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The Name and the Anointing

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THE NAME & THE ANOINTING

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Some may say that the meaning of a name is of no value and of no significance, but this is contrary to the Word of God. God has always placed great emphasis on a name, just as He placed great emphasis on His name, because one's name represents that person, their character, and their attributes. He would often change one's name to reflect their character or their purpose. In Genesis 17:5, He said, "Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee." Likewise, He named Jacob, Israel, in Genesis 32:28.

At times, God would tell His servants to name their children a particular name before they were born; for example, Zacharias was told to name his son, John, which means "the Lord has been gracious." There was always a meaning or a purpose behind a name. Just as before Jesus was born, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph, in a dream, telling him to name the child, Jesus, "for He shall save His people from their sins," as Jesus means, "Jehovah our salvation."

God has always had a name, in which He would distinguish Himself, from false gods. Most, if not all, religions claim to serve a "god." Even voodoo, is considered a religion, that serves a "god," and pray to a "god." Many religions serve several gods, thus, the importance of knowing the name of the one true and living God.

In the Old Testament, God introduced Himself, to people at different times, with

the Hebrew names, Elohim (God) and el Shaddai (Almighty God). Jehovah was His identifying name. He also used compound titles or names, such as Jehovah-Jireh (the Lord will provide) or Jehovah-Rapha (the Lord that heals). He gave names to Himself through which He could communicate with man to reveal Himself and show His power.

According to Jewish history, the Jews feared to address God by the name, Jehovah, because they did not want to dishonor His sacred name, so they preferred to call Him, Adonai (Lord). “I am the Lord [Jehovah]; that is My name” (Isaiah 42:8). In Hebrew, that name is derived from “to be” meaning “He is” or “He will be,” the name that God used to reveal Himself to Moses, in Exodus 3:14, as “I AM,” or the One Who is, and Who always will be. That is why Jesus Christ Himself could state, in Revelation 1:8, “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.” The Lord God Jehovah (Yeshua) of the Old Testament is the same Lord Jesus Christ of the New Testament.

“Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord” (Deuteronomy 6:4).

God had several names in which He manifested Himself to different people at different times in the Old Testament, but there is only one name in the New Testament in which He manifested Himself to His people. In John 17:6, Jesus was praying to the Father and said, “I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest Me out of the world.” The only “name” that Jesus manifested to His disciples was His own (Yeshua).

Jesus states, in John 17:12, “while I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name” and in John 17:26, “I have declared unto them thy name, and will de-
declare it.”

In John 5:43, He states, “I am come in My Father’s name, and ye receive Me not.” Hebrews 1:4, tells us, that by inheritance, He obtained a more excellent name, than the angels. One inherits their name from their father, just as Jesus inherited His name from His Father.

Philippians 2:9-10 states, “Wherefore God has highly exalted Him and given Him a name, which is above every name, that by the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth.” Therefore, there is no name which is above Jesus’ name. It is often said, that a man’s name is as good as his word. One’s name represents their word, just as Jesus Christ was the Word of God, made flesh, the voice of God, the promise of God.

In the Old Testament, the names of God were given to people to fulfill a certain purpose or to meet a certain need, at a particular time. For example, if they needed victory, they called on the name of Jehovah-Nissi (the Lord, our victory). When they needed peace, they called on the name of Jehovah-Shalom (the Lord, our peace). When Israel needed deliverance from Pharaoh, they called on the name of Jehovah, the name associated with deliverance. But, God did not reveal His name of salvation, until the New Testament. It had been referred to, in the Old Testament, as in Zechariah 14:9, “And the Lord shall be King over all the earth; in that day shall there

be one Lord and His name one,” but, not actually revealed until after the birth of the Messiah or Saviour, Jesus Christ. Scripture repeatedly states, that we should not deny His name, therefore, the importance of knowing what His name is. As we have an earthly father, which we know by name, we also have a Heavenly Father, which we should know by name.

Another important reason for knowing His name and why His name should be emphasized, is because, according to Acts 4:12, “Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved,” and that name is revealed in verse 10, as Jesus Christ. That is why apostle Peter could stand boldly before the crowd on the day of Pentecost and reveal the only name for salvation, as he had the revelation of who Jesus is, the Christ, the Son of the living God, which was revealed to him, not by man, but by the Father (Spirit). Therefore, he was given the keys to the Kingdom in which to open the door of salvation to the Church, and the Church would be built upon that revelation, of Jesus Christ, and the gates of Hell could not prevail against it. This was the foundation the Church was to be built upon, a solid rock, Jesus Christ. The Church is built upon the Apostles and Prophets, what they preached, with Jesus Christ Himself, being the chief cornerstone. The Cornerstone is a foundation stone laid at the onset of construction. It is the principal stone, the stone which forms the corner of the foundation. According to 1 Corinthians 3:11, “For other foundation can no man lay, than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” Therefore, there is no other foundation that can be built upon, other than Jesus Christ. He is the stone which the builders rejected, the same which has become the head of the corner (Matthew 21:42). He is the

foundation of the New Testament Church.

