#48 *FORUM POST ON THE SONS OF ABRAHAM

Dear R_____,
Then you agree that only spiritual Jews will receive the promises, just as Paul said. The flesh counts for nothing. And since all mankind will become spiritual Jews, all mankind (including the physical Jews) will receive the promises.

Just one other point; Daniel's Prophecy is an "end-time" prophecy because it is fulfilled under the New Covenant by the work of Christ within a person. When Daniel's prophecy is fulfilled for a believer, the "ends of the ages" come upon them. Salvation is what happens at the ends of the ages. The Elect are saved now and have the ends of the ages come upon them first. Because of such, they are "First Fruits" of Christ's harvest of mankind.

1Cor 10:11 Now all these things happened to them as types, and have been written for our admonition, <u>upon whom the ends of the ages are come</u>.

For everyone else, they will have to wait until the final age to experience the end and be harvested.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

One must be careful here. When Paul says, "the flesh counts for nothing," he is speaking of the flesh acting independently from Christ. It cannot accomplish anything when doing something disconnected from Christ. No virtue will flow through independent human works.

That's all its saying. It's not saying that physical characteristics, such as being Jewish, have no value under the Law. Paul completely explodes that idea by saying...

Rom 3.1 What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision? 2 Much in every way!

FaithWillDo said:

And since all mankind will become spiritual Jews, all mankind (including the physical Jews) will receive the promises.

Nowhere are we told that "all mankind will become spiritual Jews."

FaithWillDo said:

Just one other point; Daniel's Prophecy is an "end-time" prophecy because it is fulfilled under the New Covenant by the work of Christ within a person.

That is not the definition of "end-time prophecy." It can be said, legitimately, that the end-times in a sense began with Christ's 1st Coming. But normally, what we mean by end-time prophecy today is intended to refer to the last days in which Antichrist is revealed and Christ comes back a 2nd time at Armageddon. Dan 9 said nothing whatsoever about that.

R_____

Dear R_____,

I will just make a short reply but with many verses of scripture.

The "flesh counts for nothing" because the "works" of the flesh cannot save a person. Only the works of Christ will save us.

Also, all mankind will become spiritual Jews because Christ will save all mankind. And to be saved, one must be a spiritual Jew.

Do you not believe these verses below?

Mat 21:31 Which of the two was obeying his father?" They replied, "The first, of course." Then Jesus explained his meaning: "I assure you, corrupt tax collectors and prostitutes will get into the Kingdom of God before you do.

Rom 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. 26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

Even the Jews who crucified Christ will be saved. Their salvation was never in doubt. However, they will not be saved as a First-Fruit of the harvest nor will they receive the blessing of having "life during the ages".

Mat 25:46 And these shall go away to punishment age-during, but the righteous to life age-during.'

Their salvation will come last, after all the Gentiles have been saved.

Luke 3:4 As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; 6 And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

John 3:35 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.

John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

John 12:32 And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.

Acts 3:20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: 21 Whom

the heaven must receive <u>until the times of restitution of all things</u>, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

Rom 5:15 But shall not the act of favor be as the offence? For if by the offence of one the many have died, much rather has the grace of God, and the free gift in grace, which is by the one man Jesus Christ, abounded unto the many.

Rom 5:18 so then as it was by one offence towards all men to condemnation, so by one righteousness towards all men for justification of life. 19 For as indeed by the disobedience of the one man the many have been constituted sinners, so also by the obedience of the one the many will be constituted righteous.

1John 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the <u>Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world</u>.

1Cor 13:8 Love never fails;

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.

Isa 45:22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. 23 I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

Phi 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 and that every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Col 1:16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. 19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; 20 <u>And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself</u>; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

1Tim 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; 4 <u>who will have all men to be saved</u>, and to come unto the <u>knowledge of the truth</u>. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 who gave himself a ransom for all, <u>to be testified in due time</u>.

Rev 5:13 And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever

and ever.

1Cor 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first-fruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the first-fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. 24 Then cometh the consummation, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God even the Father; when he shall put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. 27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. 28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

As this last scripture above says, all who die "in Adam" (that's all mankind) is the same all who will be made alive "in Christ". But there is an "order" to mankind's salvation: Christ is first, the Elect are second (at His coming with the Latter Rain) and everyone else is last (at the consummation).

Only with the salvation of all mankind will God be "all in all".

To believe that Christ cannot save the world requires a person to have a "works' based belief system. That system requires mankind to provide at least some "works" to receive salvation.

A believer who has this belief system thinks that because a lost person doesn't provide the necessary "works", they are worthy of being burned in fire for all eternity. With this works based belief system, a believer would have something to boast about concerning their own salvation. They must believe that they were somehow smarter, wiser or just less evil than those who rejected Christ. Evidently, Christ just wasn't power enough to overcome their supposed "free will" of rejecting Him. But of course, that belief is not true:

Dan 4:35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; and he doeth according to his will in the army of the heavens, and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

The only reason all mankind is going to be saved is because it is the "will" of God for it to happen. Mankind's "will" plays no part in it and as a result, mankind has nothing to boast about concerning their salvation.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

I don't actually need all of the Scripture references--only if you are concerned about interpreting one or two of them at a time. I know the Scriptures.

I already referred you to the "flesh counts for nothing" problem. It is not talking about our ability to do good works in our flesh/body, but it is using a specific technical application of the word "flesh" to refer to "independent works, separated from Christ." We can do nothing *of ourselves alone.*

But in our physical bodies, and using our own physical brains, we can make choices, in partnership with Christ, that are pleasing to him. In that sense we can, in our flesh, do good. We just can't earn our own salvation. We can do good through Christ, and in partnership with Christ, but salvation was won only at the cross.

You have said the entire Church consists of "spiritual Jews." But you have not quoted a single verse that indicates that. You are arguing by concept, but not by Scriptural reference.

That is okay, but it is a matter of interpretation. There is no black and white statement stating what you have definitively declared to be true. The Bible does not say that you or I are a "spiritual Jew," unless, of course, we are of Jewish descent.

So, if you wish to discuss any passage of Scripture, please focus on one or two of them, and then explain how this conflicts with what I have said.

I don't think you'll find that to be the case. I'm confident of that.

R_____

Dear R_____,

You said:
You have said the entire Church consists of "spiritual Jews." But you have not quoted a single verse that indicates that. You are arguing by concept, but not by Scriptural reference.

The Bible does not say that you or I are a "spiritual Jew," unless, of course, we are of Jewish descent.

I quoted Romans chapter 2 and it does clearly say that all who are of faith are spiritual Jews. Paul restates this truth in Galatians chapter 3.

This letter was written to the Gentile church in Galatia.

Gal 3:3 Are you so foolish? <u>Having begun in the Spirit</u>, are you now being made perfect by the flesh (they have turned to works)? 4 Have you suffered so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? 5 Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?— 6 just as Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. 7 Therefore know that <u>only those who are of faith are SONS OF ABRAHAM</u>. 8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed. 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed

with believing Abraham.

Gal 3:22 But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the PROMISE BY FAITH in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

Gal 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then YOU ARE ABRAHAM'S SEED, AND HEIRS ACCORDING TO THE PROMISE.

