

# **Carolina Conference**

**Churches of God of the Abrahamic Faith**

**Truth Be Told**

**New Heavens and New Earth**

**What's Abrahamic About the Faith**

**The Believer and the Holy Spirit**

**Spiritual Growth**



Carolina  
Conference  
Churches of God  
*Abrahamic Faith*

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We are a group of loving, friendly Bible believing people, ready to be a friend to you and your family. We want you to experience this same warm spirit of love and friendship as we take the Gospel to the World.

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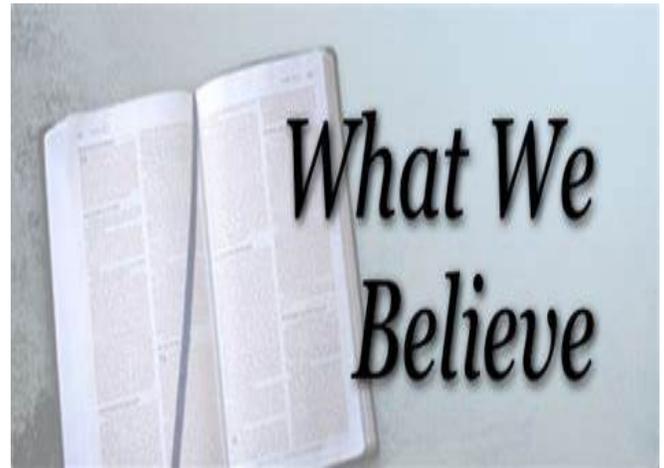
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1. There is One God, Who is the Creator and Father of all mankind. Isa. 44:6-8; Eph. 4:6; I Cor. 8:6

2. Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that he died for our sins, was buried and rose again from the dead. John 20:31; Acts 8:37; I John 5:5

3. The Holy Spirit is the power of God working in believers through Jesus Christ. Rom. 8:9,14

4. The Bible is God's inspired Word which shall be the guide and practice of the Christian. I Pet. 1:21; II Tim. 3:16,17

5. Man is wholly mortal and only through Christ can man receive the gift of immortality. I John 5:12; Rom. 5:12; Rom. 6:23

6. God's love and grace offers to man a plan of salvation through Jesus Christ including complete forgiveness of sin and immortality at the return of Jesus Christ. John 3:16; Phil. 3:20,21; John 1:7-9

7. Man's response to God through Jesus Christ will be: believe the gospel, confession of faith, baptism by immersion in the name of Jesus, growth in Christian life. Rom. 6:4-6; Acts 2:38

8. Jesus Christ is coming again to resurrect the dead, bestow the gift of immortality upon all believers, and establish the Kingdom of God. I Thess. 4:13-18; I Cor. 15:51-57; Rev. 11:15

# Truth Be Told

**Pastor Michael Brown**  
Greenville SC Church of God

**From his Good News blog**  
<https://thegoodnewsherald.wordpress.com/>



Some people will say anything to avoid the truth.

The story is told of an actress who would never say her actual age. But one persistent news reporter tried to pry the truth out of her. “How old are you?” he inquired directly.

Without hesitation, she answered, “I’m 68.”

The reporter objected: “But, Madam, how can you be sixty-eight? I just asked your son his age, and he said that he is sixty.”

Her reply was, “My son lives his life and I live mine.” (selected)

Not only was the woman not telling the truth, she obviously was not being honest, as well. At least, that’s the conclusion we naturally come to believe.

But it seems most strange to think that, nowadays, the real truth doesn't really matter. The attitude that some have is that if the woman wanted to think she was only 68 years old, then that was her actual age. And because she was merely and sincerely being honest about it, then that’s all that counts. According to her answer to the reporter, that was her life, and that’s the age she identified with.

Most of us will scratch our heads in puzzlement with this sort of “logic.” But, it’s the direction our culture is moving today. What we’ve always known as truth—such as,  $2 + 2 = 4$ —is now questioned to the point of asserting,  $2 + 2$  can sometimes  $= 5$ . And you’ll find all kinds of mathematical manipulations and strange theories to claim this is true.

