

# WHERE HAVE ALL THE PREACHERS GONE?

*Wherein is discovered the difference between genuine and counterfeit preaching, and between genuine salvation and the counterfeit schemes which so plague the world, what it means to confess or deny that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, how the glory of God acts in the salvation of his elect, and a regenerate demonstration of that Scripture which states that no man can come to Jesus except he be drawn by the Father, and finally, for the helpless sinner, a short but succinct exposition on how to be infallibly born again.*

by  
Scott Jones

The late but very godly E. M. Bounds made a simple and yet profound doctrinal statement in his great treatise on prayer. Unfortunately, his statement is one that is not truly understood except by the regenerate --

"Preaching is to give life; **it may kill...** This letter-preaching has the truth. **But even divine truth has no life-giving energy alone; it must be energized by the Spirit,** with all God's forces at its back. **Truth unquickened by God's Spirit deadens as much as - or more than - error.** It may be the truth without admixture; but without the Spirit its shade and touch are **DEADLY**, its truth **ERROR**, its light **DARKNESS.**"  
*E. M. Bounds, Power Through Prayer*

He who has *EXPERIENCED* the *RESURRECTION POWER* of Jesus Christ in the *MIRACLE* of the *NEW BIRTH*, and he *ONLY*, can truly comprehend and appreciate those words. All others can give only intellectual -- as opposed to *EXPERIENTIAL* -- assent. [1 Corinthians 2:14]

In other words, even though a man may speak words that are true, yet, if his words are not prompted and energized by the Holy Spirit, then he does *NOT SPEAK THE TRUTH*, even though the words he speaks may of themselves be true. I tell you again, even though a man may speak words that are true, yet if those very words are not inspired and energized by the Holy Ghost, then that man does *NOT SPEAK THE TRUTH*, even though the words he utters may be true in and of themselves. A corrupt tree cannot produce good fruit, and a corrupt sinner cannot produce truth, even if he quotes God. Except the words proceed through a *REGENERATE* man *FROM* the Holy Spirit, who is the *SPIRIT OF TRUTH*, then speaking the *TRUTH* is a complete and utter *IMPOSSIBILITY*, even if the words themselves are true words, as it is written --

"Let God be true, but every man a liar." *Romans 3:4*

I won't bother to expound, for the regenerate man needs no explanation, for the regenerate man knows what Jesus Christ meant when he said that *HE -- HE HIMSELF --* is the *TRUTH*, and that *TRUTH* is therefore not a paradigm, but a *PERSON*, and even though the unregenerate may

*THINK* he understands all that, he in fact has *NO CLUE* -- none whatsoever, having never *EXPERIENCED* the *RESURRECTION POWER* of Jesus Christ in the *MIRACLE* of the *NEW BIRTH* -- and thus the unregenerate man wouldn't understand this matter *EXPERIENTIALLY* even if somebody rose from the dead and laid it out for him in scrupulous detail. And this is *EXACTLY* why the Lord Jesus *REFUSED* to explain himself to Nicodemus in the third of John, why the Lord Jesus *REFUSED* to explain himself to a congregation of professors in the eighth of John, why the Lord Jesus *REFUSED* to explain himself to Pilate, and why the Lord Jesus *REFUSED* to explain himself in so many other places. [John 14:6; John 1:14; John 1:17; John 8:32; Colossians 2:9; Luke 16:31]

I say the truth in Christ, I lie not -- I can't remember the last time I heard a *REGENERATE* preacher proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ under the *UNCTION* of the Holy Spirit. And like other *TRULY REGENERATE* believers, I *CRINGE* when I hear the gospel proclaimed by the universal mass of *UNREGENERATE* preachers of our day, just as A. W. Tozer so solemnly observed --

"There isn't anything quite so **chilling**, quite so **disheartening** as a man **without the Holy Spirit** preaching about the Holy Spirit." *The Tozer Pulpit, Vol I*

The pulpits are *LITERALLY OVERFLOWING* with *UNREGENERATE* preachers, preachers who have *NOT* the Spirit of Christ, and who know *NOTHING* of the *NEW BIRTH EXPERIENTIALLY*. Nothing whatsoever. That includes both conservative and liberal denominations, both Reformed and Arminian, and so forth and so on. And I may as well state right here that I won't even bother to answer in this treatise those who ask how one can know if another person is truly born again or not, for that is not a question that any genuinely born again believer would ever ask. [1 Corinthians 2:15; John 7:17; 1 John 3:24; 1 John 4:1-3; 1 John 4:13]

Every time a person sits under the proclamation of an unregenerate sermon, his heart is further hardened, and he doesn't even know it. Even if the sermon is doctrinally accurate, scripturally pure, it is nevertheless nothing but a *DEADLY* plague if the words do not go forth by a *REGENERATE* preacher under the *UNCTION* of the Holy Ghost. Bit by bit, piece by piece, slowly but surely, like the monotonous dripping of a leaking rusty faucet, the hearer is being killed, suffocated to death by words that have no *POWER*. No power at all, because the preacher himself has no *POWER*. The preachers of our day are as dead in their trespasses and sins -- and as *POWERLESS* -- as the congregations they preach to. [1 Corinthians 4:20; 1 Corinthians 2:4; 2 Corinthians 10:4-5; 1 Thessalonians 1:5]

Their *DEAD WORDS* -- even if the words themselves are true words -- yet emanating from an *UNREGENERATE* preacher, they are *DEAD WORDS* -- aye, their *DEAD WORDS* do nothing but blanket the spirit with yet another layer of insulation against *LIGHT*, weighing ponderously but imperceptibly on the spirit like a fatal contagion that settles clandestinely over the land and silently smothers it in a hazy, murky mist, clogging the thoughts of the mind and the intents of the heart like a filthy sludge as every syllable becomes nothing but another nail in the coffin of

the sinner's soul, all of which is in direct opposition to the *LIVING WORDS* of Jesus, who stated --

"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*

**T**his is exactly what E. M. Bounds was talking about. When Jesus spoke, his words had *POWER -- LIFE-GIVING POWER*. So did Peter's; so did Paul's; so did Bunyan's, Whitefield's, Spurgeon's, Edwards', and so many other *GENUINELY* born again Christians throughout history. Their words went forth under the *POWER* of the Holy Spirit, under the *UNCTION* of the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit of God therefore and thereby moved with *REGENERATING POWER* upon the souls of those who heard them. As a born again Bunyan stated --

"There belongs to every true notion of truth a **POWER**; the notion is the shell -- **the POWER is the kernel and life. Without this last, truth doth me no good, nor those to whom I communicate it.** Hence Paul said to the Corinthians, 'When I come to you again, I will know not the speech of them that are puffed up, **but the POWER. For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in POWER.**'" *John Bunyan, Christ A Complete Saviour*

**W**hen *REGENERATE* men preach under the *UNCTION* of the Holy Spirit, the *POWER* of the Holy Spirit goes forth, and men are made *ANEW* in the *MIRACLE* of the *NEW BIRTH*, and not a single "*invitation*" is given, for it is not necessary -- nor is it scriptural. When *REGENERATE* men preach under the *UNCTION* of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit *FALLS* on people *AS THEY HEAR* (and what *GENUINELY* born again Christian has not witnessed this when led by the Holy Spirit to preach or give his testimony?), and thus, when *REGENERATE* men preach under the *UNCTION* of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit *FALLS* on people *AS THEY HEAR*, and men and women are correspondingly born again on the spot. That's how men and women are *GENUINELY* born again -- *MANIFESTLY* born again -- for "*invitations*" and "*decisions*" are the carnal inventions of carnal, unregenerate religionists, religionists who are themselves *UNREGENERATE* and who thus have no *POWER* with God. None at all. Accordingly, the *BIBLICAL* phenomena of people being born again *ON THE SPOT* is virtually unknown today. [Acts 10:44; Acts 16:31; 1 Corinthians 4:19]

**Y**et, that is no excuse. Make no mistake about it; God will certainly take *VENGEANCE* on the carnal, unregenerate preacher when he stands before the judgment seat of Jesus Christ. *WOE* to the *UNREGENERATE* preacher. *WOE, WOE, WOE* unto him. Every soul he hardens -- and ultimately kills -- with his carnal, unregenerate preaching will be laid to his account in the day of judgment, and each and every heart he has hardened with his carnal, unregenerate words will be a millstone about his neck, damning him and tormenting him for all eternity. *WOE* unto that man. [Matthew 18:6; Matthew 23:13-29; Revelation 20:15]

**L**ook to it, professors, you who have no *POWER* with God! [2 Timothy 3:5; 2 Corinthians 13:5]

**T**he *UNREGENERATE, POWERLESS* preacher would do better to heed James' warning and not become a teacher until he himself has been taught *DIRECTLY* by the Spirit of the Living God. Witness one of Spurgeon's golden rules --