Any person, Jew or Gentile, who is "in Christ" becomes a son of Abraham (Abraham's seed). This is exactly the same message Paul taught in Romans chapter 2.

The promise made to Abraham was not contingent of the works of mankind for it to be fulfilled. It was made by a promise from God so He will do all the work of saving mankind. For this purpose, the Father sent Christ into the world:

1John 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

Since salvation for mankind is a promise made by God, why do you believe Christ is going to fail in His mission to save the world?

This is not a rhetorical question. I would like for you to answer it.

One further point:

1Cor 15:21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

All mankind has died "in Adam". No one is exempted from this death. The verse then says that this same "all" will be made alive "in Christ". Who could this possibly leave out? Absolutely no one. And since all mankind will be saved, all mankind will become spiritual Jews.

Furthermore, the death mentioned in verse 20 is a spiritual death and the resurrection of the dead is a spiritual resurrection. The spiritual resurrection for the Elect is taught in Revelation chapter 19 and ends in Rev 20:5 by saying it is called the First Resurrection. It is "first" but not the last.

Because all mankind is spiritually dead, when the body dies, the soul will die (our individual consciousness). This death is the true penalty of sin. The Doctrine of Hell is not the penalty of sin - it is a lie from Satan and there is no truth in it.

And since Christ is not willing that any of mankind should perish (2Pet 3:9), He will give life to all mankind. When Christ gives mankind life, it is "spiritual" life. That new life is given to the

Elect in this age FIRST. That is why they are called the FIRST FRUITS. For everyone else, spiritual life will be given to them at the end of the final age, at the consummation.

1Cor 15:23 But every man in his own order: Christ the first-fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming (the Elect). 24 . 24 Then comes the consummation (everyone else), when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power.

After the consummation, it will be testified to be true **(1Tim 2:3-6)** that all who died "in Adam" have been made alive "in Christ". Only then will God be "all in all".

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

You said:

I quoted Romans chapter 2 and it does clearly say that all who are of faith are spiritual Jews. Paul restates this truth in Galatians chapter 3.

This verse does *not* say that Gentile converts become "spiritual Jews." Paul is saying that Gentiles meet the conditions of faith *outside of the Law* that Jews met while *under the Law.* In other words, Paul is referencing the OT Era, before there even were Christians. So he could not have been calling Gentiles in the OT era "spiritual Jews!" You'll never find that in the OT Scriptures. And this passage does not indicate that either.

An equivalency is not an exact identification here. A Gentile obedient to God's moral laws is *like* a Jew obedient under the Law. They are not the same, but similar. An obedient Gentile is *not* Israel, but is *like* Israel.

If you get this wrong, you may get the rest wrong as well. So without this foundation, how should we read the following Scripture references you present to me? We must not assume Gentile Christians are named "Spiritual Israel." You will not find Gentile Christians named that in the entire NT Scriptures.

FaithWillDo said:

Since salvation for mankind is a promise made by God, why do you believe Christ is going to fail in His mission to save the world?

It is easily answered. We are indeed all Abraham's promised children, if we embrace Christ. And that's not because God promised a single nation that will encompass us all. Abraham was not promised just Israel to be God's People.

In fact, it was quite the opposite. Abraham was promised "many nations" of faith--not just the nation Israel who had the Law. Many became children of Abraham apart from the Law when the Gospel of Christ was preached to them. How is this in any way proving your point, that the Church is Israel, or showing I believe Abraham's promises to have failed?

R_____

Dear R_____,

You did not address the new scriptures I quoted nor did you answer my one direct question.

Your reasoning is not scriptural and for that matter, it is not even logical. You are approaching scripture with your beliefs already in your head and you then make scripture conform to those beliefs no matter what they actually teach. The church calls this method "exegesis" and it works very well to support the false teachings of Orthodox Christianity.

Don't you understand where a carnally minded believer's beliefs come from? They come from Satan who masquerades as an angel of Light (Christ) and from your carnal nature (the Great Harlot). With those carnal beliefs, a believer will develop a "works" based belief system. It happens every time after an unbeliever receives the Early Rain and is called out from the world. A called out believer DOES NOT have "eyes that can see" so they remain carnally minded. Only the Latter Rain of the Spirit will heal a believer's spiritual blindness.

This is why Christ said this:

Luke 5:39 No man also having drunk old wine straightway desireth new: for he saith, The old is better.

All mankind is under the Law from birth and that is why mankind is "condemn already" (John 3:18). They prefer the Old Wine of Law (man's works) when they try to approach God. This is religion and it applies to all the religions of the world. Religion prefers to drink the Old Wine because it is more pleasing to a person's taste (carnal nature).

One more time:

Gal 3:**7 Therefore know that only those who are of faith are SONS OF ABRAHAM.**

Who are these "sons of Abraham"? They are spiritual Jews who are of "faith".

Gal 3:26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then YOU ARE ABRAHAM'S SEED, AND HEIRS ACCORDING TO THE PROMISE.

This is very clear. All who are "in Christ" are Abraham's spiritual seed and heirs to the Promise. If a person is not a spiritual descendent of Abraham (spiritual Jews) they are not saved.

This understanding is important but not nearly as important as understanding the truth that Christ is mankind's Savior - not just some of mankind but 100% of mankind.

Here is why it is so important:

There are only three reasons a believer can have to believe that Christ will not save mankind.

1). They think that mankind supposed "free will" ability is too strong for Christ to overcome. This belief is utter nonsense and can be disproven with just one verse:

Dan 4:35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; and he doeth according to his will in the army of the heavens, and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

2). They think that some people are just not smart enough, not wise enough or just too evil to ever be saved. This belief is also a lie from Satan. ALL MANKIND is born with a carnal spiritual nature and with that nature no man can understand Christ or even have a desire to seek Him out.

Rom 3:10 As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

For this reason, salvation comes only from the "works" of Christ.

3). The believer thinks that mankind must "do something" (works) to be saved, even if it is just a confession of faith.

With that mind set, the believer will remain under the Law and will not be under Grace. Salvation comes solely by "faith" and not by any "works" of man. Paul even said that if a believer thinks that they need to do just even one work, they will come under the Law (**Gal 5:3-4**) and will be fallen from Grace. The church has made the confession of faith a "work" and they have fallen from Grace.

Since the third reason is the most common, I will explain it in greater detail.

Mankind is born "spiritually marred" (**Jer 18:4**). The flaw is in mankind's spiritual nature - it is weak. Because it is weak, our flesh easily assumes control of the thoughts and beliefs of the mind, thereby making it carnal. Satan feeds upon mankind's carnality and he does it through "deception".

With a carnal nature & mind, mankind cannot know or follow Christ and they will certainly not be able to confess Jesus as Lord.

For this reason, Christ MUST come to us without our asking Him to come and without our permission for Him to give us the Early Rain of the Spirit. Paul's conversion experience is a "type" which teaches this truth.

With the Early Rain of the Spirit, the believer will then confess Jesus as Lord and can no longer reject Him.

1Cor 12:3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit.