Some suggest that the real truth behind this assertion is for the purpose of making radical social changes in modern culture. So that, by “deconstructing” and, therefore, “destabilizing” what  $2 + 2$  has always been known to equal, then doubt can be placed on what is absolute truth. As one source comments,

Under this so-called woke math, “ $2+2=5$ ” because when a meaning is not fixed, lucid, and defined, that meaning can be redefined and warped. With this distortion, people can supposedly jump to any conclusion they desire. (<https://www.thecollegefix.com/some-critical-theory-scholars-argue-22-can-sometimes-equal-5/>)

Truth be told...If someone can draw their own conclusion on what he or she wants to be true rather than what is indisputably true, then may I humbly say that we’re all going to

find ourselves in one big mess. You can already see the conflict this way of thinking is virtually creating from all spectrums— sociological, philosophical, psychological, educational, governmental, and economical.

I mean, you don't have to look very hard to see there's so much distrust, contempt, corruption, and deception wherever you go or whatever you're involved in or however you're informed. And it's based on this whatever-you-honestly-want-to-believe-is-true-then-it-must-be-true mentality.

Truth be told...We must believe there is absolute moral truth to keep us stabilized, secure, and successful. But this runs contrary to what we're often told in the secular world.

If you desire to know the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, watch out! You may be mocked, scorned, harassed, bullied, condemned, or all the above. After all, whatever goes is what goes and don't you dare question it! Moral truth is all "relative," or so they want you to think. (To which I jest that it depends on whose "relative" you may be talking about!)

Lindy Keffer from Focus on the Family, opined in her article, "Absolute Truth in a Relativistic World,"

...If we have ultimate truth, it gives us both a way to explain the world around us and a basis for making decisions. Without it, we're alone. We're just 6 billion organisms running around, bumping into each other with nothing unifying to work for or believe in. It's every man for himself. And we're without a purpose; if there's no true story of where we came from and why we're here, then there's nothing that really gives our lives meaning. Sounds a little depressing, huh? And maybe frightening.

Truth be told...We must believe there is the absolute truth, and pursue it absolutely. And it starts with the basic foundation of all truth—the Word of God, our Creator, and the writings of those inspired by him to record them. The Apostle Peter wrote,



20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture becomes a matter of someone's own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God, (2 Peter 1:20-21, New American Standard Bible, NASB).

Truth be told...If you are someone who has any doubts about God's existence, you will find this truth impossible to believe. But that's just what this unbelieving world wants to happen. Think of all the "isms" used to lure you into doubting that Almighty God has established absolute truth to live by—atheism (denial of God's existence), agnosticism (do not know

if God does or doesn't exist), amoralism (no moral facts), existentialism (no universal values); hedonism (self-pleasure), and all other human philosophies and theories that reject or distort belief in the one, true God.

Truth be told... Those who promote these “isms” at the expense of ignoring and rejecting God’s truth, take on a religious fervor of their own to attract the less informed. Like a magnet, they pull people in, especially the young, with their own idols, their own doctrines, and their own pagan forms of worship to follow.

Peter goes on to say what happens when these so-called “false prophets” try to steer you wrong. And he warns of the disaster that results by citing it’s just a repeat of what happened in past generations:

2 Peter 2:1 But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them—bringing swift destruction on themselves. 2 Many will follow their depraved conduct and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. 3 In their greed these teachers will exploit you with fabricated stories. Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their destruction has not been sleeping, (New International Version, NIV).

Truth be told... Peter was inspired through God’s Power to write to his fellow believers with this warning because he wanted to remind them of the Good News concerning this infallible truth: That God will keep his promises and wonderfully reward those who choose to follow his truth in preparation for the Great Day of Jesus’ return (2 Peter 3:1-2). His conclusion,



2 Peter 3:14 So then, dear friends, since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him....17

Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position. 18 But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen. (NIV)

To be honest with ourselves is to humble ourselves before God who gave his Son, Jesus Christ, to save us and give us the hope of eternal life (John 3:16). In fact, Jesus declared he is “the way, the truth, and the life” for coming to the Father and experiencing the true way of life (John 14:6). When we take an honest look at ourselves and see our need for God and his Son, then we’ll be on the right path that leads to the kind of blessings our Heavenly Father wants us to have...

...Truth be told!

Good News to YOU!

