

#81 FORUM POST ON THE PROCESS OF CONVERSION

Dear FaithWillDo,

Proverbs 3:25-26 Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh. [26] For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

There is a lot of Hope in the above from Proverbs.

Don't be afraid when it comes to destroy the wicked that the Spirit may be saved.

V _____

Dear V _____,

You quoted:

Proverbs 3:25 Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh. 26 For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

This scripture above is referring to a believer's moment of conversion.

Conversion happens when Christ "comes again" to a believer. Conversion is what the Apostles experienced on the Day of Pentecost and what Paul experienced after being in Damascus for 3 days.

When Christ comes the second time to one of His Elect, He will baptize them with the Holy Spirit (Latter Rain) and with fire (judgment):

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: he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and with Fire.

Conversion is a spiritual process and happens within a person. The child of God is born when a person receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The Man of Sin/Great Harlot (what causes their carnality) is destroyed by the baptism of fire (Christ's judgment). After the conversion process is complete, all that will remain is the new child of God.

Conversion is what this scripture teaches:

Jer 18:4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.

The "marred vessel" is mankind who is carnal and sinful. That vessel will be destroyed by the judgment of Christ (baptism of fire) during the person's conversion.

The verse below also teaches about the spiritual process of conversion:

1Thes 5:3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

The "woman with child" comes from the birthing analogy used in scripture. The child represents the new child of God who is being born. The "sudden destruction" represents the baptism of fire which comes upon the marred vessel (Man of Sin & Great Harlot).

These two scriptures below teach on the judgment portion of conversion:

Mat 24:15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand 16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

Mat 24:40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken (Man of Sin/spirit of anti-Christ), and the other left (newly born child of God). 41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken (Great Harlot/carnal nature), and the other left.

And this one, too:

Isa 66:16 For by fire (baptism of fire/Christ's judgment) and by his sword (the Word of God) will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many.

Conversion is being taught here, too:

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.

The word "sword" is a spirit word (John 6:63) which represents the Word of God who is Christ. When a person receives the Early Rain of the Spirit from Christ, they will take up the Sword (Christ) and begin following Him. When Christ comes to them a second time to convert them, He will destroy the "marred vessel" (Man of Sin/Great Harlot) by His sword.

Paul describes that destruction here:

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:

The "brightness of His coming" is referring to the time just after the believer receives the baptism of the Spirit. With the new birth, the believer is given "eyes that can see". At that time, the Man of Sin will be revealed to the believer (this is same as when they "see" the Abomination

of Desolation in Mat 24:15). From this knowledge of the truth (brightness of His coming/Sword), the Man of Sin will be destroyed.

You said:

Don't be afraid when it comes to destroy the wicked that the Spirit may be saved.

Considering what I presented above, is that what your comment above means? Are you saying that the "wicked" is within each of us and that it must be destroyed so that we are saved (converted)?

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Yes. When it was the verse of the day and it popped up ...it was the first time I took it personally. But there was also comfort in it at the part of "Your confidence shall be in the Lord." It reminds me too of John speaking of "I must decrease" and "He must increase" comfort (Imo) in "do not be afraid" or even though the outward man perishes, the inward man is being renewed.

V _____

Dear V _____,

Yes, the Elect should not fear judgment but welcome it. It is the only way to be made into a child of God. The old vessel must be destroyed so that the new vessel can be made.

Did you know that judgment has two parts to it?

The judgment (baptism of fire) which occurs with the conversion process is what we experience first. That judgment removes the spirit of anti-Christ (False Prophet) and our carnal spiritual nature (the Great Harlot) from within us and casts them into the Lake of Fire for destruction. That judgment is described in Rev chapter 19 here:

Rev 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Because the Elect are "born again" prior to that judgment occurring, they do not experience wrath during it. In fact, chapter 19 shows that the Elect (the new child of God/Bride of Christ) reign with Christ to accomplish that judgment (verses 11-19). This is in contrast to the judgment of the "lost" in the final age. They are not "born again" prior to that judgment commencing so they will suffer the wrath of God during it. But before the "lost" perish, Christ will have mercy upon them and give them the faith they need to be saved.

The judgment that I described above is called the Day of the Lord. For the Elect though, the Day of the Lord is also called the Thousand Years Reign:

2Pet 3:8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day (the Day of the Lord) is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

In the rest of the chapter, Peter goes on to describe the events of the Day of the Lord that the Elect will experience.

Note: The Thousand Years Reign also has two parts to it. The first part occurs when the Elect are judged as I mentioned above. The second part of the Thousand Years Reign occurs when the Elect (along with Christ) judge the "lost" in the final age. For that reason, scripture says that the Thousand Years is "twice told" and has "seen no good":

Ecc 6:6 Yea, though he live a thousand years twice told, yet hath he seen no good: do not all go to one place (Lake of Fire)?

Back to the two parts of judgment. As I said above, the first part happens with conversion and removes & destroys the spirit of anti-Christ and the Great Harlot (mankind's carnal nature). It happens quickly. The second part of judgment applies to the converted believer's remaining carnal mind. The carnal mind is not destroyed quickly at the moment of conversion. It's destruction is a slow process because the new child of God has a lot to unlearn. This second part of judgment is called the chastisement of Christ and it is shown in the final verse of Rev chapter 19:

Rev 19:21 And the rest were slain with the sword (Word of God) of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

This judgment is over the carnal thoughts and beliefs (delivered by fowls/unclean spirits) of the believer's mind which still remain at this point.

Paul calls the carnal mind the "Old Man":

Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

John the Baptist is a "type" for the Old Man. You mentioned this verse earlier in your post:

John 3:30 He must increase, but I must decrease.

This judgment occurs as the converted believer (who now has "eyes that can see") learns the truth of God. They are chastised by Christ when needed. This judgment causes the New Man to

increase and the Old Man to decrease within the believer's mind.

The chastisement of Christ upon a converted believer is also taught by this verse below:

Isa 26:9 With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the (New) earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

As with the way Peter used the term in 2Pet chapter 3, the New Earth represents the new spiritual nature that a converted believer has after they are given the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The Old Earth (carnal spiritual nature) is destroyed and replaced with the New Earth. The chastisements of Christ come from the New Earth (spiritual nature of the Holy Spirit) and that is what teaches the believer the righteous ways of Christ. In other words, the judgments coming from the New Earth will transform the carnal mind (Old Heaven) into the mind of Christ (New Heaven).

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

After the believer's mind has become the mind of Christ, their time of judgment (the Thousand Years Reign) will end. Scripture calls this full process of conversion the First Resurrection (Rev 20:5). It is a spiritual resurrection and not a bodily resurrection. Next, the fully converted believer will be ready for testing. This time of testing was "typed" by Christ when Satan came to Him in the desert after Christ completed His 40 days of fasting. This time of testing is also shown in Rev 20:7-10.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Thank you for sharing. I can't say if I agree or disagree. Are you the member that shared once with me about the first rain and latter rain? Some of what you shared I like, some I've never heard of. Especially the stages of conversion. That is new to me. So that is why I can't say I agree or disagree because I'm sure you've studied it, but I haven't taken the walk to see if it lines up. Or how closely it lines up. I hope that isn't discouraging but I'll read it closer and ask questions if I can think of any. Thanks again!

V

Dear V _____,

Yes, I am the person who presented the teaching of the Early and Latter Rain analogy to you. Since you mentioned it, I want to share a teaching on it.

Scripture says that no man can call Jesus "Lord" without first having the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and that no man who has the Spirit can call Jesus accursed (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.

This scripture is very profound and is rejected by most believers as evidenced by their teachings.

Now, let's look at the Apostles as they relate to the Early and Latter Rain analogy.

When did the Apostles first call Jesus "Lord" and recognize Him as the Christ? Was it after they received the baptism of the Spirit (Latter Rain) on the Day of Pentecost or was it when they walked with Jesus in the flesh? The answer, of course, is when they walked with Jesus in the flesh.

So how was that possible in the light of the verse I just quoted?

The answer to that question is that the Apostles, along with many other Jews at that time, were given the Early Rain of the Spirit and were baptized in the name of Jesus in water. With the Early Rain of the Spirit, the Apostles were given a measure of faith and certain spiritual gifts (**Luke 9:4-6**). This is when they were called out from the world and became followers of Christ (Christians).