With the Early Rain of the Spirit, the unbeliever is now "called out" and will enter the church. However, the Early Rain is only a measured amount of the Spirit which is not enough to destroy the believer's carnal nature (Great Harlot). In other words, the Spirit cannot govern the believer and they will remain carnally minded.

To make matters worse for the new believer, shortly after they are "called out", Satan will come to them via the spirit of anti-Christ. With the spirit of anti-Christ indwelling the new believer, it will make them more carnally minded that before they received the Early Rain.

Christ taught this truth here:

Mat 12:43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. 44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. 45 Then goeth he, and <u>taketh with himself SEVEN other spirits more wicked than himself</u>, and they enter in and dwell there: and the <u>last state of that man is worse than the first</u>. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

The spiritual symbol of an unclean spirit represents Satan's false truth. Since a new believer remains <u>spiritually blind</u> (**Mark 8:21-25**) after receiving the Early Rain of the Spirit, they cannot replace their worldly false beliefs with the truth of Christ. ONE unclean spirit leaves but comes back with SEVEN more (represents the <u>spirit of anti-Christ</u>) since their house remains void of the truth of Christ. Now, instead of ONE unclean spirit within them, they now have EIGHT. The number EIGHT is a spiritual symbol which represents a <u>new spiritual condition</u>. In this case, the new spiritual condition is <u>worse than the first</u>.

John tells the church that the spirit of anti-Christ is coming and has in fact, already come:

1John 2:18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

Paul calls the believer who has the indwelling spirit of anti-Christ the <u>Man of Sin</u>:

2Thes 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, 2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there comes a falling away first, and that <u>MAN OF SIN</u> be revealed, the son of perdition; 4 Who opposeth

and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

After an Elect believer has fully "fallen away" and has become a Man of Sin, they are now ready for Christ to come to them a second time (the second coming of Christ) and pour out the Latter Rain. With the Latter Rain, the believer's carnal spiritual nature will be destroyed (in "one hour" Rev 18:9-10). With its destruction, the Spirit will heal the believer's spiritual blindness and the truth of scripture will open up to them. As they learn the truth of God, it will slowly change the believer's carnal mind into the Mind of Christ. This is what it means to be "converted".

Because this work of mankind's salvation is 100% the work of Christ, no man can boast about their salvation.

And because mankind's salvation comes solely from the work of Christ, He will save all mankind just as He promised He would do. Then all who died in Adam will be made alive "in Christ".

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

So you admit you're not doctrinally-orthodox? Do you belong to a heterodox sect of some kind?

"Exegesis" is the standard way of interpretation. It is what you do when you interpret Scriptures.

I'll address one or two passages, if you wish to state them separately?

Works-based attempts at Salvation we both agree are not legitimate. Christ alone merits our Salvation.

I do *not* advocate for a "works-based system," as such. But I do absolutely claim that humanity can act in the image of God, as we were created. People can do good, even if they cannot obtain their own Salvation.

've already addressed this. Being "sons of Abraham" is not the same thing as being called "Spiritual Jews."

Joe, you want to promote your Christian beliefs, with no regard for what our differences are, as I've spelled out. You claim I haven't addressed your arguments or Scriptures, when in reality I did, conceptually, from the start. It's you who fail to recognize our points of difference, and instead go on to promote your beliefs.

I'm not quarreling with some of your stated beliefs--they just have little to do with our differences. You just don't address those differences. Perhaps you don't really understand what they are?

Again, being a "son of Abraham by faith" is not the equivalent of being a spiritual "Israeli."

There are sons of Abraham who are not "Israeli" at all!

To be a "spiritual Israeli" is, for me, to be a Jewish convert to Christianity. You're using the word "spiritual" to turn the word "Israel" into a metaphor, when to be "spiritual" simply means to walk by the Spirit of Christ. A literal Israeli can become a "spiritual Israeli" simply by choosing to turn from Judaism to Christianity. It has nothing to do with turning a literal ethnicity or nationality into a metaphor for something else.

R_____

Dear R_____,

You asked:
So you admit you're not doctrinally-orthodox? Do you belong to a heterodox sect of some kind?

My wife and I do not attend any church nor do we fellowship with any organized groups. We haven't since the end of 2005 when we were converted. Now our fellowship is with Christ and the Father and the few on-line converted believers we have met.

Below is my testimony which was written in late 2005.

In the year 2000, I relocated to Fayetteville, Arkansas with my wife and three sons. We visited many churches during those first years there but we never could find any that seemed to have a real love for the Lord. After our own personal study of the scripture, we decided that we wanted to be baptized in the name of Jesus instead of the Father, Son & Holy Spirit as we had done many years ago. We could not find any churches that would baptize this way until we talked to a friend who went to a Oneness Pente- costal church. They agreed to baptize us in the name of Jesus so we decided to go there and be baptized, even though we were from a Church of Christ/Baptist type background.

Four weeks after we were baptized, my wife was filled with the Spirit at home and started speaking in tongues. It was a very powerful experience with her. She spent a great deal of time on her knees in tears, speaking in tongues as she prayed. We didn't really know what to think of it since we came from a church background which denied tongues.

A few weeks went by and she would still go on her knees in prayer every day and the Spirit would speak through her in tongues until one day as she spoke, the words changed into English. We soon realized that she was prophesying in the Spirit. We had never even heard of this gift before and were greatly amazed by it. Over the next year & a half, she received "words" (that is what we call them) from the Lord more than two dozen times. One of the words she received told us that the Lord had great treasure for us if we would continue seeking him.

I will quote it to you:

"I am. I know your heart. Seek Me and I will be found. Look deep into My Word. The truth is not to be given by man but only revealed by Me. It is for those whose hearts desire it above the treasures of this world. You must give up all and treasure you will receive. I am the truth and the only way. I am the Lord."

Julie received this "word" in July 2004. I know what you are thinking - I wouldn't have believed it is real either if someone were to tell me about it happening to someone else. I was not sure whether to believe it or not for a long time. But after a few months, I did come to believe it was really from the Lord because the things she prayed over and received "words" concerning, would come to pass just as she prophesied.

Then on Tuesday, October 4th, 2005, I saw a story on my computer concerning a young Muslim boy (age 12) who had just lived through a recent earthquake in Pakistan. After reading the story, my heart really felt for him and what He had just went through (he lost his parents). That evening in prayer at home, the image of the boy came back to me and I grieved for him as I prayed. I was not grieving for him just because of what he suffered in the earthquake. I was grieving for him because I thought he was going to be eternally lost and that he didn't have a realistic chance of being saved. I couldn't understand why I had been blessed with the opportunity to know the Lord and why he had virtually no opportunity since he lived in a Muslim country. I asked the Lord why this was the case. I was so confused and couldn't understand why he was most likely going to hell just because of where he had been born.

Almost three days had passed since I had prayed that prayer and I had not given it much more thought. Then on Friday, Oct. 7, 2005, I had some extra time at work so I decided to study "end-time" prophecy on the internet (my great passion). I conducted a google search and a list of websites came up. From the list, I noticed Ray Smith's website called bible-truths.com. I thought it looked interesting so I clicked on it. By the next morning, I had read his Lake of Fire series for a few hours and was now on the fourth part. I couldn't believe what I had been reading but I still felt compelled to continue reading it anyway. Later that same morning (Saturday, Oct. 8, 2005), I took a break from my reading to pray about it. I prayed for the Lord to open my eyes if what Ray Smith had written was true. I then went back to reading and was still on the fourth part when the Lord suddenly opened my eyes. I became overjoyed at the new truth the Lord had just revealed to me! It was joy like I had never felt before in my life.

