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A Preparatory Word

Jeremiah 1:10 “See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, to **root out** and to **pull down**, to **destroy** and to **throw down**, to **build** and to **plant**.”

The calling of a true prophet in Scripture is one of the most persecuted and marginalized functions in the body of Christ. This was clearly described by Stephen just prior to his martyrdom. Acts 7:52 “Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers.”

Jeremiah 20:9 “Then I said, “I will not make mention of Him, nor speak anymore in His name.” But His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, and I could not.”

The preceding verse describes much of my experience, over the past five decades, as I have been compelled by the Spirit in my spirit to speak out regarding the great departures from truth and practice seen in the church, which is His body.

Many times in the past fifty years I have told the Lord “I will not speak and warn any more in your name”. However, as He moves in me and reveals His broken heart for what religion and fleshly actions have done I then once again, in fearful obedience, have spoken in His name knowing in advance the predictable outcome.

With that being said, in this introduction I wish to fellowship with you regarding some of the *motivation* for compiling this booklet and to set the stage for the reception of things revealed in the body of this work.

As already mentioned, for nearly a half century I have observed, or been directly confronted with, the deeply grieving and fleshly actions of many supposedly spiritual people, or so-called Christian ministries. I have observed the stunning lack of a proper presentation of the whole council of God. Specifically, I have seen the considerable mishandling of the alleged expressions or demonstrations of the Holy Spirit. These have been observed in both the Evangelical and Pentecostal models. This lack of truth has wrecked and confused far too many lives.

My personal engagement with different people in these various expressions of the church have been from casual to intense. On one occasion I was asked to try to resolve a most extremely offensive and grievous situation regarding a pastor. The pastor was discovered to be in the homosexual lifestyle and was the lead pastor in that congregation who considered themselves a charismatic group. In fact this situation had nothing to do with me. When I enquired as to why I was asked to assist I was quickly told, “No one else will get involved.”

As the religious landscape has passed by me over the decades there has been a recurring theme among believers concerning the operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and “what is for today?” There have been diverse theological pronouncements referring to this or that activity as being from the Devil. Others have retorted that it was from God. Others simply do not care.

These matters regarding the Holy Spirit are one of the most divisive areas in the church today. Since the Spirit has been sent to make us one and to guide us into all truth we can expect Satan to attempt to cause much confusion. If we wait long enough the confusion will land directly on our door step. Individuals will undoubtedly then fall on either side of the fence using the age old predictable responses. The characteristic responses are mainly observed as intolerance, suspicion, accusation, fear, coldness, defamation and excommunication. Can you count how many fruit of the Spirit are identified on the preceding list? I thought so.

With the misunderstanding, and largely errant presentation, regarding the subject of the Spirit and how the church ought to truly function, the wreckage marches on. Decade after decade there is the constant cry for ‘revival’ or for ‘the next move of God’. Allegedly these will resolve the ills of the staggeringly weak and dysfunctional church.

I am now 70 years old. I have fifty years of ministry, including more than thirty years of pastoral labor, behind me. I am now pressed in my spirit to pass along tried and proven Bible based instruction to assist in understanding the means and operation of the Holy Spirit and that of the proper church life.

You may feel my pronouncements to be arrogant, especially since we are in a spiritual climate which resembles that of the book of Judges where everyone did “that which was right in their own eyes”. Much of The church today is nearly atheistic in its *attitude*. It feels no accountability for its actions to any authority, especially to an all-powerful and all-knowing, righteous and absolutely

Holy God. This thinking has been strengthened by our cultural bias towards relativism. Segments of the church are steadily embracing the conclusion that Scripture provides no absolute answers, no absolute truth and thus no absolute accountability.

We as believers are prone to live on our terms, dictated by our self-will. Sadly we are selecting, from a sort of Biblical menu, which truths and commands suit us for this *most unique* time in history. However, we are actually wresting the scriptures to our own destruction. Are we *willfully* suppressing the truth in unrighteousness? Romans 1 has much to say about the consequences of doing this.

What many believers and teachers fail to address is the eventual bowing of the knee to Jesus. For the believer it will be at the Judgment Seat of Christ and for the unbeliever it will be at the Great White Throne Judgment. It will be the ultimate ‘final exam’ with no ‘make up test’. There will be no time left to make things right.

In this booklet, I am compelled in my spirit to caution the church as well as to offer Biblical solutions. Recall that Stephen asked a question on the day of his stoning. The question was: “Which of the prophets did you not kill?” Stephen’s stoning caught the approved attention of Jesus who actually was standing at the right hand of God at that moment (Acts 8:56). Please cry out to the Lord that He would enlighten us to properly worship Him in Spirit and in truth. Please cry out for willingness to change. As pointed out in John 4, the Father is seeking such to worship Him!

The prophet Jeremiah's speaking, under the direction of the Lord, is stunningly current. Please do not skip over the following verses!

Jeremiah 5:30-31 "An astonishing and horrible thing has been committed in the land: The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule by their own power; And My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end?"

Jeremiah 6:14 "They have also healed the hurt of My people slightly, Saying, 'Peace, peace!' When there is no peace. "

Jeremiah 6:16-17 "Thus says the LORD: "Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.' Also, I set watchmen over you, saying, 'Listen to the sound of the trumpet!' But they said, 'We will not listen.'"

Jeremiah 7:22-24 "For I did not speak to your fathers, or command them in the day that I brought them out of the land of Egypt, concerning burnt offerings or sacrifices. But this is what I commanded them, saying, 'Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well with you. Yet they did not obey or incline their ear, but followed the counsels and the dictates of their evil hearts, and went backward and not forward.'"

Jeremiah 7:28 "So you shall say to them, 'This is a nation that does not obey the voice of the LORD their God nor receive correction. Truth has perished and has been cut off from their mouth.'"

Jeremiah 12:10-11 Many rulers have destroyed My vineyard, They have trodden My portion underfoot; They have made My pleasant portion a desolate wilderness. They have made it desolate; Desolate, it mourns to Me; The whole land is made desolate, Because no one takes it to heart.”

Jeremiah 14:13-14 “Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, the prophets say to them, ‘You shall not see the sword, nor shall you have famine, but I will give you assured peace in this place.’ And the LORD said to me, "The prophets prophesy lies in My name. I have not sent them, commanded them, nor spoken to them; they prophesy to you a false vision, divination, a worthless thing, and the deceit of their heart. ””

Jeremiah 16:12 “And you have done worse than your fathers, for behold, each one follows the dictates of his own evil heart, so that no one listens to Me.”

Jeremiah 18:12 “And they said, "That is hopeless! So we will walk according to our own plans, and we will every one obey the dictates of his evil heart." ”

Jeremiah 18:18 “Then they said, "Come and let us devise plans against Jeremiah; for the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet. Come and let us attack him with the tongue, and let us not give heed to any of his words."”

Jeremiah 23:16-17 “Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you. They make you worthless; they speak a vision of their own heart, not from the mouth of the LORD. They continually say to those who despise Me, ‘The LORD has said, "You

shall have peace"; And to everyone who walks according to the dictates of his own heart, they say, 'No evil shall come upon you.'""

Jeremiah 23:25-26 "I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in My name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' How long will this be in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies? Indeed they are prophets of the deceit of their own heart."

Jeremiah 23:29-32 ""Is not My word like a fire?" says the LORD, "And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces? Therefore behold, I am against the prophets," says the LORD, "who steal My words every one from his neighbor. Behold, I am against the prophets," says the LORD, "who use their tongues and say, 'He says.' "Behold, I am against those who prophesy false dreams," says the LORD, "and tell them, and cause My people to err by their lies and by their recklessness. Yet I did not send them or command them; therefore they shall not profit this people at all," says the LORD."

