

God's Word and Spirit direction for the Church

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Published 2018

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To those who love the Lord

Those that sincerely believe in Jesus and who love Him should advance in their understanding of the truth. Jesus wants His people to understand properly His teachings, and to grow in the right way. This means growing in love and knowledge of Scripture and growing in love and knowledge of the Holy Ghost.

There are parts of Christianity where people are very much into Scripture, but don't understand much about the Holy Ghost (the story of Apollos in the Book of Acts illustrates this), and there are people who are into the Holy Ghost but have not developed strong doctrinal understandings on more involved doctrines. There should be no dichotomy: Christians should be Word and Spirit people who should advance in all understanding.

There are things to learn about and from the Holy Ghost. True Christians should have a proper understanding of the work of the Spirit. If you start from Scripture, you will find it pointing to a developed spiritual understanding of a believer's infilling. We need to be open to Him, and our part of actively accepting His work in our lives in this area.

There are also things to learn about and from the Scripture. Believers need to understand some basics around the principles of the nature of Scripture itself, that we have a way of knowing what is a good translation, and why we should not lightly discount the traditional version of the Bible. More centrally, it is that we can actually understand doctrines, and that God is leading us to have proper, good and life-filled doctrines.

This book is about helping you improve in your Christian walk in both the Word and the Spirit. As we are all learning, we are all able to improve, but the best is going to be for Christians to be walking excellently in the Word and Spirit together. This book is about being the best possible Christian who walks in the love of God and aligning with His desire for us to possess the higher knowledge of the Lord.

"I will love thee, O LORD, my strength." (Proverbs 5:7).

The Church is made up of those who have been born again (see John 3:3), and it has been purchased by the blood of God: "... the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own

blood.” (Acts 20:28b). Thus, those who are in the Church are precious in God’s sight. God loves His people and now expects their love in return. “We love him, because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:19). Our love for God cannot be and should not be mere lip service but something that is genuinely manifested from the inner man (or heart).

Within the Protestant era of history there have been two main types of genuine Christians, broadly categorised as those who love the Holy Bible, and those who love the Holy Ghost. Now, it is evident that God does not want these two types to be mutually exclusive, nor does He want them to be deficient in the knowledge of one another. After all, the Word of God is called “truth” in John 17:17 and the Holy Ghost is called “truth” in 1 John 5:6. This means that the Holy Ghost, “the Spirit of truth” (see John 14:17), will always agree with and back the Word of God, and, in turn, back those who are genuine, godly and seekers of God’s truth (see Mark 16:20). Hence, the two types of Christian categories are actually complementary and these must combine together as genuine Christians to come into the fulness of knowledge of the truth.

“For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.” (2 Corinthians 13:8).

The Lord Jesus Christ is building His Church (see Matthew 16:18), and He is using yielded men and women as His instruments (such as Paul the Apostle in 1 Corinthians 3:10). In the same passage that Paul spoke of the value of the Church being purchased with God’s blood, he also prophesied of the significant problems that would arise to attempt to hinder God’s building of His Church. He prophesied, “For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.” (Acts 20:29, 30).

Thus, the fracturing of the Church has been a design of the enemy of God. This enemy, namely the Devil, has been very successful in leading men away from truth and into all types of prideful schemes. Indeed, Jesus spoke of this in the parable of the wheat and tares: “So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?” (Matthew 13:27, 28).

God's will for His Church has never been fracturing and division. The Christians who love the truth realise this. Sometimes, they can even feel quite frustrated about the current state of the Church. However, they must realise that God knew about the splitting of various denominations, and that some denominations have been instrumental in protecting vital truths, which means that God has already taken into account the disunity in His plan and used it for His purposes. Therefore, believers need not be vexed since God will have His way in the Earth before Christ returns. Foundationally, we must acknowledge God's will for complete unity in the truth.

“God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” (1 Corinthians 1:9, 10).

This requires that there be great repentance within the Church. We will now elaborate on this. Please continue to read prayerfully to understand the work that God will do in His Church before Christ returns and what your responsibilities in God are in these things. The only way for proper union of genuine believers is by the way of the Word of God and by the way of the Spirit of God. Overall then, it is the way of a movement around the Word and Spirit together.

There is warning before judgment

“Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth.” (Proverbs 5:7).

When the Lord Jesus Christ declared, “I will build my church” (see Matthew 16:18), His desire and vision was not that the Church would be a doctrinally fractured entity crippled by disunity until the end of the world finally comes. The prophetic fact is that He will “present it [His built Church] to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish” (Ephesians 5:27). No matter how impossible this may seem to us now, this prophecy must come to pass. A mighty cleansing is therefore happening in Christ's Church from now to the end of the world.

Whenever God pronounces a judgment, He also gives a warning. Those who believe His words enough to act on them can escape the consequences of judgment. For example, Jesus Christ prophesied about the Roman conquest of Jerusalem, “And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation¹ thereof is nigh.” (Luke 21:20). The Christians of the time left the area when they saw the impending fulfilment and were safe in Pella when the fury of the Romans came against Jerusalem in 70 AD. The Christians had believed Christ’s words and were safe from the judgment. However, the Jews refused to believe Christ’s words and maybe a million of them perished in horrible circumstances.

God has also given a warning for His Church today that, if not heeded, will result in a terrible judgment. He has commanded His people not to be conformed to this fallen, unbelieving world (see Romans 12:2), nor are they to be friends with the world: “whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God” (James 4:4b). God commands His people: “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord” (2 Corinthians 6:17a). He warns His people of great judgment if they do not do what He commands. “So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.” (Revelation 3:16). The lukewarm are the compromisers with the world. The lukewarm essentially become the enemies of God by being friends of the world.

There is now a call for the Church

There is now a call for the whole Church to realise the better, higher way in Christ. This requires those in the Church to love the truth. It is the way of the Word of God lighting the Christian’s path (see Psalm 119:195) through the leading of the Spirit (see Romans 8:14). God is speaking now to Christians who have a heartfelt desire to go His way of truth without the compromise with the world.

“Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.” (Malachi 4:4).

¹ This hearkened back to Daniel’s prophecy about the Romans in Daniel 9:26b.

The Church is spiritual Israel (see Romans 2:29), commanded to remember God's Law, which is His Word. "The law of thy mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver." (Psalm 119:72). His Word is also the truth (see John 17:17). As has been discussed, there are commandments that God has given to His Church. These commandments of separation from the world must be heeded, lest judgment come and there is no remedy left. The way of separation from the world to be set apart for God has been shown by the Lord Jesus Christ: "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." (John 17:16,17).

"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD" (Malachi 4:5).

Before judgment comes, there is a godly warning given. The Church is now in the stage of having this warning given. It is given through the Spirit of God who speaks to His people as they have the capacity to hear. Historically, in God's mercy, He has sent messengers, prophets, ministers and even angels to warn people of impending judgment unless there is repentance. An example is found in the following verse: "And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place" (2 Chronicles 36:15). In Malachi 4:5, God states that He will send Elijah the prophet before the end of the world. This clearly means literally Elijah himself (since Elijah never died physically), and it also means, just like John the Baptist (see Matthew 11:11–15), that there will be people sent to warn in the spirit and power of Elijah. The ones who recognise and hear the warning for the Church to stop its compromise with the world are those who love the truth and desire to walk in it.

"And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse." (Malachi 4:6).

The turning of hearts means change because an attitude of repentance comes. Without repentance, then there can only be the manifestation of the curse. There will be many Laodicean-type Christians who will not heed the warning to stop compromising with the world. For such people, there will be no remedy, just like those in the following verse: "But they mocked the

messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.” (2 Chronicles 36:16).

God desires the fathers of the Christian faith (the ministers of God) to care for the children of God by feeding them properly, so that they are “nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine” (see 1 Timothy 4:6). This requires the fathers to reject all compromise with the Holy Bible. “Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it.” (Psalm 119:140).

God desires the children of God to hear the words of the fathers of the Christian faith. Many of those words come to us now through the transmission of past sermons, writings and teachings. The children of God must forsake the words of heretics, false scholars, and worldly compromisers. They must refuse carnal thinking and choose spiritual thinking. They must receive the truth as coming from the Spirit of God. “For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.” (2 Corinthians 2:17).

The call for those who love the Lord to refuse all compromise with the world is being made now in this time. God is very merciful and longsuffering but there will be a time when the warning stops and the judgment is manifested. It will be a time of great cleansing or purging and of great disruption at the same time: “So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.” (Revelation 3:16).

The Word and the Spirit work together

It is commendable to love the Word of God and want to follow it. It is commendable to love the Spirit of God and want to follow Him. The Word and the Spirit, however, are not working independently, so our love must be towards both the Word and the Spirit. Mark 16:20 reveals that the Lord confirms His Word.