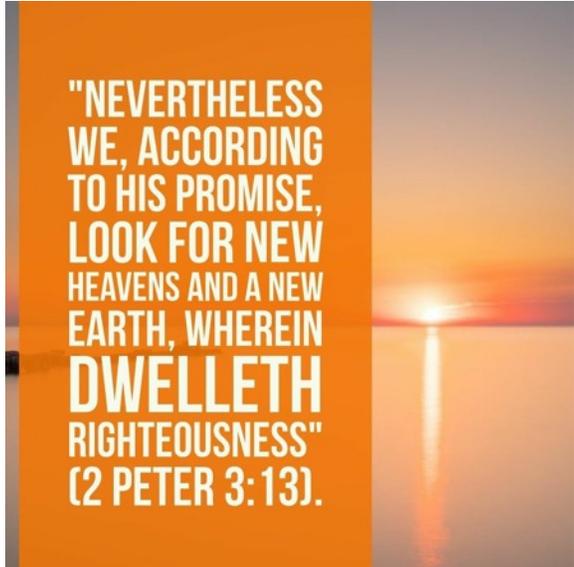
# New Heavens and a New Earth

As a small girl passed a church on her way to school, the clock in the steeple began to chime the hour. The clock, apparently broken, failed to cease its chiming after striking 12 times, but kept on: 13; 14; 15; 16; and on it went. The little girl, becoming somewhat alarmed, ran home quickly. She entered her home, and shouted, "Mother, it's later than it has ever been before!"

The world is rapidly reaching a climax, and it is later than it has ever been before. It is on a course which will shortly lead to the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. Just when the end of this age will come, no one can say with certainty. All that we can do is to measure the events of these days against the signs given to us in the Scriptures.

As Christians, we are strangers and so-journers in this world, just as Genesis 23:4 tells us that Abraham was. We, too, look for the city whose builder and maker is God. This world, with its wars and looming wars, its national scandals, inflation, humanistic lifestyle and apostasy in the church, cannot continue long.

The "new heavens and new earth" spoken of in 2 Peter 3:13 will be characterized by peace and equity, universal spirituality, and knowledge of the Lord. The animals and reptiles will lose their ferocity and will be no longer carnivorous. All men will have plenty and will be secure. That "great society" that the human rulers of the world so long have promised will at last become concrete reality. The Perfect Ruler will finally have come to power. What a wonderful day that will be, when the words of Isaiah 11 will have become reality.



**"NEVERTHELESS  
WE, ACCORDING  
TO HIS PROMISE,  
LOOK FOR NEW  
HEAVENS AND A NEW  
EARTH, WHEREIN  
DWELLETH  
RIGHTEOUSNESS"  
(2 PETER 3:13).**

How many times have you wondered what the new heavens and earth will be like? According to such scriptures as Revelation 21 and 22, the new heavens and new earth will be a really breathtakingly beautiful place. We will not wander about as disembodied spirits, playing harps throughout an ethereal expanse. We shall live forever in the presence of God. We shall be fellow-heirs with Christ, serving as kings and priests forever. There will be no more occasions for sorrows and tears.

If you think of the most beautiful place that you have ever been, and then amplify its beauty beyond your comprehension; if you can imagine what it will be like to be free from the threat of death, disease, or any curse; then you may have an inkling of what the new heavens and new earth will be like.

The word translated as "new" in Revelation 21:1 means "new in kind or order," as distinguished from "new in point of time." Peter describes the process that the Lord will use in renovating the heavens and earth that now exist: "The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.



"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

"Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Pet. 3:10-13). The new heavens and earth are yet to come.

When will God's will be done in earth as in heaven? Not while a single sinner remains alive on earth. Not while a single child of God remains imperfect - doing well today and failing tomorrow. It will not be prior to Christ's coming to judge the world, because the Savior himself asks: "When the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?"

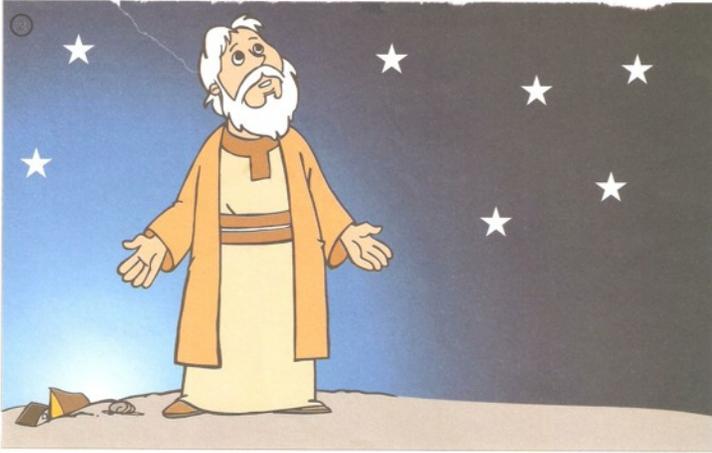
Our prayer should be: "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." My friend, are you ready for this new heavens and earth to come?