It was at that moment that I remembered my prayer from earlier in the week concerning the Muslim boy. Immediately, I knew that this new truth which the Lord had just shown me was the answer to that prayer. I was overjoyed again. I then decided to find Julie (she was in the kitchen) and share with her what the Lord had just revealed to me. I explained to her what I had been reading and pointed out the supporting scriptures. Within 30 minutes, she was filled with the Spirit and began praising the Lord because of the new knowledge of the truth which He had just revealed to her, too.

Over the next few weeks, Julie and I studied scripture every day and learned many new truths. When we decided to share those new truths with our friends at church, they could not accept any of them. As a result, we quickly left the church and never returned.

In just a few short weeks, Julie and I had learned so much from our studies that nearly everything we knew before as "truth", we now knew to be lies from Satan. I could hardly believe how spiritually blind we had been before. It was an earthshaking spiritual experience for us.

Now from scripture, we have come to understand what just happened in both our lives; the Lord had come to us a second time, baptized us with His Spirit (Latter Rain) and healed our spiritual blindness. Now with "eyes that can see", the Lord appeared to us from scripture for the very first

time. We found the treasure mentioned in Julie's prophecy from July 2004. We didn't even remember her receiving that "word" until I stumbled across it a few days later in an old email I had sent to a family member. When I reminded her of it and read it to her, she was filled with tears of joy.

The next day, Julie received another "word" from the Lord. It said:

"I will answer. I have shown you the truth in My Word. It is only revealed to those who seek it. It is by faith. It is for those who seek to know Me. I will bring all before My judgment, which is righteous and true. I will complete all things as I have committed to do by My Word. The things of the Spirit cannot be understood by man, even if I reveal it. It will be as I have spoken it. Some will hear and not believe. Some will hear and search but will desire the favor of men more than Me. Some will hear and seek understanding, and by faith I will show them. These will be few. These few will rejoice as one who has found great treasure! Keep seeking, remain faithful and I will give abundant blessings. You ask of Yahweh. I Am that I Am, come to men to show them the Light. Of the One, from and in the One when all things are completed as it was established before time. All will be brought to life in the One. It will not then be needful to show man God or give man His Spirit. Man cannot receive more because he cannot understand".

Over the years since our conversion, the Lord has blessed us beyond anything we could have imagined. And as we were "freely given", we now freely give to those who truly seek to know the Lord.

I will respond again in the morning to some new points I want to make about our discussion. I'm out of time for today.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Thank you for your testimony. It does appear that the Lord has spoken to your wife Julie, and that you, to some degree, are also hearing from the Lord. Just because you learn spiritual truth from Christian ministers, however, does not mean that their teaching is completely sound. Take from them what is real, and judge the rest critically, to make sure it's biblical and real.

I don't know anything about Ray Smith, but I've run into Oneness advocates through the years. My experience has been that some of them are legalistic and sectarian. It has a cultic element to it, I think. So does Pentecostal Theology, although I've been a Pentecostal/Charismatic since the early 70s.

I believe in the gifts of the Spirit, but I also believe that much prophecy and much tongues-speaking is imitated. The person with the "real thing" should have no problem questioning their gift. It should come naturally.

I'm very happy that you and your wife have not only entered into a deeper spiritual experience with the Lord, but are also determined to follow His word to your heart, to maintain His love as a testimony to this world. You should, however, be able to learn from obedient Christians in

several denominations, and not get caught up in a sectarian spirit. It is destructive to the attitude of love we are to have towards all true Christians.

R_____

Dear FaithWillDo,

Let me just add this, with respect to being "baptized in the name of Jesus only." Such a formula is hardly necessary for God to move in someone's life, or to experience the benefits of baptism.

What is the benefit of water baptism? It is a testimony to the world that you're committing your life in service to Christ. It is a public testimony, not designed for a special spiritual experience that has *already been experienced.* It is rather a means of self-confirmation and testimony on behalf of others.

Spirituality comes when we begin to commit our lives completely to Christ, to follow his word in our hearts. In committing in obedience to his word we receive the Spirit to enable us to complete that world and to testify to others. We are empowered and gifted to give back to God in the way He chooses for us as individuals.

Getting caught up in a formula misses this point. Attacking the doctrine of the Trinity is bound to create division among Christians, since from the beginning Christians have believed that Jesus is the Son of God, that he enabled us to receive God's Spirit without limit, and that the Father is more than a mere man.

However you express it, it is in fact a Trinity. To oppose it is to enter into a marginalized group that has a very weak and temporal history. The doctrine the Church Fathers sought to found the Church upon required belief in the Trinity in order to distinguish between the various roles each Person plays in the one God. You can never just have God as Jesus. He will always be above man even while He reveals Himself in Christ.

R_____

Dear R_____,

I learned that the Doctrines of Hell and Free Will were false, and to some degree about the apostasy of church, from Ray Smith.

Ray Smith came out of the orthodox churches just as my wife and I did. We had a brief fellowship with Ray but he died a short time later. I do believe his website "bible-truths.com" is still up for viewing. I strongly recommend reading his open letter to Pastor John Hagee.

As for the many other truths which the Lord as shown me, I learned them from my own personal study over the past 15 years or so.

This scripture below certainly applies to what I experienced in learning the truth of Christ:

Prov 2:1 My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, 2 making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; 3 yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, 4 if you <u>seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures</u>, 5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

This verse is speaking to converted Elect believers ("my son"). Even with "eyes that can see" it is only with great effort and prayer that the Lord will reveal His treasure to them. The milk of the Word is learned quickly at conversion but "strong meat" takes years of dedicated study.

As for the spiritual gifts in the church, they have been quieted by the apostasy. A very large percentage of the gifts are not real. For my wife, she was given her gift for only 4 or 5 years. I looked back now and see that it was given to her for the purpose of our conversion and for the establishment of our faith in Christ. She has not received any "words" since 2008. I believe this verse applies:

1Cor 13:8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

This scripture is talking about conversion. "When that which is perfect is come" is speaking about the second coming of Christ when He pours out the Latter Rain on one of His Elect. It is at that point that Christ comes out from behind the cloud and appears to the believer. This is when an Elect believer is "born again" and sees Christ "face to face" because the truth of scripture has opened up to them. After this event occurs, some of the spiritual gifts will no longer be necessary. As a result, they cease. About three years after my wife and I were converted, my wife's gift of prophecy ceased.

Though I am not sure, this prophecy quoted below may have been the last one she received.

"I am with you. I hear your prayers. You will know my Word when you are able to receive it. I am preparing you for my work. You have much to learn about yourself. You will show others my way. I will prepare you for the work I give you. I am doing my work in you. I am the Lord."