In the parable of a solid foundation in Matthew 7:24-27, Jesus stated that a wise man would build his house upon a rock, but the foolish man would build his house upon the sand and when the floods came and the winds blew, that house would fall, whereas the house which was built upon a rock, would stand. Through the floods, though, it was beaten by the winds, the gates of Hell would not prevail against it, for it was built upon a solid rock, which is Jesus Christ, the Word.

Psalms 11:3 states, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" A building is only as good as its foundation. If the foundation is compromised, the structure will not stand. If the foundation crumbles or if the foundation is not laid correctly, the building will not stand. A solid foundation is built upon a rock. Christ is called a Rock in several passages throughout the Bible. Isaiah 28:16 states, "Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation, a stone, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation." Jesus Christ is both, a stumbling stone and a rock of offense to them which stumble at the Word (1 Peter 2:8). Even some who profess to follow Him stumble at the His teachings and refuse to believe His precepts. To all these, He is a stumbling stone and a rock of offence. Peter charged the stumbling ones with disobedience. They should have known better, but they chose to reject the cornerstone of the Kingdom of God. Through the old Law, the Jews were kept from the law of righteousness, which is of faith. Jews who refused faith and who chose sight, stumbled because of Christ. The Jews examined the claims of Jesus, and because He did not conform to their expectations of what a Messiah should be, nor establish the

earthly Kingdom they expected, they rejected Him, as the Lord of Glory. Yet, to the believer, Christ is the Power and the Wisdom of God, an invincible foundation, on which to stand, a solid rock behind which to hide, and a shelter, in which to find safety. Matthew 21:42, states that whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken to pieces, but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder. Christ calls Himself, a rock, which crushes the unbelievers and those who stumble at His Word, will be broken. He is an offense to the faithless. We will either, stumble or stand, because of Christ.

Apostle Paul, who referred to himself as a wise master builder in 1 Corinthians 3:10, stated that he had laid the foundation, and another man builds upon it, but let every man take heed how he builds upon it. Then he goes on to say, that there is no other foundation that can be laid, other than Jesus Christ. When we try to build upon anything other than Christ, the structure will surely fall. In Ezekiel 13, it speaks about the false prophets who would seduce people and build up a wall, but it would be built with untempered mortar. It states that the rains, the hailstones, and the stormy winds would cause the walls to fall, those that were built with untempered mortar. They had built their walls upon tradition, rather than on a true foundation. God said, He would bring it down to the ground, so the foundation shall be discovered and it shall fall, because it was not on the right foundation. In Jeremiah 50:15, Jeremiah prophesied as to Babylon's future, that her foundations are fallen and her walls would be thrown down.

Just as the New Testament Church is built upon the Apostles and Prophets with

Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone, God has always used a pattern in which to build. Psalm 104:5 states, that God laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed forever. Solomon's Temple was built upon hewn stone, huge blocks of the choicest stone, quarried and prepared, by Phoenician masons. The stones were cut in the quarry. The Bible tells us not a hammer was heard on the building site, as the stones had been shaped so perfectly, that they slotted together without being banged into place. The Phoenicians always used huge stones for foundations, because the big stones helped make buildings earthquake-proof. It tells us, in 2 Chronicles 8:16, that all the work of Solomon was prepared unto the day of the foundation of the house of the Lord, and until it was finished; so the house of the Lord was perfected. Revelation 21:14-19 tells us, that the wall of the city of New Jerusalem is built upon twelve foundations, and in them, the names of the twelve Apostles of the Lamb and the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. Hebrews 11:9 tells us, that Abraham, by faith, dwelt in Tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him, of the same promise; for he looked for a city which has foundations, whose builder and maker, is God. He was looking for that promise and even though he did not see it, by faith, he believed it would come.

Jesus told Peter, "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock, I will build my Church." The Church of Jesus Christ did not come into existence while Jesus was on this earth. Jesus spoke these words shortly before His crucifixion. The fact that He said, "I will build," shows that the Church had not yet been established. The Church of

Jesus Christ is also referred to as, the Kingdom of God, or God's Spiritual Kingdom. It is important to note, that even though Peter's name, in Greek, was "Petros," which means a rock, that was not the rock upon which the Church was built, as some claim. The word used here, for rock, was "Petra," which means, a huge, mountain-like rock. Therefore, Jesus is that rock upon which the Church would be built, and even though Peter was not that rock, the Church was built upon the revelation which Peter had; Peter knew who the rock was.

After Jesus resurrected and before he ascended, He instructed His Apostles and opened their understanding to the Scriptures. Matthew stated, in Matthew 28:18-20 that Jesus spoke unto them saying, "All Power is given unto Me, in Heaven and in earth. Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe whatsoever I have commanded you." In Mark's account, in Mark 16:15-18, Jesus said to them, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believes and is baptized, shall be saved; but he that believes not, shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; in My name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." And according to Luke's Gospel, in Luke 24:46, Jesus said, "Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day; and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you, but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem,

until ye be endued with power from on high.”