Also, at that time, the Apostles remained spiritually blind and carnal in their understanding of Him. They could not understand the spiritual teachings of Christ (**Mark 8:21**). This truth I've just mentioned is incredibly important when trying to understand the Early and Latter Rains and the pathway to salvation.

When Christ comes to an unbeliever and gives them the Early Rain of the Spirit, Christ will only appear to them carnally and not spiritually. And because Christ is the Word of God, their understanding of the Word is also carnal. In other words, they only have the ability to see Christ "in the flesh" when Christ first came to them. With this carnal understanding of Christ, the truth of God's Word will remain concealed.

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

Scripture says that the group of people who are called out from the world and into the church are "many". Every believer starts the pathway to salvation in this manner; seeing Christ carnally and not spiritually. For that reason, the churches in the world are places where the blind lead the blind. Then, after Paul's death, the spirit of anti-Christ came into the church and did not spare any of the flock. Since that time, the churches which the Apostles started became apostate. This all happened to satisfy God's purposes and not for any other reason.

Note: Because the church did not fall away from faith until after Paul's death, Paul's writings to

the churches show that the Early Rain believers are saved, just not converted (confirmed as Paul said). But since the churches are apostate now, understanding Paul's letters can be difficult if one does not realize this truth.

Acts 20:29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. 31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

This knowledge of the coming apostasy that was given to Paul was very distressing to him because He loved the churches. It was a very big deal to Paul and we should not take it lightly either.

Most believers in the apostate church will remain spiritually blind, deceived by Satan and unconverted until they die. They simply are not chosen for salvation in this age. This is through no fault of their own.

John said this about apostate believers who have the spirit of anti-Christ:

2John 1:7 For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.

Believers in the apostate church do not deny that Jesus ever physically walked the earth. However, this is not what John is spiritually teaching here. John is saying that apostate believers will deny that when Christ first appeared to them, that He did so in the flesh. Apostate believers say that when Christ first came to them, He did so in the same manner as He did to the Apostles on the Day of Pentecost. They do see that Christ ever came to them in the flesh and that they (like the Apostles did) must wait on the Lord to return (marriage analogy applies) with the Latter Rain.

For this reason, the Early and Latter Rain analogy is a significant part of the "great mystery" of Christ and His church (**Eph 5:32**) and that is why it is not understood in the apostate churches of the world.

Continuing now...

For those who are chosen for this early salvation, they were chosen for this blessing from the foundation of the world. And similar to the "many" who were not chosen, the Elect likewise did nothing to cause it to be that way. They were chosen by God solely to satisfy His own purposes for this creation:

Rom 9:11 (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that

the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth.

For the believers who are chosen and who remain in the apostate church, Christ will come to them a second time before they die. This event is commonly called the Second Coming of Christ but it is not correctly understood by the apostate churches. When Christ comes this second time to one of His Elect, He will pour out the Latter Rain of the Spirit upon them. After they receive the baptism of the Spirit (like the Apostles did on the Day of Pentecost), their spiritual blindness will be healed. They will then be able to see Christ spiritually instead of carnally. With these new eyes that can see, they will see the Abomination of Desolation that had previously occurred within themselves. When they see this "sign of the times", they are told to flee to the mountains (**Mat 24:15**) like Lot did because judgment is about to fall.

The story of Lot is an OT "type" for the judgment that falls on an Elect believer just after they receive the Latter Rain. Sodom is a "type" for their carnal spiritual nature (same as the Great Harlot) and Gomorrah is a "type" for the spirit of anti-Christ. Since Lot fled to the mountains, Lot did not suffer wrath during his own judgment. This matches up with the judgment shown in Revelation chapter 19 that I explained to you earlier.

Because salvation requires both the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit, Christ will only come a second time to His Elect. This is how Christ controls who among the "many" are saved now and who will die in their sins.

After an Elect believer receives the Latter Rain, they will remove themselves from the apostate church (light cannot fellowship with darkness). Since the Elect are few in number, they are relatively unknown in this world.

If you have any questions, I would be happy to address them with scripture.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Did He come to all men then and give them the early rain? Doesn't He appear to everyone carnally in the beginning? Even those who show no interest have in some way had a bad experience with being shown Christ carnally??

V _____

Dear V _____,

You asked:

Did He come to all men then and give them the early rain?

No. Most of mankind is not called out from the world and will remain unbelievers until they die. No one can have any faith in Christ without the Early Rain.

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.

Rom 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

When a person receives the Early Rain of the Spirit, they will receive a small measure of faith and certain spiritual gifts. Most of the believers Paul writes to in His letters have only received the Early Rain.

Consider this verse:

Eph 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, AND to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

Paul addresses his letter to TWO groups of Christians. One group is the "saints". They are the Elect who have received both the Early and Latter Rains. The second group is the "faithful". They have only received the Early Rain and have been given a measure of faith (they are faithful).

Now look at Paul's first letter to the Corinthians:

1Cor 1:2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

In this letter, Paul addresses it to believers who have been "called to be saints". They have only received the Early Rain so their election is not certain.

Now look at verses 6-8:

1Cor 1:6 Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: 7 So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: 8 Who shall also confirm you unto the end, that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In verse 6 and the first part of 7, Paul says that the "testimony of Christ" was confirmed in them and is evidenced by them coming "behind in no gift".

Now the important part: look at the last phrase of verse 7 along with verse 8. Paul says that they are "waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ". With this comment, Paul is reminding them that they are waiting for Christ to come a second time with the Latter Rain. When Christ comes, He will confirm their election so that they are blameless when Christ judges them in the

Day of the Lord. As I presented in my earlier posts, judgment will immediately follow receiving the Latter Rain.

With the Latter Rain, a believer will become "blameless" because they will come out from being under the Law. This truth is taught by Christ in John 8:3-10 with the story of the woman taken in adultery. Can you see the Early and Latter Rains in that story? It is only after Christ writes the law of the Spirit in the earth (represents mankind) a second time do the Pharisees drop the stones (represents the Law). It is at this point that the Law can no longer accuse a person. However, the old vessel will still be judged and destroyed as I explained earlier. The new vessel is not judged.

As for "waiting" for Christ to come again, it is the same "waiting" that the Apostles did in the upper room. Paul refers to our time of waiting in this verse below, too:

Heb 9:28 So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

In this verse above, Paul says that Christ appeared the first time in the flesh to take away the sins of many. Though it may not sound like it, Paul is referring to the time when Christ first appears to a believer when He gives them the Early Rain. Paul confirms this way of addressing Early Rain believers in the 2nd chapter to the Corinthians:

1Cor 2:2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

Paul realized that the milk of the Word is all the teaching that they could receive at this time because Christ has only appeared to them in the flesh. Paul confirms this in the next chapter, too, and even says that they are having trouble receiving the milk:

1Cor 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. 2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

Since an Early Rain believer remains spiritually blind, Paul knows that he can only speak to them as "babes" who are carnal in their understanding (Christ and Him crucified).

This truth is retold here:

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 another language 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 fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

Read this scripture carefully because it says a lot.

It starts by asking who can be taught knowledge (of God) and the doctrines of Christ. It answers the question in the next sentence by saying that only believers who have been weaned from the breasts can understand. These are believers who have received the Latter Rain and have had their spiritual blindness healed. They are ready to eat bread, meat and drink the New Wine. Until the Latter Rain event, a believer will remain a "babe" who can only drink milk - which is what Paul says about the Corinthians who are only "called to be saints" and are waiting for the second coming of Christ.

Isaiah continues by teaching why babes cannot understand the Word. He says that God's Word is written "line upon line". This means truth must be learned starting from the foundation of Christ (Christ and Him crucified) and then built up from there. A person cannot learn about the deeper truths of God before they learn the milk of the Word. Then to make God's Word even more difficult to understand, truth is taught "here a little and there a little". Truth must be assembled from various places of scripture. I frequently see carnal believers make doctrines from single verses of scripture. By doing this, they err because they fill in the things that the verse is silent on with their own carnal reasoning.

Here is a verse that is commonly misunderstood because of a person using this method:

Jos 24:15 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

Carnal believers will say that this verse confirms that mankind has a free will to choose. But the verse is silent on the cause of our choosing. The verse below must be added to Jos 24:15 to have a full understanding:

Prov 16:1 The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD.

