IS MODERN PENTECOSTALISM ON THE RIGHT PATH?

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CONTENTS

WHAT IS REAL PENTECOSTALISM ABOUT?	3
WHY THIS BOOK ABOUT MODERN PENTECOSTALISM?	4
WHAT ARE SOME FEATURES OF MODERN PENTECOSTALISM?	5
IS CHRISTIANITY ONLY A RELATIONSHIP AND NOT A RELIGION?	7
IS ONLY SAYING A PRAYER FOR SALVATION ENOUGH TO GET A PERSON TO HEAVEN?	8
IS SPEAKING IN TONGUES EVIDENCE OF BEING BORN AGAIN?	11
ARE CHRISTIANS JUST SINNERS SAVED BY GRACE?	14
AS CHRISTIANS ARE WE SLAVES TO GOD?	16
SHOULD CHURCH BE EXCITING NOT BORING?	17
IS EMPHASISING THE BIBLE UNATTRACTIVE AND LIFELESS?	18
IS CONDEMNATION FROM SATAN?	20
IS IT LEGALISM TO PROMOTE HOLINESS?	22
DO WE NEED TO BE DELIVERED FROM THEOLOGY?	24
SHOULD CHRISTIANS HATE TRADITION?	25
SHOULD MUSIC HAVE AN EXALTED PLACE IN THE CHURCH?	27
ARE ONLINE CHURCHES THE WAY OF THE FUTURE?	31
IS THE ANOINTING OF GOD A FORCE THAT ZAPS PEOPLE?	34
SHOULD WE USE TECHNIQUES LIKE EMOTIONAL APPEALS TO GET CHRISTIAN CONVERTS?	38
SHOULD WE BE RELEVANT AND CONTEMPORARY TO THE WORLD?	41
DO WE NEED TO DO GOOD WORKS AS CHRISTIANS?	44
AS CHRISTIANS SHOULD WE BE FREE FROM KEEPING COMMANDMENTS?	47
IS IT UNLOVING OR WRONG TO TALK ABOUT JUDGMENT?	50
IS THERE MORE LIGHT IN THE HEBREW AND GREEK?	52
DO WE NEED A POWER ENCOUNTER TO TRULY KNOW GOD?	54
IS YAHWEH AND OTHER Y-NAMES RIGHT TO APPLY TO GOD?	57
IS THE KING JAMES BIBLE TO BE AVOIDED?	59
IS IT HARD TO CAST OUT DEVILS?	62
WHY IS MODERN PENTECOSTAL “REVIVAL” A REAL PROBLEM?	65
IS GOD’S LOVE ALL ABOUT HAVING WONDERFUL FEELINGS?	67
WHAT DID SMITH WIGGLESWORTH SAY ABOUT COMPROMISED PENTECOSTALISM?	70
ARE YOU SURE YOU ARE SAVED?	72
IS GOD RAISING UP AN ARMY TO TAKE OVER ALL SPHERES OF INFLUENCE?	77
CAN PEOPLE BE PROPER PENTECOSTALS AND NOT SPEAK IN TONGUES?	80
FOR MORE INFORMATION	85

WHAT IS REAL PENTECOSTALISM ABOUT?

Everything in this booklet is answered by using the Holy Bible, so you should check everything by looking up the King James Bible (KJB) and reading it prayerfully.

Pentecostalism is the powerful type of Christianity where a person becomes a vessel, agent or avenue of the Holy Ghost who is the third member of the Trinity. The Holy Ghost is God and is also known as the Spirit of God. He desires to flow through people who put their faith in God.

The Holy Ghost is on Earth, and is here bringing knowledge and power to Christian believers.

Pentecostalism is the belief system that Christians can and should be filled with the Holy Ghost. Once a person becomes a Christian by being born again through receiving Jesus Christ as Saviour (see John 1:12 and John 3:3), it is open for them to go on to be filled with the Spirit. The sign that a Christian is Spirit-filled is that they speak in tongues.

> **"4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." (Acts 2:4)**
>
> **"18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18)**

For more information on being filled with the Spirit (also known as being baptised in the Holy Ghost), read the book

"The Baptism of the Holy Ghost" by Pastor Craig Savige[1].

WHY THIS BOOK ABOUT MODERN PENTECOSTALISM?

Today there are two kinds of Pentecostalism and both types are quite different from each other. One is modern, worldly Pentecostalism and the other is traditional, Biblical Pentecostalism. Biblical Pentecostalism has clear doctrines that are grounded in the Holy Bible. In contrast, modern Pentecostalism puts aside or demotes the Holy Bible in order to exalt substitutes.

Jesus spoke about a whole category of people who called themselves Christians, did what seemed to be Pentecostal signs and wonders, and yet were not actually saved.

> **"21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.**
>
> **22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?**

1 Craig Savige, "The Baptism of the Holy Ghost", www.victoryfaithcentre.org.au/books

> **23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." (Matthew 7:21–23).**

This passage from the Bible shows that you can be fully convinced you are a "Pentecostal" and even assume you are going to Heaven, but, in reality, your feelings have lied to you.

This might be you. You need to read this book to make sure this is not you.

WHAT ARE SOME FEATURES OF MODERN PENTECOSTALISM?

Just as there are a range of groups calling themselves Christian, there are also different types of Pentecostal groups, and their views can differ noticeably. We are going to address various trends and ideas, which are common to what aligns with modern Pentecostalism.

While pride, love of money, lust, foolishness and spiritual confusion can all be problems in modern Pentecostalism, we will point to the major problem of carnal-mindedness, which aligns with the deadly problem of friendship to the world.

> **"4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." (James 4:4).**

Specifically, we want to address these problematic features of modern Pentecostalism with emphasis on:

1. Entertainment rather than enjoying God's ways.
2. Soulish-drunkenness rather than soul prosperity.
3. Hyper-emotionalism rather that godly love and joy.
4. Mere experientialism rather than Biblical faith.
5. Modern scholarship rather than Biblical doctrine.

The Bible describes those in this type of religious gathering in the following way:

> **"5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." (2 Timothy 3:5).**

What is this power that they are denying? It is that godly power that is the Word of God, backed by the Spirit of God.

> **"16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." (Romans 1:16).**
>
> **"12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword …" (Hebrews 4:12a).**

Sadly, substitutes for the Holy Bible and the preaching of it abound. The great result of this is a terrible worldliness that goes against holiness (living separate from sin and its effects).

IS CHRISTIANITY ONLY A RELATIONSHIP AND NOT A RELIGION?

Because they have made themselves their own religious authority and not the Holy Bible, some Christians say, "I'm not in a religion but a relationship." The problem with this statement is that it is completely unbiblical and makes Christians appear stupid. The fact is that Christianity is pure religion. A religion means a system of beliefs and actions.

> **"27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." (James 1:27).**

Christianity is also a relationship with God, but it is a relationship around a covenant (agreement or contract), which has rules. The covenant, ratified by the blood of Jesus Christ, is called the New Testament and it is lawful before God and has rules. A Christian is a son of God, and sons need to obey their Heavenly Father. By definition then, Christians must be religious in the pure religion sense. Notice that in this religion a child of God has "to keep himself unspotted from the world". This cannot be done without godly structure in our lives.

If you are a Christian, you have to be religious, otherwise you would have no beliefs and no activities (like attending church, praying, preaching the Word etc.). To the world you will definitely appear religious, so we should say to them

something like, “I am very religious in following Christ and living for Him since He has brought me into the family of God and I now belong to God.” But make sure your religion is not vain or useless by saying unbiblical things.

> **“26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.” (James 1:26).**

IS ONLY SAYING A PRAYER FOR SALVATION ENOUGH TO GET A PERSON TO HEAVEN?

It is the preaching of the Word of God and specifically the preaching of the Gospel that gets people saved from sin and its curse. Those who hear it must believe it and act on it – this is called obeying the Gospel. Jesus Christ has done the work of purchasing salvation for mankind – no man can work for this (see Titus 3:5). The duty of men and women is to actively respond in belief of the Gospel that is preached to them.

