

2. What did Jesus say about mixing truth with error?

- A. Jesus used the word "leaven" to point out to us that knowledge mixed with error is not pleasing to God
- B. Jesus said we could believe what we want
- C. Jesus said that it is not possible to ruin your faith

A. Right. Jesus used the word "leaven" to point out to us that error mixed with truth is not pleasing to God. Jesus was not warning about the bakery goods of the Pharisees, but their doctrine. They were mixing the philosophy of man, the tradition of man, and the thinking of man into truth. This doctrine, mixed with truth affected truth, making what they believed to be a lie.

3. What is the connection between spiritual government and the priesthood of the believer?

- A. there is no connection
- B. good wants us to love one another
- C. after were cleansed by spiritual government, the Levites functioned in their priesthood, serving God by the pattern, which God showed Moses

C. Right. The Levites had to be cleansed before they could serve God in their priesthood. So then, after they were cleansed by spiritual government, the Levites functioned in their priesthood, serving God by the pattern, which God showed Moses. Today, all believers are



called “priests” because they do priestly service to the Lord through the spiritual sacrifices of their faith (1 Peter 2:5; 1Peter 2:9).

Just as the Levites needed to first be cleansed by Moses before they could function in their priesthood, so must believers also be first prepared in truth before they can function in their priesthood to serve God through Jesus Christ. Moses was the knowledge steward of the Old Covenant; apostles are the knowledge stewards of the New Covenant.

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## LESSON 7

### Spiritual cleansing: Removing the fruits of iniquity from the soul

As stated, knowledge is for function. The Holy Spirit works with truth to birth the image of Christ in you every day. That’s what He does. The Holy Spirit will not confirm the philosophy of man nor will He work with the religious traditions of man to form Christ in you. He will only work with the record of Christ.

#### **This is how it works:**

The truth of Jesus establishes Jesus Christ as the record of your faith.

The power of the Spirit to return the soul to the Christ-likeness is the witness.

If you desire the power of the Spirit to form Christ in you then you must understand the importance of truth. It is the responsibility of church government to establish the saints in the truth of God. As apostles wash and cleanse the church, removing from faith the knowledge (leaven) that defiled faith and as they reset the original foundation of truth in the heart, to prepare believers for their priesthood, the Spirit of God then begins His one-on-one spiritual cleansing, and tutorship in the heart of each believer for fellowship and growth.

This is the fellowship of the Spirit that each believer desires. This is the “washing of regeneration” (God’s Intelligent Design for Christ-Centered Spiritual Transformation®) and renewing (of the mind) by the Holy Ghost.

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost. (Titus 3:5).



And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God (1 Corinthians 6:11).

### ***The Washing by the Holy Spirit is for the Healing of the Soul***

This “washing” by the Holy Spirit is for the healing of the soul. While in the kingdom of darkness the soul gained much experience with sin that was harmful to the soul. Apostle Paul identified these experiences as fruits of iniquity: “Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like,” Galatians 5:19-21.

The Spirit of God works to heal the soul from this bruising by removing the soul from the environment of spoilage. The environment of spoilage for the soul is the knowledge, tools, and power of the kingdom of darkness. Jesus said, “I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil,” John 17:15.

The soul not only needs to be taken out of the environment of spoilage, but needs the correct environment for faith, that the Spirit may do His work, forming the virtues of Christ within by the knowledge, tools, and power of God’s kingdom.

For each believer to daily partake of this transformative experience they must be separated, doctrinally cleansed, and prepared in truth to serve God in righteousness. The Holy Spirit will then do His work in the soul.

God wants this continued washing of the Word to take place. He said it plainly: “That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,” Ephesians 5:26. This is the reason for giving us a priesthood of knowledge whereby we offer to God spiritual sacrifices of knowledge. Jesus manifests His glory in us by this fellowship of knowledge. There is an exchange that takes place. He gives us knowledge and we reciprocate His likeness.

### ***God’s Purification Process***

People flock to the gods of this world for knowledge and it is not the holy knowledge of God they are flocking to, it is knowledge that corrupts the soul. And so Apostle Peter calls it the corruptible seed.



### **1 Peter 1:22-23**

22. Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

23. Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.

25. But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

Peter goes on to say, “Wherefore, laying aside (that knowledge that breeds ) all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, all evil speakings, as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious,” (1 Peter 2:1-3).

The apostle, in his instruction to the church, is saying, “I want you to use this new knowledge that I am preaching to you. I want you to live by it for your rebirth, to put to death the knowledge of this world, that prejudiced your thinking, tainted the soul, and taught you how to be productive with sin to increase in the kingdom of darkness.

By relating knowledge to God’s purification process Peter defines for us the born again experience. It has to do with using the new knowledge of Christ by which we daily take on the virtues of Christ. To those in the current Christian culture, born again means enlightenment, it means making a confession of faith in Jesus. But the apostolic definition of born again has to do with our daily experience with the knowledge of Christ whereby the virtue of Christ is daily born in the soul. We are taking on His virtue. Not by corruptible knowledge but by incorruptible.

The knowledge of this world is not the precious Word of God whereby we are saved, washed, and preserved. The knowledge of this world is like salt to metal, it is corrosive and accelerates the decaying process. Metal corrosion by seawater is a real problem that is countered by producing rust resistant metals or by applying solutions that provide a protective coating against salt spray.

Spiritually speaking, we can see why false knowledge is called a token of death. It accelerates these fruits of iniquity: murder, debate, deceit, sedition, the accelerants of emulation and strife. We are no longer using those tokens of death. We are protecting the soul from this corrosive knowledge by using the new knowledge of the covenant of Jesus Christ.



We are born by a new form of knowledge that is why it is called the “Word” of God. “Word”, which means knowledge. So we are born by this Word. The knowledge from above, the knowledge that is superior to the knowledge of this world. We are building with a new knowledge and Jesus Christ is our new access to it.

Another way to understand the destructive nature of false knowledge is to think about industrial use of water in factories. Toxic chemical substances used in factories contaminate drinking water. Waste water from industrial factories is released into streams, lakes, and oceans. To counter this, pollution control devices are designed to minimize the amount of contaminants that are released into water. In addition, water filter systems are put into place to remove contaminants that could affect your health.

Think of the knowledge of God as God’s filtering system to purify the soul, to neutralize those potent solutions (corruptible seed/knowledge), which Satan poured within us when we were in his kingdom. That is how important truth is. Both the foundation of truth and the continual ingesting of the knowledge of Christ and the dispensing of it through our priesthood. Truth is a filter. It is a tool for spiritual cleansing.

Your spiritual growth is connected to your cycles of growth. God puts us through daily filtering cycles, which has to do with the work of the Spirit with His truth. There is a filtering process taking place in the soul when you labor with truth. As God’s knowledge purifies the soul, we are being washed, and the virtue of Christ is being born in the soul. So we are being born again by His Word, by His knowledge. Not the knowledge that corrupts the soul, but the knowledge that produces the virtue of Christ in the soul.

The Comforter is assisting you through this form of transition, through this whole filtering process of cleansing the soul. Grace works with truth as a neutralizing solution. God uses grace to continually bring equity to the soul so that what we express will not be damaging to ourselves or to other people, as Peter said, “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.”

**Always remember:** The soul of man is to reflect the mind of God as the water reflects the sky.



## QUIZ

Take a moment to review what you have just learned.

1. Fill in missing word in the sentence: The Holy Spirit works with \_\_\_\_\_ to birth the image of Christ in you.

- A. truth
- B. error
- C. imagination

A. Right. The Holy Spirit works with truth to birth the image of Christ in you. He will not confirm the philosophy of man nor will he work with the religious traditions of man. The Christian life is about your relationship with God, which is based on the terms of the covenant, on the grounds of His truth.

2. Fill in the missing word in the scripture: “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of \_\_\_\_\_, and renewing of the Holy Ghost,” Titus 3:5

- A. regeneration
- B. clothes
- C. soap

A. Right. Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.” This is the “washing of regeneration” (God’s Intelligent Design for Christ-Centered Spiritual Transformation®) and renewing (of the mind) by the Holy Ghost. This “washing” by the Holy Spirit is for the healing of the soul.

While in the kingdom of darkness the soul gained much experience with sin that was harmful to the soul. Apostle Paul identified these experiences as fruits of iniquity: “Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like,” Galatians 5:19-21.

3. How does the Spirit of God work to heal the soul?

- A. by a miracle



- B. by removing the soul from the environment of spoilage
- C. by fasting

B. Right. The Spirit of God works to heal the soul from this bruising by removing the soul from the environment of spoilage. The environment of spoilage for the soul is the knowledge, tools, and power of the kingdom of darkness. Jesus said, “I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil,” John 17:15.

The soul not only needs to be taken out of the environment of spoilage, but needs the correct environment for faith, that the Spirit may do His work, forming the virtues of Christ within by the knowledge, tools, and power of God’s kingdom.

Think of the knowledge of God as God’s filtering system to purify the soul, to neutralize those potent solutions (corruptible seed/knowledge), which Satan poured within us when we were in his kingdom. That is how important truth is. Both the foundation of truth and the continual ingesting of the knowledge of Christ and the dispensing of it through our priesthood. Truth is a filter. It is a tool for spiritual cleansing.

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## LESSON 8

### Apostolic Authority

Have you ever found yourself sitting with a group of Christians, arguing the scriptures? Everyone is using the same scripture to argue a different point of view and everyone is claiming the authority of the scriptures—what they believe the scriptures to say. This situation is very common.

People want to know what they are to believe about Jesus Christ and how they are to defend the faith. What does the scriptures say about Christian living, how we are to pray and worship God, what it means to have faith, what it means to believe? Does God expect anything of us? What does He expect? What about tongues? What about the gifts of the Spirit? How are they to operate? How can we know that we are pleasing God? Why does Paul write about covenants, works, justification, and faith? Why does Peter write about a royal priesthood and the divine nature? What does the Bible say about authority? Who has the authority to teach doctrine? Who runs the church?

The Bible says that the authority is in grace and that is what we are going to study in this lesson. Always remember that it is grace that carries the authority of the calling and the calling that carries the authority of Jesus Christ because Jesus is the Head of His church. What this means is that the government sits upon His shoulders, “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder,” Isaiah 9:6.

#### *Apostles Are Christ’s Ambassadors*

Apostles Are Christ’s Ambassadors. When the apostles teach the doctrine of Christ, they stand in the authority of Jesus to represent Him on earth. “Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God,” 2 Corinthians 5:20.

When Jesus was on earth He said it this way, “For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak,” John 12:49. Grace was upon Jesus Christ without measure (John 3:24).



Jesus gave His apostles a measure of grace to teach the church so we would share the mind of His Father concerning His plan of redemption. The Spirit of God brings this to our attention in Ephesians 4:7, “But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.” As also Paul understood by his own experience as an apostle:

### **Ephesians 3: 2,7-8**

2 If ye have heard of the dispensation of the *grace* of God which is given me to you-ward:  
7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the *grace* of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.  
8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this *grace* given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

Again, we can see what the Bible says about authority, that the authority is grace and that grace is in the calling and that the calling carries the authority of Jesus Christ. So then, we could say it this way too: The authority is Jesus Christ and carries His grace.

Grace is the voice of the Spirit through His apostles to make known the unsearchable riches of Christ, that all believers may build the one foundation of truth. Grace is also in measure upon the prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers to build upon that one foundation of truth to minister Christ to the Body and to the world. As each believer serves God in their priesthood, God issues an abundance of grace through each person. Body ministry is about knowing how to share the grace of God as good stewards of His grace.

There is no other authority than that which sits at the right hand of God—Jesus Christ. That is the true place of our authority. And this is why apostolic government is the first thread in the 3-fold cord of our faith: Government, Truth, and Spirit. These are the founding threads of the cord of your faith. If any one of these threads is missing, your faith will not reflect Jesus Christ.