As this verse says, the choice we make is from the Lord. It does not come from any supposed free will ability. To make that choice, Christ will prepare our heart by giving us the Early and Latter Rains. After He does, we can only choose Jesus. Remember the verse I quoted to you in my last post (1Cor 12:3)?

Isaiah continues by saying that God's Word (Christ) speaks to us with stammering lips and another language. That language is Christ's spiritual language which uses "spirit" words in analogies, parables and types. This literally makes understanding God's Word impossible for a carnally minded person (includes Early Rain believers). Because God's Word is impossible to understand without having one's spiritual blindness healed, Satan will come to a new believer

and easily deceive them with his carnally pleasing lies. Christ teaches this spiritual process in Mat 12:43-45 and ends His comments by saying that the believer will end up being spiritually "worse than the first". Because an Early Rain believer remains spiritually blind and carnal, Isaiah also says that the end result of the believer is "worse than the first": **that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.** In other words, the believer will fall from grace, lose their salvation and be snared and taken by Satan. This is why the churches at the end of the 1st century A. D. quickly became apostate after the deaths of the Apostles.

To be able to understand and receive the truth of God's Word, Christ says that we need both the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit. Christ typed this truth in Mark 8:21-25 with the healing of a blind man. Can you see both the Early and Latter Rains in the story? Paul's conversion experience also types that truth.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Maybe nothing I respond back will make sense. As you probably noticed...I deleted the question because afterwards I realized the way I asked about to be carnally minded came off as meaning what I didn't intend for it to mean. The problem I see with how you (if I understand correctly) suggest that some of the carnally minded have been called out and some have not...how all the called out and the unbelievers are of "one mind" "earthly" yet not the same? One group "called out" "babes" the other group "never babes and never will be" "never called out". Did I understand that correctly? That divides two groups or a division within **the carnal mind(itself)**: those called out and those who will never be called out(not children for whom Christ died".

I'm not seeing this...but "all the captives" wherein they are held...and "they have one mind" which is the carnal mind. Another problem this division presents between the called out carnal minded and those never to be called out the carnal mind is the reference to "babes" or "a child for whom Christ died". Paul speaks of this in terms of "bond" and "free" and how in Christ there's no more "bond" and "free"; Paul mentions one who has not this knowledge of Christ and says if he (Paul uses Christ's liberty) to harm or destroy another who is weak and without knowledge, then he (Paul) sins against Christ by destroying or harming a child "a babe" for whom Christ died and gave himself for. To me (not saying it's right) but "babes" for whom Christ died to me is **all carnal mindedness** that without exception all men of carnal mindedness are called "I will draw all men unto myself" to "be you transformed by the renewing of your mind." To me it isn't narrowed down to religion but so that Christ shall be all and in all reconciling the world unto God. Point is...if what you are saying is true then I'm thinking wrong when I go out and wonder if when I sin against any then I may be sinning against one for whom Christ died. Even though I, being judgmental may not view them as saved now "called out" . Christ giving of himself for them says otherwise. What you propose ...again...if I understand is Christ only died for those called out ones and the others within carnal mindedness Christ did not die for. They are not "as one for whom Christ died" "a child" "a babe in Christ" and never could or would be.

V _____

Dear FaithWillDo,

I'm not sure about the early and latter rain. I don't quite know how to put this. If I had to speculate what is the early and Latter rain...I would suggest Paul lays it out well in telling them **they** are his consolation, **they** are his comfort, **they** are his joy. Why if not for Paul loves and seeks for 'the appearing of Christ' When Paul speaks of knowing whom he believed and that that One he believed is true and faithful to do it (not do it to make me grand but bear fruit unto maturity within the body of Christ)...I would suggest that is the early rain. Planting. Sowing. Watering. But the Latter Rain being "Yet it is God who gives the increase". After Paul's confession of whom he believes and then comes "the Lord delivered me out of every trouble" the deliverance out of every trouble being "the Latter Rain". More examples...when Paul spoke of Christ being formed in them...and how He had confidence in their to "do the right thing" (a man who said even though I have reason to have confidence in the flesh, yet I have no confidence in the flesh) to me it was confidence in the receiving of the Latter Rain when "Christ be formed in you" (them) . I don't think its (the Latter Rain) is directed at a person as them only receiving apart from the body of Christ different levels of achievement, but when that which is planted within the body of Christ comes to maturity. Hope fulfilled. joy received. Comfort given ...in the wholeness of the Spirit within a bond of perfection which is His love. Paul spoke of "that your joy be made full". An exchange between two where one hopes(given the early rain) and another returns (Christ's appearance) (the Latter Rain given) "that they may become One together as "we are One Father". Like the verse where God can even make your enemies be at peace with you. I think (Imo) the waiting for the Latter Rain is the fulfilling of His peace. I sure hope so. Another example is when those masters waiting for this appearance (the Latter Rain) and he is delayed and they start to beat their servants ...Hope deferred makes the heart grow sick.

Isaiah 61:3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

^ unto them that mourn in Zion

To give them beauty (the Latter rain) for ashes(early rain).

The oil of joy (the Latter Rain) for mourning (the early rain)

The garment of praise (the Latter Rain) for the Spirit of heaviness (the early rain)

That they might be called trees of righteousness, the Planting of the Lord, that he be glorified.

Or that is how I understand it. That the Latter Rain is poured out that He might be glorified and how is He glorified if not in "you will never be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of Christ" "for it is My Fathers Will that you bear Fruit" ...love and hope and seek for the appearing of Christ?!

V _____

Dear V _____,

You said:

The problem I see with how you (if I understand correctly) suggest that some of the carnally minded have been called out and some have not...how all the called out and the unbelievers are of "one mind" "earthly" yet not the same? One group "called out" "babes" the other group "never babes and never will be" "never called out". Did i understand that correctly?

I'm not seeing this...but "all the captives" wherein they are held...and "they have one mind" which is the carnal mind.

Firstly, unbelievers and Early Rain believers are not of "one mind".

This is the verse you are quoting:

Rev 17:13 These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast.

Both groups are carnal/evil but the Early Rain believers have become more carnal/evil by the indwelling of the spirit of anti-Christ. It is these Early Rain believers who have "one mind". In other words, Satan rules the Early Rain believers from within. This is in contrast to how Satan rules unbelievers which is from without.

I'll try to give you a fuller picture of this concept below:

All mankind quickly becomes carnally minded after birth because of the marred spirit that God gave mankind. That flaw in mankind's spirit is its weakness. Because it is weak, the flesh quickly assumes control of the weak spirit, making it have a carnal nature. In turn, the carnal nature causes the mind to become carnal, as well. With a carnal mind, mankind seeks to satisfy the needs of the flesh above anything else. It is the carnal mind that causes us to sin.

When Christ was born in the flesh (same as mankind's flesh), He was born with the full measure of the Holy Spirit rather than a marred spirit. The Holy Spirit within Christ was powerful and strong. Because it was, the Spirit never allowed the needs of the flesh to control it. Because the Spirit never developed a carnal nature, Christ never developed a carnal mind. As a result, Christ never sinned. Christ always put the things of God ahead of the needs of His flesh - even to the point of death.

Since Christ came to save mankind (**1John 4:14**), Christ is going to spiritually convert all (100%) mankind by giving them the Holy Spirit so that mankind will be like Him.

The plan that Christ established to convert (save) all mankind is at the core of the "great mystery of Christ and His church" (**Eph 5:32**). It is very concealed in scripture.

In this present age, Christ is only going to convert the people who have been blessed from the foundation of the world for this honor. They will become the early harvest of mankind; the First

Fruits.

To begin the spiritual process of conversion for one of the Elect, Christ will come to them (without them asking and without their permission) and give them the Early Rain. However, because it suits the purposes of God, Christ will also give the Early Rain to "many" other people who have not been chosen. Then, from that large group of "many", Christ will come a second time to the chosen "few" and give them the Latter Rain. This will then be followed by judgment. These two events are called the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the baptism of Fire:

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: he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and with fire: 12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Now for more details of the plan. The plan that Christ established to convert mankind requires that mankind become totally and completely carnal and evil prior their conversion.