> **“11 Therefore whether it were I or they, so we preach, and so ye believed.” (1 Corinthians 15:11).**
>
> **“15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**

> **16 He that believeth and is baptized[2] shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:15, 16).**

Getting people to just parrot a prayer is not what saves people from sin. It is not enough to speak a so-called prayer without actually understanding and believing the words of the Gospel of Christ.

> **"2 Who is this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?" (Job 38:2).**

> **"16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." (Romans 1:16).**

Salvation requires the knowledge of God through the preaching of the Gospel, that He has a law, that men are violating the law and are thus sinners (servants of sin), that violating the law of God deserves eternal death (eternal separation from God in Hell), etc. For more information on the doctrine of Hell or "eternal judgment" (see Hebrews 6:2), read the study "Biblical answers about Hell" by Pastor Craig Savige [3].

> **"33 … how can ye escape the damnation of hell?" (Matthew 23:33b).**

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2 The spiritual baptism of being born again to get into the Body of Christ: "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body" (1 Corinthians 12:13a).

3 Craig Savige, "Biblical answers about Hell", www.victoryfaithcentre.org.au/free-downloads/studies

> **"1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;**
>
> **2 By which also ye are saved …" (1 Corinthians 15:1, 2a).**

Without establishing the bad news about sin, the good news about Jesus being the Saviour is meaningless. Making Jesus your friend or dedicating your heart to Him is not enough. You actually have to know who Jesus really is through the Gospel, so that you can trust Him by a living faith (believing power that produces proper action).

> **"12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.**
>
> **13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise" (Ephesians 1:12, 13).**

Notice those words "whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation". Why is this important? Because the Gospel heard and believed will result in you trusting in Christ to save you. The hearing of the Bible preached brings faith into your heart (spirit man).

> **"17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17).**

Ask yourself, how can any believe in the Saviour if they really have not heard the Gospel as to the reason why Jesus Christ was sent to the Earth from Heaven and what He actually accomplished to save mankind from sin? You have to know what you are believing if you are to be saved.

> **"9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.**
>
> **10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." (Romans 10:9, 10).**

IS SPEAKING IN TONGUES EVIDENCE OF BEING BORN AGAIN?

Anyone that says that speaking in tongues is evidence of being born again clearly does not understand the basic doctrine of baptisms. The doctrine of baptisms is one of "the first principles of the oracles of God" (see Hebrews 5:12 & 6:1, 2) and is a basic doctrine that young Christians should be taught early in their Christian walk.

The doctrine of baptisms states that there are three components to any baptism:

BAPTISER – the one who does the baptising.

BAPTISEE – the one getting baptised.

MEDIUM – what the baptisee is put into.

There are three major baptisms (being baptised into the body of Christ, being baptised with water, and being baptised with the Spirit). We will not discuss water baptism here because we are only looking at spiritual baptisms to see if being saved is the same as being filled with the Spirit.

If we look at the spiritual baptisms, we can clearly see that being born again or saved is completely different from being filled with the Spirit.

BAPTISM FOR SALVATION – Being baptised into the body of Christ – a spiritual baptism.

Through being born of the Spirit[4] (see John 3:3, 6, 16), we are baptised by the Spirit into the body of Christ as shown in the following.

> **"13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." (1 Corinthians 12:13).**
>
> **"27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." (Galatians 3:27).**

Note the baptism components here:

BAPTISER – the Spirit of God.

4 This is the spiritual birth to get into the family of God – see also 1 John 5:1. This is to be born again or saved from sin.

BAPTISEE – the new believer in Christ.

MEDIUM – the body of Christ.

BAPTISM FOR POWER – Being baptised in the Holy Ghost – a spiritual baptism.

A person must be already saved before being a candidate for the baptism of the Holy Ghost (also known as the initial filling with the Holy Ghost). The purpose of this baptism is for power with the Christian witness, not for salvation from sin.

> "8 I [John the Baptist] indeed have baptized you with water: but he [Jesus Christ] shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost." (Mark 1:8).
>
> "5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. …
>
> 8 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 Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:5, 8).
>
> "4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." (Acts 2:4).

Note the baptism components here:

BAPTISER – Jesus Christ.

BAPTISEE – the believer in Christ.

MEDIUM – the Holy Ghost.

Thus, we see the clear Biblical evidence that the baptism needed to get saved from sin is completely different from the baptism of the Holy Ghost. It is clear also from the following that if you are a saved person, then you *should* go on to be filled with the Spirit[5].

> **"39 But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified." (John 7:39).**

ARE CHRISTIANS JUST SINNERS SAVED BY GRACE?

Many people think and act as though Christians still have a sin nature after being saved. This is taught in some bad Bible translations too[6]. But it is the opposite of Christianity. Proper Christianity teaches that when people are saved, then a complete change happens to their spirit, so that they are no longer sinners (servants of sin). They become saints or servants of righteousness, which means through their hearts they serve God. We should remember that sinners are not

5 See section "Can people be proper Pentecostals and not speak in tongues?"

6 For more information on this and other problems with false bibles read "Why Faith Christians should only use the King James Bible" at www.victoryfaithcentre.org.au/books

serving God but are under their master, Satan, as "children of disobedience" (see Ephesians 2:2).

> **"1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead [separated from God] in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1).**
>
> **"18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. …**
>
> **22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life." (Romans 6:18, 22).**

Never should Christians say that they are just sinners saved by grace since this dishonours the work of Christ which changed us from being sinners to saints who are righteous. We must remember that God's grace is His provision and divine enabling to make us saints in Him. A Christian's spirit is no longer of the sin nature, and we have the right, privilege, duty and enablement to have our heart no longer conforming to the sin nature.

> **"8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:**
>
> **9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.**
>
> **10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:8-10).**

AS CHRISTIANS ARE WE SLAVES TO GOD?

No, Christians are servants to God, not slaves. Slaves, by definition, have no choice. The proper Bible – the King James Bible – always refers to the people of God as being servants to God, which means that they serve God out of a willing heart.

> **"22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life." (Romans 6:22).**
>
> **"16 As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God." (1 Peter 2:16).**
>
> **"3 Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth." (Psalm 110:3).**

Sadly, the use of modern translations has propagated this false idea that Christians are slaves to God. For example, the New International Version (NIV) states in Romans 6:22a the following blasphemous words: "But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God …" This is blasphemous because it is saying that God has slaves and thus condones it, so if God has slaves, then why can't we also have them? It also implies that we are serving God against our own free will.

People have also spread the idea through the use of modern translations and false doctrine that people are slaves to sin, such as Romans 6:17 in the NIV, which is only an excuse to let sin rule over them. They want it to be God's fault they sin.

> **"15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.**
>
> **16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?**
>
> **17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.**
>
> **18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." (Romans 6:15–18).**

SHOULD CHURCH BE EXCITING NOT BORING?

Christians should not be "shopping" for the most exciting church. It is actually irrelevant whether a church meeting is exciting or boring since most of this excitement amongst modern Pentecostals is of the flesh anyway. What is relevant is seeking God as to where He wants you to be in the Body of Christ (the Church). If you put God first, and the things of God concerning the Church as priority, then that is what

will feed your spirit and also enhance your understanding of God and His ways.

If you are just interested in going to an "exciting" place, then you need to get an attitude adjustment and get humble really fast. If you are dictating what Church should be like and not letting God tell you what it should be (through the Bible), then you are on the wrong track.

> **"19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land" (Isaiah 1:19).**

Clearly, when you are on right track – the "highway of the upright" (see Proverbs 16:17) – then you will be thinking correctly, and God can direct you into the right place where you really will (according to a prosperous soul) feel great in Him. Proper Pentecostals will be guided by the Spirit of truth as to where they should be at Church.

> **"13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth …" (John 16:13a).**

IS EMPHASISING THE BIBLE UNATTRACTIVE AND LIFELESS?