### ***Will the Holy Spirit Guide You Into Truth?***

For many years it was believed that a person could be taught truth by studying under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The authority was thought to be in scripture. Specifically what Jesus said to His apostles, that “The Spirit of truth, [when He is come], 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,” John 16:13.



Many claim Jesus' words for themselves, but in reality, Jesus was not speaking universally to all Christians everywhere. Jesus was speaking to His apostles about their calling and how His grace would assist them. Believers, not knowing God's design for spiritual government, apply what Jesus said to themselves, and believe the Holy Spirit will guide them into truth apart from the apostle's calling.

Can you see how this action removes the authority from Jesus Christ and places it in a person? And why this is dangerous, because the person carries the inclination of man, the boast of man, and the wisdom of this world, while the calling carries the grace and authority of Jesus Christ.

We can now understand why Apostle Peter warned against "private" interpretation of scripture (2 Peter 1:20). We can see this to be true in how Christians "argue" the scriptures among themselves. Each claim the authority of the scriptures while ignoring the true authority of Jesus in the grace and calling of the apostle.

It is only as the foundation of truth is being set in your heart by the instruction of living apostles that the Holy Spirit will guide you in your understanding. That is how the anointing works.

### **Study from 2 Timothy chapter 1**

In this study of selected verses taken from Apostle Eric's expounding of 2 Timothy chapter 1, we are going to observe how Timothy was instructed to walk in the authority of his calling by walking in the sanctification of the calling. The authority is in the sanctification and the sanctification speaks of ownership. Timothy can then identify the power of God in the face of Jesus Christ, and stand in the equity of His grace.

1. Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,
2. To Timothy, my dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Verse 1 – "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ;" Paul, as his habit is, first identifies his calling. Paul does this to explain and expose the power of God that accompanies the calling. Paul is identifying that position as a steward and also assisting Timothy who shares the same apostolic calling.



Now, many have called Paul's letter to Timothy the Pastoral Letters. This is not true. Paul was mentoring Timothy as an apostle. Many pastors claim these epistles as their authority, but the authority is not in the epistle, it is in the sanctification of the calling.

Timothy is functioning under Paul's stewardship (we see that in verse 2). The Spirit of God set this pattern for the church to observe, that the instruction is only applicable to those who are functioning under stewardship. If you are not functioning under stewardship, then these letters from Paul's position as an apostle have no application, it's just knowledge, it's just ink on paper.

When you understand the position that Timothy was in and how he was nurtured by Paul, his confirmation, the laying on of hands, you can understand God's will for church government. Timothy was to continue to build the house of God in recognition of this tethering of government, not independent from it. Independent from the tethering of government there is no refuge, no confirmation, no defense. You are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.

#### *"an Apostle of Jesus Christ"*

Paul identifies his calling with the name of Jesus Christ for the purpose of sanctification and establishing ownership. Sanctification has to do with God separating you from the world to Himself. He is taking ownership of you for the purpose of nurturing and preparing you for His grand plan of the baptism of light. Those who are outside of covenant will take ownership of Paul's letters as they also take ownership of the Bible, but it is unsanctified ownership. Ownership has to be in His name—in the name of Jesus. that is sanctified ownership.

So Paul is identifying that position of stewardship for sanctification. And this is why Paul calls himself an Apostle of Jesus Christ. He stands in the sanctification of that name, not the name of Moses or of that law.

#### *"by the will of God,"*

When Paul says, "by the will of God," he is identifying the power of the Spirit. He is also talking about our power of choice. We choose to join ourselves to our Creator through this sanctification, so he says, by the will of God, by this union, and this joining.



*“according to the promise of life, which is in Christ Jesus.”*

The word "in" has to do with a point of access and access speaks of the altar of the house. This speaks of your priesthood and the building of the house of the Second Covenant-the house of Jesus Christ. The promise of life is only in this because it is only in Him.

You will not find the promise of life in the house of Baal. In the house of Baal are many unsanctified tokens and the activity of that house builds man's boast. Always remember that the boast of man never progresses, but always regresses into a form of regret, and so we see in the house of Baal that preaching focuses on those things that man regrets.

The unsanctified stewardship mixes the aspiration and boast of man with Christ. That is why it is the house of the mother of harlots (joined to many suitors for pleasure), the house of the hydra (many heads).

### ***Our Genealogy is Jesus Christ***

God will always bring the church back to identifying the house of their true parentage that we may identify Him. This is "distinction of face". In the house of God there is distinction of face because there is a pure language and there is an understanding of your function, so there is distinction of face. We know what relation we are of.

Just like birds. When a bird's eyes are opened he sees for the first time a reflection of what he is. So if he sees anything that is less than what his parent looks like then of course he says, "No, I am not part of your group, I am part of this group over here."

So the sea gull when his eyes open he sees the face of his mother. That image is burned within his mind concerning his house. And it is the same with us, when we are born again our eyes are opened by knowledge and we see the face of Christ and we know who our parent is from that point on, so there is no confusion of face.

The same is true for kittens of dogs. When puppies open their eyes for the first time they see who their parent is. Hopefully it will be your face. So when the little puppy's eyes are opened, the first person they see they say, "Awww! I belong to you." And you want to cuddle it and pet it, and there is no confusion of face.



The sanctification of the calling is vital. If the knowledge the preacher shares is not Christ, then new born babes will not see the face of Christ when their eyes open, they will see the face of Baal or the many faces of the hydra. That is their parent. The knowledge they are born of.

The chronicles in the book of Numbers illustrates this for us. You can see that the Jews were very accurate in their genealogy (which is distinction of face). When they came out of Egypt, God was bringing out His people to separate them from all other people to Himself. God gave them all one language of covenant to speak through Moses. They all embraced the same law, the same altar, the same faith. They were all of one house, the house of Moses.

When the Jews wandered from the covenant of God they mixed with other nations. And as a result they learned their language and worshipped their gods. They spoke half the language of the house of Moses and half the language of Baal. The Spirit of the Lord brought this out through Nehemiah, “And their children spake half in the speech of Ashdod, and could not speak in the Jews' language, but according to the language of each people,” Nehemiah 13:24.

### ***God Returns to the People a Pure Language***

Let's bring that forward to the New Covenant. The language of the covenant will be spoken by those who are in the house of Jesus Christ, for those who are born of His knowledge speak His language. Our genealogy is now Jesus Christ because we are born of new knowledge and by this knowledge we have distinction of face because our communication (our language) is in relation to the house we are in. So that is distinction of face.

There will be those who are outside of covenant that will speak half truth and half some other language of the hydra. This shows that their parent really is not of the house of God. They picked up on certain language they read in the Bible, they can say “grace” or “faith” or speak of the “Holy Spirit”, but that does not mean that they are of the house of the kingdom of God.

The restoration of church government is a fulfillment of the Lord's promise, “For then will I turn to the people a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of the Lord, to serve him with one consent,” Zephaniah 3:9.



## ***Sanctified Stewardship Brings You Into Your Sanctification***

Verse 10 – But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

Verse 11 - Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles.

*“made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ”*

The face that we saw upon our birth by the knowledge that was brought to us by the apostles whom God has appointed to preach and teach (verse 11).

The light of His countenance was first seen in Moses, but it was in types and shadows. The high priest turned around upon the completion of the sacrifices and he raised his hands and said, "The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you, make His countenance to arise upon you and give you peace.”

Sanctified stewardship brings you into your sanctification that you, upon seeing the face of Christ, may receive the blessing of His grace, mercy, and peace. This is what we see Paul saying to Timothy in verse 2: grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

we partake of this now at the altar. The face of God (His countenance) is now seen in the covenant and tools of Jesus Christs, in these things. We receive the blessings of the inheritance and the blessings of this grace through this altar of Jesus Christ. This is where His face is at. Because we see Him, we have Him image burned within our understanding.

This is the “authority of grace”. The knowledge of Christ that apostles teach the church carries His sanctification that they may see His face. Through the stewardship your sanctification remains sealed. Apart from it, the peace of God will not rule.

God will not put His peace upon anything that is unsanctified. God puts his peace only upon those sanctified things. So here Timothy is in recognition of this tethering and Paul says, grace, mercy, and peace. So the revelation of God brings about this form of activity that God sanctifies. His peace will rule. And we see that the tether is strong. It is from God the Father and Jesus Christ or Christ Jesus our Lord.



*“from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord”*

From God the Father - shows us that He governs our destiny in this form of tethering and nurturing. That the witness (the Father) is superior to the record (Jesus Christ) because it is the empowerment of the record. Apart from the empowerment, the record is a dead letter. It's like soil without moisture, it is dead—called desert. It lays desolate. But when the moisture moves upon the sand, immediately life begins to spring up . So that which was desolate within you is now springing forth with life because of God's sanctification. This tether exists because of your priesthood and Timothy has an active priesthood.

It's good to have a strong prayer life. the application of your prayer life is equivalent to your growth. As you are utilizing the language of the angels, praying in the Spirit, your growth will continue to excel and excel, It will increase because knowledge comes from this form of contact. Revelation comes from this contact.

verse 5 – When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

## ***Unfeigned Faith***

*“unfeigned faith”*

Unfeigned faith this has to do with the open activity of your faith. It is not concealed in any kind of emulation. That which you are doing, you are not expressing through emulation. And this is what Satan has taught the church, to assume Christ by emulation. Ministers come sailing into the pulpit with very loudly, trying to emulate apostolic authority, yet they do not possess the substance of that calling. They are trying to emulate it. Timothy, you are not standing in emulation of the calling, you are standing in the reality of the calling. because your tether is true. That's good.

*“which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice”*

When I called to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in you that first dwelt in your mother and grandmother. You, Timothy, are carrying this good tradition of faith. There is a difference between carrying a tradition and emulating what you read. A lot of people, when they read the Bible, try to emulate the characters they read in the Bible.





They read about the patriarchs and they try to fit into that role. They use the patriarchs as role models. by doing that they are role playing, like an actor. Actors play the role of certain famous characters. Actors like Charlton Heston who played the role of Moses in the movie The Ten Commandments. So he pretended he was Moses and people liked the way he acted it out because he showed zeal, he showed emotion, he showed conviction.

People like the conviction so they try act out the things they admire. The thing of it is, without the calling, you are only an actor. Actors study the characters they are going to portray on the stage so that they can be as real as possible. So they read the Bible and other texts and try to role play the part. But when the reality comes they are not prepared for the responsibility of living the faith of their fathers.

Responsibility takes the fun out of it. When you were a child, playing base ball the rules were open to opinion, but when you grow up and play in the leagues it is no longer open to opinion where you can shout at your neighbor and say, "He is safe! He is safe!" And your neighbor shouts, "No! He is out! He is out!"

What kids do is role play things they see on TV. So they like to play the part of the umpire. Kids, when they watch particular programs about doctors and nurses, pick up a few terms they hear, and try to play that role. But it would be very dangerous for them if they had a real scalpel in their hand. They might end up maybe removing the cat's tail.

People do the same thing when they read the Bible. They read about the Apostle Paul and say, "If I can act out his mannerisms and say what he said with great zeal and passion then I can really trick the eye, I can make myself look like a real apostle." But they are just role playing. When it really comes to the grace of that calling, the responsibility takes the fun out of it and you realize that the responsibility of the calling is greater than the games you played as a child.

When you are role playing you are the one that calls the score. So what's the score now? And your neighbor says, "I have 5 runs in and you're losing." Why is it always like that? Every ball they hit is a home run and every time you tag him out, they are safe, and every ball they throw it is a strike, but to you it's a ball.

So that's the way kids are, they want to make the rules as they go along. But when you are put into the real game, it is no longer under the control of your perception. It is in control of the true umpire who has the skills, and you are under the supervision of the manager and the coach whose job is to train and guide you. They are the ones making the rules for you. So the



responsibility takes the fun out of it. Now it is not on the basis of fun but on the basis of money. If you are not a good player, you don't get paid.