"To be taught of the minister is nothing, but to be taught of the Lord is everything. **It is only the Spirit of God who can engrave the truth upon the fleshy tablets of the heart...** He that professes to be a believer, **while he has never received the truth in the POWER of it, as sent home by the Spirit of light and fire,** has need to begin again, and learn the first rudiments of the faith. **He has learned nothing aright who has not been under the DIRECT TUITION of the Holy Ghost.**" *Charles Spurgeon, Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit, Vol XXX, Receiving The Holy Ghost*

**A**nd Tozer let fly a similar and equally penetrating proverb --

"To understand a Bible text it takes **an act of the Holy Spirit equal to the act that inspired the text in the first place.** A revelation of the Holy Spirit **in one glorious flash of inward illumination** would teach you more of Jesus than five years in a theological seminary." *A. W. Tozer, The Tozer Pulpit, Vol II*

**I**f the *UNREGENERATE* preacher knew what lay before him in the day of judgment, having never *EXPERIENCED* the very *RESURRECTION POWER* of Jesus Christ in the *MIRACLE* of the *NEW BIRTH*, he would cease his preaching and teaching *IMMEDIATELY*, and he would not take it up again until he himself had had an *UNMISTAKABLE SUPERNATURAL EXPERIENCE* in the *MIRACLE* of the *NEW BIRTH*, whereby Jesus Christ *PERSONALLY* introduces himself to him, and indwells him, and makes him a new creature, and wherein he *EXPERIENCES* the very *RESURRECTION POWER* of Jesus Christ. Then, if God so wills -- *AFTER* his *NEW BIRTH* -- if God so wills, then -- and *ONLY* then -- should he take up the mantle again. [Isaiah 6:5-8]

**A**nthing less and that man stands condemned above all other men whatsoever, for there is no greater calling in this world, no greater responsibility in this life, than the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ, and he who does not do so in *SPIRIT* and in *TRUTH* -- that is, under the *UNCTION* of the Holy Spirit -- will rue the day he ever stood in the pulpit, and *GREAT* will be his torment in eternity. [James 3:1; Matthew 11:21-24]

**B**ecause this is not understood, multitudes of preachers go *WITHOUT EVER HAVING BEEN SENT*. Their carnal understanding of the Great Commission makes them nothing but busybodies -- *POWERLESS* busybodies. They have *NO CLUE* as to why Jesus told the disciples -- *AFTER* the resurrection -- yea, they have *NO CLUE* as to why Jesus told his disciples *AFTER* the resurrection to *WAIT* before going forth to preach. *WAIT?* Why wait? They had the message, didn't they? Jesus was risen, so why did the risen Jesus tell them to *WAIT?* People were dying daily, weren't they? Souls were going to hell by the boatload, never having heard the gospel. Why wait, Lord?

"And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: **but tarry ye** in the city of Jerusalem, **until ye be endued with power from on high.**" *Luke 24:49*

**T**he *UNREGENERATE* not only have no *COMMISSION* -- because they are *UNREGENERATE* -- but they also have no *CALL*, and without a *CALL* (and this part applies even to the *TRULY REGENERATE*, that is, even the *TRULY REGENERATE* must have a *CALL*) -- for without a call *DIRECTLY* from the Holy Spirit, and I mean *DIRECTLY* from Jesus Christ *HIMSELF* by his Spirit, by the *UNMISTAKABLE TESTIMONY OF THE HOLY GHOST* -- I say, without a *CALL*, they can *NOT*, and they will *NEVER*, be endued with *POWER FROM ON HIGH*. [*Galatians 1:15-16; Galatians 1:11-12; 1 Corinthians 2:10; Ephesians 3:3-5;* ]

**T**he Lord Jesus will not give these *UNREGENERATE* and *UNCALLED* preachers so much as a thread to a shoe latchet of his *POWER*. All they will ever have is their own clever intellect and their own natural abilities of human persuasion, which they and their carnal congregations habitually mistake for the power of the Holy Spirit, when in fact they are doing nothing but *USURPING* the role of the Holy Spirit, but which also leaves them without excuse, for the Scripture *MANIFESTLY DISCRIMINATES* between the carnal, unregenerate persuasions of man and the work of the Holy Ghost, and thus, as I said, they will be without excuse on the day of judgment. [*1 Corinthians 1:25; 1 Corinthians 2:7; John 16:8-11*]

**D**ue to their ignorance and carnal comprehension of Scripture, these *UNREGENERATE* and *UNCALLED* preachers interpret the Great Commission as giving them *Carte Blanche* to preach the gospel, and such a scheme sounds noble to their carnal and unregenerate followers, but nothing could be further from the truth, for all the while they prove themselves *BLIND* to the works of God, and utterly *IGNORANT* of the tenets and *APPLICATION* of the Great Commission. They have no understanding of why the Holy Spirit *FORBADE* the disciples to go into Asia.

"Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, **and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia**, After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: **but the Spirit suffered them not.**" *Acts 16:6-7*

**W**eren't people dying in Asia and Bithynia? Didn't they need the gospel of Jesus Christ in Asia and Bithynia? Yes, but the Great Commission is a *MILITARY CAMPAIGN*; the Great Commission is *GOD'S MILITARY CAMPAIGN*, a campaign whose warfare and weapons are not carnal, but mighty through God, and like *ALL* military campaigns, the Great Commission must be directed by a *GENERAL*, by a *SUPREME COMMANDER* who applies strategy and pinpoint accuracy to his maneuvers so that his campaign is *EFFECTUAL*. [*Isaiah 46:10; Romans 9:6-23*]

**T**his is how the *TRUE* Great Commission is prosecuted -- and the *TRUE* Great Commission is prosecuted by none other than Jesus Christ *HIMSELF*, and his sheep *HEAR* his *VOICE* in carrying out his orders -- and thus, unbeknownst to the *UNREGENERATE* and *UNCALLED*

preachers of our day, God, who works *ALL* things after the counsel of his own will, including the *TRUE* prosecution of the Great Commission, is not in the least bit concerned about bringing his elect into the fold, for *Jehovah Elohim*, even the Lord Jesus Christ, sends his *ELECT PREACHERS*, his *REGENERATE PREACHERS*, into the *EXACT* places he intends -- into every nook and cranny he deigns to visit with his salvation -- and thus God is not in the *LEAST* bit concerned about bringing his elect into the fold, as Jesus so dogmatically asserted --

"**All** that the Father giveth me **shall come to me**; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." *John 6:37*

**J**ohn Bunyan called this verse *THE GREAT SHALL COME!* And rightly so, for...

**E***VERY SINGLE PERSON* - there are *NO* exceptions - yea, *EVERY* single person who was given to Jesus Christ by the Father *SHALL COME* to Jesus. Not one single person given to Jesus Christ by the Father will *FAIL* to *COME* to Jesus. *EVERY* person given to Jesus by the Father *SHALL COME* to Jesus - there are *NO* exceptions - and there is no power in heaven or earth or hell, or anywhere in all of creation, that can frustrate the Father's purpose herein, for as the Father has appointed the *ENDS*, so has he appointed the *MEANS*, and thus *ALL* that the Father has given to Jesus, even *ALL*, yea, *ALL* that the Father has given to Jesus *SHALL COME* to Jesus - shall come *WITHOUT FAIL* - aye, *ALL* that the Father has given to Jesus *SHALL COME* to Jesus, not *ONE* will be missing, yea, *ALL* that the Father has given to Jesus will be brought to Jesus through the Father's appointed *MEANS*, even through the *MINISTRY OF THE WORD* - that *EVERLASTING GOSPEL* - even the *GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST*, wherein the Word of God is preached to *ALL MEN*, but brought to the *ELECT* with *POWER* (for the Spirit blows where *HE* wills) - even the *RESURRECTION POWER OF JESUS CHRIST* - even to *ALL* that are genuinely born again, even to *ALL* that the Father has given to Jesus, just as it happened in Thessalonica --

"Knowing, brethren beloved, **your election of God**. For our gospel came not unto you in word only, **but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance**; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake. And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, **with joy of the Holy Ghost**." *1 Thessalonians 1:4-6*

**P**aul and his associates had been *SENT*, unlike the mass of *UNREGENERATE* and *UNCALLED* preachers of our day, and thus Paul and his associates had *POWER*, even that *POWER FROM ON HIGH*, wherein the Holy Spirit was communicated to their hearers, wherein men were made *ANEW* by the *REGENERATING POWER* of the Holy Ghost, by the very *RESURRECTION POWER* of Jesus Christ.

**T**he same was true of Bunyan, Whitefield, Edwards, Spurgeon, and other *GENUINELY* born again Christians throughout history. These men had been *SENT*; these men had been *ENDUED WITH POWER FROM ON HIGH*, and thus when they preached, the Holy Ghost *FELL* on the hearers, just as with Peter at Caesarea --

"While Peter yet spake these words, **the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.**" *Acts 10:44*

**W**hat *GENUINELY* born again Christian has not witnessed the very same thing when led by the Holy Spirit to preach or give his testimony?