Jeremiah 26:11 "And the priests and the prophets spoke to the princes and all the people, saying, "This man deserves to die! For he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your ears.""

Jeremiah 28:15-16 "Then the prophet Jeremiah said to Hananiah the prophet, "Hear now, Hananiah, the LORD has not sent you, but you make this people trust in a lie. Therefore thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will cast you from the face of the earth. This year you shall die, because you have taught rebellion against the LORD.'""

Jeremiah 29:8-10 “For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are in your midst deceive you, nor listen to your dreams which you cause to be dreamed. For they prophesy falsely to you in My name; I have not sent them, says the LORD. For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place.”

Jeremiah 31:19 “Surely, after my turning, I repented; And after I was instructed, I struck myself on the thigh; I was ashamed, yes, even humiliated, Because I bore the reproach of my youth.”

Jeremiah 33:15-16 “In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David a Branch of righteousness; He shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell safely. And this is the name by which she will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.”

Jeremiah 44:16 “As for the word that you have spoken to us in the name of the LORD, we will not listen to you!”

Jeremiah 48:10-11 “Cursed is he who does the work of the LORD deceitfully, and cursed is he who keeps back his sword from blood. Moab has been at ease from his youth; he has settled on his dregs, and has not been emptied from vessel to vessel, nor has he gone into captivity. Therefore his taste remained in him, and his scent has not changed.”

Jeremiah 51:17 “Everyone is dull-hearted, without knowledge; every metalsmith is put to shame by the carved

image; for his molded image is falsehood, and there is no breath in them.”

We need to see that the matter of prophecy in the New Covenant time is quite misunderstood. 2 Peter 1:21 says, “For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

4394 προφητεία propheteia prof-ay-ti’-ah

from 4396 ("prophecy"); n f; TDNT-6:781,952; {See TDNT 673}

AV-prophecy 16, prophesying 3; 19

1) prophecy

1a) a discourse emanating from divine inspiration and declaring the purposes of God, whether by reproving and admonishing the wicked, or comforting the afflicted, or revealing things hidden; esp. by foretelling future events

Prophecy is speaking forth under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This may arise from the use of the canon of scripture ministered by and through a fresh revelation of a particular truth. Prophecy may also in some way be predictive, encouraging, comforting or for imparting a particular blessing. Regardless, true prophets speak as they are moved by the Holy Spirit. This necessitates an adequate understanding of the revelation of Scripture. The Holy Spirit *will not* move a person to prophecy something which goes against the already established word or will of God as stated in Scripture.

An example of the predictive form of prophecy in the New Testament is found in Acts 11:28. “And there stood up one

of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.”

Another example is found in Acts 21:10-11. “And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. When he had come to us, he took Paul’s belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, “Thus says the Holy Spirit, ‘So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.’””

Note, however, that in the New Testament prophecy primarily became one of speaking forth the already revealed word versus that of the predictive or regular directive format. After the breathing on of the Spirit by Christ and the out pouring of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost the believer now is indwelt by the Spirit who generally speaks to each believer apart from the mediating prophet.

Our prophesying today should be mainly based on the already revealed truth of Scripture which becomes enlightened as we are moved by the Holy Spirit. Several great dangers potentially arise from abusing the area of prophecy.

First, there is often little accountability for its inaccuracy. Second, there appears to be no real culpability for *outright false* prophecy despite the fact that many people can be deeply misled by it. Third, people can be drawn away from hearing from the Lord in His word by placing an undue priority on the authority of what can be just mere words. The emphasis must always be on the eternal promises and the eternal purpose of God *as revealed in Scripture*.

Unfortunately people become so desperate and geared to get ‘a word’ from a certain prophet. This desire can initiate a wild and unfounded search for supposed truth. I have observed this now for decades.

Incessantly searching for a prophetic word can leave the believer open to much deception and a largely incorrect basis for one’s walk with the Lord. Much of this activity in certain areas of the church today flows from a kind of Old Testament practice, thinking, and influence. Many dear saints seem to be missing key points of understanding regarding the individual Priesthood of the believer, for example, as well as the reality of the unction of the Spirit referred to in 1 John. In 1 John it states that you have no need that any teach you for He is our teacher.

Our desire and aim should be to guide the dear saints to an intimate hearing of the Lord for themselves. We are not to seek to be in the position of one who always utters ‘thus says the Lord’. Interestingly, many saints today who desire prophetic words are already ‘fed up’ with the so-called prophets who ride into town, release their prophecy and then ‘get out of Dodge’ having left others to sort out the mess.

Am I saying that there is nothing valid in this area of extra biblical prophecy? I believe that there is an aspect of this which is very real. Unfortunately I have observed over fifty years that it is abused both in content as well as frequency and dependency. Saints, we have the Holy Spirit who is joined to our spirit indwelling us. We also have the inspired, eternal word in our hands and hearts to be fed and enlightened by. It is secure and trustworthy. For this reason I have included the preceding Scripture from the book of

Jeremiah which clearly shows the reoccurring problem of all too prevalent false prophecy.

Prophecy does not need to have the introductory preamble of 'thus says the Lord'. We may simply relate to another saint that the Lord has laid something on our heart for them. It may be a word of wisdom, a word of knowledge or a word of encouragement which has wonderful timing.

There is much to be said of the admonition by Paul to Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:16-17. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. That the man of God may be perfect, **thoroughly furnished** unto all good works."

Also consider 2 Timothy 2:15. "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

We can be those who subtly, or not so subtly, point people to us rather than to Christ. Let us not work to build our kingdom rather than the Kingdom of God!

Jeremiah 5:30-31 "An astonishing and horrible thing has been committed in the land: The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule by their own power; and My people love to have it so. But what will you do in the end?"

2 Peter 2:1 "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction."

1 John 4:1 “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many **false prophets** (that is, pretenders and liars) are gone out into the world.”

Revelation 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.”

We must soberly consider why there are some twenty five thousand divisions in the body of Christ today. We must do the necessary repenting, accompanied with proper change, in order to see the body restored to biblical function. In all of our serving we need to be sober about our appointment one day at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Revelation 3:1-2 “And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, ‘These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: “I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.”’”

I hope that by this longer introduction we will be willing to fellowship regarding some things that need to be torn down, pulled up, built and planted. This will then result in profitable change.

1 Samuel 3:1-11 “Then the boy Samuel ministered to the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation. And it came to pass at that time, while Eli was lying down in his place, and when his eyes had begun to grow so dim that he

could not see, and before the lamp of God went out in the tabernacle of the LORD where the ark of God was, and while Samuel was lying down, **that the LORD** called Samuel. And he answered, "Here I am!" So **he ran to Eli** and said, "Here I am, for you called me." And he said, "I did not call; lie down again." And he went and lay down. Then **the LORD** called yet again, "Samuel!" So Samuel arose and **went to Eli**, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." He answered, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." (Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, nor was the word of the LORD yet revealed to him.) And **the LORD** **called** Samuel again the third time. Then he arose and **went to Eli**, and said, "Here I am, for you did call me." Then Eli perceived that the LORD had called the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and it shall be, if He calls you, that you must say, '**Speak, LORD, for Your servant hears.**'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. Now the LORD came and stood and called as at other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel answered, "Speak, for Your servant hears." Then the LORD said to Samuel: "Behold, I will do something in Israel at which both ears of everyone who hears it will tingle.""

The true word of the Lord is rare in these days. His eternal purpose, as it relates to the Father's house, His consummated bride, the completed tabernacle of God, the current location of the dead, a life in the Spirit, the functional body of Christ, and many other topics are typically unaddressed or errantly addressed if discussed at all.

Jeremiah 8:11 "For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of My people slightly, Saying, 'Peace, peace!' When there is no peace."