The same thing is true for the calling. When it comes to the calling, the reality of the calling is the responsibility of prayer, study, and the labor at the altar. Now you are laboring through it where before it was in your imagination and it was an illusion. There is actually an expression out there in the current Christian culture "Fake it until you make it." Ministers actually teach faith like that.

So they read about the patriarchs like Abraham, and they try to act out the part (faking it, hoping to someday make it). Or they read about Jeremiah the prophet, or Isaiah, or they read about apostle Paul, or Jesus of Nazareth. So they try to put themselves in the role of that character, thinking that if they put themselves into the role it may morph into reality. It doesn't. It is by God's selection and by His grace and by His sanctification.

### ***Stir Up the Gift***

Verse 6 - Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.

“stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands”

So Paul says to Timothy to stir up his calling, which Timothy received from God, but was confirmed before the church by the laying on of Paul's hands. So the Spirit is bringing out that the laying on of Paul's hands made valid Timothy's calling.

God used a physical vessel (Paul) to establish Timothy in his calling of apostle. God always did that. He used physical vessels to communicate His will through. So Paul, laying his hands on Timothy, confirmed that Timothy's calling was real, it was valid, it was sanctified. And that is the same thing God is doing again today. Validating your calling by His sanctification and the laying on of the hands of the chief apostle.

It is valid, it is real, it is sanctified. We are not playing church. This is the real thing. And because it is the real thing God continues to affirm it by dreams, visions, prophecy, and words of knowledge, discerning of spirits and that confirmation of grace upon grace upon grace upon grace and charity upon charity upon charity.



verse 8 - Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

“Be not thou therefore ashamed”

To be ashamed means to conceal something. Don't conceal your light. Let it shine. Don't conceal your calling. Let it shine. God gave it to you. That is a gift God gave you. Why would you be ashamed of it? If an individual is ashamed of his or her calling, 99% of the times the individual feigned the revelation for the calling in the first place. If they feigned the revelation for the calling then they would be ashamed of it because there is no substance to substantiate the confirmation.

### ***When You Outgrow Your Imagination***

But if the calling IS by the grace of God there is nothing to be ashamed of, let your light shine. There is no shame in saying, “Yes, I am called to be an apostle.” The same is true if you are called to be a prophet, or evangelists, or pastor, or teacher. This is the testimony that God gave to you in the name of Christ. So to bury it in the soil is to show shame towards it and His name, saying, well, it is not meeting my expectation. It is less than I thought it was. It is not fun anymore. So therefore I am going to put my ball and bat away, It's not fun anymore. I outgrew my imagination of it. That is the problem in the first place, that is what they were using—their imagination.

But the reality of it, as Paul brings out to Timothy, it is God that called you to this, don't bury it but let your light shine.

“ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner”

Be not ashamed of the testimony of our Lord (that is concerning the calling), nor of me, the stewardship. Don't be ashamed of the stewardship. Because this is the first thing that Satan wants to attack. Satan wants to attack stewardship and of course attacking Paul's stewardship he would say things to undermine Paul or things that are derogatory.

How do you know if Paul really had that experience on the road to Damascus? Maybe he was just faking it. Well, how do you know if Moses saw the burning bush? Maybe he was just faking it? People draw from their own bad habits. Their own revelations were exaggerations, embellishments, and inflated grace.



But Paul stands strong in the sanctification of his calling and says to Timothy, “Be not you therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord concerning what God established for you or for me, the stewardship. Because it is God that called you to this. It is God that is sustaining you through this. You are not feigning these things.”

*“nor of me his prisoner”*

I am tethered to Him. You are tethered to Him. But the adversary is trying to convince the carnal eye. Remember that the carnal eye works with one's logic and the logic is prejudiced. The logic of man can be very religiously prejudiced because of a person's upbringing, their association, their relatives, what someone said to them. That becomes your eyes. Can you believe that?

People are unaware of the influences of the kingdom of darkness. They are unaware of that. So someone makes a statement about stewardship about apostles that is derogatory, to undermine the name of Jesus Christ, that becomes the eye of discernment for those who do not see the face of Christ. They begin to look at the apostles of Jesus through that key hole, the key hole of someone else's logic.

What are they looking for when they peek through the key hole? They are looking for confirmation through the key hole of logic. But that is the powers of this world. That is how powerful they are. That is of this world, this dimension. The world lies in thick darkness, being the lowest of the heavens and the darkest of the heavens. Satan is ruling the persuasion of man's thinking and the ruling began with knowledge. When a person's eyes were first opened by knowledge, they saw the face of their parent, Satan.

Satan established ownership over you by a perception of knowledge. It is that perception of knowledge that establishes ownership. But we have now a new ownership, which is God's sanctification, which has to do with His perceptions -- His mind. We have the mind of Christ now.

## ***God's Clear Message***

God is sending a clear message to the church that pastoral governance is no longer valid and that the gospel is now being preached correctly through His sanctification. Church government



was never intended to begin with the office of the pastor, it was always in the office of the apostle.

**Understand the issue:** The office of the pastor is sanctified by God, but when believers read about the sanctification of the pastor’s calling in the Bible, they feel they are operating in that sanctification, but they were not operating under the sanctification of the apostles office, and so they take ownership of the pastor’s calling apart from God’s sanctification. Without the true grace of God, people emulate. Now it is in emulation, not sanctification. What was sanctified by God became unsanctified by man.

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## QUIZ

*Take a moment to review what you have just learned.*

1. What does the Bible say about authority?

- A. the authority is in man
- B. the authority is in grace
- C. the authority is in whoever takes it

B. Right. The authority is in grace. Always remember that it is grace that carries the authority of the calling and the calling that carries the authority of Jesus Christ because Jesus is the Head of His church. What this means is that the government sits upon His shoulders, “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder,” Isaiah 9:6.

When the apostles teach the doctrine of Christ, they stand in the authority of Jesus to represent Him on earth. The authority is Jesus Christ and carries His grace. There is no other authority than that which sits at the right hand of God—Jesus Christ. That is the true place of our authority. And this is why apostolic government is the first thread in the 3-fold cord of our faith: Government, Truth, and Spirit. These are the founding threads of the cord of your faith. If any one of these threads is missing, your faith will not reflect Jesus Christ.



2. Fill in the missing word in the scripture: “Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this \_\_\_\_\_ given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,” Ephesians 3:8.

- A. grace
- B. gospel
- C. truth

A. Right. Ephesians 3:8, “Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this *grace* given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ.” Jesus gave His apostles a measure of grace to teach the church so we would share the mind of His Father concerning His plan of redemption.

Grace is the voice of the Spirit through His apostles to make known the unsearchable riches of Christ, that all believers may build the one foundation of truth. Grace is also in measure upon the prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers to build upon that one foundation of truth to minister Christ to the Body and to the world.

3. When Jesus said that “The Spirit of truth will guide you into all truth”, He was speaking to
- A. everyone
  - B. His apostles
  - C. all who believe

B. Right. When Jesus said that “The Spirit of truth will guide you into all truth”, He was speaking to His apostles. Many claim Jesus’ words for themselves, but in reality, Jesus was not speaking universally to all Christians everywhere. Jesus was speaking to His apostles about their calling and how His grace would assist them. Believers, not knowing God’s design for spiritual government, apply what Jesus said to themselves, and believe the Holy Spirit will guide them into truth apart from the apostle’s calling.

Can you see how this action removes the authority from Jesus Christ and places it in a person? And why this is dangerous, because the person carries the inclination of man, the boast of man, and the wisdom of this world, while the calling carries the grace and authority of Jesus Christ. We can now understand why Apostle Peter warned against “private” interpretation of scripture (2 Peter 1:20).



## LESSON 9

### Should Apostles Hide Their Calling?

Many believe that apostles should hide their calling. Is this true? Does Jesus want His apostles to hide the authority He gave them? Did Paul hide his calling?

It is clear that Paul did not hide his talent (calling). He began every epistle stating his authority in Christ to teach the church. When he wrote, “Paul an apostle,” he was not being prideful, he was simply stating the authority of grace. When Paul said, “I magnify my office,” Romans 11:13 he was not being boastful, but exalting Christ who gave him the measure of grace to instruct the Body. Paul was meaning, “I teach and preach from that measure of grace that Christ has given to me to make known His truth and communicate His mind.”

It is clear that Paul claimed the authority of Christ. If Paul did not claim the authority of Christ, then he would be coming in his own name, he would be teaching in his own name. And Paul would not do that. Paul always pointed to Christ in regard to his calling.

This is why Paul explained to the Christians at Philippi, “You all are partakers of my grace,” Philippians 1:7. And why he explained to the Christians at Corinth that they should remember “his ways, which be in Christ”. They were to remember what he taught them: 1 Corinthians 4:17, “For this cause have I sent unto you Timotheus, who is my beloved son, and faithful in the Lord, who shall bring you into remembrance of my ways which be in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.”

#### *How Paul Set the Example by Identifying his Apostolic Stewardship*

##### **Ephesians 1:1**

“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus.”

##### **Ephesians 3:1-5**

1. For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles,
2. If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward:
3. How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words,



4. Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)
5. Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;
8. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

The first thing Paul does is identify his stewardship, “Paul, an Apostle of Jesus Christ.” The identification of stewardship, though, is not independent of the Godhead, it is tethered to the Godhead. As you study the lessons provided by Second 8th Week Ministries and gain experience you will come to understand more and more that God tethers you to Himself by His grace.

So, when Paul identifies himself as an Apostle, he is identifying that tether of his calling to the grace of God. He is not identifying the aspiration of man, but the power of God through stewardship. And because the carnal mind cannot distinction between the two (aspiration and grace) some will always view these things from the position of the boast rather than the position of the power.

When you identify your calling in church government some will say, "Why are you identifying yourself? I thought we were supposed to be talking about Jesus?" And here, Paul is taking about himself isn't he? By identifying himself he is showing his position in the machinery of the kingdom of God.

The same thing is true for a spark plug. When the spark plug is being examined, it is not that we are exalting the spark plug, but rather identifying it's value and position within the machinery of the engine. We are not isolating it for the purpose of worship. The true worship has to do with this function of the machinery of His kingdom. The true worship of God has to do with the function of your priesthood and eldership working together. That is church government.

“For this cause I Paul,” so again Paul is identifying, but not isolating his calling. He is showing the place value and function of his calling being tethered to the Godhead. Which simply means that he receives his supply of grace from God. That's why he talks about the dispensation of grace in verse 2. God has appointed grace for this season of growth which, Paul says was given to him, to give to the church. So we can see that the stewardship has a place value that is very important for the distribution of God's knowledge.





When God made known to you your calling, He was handing to you a seed bag, and this seed bag was for the distribution of the knowledge that bears His likeness. The knowledge that bears His likeness will be sown through your stewardship and through your elder hood.

### ***Are You an Authorized Part in the Machinery of God?***

This is your responsibility with this seed bag. Not to bury it as to conceal your talents, but rather to give it to the exchangers. The purpose of the calling is to make known your place value within this engine within the kingdom of God. But if you do not make known your calling, then it's like an engine part that does not have a patent number on it. Every engine part has a stamp on it, or number to identify it as an authorized part to be used in the engine.

Taking that to the covenant, each calling has a traceable seal which bears our Father's likeness. In other words, it is traced back to the bosom of our Father, or the factory where this grace came from, identifying its chief designer our Lord Jesus Christ. What we are doing is distributing this grace, which has His patent number on it which bears the image and likeness of its designer, our Lord Jesus Christ.