“And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with *them*, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.” (Mark 16:20).

This means that the Holy Ghost supports and confirms the Word of God. This manifestation of the Holy Ghost has never been done away with and has continued throughout the Church period.

When the Word of God is upheld in its rightful place in people's hearts, then they are walking in obedience to the Lord. This enables Him to do His mighty work without the problem of a disrespectful attitude toward Scripture.

God is saying to His Church now that the compromise must stop and agreement with the Word and with the Spirit (Who backs the Word) must be the order of the day. If people refuse to stop their compromise, then the judgment of God will be manifested to clear the way for His purposes to be accomplished in the Earth: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:10).

The Church is to walk in God's will

A wise Christian follows the leading of the Holy Ghost (see Romans 8:14). This means the Christian is willing to obey the Scripture in all matters concerning life, which means to be led by the Spirit of truth. Integral to this is acknowledging the authority of Scripture and submitting to the work of the Holy Ghost. God's will is for all His people be mature, wise Christians. For the Church to develop in maturity, it must progress from being populated by immature (or carnal) Christians to having wise, fully-developed people of faith.

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." (Ephesians 4:14–16).

Notice how important doctrine really is in this message. The winds of doctrines have fractured the Church throughout history as though one full truth is not evident. However, the truth, that is, knowing the truth, causes progression and growth. "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32). It is evident that proper freedom is through a proper knowledge of the truth. The fact is that God wants every member of the Church to match with the following:

“that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God” (Colossians 1:9b, 10). This is then the “increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love” (Ephesians 4:16b).

The call for the Church to grow up

It is now time for the Church to “grow up”. It is not God’s will for Christians to say that they have made the Word of God their authority in life but then act as though they can select their own ways or words and neglect important doctrines, such as a sound understanding about the Spirit and His gifts. In the last century, there have been people used of God to warn many churches of the need to stop the compromise with the world and to acknowledge the absolute truth of the Word of God.

For example, Smith Wigglesworth, known as the Apostle of faith, said: “Unless Pentecost wakes up to shake herself free from all worldly things and comes into a place of the divine-likeness with God, we will hear the voice of God, ‘Come out’ and He will have something far better than this. I ask every one of you, will you hear the voice of God and come out?” (Wigglesworth, *The Appointed “Hour”* [sermon], 1922).

More recently, Ken Ham, the President of Answers in Genesis, stated, “It’s time for a new Reformation in the Church — to call the Church back to the authority of the Word of God, beginning in Genesis.” (Ham & Beemer, *Already Gone*, 2009).

There are many examples of leaders who have pointed out excesses or opportunities for improvements in both Spirit-filled churches and with doctrine-emphasising churches.

Today, the warning and call is all the more urgent, because superficial Christianity is spiritually dangerous. If Christians are to be effective, they must fill their hearts with the Word, and obey its commands. An unbalanced approach toward the Bible and the Holy Ghost demonstrates an unwise attitude.

The Scripture reveals that the answer to this is for believers to grow up in Christ. In Christ, Christians have everything they need to be live as scripturally wise, Word-living, Spirit-filled and Spirit-led people.

“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power” (Colossians 2:6–10).

Christians are only complete in Christ. With God’s help, Christians can walk in complete wisdom, understanding and maturity. The Bible warns of Christians being spoilt by man-made philosophies and traditions. These vain philosophies include a disparaging approach toward the accuracy of the Bible, and the belief that the wondrous work of the Holy Ghost was just for times past.

Every Christian can be led by the Holy Ghost, and utilise the gifts He gives. However, a reverent attitude and sound knowledge of Scripture is important because without the Word of God, a Christian’s faith is ineffectual. Likewise, without putting faith into practice, this Word will not profit a Christian (see Hebrews 4:2). Whatever the reasons are for why people have locked behind parts of the truth but neglected other vital parts is unimportant. There has been a great lack of love of the truth, which has undermined doctrine, faith, and the progress of the Church to “grow up into him in all things” (see Ephesians 4:15). Now, with the call to repent of compromise with the world and to return to the authority of Scripture, there must be a corresponding love of the truth. This means having a heart to seek and know about having balanced Scripture doctrine and having a sound and orderly relationship with the Spirit of God.

The planted seeds of history to bring fruit

Although it may seem impossible for the Church to grow and increase “unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13b), there are reasons why this

indeed will come to pass. There have been seeds sown throughout Church history that demand a harvest. These have been good seeds from the Scriptures, sown by the teaching and preaching of sound doctrine (and many are now accessible through the means of the internet). It is through this that growth can be accomplished. When faith is used, as it has been in the past, it grows — just like a seed which starts small in the ground but grows and brings forth much fruit.

“And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.” (Mark 4:26–29).

The seed of the Word of God (see Luke 8:11) has been sown historically and is even now being sown. It is for the purpose of a great harvest. If present day Christians that love the truth believe that the seed sown will produce God’s end time harvest, then that is the response that God requires. Faith through the Word of God (see Romans 10:17) is used to bring transformation to a people, a city, a nation, and across the Earth.

Transformation must start with true believers getting a right view on the Word and a right view on the Spirit. On this foundation the Church is to become a fully unified group of people who are not unbalanced in their view about the Word and the Spirit; this all starts with a seed which is now rapidly developing into full fruition. We have now available to us in written, oral and visual forms the means to enter into this level of knowledge and have access to this high level of wisdom, as is pointed to in Bible prophecy. “But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.” (Daniel 12:4). The Biblical knowledge that was once inaccessible is now readily available. God has done it for those who love the truth and are guided by the Spirit of truth, so He requires now a response of faith and willingness from His people in His Church at “the time of the end”.

And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it? *It is* like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth: But when it is sown, it groweth up,

and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it.” (Mark 4:30–32).

Mighty works can start small in the hearts of individuals. God is calling for consistent use of faith to bring the manifestation of victory. Great works of God may start small in the Body of Christ, but God is stirring up believers to walk as Word and Spirit Christians. Are you, the reader, willing to heed the warning to stop all compromise, and willing to obey the call of God to come up (indeed grow up) into a better, higher way?

A washed and cleansed Church before Christ returns

A further reason why it will come to pass for the Church to grow and increase “unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13b), is that the Scripture itself clearly indicates this by promises and in prophecies.

God has always had great plans for the Church. Before Christ returns at the Second Coming, the Church will be washed and cleansed from worldliness and wrong believing. He is not returning for a weakling Church but one of great stature.

“... Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.” (Ephesians 5:25–27).

Divisive and destructive patterns of thought and action will be purged from the Church by the cleansing power of the Word preached and taught. It is essential to uphold the Word because it works powerfully in the lives of believers when it is mixed with faith and acted upon (see Hebrews 4:12). The true Church must be a spotless Body convinced of the inerrancy and full availability and accessibility of the Holy Bible, walking as Spirit-led and Spirit-filled people.

The Church to be a holy building

The fact that Christ is building His Church upon the Rock of truth that He alone effectually makes righteous the elect is completely foundational for the Church: He is “the Saviour of all men, specially

of those that believe” (1 Timothy 4:10). It is understood by God’s revelation as contained in His Word.

“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” (Matthew 16:18).

Christ will return for a glorious Church, which will follow Him according to His will:

“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship *him* must worship him in spirit and in truth.” (John 4:23, 24).

The Lord Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of the Church, and it is through the Spirit’s work that the Body of Christ is built together. It is the work of the Holy Ghost producing unity in the Church, and enabling each part (individual believers) to fit together with each other perfectly.

“And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner *stone*; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.” (Ephesians 2:20–22).

Thus, it must be accomplished that the current fractured nature of the Church will cease and the unified, cleansed Church will arise. Only then can the full result of the end time harvest of souls into the Kingdom of God be fully accomplished. “And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle.” (Revelation 14:14). That which is “like unto the Son of man” is none other than the washed Church in “the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13b).

For the Church to be “an holy temple in the Lord” there must be a great change because God wants holiness among His people (see 1 Peter 1:15, 16). Those who love the Word will choose to change in line with the truth — they will then know proper doctrine and reject the impure. “If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.” (John 7:17). Those who love the Spirit will be led of the Spirit into the truth, and reject

worldly doctrines that have originated from men's sinful hearts and devils. "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth" (John 16:13a). In this way, the Christians in the cleansed Church will be "builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit" (Ephesians 2:22b). Great works of harvesting will be the result.

The reigning error cannot win

It is not hard to see that the "spirit of error" (see 1 John 4:6) has a foothold in the world, right across the earth. The spirit of error reigns through the fact that spiritual infidelity has largely been allowed to persist in the hearts of men. The Devil is "the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:2b). Disobedience gives the adversary of God a place in man's society. Because spiritual infidelity has now also claimed many currently in the modern churches through their disobedience in compromising with the world, the pervasiveness of the error has caused even genuine Christians to think it is winning and that it will continue to do so until the end of the world. However, this is exactly what the devils want people to think because then they can continue their work without opposition. The fact is that the spirit of error cannot win.