The words of the Holy Bible come from God. He directed godly men to write them down. They have spiritual life and power in them, and are able to penetrate and cut into a person's consciousness and understanding. The Bible says it like this:

> **"12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword …" (Hebrews 4:12a).**

The Bible is what washes your mind and transforms you in your inner man (spirit). The Bible is not death to believers in Christ, but life because it impacts their spirit. Those who truly love Jesus will also love His words. Notice what Jesus said in the following verse.

> **"63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." (John 6:63).**

If you have no love or tolerance for the Bible, then you need to change your way of thinking. Without it you will be spiritually weaker than a baby. The Bible is spiritual food that must be fed to the people of God for them to become spiritually strong and nourished (see Matthew 4:4). In fact, the ministers of God are commanded to feed God's church with His words, not with fantasy stories or exaggerations.

> **"28 … feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."[7] (Acts 20:28b).**

> **"32 And now, brethren, I [the Apostle Paul] commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an**

7 Note the value God places on the Church by purchasing it with His own blood.

inheritance among all them which are sanctified." (Acts 20:32).

Are you in a church that feeds you with the words of God in the Holy Bible? Or is it de-emphasising the Bible to exalt something else? Note some of the benefits of Bible based preaching and teaching:

- Faith comes by hearing the words of God (Romans 10:17).
- The Bible changes and washes your mind as you believe it (Psalm 119:11).
- The Bible gives wisdom and guidance to live a life pleasing to God (Psalm 119:105).
- The words of God are life to us in every way (Proverbs 4:20–22).

IS CONDEMNATION FROM SATAN?

The simple answer is no since the Word of God is law, and if you break the law, then you are condemned by God.

Sadly, some Christians use the word "condemnation" as being the same as "depression" and this is not right because they are not the same. Biblically, condemnation arises when a person's heart (specifically, the conscience in the inner man) is smitten because they have done the wrong thing.

"10 And David's heart smote him after that he had numbered the people. And David said unto the

> LORD, I have sinned greatly in that I have done …" (2 Samuel 24:10a).
>
> "4 My heart is smitten, and withered like grass; so that I forget to eat my bread." (Psalm 102:4).

When their heart condemns or smites them, people then have to make a decision – to either to persist in sin or to repent and be cleansed from sin.

It is ridiculous to think that Satan does any condemning in the biblical sense because he actually wants people to break God's laws. Satan himself is condemned by God.

> "19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." (John 3:19).

If you are feeling guilty, it is because you have broken God's laws. Your conscience (in your spirit) is bearing witness to this and telling you that you are displeasing God. This condemnation is because you are in a spiritual state that is not right before God. It should be an alarm for you to get right with God. Whatever you do, do not hide your sin from God but have repentance (turning away from sin) and ask for forgiveness from Him.

> "20 For if our heart [spirit] condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.
>
> 21 Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God." (1 John 3:20, 21).

Your heart condemning you means you need to get right before God properly and leave behind wrong things. If you do believe God's words of forgiveness and turn in obedience to Him away from sin, then you are made right before Him. In this sense, you certainly should not allow Satan to deceive you into thinking you are not forgiven. Believe the words of God that show His mercy given to mankind in forgiving all who come to Him.

> **"14 In whom [Jesus] we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sin" (Colossians 1:14).**
>
> **"9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9).**

If you now walk after the Spirit, then there will be no condemnation as we see in the following verse.

> **"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." (Romans 8:1).**

IS IT LEGALISM TO PROMOTE HOLINESS?

Holiness is a good thing. It basically means honouring God, loving godly things, and not being entangled with lusts and things of this world. In fact, Jesus Christ "gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil

world" (see Galatians 1:4). We see that the nature of this present world is that it has fallen into sin and disobedience to God, and is now called "evil" (see also Romans 5:12). Proper Pentecostalism points to the fact that the power of the Holy Ghost enables Christians to live holy (i.e. free from sin and its effects) in this world.

> **"15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation [our words and actions]" (1 Peter 1:15).**

God has rules (His laws), and those rules are for our good. They are also restraints on the rebellious. God's law is very important for there to be true order and freedom. It is not legalistic to emphasise holy living because holiness keeps people in the blessing of God and enables freedom to live victoriously. The wonderful thing is that God not only tells us to live holy but also provides the power to do so.

> **"13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (Philippians 4:13).**
>
> **"10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might." (Ephesians 6:10).**

We should desire holiness. We must realise that God is a holy God without sin. We cannot compromise with the world or have fellowship with devils and stay with God at the same time.

> **“15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**
>
> **16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.**
>
> **17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.” (1 John 2:15–17).**

DO WE NEED TO BE DELIVERED FROM THEOLOGY?

Pentecostals should not be afraid of theology, which just means the study of God and His things. While there is certainly much unbelieving foolishness taught by various non-Pentecostals, including complicated doctrines from Calvinists and others, this should not mean it is wrong to study or be learned in the Scripture and doctrine.

> **“15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15).**

The Bible talks a lot about proper doctrine, which is right teaching. Clearly, true Pentecostals should know what the Bible teaches, including about faith, the Holy Ghost and His works, the spiritual gifts, praying with the spirit, being led of the Spirit, Biblical creation, and so on. Christians should be

"nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine" (see 1 Timothy 4:6).

> **"16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:**
>
> **17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." (2 Timothy 3:16, 17).**

There is much that is not Biblically correct or lining up with the Bible amongst modern Pentecostals, so they too are putting out unbelieving foolishness, some of which is covered in this book. The lack of emphasis on the Bible makes people unlearned about spiritual things and doctrinally weak. Biblically unlearned people cannot be good witnesses for Christ.

SHOULD CHRISTIANS HATE TRADITION?

Traditions are particular ways of doing things, which includes particular rules that are applied. According to the Bible (which should be a Christian's standard), there are both good traditions and bad traditions. Pentecostals should be honest that they actually do have many traditions. There is an Order of Service, the preaching of the Word, the celebration of the Lord's Supper, the ordination of ministers,

and the regular fellowship of the saints together, just to name a few. These are all good traditions.

The old ways, which include the singing of hymns and using the King James Bible, are not bad at all. These things may be completely alien to you, but it does not mean that they are wrong. Many modern Pentecostals have thrown good things away in the name of God doing something new but this is a completely backward way of thinking. God actually builds on the godly things established in the past!

> **"15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle." (2 Thessalonians 2:15).**
>
> **"6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us." (2 Thessalonians 3:6).**

It is, in fact, wrong traditions that are to be classified as bad because they exclude right ways of doing things. These are the traditions of men that seek to minimise God's ways to exalt other things. For example, the Word of God (the Holy Bible) should be magnified and glorified in all Bible-based services as the following shows.

> **"138 I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy**

truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name." (Psalm 138:2).

"1 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you" (2 Thessalonians 3:1).

However, bad tradition seeks to undermine the Word of God. For example, to establish a tradition of having music exalted above the preaching of the Bible is a deadly thing. Make sure you are not amongst those who do this.

"9 And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition. …

13 Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye." (Mark 7:9, 13).

SHOULD MUSIC HAVE AN EXALTED PLACE IN THE CHURCH?

Historically, the people of God have used music with all types of instruments to praise God and exalt Him.

"3 Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.

4 Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

5 Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals." (Psalm 150:3-5).

Music is certainly good in its rightful place, and true Pentecostals are definitely not against this. Singing, playing instruments and dancing all have a place in the Church since it is God who gives joy to His people.

"2 Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.

3 Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp." (Psalm 149:2, 3).

However, music is not the most important thing about Church, nor should it be exalted above the teaching of the Word and the ministering of the Spirit. In fact, the Word of God should be glorified (put in a high and exalted place) amongst God's people.

"48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed." (Acts 13:48).

"1 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you" (2 Thessalonians 3:1).