A comparison of these Gospels, Matthew, Mark, and Luke, reveals, even though we have three separate accounts, the message is the same, the common denominator being, “the name” and “the anointing.” Jesus said, that everything was to be done in His name and that they would need to tarry, until they receive power from on high. Many want to take these Scriptures literally, without understanding the meaning behind the Scripture. For example, there are those who quote the Scripture, in Mark 16:18, that says “they shall take up serpents and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them,” to literally mean, that they should pick up snakes and drink poison, thereby tempting God, and that is not at all the intention of the Scripture. That is why Paul stated, in 2 Corinthians 3:16, that the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. That may be what the Scripture says, but that is not, at all, what it means. If the rest of the Scriptures do not back up that interpretation, then that is not the meaning. The Bible is to be rightly divided and no prophecy of the Scripture is of any private interpretation (2 Peter 1:20), but by the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every Word be established. Such is the case in Matthew 28:19, many, if not most, take this Scripture literally to mean, that Jesus is telling His Apostles to baptize converts using the titles, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, which is a literal interpretation of the Scripture, but what Jesus actually was telling them, was to baptize them, in the “name” (singular) of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Father is not a name, Son is not a name, and Holy Ghost is not a name. Rather, they are offices or positions of the one true and living God. It had nothing to do with titles, but everything to do with His name. They were told to obey the Command-

ment, not just repeat the Commandment. There is a difference.

In Acts 4:12, when Apostle Peter made the statement, that there is no other name given, whereby we must be saved, that makes it very clear that salvation is in one name, and only one, that being, Jesus Christ. 1 John 5:7 tells us, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost, are one, thus, only one name.

It should also be pointed out, that in Mark 16:16, Jesus included baptism as a part of salvation, not just something that is done, after salvation. He said, you must believe and you must be baptized, in order to be saved, and signs shall follow a believer, one of those being, they shall speak with new tongues. Jesus was clearly preparing the Apostles for the unveiling of the foundation for the New Testament Church which was later to be revealed on the Day of Pentecost. He mentioned His death, burial, and resurrection. He mentioned, that everything was to be done in His name, and even baptism, and that they would receive power.

It comes down to the name and the anointing. The Spirit and the truth. Spirit and life. Jesus said in John 6:63, "It is the Spirit that quickens; the flesh profits nothing; the Words that I speak unto you, they are Spirit and they are life." God's Word is a Spiritual Book, which speaks life, because in His Word, you have life. According to Proverbs 4:20, God said His Words are life unto those that find them and health to all their flesh. Jesus said in John 4:24, that God is a Spirit and they that worship Him, must worship Him in Spirit and in truth. You must have both, and not one without the other. As God is a Spirit, the only way we can know God, is through

the Spirit. In 1 Corinthians 2:14, Paul states, "But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are Spiritually discerned."

According to Scripture, one may be religious, and yet, unsaved. One may have an outward profession of faith, as the Pharisees did, but inside they were as dead men. One may have a form of godliness and deny the power thereof (2 Timothy 3:5). Romans 8:8 declares, that those that are in the flesh, cannot please God, then it goes on to say, that you are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit if the Spirit of God dwells in you; now, if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His. Without His Spirit, you are none of His. It goes on to say, in verse 11, that if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead, shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwells in you. You must have His Spirit in order to be resurrected. According to 1 Corinthians 12:3, no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. In other words, one does not even have the right or the authority to call Him Lord, without having His Spirit, the Holy Ghost. According to John's Gospel, the Holy Ghost is not only referred to, as the Spirit of Jesus or the Comforter, but the Holy Ghost is the Spirit of Truth, who will lead and guide you, into all truth.

God has always been a God of three witnesses, the blood, the water, and the Spirit (1 John 5:8). These are redemptive terms. Whenever the children of Israel were delivered out of Egypt, it was under the blood of the lamb, through the water of the Red Sea, with the hovering cloud of the Spirit above them. The same was true in

the Tabernacle, the blood at the Brazen Altar, the water at the Laver, and the Spirit, resident atop the Mercy Seat. It was the message at Pentecost. Peter said, "This same Jesus, whom you crucified, (the blood), repent and be baptized (the water), every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (the Spirit)." We have no excuse not to be baptized into the name of Jesus Christ and to receive the Holy Ghost. Nor was there any excuse for Israel to have stayed in the house upon which they had smeared the Pass-over blood, and to refuse to go on to be baptized unto Moses, as that Church in the wilderness in the cloud (Spirit) and in the sea (water). Paul said in 1 Corinthians 10: 1-4, "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea. And did all eat the same Spiritual meat. And did all drink the same Spiritual drink; for they drank of that Spiritual Rock, that followed them; and that Rock, was Christ." Baptism unto Moses was a type and shadow of what was to come, Christ. Now, we are baptized into Jesus Christ.