In the church at large we continue to present, with huge blinders on, errant information on many aspects of the Hope and accountability of the true believer. This is found in our teaching regarding an unscriptural focus on heaven and its supposed mansions. Much misunderstanding exists today concerning the current location of the dead and the potential for the loss of reward for believers along with its sobering implications. To cap it all off, many Bible commentators have reduced God's eternal plan for His living body to somehow culminate as a cube of gold, which is a complete misinterpretation of Revelation 21. The twisting of God's word on these mainly hidden and shunned words of truth also makes the ears *tingle*. Do we *really* want to hear?

Jude 1:17-23 "But you, beloved, remember the words which were spoken before by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ: how they told you that there would be mockers in the last time who would walk according to their own ungodly lusts. These are sensual persons, who cause divisions, not having the Spirit. But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And on some have compassion, making a distinction; but others save with fear, **pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.**"

I am your brother, crying out in an age of apostasy and itching ears. Many false prophets have gone out and are deceiving many! Remember dear saints, if we misrepresent the word we are a false prophet. To preach is also to prophecy (that is, to speak forth).

As many
as are
led

*Insights into
experiencing
a healthy life
in the Spirit
and in the
local church
body. It is
based on the
supply of the
Spirit being
joined to our
spirit!*

Dave Loudon

As many as are led

Having a proper understanding of being led by the Spirit as a believer is fundamental to experiencing a fruitful and genuine life in Christ. This must be grasped in order to become a functional member in His body and to be properly conformed to His image. However, having this ‘balanced and clear’ reality work out in our lives, practically speaking, seems to oft escape us.

We all like to think that we are our own person but in reality we are people who are led by something or someone. We may *think* our direction was chosen and plotted by our own will; however, Scripture clearly reveals the opposite can be true.

In Paul’s writing to the believers in Corinth he calls to their remembrance how that in their past **they were led** around by dumb idols. 1 Corinthians 12:2 “Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as **ye were led.**”

The fact is that as believers we are either directed by our fleshly lifestyle, useless traditions and dead religious practices---or we can be led by the Spirit.

To be led by dumb idols or by the flesh can be overpowering in us. Alternatively, to be led by the Spirit’s still small voice is to be invited to yield willingly to the Holy Spirit and thus follow His prompting. Our being led by the Spirit is not a forced leading or an overpowering of our will. Rather it is the Spirit filling us and drawing and inviting us. It is then followed by our yielding to Him using our own choice.

Paul writes that “the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets” (1 Corinthians 14:32). This means that when we are being led by the Holy Spirit we are in direct control and are not taken into a condition of a trance like state. To resemble a person overtaken by a demon does not follow His pattern.

Note a few passages indicating leading

2 Peter 3:17 “Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, **being led away** with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.”

Matthew 4:1 “Then was Jesus **led** up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted...”

Romans 8:14 “For as many as **are led** by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”

Some basic requirements in preparation for us to be led by the Spirit in our spirit

We need to see we are called with a holy calling

2 Timothy 1:9 “...Who has saved us and **called us with a holy calling**, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.”

This individual calling will be identified and matured as we respond to the prompting of the Spirit who is seeking to lead us. Others in the body of Christ may also recognize your function as you respond to the Spirit’s directives.

We must present our body

Romans 12:1-2 says that we must present our body as a “living sacrifice”! Have we truly presented our body to Him? Or do we live focussing on our body and its desires? For a believer to begin a life of being led by the Spirit there is the basic requirement of turning our body over to the Lord as a living sacrifice. We cannot live a self-indulging life and have any reality of being led.

Furthermore we need to function practically in the body of Christ. This is not a theoretical body but rather God’s chosen corporate vessel existing in real time. It requires real commitment, through thick and thin, to carry out His economy and His work. The setting of the church life is where the building up (‘edification’) of believers takes place. Many areas in the life of the believer need to be changed and God has selected the atmosphere of a living body, where the whole truth is spoken, to actually do this shaping. This is not properly accomplished in front of a television, using an I-phone or by some osmosis. We are admonished in Scripture that “those who hunger and thirst after righteousness will be filled.” Many of the promises in Scripture, we discover, are predicated on some unalterable conditions being first satisfied. One such condition is that if we do not fall into the ground and die we will abide alone, without fruit.

We have greatly ignored the need for brokenness and the need to die to self in order for the meaningful practice of the real church life to take place. Usually offended and haughty believers simply take their offence to another group.

Also, in order to be **fresh**, or up-to-date with the Lord, we need to be nourished up in the words of **life**. This is not accomplished merely by adhering to a doctrinal position. It is accomplished, rather, in ‘reality’; that is, through beholding the glory of the Lord and experiencing personal transformation by the Spirit of the Lord, as He reveals light and truth to our spirit from His Word. This must be followed by our appropriate response.

The true exercise of any spiritual gift is on the basis of being led and by being obedient. It is not accomplished by being somehow ‘taken over’ out of our control. Our choice is always involved.

1. Those who are led by the Spirit; these are the sons of God (Romans 8:14)
2. The question is, “Who are we yielding to be led by?”
3. The spirit of the prophet is subject to the prophet. (1 Corinthians 14:32)
4. If by the Spirit **you put to death the practices of the body** you shall live.
5. (You) yield **your members** as instruments of righteousness.
6. (You) **set your mind** on the things above!

There is a distinction between Spiritual gifts of power, authority as a believer and the need for growth in life. We need to be supplied with His Divine life, followed by obedience, in order to mature unto the fullness of Christ. This maturity is needed to enable us to do works which are wrought in God and that will be approved by Him. John

3:21 “But he who **does** the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been **done in God.**”

We all need a much clearer understanding of the distinction between the function of spiritual gifts and personal growth in life. The growth in our walk with the Lord comes to pass through death to self by the cross and by feeding on and beholding Him. In this we are brought to spiritual maturity by faithfulness, obedience and by beholding and reflecting His glory. By this means we can release the aroma of Christ rather than lawless acts arising from our religious and fleshly attitudes and actions. *This is the true test of our genuine love for Him.*

John 14:21 “He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

Luke 6:46 “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do the things which I say?”

Romans 11:29 “For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.”

God does not remove the gifts or calling but has set a day when we will be accountable for how we have built on the one foundation via our gifts and calling. In Paul’s letters to the church at Corinth he agreed that they came behind in no spiritual gift. However, in their spiritual lives they were “carnal and walked as men.” Therefore, Paul could only feed them with milk and not meat for they were unable to receive meat.

1 Corinthians 3:1 “And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, **as to babes in Christ.**”

As a warning, Paul wrote to the church at Corinth concerning the time at which they would stand before the Lord at the judgment seat of Christ to give an account of their works. This he did in order to truly love them. He warned them to leave their fleshly, lawless living.

2 Corinthians 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

1 Corinthians 3:13-15 “...each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; **but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.**”

We discover then that spiritual gifts can operate apart from spiritual maturity or condition of life. Now if this distinction is not understood, great confusion and deception can take place in the believer and then filter into the larger church teaching and practice. Many people believe someone is deeply spiritual because they manifest a spiritual gift even though their daily life or connection with the body is a mess. Recall Romans 11:29: “For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.”

Is it gift presumption or true God given authority?

The believer has been set in the body by the Lord with a specific function or calling and not all have the same function. Scripture further declares that God has composed the members according to His design and will. This calling includes the exercise of authority given to the believer in Jesus name.

Consider the following analogy: When we are employed by a company we are given a list of duties to perform. Along with this list we are also given authority to use the necessary means to carry out these duties.

Someone in the company may have higher security clearance accompanied with more authority to be responsibly exercised for carrying out the job they have been hired to do.

You do not need, nor is it expected, that you request permission from your boss concerning every detail, to see if he wants you to do what he already hired you to do!