When Paul says, "Which is given to me," he is again speaking of himself. So highlight the words "given to me" and write the word "steward" over that. It (the knowledge of His grace) is given to me for you. In other words the stewardship is necessary for this distribution. But the apostle Paul, saying this was not for the purpose of isolating himself from the Godhead (grace of God) for the boast of the aspiration, but showing again the patent number that he is carrying. I am joined to the Godhead (I am receiving this grace from God's throne) and I am a true distributor. I am not pirating the knowledge. I am not a black marketer.

Now those in the False Religious System are pirates and black marketers. They will take the very knowledge that has the grace of God imprint, the patent number, and they will sell it under their own name.

### ***Paul Reveals His Source***

Verse 3 - "by revelation he made known unto me," Draw a line from the word "me" in this verse to the word "me" in verse 2 and connect it to the words "I Paul" in chapter 1 verse 1. Now there would be those who would be very critical about Paul saying, "Wow! He likes to write about himself doesn't he?" But again, Apostle Paul is showing his sources. I have the true source. I am



a true distributor. I am not pirating God's truth or black marketing God's truth for the purpose of indulging myself in profits.

Verse 4 – “made known unto me the mystery.” The Spirit of the Lord unfolded to me the mystery. Then he says that they should read what he wrote: “Whereby, when you read.” That means that the anointing (the Holy Ghost) will open your understanding to build. Now it is very difficult for those who are outside of covenant to intrude upon or to try to discover the substance of this mystery so what they do is read what they can understand and try to apply it to their life. But again, what they understand, they are examining only one part of the machine and trying to build an engine from a spark plug, and you can't do that. You can't build a whole engine from one part. An engine is a combination of many parts. In God's kingdom those parts are: Government, truth, and Spirit; the gifts, callings, and graces of God; prayer, preaching, and prophecy. All these are involved in this one machine.

When the apostles teach, the anointing is present to build, so you can understand the knowledge. Now you can set in order the spiritual things of God's kingdom, which before, the knowledge of God was book knowledge, lacking experience.

Paul speaks of teaching the mystery of Christ. The word mystery has to do with something that has been concealed. It takes the position of the stewardship to point out the combination of the safe. No one knows the combination to the safe but the stewardship. This grace is given to the calling for the purpose of opening and unfolding Christ, to bring out the volume of this knowledge and to begin to explain it and expound on it.

Verse 5 – “as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles.” So highlight the word "holy" apostles. The reason why the Lord says "holy apostles" is because there are also unholy apostles. The same is true with any of the callings. Whether apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, or teacher, the callings are holy to God.

### ***Paul Says He is the Least***

So verse 8 --- “Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach.” So it was not my education, by association, by social standing that God is using. There is the word "I" again, so circle the word "I". It is necessary to repeat that this is not the boast of the aspiration "I", but this was a point of identification "I". This is the empowerment of his calling that Paul is sharing.



When the current Christian culture sees the word "I" they identify themselves as an independent non functional part. It is not put into the engine. It is not doing anything. It is not benefiting the car at all. It is just rusting over there. So when believers today see the word "I", they look at it as a rusting non functional part - it stands in its boasting.

Over there (in the False Religious System) is its boast, but in here (covenant faith) it is working humbly because each part has to submit itself to the other. That is what we do. We submit ourselves to one another by the grace of God. As we submit ourselves one to another it is like a piston. As the piston is elated it also humbles itself at the same time to give power to the next one. So when one of us is exalted we all rejoice and when one of us is humbled we all also weep.

Paul says further on that he bows his knee to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, showing that the tether is strong. I take great confidence in humbling myself to His grace whereas we are all benefiting one another.

This is the same thing church government does today. We follow the exact same pattern. When you share your calling, you are showing your position in this engine. But the current Christian culture, because their system is not functioning properly, and their parts are laying all over the place, they are saying, "How can you exalt yourself? How can you say that you are better than this part here?" I'm not saying that I'm better than that part, I am just a functioning part. I am in the engine. I am working. As long as those parts are laying on the floor, they are not doing your car any good. your car is going to be sitting in the driveway for a long time.

## ***Body Ministry***

As Paul fits himself within the machinery of the engine to benefit your growth. The Spirit of the Lord is also bringing out something about Body ministry. We are all part of the machinery of His kingdom. The whole Body of Christ benefits from the grace that God gives to each part. Even if God has not yet revealed to you the calling He has for you, or you are not yet confirmed into the government of God, you can be a functioning part.

Upon receiving the foundation knowledge of truth, you too can begin to share the grace of God with fellow believers. The grace God gives you is not adding to the foundation stones that are already laid, it is building upon it. As you use the tools of the covenant for faith God will reciprocate to you much grace for you to minister that grace to others as a good steward of God (1 Peter 4:10).



This shows that we are in unity, we are of one mind and one judgment. As the apostle Paul brings out in Corinthians, “Now we are of one mind and one judgment and the engine is humming. It had its oil change and you are using good gas, so the engine is humming along. We are all partaking of the same grace.

Lest we think that Paul exalted himself, let us remember how he taught the people that their allegiance be given to Christ, not to Paul, saying, “Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?” 1 Corinthians 3:5. The church today follows the same example.

### ***Misuse of Authority***

The early church was brought up on a rich diet of truth from the table of the Lord prepared by His apostles. The apostles were the stewards of God’s house.

But when apostles disappeared from the scene of the church, the pastoral pulpit replaced apostolic stewardship, and believers had no means to learn the mystery of Christ. When you don’t understand the mystery of Christ then the minds creates its own romantic relationship with God to replace it, and faith falls into error and the soul falls into condemnation.

This misuse of authority resulted in the confusion that is now seen in every church, which God is correcting. When the pastoral pulpit authority replaced apostolic authority Christians no longer knew what it meant to serve God in truth. The scriptures were being interpreted by the passion of man rather than the grace of God. This is what it means to say that the “world” has crept into the church.

**Never forget:** The passion of man produces the doctrine of man. The grace of God produces the doctrine of Christ.

### **Ephesians 4:14**

“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.”

In the absence of the grace of God through Jesus’ apostles, truth took on many different meanings (every wind of doctrine). Truth became a progression of ideas a Christian would pick up from this or that person, as they panhandled their way on the false journey of faith they



were forced to begin. It this we see why God warned, “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation,” 2 Peter 1:20.

**Always remember:** Truth cannot be discovered by the intellect of man, it is revealed through Jesus Christ through His apostles.

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## QUIZ

*Take a moment to review what you have just learned.*

1. When we said that Paul began every epistle stating his authority in Christ to teach the church we were emphasizing that

- A. Paul claimed the authority of Christ
- B. Paul was proud
- C. Paul was confused

A. Right. When we said that Paul began every epistle stating his authority in Christ to teach the church we were emphasizing that Paul claimed the authority of Christ. If Paul did not claim the authority of Christ, then he would be coming in his own name, he would be teaching in his own name. And Paul would not do that. Paul always pointed to Christ in regard to his calling.

When he wrote, “Paul an apostle,” he was not being prideful, he was simply stating the authority of grace. When Paul said, “I magnify my office,” Romans 11:13 he was not being boastful, but exalting Christ who gave him the measure of grace to instruct the Body. Paul was meaning, “I teach and preach from that measure of grace that Christ has given to me to make known His truth and communicate His mind.”

2. When we said that the pastoral pulpit was a misuse of authority we were emphasizing that

- A. people did not go to Bible school
- B. people did not honor God
- C. when the pastoral pulpit authority replaced apostolic authority Christians no longer knew what it meant to serve God in truth



C. Right. When we said that the pastoral pulpit was a misuse of authority we were emphasizing that when the pastoral pulpit authority replaced apostolic authority Christians no longer knew what it meant to serve God in truth. The scriptures were being interpreted by the passion of man rather than the grace of God. This is what it means to say that the “world” has crept into the church.

When you don't understand the mystery of Christ then the mind creates its own romantic relationship with God to replace it, and faith falls into error and the soul falls into condemnation. The passion of man produces the doctrine of man. The grace of God produces the doctrine of Christ.

3. Fill in the missing word in the sentence: Truth cannot be \_\_\_\_\_ by the intellect of man, it is revealed through Jesus Christ through His apostles.

- A. discovered
- B. borrowed
- C. stated

A. Right. Truth cannot be discovered by the intellect of man, it is revealed through Jesus Christ through His apostles. In the absence of the grace of God through Jesus' apostles, truth took on many different meanings (every wind of doctrine). Truth became a progression of ideas a Christian would pick up from this or that person, as they panhandled their way on the false journey of faith they were forced to begin. It is this we see why God warned, “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation,” 2 Peter 1:20.



## LESSON 10

### The Anointing of Truth

T.A.D. Truth equals the anointing, which equals discernment. This is what you will learn in this lesson. But first we are first going to talk about what the anointing is not. Most are well aware that God is shaking the church to loosen a Christian's grip on hurtful traditions of man that crept into the church. So, when we talk about the anointing, let's see what the Spirit of the Lord is addressing for correction.

As soon as Christians hear that there is an empowerment from God that will rid them of their problems they want to know exactly how to activate it, how to bring it down, and how to keep it. The "anointing" is actively sought to heal the sick and perform miracles. Preachers and teachers seek an "anointing" to draw the crowds like Jesus did.

#### *The False Anointing*

- When Christians are led to believe that UNITY brings the anointing, they will focus on how to fabricate unity of the flesh so that the power of God will manifest in their midst.
- When Christians are led to believe that FASTING brings the anointing, they will focus on empowerment through neglect of the body.
- When Christians are led to believe that PRAYER brings the anointing, they will develop "intercessors" who will focus on a release of the anointing through the "mechanism" of prayer.
- When Christians are led to believe that HOLINESS brings the anointing, they will develop a lifestyle that they think mirrors this goal.
- When Christians are told that the anointing is a POWERFUL FEELING they will orchestrate a feverish pitch of preaching and singing in an attempt to artificially induce this feeling.



These are all manifestations of a false anointing that God is seeking to correct. If we were to look at a common thread running through each example we can see that believers are pursuing what they are lacking. It is because God loves us that He does not desire us to be enslaved to a faith that is driven by the passions of man and lacking the power of God.

What happens after the circus leaves town? There's a lot of mess from the elephant tent that needs to be cleaned up. Spiritually speaking, God gets busy cleaning up the mess that Satan created when his circus of false knowledge was in the church.

### ***The True Anointing***

So what is the anointing? The true anointing is the foundation of truth that is set in the heart of the believer by the doctrine of apostles that prepares Christians to know God through the fruit He births within them through the work of Christ. Our preparation comes through TRUTH and our service to God is FRUIT.

Just as Moses prepared Aaron and his sons to serve God in the priesthood by giving them the knowledge of the law, and Samuel prepared Saul to serve God as king of Israel, so also the apostles prepare believers to serve God by giving the law or truth of Jesus Christ.

Truth, prepared in the heart, gives you eyes to see Christ. Truth, prepared in the heart, prepares you to discern the knowledge that saves and to differentiate that knowledge from the knowledge that condemns. So then, the anointing of truth removes us from the yoke of knowledge the world uses to build with their aspiration, and prepares us to labor with the yoke of Christ's knowledge to serve God in righteousness.

Without the anointing of truth, believers cannot discern Christ in His knowledge and continue to wander in the wilderness, going in circles, trying to find a way to please God, trying to hear His voice, trying to find God's will for them. Without the anointing of truth Christians continue to struggle with sin, and Satan continues to have dominion over their thinking.





## ***The Holy Spirit and the Anointing***

The Holy Spirit rests upon the knowledge of Christ just as He rested upon the head of Jesus at the time of His baptism, as the Father proclaimed ownership of His Son, “This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased,” Matthew 3:17.

By this we understand that God set a pattern for the Holy Spirit to rest upon and confirm the doctrine of Christ to work Christ in the heart of each believer. This work of the Holy Spirit to confirm the truth of Jesus Christ is called the “anointing”.