In Noah's day, they had no excuse not to enter the Ark. But, they chose to stay out of the Ark, as much as Noah chose to go in. Noah was a preacher. He told them what was coming. He told them how they could enter into the Ark, but they chose instead, to ridicule him. To the people of that day, it seemed impossible that it would rain, as it had never rained before. To us today, it seems almost unbelievable, that there is going to be a "rapture," yet, Jesus Christ is coming back, just as surely as the flood came. God once winked at ignorance, but He no longer does. We can choose to be saved, as well as we can choose, to be lost. Just as the rich man,

who died, and found himself in Hell and he wanted to send Lazarus back from the dead to warn his brothers, Jesus said, "If they hear not Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead." We have no excuse. We can choose life or we can choose death. Even the Godhead is without excuse, according to Romans 1:20. Jesus Christ is God. He is the Father in creation, the Son in redemption, and the Holy Ghost, in the believer.

God has provided the means of salvation, but we must receive it. If one is given a check, it will not be of any benefit, until it is cashed. Faith and obedience, work hand in hand. Adam and Eve fell through unbelief and disobedience in the Garden of Eden and sin entered into the human race. In order to be saved, there must be faith and obedience. You cannot have faith without obedience. According to James, faith without works is dead. He said, "I will show you my faith by my works." Noah was justified by obedient faith. By faith, Noah prepared an Ark for the saving of his household (Hebrews 11:7). By faith, Abraham left his home, not knowing where he was going (Hebrews 11:8). By faith, they obeyed. By faith, one repents. By faith, we are baptized. Colossians 2:12 states, that we are buried with Jesus Christ in baptism, wherein also we are risen with Him, through faith. By faith, we receive the Holy Ghost. Galatians 3:14 states, that we receive the promise of the Spirit, through faith. Many like to quote Ephesians 2:8-9, "For, by grace, are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God. Not of works, lest any man should boast," stating that it is not necessary to be baptized or even to receive the Holy Ghost, but baptism and receiving the Holy Ghost, is no more works, than repentance is. We are saved through faith and through faith, we obey.

Repentance, water baptism, and the Holy Ghost baptism are not works of man, that earn salvation, but works of God, that accomplish salvation, in us. God is the One who performs the saving work involved. We, either allow God to work in us, by faith and obedience, or we refuse to let Him work, by unbelief and disobedience. He is the One who calls us, leads us to Him, changes our mind and our direction (in repentance), washes away our sin (in water baptism), fills us with His Spirit (Holy Ghost) to empower us to live Holy, and keeps us in His grace. Our attempts to repent, receive remission of sins at water baptism, and receive the Holy Ghost would be of no avail, if it were not for God's grace. If it were not for God's grace, He would not have allowed Christ to die, be buried, and rise again, in order to purchase these benefits for us. God purchased the Church with His own blood (Acts 20:28).

Justification, by faith, does not eliminate the new birth, but explains how we receive the new birth. If a person believes on Jesus, he will obey Christ's command to repent and be baptized in His name and God will remit his sins. If he does not have faith, he will not repent and be baptized in His name, or if he is baptized, it will have no validity. If a person believes on Jesus, according to the Scriptures, he will commit himself, totally to Christ, and God will fill him with the Holy Ghost. If he does not have faith, he will not receive the Holy Ghost. Acts 5:32 tells us, that those who obey God, receive the Holy Ghost. We are washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 6:11).

In order to provide salvation, it was necessary for Christ to die, be buried, and rise again. But, in order to receive salvation, a sinner must also experience death,

burial, and resurrection. In repentance, he experiences a death to sin and the world. The old man dies. Burial must follow death and water baptism, is this burial, so the old man must be buried. Sprinkling could never mean burial; only by being immersed in water, can a person experience burial. The name of Jesus Christ is used as the formula, since we are “buried with Him in baptism” (Romans 6:4). The Father was not buried, neither was the Holy Ghost. The Father of the Holy Ghost never died. It was Jesus Christ, the Son of God, in the flesh, who died. It was also Christ, who rose again, from the dead. If we die with Him by repenting of our sins and if we are buried with Him, by baptism, we will rise with Him in newness of life, by receiving the resurrection power, the Holy Ghost. So, in order to be saved, we must be identified with Christ in death, burial, and resurrection. Again, the same message, preached at Pentecost, thus being born again of the water and of the Spirit.

Under the Old Covenant, sins were forgiven. Sins were covered by the blood of the Old Testament sacrifices. Sins were forgiven, covered, and passed over, but they were not actually remitted or taken away, until Calvary. Hebrews 10:4 states, “For it is not possible, that the blood of bulls and of goats, should take away sins.” Jesus Christ Himself forgave people’s sins, while here on earth before He instituted the New Covenant, for example, the thief on the cross. But, remission of sins was not available, until the blood of Christ was actually shed at Calvary. The penalty for sin had to be paid-in-full, before remission of sins could become a reality. Hebrews 8:7 states, that if the first Covenant had been faultless, then there would be no need for a second Covenant. But, a testament or a will is not in effect, until after the

death of the testator (Hebrews 9:17). Jesus shed His blood on Calvary, to make remission of sins available to mankind, and God has ordained that the remission of sins, purchased at Calvary, could be received today, when a repentant person believes Him and obeys His command to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, according to Acts 2:38 and Acts 22:16.