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." (1 John 4:1).

The false prophets will, of course, say that Bible Christianity is dead. The problem with this statement is that it goes against Bible prophecy, Bible promises and the Biblical seeding of history (some of these areas have already been covered). It is also not the Biblical view historically held to by those who loved the Bible and those who loved the Spirit. Genuine Christians — those who love the truth — must refuse to believe the evil spirits backing the false prophets of today.

"Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world." (1 John 4:2, 3).

These verses show the example of how genuine Christians should approach the present state of the world. Note the instruction: “know ye the Spirit of God”. Clearly, He makes all the difference in our understanding. “For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:11, 12). It is easy to understand through the Spirit of God, that every spirit that does not confess the correct things in line with the Word of God is a devilish spirit, indeed of the spirit of error in the world today. Quite simply, Christians are to believe the Holy Bible and hold onto what it says, not believe the wrong spirit and its perverse words that are against what God has said and promised.

“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.” (1 John 4:4, 5).

Two spiritual things are operating upon the Earth today — the spirit of truth (backed by the Holy Ghost) and the spirit of error (backed by the Devil). The right spirit gives Christians confidence of the victory they have in Christ (see 1 Corinthians 15:57) by them trusting in the Word of God, having faith so to speak. From these verses, it is evident that the spirit of error operating in the world cannot win. It is a temporary condition at best. Christians must believe that they are victorious. “The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?” (Psalm 118:6). The current spiritual infidelity is of the world. Christians need not despair or think that this will win, despite appearances.

The Church to believe properly regarding truth versus error

“We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.” (1 John 4:6).

This verse tells us that the spirit of truth (the Holy Ghost’s working) is present and counteracting the spirit of error. Why then do so many Christians in the Church believe that the spirit of error is winning? One reason for this is that they have not understood the witness of history, which is

that error never wins and that God's messengers always point to God breaking through even in the darkest hour.

For example, the Puritans, Bible believers of seventeenth century England and America, believed strongly in the Providence of God, which was that He worked in history, even in the smallest details. "The Puritans were par excellence the people who saw God in everyday events. ... The Puritans also interpreted contemporary historical events within the framework of God's providence and biblical analogues." (Ryken, *Worldly Saints*, 1990). This Puritan hope is a historical witness that the Christians of today would do well to heed. "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." (1 Thessalonians 5:24). With this type of viewpoint, it becomes clear that any so-called winning or gain by the spiritual infidelity of the day is only temporal and transient. Christians are to believe that God has providentially prepared for the Church to be "like unto the Son of man" (see Revelation 14:14) as a reaper of the end time harvest.

If Christians think that error is winning (and thereby adjust their beliefs and actions accordingly), then they are not operating according to faith, and this is certainly not pleasing to God (see Hebrews 11:6). The faith approach to living as a Christian upon the Earth is to understand the right way of looking at things. Christians are to "live by faith" (see Hebrews 10:38), "walk by faith" (see 2 Corinthians 5:7), and confess "that they ... [are] strangers and pilgrims on the earth" (Hebrews 11:13b). This has been the historical witness of the classical Pentecostals, such as John G. Lake, who said, "Christianity lives in the power of God, in the eternal presence of God. And it is that consciousness of God and union with Him that gives to the soul strength and assurance and confidence and helps the soul to go on its way regardless of conditions and circumstances, so that he is not being governed by this thing or that, but by the faith of God. *Instead of conditions controlling him, he is controlling conditions.*" (Lake, *The Highway of Holiness* [sermon, emphasis added], 1922).

Another reason that many Christians think the spirit of error is winning is that there is a lack of knowledge of the Scriptures. It is erroneous to think that the spirit of error can win. Jesus said, "Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God." (Matthew 22:29b). Thus, people go into erroneous beliefs when they do not know the Scriptures. When people know the

Scriptures, then they will approach their Christian walk free from fear, and understand things by faith, which is by the Word of God being believed and acted upon. “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17).

God’s call is for there to be change in the Church, so that strength to fight and lay hold of Christ’s purchased victory can prevail. “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.” (1 John 5:4). God is calling Christians to align with the Spirit of truth, the Holy Ghost, who will guide them “into all truth” (see John 16:13), including how to be overcomers on the Earth. God is calling Christians to align with the Word of truth, which lays down the way to walk in this sinful world. “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” (Psalm 119:105). This means that Christians must love the truth and have a heart that is ready to hear. As has already been indicated, repentance is absolutely necessary right across the Church today to align with truth and to turn away from error.

“When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.” (Proverbs 1:27–31).

If there is no repentance, then the churches will come under great judgment and there will be no remedy.

What God commends in the Church

For the Church to be what God wants it to be in the Earth, it must be operating in the things that please God. It has already been shown that faith pleases God and Christians are to approach this life in faith, not linked to a natural, worldly way of thinking. “That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” (Romans 8:4). God commends those who walk after the Spirit, which is being Spirit-led, as being on fire: “his ministers a flaming fire” (Psalm 104:4b).

“And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.” (Revelation 3:14, 15).

God is looking at the works of the Church — “I know thy works”. At this stage in Church history, the Laodicean stage, there are many that do not have works that are hot for God. Christian works are hot for God if they are works in line with the Spirit of God. However, the modern churches have compromised tremendously with the world in line with the spirit of error, not knowing the Scriptures. Their works are of a futile nature, unable to accomplish God’s will in the Earth. “Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is.” (1 Corinthians 3:13). Clearly, God is looking at the works of the Church and He commends works that are hot.

“So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.” (Revelation 3:16).

Those who are lukewarm are friends of the world and have impeded the Church from its commission to “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” (Mark 16:15) and to “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations” (Matthew 28:19a). Since Christ is building His Church to fulfil this purpose, then He must purge it of all that is compromised. The warning to repent has been going out and the time for judgment is soon coming. The lukewarm Laodiceans will be spewed out of the Body of Christ, so that the Church can be that holy building fit for God’s use.

“Behold, I am against thee, O thou most proud, saith the Lord GOD of hosts: for thy day is come, the time that I will visit thee. And the most proud shall stumble and fall, and none shall raise him up: and I will kindle a fire in his cities, and it shall devour all round about him.” (Jeremiah 50:31,32).

The spiritual fire that is to come to the cities of the proud (those in the world and blind) will be accomplished through the Church that is hot for God with the fire of the Word of God burning brightly. Whole cities are to be changed and transformed through the power and brightness of the Gospel of Christ. But those who resist the Lord and stay with the proud, including the

compromised amongst the Laodicean type Christians, “shall stumble and fall, and none shall raise him up”.

The warning before the judgment

“Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.” (Revelation 3:17, 18).

Here is the great warning for the Church lest “the shame of thy nakedness” appear. God is saying for compromisers to see where they really are spiritually, which is “wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked”. The nakedness of the compromised in the Church speaks of the fact that they actually have nothing of value to offer to the world, nor can they be of use to the Church that is to harvest in the end time. Their confession of “I am rich” actually means nothing if it is not according to the knowledge of the Scriptures.

There are many who have gone into liberal theology and unbelief, thinking they have rich scholarship. They have let man’s interpretations be the primary way and conformed to the world’s ways of looking at the Bible. “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.” (2 Peter 1:20). They have said that the Church cannot have one standard of the Holy Bible. In fact, all types of criticisms have come in through wrong approaches to the Bible. The philosophy of man and men’s prideful claims to scholarship have indeed produced a profound blindness. “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.” (Colossians 2:8). The only solution is for spiritual eyes to be anointed with eyesalve, so that the eyes of Christians’ understanding are enlightened (see Ephesians 1:18). This means that there must be repentance for unbelief and a turning to belief in the Word of God as received and written — a love of the truth must come into the hearts of Christians in the Church, and a love of the Spirit of truth who guides into all truth.

There are many who have departed from the Scriptures and have descended into foolishness by trying to be “relevant” to the world. They have ignored the Word of God, which is clear about Christians being separate from the world. “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you” (2 Corinthians 6:17). By striving to be “relevant” to the world, they have actually separated themselves from God: “These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.” (Jude 19). Rather than holding to a doctrine of holiness, they have an entertainment philosophy. This has led them to be doing completely the opposite to what God desires for His Church. Once again, the only solution is for spiritual eyes to be anointed with eyesalve, so that the eyes of Christians’ understanding are enlightened (see Ephesians 1:18).

The Importance of God’s way for the Church

“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.” (Revelation 3:19, 20).