**O**f course, this is how men and women are *GENUINELY* born again, and *NO OTHER WAY*. Men and women are *NOT* born again by their *OWN WILL*, nor by their *INHERITANCE*, or *BLOODLINE*, nor by their *OWN EFFORTS*, such as the popular version known as "*the sinner's prayer*," which, in the way it is presented today, is nothing but *PRESUMPTION*, nor by "*decisions for Christ*," or by walking down an aisle in a church or at a crusade, or by the popular presentation of "*committing their lives to Christ*," and whatnot, as the Holy Ghost clearly and absolutely affirms --

"Which were born, **not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.**" *John 1:13*

**A**LL of these methods -- I say, *ALL OF THESE METHODS* -- are nothing but *WILL WORSHIP*, and *EVERY ONE OF THEM* will be *CONDEMNED* by the Lord Jesus on the day of judgment, and *MULTITUDES*, even *MULTITUDES*, will discover -- will discover too late -- that they have been deceived about the true nature and way of salvation, and that they are eternally ruined a result, that it's too late by a lifetime, and that the doors of heaven are closed to them forever more. As A. W. Tozer soberly observed --

"In that great and terrible day, there will be those white with shock when they find that they have depended upon a mental assent to Christianity instead of upon **the miracle of the new birth.**" *A. W. Tozer, The Tozer Pulpit, Vol I*

**M**iracles are the work of God; *GENUINE* miracles are the work of the Holy Spirit, *NOT* the will of man, and it takes a *MIRACLE* -- a bona fide *MIRACLE* -- to become a Christian. He who has never *EXPERIENCED* the *MIRACLE* of the *NEW BIRTH*, even the very *RESURRECTION POWER* of Jesus Christ, which is the *VERY SAME POWER* that is put forth in the *MIRACLE* of the *NEW BIRTH*, even the *RESURRECTION POWER* of Jesus Christ -- a *POWER* that is *GREATER* than that which created the very *WORLDS* -- aye, he who has never *EXPERIENCED* the *RESURRECTION POWER* of Jesus Christ in the *MIRACLE* of the *NEW BIRTH* is deluding himself if he thinks he's born again, and unless he repents and bows at the feet of *SOVEREIGN GRACE*, he has *NO* chance of ever *BECOMING* born again, and *NO* chance of going to heaven. None whatsoever.

"This blessed Spirit, **who once moved on the face of the great deep; who overshadowed the blessed Virgin** before that holy child was born of her; **who descended in a bodily shape, like a dove**, on our blessed Lord, when he came up out of the water at his baptism; **and afterwards came down in fiery tongues on the heads of all his Apostles at the day of Pentecost**: this is the Holy Ghost, who must move on the faces of our souls; **this power of the Most High, must come upon us, and we must be**

**baptized with his baptism and refining fire**, before we can be stilled true members of Christ's mystical body." *George Whitefield, Marks Of Having Received The Holy Ghost*

**J**esus Christ died for the sins of his *ELECT*, but he *ROSE* again for their *JUSTIFICATION*...

**A**nd the *PROOF* that Jesus Christ not only *ROSE* from the dead *BODILY*, but that his work of *REDEMPTION* was *ACCEPTED* of the Father, is *PENTECOST*. That's why the Lord Jesus called the bestowing of the Holy Spirit "*the promise of the Father*," for the Father *PROMISED* the *SON* in the *ETERNAL COUNCILS OF THE GODHEAD* that he would give his *ELECT* the gift of the Holy Spirit **IF** the *SON* accomplished the work of *REDEMPTION*, which includes -- but is not limited to -- the *FORGIVENESS* of sins for his *ELECT* by the *SUBSTITUTION OF HIMSELF* in the place of sinners -- the *JUST* for the *UNJUST* -- as well as their *JUSTIFICATION*.

**A**gain, *PENTECOST* is the *PROOF* that the *SON*, even the Lord Jesus Christ, *DID SATISFACTORILY ACCOMPLISH -- IN EVERY FACET --* the work of *REDEMPTION*. The reason I write in sequence -- "*the SON, even the Lord Jesus Christ*" -- is because it is as necessary today as it was in the earliest ages of the church to affirm that Jesus Christ and the *SON* are *ONE AND THE SAME PERSON*, for B. F. Westcott, along with his Satanic cohort, F. J. A. Hort, both of whom were *MANIFESTLY UNREGENERATE*, and who were the two architects of the Greek text which underlies modern "*bibles*," denied, or at least questioned, along with the heresiarch Valentinus some seventeen centuries earlier, whether this was so or not, that is, whether Jesus Christ and the *SON* were one and the same person, and their blasphemous *CHRISTOLOGY* is *PERVASIVE* in modern "*bibles*" throughout, as the Holy Ghost *HIMSELF* testifies to *EVERY ONE* he indwells. Accordingly, let it be known that the *SON, EVEN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST*, did satisfactorily accomplish *EVERY FACET* of the work of *REDEMPTION*, and *PENTECOST* is the *PROOF* thereof. [Acts 2:33; Luke 24:49; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 8:29-30; John 17:4; John 19:30]

**I**n that same vein, and following close on its heels, the *MIRACLE* of the *NEW BIRTH*, or *REGENERATION*, is part and parcel of the *RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST*, for the *MIRACLE* of the *NEW BIRTH*, or *REGENERATION*, is produced by the *VERY SAME POWER* whereby Jesus Christ arose from the dead. [Ephesians 1:19-20]

"The **POWER which raises the believer** from spiritual death **is the same as that which raised Christ from the grave**... The resurrection of Christ is both the **type and the cause** of the spiritual resurrection of his people, as well as of their future rising from the grave in his glorious likeness... As often, therefore, as the believer contemplates Christ as risen and seated at the right hand of God, **he has at once an illustration of the change which has been effected in his own spiritual state, and a pledge that the work commenced in regeneration shall be consummated in glory.**"  
*Charles Hodge, Ephesians*

Accordingly, to assert that the *POWER* of the *RESURRECTION* in the *MIRACLE* of the *NEW BIRTH* can take place without the *MANIFEST ENERGY* of the Holy Ghost is to *OVERTHROW* the very *RESURRECTION* itself. Consequently, he who denies the *MANIFEST* -- I say, the *MANIFEST*, which means *DEMONSTRABLE* and *PERCEPTIBLE* and *TANGIBLE* -- yea, he who denies the *MANIFEST POWER* of the Holy Spirit in the *MIRACLE* of the *NEW BIRTH*, *DENIES* that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, as the Scripture *WARNS* --

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

This is in large measure what it means to either *CONFESS* or *DENY* that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, namely, that the Holy Ghost is given *MANIFESTLY* in the *MIRACLE* of the *NEW BIRTH* or not, for *PENTECOST* is one of the Lord's *TROPHIES* of *REDEMPTION*. I say, *PENTECOST* is a *TROPHY* of the Lord Jesus' *SATISFACTORY ACCOMPLISHMENT* of the work of *REDEMPTION*.

Consequently, he who *DENIES* that the Holy Ghost is given *MANIFESTLY* in the *MIRACLE* of the *NEW BIRTH* not only *DENIES* that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, but he has also become a *HERO* in Satan's eyes -- not to mention an unwitting minion and tool of Satan -- and a *FOUL STENCH* in the nostrils of Jesus Christ and his Father. I say, he who *DENIES* that the Holy Ghost is given *MANIFESTLY* -- *DEMONSTRABLY*, *PERCEPTIBLY*, *TANGIBLY* -- in the *MIRACLE* of the *NEW BIRTH* not only *DENIES* that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh, but is likewise a *FOUL STENCH* in the nostrils of Jesus Christ and his Father. Such a man *CHEAPENS EVERYTHING* -- and I mean *EVERYTHING* -- that Jesus Christ accomplished in his work of *REDEMPTION*.

People are not born again when they are in bed and asleep, so that they do not know it. **They feel it; they experience it.** Galvanism, or the power of electricity, may be mysterious; but they produce a feeling - a sensation. **So does the New Birth.**" *C. H. Spurgeon, The Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit, Volume I, The Victory Of Faith*

If a man denies this, don't think for one second that such a man is not a heretic at best, a blasphemer at worst, regardless of his standing in the church or the world, even if he is *APPARENTLY* sound on other doctrines. I say again, regardless of his standing in the church or the world, or his position on other doctrines, such a man is a heretic at best, a blasphemer at worst.