It is important to understand and appreciate the meaning of baptism. Prior repentance and faith, is necessary. If not, one will go down as a dry sinner and come up as a wet sinner. When a person obeys God's command to be baptized, his baptism becomes the point of separation from his old life, as he moves into the new life. Baptism is a physical demonstration of the Spiritual burial of the old man, the old life. Romans 6:3-8 states, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ, were baptized into His death? Therefore, we are buried with Him, by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the Glory of the Father, even so, we also should walk in the newness of life. For, if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also, in the likeness of His resurrection. 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. For he that is dead, is freed from sin. Now, if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him."

The purpose of water baptism is stated in Acts 2:38, for the remission of sins. We are to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the purpose of obtaining the remission of sins, believing on the blood of Christ, to wash away our sin. When Paul

recalled his baptism, in Acts 22:16, he said that Ananias asked him, “Why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” As in all of the accounts of water baptism, in Acts, they were baptized straightway, and not one, was ever performed using the titles, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, but they were done calling on the name. Acts 10:43 states, that it is through His name (Jesus Christ) whosoever believes in Him, shall receive remission of sins.

The original Greek word for baptism is baptizo, which means “to dip, plunge, or immerse.” Immersion in water was the only mode of baptism practiced in the New Testament Church (Matthew 3:16; Acts 8:36-39). In John 3:23, John baptized, at Aenon, because “there was much water there,” evidently for immersion, not sprinkling. Peter tells us in 1 Peter 3:20-21, that as eight souls were saved by water in the days of Noah, the like figure, does now, also save us.

There is a difference between being religious and being saved. Cornelius was a devout man, he was sincerely religious. He was a just man, he prayed, he gave alms, but according to Acts 11:14, Cornelius was not saved. He was sincere, yet, he was not saved. His prayers went up for a memorial before God and the Lord sent an angel to tell Cornelius, who was a Gentile, how to locate Simon, who would tell him what to do to be saved. Apostle Peter, the one who had the Keys to the Kingdom and opened the door to salvation to the Jews, would also open the door to the Gentiles. After Cornelius sent for Peter, he and his family and friends, gathered together “to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.” Peter proceeded to preach about the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and that through His name,

whosoever believes in Him, shall receive remission of sins. Then it says, that while Peter spoke these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all of them, which heard the Word. And, they of the circumcision which believed, were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out, the gift of the Holy Ghost, for they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then Peter said, "Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost, as well as we?" It states, that he then commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. He did not suggest it, or pose it as an option, or if they felt like it, but it was a Commandment from God.

Nicodemus was a religious man, yet, Nicodemus was not saved. He was a ruler of the Jews, a Pharisee. He followed the Law to the letter, yet, he was not saved under the New Covenant. Even Nicodemus would have to do something if he wanted to be saved. He, too, had to be born again of the water and of the Spirit. Some try to minimize the importance of baptism, saying that water refers to the natural birth, since an unborn child is surrounded in amniotic fluid, but Jesus was not telling Nicodemus that a person must be born physically, to enter the Kingdom of God. It is clear, that water meant repentance and water baptism. Not only was Jesus confirming John's message, but He was also revealing to Nicodemus about the coming baptism of the Holy Ghost. The Spirit birth was also to be part of the conversion. This message was consistent with John's message, in Matthew 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 Ghost and with fire."

Saul, who later became Paul, also was not saved, even though he was very religious. He was raised a Pharisee, yet, Saul had to be saved, just as Cornelius and Nicodemus was; he had to be born again of the water and Spirit, baptized in the name of the Lord and filled with the Holy Ghost.

On the Day of Pentecost, the Jews, that were in attendance, were already believers, as they had witnessed the crucifixion, but they asked Peter and the rest of the Apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" They knew they had to do something. Peter proceeded to tell them what they must do to be saved, the things that are commanded them of God. Peter did not say, call on the name of the Lord and be saved. He did not say, come and shake the preacher's hand and be saved. Peter did not say, invite the Lord into your heart and you will be saved. Nor did he say, accept Jesus Christ as your personal saviour and you will be saved. No, Peter told them what they had to do, repentance, baptism, receive the Holy Ghost, the same message he later preached to the Gentiles. It is not enough, just to believe the Gospel, we must obey the Gospel. It is not enough to be a hearer of the Word, but a doer of the Word. It tells us in 2 Thessalonians 1:8, that the Lord will come in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thus, the importance of knowing Him, knowing who He is, and obeying His commandments.

Jesus made it very clear, that Church attendance and this simple doctrine of "believe and confess Jesus as your Lord," is not the new birth experience. He said, "Not everyone that says unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven,

but, he that does the Will of My Father.” If one truly believes on Jesus, they will obey His Word. As Jesus said in Luke 6:46, “Why call Me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say.” You must know Jesus, as Lord, before you can know Him, as Saviour.