It is important to see that Christ loves the Church and His will is for it to be built into what He wants. “Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it” (Ephesians 5:25b). Thus, He must “rebuke and chasten” because of His love. This correction is done through the Scripture, which corrects error and lights the path of truth and righteousness. The Scripture is “profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16b). The importance of the Word of God is paramount for the Church, so that it can be corrected into going the right path in line with the Holy Ghost who is the Spirit of truth. The Holy Ghost works in salvation and gives knowledge. To be zealous is to “be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding” (Colossians 1:9b), and to walk faithfully in that. Repentance is necessary for Christians to turn from contrary words and to the very words of God (i.e. His will).

The result of true zealousness, which is to be hot to do God’s will, is the powerful fellowship with the Master, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Head of the Church. Christ has been standing at the door and knocking — indeed, calling unto all who would listen — “if any man hear my voice”.

Those in the Church today cannot afford to ignore Him. The opening of the door means that great things can be accomplished as God uses the Church mightily in the Earth, “By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.” (Acts 4:30). To ignore the call of Christ is to invite the judgment but to open the door to the supper of Christ points to Church Restitution and holy power being available to Christ’s people.

“To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.” (Revelation 3:21, 22).

The Holy Ghost is present and works powerfully. As the Spirit of truth, He is speaking to the churches. To Christians in this Laodicean period, the Church of this time, the Spirit has a specific warning to stop compromising with the world, which is dominated by spiritual infidelity. He wants an overcoming Church, ready for the evangelistic task ahead. The empowerment of the Holy Ghost is crucial for this time since the Church must be a witness for Christ on this Earth, not a fractured, weak entity. “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judæa, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8). This call to be a witness has not ended but is all the more necessary for the Church in these days.

“And many that believed came, and confessed, and shewed their deeds. Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men: and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.” (Acts 19:18–20).

The Holy Ghost works with the Word of God. Thus, the Church must be of the Word, preaching and teaching it with certainty and confidence. The devils, through the spirit of error, have sought to undermine this functioning of the Church. But they have only been successful because of the compromise with the world and its words (such as books) and ways (such as curious arts). Once the Church is alight with the Word of God, then the manifestation of God working with His people is evident. The dross of error is burnt up (as in Acts 19:19) and the fire of the Word (see Jeremiah

20:9) shines gloriously. “And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.” (Mark 16:20).

What is now for today’s Church must be taken up

God has been working throughout the Church’s history. He has been securing right doctrines in place. He has been securing His witness in place. He has sent His messengers for many years to teach, to preach, and to warn. It is now not acceptable for those who profess to love the Word and the Spirit to stay in places of stagnancy or places of error, no matter what tradition, entertainment value or relationships are entwined in such places. There must be movement towards what God says is true and right. Only in this way can the Church be of the Word, preaching and teaching it with certainty and confidence. The certainty of God’s words must be made clear for the path ahead of the Church.

“That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.” (Luke 1:4).

The instruction of the witnesses that God has provided throughout history must be heeded. Christians must know with certainty that the Holy Bible is not lost but here today, intact with God’s words preserved, even through the translation process.

“Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?” (Proverbs 30:4).

This Scripture asks questions that demand certainty from the reader. In fact, this verse demands access to the Word of God available in accurate form today (not tainted or lost through historical processes). The verse asks for the names of God and the Son of God. The name of God the Father is given in the preserved Holy Bible and it is certain: “Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength” (Isaiah 26:4).

The name of the Son of God is Jesus² Christ who is decidedly pointed to. He is the Son of God who matches with: “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.” (1 Timothy 3:16).³ The fact that many books, even ones claiming to be bibles, attack the Deity of Christ show that such cannot be trusted with providing certainty on these and other matters, such as the proper name of God. The next verse in Proverbs 30 clarifies this.

**“Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.”
(Proverbs 30:5).**

Those who love the truth will insist that every word of God is pure and available, else how can they put their trust in God? A great compromise has entered into the Church, particularly in the last century, by saying that to be “relevant” to the world, there needs to be a “relevant” word or bible. This “dumbing down” of the words of God is stooping to the level of man, rather than saying that God has said something, that it is pure and steadfast, and that it is not to be altered to accommodate anyone. Repentance is required now, otherwise the judgment (as previously described) will come upon many in the Church without remedy — “yea, let God be true, but every man a liar” (see Romans 3:4).

“Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.” (Proverbs 30:6).

To be found a liar before the Lord is a serious thing. It is saying that God has not put the certainty of His words into the earth. The addition of things into books that purport to be from God, yet are not, is very serious.

“The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.” (Psalm 12:6, 7).

² Jehovah saves.

³ This verse is attacked in many modern versions, undermining the Deity of Christ.

There has been a preservation of the words of God throughout history and the witness is clear that the King James Bible — the Authorized Version — is the preserved Word of God. And it is the written Word that is prepared for the Church of these latter days of history when there must be the greatest dissemination possible of Gospel preaching to the nations in a language that is essentially global today, namely English. “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” (Matthew 24:14). This prophecy told by Jesus shows that it must be the same Gospel of the Kingdom that He preached, so the words must be preserved for the Church to know that surely this must be preached. Surely, a Church prepared for worldwide evangelism (called to forsake compromise and to be hot for Christ) must be one that has a single Bible of certainty and purity.

In line with this, God has also been securing the right doctrines of Pentecost, so that the Holy Ghost can work powerfully with the Church in the latter day harvest — “the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.” (Mark 16:20b). This must be taken up by the Church in order to forsake compromise, and act zealously in the Earth. Proper Christians must seriously take up the challenge to not explain away the Word of God but to forsake the constraints of teachings that have said that Pentecost is not for today. “And these signs shall follow them that believe ...” (Mark 16:17a). Are you prepared to believe? Are you prepared to repent? Are you prepared to be zealous for God by doing His will in the Earth?

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.” (Acts 2:38, 39).

The promise is for the Church today. The outpouring from the Spirit is for today (see Acts 2:17, 18). The gift of the Holy Ghost is to be received,⁴ so that the Church can be a powerful witness for Christ in line with His Word. “He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy

⁴ For more information, listen to the sermon “Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?” under Victorious Living on www.victoryfaithcentre.org.au

Ghost.” (Acts 19:2). There are many Christians today that essentially act and speak as though they have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. Repentance is required to turn away from this ignorance and unbelief.

“Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.” (Psalm 23:5).

While the people of God are on Earth, there is to be the preparation of a table in the presence of enemies. There are no enemies in Heaven but there are many acting against the Gospel today on Earth. The Church that is to victoriously preach the Gospel of the Kingdom to the nations must be a prosperous one, understanding the wonderful salvation that has been provided by the Great Shepherd, the Lord Jesus Christ. In these days there is to be a great preparation, so that Christians who love the truth of the Word and love the Spirit of truth can show before even the enemies around that they are blessed, partaking of the supper provided by God. Hence, what is now for today’s Church must be taken up.

The historical lines of witnesses for God’s truth

The history of the Christian Church has been progressing towards God’s full victory manifested by the end of the world. The Book of Revelation, in the Historicist interpretation, gives an outline of world events relevant to Church history from the days of the Roman Emperors and from the death of John the Apostle to a future triumph of the Christian faith.

In that sequence of events, there is the demise of the pagan Roman Empire, the conversion of it to Christianity from the time of Constantine, and the various military incursions of the trumpets, being Goths and the like, through to the rise of Islam and then the Turks, shown in the sixth trumpet of Revelation.

Historically, the key date of 1453, being the fall of Constantinople to the Turks⁵, has had huge positive ramifications for the Church. At this time, there were coinciding events, which were the Greek manuscripts of the New Testament being brought from the East into the West, England

⁵ For more information on the Bible prophecy relating to this sixth trumpet, see “Multiple Fulfillments of Bible Prophecy” by Matthew Verschuur and Craig Savige on www.victoryfaithcentre.org.au

being cemented as an English-speaking (not French-speaking) nation, and the movable type printing press first being invented. These were providential events, showing God's great preparation of the Church for its future triumph on the Earth.

“And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.” (Revelation 10:1–3).

At this point in Bible prophecy, Revelation 10 describes symbolically the Reformation as an angel holding a little book open. This angel also cried like a lion, indicating symbolically the English language, and seven thunders, which point to the Bible in English.

Thus, having the King James Bible then led (as English believers like Joseph Mede began to consider in 1627) to events that are to come with the seventh trumpet.

“And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.” (Revelation 10:5–7).

Everything then in the Old Testament and throughout Scripture has been pointing forward to this point. Further, the progress of the Church must be as a response to the Scripture, to what God has declared and foreordained.

If Church history itself is examined, it can be seen that it did not all end with the Apostle John, but that from his time the Church Creeds, the good councils of the Church and the settling of the Canon of Scripture were all part of an ongoing progress for the Church.

While it is correct to believe that the Canon was closed when Revelation was written, it is wrong to assume that God has been doing nothing since that time, or that He is non-interventionist.