Have your garments been washed in the blood of the Lamb? If not, do not let this day pass without repenting of your sins and going into the water for immersion in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of your sins.

The Chinese have an old proverb that "the journey of a thousand miles begins with one step." Certainly, the journey to Jesus begins with one step. This is the step of faith which puts our feet down on the path that leads to the realization of the precious promises of the Word of God. This includes the promise that all of our sins will be forgiven and God will grant us, if we are faithful, eternal salvation - eternal life with which to forever enjoy the new heavens and earth.

# What's Abrahamic About the Faith?

Kent Ross



Once our Church was known as the Church of God of the Abrahamic Faith. That title was retained by another group of churches, while our group seemed to drift toward a more “corporate-like” name, the Church of God General Conference. There is nothing wrong with that newer name, except that many of people today don’t know much about Abraham, or why his name and agreement with God is so important.

Abraham believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness sake – Romans 4:2,3. If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. What does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

But it started with the man, then named Abram, that God called to found a nation, His special nation. A people who were to show the world His way. God made a covenant, or agreement with a man named Abraham, and his descendents – Genesis 17:1-8 – “When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.” Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. No longer will you be called Abram ; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.”

## Who are his descendents?

Abraham’s first-born son was Ishmael Genesis 16:1,2,15 – Now Sarai, Abram’s wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian maidservant named Hagar; 2 so she said to Abram, “The LORD has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my maidservant; perhaps I can build a family through her.” Abram agreed to what Sarai said. So Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne, but he was illegitimate.

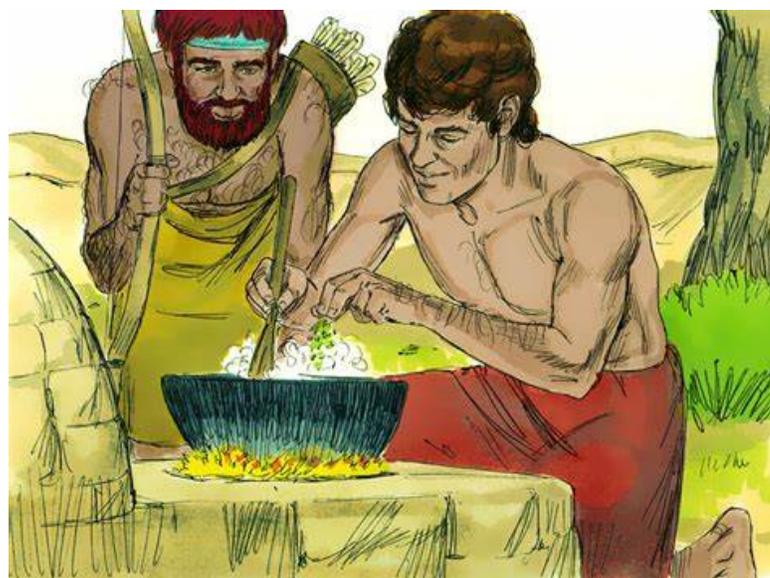
Abraham's second born-son was Isaac – legitimate son – Genesis 21:1-13 – “Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him. When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Sarah said, “God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me.” And she added, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”



The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, and she said to Abraham, “Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that slave woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac.” “The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. But God said to him, “Do not be so distressed about the boy and your maidservant. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. I will make the son of the maidservant into a nation also, because he is your offspring.”

What about after that, Abraham’s grand-children?