In Matthew 8 Jesus commended the soldier for great faith when he expressed his understanding regarding the exercise of authority. He understood that Jesus simply needed to give the order and it would be done!

For example, we are told to “**heal the sick, cast out demons.**” We **are not** instructed to pray that the Lord would heal them. Jesus instructed Paul in Acts 26:18 “...to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God.” Most of us will be very quick to declare, “I cannot open anyone’s eyes or anything else.” Of our self that is true; however, we have been authorized to do it on behalf of Jesus and in His name. “In Jesus’ name” should not just be a tag at the end of a prayer

but rather it is the means by which we are equipped and authorized to do His bidding. Here we have largely dropped the ball!

The great confusion with regard to Matthew 7:22 “I never knew you” is a profound example of the function of gifting without the corresponding intimate relationship of obedience, fellowship, maturity and approved works done in the will of God. This is exemplified by the fact that these individuals are called workers of **lawlessness**. Lawlessness is to do things that were not called for. In fact, whatever we do in the natural is lawlessness. In the Old Testament the Israelites were instructed that no anointing oil was to be applied to the **flesh**. (Exodus 30:32) The anointing oil is symbolic of the Holy Spirit.

The confusion over Matthew 7 arises mainly due to interpreting the workers of lawlessness as ‘false believers’ rather than the sober understanding of Kingdom reward and loss. Please notice that in Matthew 7 two requirements are given for entering the Kingdom. The first is to call on the Lord (as also in Romans 10) and the second is to do the will of the father. The first requirement refers to our regeneration which gives us eternal life and forgiveness of sin. However the second aspect refers to that of doing the will of the Father. That is, to do works that He can approve; works which issue out of intimacy with Him and obedience to Him. Simply stated, whatever does not issue from intimately knowing Him is lawlessness.

There is much confusion in the body of Christ surrounding the operation of spiritual gifts. This confusion is manifested by the continual debate surrounding “Who has what?” or “What is for today?” These questions arise due

to a great lack of understanding as to how this is practically worked out in the life of a believer!

Consider the following three prongs, so to speak, of this function: **Gift**, **Administration**, and **Operation**. All three need to be involved and come together in every believer for their function to be properly realized in the Kingdom building. More specifically, this needs to be obtained in a local body of Christ (the church.) The church life is God's provision to filter out much of what is not Christ. To accomplish this we must commit to walk in true fellowship by denying our self while living in obedience to Christ.

The complete package

A. Tools /gifts

B. Job/administration (function)

C. Result/operation

All spiritual gifts or manifestations are from the same Spirit. Therefore, they should possess the same flavor, expression of light, life, holiness, self-control and grace. Their objective is to build up the body. The function of the **gifted persons** (*not simply gifts*) in Ephesians 4 is to complete or perfect the saints so they in turn do the work of ministry. This "work" is the building up of the body by His life and truth. This will bring His body to the fullness of the measure of the stature of Christ, unto a mature man. The body will finally culminate as the New Jerusalem, the Lamb's wife and the tabernacle of God with men.

1. Gifts from Romans 12

Prophecy-Ministry-Teaching-Exhorting-Giving-Leading-Mercy

2. Administrations or types of ministry

Strong's: #1248 διακονία diakonia dee-ak-on-ee'-ah

- (from 1249; n f; TDNT-2:87,152; {See TDNT 186}
AV-ministry 16, ministration 6, ministering 3, misc 9; 34
1) service, ministering, esp. of those who execute the commands of others
2) of those who by the command of God proclaim and promote religion among men
a) of the office of Moses
b) of the office of the apostles and its administration
c) of the office of prophets, evangelists, elders etc.
3) the ministration of those who render to others the offices of Christian affection esp. those who help meet need by either collecting or distributing of charities
4) the office of the deacon in the church
5) the service of those who prepare and present food

3. Operations

Strong's: #1755 ἐνέργημα energema en-erg'-ay-mah

1754; n n; TDNT-2:652,251; {See TDNT 254}

AV-operation 1, working 1; 2

- 1) thing wrought**
- 2) effect operation**

The results of these three areas of gifting must match Christ.

Luke 6:46 “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do the things which I say?”

Matthew 7:22-23 “Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”

Have you discovered your human spirit?

Zechariah 12:1 “The burden of the word of the LORD against Israel. Thus says the LORD, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and **forms the spirit of man within him.**”

John 3:6 “That which is born of the flesh is flesh and that which is **born of the Spirit is spirit.**”

1Thessalonians 5:23 “Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may **your whole spirit, soul, and body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, **piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and** of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Luke 1:46-47 “And Mary said: “My soul magnifies the Lord, and **my spirit has rejoiced** in God my Savior.””

Matthew 26:38 “Then He said to them, “My **soul** is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.””

Luke 23:46 “And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, ‘into Your hands **I commit My spirit.**’" Having said this, He breathed His last.”

The great distinction

There is a great distinction between the spirit and soul of man. If this distinction is not discerned our desire to be led will, in all probability, remain mostly an unfulfilled desire.

Everything to do with our life in the Lord issues from our spirit being joined to His Spirit. 1 Corinthians 6:17 “But he who is joined to the Lord is **one spirit** with Him.”

All of the gifts and functions in the body of Christ issue from the same Holy Spirit. They develop in our spirit, to be interpreted in the mind, and finally are carried out by the yielding will.

Our mind must not be the director if we are to be truly led by the Spirit. First of all, our mind is in many ways still in need of a deep transforming work by the Holy Spirit. From His beech head in our spirit, now joined to His, He changes us into His likeness and image. The Biblical order is spirit, soul and body; however, we have reversed the order. We cannot be a person who is properly led if we live in this reversed order! Consider for a moment the model of the tabernacle. There was the Holy of Holies, the Holy place and the outer court. This clearly is seen in the order of spirit, soul and body. God lived in the Holy of Holies, just as He now lives joined to our spirit. In addition, we are

made in God's image. He is the mysterious 'three in one'- Father, Son and Spirit.

Romans 1:9 "For God is my witness, whom I **serve with my spirit** in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers..."

Philippians 1:25 "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be **with your spirit**. Amen."

Galatians 6:18 "Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with **your spirit**. Amen."

Philippians 1:27 "Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you **stand fast in one spirit**, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel."

2 Corinthians 2:13 "I **had no rest in my spirit**, because I did not find Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I departed for Macedonia."

Acts 18:5 "And when Silas and Timothy were come from Macedonia, **Paul was pressed in the spirit**, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ."

Matthew 26:41 "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The **spirit indeed is willing**, but the flesh is weak."

(Also read 1 Corinthians chapters 1-3)

The preceding references to the human spirit should enlighten us regarding the focus of our walk and the location of God's operation in us. It is precise, completely detectable and present. In this time of the New Covenant,

and post Pentecost, we no longer need to request or consider that we need His presence to come down upon us, for we are already in Him and He is in us. He is joined to our spirit. Romans 8:9 says, “But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”

Galatians 5:16 “This I say then, **Walk in the Spirit**, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”

Galatians 5:25 “If we **live in the Spirit**, let us also walk in the Spirit.”

It is by this living, organic union that we are to be directed and to receive revelation in addition to everything else the Spirit of God initiates within our spirit. This initiating is not an emotional matter of the soul stirred up by some exterior stimulation, but rather the subjective reality of the indwelling Holy Spirit joined to our spirit. If this is not our reality something is out of order. We need to have the Word of God divide our soul from our spirit so that we can discover the taste between the two. The difference between the emotion of the soul and the speaking and leading of the Spirit is definable to the inner taste. Psalms 34:8 “**Oh, taste** and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him!”

If we require the stimulation of electronics and dry ice in order to engage us, we can be quite sure we are operating within the soulish realm. Do we need the supply of a mechanical or electronic stimulation for God to show up? This model is highly suspect.

Consider James 3:15-17 “This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.”

