

*ALL Churches are Spiritually Dead.
Believers must NOW depart out*

GOD'S FIRST PRINCIPLES

Q1: Why is the Bible called the word of God?

A: “All scripture is given by inspiration of God” (2 Tim. 3:16). The Bible, even to “one jot or one tittle” (Mt. 5:18), is as God has perfectly crafted it. As the Ten Commandments were “written with the finger of God” (Ex. 31:18), so too, every word of the Bible was also written. In fact, the phrase “given by inspiration of God” literally means, “God-breathed”. In other words, what we have in the original texts of the Old and New Testaments are the very words of the Creator Himself.

It is true that different men were utilized in penning God’s word, yet these men “spoke” being “moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Pt. 1:21). An example of God causing words to be uttered that in turn would be recorded, is found with David: he was the shepherd-king who is credited as being responsible for more than 70 of the Psalms. Were these David’s own works? No, the Bible gives the answer: “The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and His word was in my tongue” (2 Sam. 23:2). It was God Who gave David the words; it was God Who was breathing, and speaking through this man.

Whether men spoke by the Holy Spirit, or received direct communications from God, ultimately the precise message God desired was written down, and has become the Bible as we have it today (Is. 30:8):

Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee.... Jeremiah 36:2

...I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book.... Rev. 1:11

Therefore, with the completion of the book of Revelation, the Bible became the full record of the will of God, the only means by which God would speak to man:

For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: Rev. 22:18

Thus, all supernatural forms of communication - tongues, visions, dreams - are the deceiving works of the Antichrist, the Devil himself.

Q2: What is pleasing to God?

A: “...This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Mt. 3:17). The Bible declares what it is that pleases God - absolute perfection:

Let your heart therefore be perfect with the LORD our God.... 1 Kings 8:61

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. Mt 5:48

Thus, all that God thinks, plans and executes is pleasing to Him, since He is Himself of “truth and without iniquity,” “just and right,” and His works - “perfect” (Deut. 32:4). God does **all His pleasure** (Is. 46:10): His work in creating the universe and all that is therein, electing those whom He would save, reprobating those whom He would not save, justifying the elect in Christ, and demanding penalty for every last sin on the Day of Judgment, to name a few.

Any and all attempts to please God, are completely unacceptable and displeasing in His sight. Indeed, all men come short of His absolute standards, for “all have sinned” (Rom. 3:23). God categorizes mankind as an “unclean thing”; and all man-wrought, man-invented forms of holiness, as “filthy rags” (Is. 64:6). Yes, the Bible states that God *hates* “all workers of iniquity” (Ps. 5:5b).

This indictment is especially alarming for those who call on His name (Mt. 7:21). Those who think they are His children because they have done some work they believe to be good: “accepting Christ,” belonging to a church, being water baptized, regularly participating in the Lord’s Supper, or any such like. No matter how one views himself, God sees the inward part of man:

For the word of God...is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

Heb. 4:12, 13

When someone’s inner man, the soul, is “full of hypocrisy and iniquity” (cf. Mt. 23:23-39) - i.e., unregenerate, God does not delight (Ps. 51:16) in any of the person’s outward form of worship [see Joel 2:13; Amos. 5:21-23].

The solution to the dilemma lies with the Savior Christ Jesus, the Lamb offered “without sin” (Heb. 4:5), Who declared, “I do always those things that please Him” (Jn. 8:29). Unsaved man “cannot please God” (Rom. 8:8), but if anyone is in the Lord Jesus, having been saved by His work, then he can be assured that he is of those in whom God takes eternal pleasure:

I know also, my God, that thou triest the heart, and hast pleasure in uprightness. 1 Chr. 29:17a

Q3: I remember accepting and making a decision for Christ – why then do I keep falling back into sin?

A: “So then it [salvation] is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy” (Rom. 9:16). God is the Prime Mover of all creation. He does not merely react to changing circumstances. Rather, He is the Master Architect of all things that come to pass:

The LORD of hosts hath sworn, saying, Surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed, so shall it stand: Is. 14:24 (see also: Ps. 135:6)

All men are accountable to Him, and all creation is His

(Ps. 50:9-12). Truly, “...of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things...Amen” (Rom. 11:36).

This is also true of the miracle of salvation. God declares that like everything else, “salvation”, too, “is of the Lord” (Jonah 2:9; see also: Is. 43:11). This does not mean that He is the sole holder of salvation, like a location to which men must travel to find something. This means that God is the initiator, the cause of salvation for those whom He is pleased to transform (Rom. 12:2), to create anew (2 Cor. 5:17).

The Bible tells of a man, Simon, once a sorcerer in Samaria. We read that when he heard the gospel of Christ, he “believed” and was even “baptized” (Acts 8:13). Amazingly, Simon later reveals he is still corrupt, and unsaved when he attempts to buy, with money, what he thought was the power of salvation (Acts 8:18, 19). In the parable of the sower (Lk. 8: 5-15), Christ teaches about those who “hear,” and “receive the word with joy,” and “for a while believe” – yet “in time of temptation fall away” (Lk. 8:13). God had not saved them.

May it be that you are one of God’s elect. One that has been, or will be, eternally *Blessed*, called the *chosen*, caused to approach unto God (Ps. 65:4; Eph. 1:4, 5), and caused to “walk in”, that is, “do”, His laws (Eze. 36:27). There will be many, in that day, whose cries of, “Lord, Lord” will be answered by the declaration, “I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” (Mt. 7:23). These are the ones that God **did not** elect.

Q4: Since God would never violate man’s will, those who reject the gospel will never become saved, right?