My calling is to the unconverted Elect and to make the pathway straight for the Lord to come to them. This scripture applies:

Jam 5:17 Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. 18 <u>And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain</u>, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

19 Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; 20 Let him know, that he which converts the sinner from the error of his way shall save their soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

Ray Smith served as my "Elijah". I now serve other unconverted Elect in the same way.

The Pathway to Salvation is basically the same pathway the Jewish Elect traveled. However, their time under the Old Covenant was only a "type" which the church will follow.

Since the church will follow the "type" the Nation of Israel presented, the church must likewise fall away and become children of the Devil. Because the Elect must travel that pathway, too, they must likewise fall away and be made 'worse than the first (Mat 12:43-45). And like with the Nation of Israel, the Lord will send a person to them in the spirit of Elijah to make the call of repentance.

After an unconverted Elect believer responds to the call of Elijah, the pathway for the Lord to come to them will be made straight. When the Lord comes, He will pour out the Latter Rain of the Spirit upon them. After Christ gives the believer the gift of the Spirit, Christ will appear to them and the Day of the Lord (the Elect's believer's judgment) will commence.

The call of Elijah to the Gentile Elect was also presented in Revelation since the Elect must "keep the sayings of the prophecy":

Rev 22:7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

Rev 18:4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

An Elect believer must keep the "sayings" of the book of Revelation. The book teaches the Pathway to Salvation and it has applied in the lives of each of Christ's Elect since that time. It is not a book about outward world events which come at the end of this literal age. The book teaches about the spiritual events which occur to the Elect as they travel the Pathway to Salvation.

If Christ does not "come again" to called out believer before they die, they are not going to be a First Fruit of His harvest. It is for this reason that Christ comes "quickly" to each of His Elect. Their days as a Man of Sin are shortened so that the ends of the ages come upon them now (1Cor 10:11).

And since Christ must come to each of His Elect before they die, it means that His coming is a reoccurring event.

Rev 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are

before his throne...

Christ came the first time to the 120 Jewish Elect on the Day of Pentecost and He has continued to come to each of His Elect since that time.

I have more to say to you but I am out of time for the moment. I will try (as the Lord wills) to make another post later this morning.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

FaithWillDo said:

I learned that the Doctrines of Hell and Free Will were false, and to some degree about the apostasy of church, from Ray Smith.

I also have a less common view of "Hell" than many other Christians, but that is not the focus of this particular exchange. Hell is thrown into the Lake of Fire, where it perishes forever. What it is replaced with, as a depository of the Lost, is "Outer Darkness." When people reject the Lord, the Lord has to remove them far from His presence, where things are gloomy and sad. People still have a purpose, but not in the Kingdom of God on earth.

FaithWillDo said:

Ray Smith came out of the orthodox churches just as my wife and I did. We had a brief fellowship with Ray but he died a short time later. I do believe his website "bible-truths.com" is still up for viewing. I strongly recommend reading his open letter to Pastor John Hagee.

I don't support everything Hagee teaches either, but I refuse to overly criticize ministers of the Lord, in order to support the good that the Lord has commissioned them to do, albeit imperfectly. I certainly don't support everything that Ray Smith taught either.

We should be promoting Christ, and ministers in a very guarded, critical way. I don't even support the apostles in an unbridled way--they also were imperfect. What I support is what Christ commissioned them to do, which was to teach the fundamentals of the Christian faith.

The Church Fathers did this also, though I don't regard their writings as "Scripture." We shouldn't view Ray Smith as author of "Scripture" either.

FaithWillDo said:

This verse is speaking to converted Elect believers ("my son"). Even with "eyes that can see" it is only with great effort and prayer that the Lord will reveal His treasure to them. The milk of the Word is learned quickly at conversion but "strong meat" takes years of dedicated study.

Yea, my wife and I call the "milk of the word" "baby gifts." When we're young Christians, God gives an outpouring of His Spirit to help us center our lives on Him. But the purpose is not for us

to show the world how "charismatic" or "special" we are. Eventually, the gifts of the Spirit are designed to minister to others, and not to make us feel "elitist."

FaithWillDo said:

Though I am not sure, this prophecy quoted below may have been the last one she received.

"I am with you. I hear your prayers. You will know my Word when you are able to receive it. I am preparing you for my work. You have much to learn about yourself. You will show others my way. I will prepare you for the work I give you. I am doing my work in you. I am the Lord."

God may have used the pathway you took to help you get established. But the gift of prophecy is certainly not designed to promote an exclusive ministry. It is designed to exalt Christ alone.

My wife was brought to the Lord out of paganism by a most unworthy minister of the Lord, a fallen young man who believed he should share the Gospel with my wife outside of a bar. He was corrupt and compromised, and yet he was able to bring a real word of Christian Salvation to my wife. Later, she had to get away from him, but kept the Lord in her life ever since.

FaithWillDo said:

Since the church will follow the "type" the Nation of Israel presented, the church must likewise fall away and become children of the Devil. Because the Elect must travel that pathway, too, they must likewise fall away and be made 'worse than the first (Mat 12:43-45). And like with the Nation of Israel, the Lord will send a person to them in the spirit of Elijah to make the call of repentance.

I do believe there is a parallel between what happened to Israel in the Bible and what happens to the international Church. Truth in God's word is universal. The people of God in each nation follow the same path. Some remain, and some depart. Some stay true, and some compromise.

FaithWillDo said:

An Elect believer must keep the "sayings" of the book of Revelation. The book teaches the Pathway to Salvation and it has applied in the lives of each of Christ's Elect since that time. It is not a book about outward world events which come at the end of this literal age. The book teaches about the spiritual events which occur to the Elect as they travel the Pathway to Salvation.

I can't agree with this. The book of Revelation is very much about "outward world events at the end of this age." Christ is coming to establish a spiritual Christian reign on earth so that the Devil is bound and the Gospel can fulfill its mission unfettered. The promises God made to Abraham must be completed.

FaithWillDo said:

If Christ does not "come again" to called out believer before they die, they are not going to be a First Fruit of His harvest. It is for this reason that Christ comes "quickly" to each of His Elect.

Their days as a Man of Sin are shortened so that the ends of the ages come upon them now (1Cor 10:11).

This sounds like a form of elitism? And I certainly don't see anything in the Scriptures indicating Christ comes many times and to each individual? Certainly with our Salvation, Christ "comes" to us spiritually when he sends his gift of the Spirit! Perhaps that is what you mean?

Let's let the Lord refine both our doctrine and our moral lives, and not become intransigent and fixed upon what we think is our call and ministry. Each day we simply need to respond to the love of God by being loving ourselves. And that calls for our being attentive to *everything* He wishes to say to us. It is His will and not ours that must be done.

Dear R_____

Being baptized in the name of Jesus is the scripturally correct method. And as you say, that baptism is "hardly necessary for God to move in someone's life". Water baptism is a symbol for what Christ will do spiritually to the believer.

Also, I was spiritually blind and unconverted when I went to be baptized in the name of Jesus. However, Christ put it in my heart to go to that church and be baptized there. Not because the water baptism could save me (because it didn't) but because Christ wanted me to go to that church to complete my "fallen away" spiritual condition. Only after an Elect believer is fully fallen away will Christ come to them a second time. The Elect believer must not only be dwelling in darkness but he must be dwelling at "midnight" (Parable of the Ten Virgins). Midnight represents the darkest part of being spiritually blind and under Satan's influence.