In Genesis, recall that Isaac went against his recognition of Jacob’s *voice* and rather relied upon the *feeling* of his hands, thus conferring the blessing on the wrong son. Had he gone with the voice which he recognized, the story would have played out much differently.

Dear saints, far too much of what we practice is a product of the soul. Very little discernment is exercised distinguishing between soulish and spiritual. Consequently much is done via soulish stimulation by hyping up a meeting. This is accomplished via inappropriate priority given to emotional music as well as a variety of other ‘eye candy’ on the stage. Little priority is given to the directing, empowering and guiding of the Holy Spirit through the ‘**each one has**’ church meeting model in 1 Corinthians 14:26.

Acts 17:16 “Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, **his spirit was provoked** within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols.”

Mark 2:8 “But immediately, when Jesus **perceived in His spirit** that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, “Why do you reason about these things in your hearts?””

Mark 8:12 “But He **sighed deeply in His spirit**, and said, “Why does this generation seek a sign? Assuredly, I say to you, no sign shall be given to this generation.””

John 4:23-24 “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will **worship the Father in spirit** and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him **must worship in spirit** and truth.”

Oneness with function and purpose

We need to truly see that oneness with the Lord is not simply a nice phrase to ponder but rather an expression of the mutuality of our life in Him. He is in us and we are in Him. Ephesians 2:22 “In whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.”

This oneness is then to be manifest in us by knowing in reality that we are joined together and are becoming one spirit with Him in all that He is doing and desiring. God in us desires to express His life and heart to us if we are in the habit of being attuned to our spirit, rather than to our unenlightened mind. The western culture is all about the mind. However, as a new creation we need to be led by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will reveal to our mind the proper spiritual and practical things.

Revelation is first received by us in our spirit and then communicated to the mind. Usually there is no detectable time gap as this connection is the ultimate communication system! In fact the revelation comes so quickly that we may assume we thought of it in the mind. However, the communication actually originated in our spirit which is joined to His Spirit.

For us to be successfully led by the Spirit we need to make a conscious effort to pay attention to the activity in our spirit, rather than our mind. Eventually by exercise you can detect the instant movement in your spirit while using your mind to work and accomplish other duties. This does not require you to sit down and shut down in order to have communication. Rather it is fluid and active in our lives in every way.

Allow me to relate an example of how practical this union with the Holy Spirit is. Some time ago I was looking for my key ring in the house, something many people do from time to time. I asked the Lord where the keys were and I received the thought that they were in the back alley in the dumpster. I put my jacket on and went out to the big garbage dumpster. I lifted the lid and peered hopefully into the emptied bin. There my key ring was lying on the bottom of this large bin. I can assure you my mind would have never figured this out.

We can and should have true, uninterrupted intimacy with Him. This should not be confused however with emotional stimulation produced by sensual atmospheres, and the pounding repetition and manipulation from music. Rather it is a moment by moment communion with the moving and anointing of the Spirit. This is referred to in 1 John 2:27: “But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.”

We must learn to distinguish the sensual and soulish, from that which is truly spiritual. We need to understand that the feelings which are generated in the soul can be very captivating but are truly different from the communion of the Spirit with our spirit. We must be led by the Spirit! On this matter there is a huge lack of discernment.

The long standing intellectual debate in the church concerning whether or not we are a two part man or three part man will cease when we individually connect with God in our spirit!

Many believers' lives are governed merely by a dusty doctrinal statement or some other body of thought. All of these models fail us for a number of reasons. Consider the following example of Jesus with the disciples. When Jesus asked them, "Who do men say that I am?" they simply answered with the opinions of people. However, Peter eventually responded and said, "You are the Christ the Son of the living God." Jesus replied and said, "Flesh and blood (that is, your brain) has not revealed this to you but my Father who is in Heaven."

Fast forward a little in this conversation (Matthew 16:23) with Jesus later telling Peter to **"get behind me Satan for you do not perceive the things that be of God."** This is the point: we can have revelation on one area yet be in the dark on many other spiritual matters. Much interpretation of Scripture is simply passed down the generations, without personal study or revelation on behalf of the hearers. We must seek the Lord apart from our personal or doctrinal bias. This is a very serious matter to consider by

those who teach. Scripture reveals that those who teach will be held to a higher accountability.

Mark 9:42 “But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea.”

James 3:1 “My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.”

Be filled with the Spirit

We as believers stumble over and interchange many Bible terms in seeking to define the actions of the Holy Spirit. As a result there is much confusion and lack of revelation on this all-important matter. Let's see if we can clarify things with the following discussion.

In the following passages note the terms that are chosen by the Holy Spirit to describe the operation of the Spirit.

Acts 2:4 “And they were all **filled** with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

Acts 4:31 “And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all **filled** with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.”

Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."”

Acts 2:41 “Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.”

Romans 6:3 “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?”

1 Corinthians 12:13 “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free — and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”

Galatians 3:27 “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

Ephesians 4:4-6 “There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

Christ was crucified once for all, for all time. He is not re-crucified every time someone believes. Secondly, the Spirit was poured out on the day of Pentecost once for all time.

Water baptism by immersion pictures our baptism into Christ and into the body, by the Holy Spirit, when we believe. This is the one baptism. However you will observe throughout scripture the action word is “filled”, not baptised. There is one baptism upon repentance and believing, but untold fillings for service which was the expression on the day of Pentecost as Peter stood to proclaim the gospel. Upon hearing, three thousand believed and were baptised. It makes no mention at all of a further

“baptism” for those three thousand who believed on the day of Pentecost.

Now let us see something. When Jesus returned from the Father on the same day in which He ascended, He breathed on the disciples and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

Christ had previously told His disciples in John 14 that he would go to prepare a place for them and would come again to receive them. The place which He went to was the cross in order to pay for our sin debt and to become the life giving Spirit. Consider 1 Corinthians 15:45: “And so it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being.” The last Adam became a **life-giving spirit**.” This was accomplished in order to baptise us into the Father, Son, and Spirit as the mutual habitation of God with man. John 17:23 says, “I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.” This is the *true* ‘Father’s house’.

Jesus never intimated that it would take Him two thousand years to build a *physical* mansion. Rather He is building a mutual abode in the triune God as the ‘Father’s house’.

John 14:23 “Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.”” The word **‘home’** here is the very same Greek word that is unfortunately translated as **‘mansion’** earlier in the chapter in the KJV of the Bible.

This very unfortunate error in translation coupled with a fleshly interpretation, devoid of revelation, has left a path of deception in the church. This spiritual blindness has

heavily influenced much of our preaching and song writing. This is a great travesty. It has thoroughly leavened the message of God's true eternal purpose.

Consider John 20:19-22. On the evening of the first day of the week, the *same day* in which He was resurrected and ascended to the Father, He also returned and stood in their midst and breathed on them and said "Receive the Holy Spirit."

This "breathing" or indwelling aspect of the Holy Spirit was for imparting the divine nature. (This is analogous to the breath of life given to Adam at the time of creation.) It was given for baptising believers into Christ and for the joining of us to the Spirit. This allows all believers to be regenerated, comforted, taught and guided by the transforming and conforming aspects of His Spirit. This enables us to be brought into, and built up as, the Father's house. Recall that in John 14 Christ said that He was going to do this. Also, consider the following passage from Ephesians.

Ephesians 2:19-22 "Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a **dwelling place of God in the Spirit.**"

Please keep in mind that this aspect of the Holy Spirit was given on the day of the resurrection of Christ, *before* the day of Pentecost.

Later then, on the day of Pentecost, the out poured (that is, filling) aspect of the Holy Spirit for power to serve and to be His witnesses was initiated.