As Apostle John taught, “But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him,” 1 John2:27.

Again, the anointing is the preparation of truth in the heart of the believer through the instruction received by the apostles' office. Through this “preparation in truth” we are “taught” all things concerning the pattern of Christ. With this foundation of truth we have the necessary knowledge and tools we need to build faith in God.

As we daily keep the commandments of Jesus Christ through our priesthood duties, we continue to draw from the anointing of truth and the Spirit also does the same, He draws from the foundation of truth that is built within the heart to continue to “teach us,” not another pattern, but to increase our understanding of the one pattern of Christ.

## ***Truth Equals the Anointing, which Equals Discernment***

Truth equals the anointing, which equals discernment. The anointing is profitable only as we abide in the truth of the Gospel and is given for the purpose of discernment, learning, and guidance; it will not bear witness to the rhythm of the flesh (it will not lie against truth or against Christ to confirm the human nature, human lust, or human strength,) rather it will only bear witness to the true purpose and plan of God.

As the seed increases by water, truth increases by grace-that is the anointing. It is the Spirit that continues to progress you with the knowledge of God and the Spirit increases you by His tokens. The Holy Ghost is the power and will of God and It brings us an experience that is superior to all creation. This is His joy. And His joy is our joy.



The anointing is not just a gift of good feeling. It is a power granted for increase. God gives us these tokens to increase His kingdom. For you to experience the anointing of God, for God to increase you by His grace, for you to progress with His knowledge, truth must be set in your heart by a living apostle.

The anointing is what the Spirit does with the knowledge of Christ to assist our understanding. The Spirit takes truth (knowledge of Christ) to transform it into charity (the likeness of Christ). It is not the anointing until the transformation happens.

Finally, the anointing is in truth, “That ye may with one mind and one glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,” Romans 15:6.

Now we can understand T.A.D.: Truth equals the Anointing equals Discernment. When truth is the foundation of your thinking, you discern how the Spirit progresses you with the knowledge of Christ, and how you are increased by His tokens.

### ***When Red Flags Are Felt Then The Anointing Is Out***

Every church claims their tradition as truth and views those outside of their denomination as a cult. But God is calling His church out from among them to build His Body through the true stewardship. When a person cannot discern the grace of God (not seeing the face of Christ) in the steward then their evidence is placed on the scales of tradition. This becomes false evidence because the interpretation is tethered to religious prejudices. That is the real cult, claiming the Name of Christ and denying His House.

### ***The Cult Seeker (CS)***

The apostles were never “cult seekers” (CS), but they laid out the foundation of truth for those that are seeking God. People become CS when their doctrine lacks truth. Anything that sounds strange to their traditions is a threat and becomes the “Red Flag” for their suspicions. This is not the results of the anointing of Christ, but the persuasion of a seducing spirit (false grace), using the nature of man as the scale of truth. If God were to correct the church through stewardship why would anyone protest the manner in which God performs the task?



Know this, for any correction to take place there would be a need for removing those things God did not sanctify, but Satan allowed. Satan's hand is seen in the perceptions of faith, thus creating a false Christianity. Satan is the one that taught independence against the harmony of government and looked at unity as a robotic mindless act. How clever of Satan to demonize stewardship as tyrannical oversight to teach the sheep that their shepherd only wants to eat them and not feed them.

The jaws of Satan are chewing up those in the House of Baal and the pain they feel is not from God, but the sharp teeth of the devil, ruining their faith by unsanctified knowledge. Ministers of unrighteousness set patterns of non-faith tokens for their sheep, which is poisonous knowledge.

The same spirit that spoke to Adam in the garden is still using the tactics of options to distract one's faith into vain promises as we heard for the last fifty years in the prosperity message and healing doctrines. No apostles built on those fables of their time nor are we to start using fables as the scales of truth. Fables are where certain acts of God's mercy and compassion is used as a sample of true Christianity. These acts are as answers to prayer, healings, miracles, or spiritual phenomena.

These are entwined with scriptures and stories (wives fables) which lends certain credibility to being true Christianity in practice. Scripture alone is not truth, because it can be used to direct anyone's religious aspirations and make that person seem true to God's purpose.

Satan is skilful (wiles) in mixing the passions with scriptures as the voice of God, or as some ministers call it, "getting a vision from God". Such practices have been very damaging to a person's faith because they cannot discern between the holy and profane and group them together.

Mixing truth and error will not produce ultra-truth, but a pitiful poison. So a cult cannot be defined in the false light of error, which Satan uses to immobilize one's faith, and so the House is not being built, but everyone has an opinion as to which blueprint should be used. True stewardship knows the direction of the Spirit and understands the sanctification of God while those of dissenting spirits will always argue the direction as Korah. (1 Timothy 4:1; Numbers 16:1).



## QUIZ

*Take a moment to review what you have just learned.*

1. What is the true anointing?

- A. the true anointing is the foundation of truth that is set in the heart of the believer by the doctrine of apostles
- B. the true anointing is in miracles
- C. the true anointing is God's power

A. Right. The true anointing is the foundation of truth that is set in the heart of the believer by the doctrine of apostles that prepares Christians to know God through the fruit He births within them through the work of Christ. Our preparation comes through TRUTH and our service to God is FRUIT.

Just as Moses prepared Aaron and his sons to serve God in the priesthood by giving them the knowledge of the law, and Samuel prepared Saul to serve God as king of Israel, so also the apostles prepare believers to serve God by giving the law or truth of Jesus Christ.

As the seed increases by water, truth increases by grace—that is the anointing. It is the Spirit that continues to progress you with the knowledge of God and the Spirit increases you by His tokens. The Holy Ghost is the power and will of God and It brings us an experience that is superior to all creation. This is His joy. And His joy is our joy.

The anointing is not just a gift of good feeling. It is a power granted for increase. God gives us these tokens to increase His kingdom. For you to experience the anointing of God, for God to increase you by His grace, for you to progress with His knowledge, truth must be set in your heart by a living apostle.

The anointing is what the Spirit does with the knowledge of Christ to assist our understanding. The Spirit takes truth (knowledge of Christ) to transform it into charity (the likeness of Christ). It is not the anointing until the transformation happens.



The anointing is what the Spirit does with the knowledge of Christ to assist our understanding. The Spirit takes truth (knowledge of Christ) to transform it into charity (the likeness of Christ). It is not the anointing until the transformation happens.

2. The Holy Spirit rested upon the head of Jesus at the time of His baptism. What does this teach us?

- A. that Jesus wanted to be baptized
- B. that Jesus walked on water
- C. God set a pattern for the Holy Spirit to rest upon and confirm the doctrine of Christ to work Christ in the heart of each believer

C. Right. The Holy Spirit rested upon the head of Jesus at the time of His baptism. By this, God set a pattern for the Holy Spirit to rest upon and confirm the doctrine of Christ to work Christ in the heart of each believer.

3. What is T.A.D.?

- A. Trust, Attitude, and Deliverance
- B. Truth equals Anointing, which equals Discernment
- C. Testing, Angels, and Devils

B. Right. Truth equals the anointing, which equals discernment. The anointing is profitable only as we abide in the truth of the Gospel and is given for the purpose of discernment, learning, and guidance; it will not bear witness to the rhythm of the flesh (it will not lie against truth or against Christ to confirm the human nature, human lust, or human strength,) rather it will only bear witness to the true purpose and plan of God.

Now we can understand T.A.D.: Truth equals the Anointing equals Discernment. When truth is the foundation of your thinking, you discern how the Spirit progresses you with the knowledge of Christ, and how you are increased you by His tokens.



## LESSON 11

### Government, Truth, and Spirit

The true chain of faith is made of 3 distinct links. The first link is church government. Many today want to isolate their faith from the government of God, but it is Jesus that joined your faith to His government. To establish His testimony of faith in us, God first established all points of identification through Jesus Christ. The Spirit reveals to us through Paul that we are to “seek those things which are from above, where Christ sits at the right hand of God,” Colossians 3:1. The authority of our faith is Jesus Christ. God restored to the church these necessary things of Christ for us to abide in:

1. Government
2. Truth
3. Spirit

If you dependent upon a chain holding the weight of your body over a mountain pass, you don't want any of these links being weak. The same applies to your faith. If any one of these vital links of your faith, government, truth, or Spirit are weak, you are in danger of falling away from Christ. By the links of this chain (or cord) remaining unbroken your testimony reflects Jesus Christ. We behold Him in this unity and with one mind and one mouth glorify Him.

Sometimes these 3 vital elements of our faith are taught as the three fold cords of our faith. The covenant contains the three fold cord beginning with His stewardship, (Government) then the knowledge that is sanctified for faith (Truth) and the empowerment for regeneration (Spirit) which includes the gifts, callings and the graces of God, prayer, preaching and prophecy. If one of these threads becomes weak, the whole cord begins to unravel.

Cords in the Bible are associated with service to God. They are associated with the tabernacle of God, the house of worship. “And the hangings of the court, and the curtain for the door of the court, which is by the tabernacle, and by the altar round about, and the cords of it for all the service thereof,” (Numbers 3:26).

God gave us this word “cords” to illustrate to us that He gives us the things that join us to Him for service. Cords join one part to another part. We cannot create our own cords in our own minds or try to function in a faith that does not have these things that join us to Him. If our faith is absent of these 3 cords: government, truth, and Spirit, then we are not joined to God.



Throughout this course we have consistently established that Jesus Christ represents Himself through His government, by His truth, and by His Spirit. The reason for this is to set the testimony of Jesus Christ in the work of His grace and to join you to Him.

In the current Christian culture the word grace is used to defend a person's freedom from church government, a freedom to do as they please. What one often hears is "me and Jesus" or "me and the Holy Ghost." This is isolationism. What Satan did was teach the church to isolate themselves from the chain of faith, while feeling as if they are doing the will of God.

The word concision comes to mind, which is a word Apostle Paul used in his epistle to the Philippians where he said, "Beware of the concision," (Philippians 3:2). These mutilate the faith and resist the Holy Ghosts while claiming the sanctification of God.

And there are those of the concision today who also mutilate faith. They claim to be champions of the covenant, they claim Jesus' name, they claim to be brothers and sisters in the faith, but they are mutilators of the faith.

Grace is not your freedom to pick and choose what you want to work with. The purpose of grace is to sow the likeness of Christ in you by His knowledge. God designed grace for your reciprocation. His is what the Spirit of God will empower.

Apostle John said it this way, "He that has the Son has life," (1 John 5:12). In other words, there is no salvation apart from Jesus Christ. There are many religions that claim God, but do not accept His Son. They do not have life. And there are many who claim Jesus Christ, but deny His sanctification through government, truth, and Spirit. These also do not have life.

### *The Links of our Faith*

**First link -- Government:** God uses this link to provide the sanctified stewardship to oversee faith. When the stewardship is cast aside the sheep wander from the covenant of God as seen in 1 Kings 22:17, "And he said, I saw all Israel scattered upon the hills, as sheep that have not a shepherd: and the Lord said, These have no master: let them return every man to his house in peace."

Don't break the link of stewardship to seek a faith independent of it, for God's care is in it, God's testimony is in it, and God's clemency is in it—God is with the steward.



**Second link -- Truth:** God uses this link to provide the church knowledge for faith. The steward directs faith into Christ's covenant. This link provides the pattern faith follows to carry the testimony of Christ and not man. Don't break the link of truth by placing truth within your own logic, for logic is the weak link, reflecting your aspiration and principle.

**Third link -- Spirit:** This link is the crowing factor of your faith. The ways of the Lord are in covenant of Jesus Christ, His righteousness, and His priesthood. The testimony of Jesus Christ is the spirit of prophecy, which has to do with the Spirit bringing to completion your cycles of growth. Through each cycle of growth you walk out of the fog to behold the face of the Lord. When you truly behold the face of the Lord you will never follow after other voices.