Moreover, such a man proves himself *INFALLIBLY UNREGENERATE* -- *INFALLIBLY UNREGENERATE* -- just as several well-known modern theologians also do when they deny the *TWO NATURES* in the believer, thus demonstrating *INFALLIBLY* that they are likewise *UNREGENERATE*, even though they are hailed as doctrinal giants in the church today, for it is

*NOT POSSIBLE* for a *REGENERATE* man to deny that he has *TWO NATURES*. It is simply *NOT POSSIBLE*, and *EVERY ONE* who is born of the Spirit knows it, as *EVERY ONE* that is born of the Spirit is aware -- *EMINENTLY AWARE* -- of the ferocious struggle, of the all-out *WAR* -- that takes place *BETWEEN THE TWO NATURES* after he is made *ANEW* in the *MIRACLE* of the *NEW BIRTH*, a struggle that did *NOT* exist *PRIOR* to this *NEW BIRTH*, a struggle that is so *FIERCE* that it *EXHAUSTS* him spiritually, and he is *EMINENTLY AWARE* of the *IDENTITY* of *EACH* of the *TWO NATURES*. There are *NO* exceptions. [Romans 7:17-23; Romans 8:10; Ephesians 4:22-25; Colossians 3:9-10; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15]

**"In EVERY regenerate person there are, in a spiritual sense, TWO PRINCIPLES of all his actings, — TWO WILLS. There is the will of the flesh, and there is the will of the Spirit. A regenerate man is spiritually and in Scripture expression TWO MEN, — a "new man" and an "old," an "inward man" and a "body of death," — and hath TWO WILLS, having TWO NATURES, not as natural faculties, but as moral principles of operation; and this keeps all his actions, as moral, from being perfect, absolute, or complete in any kind... There is an "I" and an "I" at opposition, a willing and not willing, a doing and not doing, a delighting and not delighting, all in the same person." John Owen, The Doctrine Of The Saint's Perseverance**

**W**hat is true of the man who *DENIES* the *TWO NATURES* in the *REGENERATE* man, that is, that such a man is himself *INFALLIBLY UNREGENERATE*, is *ALSO* true of the man who bows before the *IDOL* of "*FREE WILL*," for *EVERY PERSON* who is born of the *SPIRIT* -- *EVERY SINGLE PERSON WHO IS BORN OF THE SPIRIT* -- knows *INFALLIBLY* that he was given a *NEW WILL* upon *REGENERATION* -- not a *REFORMED* will, but a *NEW WILL* -- upon the *MOMENT* of his *REGENERATION*, and he who does not *KNOW* and *REMEMBER* this is he who *INFALLIBLY* has never *EXPERIENCED* the *RESURRECTION POWER* of Jesus Christ in the *MIRACLE* of the *NEW BIRTH*.

**W**hile this *SIMPLE* truth is almost unheard of today, Bunyan and virtually *ALL* of the Puritans knew that *NO MAN* born of the Spirit could deny that his will was *ENSLAVED* before he was born again, and that he was given a *NEW WILL* at the *MOMENT* of *REGENERATION*, and therefore Bunyan and the Puritans didn't acquiesce to the *free-willers* like modern Reformed theologians do, who opine that the *free-willer* just might be saved, and that's because, unlike Bunyan and the Puritans, the *VAST MAJORITY* of the Reformed theologians today are no more *REGENERATED* than the *free-willers* they accommodate, for if they were, they would know, like *ALL* genuinely born again believers, that it is *IMPOSSIBLE* for a *TRULY REGENERATE* man to assert that his will was free before his *NEW BIRTH*, for the *REGENERATE* man -- *EVERY REGENERATE MAN* -- *KNOWS* that his will was *NOT* free before his *NEW BIRTH*, and he who asserts otherwise, as Bunyan and the Puritans knew, is he who knows *NOTHING* of *EXPERIENTIAL REGENERATION*. Nothing whatsoever.

**There is also that free-willer, who denies to the Holy Ghost the sole work in conversion; and that Socinian, who denieth to Christ that he hath made to God satisfaction for sin; and that Quaker, who takes from Christ the two natures in his person: and I might add as many more, touching whose damnation, they dying as they are, the Scripture is plain: these will seek to enter into heaven, and shall not be able." John Bunyan, The Strait Gate**

**H**ad such men actually *EXPERIENCED* the *MANIFEST POWER* of the Holy Ghost in the *MIRACLE* of the *NEW BIRTH* themselves, they would *KNOW* just how *IMPOSSIBLE* it is for *ANYONE* to be *REGENERATED* without *PERSONALLY EXPERIENCING* a *MANIFEST MIRACLE*, and just how *IMPOSSIBLE* it is for a *REGENERATE* man to deny that he has *TWO NATURES*, and just how *IMPOSSIBLE* it is for a *REGENERATE* man to deny that he was given a *NEW WILL* upon the *MOMENT* of *REGENERATION*, and that his old will was *NOT* free, that his old will was *ENSLAVED*. He who does not *KNOW* these things and *REMEMBER* this *EXPERIENCE* is he who *INFALLIBLY* has never been born again.

**M**oreover, those who commit these *BASIC* errors -- I say, *BASIC* errors -- don't realize how *SPIRITUALLY IGNORANT* they *SHOW* themselves to be, for they *DEMONSTRATE* almost every time they open their mouth that they are *NOT REGENERATE*, and thus they *CONTINUOUSLY INTRUDE INTO THOSE THINGS WHICH THEY HAVE NOT SEEN* -- I say, not *SEEN* -- being *VAINLY PUFFED UP BY THEIR FLESHLY MIND*, which means they can only *SPECULATE* about spiritual matters, for they have never *SEEN* these things in the Spirit. Consequently, these men have no *CERTAIN* knowledge of the things of the Spirit; they can only *SPECULATE* about spiritual truths, for they themselves have never *EXPERIENCED* the *RESURRECTION POWER* of Jesus Christ in the *MIRACLE* of the *NEW BIRTH*, and thus, as the Scripture states, they *CONTINUOUSLY INTRUDE INTO THOSE THINGS WHICH THEY HAVE NOT SEEN, VAINLY PUFFED UP BY THEIR FLESHLY MIND*. [Colossians 2:8]

**A** stalwart of the twentieth century spake true when he disclosed --

"A certain teaching tells us to 'take it by faith' and not to worry about feelings. 'You may feel nothing at all,' it says, 'but if you believe this Word and its teaching you can take the Holy Spirit by faith irrespective of any feeling.' **The whole of the New Testament teaches the opposite.** So does the subsequent history of the Christian Church... **You cannot be baptized or filled with the Holy Spirit without knowing it. It is the greatest EXPERIENCE one can ever know. The teaching that assures us that we may feel nothing at all runs entirely contrary not only to the teaching of the Scripture but to the recorded experiences of countless Christians throughout the centuries.**" *D. M. Lloyd-Jones, Romans - The Sons Of God*

**A**nd perhaps the greatest preacher in the history of Christianity outside of the Apostolic age *WISELY* noted --

"Had I a mind to **hinder the progress of the gospel, and to establish the kingdom of darkness, I would go about telling people that they might have the Spirit of God, and yet not feel it.**" *George Whitefield, The Indwelling Of The Spirit*

**F**inally, with regard to *MANIFESTATION*, a mighty nineteenth century servant of Jesus Christ stated unapologetically --

"Give someone an electric shock and I warrant you he will know it, **but if he has the Holy Ghost, he will know it much more.**" *Charles Spurgeon, Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit, Vol XXX, Receiving The Holy Ghost*

**T**he denial of these *SIMPLE* truths is another reason that *GENUINE* preaching today is *DEFUNCT*, for the preacher who does *NOT* stress to his congregation that they *CANNOT* be saved -- that they *CANNOT BE BORN AGAIN* -- by their own will, or by their own efforts, or by saying a prayer or walking down an aisle, or by a "*commitment*," or such-like, is a preacher who speaks *SOLELY* for *SATAN*, who is in fact Satan's *MOUTHPIECE*. *WOE* unto that preacher. He not only will *NOT* enter the kingdom of heaven himself, but he shuts up the kingdom of heaven to those he preaches to. *WOE, WOE, WOE* unto that preacher.

**C**onversely, the *REGENERATE* preacher who speaks as the *ORACLES OF GOD*, that is, under the *UNCTION* of the Holy Spirit -- and the *REGENERATE* man whose words are delivered under the *UNCTION* of the Holy Spirit gets his sermons differently than other men, for if the *REGENERATE* man sets aside, say, twenty hours a week for sermon preparation, he will spend thirty minutes of that time with his nose in the Bible, while the other nineteen-and-half hours will be spent on his *KNEES*, and it is from his *KNEES* that his sermon will come, if the Holy Ghost is involved, for there is a *COST* -- a *HEAVY COST*, a *SUFFERING COST*, an *UNRELENTING SUPERNATURAL WARFARE* that is as *GENUINE* and *REAL* as *ANY* battle or war that has *EVER* taken place on this earth, for Satan fights for *EVERY* soul -- *SATAN FIGHTS TIRELESSLY AND WITH UTTER ABANDON FOR EVERY SINGLE SOUL* -- aye, there is a *COST* indeed, a *BRUTAL, THOROUGHLY EXHAUSTING, SOUL-CONSUMING, SUPERNATURAL FIGHT TO THE FINISH*, resulting in a *DESPERATELY LONELY* and *BITTERLY AGONIZING COST* -- to the man who would be *ENDUED WITH POWER FROM ON HIGH* --