We must realize that the filling of the Spirit for power to serve is not active constantly but is released as we obey the leading of the Spirit to do what He has asked. Acts 5:32 “And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the **Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.**”

This empowering can be very strong or mild depending on the situation. When the ‘at hand’ work is completed the Spirit in us settles and resumes its inward functions. Each time we obey or are led to a new work, He will empower us with a fresh filling to enable us to do what we could not do apart from this filling.

This empowering action is much like a governor on a motor which opens up to give added capacity for the current task. It is not a matter of receiving some special anointing on us in that sense for we have all been anointed. 2 Corinthians 1:21 “Now He who establishes us with you in Christ **and has anointed us** is God...”

The level of empowering is related to the task at hand.

Acts 4:8 “Then Peter, **filled with the Holy Spirit, spoke** to them, “Rulers of the people and elders of Israel...”

Acts 4:31 “And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.**”

Acts 13:9 “Then Saul, who also is called Paul, **filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently** at him...”

Ephesians 5:18 “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be **filled with the Spirit...**”

The Spirit should activate in us each time we engage in His bidding. For this to work, however, it **must be His bidding** and *not* our plans. Remember that there will be no anointing of the Spirit on our flesh. Saints, we must be sure to make a distinction between this fresh filling and that of our being baptized into Christ by the Holy Spirit at the time of our being born again.

2 Corinthians 3:17 “**Now the Lord is the Spirit**; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”

1 Corinthians 12:13 “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free — and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”

Galatians 3:27 “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”

There is one baptism by the Spirit which takes place at our rebirth. Subsequent to this there are ongoing fillings. We need a clearer understanding regarding this filling which comes to empower us for work ordained by Him. His filling us is not a meaningless activity but is to be followed by our obedience. If we have no intention to obey but simply desire a ‘religious fix’ this will produce great cause for concern.

Again, there is the **indwelling** aspect of the Spirit for salvation and also the **empowering** aspect for service and

for being a witness. Although these may appear to be two separate experiences they should be seen to reflect two aspects of the Spirit's **one complete work** in the believer. These fillings for empowerment are not simply a doctrinal concept but are a dynamic reality. In our mortal body we are not able to have that much power constantly flowing through us---we would explode! Rather the empowering aspect is dispensed during an appropriate time of need.

You may say that this is not true! That is your privilege; however, that which has been shared here is the conclusive findings of a fifty year experiment. Not that I don't have more to experience and to be perfected in. Rather these points are shared in order for us to understand the basic facts of the operation of the Holy Spirit and the promise of His certain working in us in an ongoing and scripturally sound way! The working of the Holy Spirit does not look like a frenzy resembling the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel.

John 10:27 "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."

I have observed for many years that the Evangelicals are praying for the next 'revival' and the Pentecostals are waiting for the 'next move' of God. The New Testament economy, however, does not support either model. Rather upon repentance and believing we are baptized by the Spirit into Christ and into the one body. Following this **we are empowered by the Spirit, who is joined with our spirit, each time He calls upon us and as we respond in obedience.** We are not waiting for the *water to stir*. Rather since we are joined to the Lord as one Spirit, when He moves within us we respond and are filled again to be able,

by His power, to perform the task which He requested.
This is the correct function of the head with the body.

We are no longer in the Old Testament economy needing to look for the presence of the Lord to come down as the norm. Rather as we walk by the Spirit His operation in us works like a well oiled machine functioning ‘in the now’! It will not arrive in some coming ‘move’. He is a now God. We need to stop being tossed to and fro by every “wind of teaching”. Frankly speaking, the only way to stop this tossing in you will be to personally experience God directing you in your spirit, which is joined to His Spirit, rather than to be directed by someone else. When this occurs the debate concerning ‘how to be led’ will end!

We must see that one of the greatest means of causing little ones to stumble is to incorrectly teach them. When we teach from our blindness and narrow understanding we actually become a false prophet. Not only do false prophets fail to enter into the kingdom, they also prevent others from entering. **Folks this is very serious!**

By this kind of errant teaching much of the body of Christ has been left lifeless, silent, largely blinded, lacking hope and caught up in the world. Do you truly think this kind of teaching will receive a “well done” at the Judgment seat of Christ? I believe you know the answer.

God has made man to consist of a spirit, soul and body. We have His image and likeness. We can share His very life with His divine nature. We are to exercise His dominion in oneness with Him.

Where was God?

1 Kings 19:11-12 “And he said, ‘Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD.’ And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake. And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire **a still small voice.**”

Please note: God was not in the wind or in the fire or in the earthquake. He was in the still small voice.

1 Corinthians 2:14 “But the natural (that is, sensual or soulish) man **does not receive the** things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are **spiritually discerned.**”

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

Hebrews 2:3-9 “How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will? For He has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. But one testified in a certain place, saying: "What is man that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him? You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And set him over the works of Your hands. You have put all things in subjection under his feet." For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put

under him. But now we do not yet see all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.”

On what basis do we practice? Is it based upon the traditions of man or God’s design?

2 Timothy 2:22-6 “Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.”

Where are we?

Today a large and growing section of the body of Christ is practicing a church model in which some important aspects are divergent from the revelation of Scripture. This divergence has an overwhelming propensity for soulish and sensual stimulation, including electronic manipulation.

Distorted

Let’s consider what is not accounted for in this distorted model. Although in many instances believers have a genuine pursuit and desire for more of the Lord there is often a misunderstanding of God’s pattern for His working as set forth in Scripture. Second, there is seemingly a lack

of realization as to the powerful feelings and actual soul power which is released by the stimulation of one's senses and emotions. This stimulation ultimately generates much of the perceived 'empowering'. This energy is typically not derived from the working of the Holy Spirit but rather from 'working the atmosphere' within the room.

The Holy Spirit, joined with our spirit, is to direct and take the lead with our soul (which includes our emotions) in submission. The experience of warm and fuzzy feelings does not necessarily imply that the Holy Spirit is their source.

Isaiah 55:9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

In John 3:6 Jesus declared “that which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” If something originates in the flesh it never changes to spirit.

To be more specific, the worship and church arrangement being promoted today had its origins in the hippie movement that began in the late 1960s. At this time there began to be an over emphasis on music coupled with a counter culture philosophy taught by novices in the faith. Sadly, such novices were placed in positions of direct influence within the church. This produced a distorting flood of spiritual imbalance and unbiblical practice. This movement has served to further compound the already existing flaws in the church life.

A needless pain

This infection within the church has spread throughout the entire world producing great damage and division in the Lord's body. Let me present a number of specific points from Scripture which enumerate these violations that have been responsible for this unfortunate divergence.

Not a new believer

1Timothy 3:6 "Not a novice, lest being puffed up with pride he fall into the same condemnation as the devil."

Do not lay hands quickly

1Timothy 5:22 "Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure."

Tested over time

1Timothy 3:10 "But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless."

Faithful men

2 Timothy 2:2 "And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

Men of good reputation

Acts 6:3 "Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business."

Discernment: test the spirits

1 John 4:1 “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

When you come together

There has been a complete dismissal of the basic structure of the meeting of the church. Scripture declares “when you come together *each one has*” (1 Corinthians 14:26). Today, believers are relegated to be merely listeners and not given the opportunity to be active participants in most meetings.

I have been an eye witness to this late 1960s activity and to the momentum which issued from it. Worldly and sensual behaviour has been its constant call sign. This continues to be an obvious element in the dominant church model practiced today.

I will strongly submit to you, that had these foregoing biblical guidelines been submitted to, recent church history could have looked so different.

Dear saints, we must realize that this unbiblical handling of new and immature believers produced a most tragic and destructive model thereby generating a wave of practice which has left a wide open door for deception and distortion. Due to these abuses there is, even now, repulsion by a large portion of His body towards anything to do with the Holy Spirit.