Isaac had two sons, but it was again not his first-born who would inherit – Genesis 25:19-34 "This is the account of Abraham’s son Isaac. Abraham became the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan Aram and sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to the LORD



on behalf of his wife, because she was barren. The LORD answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, “Why is this happening to me?” So she went to inquire of the LORD. The LORD said to her, “Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger.” When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. The first to come out was red,

and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. [After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them. The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was a quiet man, staying among the tents. Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob. Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. He said to Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I'm famished!" (That is why he was also called Edom.) Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright." "Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?" But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So Esau despised his birthright.

So the second-son, Jacob inherited the birthright.

### **So the Biblical principle reveals itself:**

The first does not inherit, but it is the second who inherits;

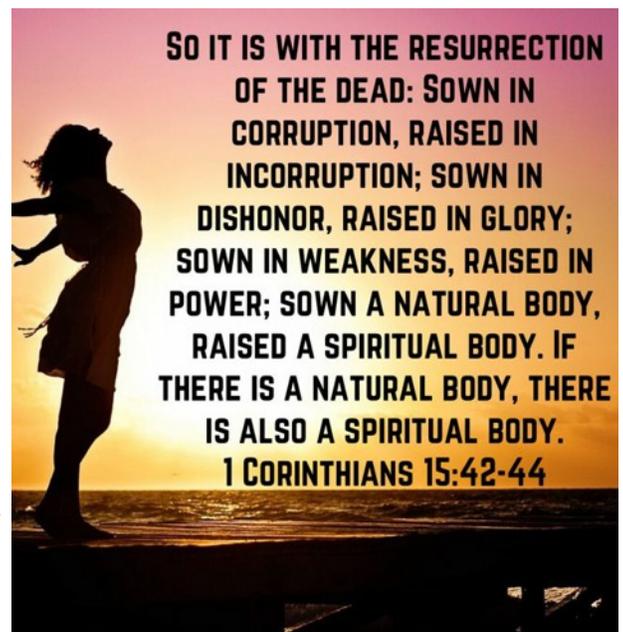
Adam was formed first, but it is the second-Adam that inherits – 1st Corinthians 15 - 44 "it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. 46 The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual.

Adam and Jesus; Ishmael and Isaac; Esau and Jacob, and perhaps even the Jews and Gentiles reveal the premise.

### **Bible Application:**

1. Does that old covenant, or agreement still have any substance to it? Malachi 1:1-3 "An oracle: The word of the LORD to Israel through Malachi. "I have loved you," says the LORD. "But you ask, 'How have you loved us?' "Was not Esau Jacob's brother?" the LORD says. "Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have hated, and I have turned his mountains into a wasteland and left his inheritance to the desert jackals

2. Romans 9:4-13, see footnote on verse 5 - Or "Christ, who is over all. God be forever praised! Or Christ. God who is over all be forever praised!" "the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen. "It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the

