

What the Author Believes

There are many things in the Word & Spirit that we do not understand. We learn more from doing these lessons. We are open to your insight regarding these lessons. We have so much to learn...to apprehend...so that it is the fruit of His life that comes forth from us and not our own.

One thing that we do understand is that as we grow into maturity in Christ we have more Light. With more light we can see things that we previously missed. Line-upon-line and precept-upon-precept we come into a better grasp of truth as we grow in Word & Spirit & His Life. Sometimes we alter beliefs when we gain greater insight. This has been the story of my walk and still is.

What we believe is best understood by reading both my testimony and also all of the Lessons. The Lessons focus on general concepts to help see “the big picture” and so we do not have the space to go into great detail. In presenting the concepts they raise many questions. However, as you read the lessons you will see some truths from earlier lessons given with more light in the context of new concepts that are presented. Many diagrams in the lessons are “planted as seed-truths” for future lessons.

Having said all of this however, I’ll try to summarize some basics of what we believe.

On the Bible:

For starters, we believe: *“All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right.”* **2Timothy 3:16 New Living Translation**

and also **2Peter 1:19-21**, *“You will do well to pay close attention to everything they [the prophets] have written, for, like lights shining into dark corners, their words help us to understand many things that otherwise would be dark and difficult. But when you consider the wonderful truth of the prophets’ words, then the light will dawn in your souls and Christ the Morning Star will shine in your hearts. 20- For no prophecy recorded in Scripture was ever thought up by the prophet himself. IT WAS THE HOLY SPIRIT WITHIN THESE GODLY MEN WHO GAVE THEM TRUE MESSAGES FROM GOD.”* ...**The Living Bible**. See our study on “Bible Translations” for more on this.

On the Holy Spirit:

The Bible is more than a history book. It is a spiritual book and not understood well unless it is illuminated by the Holy Spirit. Saul, (who became Paul), knew the scriptures of his time better than most people and yet he grossly misinterpreted it...until he experienced the “Baptism in the Holy Spirit”. The same could be said of many of the religious leaders, both then and now.

People who believe that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is not for today, or is the same as accepting

Jesus as your Savior, or the same as water baptism or is of the devil, paint themselves into a corner. They have to avoid and distort many verses to defend their views. They develop doctrines. They focus on their doctrines as much as or more so than on the Word.

It seems ironic to me that someone thinks they can confidently tell me that I don't have something that I know that I have. Once I received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit then the Bible became a whole new book...full of life and meaning...and much easier to understand! Interpreting the Bible without the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is to interpret it with the carnal, natural mind that feeds from the Tree of Knowledge of Good & Evil. That's the best that it can do. It will gain you some knowledge, but is dim at best. There are many precious believers who do this, but they are in the Court under the natural sun. God uses that too however, and it can be an important stepping stone to developing a walk with the Lord. Solomon said in **Ecclesiastes 1:14** that all in the realm under the natural sun was vanity. I believe that this is a spiritual reference to the vanity of trying to find lasting purpose with the natural mind of the first Adam. Solomon concluded that this was a waste of one's life...what mattered most was to hear and to obey the Lord. This would be of lasting significance.

The natural mind judges everything as being "good" or "evil" to their natural lives. A dead giveaway of this thought process is that they do not really think that God is sovereign, or else why would there be so much suffering? They think that Satan pulled a fast-one on God...and still does, so they try to cover for God's failings. They feel they must help God out.

But we believe that **God is Sovereign**. There is much that we do not understand but we do know that God is in control. That He has a plan. It is a plan so wonderful that we cannot fully comprehend it, (**Romans 8:17-23**). His plan was in place before the creation, (**1Peter 1:20**). The cross is central to His plan. Even Jesus learned obedience by the things which he suffered, (**Hebrews 5:8**). His ways are not our ways, (**Isaiah 55:8**). Our walk with the Lord is a walk of faith and not by sight.

On His Plan & His Life:

If His life is not increasing within us then we are missing the whole point of our life here in this mortal body. For His life to be increasing, ours must be decreasing. Lesson 7 explains this process in detail.

We believe that we are in a transition between ages. **All** of the governments of man are tumbling down and about to go away (including religious systems of man), as He is bringing forth His government of Sons to rule all of the earth with Him. We start to present this concept in Lesson 6. You will better understand what is happening in the world and what is about to happen when you see the big picture...His Plan...

His plan can be summed up in three parts:

1. He wants a man in His image (and He is Spirit) in the creation realm.
2. He wants that man to multiply and fill the earth.

3. He wants to dwell within this “new man” to minister and reveal His life to creation, both heaven & earth...to rule it in His character & nature. This man includes thousands with His Son as the Head.

When you grasp this then the Bible will unfold as never before. Here’s the follow-up to this outline: Jesus Christ is the forerunner of this new man. As such He is the Head. The Body of many Sons in His image are soon to be resurrected to join Him. They will rule as Kings & Priests under Him who is the King of Kings & our High Priest. At that time the kingdoms of man will all pass away to never more return. Our lessons shed light on who is part of this company and who is not.