Whoever has introduced to modern Pentecostals the idea that music and entertainment is the way to reach the world

has done a major disservice to the Church. In fact, they have introduced "strange fire" (see Numbers 3:4) that has subjugated or undermined the ministry of God. The fire of the Holy Ghost has been lost and this is a serious thing. The true purging fire of holiness is now undermined in many so-called churches.

> **"16 John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:**
>
> **17 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable." (Luke 3:16, 17).**

We should be connected to God by faith in believing God's words, not by being manipulated emotionally through music. Emotions and feeling good have replaced faith amongst the modern Pentecostals. If something does not appear to be "exciting" or emotionally moving, then it is deemed as dull and not of God. But is this reality? Jesus shows the reality of operating and relying on the flesh in the following.

> **"63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." (John 6:63).**

This means that the working of the Holy Ghost in the spirit realm is what really matters because it (the working) quickens (makes alive and moves us) through the words of God. God can easily move and speak to us in a multitude of ways but always using His words, so exalting music, musicians or singers as being of high importance in the church is actually dangerous. This undermines the words of God, produces spiritual weakness, and goes into "vain worship".

> **"8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me.**
>
> **9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matthew 15:8, 9).**

Many churches have got so far into musical presentations coming from the stage that they neglect completely congregational participation, so that it is way out of balance in many Pentecostal places. Music has its place but not to the detriment of teaching, giving and fellowship.

> **"26 And I will cause the noise of thy songs to cease; and the sound of thy harps shall be no more heard." (Ezekiel 26:13).**

> **“12 And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.**
>
> **13 And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?” (1 Kings 19:12, 13).**

ARE ONLINE CHURCHES THE WAY OF THE FUTURE?

The advent of the internet was not through man’s ideas but through the Providential guidance of God in history, specifically as an instrument for end time evangelism and distribution of proper knowledge and godly teaching. It was never meant to be a substitute for proper structured Church, which incorporates physical gatherings and actual ministry interaction with people.

> **“4 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).**

However, there are many who do not understand how God works in history, which is that He builds upon what He has already established. Thus, they think that online church is a new thing that overrides the need for physical gatherings of

Christians or structured Church doctrine and tradition (godly tradition – see 2 Thessalonians 3:6). This type of thinking is grossly mistaken and completely neglects the work of the Holy Ghost in history.

> **"16 Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein." (Jeremiah 6:16).**

There are at least four major problems with only "attending" so-called online church[8]. These are:

1. The Bible is very clear in many places that the people of God need face to face, personal fellowship to develop in faith, doctrine, a sense of responsibility in contributing to the Church, and spiritual discipline. It is rebellion and disobedience to God to say and do otherwise.

> **"26 … And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." (Acts 11:26b).**
>
> **"25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting**

8 Much of this also applies to the "home church" movement where many seek so-called freedom from Church structure.

one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25).

2. Jesus has set in the Church ministries (see Ephesians 4:11, 12) that should personally interact with people in areas, such as preaching, teaching, laying on of hands, discipline, participation in communion, discipling, rebuking as necessary, training up in ministry and many other things. Those who have no interaction with actual physical ministers seem to think they have no or little responsibility to those Jesus has set in the Church.

"6 Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us." (2 Thessalonians 3:6).

3. It is impossible to properly monitor the progress of those online, such as in their faith walk, growth in faith, understanding of doctrine, moral standing, sense of responsibility, obedience to the Lord and His ministers, and how much they are contributing to the Kingdom of God.

"17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you." (Hebrews 13:17).

4. It is easy for online people to get offended and not address what may be big problems in their life, so they flit across to whatever suits them rather than to seek God about what His Word says and where His Spirit wants them to be.

"13 Those that be planted in the house[9] of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God." (Psalm 92:13).

"8 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).

IS THE ANOINTING OF GOD A FORCE THAT ZAPS PEOPLE?

There are many people who do not understand the anointing of God at all. They think that it is some type of zap, feeling or random force that comes at times that we can never know the moving of it. The fact is that people can and should be anointed by God to do His will, regardless of feelings or circumstances.

The anointing is the flow of the Holy Ghost and power in line with God's will and in order for God's work to be done. We see this clearly in the following Scripture.

9 The House of the Lord is the Church – see 1 Timothy 3:15.

> **“38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.” (Acts 10:38).**

In this we understand that the anointing from God is connected intricately with the Holy Ghost and power. Anointing is also connected to the preaching of the Word as we see in the following.

> **“18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me [Jesus], because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised” (Luke 4:18).**

The Spirit of God works with anointed vessels – men and women – to release the power of God as the words from God are believed and confirmed by God. This is clearly seen in the following Scripture.

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

God anoints His people to know of Him and His ways within their spirit, so that they do not need to be taught by man to flow in this Holy Ghost anointing.

> **“27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.” (1 John 2:27).**

Anointed vessels of God are prepared to do the work of God as He equips them. The Old Testament shows that ministers, priests and kings were anointed with oil (symbolic of the Spirit’s flow of power and enabling).

> **“30 And thou shalt anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that they may minister unto me in the priest's office.” (Exodus 30:30).**

> **“34 And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there king over Israel: and blow ye with the trumpet, and say, God save king Solomon.” (1 Kings 1:34).**

Under the New Testament, Christian believers know that Jesus Christ “loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.” (Revelation 1:5b, 6). The fact that we are kings and priests unto God is why God’s anointing must abide in us (see 1 John 2:27). We should not want to just be “polished speakers or singers”, as the heathen aspire to be, but to be of those used by God under His anointing. We can see this

clearly in what Paul says, noting that he indeed was one of the most anointed preachers to ever walk the Earth.

> **"3 And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.**
>
> **4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:**
>
> **5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." (1 Corinthians 2:3-5).**

One of "the principles of the doctrine of Christ" (see Hebrews 6:1, 2)[10] is the doctrine of laying on of hands, which includes an understanding of how there is transference of spiritual power to heal people and drive back devils, consecration of things and people for service, and for there to be a channel of blessing.

Sadly, the areas we have just gone through and many others we could touch on are like a mystery to many people who then make up ideas about an "anointed atmosphere" through singing when this is not even spoken of in the Bible.

True Pentecostals should be Biblical, not mystical, about the anointing of God. We should understand that "we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is

10 See "First Principle Doctrines" playlist on the Victory Faith Centre channel www.youtube.com/@victoryfaithcentreaustralia

of God" (1 Corinthians 2:12a), so we can minister in the anointing of God and "we have the mind of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:6b) to be able to do so. To be anointed with the Holy Ghost and with power enables the tapping into God's knowledge and understanding of things, destruction of bondages, and release from captivity.

> **"32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:32).**
>
> **"27 And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden [the enemy's burden] shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing." (Isaiah 10:27).**

SHOULD WE USE TECHNIQUES LIKE EMOTIONAL APPEALS TO GET CHRISTIAN CONVERTS?

The Bible is very clear that the preaching of the Gospel and people believing this is what gets people saved. See also the Section "Is saying a prayer for salvation enough?"

> **"15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**
>
> **16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:15, 16).**

People must actually understand that they are in a fallen, hopeless and sinful condition as sinners (servants of sin), separated from God in a state of rebellion.

> **“12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world” (Ephesians 2:12).**

Because of this, sinners need to be changed to be quickened (made alive), which is a different state in what they are currently in without God.

> **“1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;**
>
> **2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience” (Ephesians 2:1, 2).**

Only when people see their need for the Saviour from sin will the Gospel message that Christ came as the perfect sacrificial Lamb to take away sin make proper sense to them. This means that revelation and understanding is needed, not an emotional enticement that Christ will somehow be better than their present life. Notice in the following that the Gospel was “preached” and that it had to be believed, received and kept in memory. The choice to believe is not

through emotional manipulation but through the preaching of the Word.

> **"1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;**
>
> **2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain." (1 Corinthians 15:1, 2).**

If a person understands the Gospel and responds to it by believing it and acting upon it, then that is good.