In Acts 16, when the jailer asked Paul and Silas, “What must I do to be saved,” he also knew he had to do something. They said, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.” And they spoke unto him, the Word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and were baptized, he and his house. Paul did not tell them to get baptized whenever it was convenient for them, they went right away, he and his household. His whole household had to be baptized. Everyone must work out their own salvation.

If a person were to ask directions on how to get to Texas from Idaho, you may say “go south,” which is a truthful answer, in that, it gets one started in the right direction, but in order to reach the final destination, he will need further directions, as is the case here. In this situation, the jailer had asked him what to do to be saved. They told him to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you and your family will be saved. That is the first step. The first step, is believing. But, they expounded the Word to them, they spoke unto them, the Word of the Lord, to him and all that were in his house. Then, it tells us, they were baptized within the same hour.

These were those, later on, in Acts 19, who had been baptized by John. John was a forerunner for Christ and his disciples were baptized with water unto repentance (Matthew 3:11). Paul asked these disciples if they had received the Holy Ghost,

since they believed and they stated, that they had never even heard of the Holy Ghost. Paul proceeded to ask them, how they were baptized and they said, unto John's baptism. Then Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying, that they should believe on Him which should come after Him which is on Christ Jesus." So, after they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord. And when Paul laid hands on them, the Holy Ghost came on them and they spoke with tongues. They had been baptized unto John's baptism, but they had to be re-baptized in the name of the Lord and they received the Holy Ghost and spoke with tongues. There were about 12 men who had heard the Word and all 12 received the Holy Ghost and spoke with tongues. Then it says, that they continued to speak the Word of God and the things concerning the Kingdom of God, but there were those who were hardened and believed not, but they spoke evil, of that way. The Bible tells us, that the way of truth, will be evil spoken of. That was what was going on here. Paul was labeled, as a heretic, simply because he told them the truth. Just as today, when you tell someone how to be saved, there are those who do hear the Word and obey the Word, but then there are going to be those who are hardened and will not receive it. As Jesus said it so well, in John 8:43, "Why do you not understand My speech? Because ye cannot hear My Word." He said, "He that is of God heareth God's Words; ye therefore hear not, because ye are not of God." Jesus said, that His sheep would hear His voice and a stranger, they will not follow, so those that are not His sheep, will not hear His voice.

Jesus came, as our example. As Jesus was baptized, we must be baptized. He

was the Holy Ghost. He was “God with us,” while He was on earth, but when He ascended, He became “God in us” through the Holy Ghost. Is the servant greater than the Lord? Jesus’ own mother was in the upper room and received the Holy Ghost and was baptized. On the Day of Pentecost, it says that they gladly received the Word, and were baptized. There were about 3,000 souls, but it does not tell us how many heard the same message, yet, did nothing. It does not tell us how many thousands heard the same Word, yet, did not receive it.

The Holy Ghost is actually “Christ in you, the Hope of Glory” (Colossians 1:27). This is a mystery that has been hidden from ages and generations, but now is revealed or made manifest to His saints. The plan of God has always been, that He could dwell within us. Romans 8:9 tells us, that if we have not the Spirit of Christ, we are none of His. Paul said, “I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me.” We can now have His Spirit within us, to lead us, guide us, and direct us.

One cannot be made Holy without the Holy Ghost. One cannot be made Perfect through the flesh. That is why Jesus said, that we would receive Power, after that, the Holy Ghost, is come. We have the Power to become His witnesses. We have the Power to overcome, just as He overcame the world. We have the Power to tread upon serpents and scorpions. We have the Power to heal the sick, raise the dead, cast out devils. We have the Power to be more than a conqueror. Not only do we receive Power, we receive the Holy Ghost, with fire. The fire that burns out the chaff. The fire that burns out our desires, in order that we may conform to His desires. The

fire that burns out sin. The fire that burns out our will to be in line with His will. The fire that purifies and makes us white. The fire that burns everything that has us bound. The anointing that breaks the yoke.

John said in Matthew 3:12, speaking of the Holy Ghost and fire, that the 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. The fan is the Word, the Word separates the wheat from the chaff. The Holy Ghost shakes the wheat and the chaff together, through persecution, trials, and tribulations, because of the Word. The chaff is the husk of the wheat. At harvest time, the reapers shovel all that lies in a heap and throw the wheat and the chaff together against a strong wind. This is where they separate. The wheat, being the heaviest, will fall back into or near the same spot, but the chaff is blown around on the threshing floor, because it is light. Chaff is light and airy and can easily be carried to and fro, by a slight wind. Thus, the wheat will be gathered into the garner, but the chaff will be burned up.

The Scribes and the Pharisees were as the chaff, as they had only the husk or shell of the truth. They made an outward show of religion, they were religious, yet unspiritual. They had a form and a fashion, an outward appearance, but were Spiritually dead inside. Jesus said, that except our righteousness exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees, we shall in no case, enter into the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 5:20). Therefore, even though the Scribes and Pharisees professed to know God, they actually denied Him. And they would not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, even though, by all appearances, they were devout and very

religious.