"Search, then, after the **POWER** of what thou knowest, for it is the **POWER** that will do thee good. **Now this will not be got but by earnest prayer, and much attending upon God**; also there must not be admitted by thee that thy heart be stuffed with cumbering cares of this world, for they are of a choking nature." *John Bunyan, Christ A Complete Saviour*

**I**t is a *COST* which *FEW* men in all ages of the world have been able to bear.

**T**hus, the *REGENERATE* preacher who speaks as the *ORACLES OF GOD* will tell his congregation that they have *NO POWER* to make themselves new creatures, that they *CANNOT* be saved by *ANY* artifice of man -- I say, by *ANY ARTIFICE OF MAN*, not by saying the "*sinner's prayer*," not by walking down an aisle, not by making a "*decision for Christ*," not by making a "*commitment*," in short, not by *ANY* artifice of man -- and thus, because such a preacher is *REGENERATE*, and because such a preacher delivers his words under the *UNCTION* of the Holy Spirit, people in his congregation will begin to despair of themselves, and not only of themselves, but they will soon come to the point -- if the Holy Spirit is involved -- they will soon come to the point where they will realize that there is *NO HOPE* -- *NO HOPE AT ALL* -- of

going to heaven unless Jesus Christ *SOVEREIGNLY* comes down to them and *PERSONALLY* introduces *HIMSELF* -- I say, *PERSONALLY INTRODUCES HIMSELF* -- to them in the *MIRACLE* of the *NEW BIRTH*, for they will soon realize -- if the Holy Spirit is involved -- that they have no *SAVING FAITH* of their own, that their *OWN FAITH* is merely the product of *FLESH*, that their *OWN FAITH* is nothing but the product of their *NATURAL HUMAN WILL*, and that their *OWN FAITH*, that is, their *NATURAL FAITH*, is a *DAMNING FAITH*, and that if they are going to be saved, it will take *SAVING FAITH*, which is a *SUPERNATURAL FAITH*, and that *SUPERNATURAL FAITH* is a *FAITH* that *MUST BE GIVEN FROM ABOVE*. I say, *MUST BE GIVEN FROM ABOVE*.

**"None of us believe by nature:** but after the Holy Ghost has convinced us of the sin of our natures, and the sin of our lives and duties, in order to convince us of our utter inability to save ourselves, **and that we must be beholden to God, as for everything else, so for faith** (without which it is impossible to please, or be saved by Christ) **HE CONVINCES US ALSO, THAT WE HAVE NO FAITH."** *George Whitefield, Sermon, The Holy Spirit Convincing The World Of Sin, Righteousness, And Judgment*

**"When the Word of the Lord came to me with power,** it was as new as if I had lived among the unvisited tribes of Central Africa, and had never heard the tidings of the cleansing fountain filled with blood, drawn from the Saviour's veins... **When I first discovered what faith really was, and exercised it** --for with me these two things came together, **I believed as soon as ever I knew what believing meant** -- then I thought I had never before heard that truth preached." *Charles Spurgeon, Autobiography -- The Great Change - Conversion*

**A**ccordingly, such a man, a man who suddenly finds himself in the quicksand of *TOTAL* spiritual despair, is a man who, as Luther accurately stated, is very near to grace, and Jesus Christ, who knows and reads the hearts of *ALL* men, will move heaven and earth to save such a man, and no other.

"God has surely promised His grace to the humbled: that is, **to those who mourn over and despair of themselves.** But a man cannot be thoroughly humbled **till he realizes that his salvation is utterly beyond his own powers, counsels, efforts, will and works, and depends absolutely on the will, counsel, pleasure and work of Another -- God alone.** As long as a man is persuaded that he can make even the smallest contribution to his salvation, [this includes the "sinner's prayer," walking down an aisle, and so on: Scott Jones] **he remains self-confident and does not utterly despair of himself, and so is not humbled before God.** Such a man plans out for himself - or at least hopes and longs for - a position, an occasion, a work, which shall bring him final salvation, but which will not. **Conversely, the man who is out of doubt that his destiny depends entirely on the will of God, despairs entirely of himself, chooses nothing for himself, but waits for God to work in him; and such a man is very near to grace for his salvation."** *Martin Luther, Bondage Of The Will*

**W**hen a man is brought to that point, when he is brought to the point of utter self-despair, to the point of no hope, not even of salvation itself -- and *ONLY* the Holy Spirit can *BRING* him to that point -- aye, when a man is brought to that point, all the way down to the very *BOTTOM* of his soul, to the very *BEDROCK* of his being, where he is *SHOWN* the *DEPTH* of his *SIN* -- not merely *ACTS* or *ACTIONS* which he may have committed, but rather, *WHAT HE IS BY NATURE*

-- aye, when the Holy Ghost *SHOWS* a man *WHAT HE IS BY NATURE* -- then, and *ONLY* then, does the Holy Spirit complete the task and finish the work by *SHOWING* him *JESUS CHRIST IN HIS GLORY*. I say, by *SHOWING* -- *SHOWING* -- him Jesus Christ *IN HIS GLORY*.

Did the Spirit of God **ever bring all your sins thus to remembrance**, and make you cry out to God, "*Thou writest bitter things against me?*" Did your actual sins ever appear before you, as though drawn in a map? **If not, you have great reason to suspect that you are not convicted, much more not converted.**" *George Whitefield, The Holy Spirit Convincing The World Of Sin, Righteousness, And Judgment*

"If God promise riches, the way thereto is poverty. Whom he loveth, him he chasteneth, whom he exalteth, he casteth down, **whom he saveth he damneth first. He bringeth no man to heaven except he send him to hell first. If he promise life he slayeth first, whom he buildeth, he casteth all down first.** He is no patcher, he cannot build on another man's foundation. **He will not work until all be past remedy and brought unto such a case, that men may see how that his hand, his power, his mercy, his goodness and truth hath wrought altogether.**" *William Tyndale, Obedience Of A Christian Man*

**J**udgment day will find Jesus Christ to be *THE DESIRE OF ALL NATIONS*, as it is written --

"And I will shake all nations, **and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory**, saith the LORD of hosts." *Haggai 2:7*

**A**nd God's house -- which, in particular, is none other than Jesus Christ *HIMSELF*, for the Father and the Holy Ghost *DWELL* in Jesus Christ, yea, in him, in Jesus Christ, *ALL THE FULLNESS OF THE GODHEAD DWELLETH BODILY* -- so God's house, the Father's house, and the Holy Ghost's house, even the Lord Jesus Christ, where the Father and Holy Ghost dwell, will be *FILLED WITH GLORY*, that is, his *GLORY* will be *MANIFESTED*. That *GLORY*, the very *GLORY* of Jesus Christ *HIMSELF*, is what the Holy Spirit *SHOWS* to *ALL* he *REGENERATES*. [*John 1:14; Colossians 2:9; Revelation 21:23*]

**T**hat *GLORY* is so great that *NO MAN* who is *SHOWN* it by the Holy Spirit can reject or repel it, even if he wanted to, which he does not. *EVERY MAN* who is *SHOWN* that *GLORY* by the Holy Spirit *SUDDENLY DESIRES JESUS CHRIST ABOVE ALL ELSE*. There are no exceptions. *EVERY MAN* who is *SHOWN* the *GLORY OF JESUS CHRIST* by the Holy Spirit *SUDDENLY DESIRES JESUS CHRIST ABOVE ALL ELSE*. That man's *DESIRE* is so *FIERCE* that he never knew that such an *INTENSITY* was even possible. His *DESIRE* for Jesus Christ *VASTLY SUPERCEDES ANYTHING* that he could ever have imagined, which is an understatement of understatements, for no words can express the *INTENSITY* and the *FEROCITY* of that man's *DESIRE FOR JESUS CHRIST*. The *GLORY* of Jesus Christ, *WHEN REVEALED TO THE SOUL BY THE HOLY GHOST*, is so *GREAT*, so *COMPELLING*, that *NO MAN* can turn his heart or his desires away from it, even if it were possible to want to, which it is not.

**W**hen the Holy Spirit reveals Jesus Christ to a man -- I say, *WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEALS JESUS CHRIST TO A MAN* -- Jesus Christ becomes the *SOLE DESIRE* of that man's heart, regardless of how evil or apparently good that man is. He can *DESIRE NOTHING ELSE*, for *WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEALS JESUS CHRIST TO A MAN*, Jesus Christ becomes the *ABSOLUTE SOLE DESIRE* of that man's heart, to the *EXCLUSION OF ALL ELSE*. There is *NOTHING* in heaven or earth that that man *DESIRES* except Jesus Christ *HIMSELF*. That man's *DESIRE* for Jesus Christ is *ALL-CONSUMING*. The *ONLY* thing that man *DESIRES* -- the *ONLY* thing that man *DESIRES* -- is Jesus Christ *HIMSELF*, and nothing else. Nothing else at all.