Becoming a Christian has nothing to do with emotions at all. People can be emotional, but belief is a response to knowledge that enlightens the heart through the Gospel, not merely a feeling that they need something more in their life. Only the Gospel preached gets through the devilish blindness and darkness of the world.

> **"3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:**
>
> **4 In whom the god of this world [Satan] hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.**
>
> **5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord …" (2 Corinthians 4:3-5a).**

Sadly, false evangelists appeal to emotions through pitiful stories and enticing language to get "converts". But notice the way a true evangelist operates in the following Scripture.

> **"36 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?**
>
> **37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." (Acts 8:36, 37).**

The fact is that the glorious Gospel must be preached "to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:6b).

SHOULD WE BE RELEVANT AND CONTEMPORARY TO THE WORLD?

When certain people talk about being relevant and contemporary, what they really mean is to be less Christian in actions and appearance and to indulge in more carnal and worldly behaviour. This is a trend amongst those who desire the things of this fallen world, rather than the things of God. The major problem with this compromise is that this current world has been corrupted by sin, so all in it are in a fallen state. There can be no proper Christian witness to the world by compromising with it.

> **“12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” (Romans 5:12).**

It is the worst possible idea to think evangelistic endeavours should be to make “Christians” more like the world in order to “reach the world”.

> **“10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world …” (2 Timothy 4:10a).**
>
> **“19 And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.” (1 John 5:19).**

The Lord Jesus Christ does not want people to be like the world but to be delivered from it and become a part of His Kingdom. Notice the words “this present evil world” in the following.

> **“4 Who [Jesus] gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father” (Galatians 1:4).**
>
> **“36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world …” (John 18:36a).**

Of course, there is nothing wrong with having fashionable clothes, accessories, a good car and a mansion. In fact, God wants his people to be prosperous and very rich, as long as they are not lovers of money or lovers of pleasure more than God. The following verse is a key to understanding this.

> **“17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy” (1 Timothy 6:17).**

However, it is very wrong to follow the world’s trends, to keep up with their kind of ungodly lifestyle, and to sit with sinners as though there is nothing wrong with their sin (see Psalm 1:1). Things like swearing, getting tattoos, drinking alcohol, dressing promiscuously, getting body piercings, gambling, practising magic and carousing are not what Christians should be doing, and these sorts of things certainly do not belong in church. It should be obvious that refusing spiritual understanding (refusing to be Biblically minded) and continually being around those in spiritual darkness will inevitably result in corruption in both thinking and behaviour. Meditate on the following Scriptures and see “whether ye be in the faith” (see 2 Corinthians 13:5).

> **“17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,**
>
> **18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:**

19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

20 But ye have not so learned Christ;

21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." (Ephesians 4:17–24).

"18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." (2 Corinthians 4:18).

DO WE NEED TO DO GOOD WORKS AS CHRISTIANS?

To become a Christian a person must believe the Gospel of Christ. The Gospel is the good news of what Christ has done to pay for our salvation from sin and its curse. Each person has a decision to make in either believing the Gospel or rejecting it.

> **"15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**
>
> **16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." (Mark 16:15, 16).**

It is the preaching of the Word of God and specifically the preaching of the Gospel that gets people saved from sin and its curse. Those who hear it must believe it and act on it – this is called obeying the Gospel. Jesus Christ has done the work of purchasing salvation for mankind – no man can work for this (see Titus 3:5). The duty of men and women is to actively respond in belief of the Gospel that is preached to them.

Once we are saved, we should demonstrate the fruits of salvation. This means that works will follow salvation. Note that the following verse shows that we have been created in Christ to now do the works God wants us to do in line with His will. We must walk in those good works.

> **"10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10).**
>
> **"16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16).**

Also, when we are saved, we become servants to God, which means that we must serve Him by doing good things for Him.

> **“17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.**
>
> **18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.” (Romans 6:17, 18).**
>
> **“28 Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear” (Hebrews 12:28).**

As Christians, we get water baptised, fellowship regularly, pray continuously, hear God’s words, act on them in obedience, and grow spiritually in faith and the knowledge of God.

All Christians should go on to be filled with the Spirit and have signs of God in their life. If you claim to be a growing, proper Pentecostal Christian, then you must increase in being led of the Spirit, pray in tongues regularly, operate in the spiritual gifts, develop in godly learning and study, preach and teach the Word, help the work of God, back Church ministry, seek good things, and do many other edifying things.

> **“17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;**
>
> **18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.” (Mark 16:17, 18).**

As Pentecostal Christians, we work with the Spirit of God and He works with us. Hence, we see that Christians definitely do need to do good works, as led by the Spirit.

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

One other thing to note in this area is that there are eternal rewards attached to doing good works for God. Remember though that the good works follow salvation and that we are not working for salvation – “it is the gift of God” (see Ephesians 2:8).

> **“10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” (2 Corinthians 5:10).**

AS CHRISTIANS SHOULD WE BE FREE FROM KEEPING COMMANDMENTS?

Being a Christian does not mean doing whatever you would like to do but doing what God wants you to do. There are ministers of God who are running true churches and are ready to instruct you on how to be an obedient servant of God. In fact, the Lord Jesus Christ stated that keeping His commandments shows how much we really love Him.

> **"15 If ye love me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15).**

The Holy Bible is very clear that we demonstrate our love for God by being obedient and keeping His commandments. This has nothing to do with earning salvation because Jesus already purchased our salvation and opened the way for us to be right with God (righteous). True Christians are changed people who were sinners (servants of sin) but are now righteous saints (servants of righteousness).

> **"17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed[11] from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.**
>
> **18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness." (Romans 6:17, 18).**

11 Obeyed the Gospel of Christ by repenting of sin and believing on Christ (see Acts 2:38 and Romans 10:9-11, 16).

> **“6 And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.” (2 John 6).**

The New Testament contains many commandments, which are not options. The reality is that the Church has been commissioned to teach the nations to obey Christ and keep His commandments. It is sad that many modernist Pentecostals (but not just these) do not understand this and instead make easy believism a licence to sin.

> **“18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.**
>
> **19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:**
>
> **20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” (Matthew 28:18-20).**

Freedom does not mean living after ungodly desires since Christians have been “made free from sin” (see Romans 6:18, 22).

> **“22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.” (Romans 6:22).**

True freedom means deliverance from being under the yoke of sin, oppression and darkness, and now having the ability to live completely for God. We are not to be rebellious to God but to be in agreement with Him and obedient to Him.

> **"23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king." (1 Samuel 15:23).**
>
> **"14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:**
>
> **15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;**
>
> **16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy." (1 Peter 1:14-16).**

IS IT UNLOVING OR WRONG TO TALK ABOUT JUDGMENT?

The reality is that it is ungodly not to talk about judgment. In fact, Jesus commanded it to be done.

> **"24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment." (John 7:24).**

There are many people who take the following Scripture completely out of context to justify their false ideas in this area.

> **“1 Judge not, that ye be not judged.**
>
> **2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.**
>
> **5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.” (Matthew 7:1, 2, 5).**

But if you look at who these verses are speaking to, you will note that hypocrites are the ones who are not to judge others. A hypocrite is a person who says one thing but thinks and does the opposite; in other words, they are guilty of the very thing they profess to condemn. Christians should never be hypocrites because they should “lie not against the truth” (James 3:14b).

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

Hence, we see that Christians must “judge righteous judgment” but not be hypocrites. Christians are commanded to judge. When we judge, we should judge properly with love and in agreement with the words of God. It is impossible

for us to live on the Earth and not judge between good and evil.

> **"14 But strong meat [of the Word] belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." (Hebrews 5:14).**
>
> **"23 And they shall teach my people the difference between the holy and profane, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.**
>
> **24 And in controversy they shall stand in judgment; and they shall judge it according to my judgments" (Ezekiel 44:23, 24a).**

IS THERE MORE LIGHT IN THE HEBREW AND GREEK?