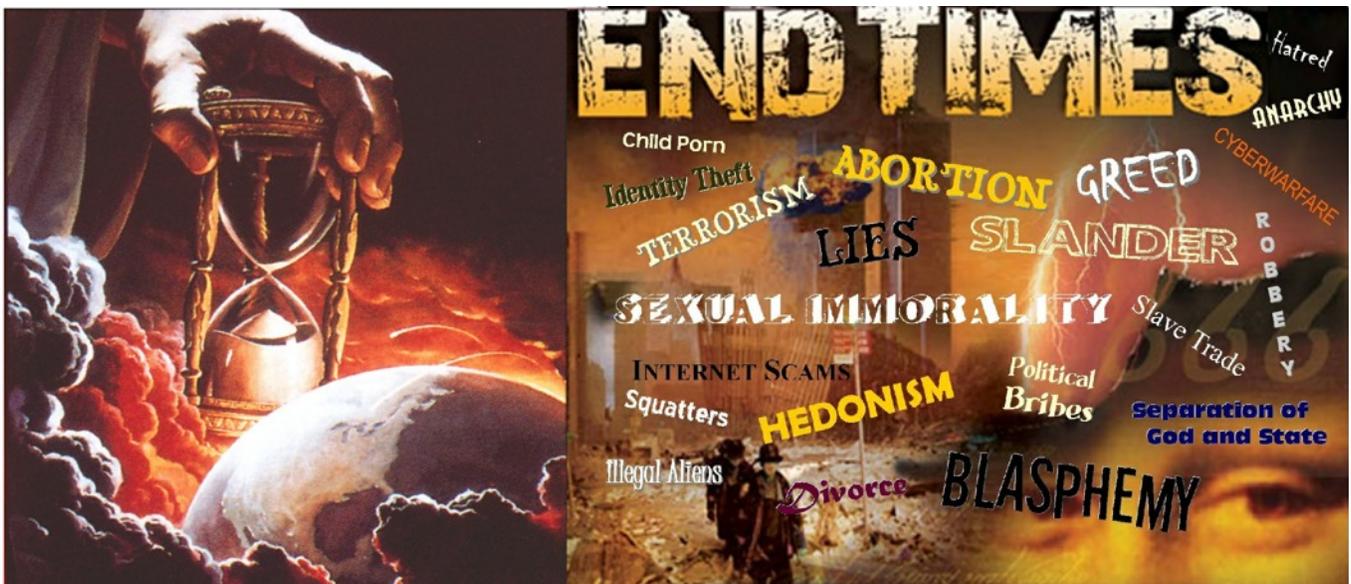


contrary, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” In other words, it is not the natural children who are God’s children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham’s offspring. For this was how the promise was stated: “At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son.” “Not only that, but Rebekah’s children had one and the same father, our father Isaac. Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God’s purpose in election might stand: not by works but by him who calls—she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” Just as it is written: “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

3. Galatians 3:6-9, 26-29 tells us more of the story: “Consider Abraham: “He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.” So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.

**What Does It Matter:**

1. So what happens to the Jews, who are yet Abraham’s seed, will happen and have the same impact on us who are now adopted into that family and heirs.
2. Jesus said, regarding the Signs of the times – Matt. 16:2,3 He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?
3. The Jews of Jesus day didn’t understand, nor comprehend the “signs of the times.” These Signs are for us to watch and see, and Look Up for our Redemption and Inheritance is getting closer and closer.



# THE BELIEVER AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

By Pastor C.F. Pryor

“If God can make of an ugly seed  
With a bit of earth and air  
And dew and rain, sunshine and shade,  
A flower so wondrous fair,  
What can He make of a soul like you,  
With the Bible and faith and prayer,  
And the Holy Spirit, if you do His will  
And trust in His love and care.”

NEXT in importance to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in the person of the Redeemer of mankind is the coming of the Holy Spirit of God on the Day of Pentecost.

Next in importance to our acceptance of Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and Lord is our recognition of the purpose and work of the Holy Spirit of God in our lives. Every Christian must rely upon the Holy Spirit. Jesus told His disciples that it was expedient (better) for them if He did go away, for if He did not go away, the Spirit would not come (John 16:7). It was not until Jesus ascended into heaven and the Spirit was given on the Day of Pentecost that the disciples were able to understand the many truths that Jesus had spoken to them (John 16:13).

## The Holy Spirit at Pentecost

Jesus instructed His disciples to tarry in the city of Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high (Luke 24:49). As Jesus talked with the disciples, suddenly He began to ascend into heaven and a cloud received Him out of their sight. The disciples, no doubt, were amazed and perhaps frightened a bit, but they must have been more concerned with following the Lord's commands. They returned to Jerusalem where men from all parts of the country were beginning to gather for the great Jewish feast of Pentecost. It was fifty days after the crucifixion of Jesus. From this time Pentecost was not to be a Jewish feast only, but the dawn of a new day, the birthday of the Church of the living God. All believers during the Church Age should remember that Pentecost is the time when God's Spirit returned to man to convince the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment (Acts 2:1-4; John 16:8).

## The Holy Spirit in the Early Church

Every time the message of redemption, which caused the church to be, is preached, the power of the Spirit of God is manifest (See Gal. 3:1-4; 1 Thess. 1:2-6; Rev. 2: 7, 11, 17, 26-29; 3:5, 6, 12, 13, 21, 22).

It is in the church and with fellowship with other Christians that the believer shares in the life of the Spirit (Eph. 3:16-21). It is said of those that were present on the Day of Pentecost that “they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.” This simply means that their intellects were illuminated, their wills strengthened,

and their emotions stirred by the power of God entering into every part of their being. This filling of the life of the believer with the Holy Spirit of God was not to cease after Pentecost, but was promised to “as many as the Lord our God shall call” (Acts 2:39).