Don't break this link by setting a challenge for God to confirm the testimony of man in place of the testimony of Jesus Christ. Remember, the Spirit sets the pattern for the flesh to follow that He may reciprocate your peace and joy. Those that grieve the Spirit of God sever themselves from His work.

By each link of this chain believers build a relationship with God for He continues to communicate His grace. Grace is the true testimony of heaven by which we comprehend Christ, which light we carry as a torch before us. But when the tokens of Jesus Christ in His government, truth, and Spirit are despised, the torch no longer carries God's light of grace and is a useless token—not profitable for faith. It's like having a flashlight without a battery.

### ***Christians Must Observe all Things For Which Christ Shed His Blood***

Did you know that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross was more than the endurance of pain? Jesus was sealing the testament in His blood to bring us into His Light and remove the offence that plagued the conscience of Adamites.

Many Christians romanticize the history of the cross where the imagination of Jesus' suffering remains apart from the terms of the covenant. Wearing the cross on the heart does not mean the soul is bearing the yoke of the covenant. Satan has tricked the eye with his religious perspective of Christianity, removing faith from the covenant and replacing the cross with independent works.

By these things the Christian needs no government, just govern themselves, they need no truth, just read the bible and select a promise and ask God, and they need no Spirit, just believe. There is no heart of obedience because there are no divine law for faith to be perfect.





Christians must observe all these things Jesus Christ shed His blood for and just not the benefits of the present needs of the body. The needs of the body can be met by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, but the mercy of God is in the tools of this covenant (agreement of terms) for faith.

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## QUIZ

*Take a moment to review what you have just learned.*

1. Fill in the missing word in the sentence: God restored to the church these necessary things of Christ for us to abide in: \_\_\_\_\_, Truth, and Spirit.

- A. scripture
- B. government
- C. love

A. Right. God restored to the church these necessary things of Christ for us to abide in: Government, Truth, and Spirit. Many today want to isolate their faith from the government of God, but it is Jesus that joined your faith to His government. To establish His testimony of

faith in us, God first established all points of identification through Jesus Christ. The Spirit reveals to us through Paul that we are to “seek those things which are from above, where Christ sits at the right hand of God,” Colossians 3:1. The authority of our faith is Jesus Christ.

2. When we said that sometimes these 3 vital elements of our faith are taught as the 3-fold cords of our faith we were emphasizing that

- A. God wants you to learn how to tie knots
- B. the covenant contains the 3-fold cord beginning with His stewardship, (Government) then the knowledge that is sanctified for faith (Truth) and the empowerment for regeneration (Spirit)
- C. God will keep you no matter what

B. Right. When we said that sometimes these 3 vital elements of our faith are taught as the 3-fold cords of our faith we were emphasizing that the covenant contains the 3-fold cord beginning with His stewardship, (Government) then the knowledge that is sanctified for faith (Truth) and the empowerment for regeneration (Spirit) which includes the gifts, callings and



the graces of God, prayer, preaching and prophecy. If one of these threads becomes weak, the whole cord begins to unravel.

At other times you may hear it taught that government, truth, and Spirit are as the links of a chain. If you dependent upon a chain holding the weight of your body over a mountain pass, you don't want any of these links being weak. The same applies to your faith. If any one of these vital links of your faith, government, truth, or Spirit are weak, you are in danger of falling away from Christ.

By the links of this chain (or cord) remaining unbroken your testimony reflects Jesus Christ. We behold Him in this unity and with one mind and one mouth glorify Him.

3. When we said that Christians romanticize the history of the cross we were emphasizing that
- A. Christians are romantic
  - B. God is romantic
  - C. the imagination of Jesus' suffering remains apart from the terms of the covenant

C. Right. When we said that Christians romanticize the history of the cross we were emphasizing that the imagination of Jesus' suffering remains apart from the terms of the covenant. Wearing the cross on the heart does not mean the soul is bearing the yoke of the covenant. Satan has tricked the eye with his religious perspective of Christianity, removing faith from the covenant and replacing the cross with independent works.

By these things the Christian needs no government, just govern themselves, they need no truth, just read the bible and select a promise and ask God, and they need no Spirit, just believe. There is no heart of obedience because there are no divine law for faith to be perfect.



## Getting a Fresh Start

Common words you read in the Bible now hold new meaning: “apostle”, “stewardship”, “government”, “teach”, “doctrine”, “authority”, “anointing”, “knowledge”, “life”, “peace”, “mind of Christ”, these are words God uses to describe the reality of Jesus Christ and His plan that you experience Him. We need only have the same confidence in God’s plan as He does. God is so confident that His plan works that He did not make any other plan for the church to experience the work of His Son in the heart. His plan is that apostles govern the church by setting in order the knowledge of Christ and setting that knowledge as a foundation for you to build your faith upon. It's really is that simple.

**Scriptures:** 1 Corinthians 12:28, 1 Corinthians 3:10, 1 Corinthians 4:1, Acts 2:42, 1 Timothy 4:6, John 14:6, Ephesians 2:20, Hebrews 11:1,6, Romans 8:29, 1 Corinthians 6:19, Titus 2:4, Ephesians 4:3-5, John 1:5, Isaiah 53:11, Matthew.16:6,11,12 , 1 Corinthians 5:6, Numbers 8:5-7, Hebrews.8:5, 1 Peter 2:5; 1Peter 2:9, John 15:3, Titus 3:5, 1 Corinthians 6:11, Galatians 5:19-21, Ephesians 5:26, John 17:15, Isaiah 9:6, 2 Corinthians 5:20, John 3:24, Ephesians 4:7, Ephesians 3: 2,7-8, John 16:13, 2 Peter 1:20, Romans 11:13, Philippians 1:7, 1 Corinthians 4:17, 1 Corinthians 3:5, Ephesians 4:14, Matthew 3:17, 1 John2:27, Romans 15:6, Colossians 3:1, 1 Kings 22:17,

### Supporting scriptures:

1. Jesus gave commandments to His apostles to give to the church: Acts 1:2
2. Apostles bring unity through truth: “For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ” Ephesians 4:12-13.
3. When apostles teach the church, the word of Christ dwells in them, and they can then teach one another by that same pattern. Stewardship now spreads from the government through the body: Colossians 3:16
4. When apostles teach the church the gifts are in proper operation: “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I (an apostle) would not have you ignorant.” I Corinthians 12:1
5. All apostles lay the same foundation of truth in the heart: 1 Corinthians 3:11
6. Apostles set order to the way in which the church functions with doctrine: 1 Corinthians 11:34



## Making Simple Connections

- Proper understanding of spiritual government allows us to make simple connections between *the bond of perfectness* and *apostolic stewardship* (Col. 3:14). Apostles teach the one true doctrine where Jesus Christ is perfectly represented. Nothing of man is added, and nothing of Christ is missing.
- Proper understanding of spiritual government allows us to make simple connections between *the peace of God that rules the heart* and *apostolic stewardship* (Col.3:15). The Holy Ghost rests upon the knowledge of Christ working peace in the heart.

## Summary Notes

1. God wants us to understand His divine order for spiritual government.
2. You have to build your faith with the right knowledge in order for your faith to function correctly.
3. We express faith according to the knowledge we possess.
4. It is of vital importance that the Body of Christ return to true Apostolic Governance and come unto the knowledge of the truth that God wants believers to have for their function in Christ.
5. Truth prepares the heart to serve and worship God perfectly.
6. Truth brings us into one mind in Christ.
7. Apostles are the master builders.
8. Jesus gave the apostles the blueprint of truth to lay the foundation of truth in the heart of the believer.
9. Apostles are first because God wants us to come into one understanding of truth to function with His knowledge.
10. The apostles teach the doctrine of Christ, the how-to's of Christianity. That is simply what they are called of God to do.
11. Apostles set order to the knowledge of Christ so that a person can have the full knowledge of God to walk in.
12. Apostolic stewardship of the church simply means that apostles are teaching the mysteries of Christ.



13. The problem is that when apostles are not active, the church builds faith upon knowledge that God did not sanctify (enter into) and that is the reason why believers today cannot walk in the things that are in Christ.
14. The need for knowledge for faith is the corner stone of faith.
15. Simple Faith means having the knowledge you need to reflect Christ rather than yourself.
16. When knowledge reflects yourself it is severed from the covenant and is powerless to save you.
17. Knowledge holds the contents (substance) faith needs to be pleasing to God.
18. The mind functions with knowledge.
19. Our thinking processes is spiritual labor.
20. The knowledge of this world is like a corpse—it is dead. There is no substance in the knowledge of the world that we can use to reciprocate to God.
21. The knowledge of God produces faith, and faith is a reciprocator—it responds.
22. The knowledge God gives will produce a substance because it was designed that way.
23. By His divine power we reciprocate His likeness.
24. Where Christ is preached a tethering of knowledge takes place that carries the living expression of Jesus Christ.
25. Knowledge must take a frame for you to function in God's kingdom.
26. Just like Moses had to teach the Israelites how to function in faith in the tabernacle, the apostles today teach the church the knowledge of how to function in our spiritual temple so we can please God.
27. The frame of God's knowledge begins with the foundation of truth, which is the 12 elements of the gospel: grace, faith, righteousness, justification, sanctification, holiness, peace, rest, charity, truth, regeneration, and the renewing of the mind.
28. The knowledge of Christ is holy because it reflects Jesus Christ perfectly.
29. The knowledge of Christ is holy because it is separated from all other knowledge.
30. The knowledge of Christ is holy because it does not follow the wisdom of the world, nor the spirit of this world.
31. Holy knowledge is the truth of Jesus Christ.
32. God sets order to the knowledge of Jesus Christ.
33. Knowledge that is not ordered by the Lord follows the logic of man and the wisdom of the world.
34. Knowledge that is not set in order does not reflect Christ.



35. Apostles have one purpose—to unify the Body in one truth. So, whether Paul planted the seed of truth and Apollos watered the seed of truth, both were teaching the same truth. This is not diversity, this is the unity of the faith.
36. When apostles teach the church, Satan’s lie is exposed.
37. God wants you to have the knowledge of the truth that you may see Satan’s lie for what it is, and choose to stand in God’s knowledge.
38. Faith has to be a cognitive choice of the will.
39. Satan acculturated man to believe that many truths can please God.
40. The job of apostles today is to remove leaven from Christ’s truth by laying the original (unleavened) foundation of truth within the heart of each believer.
41. Doctrinal cleansing prepares you for your priesthood.
42. The truth of Jesus establishes Jesus Christ as the record of your faith.
43. The power of the Spirit to return the soul to the Christ-likeness is the witness.
44. As apostles wash and cleanse the church, removing from faith the knowledge (leaven) that defiled faith and as they reset the original foundation of truth in the heart, to prepare believers for their priesthood, the Spirit of God then begins His one-on-one spiritual cleansing, and tutorship in the heart of each believer for fellowship and growth.
45. Always remember that it is grace that carries the authority of the calling and the calling that carries the authority of Jesus Christ because Jesus is the Head of His church.
46. When the apostles teach the doctrine of Christ, they stand in the authority of Jesus to represent Him on earth.
47. Jesus gave His apostles a measure of grace to teach the church so we would share the mind of His Father concerning His plan of redemption.
48. Grace is the voice of the Spirit through His apostles to make known the unsearchable riches of Christ, that all believers may build the one foundation of truth.
49. There is no other authority than that which sits at the right hand of God—Jesus Christ.
50. It is clear that Paul did not hide his talent (calling).
51. It is clear that Paul claimed the authority of Christ. If Paul did not claim the authority of Christ, then he would be coming in his own name, he would be teaching in his own name.
52. But when apostles disappeared from the scene of the church, the pastoral pulpit replaced apostolic stewardship, and believers had no means to learn the mystery of Christ.
53. Truth, prepared in the heart, gives you eyes to see Christ.
54. Truth, prepared in the heart, prepares you to discern the knowledge that saves and to differentiate that knowledge from the knowledge that condemns.
55. Truth equals the anointing, which equals discernment.