The modernist doctrine that people need to now go back to the Hebrew and Greek of the original Bible manuscripts has led them into private interpretation and confusion. It also denies that God as the Almighty has personally made sure that His words are available and not lost through translation right to the latter times.

> **"20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.**

21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." (2 Peter 1:20, 21).

It is true that God inspired the Scripture in Hebrew and Greek, but He also raised up the Reformation to get the language to the nations, to every poor working man, woman and child. In fact, God prepared a very special, learned group of translators to make sure that the Holy Bible was translated correctly in its original sense into English. God is not willing that any of His words be lost, even when they get translated, so He has taken a clear interest in their preservation throughout history.

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

7 Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever." (Psalm 12:6, 7).

We should take special note that the global language of today is English[12], and it is at this time that God wants the Gospel to be preached to all nations before the end of this world comes. Hence, having a pure, accurate and exactly true Bible in the global language is absolutely essential for this important mission.

12 One reference book is "English as a global language" by David Crystal.

> **"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).**

The Bible has been translated so that the truth can come to us today. We do not need to continuously go back to the originals or hear what a Greek word allegedly means when the full meaning has been brought over into English in the King James Bible.

> **"13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe." (1 Thessalonians 2:13).**

DO WE NEED A POWER ENCOUNTER TO TRULY KNOW GOD?

Because the devils operate in the sense realm and are supreme manipulators and deceivers, Christians should understand that engaging in the sense realm is not the way to get to God or understand His ways. The following Scripture shows how deceptive Satan can be. Seeking a so-called power encounter enters into spiritually dangerous territory.

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

A simple faith belief is all that is needed to enter into godly things and know God. If you have faith in God, you will believe His words, and speak them and act upon them, whether you feel like it or not. If you get into feelings for evidence, then Satan can provide you with all the feelings in the world. Satan has the whole world deceived, so Christians should not be operating according to his unbelieving ways at all.

> **“9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” (Revelation 12:9).**
>
> **“3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:**
>
> **4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of**

> **God, should shine unto them." (2 Corinthians 4:3, 4).**

We do not need to have a spectacular experience to know that God is the healer because we have the Holy Bible that says He is (see Exodus 15:26). We do not need to see choirs of angels to know that Heaven is real because we have the Holy Bible that says it is (see Genesis 1:1).

> **"105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105).**
>
> **"13 We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak" (2 Corinthians 4:11).**
>
> **"7 … For we walk by faith, not by sight …" (2 Corinthians 5:7)**

Sadly, because of the emphasis on flashiness, feelings and entertainment in their midst, modern Pentecostals do not properly understand how to approach God in faith. Yet, this is a crucial area for proper Pentecostal power and leading by the Spirit into redemption benefits. Many are now stunted and unable to properly stand in this evil day.

> **"6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (Hebrews 11:6).**

We see from this (and many other Scriptures) that we are to diligently seek God. Proper Christians are never taught to seek a power encounter, a zap, a sign or a feeling. This also applies to all evangelism towards the unsaved. The unsaved must have the Gospel preached to them and they must believe it to be saved (see Mark 16:15, 16).

> **"8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory" (1 Peter 1:8).**

IS YAHWEH AND OTHER Y-NAMES RIGHT TO APPLY TO GOD?

For centuries, going back to Moses, God's people in Hebrew, Greek, Latin and English have been calling God "JEHOVAH" and pronouncing names with a "j" sound. In Hebrew this sound was represented by the letter "jod". The King James Bible translators, who were certainly not dullards, understood this, and so the English translation is accurate. This is why we have Joshua, Jeremiah and Jude. It reflects properly the Hebrew pronunciation.

> **"18 That men may know that thou, whose name alone is JEHOVAH, art the most high over all the earth." (Psalm 83:18).**

> **"4 Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength" (Isaiah 26:4).**

The fact is that God is jealous for His name and will not have it blasphemed. The current modern trend to change the name of JEHOVAH and to change the name of Jesus (meaning "JEHOVAH saves") has not come from God. The modern invention of "YAHWEH" has come from the hands of the German rationalists, critics and liberals, starting from Gesenius.

> **"25 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).**

The name "YAHWEH" is the name or title for a pagan deity, a mountain god in the ancient near east, and variants can be found among different areas, including titles like "YAHU". To change JEHOVAH to this pagan name is blasphemous[13].

We can see with great delight the Bible prophecy in Ezekiel 39 that shows the name of JEHOVAH will be restored. God is rightly jealous about His name.

> **"6 And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the LORD.**

13 Even the "New King James Version", which falsely claims to be a revision of the King James Version, refuses to use the holy name "JEHOVAH".

7 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 39:6, 7).

IS THE KING JAMES BIBLE TO BE AVOIDED?

Sadly, modernists have deceived people into thinking that the King James Bible translators were dullards and did not know much or enough to be able to translate accurately. In fact, the exact opposite is true, and this is easy to check historically[14]. People have said all kinds of nonsense about the King James Bible because they want to sell and promote modern translations. They try to make out as if the King James Bible is really hard when, in fact, it is exact and fully corresponds in meaning to the original manuscripts written in Hebrew and Greek.

The Spirit of truth, who is the Holy Ghost, has been leading the people of God into all truth, not error. The reality is that the Spirit of truth did not lead people to make all different contradictory translations, so it is easy to see that the modern "bibles" are indeed the product of the spirit of error.

"13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not

14 Read "The Authorized King James Bible Connection", www.victoryfaithcentre.org.au/books

> **speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come." (John 16:13).**
>
> **"6 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).**

Proper Pentecostals should be holding to a single authoritative Bible, acknowledging that the Holy Ghost is powerful enough to both inspire the Word of God and to preserve it, even in the midst of a sinful, deceptive, devilish world.

> **"160 Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever." (Psalm 119:160).**
>
> **"17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." (John 17:17).**

The King James Bible has been used for many years, is fully accurate, and is the foundation for proper doctrine.[15] The question is why there is such an attack to replace it, when Pentecostalism itself was formed and built using the King James Bible[16]. In fact, modernists attack the end of the book of Mark and put unbelief notes in their "bibles", casting

15 Read "The Pure Cambridge Edition: The Final King James Bible", www.bibleprotector.com
16 Read "The King James Bible only position and true Pentecostalism", www.victoryfaithcentre.org.au/books

doubt on clear Pentecostal doctrines. We should know that this is an attack from the enemy of God, so that people do not hear the words of God – "… Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word …" (see Mark 4:15). It is not a lack of availability of the words of God but, as the following prophecy shows, a famine of hearing them – a direct judgment on rebellion against God's words.

> **"11 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:**
>
> **12 And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it." (Amos 8:11, 12).**

In the last days, there are many that have teachers that go against the clear wording of the pure Bible, namely the King James Bible. These teachers were prophesied about and all who desire to hear the opposite of the truth fall into their clutches[17].

> **"3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;**

17 Read "Why Faith Christians should only use the King James Bible", www.victoryfaithcentre.org.au/books

4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." (2 Timothy 4:3, 4).

IS IT HARD TO CAST OUT DEVILS?

Because of the lack of proper teaching about faith amongst modern Pentecostals, there is a distorted view of devils, their operation, and what to do about them. However, Jesus has made it clear that believers (those walking by faith) would indeed cast out devils in His name.

"17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues" (Mark 16:17).

This is not just casting devils out of people but also out of situations and intrusions of the soul (mind, will and emotion). Evil spirits should not be viewed as monstrous creatures that are really hard to resist. Many people have sadly got their theology from unbelieving movies and books. However, the Bible shows believers speaking simple words of faith and the devil being cast out. There are some major problems with how people think of evil spirits today. God expects though that Christians should not be ignorant but to be sober (clear minded) and vigilant (spiritually ready).

> **“11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.” (2 Corinthians 2:11).**
>
> **“8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:**
>
> **9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.” (1 Peter 5:8, 9).**

Some people put on a performance to try to get others delivered but this denies simple faith in the name of Jesus. If Christians prepare themselves through prayer and fasting, and use “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Ephesians 6:17b), then the devils must flee.