When Saul was on the road to Damascus, he was on the wrong road, thinking he was on the right road. It was not just by circumstance, that the Lord sent him to a street, called Straight. The way of truth is a straight and narrow way. Paul was made blind, in order to see that he was going the wrong way. Not only was he physically blind, he was Spiritually blind, because he did not have the Spirit, the Holy Ghost.

Titus 1:16 states that there would be those who profess that they know God, but in works, they deny Him, being abominable, disobedient, and unto every good work, reprobate. Just because one goes to Church, prays, fasts, pays tithes, and reads the Bible does not make one a saved Christian. It is only, through obedience to the Word of God, and being saved the Bible Way, can one be saved.

Some have tried to show that all religions are basically the same, that they are just “different roads,” that lead to the same God, but according to the Bible, all religions do not lead to the one true God, Jesus Christ. Jesus said, there was only one way, one door. There is only one Lord, one faith, one baptism. There is only one Gospel. One God. There is one Spirit (Ephesians 4:4). There is but one Lord, Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 8:6). Now, the Lord (Jesus Christ, is the one Lord) is the Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:17). Jesus told His apostles in Matthew 10:20, “For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.” Therefore, the name of the Father, is Jesus Christ, because there is one Spirit.

Jesus said, that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He did not say, He was a way. He said, He was The Way. Without Him, we have no life. He said, "I am the Bread of Life." Paul said, "For in Him, we live and move and have our being." John said, "In Him was life and the life was the light of men." Luke said, "For He is not a God of the dead, but of the living, for all live unto Him." Jesus said, "I am come, that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." He said, "I Am the Resurrection and the Life." He is the living water, springing up into everlasting life.

Contrary to popular opinion, there are not 100 different ways, to be saved. The Bible talks about a common faith and that we should contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. In Galatians 1:7, Paul makes it clear, that there is only one doctrine. He tells us, that there is no other Gospel, but there would be those who would try to pervert the Gospel of Christ. Then, he goes on to say, that if they, or an angel from Heaven, or any other, preach any other Gospel than that which they had received, they are accursed. Paul was labeled, as a heretic, because of what he preached. In Acts 24:14, Paul said, "But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I, the God of my Fathers, believing all things, which are written in the Law and in the Prophets." Webster defines "heresy," as an opinion held in opposition to the commonly received doctrine and tending to promote division or dissent. Christianity has always had its foes, but no enemy has been more dangerous than the "enemy within" the Church, those who hold opinions which are contrary to the commonly received truths on which Christianity was founded.

According to Scripture, there is a true Church and a false Church, which are representative of the Churches in Revelation 3, the true, being the Church of Philadelphia, the false, being the Church of Laodicea. These Churches are representative of the Churches of today. Laodicea is the Apostate Church. It was the only one out of the seven, in Asia, in which the Lord had nothing good to say. This Church was religious, but not a true Church. She had wealth and independence. She did not feel she needed anything else, not even the Lord, nor His Power. She had her tradition upon which she was built. This Church made the Lord want to vomit, because it was not on fire for God, it was not cold, it was lukewarm. They had a form of godliness, but denied the power. They were religious, but not committed. They were Christian, in name only. Such is the spirit of Jezebel, the harlot Church. She claimed to be a queen, married to a king (Revelation 18:7), and did not realize she was a widow. She lived for herself and glorified herself. This Church includes all false religions, all false doctrine, the mystery Babylon Church. This Church is ruled by the laity. Jezebel did not want to hear what God said. Everytime Elijah would hear a Word from the Lord, she wanted to kill him. She was a queen, who worshipped Baal, married to king Ahab, but instead of the king being on the throne, she ruled over him. Thus, is the case with the harlot Church, those who refuse to sit under anointed Holy Ghost and fire preaching and want to replace it with preachers or pastors, who would speak what they want to hear, thus leading to worldliness and Spiritual adultery. Jesus Christ is not the King, she is. The Lord said, that this Church needed to anoint their eyes with eye salve, so they could see. This Church needed a touch of the anointing Power of the Holy Ghost, to open up their Spiritually-blinded eyes. She was blind

and did not even know it. She was poor, but thought she was rich. She thought she had need of nothing, and yet, was naked before the Lord. She was not covered with His Spirit. Isaiah referred to this type of rebellion, in Isaiah 30:1. The Lord said, they would take counsel, but not of Him (not His Word); and they cover with a covering, but not of His Spirit, that they may add sin to sin. Then Isaiah goes on to say, in verse 10, that they would say to the seers, see not, and to the prophets, prophesy not, right things, speak smooth things, prophesy deceits. They would not want His Word, nor His anointing.