God is sovereign, He is superintending over all things, and He is watching the carrying out of His Word with all diligence.

There is a growth and development that has happened historically with the Church where doctrines have been winnowed and tested against the truth of the Word of God. This is needful in the negative sense to counteract errors, but is also shown in the positive sense through the working of the Holy Ghost as the Spirit of truth:

“I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.” (John 16:12, 13).

For example, the Nicæan Council (325 AD) was a necessary step in the progress of articulating Church doctrine (in particular, concerning the divinity of the Son of God), and was just as valid as any meeting held by the Apostles of old. In like manner, the rise of Protestantism is of great importance, and has been part of this ongoing progress of the Church and doctrinal understanding.

“But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.” (Proverbs 4:18).

God’s will is for the Church to get better and to be filled with people who “shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life” (Philippians 2:15b, 16a). In Revelation 10, the Apostle John himself symbolically represents the preaching and progress of the Gospel within Protestantism, attesting to the power of evangelicalism, world missions, and ultimately a great last days glory of the Church. In Revelation 11, the Apostle is commanded to measure the temple, which symbolically indicates the Church (see Ephesians 2:21, 22), and to judge correct doctrine in line with the measurement or standard of the Word of God. The Historicist mode thus shows the progress of the Scripture through the time of the power of the Papacy and beyond.

When looking at the Symbolic Word mode of interpreting Revelation, it is clear that the entire history of the present Church age is shown through Scripture as being the way Christ has been

coming (not His second coming but how He, through His Body, has been working) to preach and reign over the Gentiles.

This then is the whole point and emphasis of the Word and Spirit movement, consisting of Christians who love the truth of the Holy Bible and who love the Spirit of truth. All the Scriptures about Christ's power manifested to the Gentiles and His calling to them is actually outworked by the preaching of the Bible and by the corresponding work of the Holy Ghost. This is how Christ is using His body, the Church, to fulfil His earthly ministry in the present day. This is the great preparation throughout history to bring the Church to be "a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:27b). This is the type of Church that is ready for the great end time harvest of souls.

The Word and Spirit is identified by taking a spiritual view in Revelation 11:3, where the Lord says,

"And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth." (Revelation 11:3).

The power of the Word and Spirit are that they both are witnesses that prophesy but do so in apparent humility (the sackcloth), which is to be in submission to the will of God. The fact is that the Word has been best attested to by the historical movement that upholds the King James Bible, and the historical movement that upholds the Spirit and His infilling, the One who empowers the Church to preach in boldness (see Acts 1:8).

These two movements have been distinct from each other, in that those who promoted the King James Bible tended to be against the infilling of the Spirit with the speaking of tongues, while those who promoted the infilling of the Spirit tended to be against a deep doctrinal view of the Bible.

The two exemplary movements or doctrinal positions of this have been the King James Bible Only movement and the Word of Faith movement.⁶ The proper form of the King James Bible Only

⁶ It is not contended that all doctrines held to within these movements are correct but that certain key doctrines have been brought to the fore in relation to God's preparation for the Church of the last days.

movement says that the King James Version of the Bible is the best, and should be used as the Scripture more and more on the planet Earth. The sensible form of the Word of Faith movement says that the promises in the Bible are true today for believers, and that Christians should be like God, speaking words of power and life, and see prosperity, health and blessing upon the Earth.

“These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.” (Revelation 11:4).

The olive represents purity, by olive oil, and the candlesticks represent light and internal illumination. The King James Bible movement has emphasised the purity of the Scripture and the power of its witness. Likewise, the Word of Faith movement has emphasised the need for possessing holiness (full sanctification) and the power of the full Gospel to bring complete blessing.

“And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.” (Revelation 11:5, 6).

The connection to the mouth is evident with both these movements, being the power of Biblical confession, spoken of by the Word of Faith message, and the power of the pure Scripture, being spoken of by the King James Bible only belief. In the sense that the words of God are spiritual fire, the Church (like Jeremiah) must speak these words to the world and not hold back. “But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.” (Jeremiah 20:9b). The power to affect Heaven and Earth is in both by faith confession and by the words of the Bible themselves being proclaimed to the nations. The nations that rebel and refuse God will be answerable to God, which means that judgment must come because of such rejection.

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

It is evident that the two doctrines specifically under attack from spiritual infidelity are the King James Bible only and the Word of Faith type doctrines. So effective has the power of infidelity been against these truths, that they have been overcome for a time. Many churches think that the matters addressed in these doctrines have been “solved”, yet the inconsistency of not having one Bible as the standard is now more and more becoming evident. Also, the inconsistency of explaining away the infilling of the Spirit and His backing of the pure Word is more and more evident by the doctrinal stagnancy that does not address a powerful, future Church for world evangelism.

The attack on these doctrines is exposed in the institutional Church community, with Christian bodies “at war” with them. These bodies have (perhaps inadvertently) given into the spirit of error and sided with spiritual infidelity. The widespread “Christian” attack on both Word of Faith and King James Bible only has been very noticeable, and the lack of respect towards these movements has been very clear.

There are reasons, of course, for criticism, with excesses and bad examples in both these movements. But if the true Christian was to be honest about both God’s ability and desire to get a proper English Bible to them, and that obviously to have health and wealth is a good thing for the Gospel, then this would be much better than the current reaction against those ideas because of bad people and fools.

But eventually, the vindication of these movements shall be made irrefutable by virtue of their key doctrines being within the essential “remnant” of the true Church, that is, that the King James Bible has everywhere been made public, and that Pentecostalism has been making huge inroads among the denominations. Therefore, the distinctive King James Bible Only and Word of Faith movements have continued on, ready for their united form, which will supersede all their inherent deficiencies.

Smith Wigglesworth was a King James Bible-using Faith Pentecostal, who gave a prophecy that was recorded in a biography as follows: “A week before his death, Wigglesworth prophesied again ... This time, he foretold a second move of the Spirit. The first move would bring the restoration of the gifts of the Spirit; the second would bring a revival of emphasis on the Word of

God. He said, ‘When these two moves of the Spirit combine, we shall see the greatest move the Church of Jesus Christ has ever seen.’” (Stormont, George, 1989, Smith Wigglesworth, Harrison House, Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA, page 123.).

“And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven.” (Revelation 11:12, 13).

There have been significant scandals in this Laodicean period in professing Christianity, whether to do with money, criminal activity or gross sexual misconduct, that have caused a blight and a great fall in numbers for the institutional churches. The rise of secularism has caused there to be a seemingly very small remnant of faithful believers. There is, of course, no hope for Bible Christianity among the compromising, world-loving, pleasure-loving Laodiceans (except they repent), so the seemingly small remnant have tended to despair of this condition of the Church and the society around. Yet, true Christians need not fret, as has previously been shown.

“And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.” (Revelation 11:15).

Leading to this final stage where all is in the weakest condition, there remains the faithful who persist in believing the Word of God (the truth), even at the point of death of the Church. It is at this point, the seventh angel’s trumpet sounds. This represents the progress of the Gospel among the nations, and is something of great hope and comfort to the people of God.

“And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth.” (Revelation 11:18).

The nations, the prophecy shows, are angry. This seems to indicate the time of Gog⁷ (the final Eastern Antichrist), and is also a major turn-around for Christianity that should follow until the end of the world when Christ returns in vengeance. The reward pointed to in Revelation 11:18 indicates the sowing of Christians throughout history comes to fruition. It also shows there is reward to the destroyers who think to harm the Church. “Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words.” (2 Timothy 4:14, 15).

After this, the most astounding prophecy is then given, which has been so little understood in the Church until this time. The temple, being the Church, has had a preservation mechanism within it, called “the ark of his testament” (see Revelation 11:19). That this refers to the Holy Bible, particularly the King James Version, is abundantly evident through the many historical evidences pointing to it.

“And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.” (Revelation 11:19).

The resulting military, political, economic and cultural impacts are astounding. The Eastern Antichrist, known as Gog, is destroyed and the evangelistic impact, as indicated from Revelation 11:18, is astounding. Ezekiel, chapters 38 and 39, describe in great detail the miraculously supernatural destruction of Gog and his armies, but what is greatly important for the Church and its future is the enormous turn-around that results through this divine intervention.⁸ Consider briefly the following Scriptures, the timeline of which can only fit properly prior to the Translation of the Saints (also known as the Rapture) before the Great Tribulation to come. In the context of Wigglesworth’s latter day prophecy for the Church, there would seem to be exciting and glorious days ahead for the Church when Christ is exalted among the nations.