Christ completed Satan's darkness within me at that church.

Also, you keep referring to "history" and the teachings of the church fathers. You have to understand that the church fathers (other than the NT writers and converted Elect of that time) are "wolves" who entered the church after Paul departed. The spirit of anti-Christ and the apostasy came and did not spare any of the flock. The church quickly fell away from the truth that the Apostles taught them. Nothing has changed in the church since that time.

Consider this verse:

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

The "many" make up the Nation of Israel and the "called out" church. From that group of many, only a few are chosen to be First Fruits.

I can tell you with certainty that being a part of the "many" is not where you want to be.

As for discussing the Trinity Doctrine, I believe it is against forum policy. Correct me if I am wrong.

I will say this though. All the bread the church consumes has leaven secretly hidden in it.

Mat 13:33 Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

This scripture teaches the same spiritual message:

Mat 13:31 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: 32 Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

The field is an individual Elect believer. The seed is the Early Rain of the Spirit. The seed will produce a new child of God within the believer. The phrase "birds of the air" represents the same unclean spirits mentioned in Mat 12:43-45.

The message of the parable: the birds will bring the deceptions and false teachings of Satan to the new child of God and deceive him.

There are no doctrines in the church which are true. Some have elements of truth mixed into them but their overall teaching is still false.

Paul said this to the Thessalonian church concerning when Christ would come and gather them to together.

2Thes 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, 2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there comes a falling away first, and that MAN OF SIN be revealed, the son of perdition; 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

This is the same event presented by Christ in Mat 24:29-31. Christ will not come to one of His Elect until they have become a Man of Sin. Before Christ comes and gathers an Elect believer to dwell in heaven (represents a new spiritual state of being), the Man of Sin will be revealed to them. This is a result of the believer having their spiritual blindness healed from receiving the Latter Rain. With their new "eyes that can see", the Man of Sin will be revealed to the believer. They will then understand that they are this Man of Sin. This is also the time when the believer will see the Abomination of Desolation (Mat 24:15). After the Elect believer sees who they have become, the brightness of Christ's appearance will destroy this worsened spiritual state from within them.

2Thes 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the

spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Christ's judgment upon the Man of Sin comes from His "Sword" (God's Word). When its truth is given to the believer, that truth is what does the judging and slaying of the Man of Sin. Spiritually speaking, the Man of Sin (represented by the Beast + False Prophet) is "taken" and cast into the Lake of Fire where he is destroyed (Rev 19:20).

Christ said it this way, too:

Mat 24:40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Here is what these two verses spiritually teach (my comments are in blue):

Mat 24:40 Then shall two (one Elect believer) be in the field (the world, place of "works"); the one shall be taken (the Man of Sin), and the other left (the child of God). 41 Two women (the spiritual nature of the believer) shall be grinding at the mill (place where the woman makes the leavened loaf); the one shall be taken (the Great Harlot, worsen carnal nature), and the other left (the new nature of the Holy Spirit).

These above verses are teaching on the conversion of an Elect believer.

The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares also teaches a similar message:

In the parable, the field represents an unconverted Elect believer dwelling in the world. As the Elect believer travels the Pathway to Salvation, both the seed of Christ (the Early Rain of the Holy Spirit) and the seed of Satan (spirit of anti-Christ) are planted within the believer. After the tares have matured within the believer, the believer becomes a Man of Sin. The Man of Sin will then be removed and burned (judged, Lake of Fire) when Christ gives the believer the Latter Rain of the Spirit. This salvation event occurs at the time of the harvest/ends of the ages (**1Cor 10:11**). After this judgment is complete, the new child of God (the wheat) is harvested into the barn (the Kingdom of Heaven).

I have one other item to present to you which I will do in another post.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

FaithWillDo said:

Being baptized in the name of Jesus is the scripturally correct method.

I don't believe Water Baptism was given in the format of a particular "method." To use a certain word configuration is either a doctrinal orthodoxy or a "magical incantation." To say Baptism was given as a "method" seems to infer "magical incantation?"

Words do not have special powers to convey reality upon Baptism. They simply ensure that the Baptism being engaged in involves a true commitment to the true God.

Trinitarian or non-Trinitarian formulation or methodology was not the purpose at all. Baptism in Jesus' name was used indiscriminately with Baptism in the name of the Trinity. They both referred to the one God, who baptizes us with His Spirit for both Salvation and Ministry to others.

Baptism in Jesus' name was used synonymously with baptism in the name of the Spirit or in the name of the Father. Christ is emphasized only because he provided for our Salvation at the cross, which is necessary if our baptism is to have any meaning at all. Without redemption, our baptism means nothing.

FaithWillDo said:

And as you say, that baptism is "hardly necessary for God to move in someone's life". Water baptism is a symbol for what Christ will do spiritually to the believer.

Also, I was spiritually blind and unconverted when I went to be baptized in the name of Jesus.

Has it occurred to you that God could've been using whatever was available and nearby, and not because the instrument of your Salvation was completely pure? The message is Christ, and not the messenger! If you cannot maintain your walk with God apart from a "baptismal formula," then you are not just walking with the Lord--you are walking with the Lord and an idol. People are idols. God is the one God.

FaithWillDo said:

Also, you keep referring to "history" and the teachings of the church fathers. You have to understand that the church fathers (other than the NT writers and converted Elect of that time) are "wolves" who entered the church after Paul departed. The spirit of anti-Christ and the apostasy came and did not spare any of the flock. The church quickly fell away from the truth that the Apostles taught them. Nothing has changed in the church since that time.

What incredible ignorance has been deposited into your life through your imperfect ministers! Accept their pointing to the true Light. But don't take with it their bad attitude and critical spirit. Elitism will do damage to your love in Christ.

Christ called brothers and sisters into unity--not division! Particular doctrinal formulations were only given to ensure we are following the one true God--not to separate believers into camps with particular "incantations!"

FaithWillDo said:

As for discussing the Trinity Doctrine, I believe it is against forum policy. Correct me if I am wrong.

I know we're supposed to read forum rules, and I have. But I've been back and forth to a number of forums, and get them mixed up. It is likely there is a prohibition against anti-Trinitarianism,

since Christian orthodoxy from the beginning has been Trinitarian.

That doesn't mean it's correct, but I believe it is. I see no difference between the quality of your Christianity and the quality of believers who are Trinitarian except that your belief causes a kind of sectarian spirit and elitism. Or, would you disagree?

FaithWillDo said:

Mat 24:40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Here is what these two verses spiritually teach (my comments are in blue):

Mat 24:40 Then shall two (one Elect believer) be in the field (the world, place of "works"); the one shall be taken (the Man of Sin), and the other left (the child of God). 41 Two women (the spiritual nature of the believer) shall be grinding at the mill (place where the woman makes the leavened loaf); the one shall be taken (the Great Harlot, worsen carnal nature), and the other left (the new nature of the Holy Spirit).