The Laodicean Church is rich financially, but poor Spiritually. In contrast, the early Church was poor financially, but rich Spiritually. Such is the case of the Church of Philadelphia. This is the faithful Church. He set before them, an open door. Jesus is the Door into the sheepfold. The Lord says, they have a little strength, not that they are weak, but they are few in number. They have kept His Word and have not denied His name, which is very significant. The Lord promised to keep them in the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world. This is in reference to the Tribulation. They will be spared God's wrath.

Malachi prophesied, that the priests would despise the Lord's name, that they would take His name in vain. This is consistent with the harlot Church. They want to claim His name, but are not willing to suffer for His name. They want to claim to be married to the King, but refuse to obey the King. They want to live as a queen, but do not want the responsibilities of being married to the King. They do not want His name and everything that goes with His name. They wanted to claim His name,

and yet, deny His name. Whereas, the Philadelphian Church would not deny His name. Such is the case of the early Church. The apostles rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name (Acts 5:41). They were not ashamed of the apostle's doctrine, for they continued steadfastly, in the apostle's doctrine. This doctrine is the foundation of the Church, built upon the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ, being the chief cornerstone. They were willing to die for His name. They were willing to be baptized in His name. It did not matter who turned against them. They were willing to be a living sacrifice for the truth.

Paul said, in 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, "But if our Gospel be hid, it is hid to them, that are lost. In whom, the god of this world has blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." When Jesus was in the world, He was the light of the world. But now, according to Matthew 5:14, we are the light of the world, a city that is set on a hill, that cannot be hid. He says, that a man does not light a candle to put it under a bushel, but puts it on a candlestick and it will give light to the whole house. The spirit of Jezebel has tried to sweep this Gospel, the apostle's doctrine, under the rug, to hide it, but God is getting ready to kick Jezebel out of her bed, which is in Babylon. He is getting ready to reveal Himself to the world. There is nothing covered that will not be revealed and His Power and Truth will be covered no longer. God's Word, the doctrine of Christ, is making a comeback.

God's Word is sharper than any two-edged sword. John said, in Matthew 3:10, "And now also, the ax is laid to the root of the trees; therefore, every tree which

brings not forth good fruit, is hewn down, and cast into the fire.” God’s Word is the ax, the double-edged sword. But, some have lost their ax head, just as in 2 Kings 6: 1-7, when Elisha and the sons of the prophets were going to build, because where they were staying was too small for them. One of them was using a borrowed ax head, which meant they were probably poor, as they could not afford to buy one, as iron was very expensive. But, the text says, that as they were chopping, the ax head came off and fell into the water. This caused a panic, as there was a law that if one borrowed someone’s ax and did not return it, they would become a slave if they could not pay it back. So, in order to get the ax head back, Elisha had to perform a miracle. He cut down a stick or a branch (which represents Jesus Christ), and cast it into the muddy water of the Jordan River and the ax head did swim. So, Elisha picked up the ax head and gave it back to the one who lost the ax head. This is very significant, because without the ax, one cannot build, and in order to get the ax back, which had been lost, Elisha had to perform a miracle. The ax had fallen into the water and sank. There was no way to see it for the muddy water. The ax head represented the Word, which had become polluted by the muddy water. In order to get the ax (Word) back, it took a miracle to retrieve it, and once Elisha retrieved it, it was given back to the builders to use. Such is the case today. His Word is coming back. It has been lost and polluted, but is it coming back, with Power.

John 2:23 states that, “Many believed in His name (Jesus Christ), when they saw the miracles which He did.” It took miracles for them to believe on His name. This is what is going to take place in these latter times with the latter anointing. When they see the miracles, they will believe on His name and His Word, but first they

have to see the miracles in order to see the truth, then they will know who He is. Isaiah 52:6 says, "Therefore My people shall know My name; therefore, they shall know, in that day, that I am He that does speak; behold it is I."

There is a Spirit of error and a Spirit of truth. Soon, many will know the difference. God is sending a Spirit of judgment and the Spirit of burning into the Church to wash off the filth through the Holy Ghost fire and anointing, "and it shall come to pass, that he that is left in Zion and he that remains in Jerusalem, shall be called Holy, everyone that is written among the living in Jerusalem (Isaiah 4:3). Whosoever remains in the true Church will be Holy, will be purified, through the Power of the name and the anointing. He is going to build up Zion. Psalms 102:16 states, that "When the Lord shall build up Zion, He shall appear in His Glory." Not everyone will be left in Zion, as they may not be able to take the heat, but those who do, will be washed as white as snow.

Jesus Christ is getting ready to arise and His enemies will be scattered. His Word will no longer be covered. He is going to expose Jezebel for what she is. She will be left naked and exposed. He is getting ready to expose the true from the false. Just as when the seven sons of Sceva, who were exorcists tried to cast out a demon in Acts 19:14, they were left naked and exposed. They had tried to do so, by calling on the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, "We adjure you by Jesus, whom Paul preaches." They used His name as if it was some kind of magic formula or magic word, that anyone could use. It says, that the evil spirit said, "Jesus I know and Paul I know, but who are you?" Then the evil spirit leaped upon them and they ran out of the house,

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