⁷ For more information on the Bible prophecy relating to Gog and his invasion of Israel, see “Multiple Fulfillments of Bible Prophecy” by Matthew Verschuur and Craig Savige on www.victoryfaithcentre.org.au

⁸ For more details, listen to the sermon “The future Gog invasion of Israel” (with its accompanying study) under “Bible Prophecy” and “Studies” on www.victoryfaithcentre.org.au

“Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD.” (Ezekiel 38:23).

“And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid upon them. So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day and forward.” (Ezekiel 39:21, 22).

Other aspects of the Symbolic Word view⁹ of Bible prophecy include specifics about the Word and Spirit movement, vindication of the Pure Cambridge Edition of the King James Bible, how the view on Multiple Fulfilments of Bible Prophecy is confirmed, and how the Word and Spirit movement comes into its mighty ascendancy. The Church is to undergo a great preparation for the future evangelistic venture throughout the whole world. “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” (Matthew 24:14).

Historical witnesses speak to the Church today

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.” (Revelation 14:12).

The Christians who love the truth today must be patient. Such Christians may say, “LORD, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked triumph? How long shall they utter and speak hard things? and all the workers of iniquity boast themselves?” (Psalm 94:3, 4). However, the witnesses of history point to the two components essential for the Church to triumph. There are “they that keep the commandments of God”, which is a holiness position and emphasises the one authoritative Bible that must be held to. There are those who “keep ... the faith of Jesus”, which is a Spirit-led, faith position.

The conclusion that comes from these components is that God will triumph and His saints must trust Him: “He that chastiseth the heathen, shall not he correct? he that teacheth man

⁹ For more information on the Symbolic Word interpretation of Bible prophecy relating to the spiritual infidelity that is prevalent in the Laodicean period, see “Multiple Fulfilments of Bible Prophecy” by Matthew Verschuur and Craig Savige on www.victoryfaithcentre.org.au

knowledge, shall not he know?" (Psalm 94:10). The Church must be filled with people that have the patience that comes from trusting God. There are historical witnesses, which have themselves been patient, that the Church must heed for it to be prepared to do the mighty works that the Lord requires in the latter days.

Historical witnesses for the King James Bible speak today

There are many historical witnesses for the veracity of the King James Bible that speak to the Church even today. The works of these godly witnesses follow them to this time. It is clear that the Church must not remain fractured with respect to the Holy Bible and associated doctrine. This requires one Bible, not many, to be the authoritative standard for the Church, so "that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (see 1 Corinthians 1:10). This gives a firm foundation that the Church can build upon. "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock" (Matthew 7:24). The sayings of Jesus, namely the Word of God, should not be compromised as is currently the case across the Church.

The King James Bible has been in common usage for centuries; it has been behind many significant missionary works; and it has been used in revivals that have changed nations. It is the Bible that came from the Protestant Reformation, resulting from the concurrent events of 1453 (the fall of Constantinople to the Turks) as has been previously mentioned. Thus, God's hand has been in its production and the Church must not lightly esteem this.

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them." (Revelation 14:13).

There are many influential non-Pentecostals who have loved the Word of God as the absolute truth and have historically witnessed to the veracity of the King James Bible. Even after their deaths, their works have followed them as historical witnesses.

These include John Burgon, a Dean of the Anglican Church, who said, “The Bible is none other than the voice of Him that sitteth upon the Throne! Every Book of it, every Chapter of it, every Verse of it, every word of it, every syllable of it, (where are we to stop?) every letter of it, is the direct utterance of the Most High!” (Burgon, *Inspiration and Interpretation*, 1861).

Also, Henry Morris, known as the Father of Modern Creationism, wrote, “I believe, therefore, after studying, teaching, and loving the Bible for over 55 years, that Christians—especially creationists!—need to hang on to their old King James Bibles as long as they live.” (Henry M. Morris, Ph.D. 1996. *Should Creationists Abandon The King James Version?* ICR Acts & Facts. 25 (6)).

Ian Paisley, co-founder and minister of the Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster, said, “Let me state quite simply and plainly the position for which I contend. I believe the Bible is the verbally inspired Word of the living God and because the Authorized Version is a faithful English translation of the original Hebrew of the Old Testament and the original Greek of the New Testament, it is the very word of God in my mother tongue. Being a translation does not alter one iota of its integrity, inerrancy and infallibility as God's Word. I believe the Authorized Version preserves the Word of God for me in the English tongue and that it contains no errors.” (Paisley, *My Plea for the Old Sword*, 1996).

Edward Hills, an American Presbyterian Scholar, wrote, “the King James Version ought to be regarded not merely as a translation of the Textus Receptus but also as an independent variety of the Textus Receptus. ... In the special providence of God, however, the text of the King James Version has been kept pure.” (Hills, *The King James Version Defended*, 1956).

There are also influential Pentecostals who have loved the Word of God as the absolute truth and have historically witnessed to the veracity of the King James Bible. Even after their deaths, their works have followed them as historical witnesses.

Pentecostal pioneer, Smith Wigglesworth, said of his King James Bible, “You see that Bible. I believe it from front to back.” (Wigglesworth, *Christ in us* [sermon], 1947).

Pentecostal evangelist, John G. Lake said in his defence of Mark 16:14–18 in the King James Bible, “Have you noticed how frequently church officers and members say: ‘Oh, I don’t believe this or that portion of God’s Word!’ Why don’t they? How could they when the Word of God is continually twisted out of its original sense and meaning by those whose vocation should be to guard it as a sacred deposit?” (Lake, *Divine Healing* [sermon], 1910).

Even Pentecostal churches have witnessed to the veracity of the King James Bible. “In 1953, 66 delegates gathered in Victoria for the ninth Commonwealth Conference. ... The Authorised Version of the Bible was recommended as the accepted version of God’s Word in the assemblies.” (Smith, *A River is Flowing. A history of the Assemblies of God in Australia*, 1987).

Historical witnesses for faith today

There are many historical witnesses for the importance of faith in God that speak to the Church even today. The works of these godly witnesses follow them to this time. It is clear that the Church must not remain fractured with respect to how to live by faith (see Romans 1:17), walk by faith (see 2 Corinthians 5:7), and stand by faith (see Romans 11:20), nor should the Church be ignorant of associated faith doctrines. Because the Word of God is closely connected to faith, then Christ expects His Church to consist of people of faith. His command is: “Have faith in God.” (Mark 11:22b).

“But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach” (Romans 10:8).

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17).

The historical witnesses for having faith in God all knew that the type of faith that Christians are to have comes from believing the Holy Bible.

“Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. For we which have believed do enter into rest” (Hebrews 4:1–3a).

Joseph Mede, an English scholar at Cambridge, and other Puritans saw the Bible as having the power to influence the Christian faith dynamically — having faith in God meant taking the Bible very seriously. “Because the Puritans viewed contact with the Bible as dynamic rather than static, they had enormous faith in the affective power of Scripture.” (Ryken, *Worldly Saints*, 1986).

Jonathan Edwards, an American Puritan who wrote “*Religious Affections*” (1746) spoke of the necessary godly fruits of faith (the fruit of the Spirit) that must arise from true Christian salvation.

Postmillennialism¹⁰ was a dominant theological belief among American Protestants who promoted reform movements in the 19th and 20th century. As historical witnesses to faith, Postmillennialists have held the view that the Church with its preaching of the Gospel must increase, not decrease, and many people must be saved as a result of Christ’s victory on Earth. The view of the Church increasing to be a mighty reaper also should be the faith view of those who refuse to believe that the spirit of error, backing spiritual infidelity, can persist in opposing the preaching of the Word.

Other strong advocates for a victorious, faith approach to living the Christian life in this last century include those of a Pentecostal view, such as Smith Wigglesworth, John G Lake, Kenneth E Hagin, John Avanzini, and Keith Moore. In the main, they have also kept to a King James Bible preference approach, rather than completely abandoning to the modern version errors. Nevertheless, the consistent faith view must be that the Word of truth always agrees with the Spirit of truth, so any deviation to this is to be rectified by a Word and Spirit movement of God that emphasises this approach for the Church to go forward victoriously.

The reaping Church of the last days

The Church must heed the historical witnesses of the Word and Spirit, and must heed the warning that has gone forth to stop the compromise with the world and those “given to change” (see Proverbs 24:21). There must be great repentance across the Body of Christ.

This means acknowledgement of one Holy Bible that is backed by the Spirit of truth. The final form of this Bible has been witnessed to as being the Pure Cambridge Edition¹¹ of the Authorized

¹⁰ It is only one aspect of the Postmillennialist view that is commended here, not the advocacy of the full doctrine.

¹¹ For more information, see www.bibleprotector.com

Version (King James Bible). Then, the proper unity across the Body of Christ can be realised when Christians that love the truth observe the following: “Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them.” (Isaiah 34:16). The unity that will be realised will match the following: “That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 15:6).