Prov 16:4 The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the Day of Evil.

During the Day of Evil that the Elect must experience, Satan will rule them from within. This occurs when an Early Rain believer becomes indwelt with the spirit of anti-Christ. With the spirit of anti-Christ, a believer will become "worse than the first" (**Mat 12:43-45**). This event begins the believer's Day of Evil. At that time, they will become more carnal and more evil than an unbeliever.

Consider the teaching of the seven headed beast in Revelation chapters 13 and 17. The seven headed beast at the beginning of chapter 17 does not have crowns on its horns. This beast without crowns represents carnal mankind in an unbelieving state. When the crowns are later added to the horns, this represents Satan rulership from within an Early Rain believer via the second beast of chapter 13 (the spirit of anti-Christ). This makes the person "worse than the first". This seven headed beast with crowns is called a "man of sin" by Paul. It is when an Elect believer is in this worsened spiritual condition that they will be ready for Christ to come again to them and convert them:

Luke 21:28 And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.

Mat 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom (Satan's another gospel**) shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations (**this is referring to when a believer is fully made into a man of sin**); and then shall the end come (**conversion**).**

The conversion process is also presented by the seven headed beast analogy in chapter 17. The chapter begins with the beast not having any crowns. By the middle of the chapter, the crowns are added to the beast. Then, at the end of the chapter, judgment falls and the beast is destroyed. The details of this judgment are similar to the judgment shown in chapter 19. I have a full paper on chapter 17 posted on my website.

Can you now understand the difference in carnality of unbelievers and Early Rain believers? The carnality of Early Rain believers is worse than the carnality of unbelievers because Satan rules Early Rain believers from "within" rather than from "without".

You said:

Paul mentions one who has not this knowledge of Christ and says if he (Paul uses Christ's liberty) to harm or destroy another who is weak and without knowledge, then he (Paul) sins against Christ by destroying or harming a child "a babe" for whom Christ died and gave himself for.

You must understand that there are no "babes" in Christ in the apostate churches of this world. Those fallen away believers are not Christ's children - they are Satan's children who have been made "worse than the first". Remember that I said to you earlier that Paul's letters can be difficult to understand because, at the time Paul wrote his letters, the Early Rain believers were babes in Christ and had not become apostate. They were still faithful. But after Paul's death, all this changed. Now, Satan comes to a newly born babe in Christ (Early Rain believers) and kills them via the spirit of anti-Christ. This spiritual death is what these two verses below are referencing:

Mat 24:9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

Rev 11:7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them.

You said:

What you propose ... if I understand is Christ only died for those called out ones and the others within carnal mindedness Christ did not die for. They are not "as one for whom Christ died" "a child" "a babe in Christ" and never could or would be.

Christ died for all mankind and has a plan to save all mankind. In this present age, Christ is only saving the Elect who are the First Fruits of His harvest. In the final age, Christ will harvest the rest of mankind into the Kingdom of Heaven. That harvest occurs at the end of the year (the final age).

Consider the feasts which are used in the farming analogy:

Exo 34:22 And thou shalt observe the Feast of Weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the Feast of Ingathering at the year's end.

The Feast of Weeks (First Fruits) represents the harvest of the Elect in this present age. The Feast of Ingathering (Tabernacles) represents the harvest of the rest of mankind at the year's end (the final age).

In the final age, Christ will make this call to the "lost":

John 7:37 In the last day, that great day of the feast (Feast of Ingathering), Jesus stood and cried, saying, if any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

This same call is also shown below but with the addition of the Elect (the Bride) who will reign with Christ in the final age:

Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the Bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

After the last person is saved, all mankind will be added to the Kingdom of Heaven and this verse below will then be testified to be true:

1Tim 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; 4 who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 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, to be testified in due time.

I hope my comments answer your concerns. I did have a little trouble understanding your points. If I missed something, please ask about it again.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Love that you pay attention to verses. Also feel over this verse as if I've misunderstood it for a long time. But at the same time I think maybe we still both see it differently. To me I go back to Paul talking to the Corinthians saying "I wish to God you knew we are not reprobates." And "I trust you will know we are not as those who fail the test". I do think Paul is patiently waiting for Christ to appear a second time in them, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those waiting for him (which is Paul saying (I know whom I believed will come) (and perform what was promised). "To bring salvation" is the focus on Paul's salvation? Or theirs? In fact Paul says "I am glad when I am weak, that you be made strong. Paul says this concerning "those waiting for the salvation that is to come"

2 Corinthians 13:8-10 For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth. [9] For we are glad, when we are weak, and you are strong: and **this also we wish, even your perfection(completion, salvation , delivery).** [10] Therefore I write these things being absent,

lest being present I should use sharpness, **according to the power which the Lord hath given me to edification, and not to destruction.**

V

Dear V _____,

A believer is made "perfect" when Christ "comes again" to them and gives them the Latter Rain. This is when they will be converted and have "eyes that can see".

Also, God's Word uses "spirit" words which have meanings that are different than what man's wisdom teaches (**1Cor 2:13**). To understand the meanings of these "spirit" words, Paul says to "compare spiritual things (words) with spiritual" (**1Cor 2:13**). When we look at the words "water" and "rain" in scripture, it becomes clear that the word "water" represents the Holy Spirit and when it "rains" upon a person, they are receiving the Holy Spirit. The Early Rain is the "small amount" and the Latter Rain is the plentiful amount (the baptism).

Here are some verses on the Early and Latter Rains:

Deu 32:2 My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain (Early Rain) upon the tender herb, and as the showers (Latter Rain) upon the grass:

Job 37:6 For he saith to the snow, Be thou on the earth; likewise to the small rain (Early Rain), and to the great rain (Latter Rain) of his strength.

Psa 68:9 Thou, O God, didst send a plentiful Rain (the Latter Rain), whereby thou didst confirm thine inheritance, when it was weary.

As Paul said to the Corinthians, when Christ comes a second time, He will confirm their election (inheritance) and make them blameless. That confirmation comes as a "plentiful RAIN (the Latter Rain) when the believer's inheritance is "weary" (meaning that the believer is in a fallen away state).

Jer 3:3 Therefore the showers have been withholden, and there hath been no Latter Rain; and thou hadst a whore's forehead, thou refusedst to be ashamed.

The "whore's forehead" represents that the believer's carnal nature (Great Harlot) has been made worse by the indwelling of the spirit of anti-Christ and has worsened their carnal mind (whore's forehead):

Rev 18:2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great (Harlot) is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

The time between the Early and Latter Rain is a time of drought. Elijah's 3 1/2 year drought is a "type" for it. During this time, the believer will fall away and become indwelt with the spirit of anti-Christ, whereby giving them a whore's forehead and making their inheritance weary.

1Sam 12:17 Is it not wheat harvest to day? (conversion time of the Elect) I will call unto the LORD, and he shall send thunder and RAIN (the Latter Rain); that ye may perceive (spiritual blindness healed) and see that your wickedness is great (worse than the first), which ye have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking you a king.

And one more:

Prov 16:15 In the light of the king's countenance is life; and his favour (blessing upon the Elect) is as a cloud of the Latter Rain.

I hope this helps with your understanding, but there is no substitute for prayer (**Luke 11:9-13**).

Right before I was converted in 2005, the Lord caused me to pray for understanding. Then, three days later, He poured out the Latter Rain upon me and healed my spiritual blindness. Only then was I able to truly understand God's Word and see that my wickedness was great. With the new knowledge which Christ was feeding me (Marriage Supper of the Lamb), my world was immediately turned upside down (spiritually speaking) and I saw Christ for the first time.

This same event is what John is teaching in the verses below:

Rev 1:12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned (converted), I saw seven golden candlesticks (the true church); 13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man (Christ), clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. 14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; 15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

I do see valid points in all your post. Although I haven't seen some of the connections you made...I'm not assuming it's not there. What I do love is the end result you speak of. Again, if I understood you correctly, I do agree what the end result will be in the Will of God.