**W**hen the Holy Spirit *REVEALS JESUS CHRIST TO THE SOUL*, that soul *SUDDENLY* realizes that it has *BEHELD TRUTH INCARNATE*. That soul, for the very first time -- *FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME EVER* -- *AWAKENS*, Lazarus-like, and upon *AWAKENING*, *SUDDENLY* comprehends, *EXPERIENTIALLY* comprehends -- I say, *SUDDENLY* and *EXPERIENTIALLY* comprehends -- not only the meaning of life itself, and all on a *SUDDEN*, but he likewise *EXPERIENCES ETERNAL LIFE ITSELF*. Eternal life is not something he *WILL* receive in the *FUTURE*; rather, eternal life is something he has *SUDDENLY ALREADY RECEIVED* and *LITERALLY EXPERIENCED*. I say, *LITERALLY EXPERIENCED*. Moreover, *WITHIN* this *NEW LIFE*, this *ETERNAL LIFE*, he *SUDDENLY* understands that he is *A BRAND NEW CREATURE*, and that there has *SUDDENLY* been an *INFUSION OF LIFE IN THE VERY BEHOLDING OF JESUS CHRIST IN HIS GLORY*. That soul is *SUDDENLY ALIVE*, with an *ENTIRELY NEW BEING* that did *NOT EXIST ONE MOMENT EARLIER*.

**F**or that soul, all things have become *NEW* -- *SUDDENLY* -- and it was *JESUS CHRIST IN HIS GLORY THAT WROUGHT IT*. In fact, that soul *SUDDENLY* understands, even if he can't articulate it, aye, that soul *SUDDENLY* understands that the *GLORY* of God, even the *GLORY* of the Lord Jesus Christ, is *TANGIBLE AND VIVIFIED*, for that soul, who has just been *QUICKENED BY THAT GLORY*, realizes *SUDDENLY* that the *GLORY* of Jesus Christ is none other than the *VERY BEING* of the *TRIUNE GODHEAD* in Jesus Christ, that Jesus Christ is in fact *GOD MANIFEST IN THE FLESH*, and that his *GLORY*, the *GLORY* of God, is merely the *EXTENSION* of Jesus Christ's *BEING*.

**T**his is one reason the Scripture discloses that an *UNREGENERATE* man *CANNOT* truly understand the Scriptures. He thinks he can, because his proud mind, especially if he is intelligent by human standards, by worldly standards, aye, his proud mind, which is fed by his corrupt *NATURE*, deceives him into thinking that spiritual truths can be digested by the intellect, which they can't, for spiritual truths -- God's spiritual truths -- are revealed *ONLY* to the *LIVING SPIRITS* of his *ELECT* by the indwelling Holy Ghost -- revealed to the man's *SPIRIT*, not the *INTELLECT* -- and only to a *LIVING SPIRIT*, as opposed to the *DEAD* spirit of the unregenerate.

There is a difference between the intellectual knowledge of God and the Spirit-revealed knowledge... **modern orthodoxy has made a great blunder in the erroneous assumption that spiritual truths can be intellectually perceived...** until a man

receives that illumination -- that inward enlightenment -- he will not have anything because Bible study does not, of itself, lift the veil or penetrate it... **there is the Christ whom only the Spirit can reveal...** you may be convinced that He is the Son of God and still never find Him as the living Person He is. **Jesus Christ must be revealed by the Holy Ghost -- no man knows the things of God but by the Holy Ghost... the final flash that introduces your heart to Jesus must be by that illumination of the Holy Spirit Himself, or it isn't done at all.**" *A. W. Tozer, The Tozer Pulpit, Vol II*

**A**nd the *FIRST* spiritual truth -- after *CONVICTION* -- the *VERY FIRST* spiritual truth -- mark it: the *VERY FIRST SPIRITUAL TRUTH* that is revealed -- that is *SHOWN* -- to the soul of *EVERY ONE* that is born of the Spirit -- *EVERY ONE* that is born of the Spirit -- I speak in the natural course of God's dealings with *SENTIENT* men and women and children, as opposed to infants, either in the womb or out of the womb -- thus, the very *FIRST* spiritual truth that is *SHOWN* to *EVERY ONE* that is born of the Spirit is the *ABSOLUTELY INCONCEIVABLE* and *UTTERLY IMMEASURABLE GLORY* of the Lord Jesus Christ. I say, the *VERY FIRST SPIRITUAL TRUTH* that the Holy Spirit *SHOWS* to his *ELECT* -- to *EVERY ONE* that is born of the Spirit, is the *GLORY* -- the *IMMEASURABLY PURE* and *INCOMPARABLY BRIGHT GLORY* -- of the Lord Jesus Christ.

**A**nd that *GLORY* is *EFFECTUALLY* what *DRAWS* the *ELECT* to Jesus Christ *SAVINGLY*, and that is *EXACTLY* what the Scripture means when it declares --

"No man can come to me, **except the Father which hath sent me draw him:** and I will raise him up at the last day." *John 6:44*

**I**t is the *UNVEILING* of the *GLORY* that *DRAWS* a man, even the *UNVEILING* of the *GLORY* of the Lord Jesus Christ, for that *GLORY* is absolutely, utterly *IRRESISTIBLE*, for *EVERY MAN* who has *BEHELD* that *GLORY* finds himself *SUDDENLY* in the position of *DESIRING JESUS CHRIST ABOVE ALL ELSE -- ABOVE ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING --* and thus *NO MAN* can come to Jesus Christ -- *NO MAN* can come *SAVINGLY* to Jesus Christ -- unless he is *DRAWN BY THE FATHER*, and the Father *DRAWS* his *ELECT* by *REVEALING* -- by *SHOWING -- JESUS CHRIST IN HIS GLORY* to the soul, and no other way. *NO OTHER WAY WHATSOEVER.* And thus, he who has never *BEHELD* the *GLORY* of Jesus Christ by the *SUPERNATURAL ILLUMINATION* of the Holy Spirit is still dead in his trespasses and sins, *BAR NONE.*

**T**hat is also why grace is *IRRESISTIBLE*, for as I said, *EVERY MAN* who has *BEHELD* the *GLORY OF JESUS CHRIST* finds himself *SUDDENLY* in the position of *DESIRING JESUS CHRIST ABOVE ALL ELSE*, and thus the Holy Spirit *NEVER --* I say, the Holy Spirit *NEVER -- NEVER EVER --* the Holy Spirit *NEVER EVER SHOWS* that *GLORY* to *ANYONE* he hasn't *INTENDED TO REGENERATE*, that he hasn't *INTENDED TO REGENERATE INFALLIBLY.* Again, there are *NO* exceptions. None at all.

"Where any work of grace is not effectual, **God never intended it should be so, nor did put forth that power of grace which was necessary to make it so.** Wherefore, in or towards whomsoever the Holy Spirit puts forth his power, or acts his grace for their regeneration, **he removes all obstacles, overcomes all oppositions, and infallibly produceth the effect intended.**" *John Owen, A Discourse Concerning The Holy Spirit*

**I**t is not Satan -- I say, it is *NOT* Satan -- who prevents *GRACE* from entering a soul; rather, it is the *FATHER* -- the *FATHER HIMSELF* -- who prevents *GRACE* from entering the soul, *EXACTLY* as the Lord Jesus *HIMSELF* joyously revealed --

"In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, **that THOU hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes:** even so, Father; **for so it seemed GOOD in thy sight.**"  
*Luke 10:21; c.f. Matthew 11:25-26*

**C**ertainly, it is Satan who blinds and obscures and deceives, and who prevents *ALL* men from beholding *SPIRITUAL TRUTHS* by their own innate ability -- I say, *BY THEIR OWN INNATE ABILITY* -- but after all that, do what he can, Satan nevertheless *CANNOT* prevent the *GRACE* of God in Christ Jesus from entering a soul, if Jesus Christ so wills. Not in the slightest. Jesus Christ *OPENS*, and *NO MAN* shuts; Jesus Christ *SHUTS*, and *NO MAN* opens; Jesus Christ *OWNS* the very *KEYS* of hell and death, and of life too, and Jesus Christ, even *Jehovah Elohim*, the *Lord God* -- *GOD MANIFEST IN THE FLESH* -- yea, Jesus Christ *REGENERATES WHOM HE WILL*, as it is written --

"For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; **even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.**" *John 5:21*

**W**hen Jesus Christ *QUICKENS* a man and *UNVEILS HIS GLORY TO THAT MAN'S SOUL*, that man *SUDDENLY* finds himself *DESIRING JESUS CHRIST ABOVE LIFE ITSELF*; that man would give *ANYTHING* -- when Jesus Christ *UNVEILS HIS GLORY TO HIS SOUL* -- that man would give *ANYTHING* to obtain Jesus Christ. That man's *DESIRE* for Jesus Christ *HIMSELF* is higher than the heavens and deeper than the seas. There is *NOTHING* that man wouldn't forsake to obtain Jesus Christ *HIMSELF*. Nothing at all, whether it be family, riches, fame, or even life everlasting -- I say, *EVEN LIFE EVERLASTING* -- indeed, the man who has *BEHELD JESUS CHRIST IN HIS GLORY* is a man who *DESIRES* Jesus Christ *EVEN ABOVE LIFE EVERLASTING* -- if it were possible to separate the two, that is, but of course it is not, for Jesus Christ *IS HIMSELF LIFE EVERLASTING*.