> **“7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7).**

Submitting yourself to God means primarily getting yourself in line with the words of the Holy Bible. Any imaginations against this must be cast down, which means we must renew our minds to the Word (see Romans 12:2 and 2 Corinthians 10:5). Satan and his devils should be viewed as fallen foes, subject to spiritual authority, and under the feet of believers.

> **“17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.**

18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." (Luke 10:17–20).

We see from this that Satan is a fallen being. He fell from Heaven through his pride and deceived Adam into giving him a place of authority in the Earth. His place and operation as the great deceiver are shown in the following verses.

"9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." (Revelation 12:9).

"3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of

> **God, should shine unto them." (2 Corinthians 4:3, 4).**

Christians must control their thoughts by acknowledging that evil thoughts and schemes come from the adversary, and that the name of Jesus and the sword of the Spirit must be used to think right things.

> **"3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:**
>
> **4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)**
>
> **5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" (2 Corinthians 10:3–5).**

WHY IS MODERN PENTECOSTAL "REVIVAL" A REAL PROBLEM?

Modern Pentecostalism has a misconception about Christian Revival. Their view is more imaginary, incorporating mysterious demonstrations of physical things, rather than looking at what the Bible promises. Jesus made it clear that it was His words that made the difference in people's lives.

> **"63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." (John 6:63).**

Clearly, the working of the Spirit of God in people's lives – spiritual working – impacts in the spirit realm and so the flesh is not what determines Christian revival. True Pentecostals should desire the pouring out of the spirit (Holy Ghost working) if they are serious about proper Christian revival.

> **"23 Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you." (Proverbs 1:23).**

True Christian revival requires people to examine themselves, for the Word to be planted in people's lives, for the Word to grow and be understood in a society, and for there to be obedience to the Word of God. In fact, Jesus commanded the Church to teach all nations to be obedient to His commandments, which is exactly the opposite to modernist thinking.

> **"5 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" (2 Corinthians 13:5).**

> **"7 And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied …" (Acts 6:7a).**

"19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matthew 28:19, 20).

Thus, Christian revival is about the words of God coming into people's hearts and changing their thinking and behaviours to line up with God's will. When this happens, sin becomes unattractive and sinful places and activities are not upheld by the people in a society. With Christian revival, we would expect to see certain things happen, such as the following (and much more):

- People repenting of sin (see Acts 17:30).
- Nations being converted and taught proper doctrine and obedience (see Matthew 28:20).
- A day of visitation when people see Christians doing good works (see 1 Peter 2:12).
- The Holy Bible being exalted (see Isaiah 42:21).

IS GOD'S LOVE ALL ABOUT HAVING WONDERFUL FEELINGS?

The Bible is clear that God's love is demonstrated in His giving to mankind.

> **“16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16).**
>
> **“9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.**
>
> **10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” (1 John 4:9, 10).**

Our love towards God is now demonstrated by a willing obedience to Him in serving Him and giving cheerfully. Christian love is manifest in service. We serve God and we show love towards others as channels of His love. If we claim to love God, then we are obedient to Him.

> **“6 And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.” (2 John 6).**
>
> **“15 If ye love me, keep my commandments.” (John 14:15).**

We do good and bless others through godly charity (love shown in action). Love is not about self-serving or chasing good feelings as if seeking a drug high.

> **“13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.” (1 Corinthians 13:13).**
>
> **“14 Let all your things be done with charity.” (1 Corinthians 16:14).**

Christians have to love by faith, not because they feel like it. In fact, we are commanded to love God and others, so we must be serious about our faith.

> **“And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.” (Luke 10:27).**

Your neighbour is anyone you meet up with in your life. The world’s type of love is usually centred on feelings, but the Bible type of love is centred on God and His will. We do not know how to properly love until we are saved and understand God’s love towards us.

> **“19 We love him, because he first loved us.**
>
> **20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?**
>
> **21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.” (1 John 4:19-21).**

Love is more than just a feeling but, of course, if feelings come, that can be a good thing, as long as it is centred on God's ways and not on the world and lust. Note the following on how we should view others and demonstrate love – godly joy comes out of this.

> **"2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.**
>
> **3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.**
>
> **4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." (Philippians 2:2–4).**

WHAT DID SMITH WIGGLESWORTH SAY ABOUT COMPROMISED PENTECOSTALISM?

Proper Pentecostalism[18] started in the fire and power of the Holy Ghost, enveloped in purity, faith and holiness.

> **"3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.**

18 Read "The King James Bible only position and true Pentecostalism", www.victoryfaithcentre.org.au/books

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." (Acts 2:3, 4).

"5 … they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost …

8 And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people." (Acts 6:5, 8).

In the early 20th century Smith Wigglesworth, also known as the Apostle of faith, was a great pioneer of faith Pentecostalism. It is certain that he would be completely against the anti-holiness, pro-worldliness compromise of many modern Pentecostals. He would instead agree with the present Word and Spirit movement[19], which has its roots in traditional or holiness Pentecostalism and faith Pentecostalism. You can read his words[20] for yourself:

"God came along again and said, 'Come out.' I obeyed God and went with what they called the 'tongues' folks; they got the credit for having further light.

"I saw God advancing every movement I made, and I can see even in this Pentecostal work, except we see there is a real death, God will say to us, 'Come out.'

19 Read "God's Word and Spirit direction for the Church", www.victoryfaithcentre.org.au/books
20 Wigglesworth, "The Appointed Hour" [sermon], 1922.

“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? You ask, ‘What do you mean?’ Everyone of you knows without exception, there is no word for Pentecost, only being on fire. If you are not on fire, you are not in the place of regeneration. It is only the fire of God that burns up the entanglements of the world.”

ARE YOU SURE YOU ARE SAVED?

God is the Supreme Being of Order and has the highest standards. By themselves people cannot match these high standards. God has made it that all must be connected to Him and rely on Him in all things if they are to live forever with Him. This the basis for all of creation as the following clearly shows.

> **“10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,**
>
> **11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things,**

and for thy pleasure they are and were created." (Revelation 4:10, 11).

Thus, God demands that people match His standards, but there is one great problem, which is that people cannot match them because they are fallen creatures. People became fallen creatures because the first man Adam (the representative of all mankind) wilfully rebelled against God, started to serve sin, and his nature changed to being sinful. He became a servant of sin (a sinner) and because all of mankind was in Adam, all of mankind fell with him, so everyone is a sinner.

"12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned …

19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners …" (Romans 5:12, 19a).

This means all that are physically born into the family of man are currently in a sinful, rebellious state. God judges them according to His standards, as shown in the Holy Bible (His words of law). On this basis, everyone is found guilty in His eyes. Everyone is separated from God and His life (i.e. dead to Him).

"19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that

> **every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God." (Romans 3:19).**
>
> **"10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." (James 2:10).**

If people are guilty before God, there is no escape from the punishment: death and Hell (eternally separated from God – the second death). Our state was as follows:

> **"1 … dead [separated] in trespasses and sins;**
>
> **2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:**
>
> **3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others." (Ephesians 2:1b-3).**

Since we were "by nature the children of wrath", we were deserving of the wrath of God forever.

The one and only solution was for man's nature to be changed since, as soon as we are physically born, our nature is as a sinner. Thus, God became a man, "the last Adam" (see 1 Corinthians 15:45), so that He could take all of mankind's

sin and its curse upon Himself. This was Jesus Christ who is the Second Person of the Trinity.

> **"16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God[21] 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).**

People now have a choice to stay as sinners, continuing to identify only with the first Adam.

Or they can believe the Gospel that the last Adam, Jesus Christ (the perfect righteous representative of mankind), took their sin, thus providing remission or cancellation of it.

> **"45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit."**

Each person can now choose to believe the Gospel by repenting of sin, and receiving Jesus Christ as Saviour to become a new creature with a new righteous nature provided by Him. All in Christ identify perfectly with Him now.