V _____

Dear V _____,

The "connections" are necessary and must be made because God's Word really does teach its truth "here a little and there a little". Then all the pieces must be assembled as this scripture says

this:

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

Even after an Elect believer is converted and given "eyes that can see", a great deal of prayer and effort is still required to find the treasure of God:

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 seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, 5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

I've had many, many discussions before with Early Rain believers who will argue that God's Word is easy to understand because Christ wants everyone to be able to make an informed decision on whether or not to accept Him as their Lord and Savior. But no matter how many scriptures I present to them which contradict this belief, they will still hold fast with their claim. They are forced to do so because their belief in the false doctrines of Free Will & Hell would lose its foundation if Christ kept His truth concealed from mankind.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Love.

Psalm 12:6 The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

V

Dear V _____,

This is a fine verse but its message is heavily concealed by Christ's spiritual language.

Here is what I "see":

Silver is a "spirit" word (**John 6:63**) which means redemption/atonement. The phrase "furnace of earth" represents judgment upon mankind's carnality (earth). The number "seven" represents perfection.

With this understanding of the spirit words, we can then discern the true message of the verse:

The truth of God's Word is as pure as the redemption which comes from Christ's perfect judgment upon mankind's carnality. In other words, through Christ's perfect judgment, mankind

will be completely redeemed.

This verse below is related:

Luke 3:17 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.

Chaff is a symbol for mankind's carnality which will be removed from the wheat (the Elect) by unquenchable fire (judgment).

Because judgment is a necessary component of our salvation, Christ longs to start that process of judgment upon mankind:

Isa 1:27 Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness.

Luke 12:49 "I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!

Jer 4:2 And thou shalt swear, The LORD liveth, in truth, in judgment, and in righteousness; and the nations shall bless themselves in him, and in him shall they glory.

Because mankind is blessed by Christ's judgment, we should welcome it. It may not be a pleasant experience but the end result will be worth it all.

Since Christ understood this truth about judgment, He willingly went to the cross to be judged for the sins of the world.

Christ did not suffer in vain:

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 (all mankind) will be constituted righteous.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Speaking of misunderstood verses. I'm not sure I truly understand Hebrews 6:3-7 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. [7] For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God:

For it is impossible...but with God all things are possible. You spoke of a falling away. I also wonder about the passage of "it is impossible" and "to renew them again" with "be you transformed by the renewing of your mind"?

V_____

Dear V_____,

This is a very good question and the answer lies at the very foundation of the differences between the Old Covenant of Law and the New Covenant of Grace through Faith. I can't stress the importance of this difference enough.

My answer may be a little long.

The Old Covenant of Law is outward and physical. The works which are performed under the Old Covenant are the works of man.

The New Covenant of Grace through Faith is inward and spiritual. The works which are performed under the New Covenant are solely the works of Christ. Mankind contributes nothing (absolutely zero).

Because mankind has no works to perform under the New Covenant for our salvation, scripture says that we must enter into the "rest" of Christ to be saved. That "rest" is what the Sabbath Day law foreshadowed and is why a Christian, who is under the New Covenant, does not have to physically rest one a week as the Law requires.

This concept applies:

1Cor 15:46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

The Old Covenant of Law is "natural" (written on tablets of stone) and the New Covenant is "spiritual" (written in man's heart).

Christ's work of fulfilling the Law for our salvation began with His physical work which He completed at the cross. Just before He died, Christ said "it is finished" (referring to His physical work). Upon Christ's resurrection from the grave, Christ began His spiritual work under a new covenant - the New Covenant of Grace through Faith. Under the New Covenant, Christ will fulfill the Law within each person who has ever lived. He accomplishes this task by spiritually converting us from being a child of the Devil (who sins) to being a child of God (who doesn't sin). And like Christ's physical work, Christ will also do all the spiritual work that we need for salvation/conversion.

This scripture below sums up Christ's work by breaking it into 2 parts:

John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: 1) I am come that they might have life, and 2) that they might have it more abundantly.

Christ's physical work which gives us "life" was accomplished at the cross. With Christ's death, He earned the keys to death & hell which gave Him the authority to resurrect all mankind from the grave. But salvation is more than just the same sinful life we presently have. Salvation is a life free from sin with a restored relationship with the Father. This type of life is the "more abundant" life that Christ will give us under the New Covenant of Grace through Faith.

Now to the scripture you referenced:

Heb 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection (conversion**); 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. 7 For the earth (**carnal mankind**) which drinketh in the rain (**Early Rain**) that cometh oft upon it (**many are called**), and bringeth forth herbs (**babes in Christ**) meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing (**salvation**) from God: 8 But that which beareth thorns and briers (**fallen away believer, not faithful**) is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned (**judged**).**

In this scripture, Paul is teaching about the sin that leads to death. It is by this sin that Satan spiritually kills (loss of salvation) all new believers shortly after Christ gives them the Early Rain of the Spirit.

So what is this sin that leads to death? It is the sin of believing that we must contribute at least some work (either physical or spiritual) in order to receive salvation from Christ. This work can take many forms but the most common form comes from a belief in the Doctrine of Free Will. Under that doctrine, it says that we must develop our own faith in Christ so that we will make a free will decision to accept Jesus as Lord. After we make this free will decision, Christ will give us the Holy Spirit and salvation. Some believe that water baptism is also a required.

The doctrine of Free Will is the foundational belief that supports the Doctrine of Hell. It justifies why some people are saved and why others are not. But rather than recognize that Christ is the one who is responsible for our salvation, this doctrine puts the responsibility back onto mankind. This doctrine, however, is what the Old Covenant of Law was founded upon (man's works). And because the Doctrine of Free Will places the responsibility for salvation back onto mankind, it

implies that the people who accept Christ as Lord are somehow better than those who reject Christ. In other words, those who accept Christ believe that they are smarter, wiser or just not as evil as those who reject Him. The feeling that comes from this belief is very pleasing to the individual's carnal nature. For that reason, Christ said this:

Luke 5:39 No man also having drunk old wine (Old Covenant of man's works) straightway desireth new (New Covenant of Christ's works): for he saith, the old is better.

After a person receives the Early Rain of the Spirit, they will remain carnal and spiritually blind. Because they remain carnal, they will quickly turn back to the Old Wine (man's works, religion) because they find that it tastes better than the New Wine (more pleasing to their carnal nature).

When a person turns back to trusting in their own works for salvation, they have broken their repentance from dead works. They have turned away from their faith under the New Covenant which says that they trust Christ to do all the works for their salvation. In other words, they are no longer faithful. And since they are no longer faithful, they are no longer under the blood of Christ of the New Covenant but are, in fact, back under the Old Covenant of Law. For this reason, when a fallen away believer is resurrected from the grave, Christ will cast them into the Lake of Fire to be judged by the law.

Paul makes these comments below about this same subject using the issue of his day which was "circumcision":

Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. 2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. 3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. 4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Paul continues in the next verse and adds this comment:

Gal 5:5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

In this portion of scripture, Paul is teaching Early Rain believers who remain carnal and spiritually blind. Paul is trying to help them understand the importance of remaining faithful to the New Covenant (Christ's works) and to their repentance from dead works.

So why is their faith so important? Paul explains it in verse 5. Our faith in Christ under the New Covenant is what makes the pathway "straight" for Christ to come and appear to us. The Latter Rain is what makes Christ appear. This is the "hope of righteousness" Paul is referencing in verse 5.

In the marriage analogy, after a person receives the Early Rain, they become engaged to Christ.

Christ (the Bridegroom) then goes away to prepare a place for his bride. While He is away, the chaste virgin must faithfully wait for Him to return. When Christ returns, He must find the virgin in the same chaste condition (faithful) as when He first came to them. If He finds that the virgin is no longer chaste but has committed the sin of fornication with Satan (following the crooked ways of Satan), He will reject them. I will teach more on the marriage analogy later.

Now back to what Paul said in Heb 6:1-8 about it being impossible to renew a fallen away believer. This sounds like if a believer falls away, they cannot ever be saved. However, this is not what Paul is actually saying. All Paul is saying is that when a believer falls away, they cannot be renewed strictly by their repenting again. But renewal can come to a fallen away believer, Paul just does not mention how this happens in this portion of scripture. Why? I believe it is because truth is taught "here a little, and there a little".

So where can we find out how a fallen away believer can be renewed?