I think you are misapplying this verse. I think it is a statement of judgment against both the "taken" and the "left behind." The Romans came in and took away into exile some Jews, and left others behind to till the fields for them. Both parties were judged.

The pattern in history is that a nation is called and begins with an outpouring of God's Spirit. Ultimately, people learn that this gift is not to serve themselves, but to serve God, and has a cost with suffering and lost popularity. The nation is enticed by false gods and bad lifestyles, and ultimately, the nation has to be judged.

But God always has a few who remain faithful. And at a time of national decline we must certainly come out from among the society in its evil practices. This is not elitism, but rather, being faithful and pure in a fallen society.

But the principle is true, that Israel was called to be a righteous nation, and fell away, making it imperative that an "elite" continue to walk in righteousness and to depart from the ways of the nation. That kind of "elitism" is acceptable to me. But an elitism between good Christians is cultism, and I would abandon that as fast as I can, if someone instilled that spirit in me!

R_____

Dear R_____,

As you are probably aware, Christ is the spiritual fulfillment of the physical Word of God which was written on tablets of stone and scrolls of paper. Since Christ is the spiritual fulfillment of the Word of God, He is the Word of God. As such, Christ not only teaches us through what He said but also by the events which are recorded in scripture.

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak

unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

Mat 13:34 All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them:

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

For most people, it is easy to understand that the parables contain hidden spiritual messages. But since Christ is the Word of God, all of His teachings, either by word or deed, are also spiritual messages to those who have been blessed and have had their spiritual blindness healed (**Mat 20:34**).

Because Christ's words are spirit, we must learn the spiritual language of Christ in order to understand God's Word. I can't stress this point enough.

I'll demonstrate how to understand Christ's spiritual language with this simple example:

Mat 26:52 Then said Jesus unto him, put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.

Does Christ really mean that if you use a sword to kill others, then you must likewise be killed with a sword? Literally, that is what He is saying. However, if we understand this verse literally, that statement can easily be proven to be false. There are countless examples of people who have used violence to kill others but then do not die from that same type of violence - it almost goes without saying.

Is Christ mistaken or is His message something else?

The spiritual language of the Word of God utilizes the Hebrew and Greek languages. However, Christ assigns meanings to the Hebrew and Greek words which are different from how they are commonly defined:

1Cor 2:13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

In **Matt 26:52**, Christ is using the word SWORD to teach us a spiritual message. To understand what this spiritual symbol represents, we must look at how it is used elsewhere in scripture. In other words, we must compare spiritual things with spiritual.

Eph 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

From the verse presented above, it is easy to understand that the spiritual word SWORD represents the Word of God who is Christ.

Christ's hidden spiritual point He is making in **Matt 26:52** is that all who take up the Sword (those who are "called out"), must perish (death of the carnal nature) by the Sword. This death is a necessary part of the conversion process which happens when the Word of God (Christ, the Sword) comes to a person and gives them the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and the Baptism of Fire (judgment of the carnal nature):

Mat 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: <u>he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and with Fire</u>.

This conversion event is what the Apostles experienced on the Day of Pentecost:

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of <u>FIRE</u>, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the <u>HOLY SPIRIT</u>, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

In the spiritual language of Christ, the Apostles took up the Sword and then died by the SWORD.

Spiritual understanding of scripture is further explained and expanded by **Isa 28:10-12:**

Isa 28: 9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. 10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: 11 For with stammering lips and <u>another language</u> will he speak to this people. 12 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and <u>fall backward, and be broken</u>, and snared, and taken.

Psa 119:160 The <u>sum of your word is truth</u>, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.

Before a believer has their spiritual blindness healed, they will not be able to understand the spiritual teachings of the Word of God. This lack of understanding will cause them to "<u>fall backward and be broken</u>".

This is the same message Christ presented in Mat 12-43-45.

Paul also discusses this same subject below:

Heb 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith

toward God, 2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and age-enduring judgment. 3 And this will we do, if God permit. 4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come 6 if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance: seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

In short, to "fall away" means to leave Grace through Faith and attempt to be acceptable to Christ by "works". When a believer makes this attempt, they cannot be renewed by repentance. It is at that point that they have committed the sin that leads to death and have lost their salvation (**1John 5:16**). Losing one's salvation is the same as to "fall backward and be broken".

The truth of Christ is also presented to us "here a little, and there a little". Because of such, we must assemble the pieces of truth before the whole truth of a matter can be understood. Once assembled, each piece of truth must then be added to the other pieces "line upon line and precept upon precept" so that the knowledge of God can be found. When found, it is like finding hidden treasure:

Mat 13:44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

Summary: To understand God's Word, Christ must first give us a love for the truth, so much so that we are willing to give up all our carnal beliefs so that we can obtain the truth of Christ. We also need to realize that scripture is written in Christ's spiritual language. His language utilizes the Hebrew and Greek languages, however, many of those words carry meanings which are different from what "man's wisdom teaches". Christ's words are spirit and we are told to understand their spiritual meaning by comparing them with the same spiritual words used elsewhere in scripture. We are NOT to look out into the world for their meanings as so many people do. We are to also keep in mind that the truth of Christ in scripture is given "here a little and there a little". Each piece must be assembled and stacked "line upon line" and "precept upon precept". Then, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the hidden treasure of Christ will be revealed.

For those who have been given eyes that can see and ears that can hear, Christ is appearing to them and revealing Himself. They are finding great treasure!

I will now make a post which shows how Christ teaches us his truth with through an actual event of scripture.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Joe, Special Revelation is not equal to Kabbalism. When we focus upon Christ's word to our hearts, which is love, and upon his nature, which causes us to be Born Again, we are easily able

to understand how Jesus applied the parables to the Righteous and to the Wicked. They aren't so cryptic that one needs a college course in cryptology.

None of this is meant to make us elitist, but to rather, set an example of love, humility, and purity. To look for "hidden messages" in the Scriptures is an exercise in futility, if our object is to set ourselves apart as one having special access to "hidden knowledge." I feel confident that the Spirit in you is not seeking special attention for you or for your particular sect?

R_____

Dear R_____,

Here is the true meaning of the story of the woman taken in adultery:

John 8:3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, 4 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. 5 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? 6 This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. 7 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. 8 And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. 9 And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. 10 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?

In this story of the "Woman taken in Adultery", the woman represents the Elect who will become the Bride of Christ as presented in the marriage analogy used in scripture.

This scripture applies:

Isa 54:5 <u>For thy Maker is thine husband</u>; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called. 6 For the LORD hath <u>called thee as a woman forsaken</u> and grieved in spirit, and a <u>wife of youth</u>, when thou wast refused, saith thy God. 7 For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee.

Adam is the "wife of youth" and is a type for the Elect.

In the scripture above, the phrase "called thee as a woman forsaken" is speaking of the time when the woman (who has been forsaken since being cast out of the Garden of Eden) is given the Early Rain of the Spirit and is called out from the world.

The phrase "wife of youth when thou was refused" is referring to the time when the woman (Adam) lost her marriage relationship with Christ in the Garden of Eden. The marriage ended

when the woman (Adam) committed adultery with Satan (believing Satan over Christ).