This seed of sensuality, under the guise of the Holy Spirit, has now grown to affect the entire world. The mustard seed is an herb, but in this model it has become distorted **beyond its seed kind** to become a tree in which the birds of the air rest in its branches.

Revelation 18:2 “And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird!””

The two dominant movements issuing out of the Hippie influence of the twentieth century would likely not have gone past their ‘seed kind’ had the preceding biblical guidelines been submitted to. Note that when these two movements discovered the ungodly lifestyle of its dominant person they each at different times removed the said person. Also, as I understand it, these movements intentionally removed this person from their respective historical records.

I feel very bad for this young man who was not properly spiritually cared for. To some degree he was even exploited. This young person was Lonnie Frisbee who eventually died in 1993, at age 43, of AIDS. The two movements he was strongly associated with are Calvary Chapel and the Vineyard. In care and graciousness I wish to say no more but simply need to point out how the mishandling of him caused much destruction in the church body at large. At the time of his arrival on the church ‘scene’, Lonnie Frisbee was a sexually confused young man and involved in the drug life. He was not properly spiritually cared for by the assumedly more mature believers around him. He was greatly gifted in several areas but in Christ he was a novice. As history reveals, however, he became the catalyst for each of these two breakout movements despite the fact that in later years different individuals were given greater recognition. This is recorded history and you can read it for yourself from a number of sources. There is also a movie of Lonnie

Frisbee's life entitled "The Life and Death of a Hippie Preacher".

Today most church meeting models, with the exception of traditional or so-called fundamental groups, conduct their meeting following some form of this 1960s model. Even the dress code (for example, having one's shirt hanging out of the pants) originated in the late 1960s.

It is by no means my purpose to unduly expose or hinder other believers but we must look honestly at the past so that we can discern the 'seed bed', or origin, of things. We live at a time in history unlike any other age. We are clearly told in Scripture regarding the many false prophets and lying signs and wonders that will mark the last days.

2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 "The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and **lying wonders** and with all **unrighteous deception** among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness."

King Saul and the witch!

When King Saul could not hear from God in his desperation he resorted to the very thing which earlier he had banned.

1 Samuel 28: 9 "Then the woman said to him, "Look, you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off the mediums

and the spiritists from the land. Why then do you lay a snare for my life, to cause me to die?"

If we are improperly aligned to the Lord and His ways He is not obligated to answer or anoint our flesh. What we do next is very crucial! We can cry out, humble ourselves and discover God's ways and then apply them. Or we can go deeper into the flesh and its soul power to have 'something happen'. As to the means of experiencing a true spiritual work, God's model is mostly overlooked due to church growth expectations, personal ignorance, personal ambition or competition.

Saul Hits Bottom!

1 Samuel 28:6-7 "And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams or by Urim or by the prophets. Then Saul said to his servants, "Find me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her." And his servants said to him, "In fact, there is a woman who is a medium at En Dor."

It did not need to happen!

I will submit to you that this tragedy took place because of a great lack of discernment between the soul and the spirit. This remains a chronic problem today. The fallen, untransformed soul has great power and if it is strengthened by evil powers it can become a great force. If this is not discerned we can produce an entrance for powerful deception.

Consider: Is *our* deadness in the church somehow void of the flesh that we may see in others?

As a child the church meetings I attended *looked* considerably different than those arising from the hippie movement. However, the underlying deadness was much the same. Much of the singing to which I was subjected in my early life was neither flowing from the Spirit but was rather akin to lifeless dirges. These supposed ‘hymns of the church’ are still sung to this day by many in a dead and disconnected way. This is also soulish. Sometimes this manner of singing is so unenthusiastic it can barely be heard. If out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks, then it reveals something which is not fresh with life. Rather it reveals a serious lack of the inner river flowing out of one’s innermost being.

Many of the traditional hymns and songs written today have not really moved past the matter of redemption. Many speak nothing concerning our full life in Christ or His eternal purpose. Many songs dwell on the repetitive and errant theme of merely dying and going to heaven to get a gold mansion. The great lack of spiritual truth in the songs of today thus fail to convey the Lord’s rich light and truth on so many crucial topics. Consequently, the spirits of the saints are not being enlightened to truth and reality.

Does holiness equal deadness?

Funeral-like silence in a meeting is typically not the expression of the Spirit but rather of people living in the self with all of its peculiarities. We were created by a speaking God and not a mute idol. Christianity, with its entrenched model being so divergent from Scripture in many ways, teaches the ‘living stones’ to be silent. This entrenchment goes so deep that it is nearly impossible to restore believers to be living and functioning members of

His body. Paul said in his letter to the church at Corinth that all saints can prophecy. It is very hard to prophecy without speaking. This prophesying is predominantly to be speaking something forth of our riches gained in walking with Him. It can include fresh revelation on a truth of Scripture as it relates to our life. Regardless, it should all be for the mutual building up (that is, edification) of the body which is present at the meeting.

My sheep hear My voice!

Unfortunately, there is large group in the church which rejects the idea that the Lord speaks today to His saints. This section of the body has relegated such speaking to the past. They teach that since we now have the Bible such speaking is no longer valid or necessary. Believers adhering to this doctrine produce a ritualistic church life which causes a deep longing in the spirit of the saints for something more in their relationship with Christ.

Many of the believers in this model seek to strengthen their doctrinal position by reciting things which are simply ignorant. The result is a detachment from the Lord in the saints' spiritual walk. An emotionally unbalanced and spiritual vulnerability will result in such hungry believers merely out of this desperation for more. This then spawns a seed bed for the reception of things devoid of Biblically based discernment and truth.

The source of true life is only via the Spirit and the Word, as it is received by personal revelation, proper discernment and accompanied with Godly obedience. This is where we are to worship, serve and live. There is a great lack in the entire body for truth practiced in and by His life apart from tradition or the limitation of truth.

A proper church life cannot focus upon a single leader. Rather the body must be released to function as God intended. The single leader model has nullified so much of what could be accomplished for the Kingdom. A single believer was never intended by the Lord to have the breadth of gifting, depth of maturity and even physical energy to fully supply a local church life. In the New Testament church the leadership is that of plurality. Multiple elders are to bear the load combined with the *'each one has'* meeting model (I Corinthians 14). One brother or one pastor bearing the load is not the Lord's model. Also note that we have a further description of the *'gifted saints'* in Ephesians 4:11-16. These are to be properly related to the truth for the building of the body.

Not as we please!

Deuteronomy 11:26-32 "Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you today; and the curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you today, to go after other gods which you have not known. Now it shall be, when the LORD your God has brought you into the land which you go to possess, that you shall put the blessing on Mount Gerizim and the curse on Mount Ebal. Are they not on the other side of the Jordan, toward the setting sun, in the land of the Canaanites who dwell in the plain opposite Gilgal, beside the terebinth trees of Moreh? For you will cross over the Jordan and go in to possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you, and you will possess it and dwell in it. And you shall be careful to observe all the statutes and judgments which I set before you today."

Deuteronomy 12:1-14 “These are the statutes and judgments which you shall be careful to observe in the land which the LORD God of your fathers is giving you to possess, all the days that you live on the earth. You shall utterly destroy all the places where the nations which you shall dispossess served their gods, on the high mountains and on the hills and under every green tree. And you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and burn their wooden images with fire; you shall cut down the carved images of their gods and destroy their names from that place. You shall not worship the LORD your God with such things. But you shall seek the place where the LORD your God chooses, out of all your tribes, to put His name for His dwelling place; and there you shall go. There you shall take your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your hand, your vowed offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks. And there you shall eat before the LORD your God, and you shall rejoice in all to which you have put your hand, you and your households, in which the LORD your God has blessed you. You shall not at all do as we are doing here today — every man doing whatever is right in his own eyes — for as yet you have not come to the rest and the inheritance which the LORD your God is giving you. But when you cross over the Jordan and dwell in the land which the LORD your God is giving you to inherit, and He gives you rest from all your enemies round about, so that you dwell in safety, then there will be the place where the LORD your God chooses to make His name abide. There you shall bring all that I command you: your burnt offerings, your sacrifices, your tithes, the heave offerings of your hand, and all your choice offerings which you vow to the LORD. And you shall rejoice before the

LORD your God, you and your sons and your daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levite who is within your gates, since he has no portion nor inheritance with you. **Take heed to yourself that you do not offer your burnt offerings in every place that you see; but in the place which the LORD chooses, in one of your tribes, there you shall offer your burnt offerings, and there you shall do all that I command you.**”

Where should we now worship?