A: Wrong, “Turn Thou us unto Thee, O LORD, and we shall be turned” (Lam. 5:21a). Since unsaved man does not seek after God nor receive the “things of the Spirit of God” (Rom. 3:11; 1 Cor. 2:14), the fact that some become born from above, demonstrates that in spite of man’s hatred for the truth (Rom. 8:5-8), God *irresistibly* saves those upon whom He wishes to have mercy and compassion:

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

All things come to pass, without fail, according to the perfect plan of God (Is. 14:24). No imaginable force can “stay His hand” as He executes all His “pleasure” (Dan. 4:35; Is. 46:10). That God inclines the heart of man and turns it as He desires is the testimony of the Bible (Prov. 21:1):

That he may incline our hearts unto him, to walk in all his ways...to keep his commandments.... 1 Kings 8:58

And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ. 2 Thess. 3:5

When it pleased God, He intervened wonderfully in the life of a Jew named Saul, and “called [Saul] by His grace” (Gal. 1:15). Also, according as He had purposed, God “opened” the heart of Lydia of Thyatira (Acts 16:14) – His word had perfectly accomplished in this woman that which was pleasing to Him (Is. 55:11). All of God’s elect children are “predestinated according to the purpose” of

God, to become saved (Eph. 1:11).

This miracle of salvation does not violate anything; rather, it is the expression of the infinite, and perfect love of God for those who rightfully deserve hell. It is God's "unspeakable gift" (2 Cor. 9:15).

Q5: If God does the entire work of salvation and I cannot participate in anyway, how then can I know if I really am saved?

A: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10). With salvation, the person, once a "child of the devil" (1 Jn. 3:10), is now a child of "light":

For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: Eph. 5:8

In his soul essence, the saved person is, in the most real sense, made alive (Eph. 2:1), "transformed" (Rom.12:2), and has been "delivered...from the power of darkness," and "translated...into the kingdom of his dear Son" (Col. 1:13). Fundamentally, the child of God is a "new creature" (2 Cor. 5:17).

This means that if you are really saved, every aspect of your life, will be dramatically affected, changed. Further, these changes will not be short-lived, quickly evaporating away when difficulties arise. After all, God is now indwelling you (John 14:23; 1 John 3:9), and will continually work in you "that which is well-pleasing in His sight" (Heb.13:21). Since you been born of God, you now declare to your Heavenly Father, "I delight to do Thy will, O my God" (Ps. 40:8).

What is God's will? The Bible is the full record of what God has revealed. Thus, you now have a most intimate relationship with the whole Bible, and deeply desire to accurately know more about God:

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly...But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Ps. 1:1, 2 (see also Ps. 119:11; 1 Pt. 2:2; 2 Pt. 3:18)

In practice and in doctrine, your love for your Savior, will be made manifest in your actual conformity to God's will. After all, the Lord Jesus declares, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

Q6: I live as a Christian, not like the world. Does this prove that I am truly saved?

A: "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection" (Heb. 6:1a). The Bible teaches that God personally indwells every person He saves (Rom. 8:9), constantly working to cause the child of God to "will and to do" according to God's will (Phil. 2:13). This means that the Christian knows, progressive, ongoing growth to be the hallmark of each and every day.

As the Christ child "grew, and waxed strong" (Lk. 2:40), so every person born of God will also grow by the Bible, the "milk of the word" (1 Pt. 2:2), and go on to use strong meat (Heb. 5:13, 14). The Christian will increase in **knowledge, faith and love** of his God and **all the fruits** of salvation (Faith: 2 Cor. 10:15; 2 Thess. 1:3), (**Love:** Phil. 1:9; 1 Thess. 3:12, 4:9, 10), (**Love of his God:** Jer. 24:7; Col. 1:10; 2 Pt. 3:18), (**The fruits**

of salvation: Gal. 5:22, 23; 2 Pt. 1:5-11):

Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.

2 Cor. 8:7 (see also 1 Thess. 4:1, 9, 10)

Those who do not display this continual growth are rebuked of the Bible as unbelievers (1 Cor. 3:1, 2; Heb. 5:14, 6:1-12):

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine...

Eph. 4:14

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

Heb. 5:12

Q7: What is the "abomination of desolation"?

A: "...God knoweth your hearts...that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God" (Luke 16:15). This verse actually states, "...that which is **high in** men is abomination," identifying the "high" with men's corrupt "hearts" – haughty and exalted against the absolute sovereignty of God. This is "abomination" to God.

The prideful heart of unregenerate men identifies with Satan, the devil, whose condemnation was "being lifted up with pride" (1 Tim. 3:6). Satan is the master deceiver, transforming himself "into an angel of light" (2 Cor.11:14). The Bible shows him at work as he beguiled Eve (Gen. 3:1-13). This historical event finds its prophetic fulfillment with the New Testament church:

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted.....

2 Cor. 11:3

Satan's desire is revealed when he said, "...I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit...upon the mount of the congregation...I will be "like the most High" (Is. 14:13, 14). In judgment against His apostate people (Heb. 10:30), God foretold that He would grant Satan's wish one day: "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation ...stand in the holy place..." (Mt. 24:15). The "holy place" is that which identifies with God: the Old Testament temple (Acts 7:33; 21:28), and the New Testament churches (1 Cor. 3:16; 2 Tim. 2:20).

We are living in that day when the abomination of desolation "sitteth in the temple of God (the churches of this world), showing himself that he is God" (2 Thess. 2:4). Judgment has indeed begun at the "house of God" (1 Pt. 4:17). **We should, if possible, fellowship with other believers; but not in, or as, a church of this world.**

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Hebrews 10:25

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.

2 Cor. 13:5a

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