First, let's look at the Parable of the Ten Virgins:

At the start of the parable, all ten virgins are acceptable but only five are predestinated to be the Bride of Christ (the five wise virgins). The parable then says that while the bridegroom tarried to return, all ten virgins slumbered and slept. This represents that all ten virgins fell away and lost their salvation. They did not remain chaste. Then it says that at midnight (the deepest part of a believer's spiritual blindness), a call goes out (call of Elijah to repent) that the Bridegroom is on His way back. All ten virgins rise and trim their lamps but they all find that they are low on fuel. The wise virgins (the Elect), however, have an extra flask of oil but the foolish virgins (called but not chosen) do not. The extra flask of oil represents the anointing of the Latter Rain of the Holy Spirit. With the Latter Rain, the unchaste virgin will answer the call and repent. They will then be "born again". In other words, they will be made into a chaste virgin again. Now that they have been made into a chaste virgin again, they will go out and the Bridegroom will appear to them. He will then take them back for the wedding and to the home He prepared for them (same as being gathered to heaven, Mat 24:31).

Second, let's look at the Parable of the Prodigal Son since it teaches the same message. It will be very summarized.

The Prodigal Son is the younger son. He represents the Elect. The concept of first comes the natural (the older son), then comes the spiritual (the Elect) applies - same as in the story of Jacob and Esau. The older son represents the many called but not chosen. At the start of the parable, the Father gives each son a portion of their inheritance (Early Rain). The younger son leaves home and wastes his inheritance on riotous living. This represents the younger son's loss of salvation. Later, the younger son comes to His senses (receives the Latter Rain). This causes Him to repent and return to His Father. When His Father sees him coming, he runs out to meet him. The Father then places a robe (clothes of righteousness) on him and a ring on his finger (represents that he is the heir). They both return to the Father's house (heaven) and have a feast (same as the wedding ceremony and supper). The older son won't come into the house but decides to stay in the fields

working.

There are other examples I could give but this post is long enough. I hope I have answered your question.

Joe

Dear V _____,

I had my wife read my response and she didn't think my answer was very clear in examples of the two parables.

I will try to do better here:

A fallen away believer is renewed because Christ "comes again" and gives the fallen away believer the Latter Rain. With the Latter Rain, they will be "born again", their faith restored, and their spiritual blindness healed. Then, in this new spiritual condition (since their blindness is healed), Christ will "appear" to the renewed believer and He will find His Bride to be faithful.

The Latter Rain comes first before Christ "appears".

In the final age, since the called but not chosen believers will not be given the Latter Rain prior to their appearance before Christ at the White Throne, Christ will find them unfaithful and reject them.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Not to make you feel bad because it's not your fault but I agree with your wife. The first post and the last helped a lot but the parables threw me. Mostly because it gets confusing for me there. I loved the first post. It made sense to me. It's a lot to take in. I did go back to read about the early and later rain and it just didn't reveal anything to me yet. I won't forget your time and what you have shared here. One thing I have seen is when I'm really confused about something and ask Him ...it could be days, weeks, or sometimes a year but one day I will be reading and something helps clarify. I'm concerned because you mentioned struggling to understand me which I hear often from others. It does make me wonder if my thoughts don't make sense or if I just have trouble expressing those thoughts. This may not make sense either...I do see a lot of clarification in what you've shared. But at the same time some things throw me off. For example I will be reading what you shared and it makes sense but then all of a sudden I run into a red flag. I don't know if I am the one raising the red flag, or if it is truly a red flag. That is why I said I can't say if I agree or disagree. You do have me curious and watchful for what is The early and later rain. The very first passage that ever spoke to me (intimately I think) when I was seeking healing verses was Job 38:25-27 ESV

"Who has cleft a channel for the torrents of rain and a way for the thunderbolt, [26] to bring rain

on a land where no man is, on the desert in which there is no man, [27] to satisfy the waste and desolate land, and to make the ground sprout with grass?

To me that is a healing verse. I had been following faith healers around and had all the well-known healing verses tapped to my walls. But it was the above verse, which wasn't what someone else told me, but the first time the word actually spoke to my heart. Does that make sense? So I am not dismissing what you have shared. Here is another thought that may be weird...but I think about Jesus and how he was born...but then when he was baptized by John and he come up out of the water and the Spirit descended and rested upon him. All those unanswered questions for me...for example didn't Jesus already have the Spirit being born of God from the womb of Mary, where the Spirit overshadowed her and she gave birth? Or why did Jesus breathe on the disciples or say "receive you the Spirit" more than once. I'm not asking you to clarify those questions but I'm only saying I still have numerous unanswered questions. Thank you taking time to respond carefully to me. Like it matters. And please tell your wife thank you



for also caring enough to give her input also.

V _____

Dear V _____,

Thanks for your response - it was well written and direct with your points. I will say that writing is not my strongest point either. I have been writing papers and forum posts for over 15 years now and because of such, my skills have improved - but my early writings left much to be desired.

As for what you and my wife said, I understand it completely. Here is the issue: truth is built up from the foundation and when a person is at a lower level than the subject at hand, they will not be able to connect the dots on some of my statements. I automatically make those connections but forget that others can't. For that reason, I like to stick with the milk of the Word on the forum but that usually does not happen. For me, when I was converted, Christ began feeding me the truth that He is really the Savior of the world, the truth about the false doctrines of Free Will and Hell and the truth that the churches of this world are all apostate. Those truths turned my world upside down and my worldly (carnal) paradigm was destroyed and replaced with a new spiritual paradigm.

Here is how Peter explained their day of conversion:

Acts 2:18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit (Latter Rain) in those days; And they shall prophesy. 19 I will show wonders in heaven above And signs in the earth beneath: Blood and fire and vapor of smoke. 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.

The signs that Peter is describing are spiritual signs which happen within the believer who is being converted. They do not happen out in the world. The reason the sun and moon are darkened is to show that the believer no longer receives their truth (light) from the natural world but directly from Christ Himself.

I also wanted to make some comments on the verse you quoted:

Job 38:25-27 "Who has cleft a channel for the torrents of rain and a way for the thunderbolt, [26] to bring rain on a land where no man is, on the desert in which there is no man, [27] to satisfy the waste and desolate land, and to make the ground sprout with grass?"

This verse is teaching on the spiritual healing that occurs when a believer receives the Latter Rain (torrents of Rain). It occurs in the desert because that is where Satan dwells and therefore, where the apostate church dwells. That is why after Israel believed the "bad report" from the 10 spies, they were not allowed to enter the Promised Land (salvation) but had to wander in the wilderness for 40 years. The 40 years of wandering represents the time that a believer will spend between receiving the Early and Latter Rains. It is also the time of Elijah's 3 1/2 years of drought and the time of the last 3 1/2 years of Daniel's Seventy weeks prophecy. When the Latter Rain falls on the ground, the drought will end and the land will become fertile and produce new grass (represents the new birth of the believer).

This verse added to what your verse says:

1Sam 12:17 Is it not wheat harvest to day? I will call unto the LORD, and he shall send THUNDER and RAIN; that ye may perceive and see that your wickedness is great, which ye have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking you a king.

After receiving the Latter Rain, the believer's spiritual blindness is healed and they then "see" the Abomination of Desolation which occurred within themselves earlier.

I also wanted to comment on faith healers. All the healing in scripture is a physical type which foreshadows the spiritual healing that Christ will do in all mankind. This is the purpose of the healing that the Holy Spirit does.

This verse below applies to the faith healers in the apostate church:

2Thes 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

Mat 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

You said:

but then when he was baptized by John and he come up out of the water and the Spirit descended and rested upon him. All those unanswered questions for me...for example didn't Jesus already have the Spirit being born of God from the womb of Mary, where the Spirit overshadowed her and she gave birth?

I know you said these are not questions you want me to answer but I love to "freely give" what the Lord has given to me so I am compelled to give you a short answer. I'm sorry if I am overstepping here.

Jesus' life which is recorded in the 4 gospels "typed" the pathway to salvation that the Elect will travel.

The baptism of John which Christ received served two purposes.

The first purpose was that it "typed" the Early Rain which is given to the Elect. For that reason, after Christ's baptism, Christ went into the desert to fast for 40 days. This 40 day fast represents the same thing as Elijah's 3 1/2 years of drought and Israel wandering in the wilderness for 40 years. It is the time that all believers spend after they receive the Early Rain.