Ever since that time, Christ has been preparing for the day when He will restore His marriage relationship with His forsaken wife. As verse 7 says, He will do so with "great mercies". These "great mercies" are manifested in the New Covenant of Grace through Faith.

At the time of the Early Rain of the Spirit, the woman will be made into a chaste virgin and will become espoused to Christ.

2Cor 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

After the engagement takes place, Christ (the Bridegroom) will leave to "prepare a place" for his chaste virgin.

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

To be a chaste virgin, the woman must come to Christ by faith alone. However, shortly after receiving the Early Rain of the Spirit, Satan will come to the woman masquerading as Christ and he will feed her his leavened bread (**Mat 13:33**). Since the leaven is hidden in the bread, she will not be aware that the bread contains the lies of Satan. Satan is able to deceive the woman because her spiritually blindness remained after she received the Early Rain of the Spirit.

Because the woman is now following the ways of Satan instead of the ways of Christ, she will fall away from faith. She is guilty of mixing in Satan's doctrine of works (religion, Old Covenant of Law) into the New Covenant of Grace through Faith. When the woman commits this sin of adding "works" to faith, she is fornicating with Satan. This is the sin that leads to death and is the same sin that ended the original marriage in the Garden of Eden. As a result, the woman is no longer a chaste virgin. She will remain under the Law of Sin and Death.

To correct the woman's fallen away spiritual condition, it is necessary for Christ to come to her a second time and give her the Latter Rain of the Spirit. With the Latter Rain of the Spirit, her spiritual blindness will be healed and she will come out from under Satan's deceptions. When she does, she will be made into a chaste virgin again and will be ready for the marriage ceremony.

After the marriage ceremony takes place, she will be gathered together with Christ in the Kingdom of Heaven; the home of her Husband.

This verse applies:

Mat 24:31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Now, let's apply the truths I presented above from the marriage analogy to the story of the "Woman taken in Adultery".

John 8:3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, 4 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. 5 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?

In the first three verses of the story, a woman is said to have been caught in the act of adultery. This event typed when Adam was caught in the act of adultery in the Garden of Eden.

The woman was then delivered to the Pharisees who were responsible for the administration of the Law. The Law says that the penalty for her adultery is death. When Adam committed adultery in the Garden of Eden, he too, was judged by the Law and he was given the penalty of death (both spiritual and physical).

However, since Christ is now ready to restore his marriage relationship with the woman, he will gather her with "great mercies":

John 8:6 This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and <u>with his finger wrote on the ground</u>, as though he heard them not.

Christ's act of writing in the ground represents Him pouring out the <u>Early Rain of the Spirit</u> on the woman. By doing this, He is writing His Law of the Spirit in her heart.

This verse applies:

Jer 31:33 But this shall be the <u>covenant</u> that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, <u>I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts</u>; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

The verse above is referring to the New Covenant of Grace through Faith which is Christ's spiritual covenant. Under the New Covenant, Christ will perform all the necessary "works" to restore the woman to himself. And since it is a spiritual covenant, He will write his Law of the Spirit in the heart of the woman.

John 8:7 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. 8 And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.

After Christ first writes in the earth, the Pharisees continue to accuse the woman. They do this because the woman still remains under the Law after having received the Early Rain of the Spirit. She remains under the Law because the Early Rain is not sufficient to stop her from committing adultery with Satan. In other words, she does not have the ability to approach Christ strictly by faith alone yet. She is still compelled by her carnal nature and the deceptions of Satan

to mix in her own “works” with faith. She tries to serve two masters, both Satan and Christ (**Mat 6:24**).

By continuing in her adultery, she falls away from faith and remains under the Law. For this reason, the Pharisees do not drop their stones but continue to accuse her.

John 8: 8 And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. 9 And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. 10 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?

In verse 8, Christ stoops down a second time and writes His Law of the Spirit in the heart of the woman again. This act represents the Latter Rain of the Spirit.

It is at this point that Christ heals the woman’s spiritual blindness and she comes out from Satan’s deceptions. At this time, she begins to walk by faith alone and as a result, the Law can no longer accuse her. After this change from the Old Covenant of Law to the New Covenant of Grace through Faith, the Pharisees drop their stones and leave.

The woman (the Elect) has now been made into a Chaste Virgin again and is ready for the wedding to take place. After the wedding takes place, the woman’s marriage relationship with Christ is restored.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

All of the Christian cults, Mormonism, Christian Science, Jehovah's Witnesses claim to base their "restoration of the Church" on "special revelation," interpreting parables as applying to themselves. Please don't do that.

If you're a true Christian, and I believe you are, then pursue unity among Christians who are at all stages of Christian growth. Division confuses young Christians who are then apt to leave the entire Christian religion for some Pied Piper who claims to be "different" or "better."

Yes, we should depart from compromised or weak Christianity, and leave churches that fail to have standards sufficient to promote a life of spiritual service to the Lord. But there are churches in many different denominations who have good standards and good practices. We shouldn't use some doctrinal deviation to promote division among them.

I left the Lutheran church as a teen because I found it was too weak to help me grow. However, a friend in the same church became a Charismatic Lutheran minister, and is still going strong. I would listen to him preach any day of the week. You really have to be discerning wherever you go, and avoid divisiveness and elitism. Love is the rule.

R_____

Dear R_____,

I read all your replies. It doesn't look like I am going to be able to help you. You are still understanding God's Word in a carnal way (physically and outwardly) rather than in a spiritual way.

Just a couple of comments though. The church during the 1st century was taken over by Satan. The leaders of the church since that time are "ministers of Satan". John Hagee is one of those ministers as is all the church fathers which you still esteem.

Also, the Lake of Fire is merely a symbol for the judgment of Christ. It is not literal fire. The Doctrine of Hell (along with the Doctrine of Free Will) is completely untrue and is the most blasphemous lie that Satan has taught the church. Christ could never do anything like it to anyone. Christ is loving and merciful and his entire work in this creation is to save all mankind. If you believe He is going to fail, then you do not understand the power of Christ nor His love for us. Mankind is merely clay in His hand and He will make us into the new vessel that He promised.

It's probably a good time to end our discussion.

I have only one recommendation for you and that is prayer.

This verse applies:

Luke 11:9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. 10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. 11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? 12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit (the Latter Rain) to them that ask him?

One thing is certain though, Christ has you and I in exactly the place He wants us to be. Nothing happens within His creation that He does not plan and cause to happen. In the end, we will all be made into His children, either now or in the final age. What a glorious future we all have waiting for us!

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Baptism In (Jesus Name Only) & (Latter Rain) = "Oneness Pentecostalism" It's That Simple

You can deny it all you want, if it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, is it a horse, big smiles!

Jesus Is The Lord!

T_____

Dear T_____,

Yes, I will deny it because what I am saying is true. You are trying to fit me and my beliefs into a box so that you can discard what I teach.

To believe as you do, you are missing the truth of scripture which teaches on the Pathway to Salvation. The core of this pathway is the Early and Latter Rain.

The reason a believer can't "see" this pathway is because they are spiritually blind and are not rightly dividing the Word.

Joe

T_____ never responded.