**M**ark it therefore: there is *NOTHING* -- *NOTHING, NOTHING, NOTHING* -- not life everlasting, not heaven, not fellowship with angels, yea, there is *NOTHING* that a man -- the man who has just been *QUICKENED* by Jesus Christ and who has just *SEEN*, who has just *BEHELD*, Jesus Christ *IN HIS GLORY* -- there is *NOTHING* that that man wouldn't forsake to obtain Jesus Christ *HIMSELF*. Not in this world, not in the world to come. *NOTHING AT ALL*.

**W**hen did Jesus Christ show *YOU* his *GLORY*? When did Jesus Christ *PERSONALLY INTRODUCE HIMSELF* to you, and indwell you, and make you a new creature? When did you receive a *NEW WILL*, and when did you receive a *NEW NATURE*? Do you remember the *MOMENT*? Do you remember the *EXPERIENCE*? What did Jesus Christ *SAY* to you -- I say, what did Jesus Christ *SAY TO YOU* when he *PERSONALLY INTRODUCED HIMSELF* to you in the *MIRACLE* of the *NEW BIRTH*? When did you *EXPERIENCE* the very *RESURRECTION POWER* of Jesus Christ? Do you remember these things?

"All those who are true disciples of Christ have felt a **DIVINELY SUPERNATURAL POWER** working upon them... **The Spirit of God came upon us, and we were awakened**, aroused, and made to live. **Do you remember that?**" *Charles Spurgeon, Metropolitan Tabernacle Pulpit, Vol XXXV, Intimate Knowledge Of The Holy Spirit*

"In the Scriptures and in church history, **persons filled with the Spirit ALWAYS KNEW THEY WERE FILLED, and it was AN INSTANTANEOUS ACT, not a gradual filling.**" *A. W. Tozer, The Tozer Pulpit, Vol II*

"**In EVERY SINGLE INSTANCE** that is given in the New Testament of people receiving this gift of the Holy Spirit, **it is ALWAYS accompanied by MUCH AND STRONG FEELING, and by the knowledge that they have received it...** The answer of the New Testament is that when the Holy Spirit came upon the early Christians they knew it... **you cannot be baptized or filled with the Spirit without knowing it.**" *D. M. Lloyd-Jones -- Romans, The Sons Of God*

**W**hen did Jesus Christ show *YOU* his *GLORY*? When did Jesus Christ *PERSONALLY INTRODUCE HIMSELF* to you, and indwell you, and make you a new creature? Do you remember the *MOMENT*?

**I**'m not talking about what *YOU* did. I'm not talking about what *YOU* may have prayed or said; I'm not talking about what *YOU* may have done in making a decision or walking down an aisle, or a hundred other actions that *YOU* may have performed. Forget it. I want to know -- *WHAT DID JESUS CHRIST DO?*

"You must be **INVADED** by the Spirit of God by means of **SUPERNATURAL** recreation... **BEWARE** of the tendency to water down the **SUPERNATURAL** in religion." *Oswald Chambers, Approved Unto God*

**D**o you remember the *MOMENT* wherein Jesus Christ *SUPERNATURALLY MANIFESTED HIMSELF*? Do you remember the *MOMENT* that Jesus Christ *HIMSELF SHOWED* you his *GLORY*? Or the *MOMENT* that Jesus Christ *PERSONALLY INTRODUCED HIMSELF* to you in an *UNMISTAKABLE SUPERNATURAL MIRACLE*? When did you *EXPERIENCE* the very *RESURRECTION POWER* of Jesus Christ -- I say, when did you *EXPERIENCE* the very *RESURRECTION POWER* of Jesus Christ -- whereby Jesus Christ *HIMSELF QUICKENED* you and *RAISED YOU FROM THE DEAD*, wherein you were brought from death to life *IN A MOMENT OF TIME*, wherein *YOU* did *NOTHING*, but Jesus Christ *HIMSELF* did

*EVERYTHING*, wherein Jesus Christ *HIMSELF* visited you and *SHOWED YOU HIS GLORY*, wherein you *EXPERIENCED* nothing less than a *MANIFEST SUPERNATURAL -- SUPERNATURAL -- a MANIFEST SUPERNATURAL MIRACLE?* Do you remember such an *EXPERIENCE?*

**E**very one that is born of the Spirit -- *EVERY ONE* that is born of the Spirit can so testify. *EVERY ONE*. There are no exceptions.

"The wind bloweth where it listeth, **and thou HEAREST the SOUND thereof**, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: **so is EVERY ONE that is born of the Spirit.**" *John 3:8*

**T**hat *SOUND* is none other than the *VOICE* of Jesus Christ. Not a *STRONG IMPRESSION* from the Scriptures, not a *STRANGE WARMING* of the heart, not an *OVERPOWERING FEELING* -- rather, a *VOICE*. The very *VOICE* of Jesus Christ. Those who belong to Jesus Christ -- *ALL* who belong to Jesus Christ -- *HEAR his VOICE* --

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; **and the sheep hear his voice**: and **he calleth his own sheep by name**, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: **for they know his voice**. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: **for they know not the voice of strangers.**" *John 10:1-5*

"I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. **And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold**: them also I must bring, **and they shall hear my voice**; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." *John 10:14-16*

"**My sheep hear my voice**, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one." *John 10:27-30*

**A**lso, let me warn you right here about that *STILL SMALL VOICE* which Elijah heard, for many people attempt to dismiss the *POWER* of the *MIRACLE* of the *NEW BIRTH* by *ASSERTING* or *ASSUMING* that the *STILL SMALL VOICE* is almost imperceptible, or barely heard, or somehow not certainly perceived.

**N**othing could be further from the truth. In fact, that *STILL SMALL VOICE* is more *DISTINCT* than if ten thousand angels descended from heaven with their trumpets and blew them directly in your ear. God may indeed speak with a *STILL SMALL VOICE*, but it is a *DISTINCT VOICE*. *ALL* who belong to Jesus Christ *HEAR HIS VOICE* -- not a *STRONG IMPRESSION* from the Scriptures, not a *STRANGE WARMING* of the heart, not an *OVERPOWERING FEELING*, or a

hundred other obfuscations -- rather, a *VOICE*. Even the *VOICE* of Jesus Christ *HIMSELF*, and they *KNOW* his *VOICE*, and they *HEAR* it more *DISTINCTLY* -- even if it's that *STILL SMALL VOICE* -- they *HEAR* it more *DISTINCTLY* than they have ever heard *ANY VOICE* anywhere in the world at any time.

**O**f course, the Holy Spirit *DOES* at times give *STRONG IMPRESSIONS* from the Scripture to the spirits of his elect, but that is *NOT* to be confused with the *VOICE* of the Spirit, even the *VOICE* of Jesus Christ, for the Spirit *NEVER* speaks on his own, but *ONLY* what he hears from Jesus Christ. [John 10; 1 Kings 19:12-13; John 15:26; John 16:13]

**A**nd know this -- Jesus Christ *NEVER* -- *NEVER EVER* -- speaks directly to the *MIND*. *NEVER*. Jesus Christ, by his Spirit, speaks to the *SPIRIT*. He *ALWAYS* speaks to the spirit of those he indwells; he *NEVER* speaks directly to the mind. *NEVER*. And while I don't want to imply that the Lord Jesus speaks to his elect all the time, or necessarily even frequently, for in most cases a believer must be walking in *VERY CLOSE OBEDIENCE AND COMMUNION* with the Lord before the Lord grants him such a glorious manifestation of the Spirit, nevertheless, when Jesus Christ *DOES* speak, the *SPIRIT* of a man -- the *SPIRIT* of a *REGENERATE* man, a man whose *SPIRIT* has been *MADE ALIVE*, who has been *QUICKENED* -- that man's *SPIRIT* can *HEAR* the *VOICE* of Jesus Christ more *DISTINCTLY* than his own ears can hear words spoken in the physical realm. It is the *SPIRIT* of a man that the indwelling Holy Ghost speaks to, not the *MIND*. [Romans 8:16; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11]

**C**onversely, it is Satan who speaks directly to the mind, and thus, those who hear a voice or voices in their *MINDS* are listening to Satan, not God. So, as Oswald Chambers asserted, *BEWARE* of the man who tries to water down or dismiss the *SUPERNATURAL*. You may know *INFALLIBLY* that such a man is *UNREGENERATE*, regardless of his many fair-sounding and doctrinally accurate words. Fair warning.