The second purpose of Christ's baptism was that it officially commenced the first 3 1/2 years of the last seven years remaining of Daniel's prophecy. This baptism in effect "confirmed the covenant" that Christ made with Abraham. Then, at the midpoint of the last seven years, Christ was "cut off" at the cross. This event caused the change from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant. This left 3 1/2 years for Christ to complete Daniel's Seventy Weeks prophecy. Christ is now completing those last 3 1/2 years under the New Covenant which is spiritual. Christ begins the last 3 1/2 years for an individual when He gives them the Early Rain. The 3 1/2 years are completed when the person receives the Latter Rain. When the last Elect person is saved in this age, Daniel's prophecy will be complete.

I have two papers on Daniel's Seventy Weeks prophecy on my website in case you have an interest in understanding that prophecy in more detail.

You said:

Or why did Jesus breathe on the disciples or say "receive you the Spirit" more than once.

In John 20, Christ breathed on some of the Apostles. This happened to show the "type" of what will happen when Christ "comes again" to His Elect. His breathing on them represented the Latter Rain. That was why Christ did it and why it was recorded in scripture.

If you ever have any questions on certain scriptures, I would be happy to try and answer them. It gives me great joy to share the truth of God's Word.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Clarifying "like it matters" that is sometimes used sarcastically in a negative way. I meant it as I truly believe you and your wife's hope and desire is to help me with the later rain. Seeking after the best for me. I meant you both treat it as if it matters greatly and in return make me feel like you both consider me valuable and worth the effort.

V

Dear V _____,

You touched on a subject that explains why I do what I do on the forums. This verse applies and explains the ministry that I believe Christ has given me to do:

James 5:17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. **18** And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain (Latter Rain), and the earth produced its fruit. **19** Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, **20** let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

As I have said, when Christ is ready to give one of His Elect the Latter Rain, He will send a person to them in the spirit of Elijah with the call to repent from dead works. If they have the extra flask of oil, the pathway for Christ to come to them will be made "straight". This is the work that I believe Christ has given me to do. In 2005, when I was converted, Christ sent a man to me named Ray Smith who served this purpose for me. It is my hope and prayer that I can benefit you in the same way. You are in my prayers.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

One question I have is how did you know you received the later rain? I ask because you mentioned a time when your world was turned upside down. I can relate. For example ...about six years ago things happened and for the first time I was truly interested in God. But also the first thing I did was head to the church, visiting all sorts of denominations for several years. As I mentioned I had all the healing verses people told me about taped to my walls. To make it short ...like the passage from Job things started to change. I agree with you about all the healings Jesus Christ did showing, revealing, what God is doing in the Spirit. You make sense about hell and the false doctrines of men. You make sense about a lot. the way I see now from before is a one-eighty(or a complete turnabout) from the girl who prayed for God to make it so I don't need glasses (literally). because if God can heal eye sight then I shouldn't need glasses(literally)...so convinced by faith healers. I know. Sounds crazy but I use to think wearing glasses was a shame.

I was convinced I should pray and have enough faith in God and He would take the need to wear glasses away restoring my eye sight. Of course this would be a sign(to me) because I had a bigger problem in need of healing...Multiple sclerosis. Now I see ...He IS healing my eyesight but it has nothing to do with wearing (literal) glasses.

At the same time I don't think I've experienced "the appearance of Christ" by the way I understand the appearance of Christ. But instead I still wait and hope for His appearance. My question is how did you know? What happened in 2005 that is key to you for the later Rain? To be clearer...in the church often it is "have you received the Spirit and spoke in tongues?" can you help me understand what happened in 2005 that was unique?

V_____

Dear V_____,

I will post my conversion experience in my next post. However, if you go to my website, in the upper right-hand corner, there is a link to it, as well.

You said:

about six years ago things happened and for the first time I was truly interested in God. But also the first thing I did was head to the church, visiting all sorts of denominations for several years.

This happened to my wife and me, too. We moved to Fayetteville, Arkansas because of my job and we struggled finding a new church to attend. We wanted to find a church that we believed had a strong love for the Lord but couldn't find one. This verse applied to us at that time:

Rom 10:2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge.

You said:

At the same time I don't think I've experienced "the appearance of Christ" by the way I understand the appearance of Christ. But instead I still wait and hope for His appearance. My question is how did you know? What happened in 2005 that is key to you for the later Rain? To be clearer...in the church often it is "have you received the Spirit and spoke in tongues?" can you help me understand what happened in 2005 that was unique?

Christ starts His work within a believer well before He is ready to pour out the Latter Rain. I can "look back" now and see that was true of my wife and me - when, at the time, I could not. In my conversion testimony, most of your questions will be answered.

The most noticeable signs of receiving the Latter Rain is having your faith increased and your spiritual blindness healed.

Here is what scripture says about a believer's moment of conversion. If a person has not

experienced what these verses say, then they have not been converted.

Mat 24:14 “And this gospel of the kingdom (this is referring to Satan's "another gospel") will be preached in all the world (this is the believer) as a witness to all the nations (this is their beliefs), and then the end will come (conversion). 15 “Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand), 16 “then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

2Thes 2:8 And then shall that Wicked (man of sin) be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

1Sam 12:17 Is it not wheat harvest to day? I will call unto the LORD, and he shall send thunder and RAIN; that ye may perceive and see that your wickedness is great, which ye have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking you a king.

After Christ gives a believer the Latter Rain, their spiritual blindness will be healed and they will "see" that all the time they thought they were following Christ, they were, in fact, following Satan under his deceptions in the apostate church.

2Cor 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

With eyes that can see spiritually, a believer will come out of Satan's deceptions because Christ is now appearing to them for the first time. This is the same "brightness of His coming" which Paul says destroys the man of sin.

When Christ appears, the knowledge of Him will encompass the believer's entire mind - east to west in the heavens:

Mat 24:27 “For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

When this happened to me in 2005, it was an amazing experience. My love and joy for Christ soared like never before.

Peter describes the second coming this way:

Acts 2:18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: 19 And I will shew wonders in heaven (our mind) above, and signs in the earth (our spirit/spiritual nature) beneath; blood (Christ's blood of the New Covenant), and fire (judgment), and vapor of smoke (Rev 18:9) 20 The (natural) sun

(Satan/mankind's father) shall be turned into darkness, and the moon (bondwoman, carnal spiritual nature/mankind's mother) into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:

During the conversion process, the believer will receive a new Sun and new Moon because they are "born again". The new Sun (Christ/child of God's Father) and the new Moon (Freewoman/spiritual nature of the Holy Spirit/child of God's Mother) will then begin teaching us "truth" from the light that they give off.

I will now post my conversion testimony in my next post.

Joe

Dear V _____,

Conversion Testimony of Joe & Julie Edwards

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 Pentecostal 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".

After our conversion, Julie received prophecies less and less. Below is a prophecy she received on March 5, 2008 and as it turned out, it was 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".

This verse applies as to why she ceased receiving "words":

1Cor 13:8 Charity never fails: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spake 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 through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

Over the years since our conversion, the Lord has blessed us beyond anything we could have imagined.

And as we have been “freely given”, we now freely give to those who truly seek to know the Lord. This is our work the Lord has given us.

Joe

Dear V _____,

I wanted to explain about "tongues" but I forgot to do it in my first post.

Here is what my wife experienced:

1Cor 14:14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. 15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

My wife experienced praying in an unknown tongue (a heavenly language) and singing in the Spirit. She never experienced what these verses present:

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. 5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. 6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

Speaking in "tongues" as this scripture above shows is actually speaking in another language (like French, Italian, etc.). This was necessary back in the 1st century to help spread the gospel. But nowadays, I don't think this gift is given any longer - at least I have never witnessed it.

The "tongues" that I have witnessed in the church are mostly (if not all) FALSE. Those tongues are not other known languages like Acts 2:4-6 shows but are said to be (by the church) a heavenly language like Paul mentions in 1Cor 14:14 - but that type of tongues is for the edification of the individual who is praying and not for the church:

1Cor 14:2 For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. 3 But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. 4 He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

I find nowhere in scripture that "tongues" (a heavenly language) is ever used for edifying the church because "**no man understandeth him**". That type of tongues is only for the individual who is praying in that tongue and only God understands what is said. Tongues in other known languages is for edifying the church.