John 4:21-24 “Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.””

Do we understand the deceptive power to which we are vulnerable by the stimulation of our soul?

Imagine what would happen to the dominant worship model of today if the hydro to the building was turned off? This level of dependence upon technology should raise a red flag as to the basis and source of our ‘worship’. If we have any desire for keeping Christ’s commands regarding the church and how she should function we would do well to stop and ‘look in the book’ like King Josiah did (2 Kings 22). We may be inclined to weep and repent!

Revelation 3:2 “Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.”

Why not follow the book?

In 1 Corinthians 14 there is a clear template for how the church meeting should be conducted; however, for this to be adopted there is a need for many ‘idols’ to fall. Large numbers of church leaders by now are famous for their practice of a false church model. It is not the Lord’s plan for the church life to revolve around the so-called gifting of one flashy and dominating individual.

Humility still works!

We need to humble ourselves and move away from the flesh-addicting activity dubbed as ‘the Spirit’ to a model in which the saints are ministering the riches of Christ to each other in the power of the Holy Spirit. This is the plan of the Lord as discussed by Paul in 1 Corinthians 14.

Can we repent?

To truly repent will require genuine revelation and a massive amount of personal humility. Praying for revival is of no value when we are unwilling to repent of our lawless handling of Christ’s church.

Anything goes!

The church meeting model which exists today largely nullifies the saints and promotes ‘Christian stars’ traveling all over the earth to propagate a model of church life which Scripture does not approve or support. Ironically, this cultural movement of anti-suits parades its own line of

costly clothing. This new dress code can be observed very easily. But it should not be the outer man which makes us relevant to our generation. We need the genuine realization that as believers we are sons of the King and that we are a Holy Nation. That which we should be representing is high and glorious and Godly. We should not need to live and look like the world in order to attract them.

1 John 2:15 “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

1 John 3:1 “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.”

We need the fragrance of Christ that issues from genuine worship, truth and obedience to Him---suit or no suit! The true exercise of God given authority and Christian character will be something that the Spirit can witness to and support. This is desperately needed. Today it is nearly impossible to tell the difference between the church and the world. Is this the fruit of our so-called Godly living?

Is it even logical to exchange one fleshly church model for another sensual and self-exalting fashion statement? Perhaps after reading this you now feel that you have enough justification to disregard everything in this booklet. Please do not. To disregard everything would in itself be an exposure of the heart.

The main reason for the lack of a true Biblical church life today is due primarily to deficient teaching and guidance from those in spiritual authority. This has produced the

stunningly dead and blinded condition of the vast majority of professing believers. Those who have caused this will answer at the Bema. Revelation chapters 2 and 3 also have much to say concerning the need for overcoming in the church life.

I am simply begging us to be sober and to recognize our departure from Scripture. This error is causing us to be *unable* to accomplish much in a profound and genuine way for Christ.

Jesus said that “straight is the gate and narrow is the way that leads to life and few there be that find it.” True life in the Spirit is completely different from the emotional captivation generated from sensual and soulish stimulation. This I have observed for decades.

Am I saying that nothing is of the Lord in this kind of atmosphere? *Not by any means*. There are many dear saints on this path. I personally have received from these sources; however, we must be able to discern between proper gift function, true Christ-like life, genuine growth and that which is approved according to the Lord’s evaluation. If we are unwilling to do this we have set ourselves up for strong delusion. Much damage to His body will result.

1 Corinthians 3:17 “If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.”

Jesus says in John 8:32, “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” Freedom is not the absence of order. Freedom is the release from everything in our lives which is not of God. The word ‘know’ in the preceding verse does not refer to the acquisition of

information but rather to the subjective, intimate revelation and application of the truth. Additionally, truth here is not mere biblical facts but the embodiment of Christ Himself as *the* truth.

We need personal revelation concerning God's economy (that is, the arrangement of His 'household') the transformation of the soul and the need for death-to-self in order for the Spirit to lead us. Without this revelation and transformation we simply will not change into His image and likeness. We will lack the wedding garment which consists of the righteousness of the saints. See Psalm 45 and also consider the following passage.

Revelation 19:7-8 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints."

These matters are so seldom taught or even considered that many saints are left in the dark. Rather believers simply come back again and again to meetings for another euphoric stimulation of the sensual self. They do this, mistaking the stimulation to be the Holy Spirit moving and coming down. This process then needs to be regularly repeated like a drug fix, rather than truly discovering how to walk and be led by the Spirit. We need to hear from Him moment by moment in our 'inner man'.

A major Christian leader in this model of church practice concluded that, after attending thousands of such meetings in many parts of the world, 85% of what goes on in these meetings is done in the flesh.

How can we **not cry out** for change on behalf of truth, the Kingdom, Jesus, the lost and the defeated believers? If we will not we will bear the consequences which will be addressed at the Bema seat of Christ. If we fail to overcome, we may very well hear “depart from me you worker of **lawlessness.**”

Be encouraged to **believe** everything in Scripture and to pursue your place in the body for the expansion of the Kingdom and the eventual crushing of the “head of the serpent” under the “feet of the saints”. Are we crushing him, or is he currently crushing us by so much lack of discernment in these matters? (See Romans 16:20).

Zechariah 4:4-6 “So I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying, "What are these, my lord?" Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord." So he answered and said to me: "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘**Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,**’ says the LORD of hosts. ””

Revelation 22:17 “And the Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

John 4:21-24 “Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when **the true worshipers** will worship the Father in **spirit** and **truth**; for the **Father is seeking** such to worship Him. God

is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.'"

Prophecy-Ministry-Teaching Exhorting- Giving-Leading-Mercy

The preceding list of functions, as found in Romans 12, represent the basic areas in the body of Christ in which we each have been placed and from which we should operate. By the Lord's choice, we have each been placed into the body to fulfill one of these functions. We have nothing to do with the choosing of this placement. Therefore, for the body to be living and healthy we need each of these areas operating through Spirit-filled saints. We must see that we are incomplete without each other's portion. **Now the crucial thing to see is** that, regardless of where God has placed you in the list above, you also have the capacity to experience any or all of the manifestations of the Spirit listed around the circle. Having all saints properly functioning will serve to build up the body of Christ. These gifts from 1 Corinthians 12 should **not be perverted** by inordinately focusing upon specific ones. However, in the context of carrying out your God given place within the body, they are available by the Spirit to empower you based on the need at hand. This should be so exciting, empowering and affirming to each saint!

This can be clearly seen in the life of Philip the evangelist. He was selected as one of the deacons to serve tables, which does not sound too exciting. However, we also see Philip being led of the Spirit to preach Jesus to the Ethiopian Eunuch. We then see him being transported and found at Azotes. It is further reported that many people believed when they saw and heard of the miracles which

Philip did. From Acts 8:5, we would conclude that Philip's place in the body would fall under the area of ministry. This covers a wide range of possibilities. From Philip's life we can see what a wonderful and broad experience he enjoyed as a certain member of the body. The same can also be true for us **if we believe and obey!** Using sports terminology I can say, '*Just play your position.*' Amen!