56. The anointing is not just a gift of good feeling. It is a power granted for increase.
57. The anointing is what the Spirit does with the knowledge of Christ to assist our understanding.
58. The anointing is what the Spirit does with the knowledge of Christ to assist our understanding. The Spirit takes truth (knowledge of Christ) to transform it into charity (the likeness of Christ). It is not the anointing until the transformation happens.
59. The authority of our faith is Jesus Christ. God restored to the church these necessary things of Christ for us to abide in: government, truth, and Spirit.
60. The covenant contains the 3-fold cord beginning with His stewardship, (Government) then the knowledge that is sanctified for faith (Truth) and the empowerment for regeneration (Spirit).
61. Remember, the Spirit sets the pattern for the flesh to follow that He may reciprocate your peace and joy. Those that grieve the Spirit of God sever themselves from His work.
62. Grace is the true testimony of heaven by which we comprehend Christ, which light we carry as a torch before us.
63. But when the tokens of Jesus Christ in His government, truth, and Spirit are despised, the torch no longer carries God's light of grace and is a useless token—not profitable for faith. It's like having a flashlight without a battery.



## Covenant Faith: Three Simple Steps to Making a Decision To Follow Christ

Everyone comes to a point in their life where they want to know more about God. Some people say they want to get closer to God. Some say they sense something missing in their faith. Others say they are desperately trying to fill a void in their life. However you say it, God has been ministering to you and calling you to Him for a long time.

You may have tried different religions or churches, looking for God. Or maybe you tried to find God in nature. But no matter what you tried, you always came back to the same place of emptiness, feeling there should be something more to life.



Regardless of how much life or religion has disappointed you, God was there time and again, encouraging you not to give up. He was there telling you that He would help you. There is a Psalm that says, “Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer: preserve my life from fear of the enemy,” Psalm 64:1. And another favorite is, “Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust,” Psalm 16:1.

So, here you are. All those moments of intervention on God’s part (His grace) has brought you to this point where your faith is about to embark on the final journey home.

Covenant Faith in Jesus Christ is that journey. It is vital that you understand what happened when Jesus shed His blood, and what His death and resurrection means to God. God wants to save, heal, and deliver you. God wants to remove you from Satan’s kingdom of darkness where you were spiritually







imprisoned by his lies. God invites you to have a personal relationship with Him in His kingdom, where He will accept you as His child and free you of the hold Satan has on you. God's invitation is to free you to Him.

Covenant Faith is a simple faith to walk. You'll learn what it means to become a Christian, and how it is possible to please God and live the kind of life He wants you to live every day. You'll learn how easy it is to have a personal relationship with God as you walk in your spiritual priesthood. The truth of Jesus Christ will be broken down for you in ways you never thought possible. God will begin to answer many questions that you had about Him and the purpose of your existence.

Let's now go through a few steps that will guide you to make a faith decision to follow Jesus Christ in the new way of His covenant.

### ***Step One: Understand Where You Are Spiritually and How You Got There***

For most, life's journey is not an easy one. It is much like being on a ship, drifting through thick fog; you feel lost and uncertain of your future. Every time the waves threatened to capsize your ship you cried out, "God, where are you?! I can't see through this fog, and the waves are too high for me! Help me!"

This cry the soul makes for God is desperately repeated thousands of times every day. The Psalmist said, "Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation," Psalm 27:9.



## *What the Bible Says About Man's Condition*



Man's separation from God is a direct result of Adam having accepted Satan's promises. Satan gave Adam knowledge for his mind to work with that was a direct contradiction to the things God had told Adam. God told Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and Satan said, "Yes, but. . .if you eat of this tree you will get what you want."

Satan offered Adam knowledge (promise) that worked with what Adam wanted and by that knowledge, Satan taught Adam how to work around what God had said. In this way Satan took captive Adam's mind, and this is why all Adamites today are prisoners to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

This is what God said: "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die," Genesis 2:17. God breaks sin down for us: Sin is the kingdom of Satan that Adam joined himself to by reaching for Satan's promise. There is no life in Satan's kingdom, only death.

Nothing about sin has changed since the garden. Satan continues to promise liberty, but his promise is a bondage to our self image, which brings uncertainty, works doubt in the heart, and causes man to live in fear.

Knowing these things makes the choice for life easy. Choose life by choosing to enter into God's kingdom by coming into covenant with Him.

### *Step Two: Recognize the Voice of God Calling You*

**Did you know:** Everyone has heard the voice of God calling them out of Satan's kingdom many times. This call is the most wonderful and sweet thing imaginable. It is like a call home, a longing to be with God, a knowing that you were created for something other than what you are now experiencing.



God's call to you is special. But it's only when you stop and listen that you can hear Him more clearly. You may be wondering, If God has been calling me all my life. why has it been so difficult to find him? The reason for this difficulty is that Satan has been there too.

Every time you heard God calling you, Satan was there hanging around, listening, just like he did in the garden when God spoke to Adam. Satan designed many spiritual paths hoping you would choose one and get lost, looking for God's purpose in the wrong place.

This is why some think God's call is a call to spirituality and begin to search into everything spiritual, while others think it's a call to find themselves and begin a journey of self discovery.

It's hard to find God's true spiritual path of the covenant when Satan volunteers to be our path finder. It's like taking a trip to a faraway place. You're trying to find your way to the tourist center when this man walks up to you and tries to sell you an all-inclusive package to visit the wonderful and exotic places that only he knows about.

Everything sounds adventurous and exciting, and you trust this guy because he appears to know what he is talking about. But you haven't seen the posters around town warning tourists not to trust themselves to this murderer and thief.

In the same way, when people hear the call of God, Satan is there to send them on another journey far away from God. How do you know that is true? Because you come back to the same struggle, the same questions, the same emptiness, and the same disappointments. Does this describe your condition today?



## God's Call Into Covenant With Him



A call into covenant is a call into Christ for the salvation of our souls. The Bible says that God created man in His image and likeness: “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness,” Genesis 1:26. When Adam accepted Satan’s knowledge, he lost the likeness of God and gained Satan’s mindset.

Just as a father would be disappointed in a son who follows another path, because the father no longer sees in his son an image of himself, so God, in the same way, is disappointed with man.

When He looks at man’s soul he does not see a likeness of Himself. What does he see? He sees the likeness of Satan. This is the likeness man gained after Adam’s fall: “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God,” Romans 3:23.

Jesus knows this to be true. This is why he referred to Satan as the “father” of the sinner (John 8:44). All sinners shall have their portion in the lake of fire because that is Satan’s destiny. Nothing of Satan can be allowed into God’s kingdom.

To change this, God provided man with a way back to Him. God gave man a chance to regain the likeness of God. God sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to die for the sins of the world, thereby offering forgiveness by a covenant of blood.

### **John 3:16**

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

### **Hebrews 13:20-21**

“Now the God of *peace*, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting *covenant*, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”



## **2 Corinthians 3:18**

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same *image* from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

God is calling to you to believe the testimony of Jesus Christ, that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Jesus is the Messiah, the Savior. He is the one who was prophesied to make reconciliation for the sins of the world, to blot out your transgressions, and to join you back to God through Himself.

Jesus shed His blood to provide the terms or grounds of the Second Covenant to sanctify your faith, that your faith may be pleasing to God.

Jesus rose again from the dead to establish a new priesthood in Himself, a living priesthood of knowledge to establish your communion with Him by this knowledge, that God might change you into His image by the power of the Holy Ghost.

You must believe this report and be baptized with the Holy Spirit, evidenced by speaking in tongues. It is by this engrafting of the Holy Spirit in you that you gain His likeness.

### ***Step Three: Make the Decision to Come Into Covenant With God***

Jesus said, “him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out,” John 6:37. God makes it easy for you to come to Christ that God might establish His testimony in you. All you need to do is respond to His grace and accept His invitation. If you believe that Jesus Christ died for your sins, and if you desire God’s forgiveness of sins, I invite you to respond to His grace by praying this prayer right now.

## PRAYER

Almighty God, I humbly come before your throne of grace. I believe the testimony of Jesus Christ; that He is the Messiah, the Savior, that He is the one who was prophesied to come to seal our faith and make us complete in Him, and that it is His sacrifice that blots out our transgressions. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that He died to make reconciliation for the sins of the world to join me back to You through Himself.

I believe that Jesus Christ shed His blood to provide the terms or grounds of the Second Covenant to sanctify my faith, that my faith may be pleasing to You. I believe that Jesus rose again from the dead to establish a new priesthood in Himself, a living priesthood of knowledge to establish my communion with You by this knowledge that I might be changed into His image by the power of the Holy Ghost.



I ask that You forgive me for walking contrary to your covenant for I ignorantly worshiped what I did not understand. It is You that put a difference between truth and error, darkness and light, and I choose to leave the kingdom of sin and enter into your kingdom.

I am tired of living by Satan's lies, and I desire to walk on the true path of faith in Jesus Christ whereby I can regain your likeness. I accept your knowledge of faith and ask that You baptize me in the Holy Spirit and assist me to pray in tongues.

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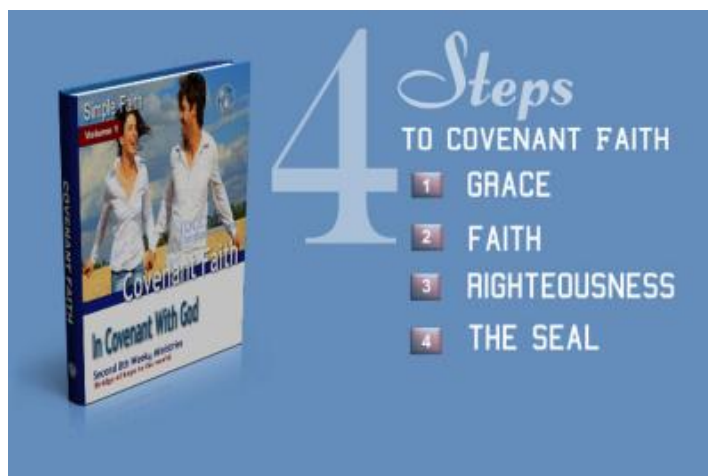
If you have prayed this prayer with faith in your heart, then God has forgiven you of your sins and declared you righteous. He will now seal your faith with the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and you will begin to speak in tongues that you may begin a relationship with Him.



## God's 4-Step Program

To convert you to Christ God is bringing you through 4 steps of His own to claim you as His child.

1. The first step is *grace*: Grace is His voice that you are hearing right now, calling you. That is God's part, to provide you grace that you may believe in Jesus. *Ephesians 2:8-9*
2. The second step is *faith*: That is your part. God's invitation to come into covenant is made effective upon grace entering into your heart. You need to yield to the grace of God and accept it. Your confession of faith means that you believe the testimony of Jesus Christ. *Ephesians 2:8-9*
3. The third step is *righteousness*: Upon seeing your heart of faith yielding to His grace God declares you righteous; you have met the standard God placed in His Son for faith to reflect Him, and you are now ready for the final step to come into covenant with God. *Romans 4:6,9,12*
4. The fourth step is the *seal* of the Spirit: The seal of the Spirit is the baptism of the Spirit



evidenced by tongues. God needs to bring your faith into the house of Jesus Christ where He can properly care for you and nurture you. *Romans 4:11; Ephesians 1:13*

To learn more about these vital 4 steps of covenant faith watch the video, Second Covenant Faith. Learn how God first introduced these steps to our father Abraham, and why the Spirit draws our attention to these same steps in the book of Romans. Learn why God planned for you to

take these same 4 steps to come into covenant with Him through Jesus Christ.