**H**ave you ever *HEARD* the *UNMISTAKABLE VOICE* -- not a *STRONG IMPRESSION* from the Scriptures, not a *STRANGE WARMING* of the heart, not an *OVERPOWERING FEELING*, or a hundred other obfuscations -- rather, have you ever *HEARD* the *UNMISTAKABLE VOICE* of Jesus Christ in your spirit? If not, then let these words of John Bunyan sink down into your ears --

"He that thirsteth aright, **nothing but God can quench his thirst.**" *John Bunyan, The Water Of Life*

**I**f you are a *HELPLESS* sinner, if you have *NO POWER* -- no power at all -- none, nada, zip -- *NO POWER* at all to make yourself a Christian, if you have been shown how vile and corrupt and wicked you truly are, not so much by what you may have done, regardless of what that is, but *WHAT YOU ARE BY NATURE*, if you have been *SHOWN* what you are *BY NATURE* -- and incidentally, if you've *SEEN JESUS CHRIST IN HIS GLORY*, then you *KNOW* what you are *BY*

*NATURE*, for the dichotomy is more vast than the span of the universe, for Jesus Christ is *HIMSELF INFINITE PURITY -- INFINITE PURITY* -- yea, if you have been *SHOWN* what you are *BY NATURE*, if you realize in the very depths of your soul -- if you *FEEL* in the very *DEPTHS* of your soul, down to your very *BONES* -- that you are so utterly vile and wicked and corrupt that God would be unjust to even let you get a *GLIMPSE* of heaven, much less enter it, aye, if this -- and more -- is true of you, then John Bunyan has just disclosed to you the *SECRET* of the *NEW BIRTH*, the very *KEY* to the door of eternal life.

"God does not come rushing into a human heart unless he knows that he is the answer and fulfillment to the **greatest, most overpowering desire of that life.**" *A. W. Tozer, The Tozer Pulpit, Vol II*

**T**he merely curious and the thrill-seekers need not apply. Those who have enough strength to "*accept Jesus as their Saviour,*" or those who are so formidable that they can become a Christian by making a "*decision,*" or by making a "*commitment,*" also need not apply. They already have their reward, and they are *FAR TOO STRONG* to be classed as *UTTERLY HELPLESS*, so that even though they might acknowledge that they need *SOME* assistance in climbing out of the mire, nevertheless, they will contribute a bit of their own efforts as well, and thus in their proud self-sufficiency they have made it plain that the *SUPERNATURAL MANIFESTATION OF THE HOLY GHOST* that takes place in the *MIRACLE* of the *NEW BIRTH* is something they can do without. Instead, they are swift to offer glib sophisms, such as, "*Well, I have Jesus, and that's enough.*"

**B**ut the fact is, they do *NOT* have Jesus; they only *THINK* they do in the vanity of their fleshly minds, for he who has never *EXPERIENCED* the very *RESURRECTION POWER* of Jesus Christ in the *MIRACLE* of the *NEW BIRTH* is deluding himself if he thinks he has Jesus. He no more belongs to Jesus Christ than Satan does. He is dead in his trespasses and sins; the wrath of God abides upon him still, and he will not set *FOOT* in the kingdom of heaven unless he repents, even if he's been a pastor and a missionary and a deacon all rolled into one for eighty years or more; if he hasn't *EXPERIENCED* the *RESURRECTION POWER* of Jesus Christ in the *MIRACLE* of the *NEW BIRTH*, whereby Jesus Christ *PERSONALLY INTRODUCES HIMSELF* to him, and *INDWELLS* him, and makes him a *NEW CREATURE*, he will soon find, to his everlasting and devastating dismay, that even while imprecating the name of Jesus, *ALL* his works were *DEAD* works, and that Jesus Christ *NEVER KNEW HIM*.

"**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? And then will I profess unto them, I NEVER KNEW YOU: depart from me, ye that WORK iniquity.**" *Matthew 7:22-23*

**T**he fact is, this treatise will resonate with only one type of person. All others will find no lasting benefit herein, while many will gnash their teeth at what has thus far been written. No, this treatise is for those who labour and are heavy laden, for it is by God's grace that they have been made to endure searing toil and to bend under crushing burdens, and it is by God's grace that they thereby find themselves *HELPLESS*.

**A**re you therefore a *HELPLESS SINNER*? If you are a *HELPLESS* sinner, then I ask you -- do you not realize -- do you not realize down to your very *BONES* -- that it will take a *MIRACLE* to salvage you from your current state? A bona fide, true-blue *MIRACLE*? If not, if you don't realize this, then I *SERIOUSLY DOUBT* that you are a *HELPLESS* sinner. A sinner you definitely are, but a *HELPLESS* sinner, that's another matter entirely.

**I**f you have ears to hear with, then hear this -- only the Holy Spirit, only Jesus Christ by his Spirit, can make you *HELPLESS*. Have you ever asked him to do so?

**H**ave you ever been so completely, desperately *HELPLESS* in your spiritual motions, in your relation to God, that you finally shipwrecked yourself on an island of utter despair? Do you labour incessantly, spiritually speaking, and yet your struggle only increases, your burden only gets heavier? Have you ever been brought to the point of sheer spiritual exhaustion, so that the only thing left is to give up? Have you *SEEN* how *VILE* and *WICKED* and *CORRUPT* you are by *NATURE*, so much so that you have been *TERRIFIED* of the eternal consequences, and yet, in *SPITE* of those consequences, you *SEE* yourself to be so *SINFUL* that you side with God in condemning yourself, that you tell God that he *OUGHT* to send you to hell, that he ought *NOT* to save you, for his *GLORY* is *FAR TOO PURE* to share heaven with you, even if you could somehow be cleaned up?

"Were you ever made to lie at the feet of sovereign Grace, and to say, **Lord, if thou wilt, thou mayest save me; if not, thou mayest justly damn me; I have nothing to plead... If you never were thus minded, the Comforter never yet effectually came into your souls, you are out of Christ;** and if God should require your souls in that condition, **he would be no better to you than a consuming fire.**" *George Whitefield, The Holy Spirit Convincing The World Of Sin, Righteousness, And Judgment*

**I**t might be easy to utter such words with the lips, but only a soul who has been *SHOWN* his true self, who has been *SHOWN* what he is by *NATURE*, only that soul can utter such words from the *HEART*, from the very *DEPTHS* of his soul, for many people honour the Lord with their lips while their hearts are far from him, and the truth is, man has no power even to prepare his own heart; that takes *GRACE* as well. The soul that can utter such words from the very *DEPTHS* of his being is the soul who has been wrought on by the Spirit of the Living God, even the Lord Jesus Christ, and the soul that has undergone such an operation, aye, that soul *CANNOT* be satisfied with the comforts of men; that soul must have an *UNMISTAKABLE ENCOUNTER WITH ALMIGHTY GOD*, and nothing less. For that soul, only *GOD* can quench his thirst. [Proverbs 16:1]

**W**ith those words, if you are a *HELPLESS* sinner, with those words, John Bunyan has just given you the *SECRET* of the *NEW BIRTH*, the very *KEY* to the door of eternal life. If you are a *HELPLESS* sinner, then only *GOD* can quench your thirst...

**J**esus Christ *HIMSELF* is the *FOUNTAIN* -- Jesus Christ is the fountain of *GLORY*, Jesus Christ is the fountain of *LIFE*, Jesus Christ is the fountain of *TRUTH*, Jesus Christ is the fountain of *WISDOM*, Jesus Christ is the fountain of *KNOWLEDGE*, Jesus Christ is the fountain of *RIGHTEOUSNESS*, Jesus Christ is the fountain of *PEACE*, Jesus Christ is the fountain of *LOVE*, Jesus Christ is fountain of *JUSTIFICATION*, Jesus Christ is the fountain of *SANCTIFICATION* - - and he -- even Jesus Christ *HIMSELF* -- he can make you *CLEAN*. Completely, absolutely *CLEAN*. No matter who you are, no matter what you've done, Jesus Christ, and he *ONLY*, can clothe you with the very *RIGHTEOUSNESS OF ALMIGHTY GOD HIMSELF*.

**B**ut it will take a *MIRACLE* -- *A GENUINE, SUPERNATURAL MIRACLE*, and the *ONLY* person who can effect this *MIRACLE* is Jesus Christ *HIMSELF*.

**G**lory is not a transcendent entity; glory is a *PERSON*. Truth is not a paradigm; truth is a *PERSON*. Wisdom is not a fruit of the ages; wisdom is a *PERSON*. The resurrection is not an event; the resurrection is a *PERSON*. Eternal life is not a remote continuum; eternal life is a *PERSON*. Peace is not a sententious phenomenon; peace is a *PERSON*. Love is not an indefinable existential; love is a *PERSON*.

"For **BY HIM** were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created **BY HIM**, and **FOR HIM**: And he is before all things, and **BY HIM** all things consist... **CHRIST IS ALL**, and in all." *Colossians 1:16-17*;  
*Colossians 3:11*

**D**o you understand? Do you really?

"Come unto **ME**, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and **I WILL** give you rest. Take **MY** yoke upon you, and learn of **ME**; for **I AM** meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For **MY** yoke is easy, and **MY** burden is light." *Matthew 11:28-30*

**F**arewell, and the Lord give you a prosperous journey.