### **The Indwelling Holy Spirit in Every Believer**



The Bible plainly teaches that each believer is the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul put it this way: “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” This is a staggering truth. Consider the acts of the men in the Old Testament who possessed the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit dwelling in the life of every believer makes of that person “a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” (2 Cor. 5:17). Since God gave of His Spirit to dwell in man, Paul says, “Whoever from now on is a follower of Christ is a new creature” (2 Cor. 5:17, Lamsa). He further states that we have received not the spirit of the world, “but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.” The natural man cannot contain the things of the

Spirit of God, because they are spiritually discerned (See 1 Cor. 2:11-16).

It is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit of God that helps the believer live in communion with the Father and with the Son as a child of God. The natural man, without the Spirit of God, is not a child of God in a redemptive relationship. We may have been immersed in water but, unless we surrender to the Spirit and allow God to control us and transform us into a spiritual person, we are none of His (Rom. 8:9). Paul also states, “As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” Not only is our communion and fellowship with our heavenly Father and His Son Jesus Christ determined by the measure of the Holy Spirit we possess, the communion and fellowship we enjoy with other believers is determined by the Spirit. Paul wrote in the Philippian letter, “If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one desire to repeat this with emphasis but, wish to quote this time from another translation: “If, therefore, you have found consolation in Christ or wholehearted love or fellowship of the Spirit or compassion and mercies, complete my joy by being in one accord and one love and one soul and one mind” (Phil. 2:1, 2, Lamsa).

The indwelling Spirit of God helps our infirmities or weaknesses. This text from Romans 8:26 is in reference to our prayer life. Often we become so confused that we do not know for what we should pray. The Spirit of God will direct our minds that we pray always “according to the will of God.” If we are truly “filled” with the Spirit we will be like the Apostle Paul who said, “I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities [empires], nor powers [armies], nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:38, 39).



## LESSON 12\*

# SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Memorize 1 Peter 2:5.

In John 14, where Christ speaks of preparing a place, where is the preparing going on and what is being prepared? What is the Father's house (1 Tim. 3:15)? This lesson will be studied under three subdivisions: self-examination; consciousness of God's watching eye; and humility.

**Self-Examination.** In what way does Paul intend that one shall examine self (1 Cor. 11:28)? Do you think it is an examination as to one's faithfulness? Should we be less severe in examining ourselves than we are with others?

**Consciousness of God's Watching Eye.** 1 Sam. 16:7; Prov. 5:21; 15:3; Psa. 139:4; 139:7-12 (it is well to read the whole); Heb. 4:13; Jer. 23:24. Does it help in the spiritual growth to know that the all-seeing eye is watching us? Yes, it is power and strength for you to know "the fear of the Lord is clean" (Psa. 19:9), and it will keep you clean and pure in proportion to the extent you come under its influence.

**Humility.** Humility is a condition of mind in which one senses his own weakness of understanding and wisdom and is manifested by and accompanied with contentment, peace, and submission to the Father's will. It is a most excellent grace and evidence of the Spirit of God. It is the opposite of pride (Jas. 4:6, 10; Matt. 11:29). In order that we may better understand humility, give some examples of pride. Are we humbled by God or do we humble ourselves (2 Cor. 12:21; Jas. 4:10; Prov. 6:3; 2 Cor. 7:14; 2 Chron. 12:6; Deut. 8:2)? How, if by God? How, if by ourselves? Jesus humbled Himself by obedience to the Father's will (Phil. 2:8). David humbled himself by fasting (Psa. 35:11-14).

What is the value of self-examination?

Define "spirituality" by the dictionary; in your own words.

Does humility demand that we not recognize our own talents and their results?

**\*THIS IS LESSON TWELVE FROM THE BEREA BIBLE STUDIES SENIOR SERIES BOOK THREE (GOD'S KINGDOM). BEREA BIBLE STUDIES SENIOR BOOK NUMBER ONE (THE GOSPEL PLAN) AND BOOK NUMBER TWO (LIFE AND IMMORTALITY) AND BOOK NUMBER FOUR (THE GOSPEL AND CHRISTIAN LIVING) ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR \$5 EACH. EACH BOOK CONTAINS A YEAR'S WORTH OF WEEKLY LESSONS. THEY MAY BE ORDERED FROM: THE CAROLINA CONFERENCE, 492 BESSIE RD., PIEDMONT, SC 29673.**