## Which Way Now?

When God baptizes you with the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ will then be in you, and God's covenant sealed unto you. God designed the baptism of the Holy Spirit for covenant contact. Covenant is the door that is open to you in Christ for many wonderful things to now take place, which could not take place if you remained outside of covenant. It is through covenant contact that we experience these things:

1. God tests our faith
2. God establishes relationship
3. God receives fruit
4. We gain trust
5. We are brought into God's care
6. We are preserved in His framework of truth
7. We experience the circumcision of the heart

Let's look at little further to see God's spiritual provision for you. When God baptizes you with the Holy Ghost (witnessed by tongues) these things are taking place:

**1. God separated you from the world unto Himself.** You are now in covenant with God. Hebrews 8:6: "But now hath he (Jesus) obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises."

**2. You are now born again.** When God places His Spirit into you, He is causing a spiritual rebirth. You are born of the Spirit. John 3:6-7: "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." We can understand that what you learn now is about how to co-labor with the Spirit that the Christ-likeness might be manifested in you.

**3. You are now a child of God.** When God places His Spirit into you, He is adopting you into His family. Romans 8:15: "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."

Galatians 4:5: "To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."





Ephesians 1:5: “Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.” We can understand that what you learn now is about how to walk as a son of God, how God’s nurtures a relationship with you.

**4. God gives you an eternal inheritance.** When God places His Spirit into you, it is an eternal bond. Your faith has eternal rewards. Ephesians 1:13,14: “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.” We can understand that what you learn now is about how to keep your eyes on the hope that God placed before you.

**5. You are baptized into the Body of Christ (to function in the priesthood).**

1 Corinthians 12:13: “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.” We can understand that what you learn now is about how to minister to God, serve Him, and your brethren in the fellowship of His love and Word. This is done through your priesthood.

Now that you have seen what God provided for you by sealing your faith with the baptism of the Holy Spirit, you need to be equipped with knowledge to know how to grow in the life of Christ. Arm yourself with knowledge and with the spiritual tools of Jesus’ covenant to keep yourself in the will of God, to keep yourself growing in His grace, increasing in knowledge, and abounding in love.

## About Second 8<sup>th</sup> Week Ministries

Now is the time of restoration spoken of in Hosea 6:1-3. Second 8<sup>th</sup> Week<sup>®</sup> Ministries is a global outreach ministry dedicated to fulfilling God’s vision for the church and the world in this time of restoration by providing the true bridge of hope in the covenant of Jesus Christ.

### *Vision for Revival*

God’s vision for revival is the complete restoration of the true saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and the return of the church to His covenant knowledge. There is no other truth than that which God provided through Jesus Christ. There is no other Saviour, but

Jesus. God is calling all Christians to embrace the original truth and covenant for which Jesus shed His blood.



Revival is a call to the church to come to order. Revival rarely follows man's agenda, as God moves in unexpected ways and goes to the very foundation to root out and to pull down those things of man that crept into the church. Revival always starts with a shaking. Lately, God has been revealing that He is shaking pulpits, shaking churches, and shaking those who sit in the pews. Shaking is good. It is the answer to many, many prayers to God to do a work in hearts.

Many Christian leaders recognize this shaking, and they are saying, "I find in myself this desperation, this sense that something is not right, but I don't know what it is. . .this dissatisfaction with my current spiritual status. There is this vague indefinable something that has lost the clarity, the crispness of oneness with Jesus." ~Barbara J. Yoder

Source: <http://www.charismamag.com/index.php/prophetic-insight/30434-what-is-this-revival-were-looking-for#ixzz1GmmAwyp9>

As we have just read, when God sends revival He first prepares hearts for repentance. It is clear, that as God reveals hearts, He is defining His perspective of revival. Revival is a call to change. Knowing they have compromised faith, many, as Ms. Yoder, are saying, "I am coming to the place where I sense some state of compromise, of coming into agreement with so much—not just in the church, but in me—that is not really born of

God." Does this describe your condition? Are you dissatisfied with your current spiritual state?

When God says that He is shaking pulpits, He is saying that He wants to unsettle the church, to shake the tight grip it has on the tradition of man and the wisdom of this world. As God begins to shake the pulpit, the confidence of the people begins to shake. Everywhere the shaking is taking place, believers are heard to say that they experience an inner sense that something is not right. God wants the church to understand that their focus is no longer on Jesus, but the things of this world.

God's vision of revival is to bring the church back to the true fountain of living waters. God's vision of revival means bringing the church back to our first love, the true covenant knowledge and priesthood of Jesus Christ, where faith pleases Him.

Just as God brings a repentant sinner to a point of admission by grace, concerning the state of his soul, so God also is bringing the church to a point of admission by grace, concerning the state of their souls.

Just as the state of the sinner is the result of years of embracing Satan's promises, so it is with those God is shaking in the current Christian culture. The condition of vagueness of faith is the



result of many years of following after Satan's promises instead of God's covenant promises in Christ.

This is what God is bringing to the attention of the church.

God's vision for revival is the restoration of the full and uncompromised covenant knowledge of Jesus Christ, a restoration of His priesthood, a restoration of His government, and a restoration of His spiritual tools. This is the jubilee of the church. By God's grace and the work of the Spirit we can minister this word to hungry hearts, providing ourselves as ready vessels of Christ to act as the bridge of hope to the world.

## ***Vision***

*by Peter Bolduc*

Second 8<sup>th</sup> Week Ministries

While reflecting on the countless thousands of man-made doctrines, which infect modern Christendom, the Lord gave me a vision of an extremely high, thick stone wall that went on beyond the horizon in both directions.

The wall was going across a field of rolling hills. My perspective was an aerial view, about 200 feet above the wall, looking out to the horizon. On the left side of the wall were endless roads and paths of various widths. Each dead-ended into the wall.

In what appeared to be at the middle of the wall was a very small, very narrow path that led up to the wall and passed through a narrow gate and continued on to the horizon on the other side of the wall.

Reflection: Being created by God, each Adamite has an internal desire to know and have a relationship with God. Man, left to his own understanding, attempts to fellowship with God in many different ways. But there is only one path that leads to God, and that path is the covenant, which Christ came to establish in Himself.

## What is the Second 8<sup>th</sup> Week?



The Second 8<sup>th</sup> Week is man's appointment on God's calendar of events. Watch the 2-Part video:

<http://www.s8wministries.org>

The Second 8<sup>th</sup> Week is a revelation that God gave to Enoch about the end time revival and restoration of the church. God promises to visit His church to restore her to the purity of the true gospel of Jesus Christ. There are 5 things to watch for as the Second 8<sup>th</sup> Week unfolds:

1. Beginning of Sorrows
2. Jubilee of the Priesthood
3. Gathering of Israel
4. Separation of Wheat and tares
5. Restoration of the Church
6. Day of Visitation
7. Hour of Temptation

- Learn why God gave this time line to the prophet Enoch.
- What does the Bible say about Enoch?
- What does the Bible say about the church of the 6<sup>th</sup> week?
- Why is the 8<sup>th</sup> Week split in half?

Because God appointed the Second 8<sup>th</sup> Week as a time of restoration, it is also a time of temptation for the church. God is testing hearts and challenging the current Christian culture to change. Whom will you serve? The Jesus of tradition? Or the Jesus of covenant? The Jesus of your imagination? Or the Jesus that died for your sins?



## The Founders of Second 8<sup>th</sup> Week Ministries

Second 8<sup>th</sup> Week Ministries was born in the heart of God. Before there were human vessels to carry out God's plan there was a desire in God's heart that the true saving knowledge of Jesus Christ and Word of His grace be restored to His people; to open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house (Isaiah 42:7).

Just as a fire begins with an ember, God's work began with Eric vonAnderseck and his wife, Maria. God used these two embers to light the fire of His glory all over the world, in the hearts of those who love Him.

Eric answered the apostolic call of God upon his life in 1977 and Maria was soon after confirmed into the government of God as a teacher. God raised up a leader in Apostle Eric to be an equipped of His government. Today, the 5 callings of God's spiritual government are restored and the true Body of Christ is emerging.



*Apostle Eric (top left) and Teacher Maria (bottom left) and representatives of the growing, global network of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers of the Second 8<sup>th</sup> Week®.*

[www.s8wministries.org](http://www.s8wministries.org)

There are many apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers God has called to join Apostle Eric and Teacher Maria to complete His work. Together, they are the Apostles Today Network of the Second 8<sup>th</sup> Week.

### ***Bridge of Hope***

Together, the Apostolic Stewardship of the Second 8<sup>th</sup> Week is God's bridge of hope. There is a lot of hurt in the world today because of those who said they are of God, but spoiled the faith of



the people. God declares, “Many pastors have destroyed My vineyard, they have trodden My portion under foot, they have made My pleasant portion a wilderness” (Jeremiah 12:10).

A young man in his mid 20’s recently asked, “Why is it that I feel dead? I feel dead in myself. I have no feelings of life in me.” The problem is, false knowledge will not produce the substance of life in you. So, the knowledge of the world this young man was using was actually numbing his emotions. We can be sure that being of a young age he found a lot of things to pour his emotions into, but it left him feeling empty inside and dead towards God.

The knowledge of this world is like a corpse—it is dead. There is no substance in the knowledge of the world that we can use to reciprocate to God, whereas in the knowledge of God, the substance is there, and it reciprocates. The knowledge of God produces faith, and faith is a reciprocator—it responds. A corpse does not respond.

Satan promises that his knowledge will bring life and that you will feel full and complete and whole and abounding in hope, but it can only deliver temporal fulfillment. The soul knows its Maker and will never be satisfied with anything less than God Himself.

**Never forget:** The knowledge of this world cannot produce the substance of Christ—it cannot produce Christ. The knowledge of this world cannot leave any substance in the heart for faith. And this is why the heart feels empty and void of life. This is why many people ask, “Why is it that I feel dead in myself? I have no feelings of life within me.”

On the other hand, the knowledge that God gives will produce substance because it was designed that way. By His divine power we reciprocate His likeness. This is what the soul craves.

God raised up a team of men and women to bring healing and restoration. There is now a clear path to this knowledge. We see the excitement growing: As the knowledge of the

mystery of Christ is restored to hearts and minds, each Christian becomes a source of life for others. We are witnessing the miracle of life taking place.

“I experienced a spark of life, which I have not experienced in 17 years since confessing Jesus as my Savior.” ~Lynn (Bible School graduate, BA)

“When there are many voices. . .there’s not a settling, there’s not a foundation. . .you read a book from this one or that one about faith—there’s no true knowledge of the thing [faith].”  
~Francis (Bible School graduate, BA, Masters)



## Free Online Courses



*Emile Annandale and Apostle Paul Odendaal  
Apostles Today Apostolic Ministerial Team*

It's true that nothing can satisfy your longing for God, but Jesus Christ; for God planned to engage with you in fellowship with the knowledge of Christ.

The courses, videos, audio files, charts, and illustrations, are all designed to help you learn how to know God in the fulness of Jesus Christ, to serve Him with perfect faith, and grow in the likeness of Christ.

In times past, when the church filled herself at the table of the world, she thought she was full, but her belly was empty. Satan was offering the church substance (knowledge) that did not give life to the soul. Christians thought they knew God by what they saw—a miracle here, a healing there, outbursts of emotions, testimonies of God's intervention—they did not know the dangerous place of compromise, which they were in, until God began giving them dreams and visions to prepare them to make their way back to covenant faith.

You will find God's building blocks of faith easy to learn. From the 12 elements of the gospel to the 9 tools of Jesus' covenant, to the altar of your priesthood, you will learn amazing things about covenant faith that will fill your heart.

Start our **free** online Bible Study Courses today: [www.s8wministries.org](http://www.s8wministries.org)