> **"17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." (2 Corinthians 5:17).**

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21 Note – If you have a book claiming to be a bible that leaves out "God" in this verse, then immediately get rid of it and get a King James Bible.

When the Father looks upon a Christian, who is "in Christ", He has perfect satisfaction through Christ's blood and resurrection, that Christ has paid the price of punishment for sin and that the Christian is completely forgiven with all sins remitted and is now seen as righteous.

> **"19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous." (Romans 5:19).**
>
> **"36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." (John 3:36).**

Unless you call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and believe in your heart the Gospel that He died for your sins and rose from the dead (see Romans 10:8-10), you will not be saved from the wrath of God.

> **"8 But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.**
>
> **9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.**
>
> **10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life." (Romans 5:8–10).**

When a person is first born on the Earth, it is physical, which means being a part of the family of mankind. There is also second birth, known as being born again, which is spiritual and necessary to get into the family of God in the kingdom of God. This is the same as being saved from sin and spiritually coming into the body of Christ, which consists of the family of God.

> **"3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. … That which is born of the flesh is flesh [first birth]; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit [second birth]." (John 3:3, 6).**
>
> **"1 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him." (1 John 5:1).**

IS GOD RAISING UP AN ARMY TO TAKE OVER ALL SPHERES OF INFLUENCE?

When Christians see sin rampant in societies across the world, they should not be surprised since the world is in a fallen state and ruled over by the adversary, Satan.

> **"3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:**

> **4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." (2 Corinthians 4:3, 4).**

It is important for Spirit-led Christians to rely on God's ways and leading completely for the preaching of the Gospel to be accomplished and for sinners to be converted. Our prosperity relies on seeking God for His solutions, rather than compromising with the world or use the world's ways to so-called evangelise.

> **"5 And he sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God: and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him to prosper." (2 Chronicles 26:5).**

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight" (see John 18:36), God definitely wants to bring about a great change in a society, but this cannot be done on the basis of human reasoning. The problem has actually been in the erosion and destruction of godly foundations in society, not on whether or not a coalition of religious/moral groups can be formed.

> **"1 In the LORD put I my trust: How say ye to my soul, Flee as a bird to your mountain?**

2 For, lo, the wicked bend their bow, they make ready their arrow upon the string, that they may privily shoot at the upright in heart.

3 If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" (Psalm 11:1-3).

Right now, when the society is ruled by an anti-religious or antichrist spirit, having an alliance of religious groups (themselves at variance with the Bible) is certainly not the solution. Political solutions in themselves are not real solutions if the foundation and answer is not first spiritual and of God. Actually, Christians should prayerfully take hold of the promises of God in the Bible and believe for these to come to pass as the Lord helps His people.

"19 The light of the righteous rejoiceth: but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out." (Proverbs 13:19).

Seeking money or political power as some means of control in itself is misguided because God must always be sought and relied upon. When God is first, and things are done right, in line with his will, then the blessing follows. We see in the following example how reliance on reasoning concerning political power is foolish when God is left out.

"7 And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah, and said unto him, Because thou hast relied on the king of Syria, and not relied on the

> LORD thy God, therefore is the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thine hand.
>
> 8 Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubims a huge host, with very many chariots and horsemen? yet, because thou didst rely on the LORD, he delivered them into thine hand." (2 Chronicles 16:7, 8).
>
> "9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition." (1 Timothy 6:9).

It is God's wisdom that should be asked for, not ungodly or worldly wisdom (see James 1:5, 6 and James 3:13-18). It is God's direction through the Spirit that should be relied upon for there to be any godly change in a society. Believe and confess the following.

> "20 For there shall be no reward to the evil man; the candle of the wicked shall be put out." (Proverbs 24:20).

CAN PEOPLE BE PROPER PENTECOSTALS AND NOT SPEAK IN TONGUES?

In this booklet we have seen that there is a stark difference between modern, worldly Pentecostalism and proper Pentecostalism, which is traditional, Biblical Pentecostalism.

Sadly, many calling themselves Pentecostal do not know the basics of how it has arisen in these latter times. For example, they do not know that it had holiness origins. The following is a short synopsis[22] of the origins of the Pentecostal revival (i.e. the latter day movement mirroring the book of Acts):

"By 1900 there were at least 23 Holiness denominations in North America. A number used the word *Pentecostal* in their denominational name. As already noted, by 'Pentecostal' or 'Spirit-filled' they meant 'committed to holiness,' but so much talk about Spirit baptism inevitably led to other applications. …

"By the beginning of the 20th century, the stage had been set to respond to a pivotal event that would elevate Pentecostalism from a local and personal experience to an overall basic theological system. Such an event occurred on New Year's Day, 1901, in the Bethel Bible School of Topeka, Kansas. The students, numbering about 40, had been assigned by their principal, Rev. Charles Fox Parham, (1873-1929), a Holiness evangelist, to determine the Biblical evidence for the baptism in the Holy Spirit. They had concluded that tongues were the evidence … classes were suspended while the entire school set forth to proclaim the new message. …

"The celebrated Azusa Mission of Los Angeles, California, was an outgrowth of the Topeka revival that was transmitted

22 Leslie Thomas Holdcroft. "The Holy Spirit", 1979, pp. 103, 104.

by way of Texas. … The mission began in 1905 and operated in that capacity for only about 3 years … but in that period it served as a center in which numerous future Pentecostal leaders received their personal Pentecost."

From this account the following can be seen concerning the origins of traditional, Biblical Pentecostalism:

- It had its origins in the holiness movement.
- It arose through seeking God's guidance in the Holy Bible.
- It emphasised the baptism of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues.
- It sought to Biblically restore to Christianity the zeal and power seen in Acts.

All Christians need to be baptised with the Holy Ghost because God wants His people to be powerful witnesses for Christ in the Earth (see Acts 1:8). In the book of Acts we see the origin of the New Testament Church at the coming of the Holy Ghost, which was the promise of the Father (see John 14:16, 17). On the day of Pentecost there were about 120 believers who were baptised with the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

> **"4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.**

> 5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." (Acts 1:4, 5).
>
> "1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. …
>
> 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." (Acts 2:1, 4).

From this we can see that being baptised with the Holy Ghost is also called being "filled with the Holy Ghost". In another place, this important experience is also called receiving the Holy Ghost.

> "14 … they sent unto them Peter and John:
>
> 15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:
>
> 16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)
>
> 17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost." (Acts 8:14b-17).
>
> "2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?[23] …

23 Note that they were already saved from sin before they could receive the Holy Ghost.

> **6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied." (Acts 19:2a, 6).**

Clearly, proper Pentecostal believers are those who have gone on from being saved, and having the "well of water springing up into everlasting life" (John 4:14b), to being filled with the Spirit, and having "rivers of living water" (John 7:38b) flow through them. Note what Jesus said in the following, which applies to those who have been saved and then go on to receive the Holy Ghost.

> **"37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.**
>
> **38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.**
>
> **39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)" (John 7:37-39).**

When Christians are filled with the Spirit, they will then be able to praise God and pray in an unknown tongue (i.e. unknown to the person praying) as the Spirit gives the utterance (i.e. the words). There are many benefits to this

type of prayer and praise but this is beyond this booklet.[24] It is sufficient to say that proper Pentecostals will speak in tongues and will understand what this means Biblically, including how it applies to Church gatherings.

> **"14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.**
>
> **15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. …**
>
> **18 I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all" (1 Corinthians 14:13, 15, 18).**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

One of the aims of this booklet has been to provide clarity on the difference between modern, worldly Pentecostalism and proper Pentecostalism, which is traditional, Biblical Pentecostalism. If you would like more information or want to be involved in Biblical Pentecostalism, then contact the ministry at Victory Faith Centre.

www.victoryfaithcentre.org.au/church-services/contact-us

24 For more on this area read "The Baptism of the Holy Ghost", www.victoryfaithcentre.org.au/books