Then, there will be the Word-washed Church that Christ can use for His great purposes on the Earth. This Church will be “conformed to the image of his Son” (see Romans 8:29). Christ will shine gloriously through His people. The Church will be in unity “like unto the Son of man” (see Revelation 14:14). “And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites [a type of the enemies of God] as one man.” (Judges 6:16). This will be the reaping Church “in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ” (see Ephesians 4:13).

“And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and the earth was reaped.” (Revelation 14:14–16).

This is a powerful passage that shows the result of the Church Restitution of the last days. The prepared Church will act as one man in line with the will of God. The faith stand is to believe that this will most surely come to pass and that Christ will return for a Church that is “a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing” (see Ephesians 5:27).

“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. ... And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” (Galatians 6:7, 9).

It is evident that much has been sown by believing Christians throughout Church history. This is why there will come a time when “the harvest of the earth is ripe”. There will be a great reaping

of knowledge when the Scripture is upheld as the final authority. There will be a great reaping of finances since many have sown into evangelistic endeavours. There will be a great reaping of prayers in that faith has been active over the centuries to believe for the Church triumphant. There will be a great reaping of souls with multitudes responding to the Gospel preached worldwide in great spiritual power. This will be the “due season” for the harvest to be reaped. This will be when whole nations are taught of God (see Matthew 28:19, 20). “But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith” (Romans 16:26).

When Christ arises through His Church

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.” (Acts 3:19–21).

This is the result of the Church Restitution that is to come after the purging of the Laodicean type Church from its worldly compromisers (those who do not repent). More than anything, the Church of the latter times will be a preaching Church. This will be a time of great refreshing from the Lord, just as the Reformation was a time of refreshing after Papal oppression.

Since the Word and Spirit movement will emphasise the Scriptures to be believed in line with the Spirit of truth, then the Church will be as one man in preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God — in other words, as Christ sent to preach. The Body of Christ with Christ as the Head (see Colossians 1:18) must preach what Christ preached when He walked the Earth at His first coming: “And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom” (Matthew 4:23a). Thus will be the fulfilment of the following prophecy: “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” (Matthew 24:14).

“For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people. Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days.” (Acts 3:22–24).

The Church Restitution will occur around the time of the final Eastern Antichrist (Gog of Russia). At this time, the Church will be made up of people who will hear the truth and heed the voice of Christ “in all things”. “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me” (John 10:27). Sadly, there will be many that will not hear and the judgment will come from God, so that every one of them “shall be destroyed from among the people”. Thus, many shall be spewed out of the Body of Christ (see Revelation 3:16) because they have been deceived by the enemy of God. In this way, Christ will be able to have a Church He can then use to the maximum potential in great power because it will be the Church of powerful faith that preaches the Word of God without compromise. “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.” (John 14:12).

“But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy” (Acts 2:16–18).

It is evident that the Church of the last days must be a Church that is of the Spirit. Many of the modern Pentecostals have compromised with the world in having an entertainment philosophy, rather than a Biblical outlook. This passage is dealing with those who hold to the Word of God as truth and are led of the Spirit of truth, so the faith that comes from this is not manufactured but real. Such Christians will understand that they are on Earth, not to make it home (see Hebrews 11:13–16), but to do a work for Christ.

The visions and dreams will confirm the Gospel's power to convert sinners and raise up nations. When "they shall prophesy", it will be from the Spirit. Such Christians of the purged Laodicean period will understand the fact that they are "a peculiar people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:14b). The message for today's Church is, therefore, as Christ commands, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." (Revelation 3:19). Obviously, the world must convert to Christ and conform to Him, not the Church conform to the world.

"And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Acts 2:19–21).

One of the major wonders in heaven will be what happens with the destruction of Gog. "And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone." (Ezekiel 38:22). The Church of this time must be ready to preach to the many who will be awakened spiritually since it will be a time "that the heathen may know me, when I shall be sanctified in thee, O Gog, before their eyes." (Ezekiel 38:16b; see also Ezekiel 39:21–23). This awakening will also include the nation of Israel, which at Gog's destruction will start to turn to Christ. Many natural Israelites will come into spiritual Israel, which is the Church (see Romans 2:28, 29).

"And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen." (Mark 16:20).

The Church cannot be a compromised, fractured entity at this crucial time in history because there will much preaching and teaching of the Scriptures to be done and many souls to be reaped for the Kingdom of God. Christ must be glorified throughout the nations. This is done through a willing, obedient people as a singular Body upon the Earth — "an holy nation" (see 1 Peter 2:9) — working in line with the Holy Ghost in His power.

The days of great change for good

The Word and Spirit movement has been raised up providentially as the highest form of latter days Christianity. It, therefore, is in great conflict with the antichrist of these times. This becomes particularly evident when the prophetic Scriptures are rightly divided between the history of the Western Antichrist and that of the Eastern Antichrist.¹²

When turning to the prophecies which must come to pass, we see the end of the Eastern Antichrist. The role of Christians in this time is clearly identified, and these are especially Word and Spirit Christians. Thus, the Church of the time must be prepared to meet this challenge, and be ready to preach the full counsel of God. The Eastern Antichrist is a Russian leader in the latter days. In Daniel chapter eight, there is found something of his power and work:

“And it waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and it cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped upon them. Yea, he magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down. And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and it cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered.” (Daniel 8:10–12).

In Daniel 11, the proper futurist interpretation of that passage details the final Eastern Antichrist and his actions. Starting from verse 30, it shows that the Eastern Antichrist will be against the true religion of “the holy covenant”, and will work with people who appear to be believers for his cause, namely “them that forsake the holy covenant”.

“For the ships of Chittim shall come against him: therefore he shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant.” (Daniel 11:30).

The reference in Daniel 8:10 to the Eastern Antichrist’s war on the stars to “cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground” indicates most likely Christian ministries and leaders in

¹² For more information, see “The future Gog invasion of Israel” under Studies on www.victoryfaithcentre.org.au

America. Here is shown his war against Scripture too (the holy covenant), his agenda being to “cast down the truth to the ground” (Daniel 8:11). In Daniel chapter 11, his religious agenda is laid out:

“And arms shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.” (Daniel 11:31).

The sanctuary of strength denotes the place where the Church has been strong as a seat of Christianity, which is true of the United States of America. The polluting of Christianity there has been more and more evident in modern times, but this cannot stop Word and Spirit Christianity, which has arisen in Australia. The daily sacrifice means the continual upholding of the Bible, which is especially promoted by Word and Spirit Christianity. This explains why there is a war on the King James Bible from people who uphold Greek — the very view pushed by Russia, which bases itself on the Greek world and Byzantine Empire.

Most particularly, the passage states that there is “the abomination that maketh desolate”. This means something which undercuts or denies the truth of Protestantism, which has traditionally held firm to the Holy Bible as the very Scripture received from God. The abomination of the latter times instead asserts the primacy of Eastern Orthodoxy. The Protestant Reformation has progressed in many ways away from Eastern Orthodoxy. As Protestantism went forward with a faith in God and Scripture only stand, Eastern Orthodoxy never experienced reformation and has gone instead into more and more unbelief and compromise. Hence, to go back to it as a more “primitive” religion with all its current idolatry would be a huge step backwards. The Word and Spirit movement is, in fact, the essential perpetuation of all that can be gleaned as good from early Eastern Orthodoxy as well as being a progression of Protestantism.

“And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.” (Daniel 11:32).

In this passage it can be seen that there will be Christians who are able to be witnesses; this is especially the rise of the Word and Spirit Christians. They not only know God, but are strong, and indeed “do exploits”. This is a great and glorious promise for the rise and triumph of Word and

Spirit Christianity into the cleansed Church, even when, as Daniel chapter eight shows, the Eastern Antichrist will have a few years of great triumph and exaltation.

“And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days.” (Daniel 11:33).

Another marvellous promise is given here about the power of Christianity. Seeing as the Word and Spirit belief is the most advanced form of Christianity, the promise is that its proponents should be among those who are able to instruct others, even at an international level. However, there are dangers that surround them, with difficulties besetting particularly Christians in the United States of America.

“Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help: but many shall cleave to them with flatteries.” (Daniel 11:34).

The fall and all the descriptions of the persecutions are both literal, and figurative of various troubles besetting Christians. In this, the “little help” would be especially obtained by the Word and Spirit Christians because those that believe in God’s Word as truth confirmed will believe that there is deliverance to come through this period of difficulty.

“And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed.” (Daniel 11:35).

The reference to “them of understanding” means Christian ministries upholding proper Biblical doctrine, of which there are a great variety. Some are to fall of these ministries but obviously there are many who do not understand even how to walk by faith, so are already failures.