I remember in the Pentecostal church where we last attended, some people would from time to time, stand up in the service and begin speaking in tongues (supposedly a heavenly language). The pastor would then tell the congregation the message that was spoken. However, this is not scriptural at all and was false.

My wife stills prays in tongues once in a while but nothing like she used to in 2004 - 2008. As for her prophesying, that gift ended in 2008.

As for me, I have never spoke in tongues like Acts 2:4-6 shows and I have never prayed in tongues like my wife does.

Tongues is one of the gifts of the Spirit and not everyone receives that gift. My primary gifts that I received were the gifts of wisdom and knowledge:

1Cor 12:8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

Since I was a small boy, I usually ended my prayers asking for "wisdom and understanding". Looking back at all those years, I can find no reason for me to have done that except that the Lord put it in my heart to do so. It is amazing how God works in our lives even from the time we are young. I am so grateful for what He has given to me and I thank Him nearly every day for it.

Don't believe anyone who tells you that speaking in tongues always accompanies the baptism of the Spirit (Latter Rain). That is not true.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Thank you for sharing your wife and your conversion story after I asked the question I did remember reading your conversion story the first time we spoke a while back. I did visit the link to your conversion story back then. To be honest tongues is always a red flag for me. My husband and I visited a church back during that time we were visiting churches and we were locked in a church that asserted "you have to speak in tongues". They shut the doors and said everyone had to participate. The lady leading at the front while everyone joined in speaking in tongues glared at my husband who had refused to join in. I sat quietly beside him really uncomfortable in my own skin. The lady stirred up my husband but not in a good way. When we left that was it...he said we would not be going back there. I get almost everyone says "but that is false tongues." It is hard for me to distinguish between the false and true. I have questions but

I'm not going to ask them because I know it would hurt your wife's feelings. As if I'm questioning her directly. So I will keep my question to myself. I am not dismissing everything you both shared with me which I can't deny is insightful and helpful. But tongues is always a red flag for me.

V_____

Dear V_____,

Dear VictoryinJesus,

As a presented earlier, the tongues which is for the edification of the church and is a sign for unbelievers is another language that mankind already speaks (French, Italian, etc.) This is the type of tongues that should be spoken out loud in the churches, but only if there is an interpreter. If there is no one in the church who can interpret that particular language, the speaker should remain silent because it edifies no one.

1Cor 14:27 If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. 28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

1Cor 14:21 In the law it is written, With men of other tongues (languages) and other lips will I speak unto this people (just like in Acts 2:4-6); and yet for all that will they not hear me (they do not have "ears that can hear"), saith the Lord. 22 Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

The tongues in the church you attended was obviously false and unscriptural. It was nothing more than learned gibberish. This is definitely a red flag. This false type of tongues was also what Julie and I witnessed in the Pentecostal church we last attended. It was nothing more than a carnal display of the flesh and a learned behavior. It seems that the church you attended was trying to force you to learn this gibberish, too.

The only tongues which occurs in a heavenly language, usually only happens when the Spirit makes intercession for a person in their prayers.

Rom 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helps our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered (expressed in man's words). 27 And he that searches the hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because he makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

There are the only two types of tongues:

The FIRST TYPE of tongues is the intercession of the Spirit and it usually occurs during a believer's prayer time but not completely so. It can happen anytime because it is the Spirit who is

making intercession for the believer as it is needed. It is done in groanings (a heavenly language) which cannot be expressed by man's words and can only be understood by God. It is very private matter between the individual and God, just as prayer is:

Mat 6:6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet (innermost part of the heart), and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

This is how Christ applied prayer in His own life:

Luke 5:16 And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.

Luke 22:41 And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed,

I do not believe in public prayer as it is commonly done in this world. A simple "giving thanks" or prayer in a small private setting is sometimes shown in scripture, but that type of prayer is not the same as what Christ was teaching in the above verse or the same as when the Spirit makes intercession for us.

The SECOND TYPE of tongues is the one which is done in one of man's known earthly languages. It is a sign for unbelievers and for the edification of the church (when a person can interpret it for the church). Unlike the first type of tongues, it is very public.

These two types of "tongues" are the only two that I have ever been able to find presented in scripture. What you and I have seen in the apostate churches is false and a lie from Satan.

2Thes 2:9 Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

My wife has only experienced the first type of tongues which I mentioned above. Her gift of prophesying which she used to have was something separate and is not "tongues".

I hope this better explains my last post.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Thank you for clarifying. I'm not trying to speak against tongues. Personally I'm just questionable because I don't know if I've ever seen the real thing. To me speaking in tongues is what you have done here in your post...speaking in a Spiritual language not heard. Towards edification. When you say "I haven't been given that gift." I'm not so sure by reading your post.

V

Dear V _____,

I don't believe I have ever witnessed the "real thing" either as scripture defines "tongues". I believe that the true gift of tongues is very rare nowadays because the 1st century church is now apostate. And because the church is now apostate, the Holy Spirit is mostly quiet. I believe that the signs and wonders that we do witness are the lying signs and wonders of the spirit of anti-Christ.

I have been studying a great deal about "tongues" in the past 24 hours and discussing it with my wife. One thing that I will say is that scripture does not give enough detail to answer all the questions one may have about tongues. Because of this lack of detail, it causes people to make assumptions about tongues which may or may not be true.

When I use only the information provided by scripture, I find that "tongues" is the gift of speaking in other earthly languages for the purpose of giving a sign to unbelievers.

1Cor 14:22 Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

And when the "tongue" is interpreted, its message can also be beneficial to the church.

Nowhere in scripture does it ever say that "tongues" can also be a heavenly language that is not spoken on earth.

Here is the example given in Acts:

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. 5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. 6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. 7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? 8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? 9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, 10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, 11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. 12 And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?

When a person says that "tongues" can also be a heavenly language, they are making an unsupportable assumption. Also, if "tongues" can be a heavenly language, how would that be a

sign for unbelievers (the primary reason for tongues) since they would not be able to understand the message which teaches the "wonderful works of God"?

In 1Cor 14, Paul talks about "unknown tongues" but that does not mean that the tongue is a heavenly language. It very well could be that when Paul refers to an "unknown tongue", he is only talking about an earthly language that is unknown to those who are present. And from what Acts 2:4-11 presents, that would be the logical conclusion to make.

Now for what my wife experiences:

I have decided to back away from using the term "tongues" to describe what my wife experiences during her private prayer time. Scripturally speaking, what she experiences is not "tongues" as I defined above. What my wife experiences (and this only happens on rare occasions anymore) is the Spirit making intercession for her in her prayers. It is not meant for public consummation as is "tongues".

Here is the first of two scriptures which I found that apply to what my wife experiences in her prayer time:

1Cor 14:14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. 15 What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.

Paul says that the Spirit can pray through him in an unknown tongue, and because of such, his understanding is unfruitful. I believe that this "unknown tongue" is not an earthly language but a heavenly language - possibly the same "tongues of angels" which Paul mentions here:

1Cor 13:1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

I will admit that I cannot support my conclusion on what language the "unknown tongue" actually is by what is recorded in scripture. But from my observation of my wife's prayers, I believe that the "unknown tongue" that she speaks is not a language that is spoken by mankind. I believe that when the Spirit is speaking through her, it does so in a heavenly language - and that this language could possibly be the same "tongues of angels" that Paul mentions above. But as I said, I cannot prove this belief by scripture. Scripture simply does not give us enough detail on this subject.

Here is the second scripture I found concerning the Spirit praying through a believer:

Rom 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helps our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself makes intercession for us with groanings which

cannot be uttered (expressed in man's words). 27 And he that searches the hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because he makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

The Spirit first started praying through my wife in an unknown tongue about a year and a half prior to our conversion. At that time, my wife and I did not realize that we were in a lost and fallen away spiritual state (worse than the first, Mat 12:43-45). Because my wife and I knew "not what we should pray for as we ought", the Spirit prayed for us.

Frequently, when the Spirit prayed through my wife, my wife would cry uncontrollably. At that time, we could not understand why this was happening. But looking back now, we can see how grieved the Spirit was about our fallen away spiritual condition. After my wife and I were converted, the Spirit began praying through my wife less and less but it did not end completely. Even to this day, my wife still experiences the Spirit praying through her on occasion.

Joe