However, the greatest promise here is for the shining to perfection, as it were, of Biblical doctrine, which is really only possible and vindicable in the Word and Spirit belief. This points to the fact that God is in control of history, that prophecy is knowable, and that there is a final end to the Eastern Antichrist, despite self-centred doctrines that refuse to acknowledge God’s proper place. It is clear that the Church at this time will become strong, effective worldwide,

known across the earth, and confrontational. The Word and Spirit movement will be the great impetus for this to happen.

The vindication of Word and Spirit Christianity

In Daniel 12, the angel Michael gets involved with the events. After the fall of Eastern Antichrist, the description of the condition of believers is very changed.

“And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.” (Daniel 12:3).

This is the vindication of Word and Spirit Christianity because it is connected to both the Scripture and the Holy Ghost, the sources of wisdom. Therefore, its proponents are the wise. The promise is for a time of unprecedented evangelisation and spiritual power with many turned to righteousness.

“But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.” (Daniel 12:4).

In the latter times knowledge has increased. It cannot be that with all the information and technology that true knowledge has decreased. On the contrary, spiritual knowledge must increase continually. There must be the proper way of understanding and interpreting Scripture, and there must be the advance into the Spirit’s gifts and prophecy.

Now, the final Eastern Antichrist is a Russian leader, and Ezekiel 38 and 39 calls him “Gog”, giving a detailed prophecy about his military campaign into the Middle East, his consequential destruction and the religious implications of this. This has great implications for the Church and, even now, should be heeded, so that Christians can prepare for this future.

Ezekiel 38 describes the advance of Gog and his allies into Israel with the intent of taking their resources. Gog’s motives are known by other nations, such as those on the Arabian peninsula and those in Europe.

“Sheba, and Dedan, and the merchants of Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil? hast thou gathered thy company to

take a prey? to carry away silver and gold, to take away cattle and goods, to take a great spoil?" (Ezekiel 38:13).

More importantly, because Christians have the Scriptures, they are able to see beforehand what Gog is up to. There are many exacting details about this very important time. This will be the time when spiritual infidelity will be dealt a major blow and the Church Restitution of the latter times will be in great evidence.

"Thus saith the Lord GOD; Art thou he of whom I have spoken in old time by my servants the prophets of Israel, which prophesied in those days many years that I would bring thee against them?" (Ezekiel 38:17).

This verse is very important for believers, particularly Word and Spirit Christians, because it means that people in real time will be able to check this prophecy, even while Gog and his hordes enter the Middle East. If we know the timeframe, and have a reliable copy of Scripture, then we are able to say with utter certainty that what we see written in the Holy Bible is completely accurate and that God is in control of history.

"And I will call for a sword against him throughout all my mountains, saith the Lord GOD: every man's sword shall be against his brother." (Ezekiel 38:21).

The sword that God calls for is the judgment aspect, both of the Word and Spirit, and in the self-annihilation of the hordes.

"Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am the LORD." (Ezekiel 38:23).

The result of Gog's supernatural destruction is that God will make a name for Himself in a time when people have been quite atheistic in thoughts, words and actions. The sudden destruction of such a large world threat will be a large sign to the unbelievers. This opens up the possibility for widespread world evangelism, and this is best taken advantage of by the Word and Spirit movement for correctly and precisely expounding Bible doctrine with spiritual power.

“Thou shalt fall upon the open field: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord GOD. ... Behold, it is come, and it is done, saith the Lord GOD; this is the day whereof I have spoken.” (Ezekiel 39:5, 8).

The emphasis on the written Scripture as authority for the fall of Gog falls directly within the view of the Word and Spirit movement. What God has spoken is powerful and not to be minimised. “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword” (Hebrews 4:12a). What God says to Gog has been recorded beforehand and is just as sure as all the fulfilled Bible prophecies of the past. It is a “a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed” (see 1 Peter 1:19).

“So will I make my holy name known in the midst of my people Israel; and I will not let them pollute my holy name any more: and the heathen shall know that I am the LORD, the Holy One in Israel.” (Ezekiel 39:7).

There are two results that occur. First is the beginning of the conversion of the Jews, and the second is a widespread conversion among the Gentiles. This is of vital importance for the Church because it links in completely with Christ’s command to “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations” (Matthew 28:19a).

“And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed, and my hand that I have laid upon them.” (Ezekiel 39:21).

The Gentiles will be mightily impacted, with conversions and prosperity, which are central to Word and Spirit doctrine. Also, the beginning of the conversion of the Jews has been the desire of Christians throughout the centuries, and many prophetic witnesses have pointed to this.

“So the house of Israel shall know that I am the LORD their God from that day and forward.” (Ezekiel 39:22).

This knowledge must be based in Scripture. The Holy Bible must be preached and taught to the house of Israel for them to know the truth. There is the beginning of great turn-round for the Jews to now become part of spiritual Israel, the Church, and join in with the evangelistic effort throughout the world.

“Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Now will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon the whole house of Israel, and will be jealous for my holy name” (Ezekiel 39:25).

God’s holy name has been blasphemed, not just by the Jews but also by those who have compromised with philosophies that are given to altering the Bible to suit foolish agendas that purport to be scholarship.

“When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies’ lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations; Then shall they know that I am the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and have left none of them any more there. Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out my spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.” (Ezekiel 39:27–29).

The outpouring of God’s spirit is also promised for the Jews, as they begin to understand the truth of the Gospel. “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh” (Joel 2:28a). This outpouring of spirit is in line with the outpouring of the Holy Ghost of the latter days. “And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh” (Acts 2:17a). At this time, spiritual knowledge amongst the Jews will increase greatly for they will “be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding” (Colossians 1:9b).

The Lord Jesus Christ arises through His Church

In Isaiah 42 there is a prophecy about the Lord Jesus Christ.

“BEHOLD my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.” (Isaiah 42:1).

This in part relates to His first coming, but it also refers to the Gospel age, when He is bringing judgment to the Gentiles. This is a present day promise.

“He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.” (Isaiah 42:4).

There would be a lot to be discouraged about, if one were to live by anything other than the promises and views explicitly owned in the Word and Spirit view. Those who live with this view have a faith perspective of the future, confident that the Word of God will triumph in the Earth.

“I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.” (Isaiah 42:6, 7).

The promise is of power to convert the Gentiles. Yet, we know that Christ is not among the Gentiles, but His Church is. He is the Head of the Church, His Body, and will arise to be “a light of the Gentiles”. The Church is to rise up “like unto the Son of man” (see Revelation 14:14).

“Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.” (Isaiah 42:9).

Many prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus’ first coming. But even more need to be fulfilled before the end of the world. The new things are the Word and Spirit movement’s impact, which will be the fulfilment of many prophecies.

“Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise from the end of the earth, ye that go down to the sea, and all that is therein; the isles, and the inhabitants thereof.” (Isaiah 42:10).

The power of the Gospel to reach nations is especially evident as now arising in the end of the Earth, from Australia and New Zealand.

“Let them give glory unto the LORD, and declare his praise in the islands.” (Isaiah 42:12).

There has been given an overview of the great and mighty events of history, namely, that the very islands should have the best level of the Gospel understanding. This is that the Lord should

intervene in history, and that it will all be in relation to both the fall of Gog and the ideological war between the antichristian doctrine of Infidelity and Biblical Christianity.

“The LORD shall go forth as a mighty man, he shall stir up jealousy like a man of war: he shall cry, yea, roar; he shall prevail against his enemies. I have long time holden my peace; I have been still, and refrained myself: now will I cry like a travailing woman; I will destroy and devour at once.” (Isaiah 42:13, 14).

The resulting Church Restitution will be the restoration of things back to the Church, which is to arise “as a mighty man”.

“And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.” (Isaiah 42:16).

As the place of the Word of God is restored, right interpretation and right doctrine of the Scriptures is to be come together, and all to the greater unity of the brethren.

“The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness’ sake; he will magnify the law, and make it honourable.” (Isaiah 42:21).

Although the Word of God has been made low, the Church has been divided, and many in bondage, there is now the call from the Word and Spirit movement for the compromise to stop. There must now be a realisation that Bible prophecy points to a major movement of God through the Church in the latter days.

“But this is a people robbed and spoiled; they are all of them snared in holes, and they are hid in prison houses: they are for a prey, and none delivereth; for a spoil, and none saith, Restore. Who among you will give ear to this? who will hearken and hear for the time to come?” (Isaiah 42:22, 23).

So then, having the Scripture rightly, and having right interpretation leads to right doctrine, to overcoming incorrectly placed barriers among Protestant denominations, and to the place where Christians come to unity of faith. The call for action for all who read this is to heed the warning,

to come to the Lord in faith, and to forsake the foolishness of that which has been destructively wrought, even in the Church, through spiritual infidelity.

Let it be known that the Word and Spirit movement will be vindicated, Christianity of the Laodicean Period will be transformed, and Christ (through His Church) will arise to reap a great harvest in the last days.