



**OUT OF HIS
FULLNESS
HAVE WE ALL
RECEIVED**

Charles E. Sivley

AN INTRODUCTION CONCERNING GOD'S WORD

Breaking from tradition is difficult for all Christian believers. However, breaking from tradition may mean the difference between a real understanding of the truth of the scriptures, and the deception in which religious traditions have bound many for generations.

Is it not the very deepest desire of all our hearts to know the truth about the God who made us? We have His promise that we may know the truth of all things by His Holy Spirit, the Comforter whom He has sent, to guide us into all truth. *"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."* John 16:13 (NKJV) Shouldn't we begin to believe what God has said – that complete and total truth is indeed available to us?

"God is not a man, that He should lie..." Numbers 23:19 (NKJV) Therefore; we must begin to seek truth for ourselves, really believing that God, who is not a liar, will fulfill His every promise to us. In doing so, we may find it necessary to let go of some of the beliefs and traditions we have believed for so long, and trade them instead for His real truths, revealed in His Word. These truths we may have missed because we have failed to diligently seek for true understanding for ourselves. We may have, unfairly perhaps, trusted and depended upon our pastors, our church, our leaders, and our religious teachers – rather than the Holy Spirit – to guide us into all truth.

Scary? Maybe a little, but why should we be frightened? We know the purpose of the Holy Spirit is to draw us to the Father and to reveal truth unto us. Isn't it time that we begin to believe God Himself? Since we know *"...that God is no respecter of persons"* Acts 10:34 (KJV), why shouldn't we believe that He is willing to help us learn the truth, when that is His desire also? Why would God make that promise if it is not true, and if we cannot trust Him to fulfill it? He wants us to search diligently and think for ourselves.

SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES DAILY, PREVENTS DECEPTION

Why did the Bereans in Thessalonica find favor? *“...they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.”* Acts 17:11 (KJV) In other words they received the word, which was taught to them by men, however; they were determined not to be deceived by men.

If something is true, it will always agree perfectly with God’s scriptures as found in His Word.

By whom was Jesus attacked and crucified? It was by the religious leaders, and traditionalists of His day, the Sadducees, and the Pharisees. They refused even to consider the marvelous truths He revealed because they were so bound by their legalistic traditions.

Yet, how did Jesus reply to His disciples concerning the things to come when they asked Him about the very days in which we are living except to say, *“...Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.”* Matthew 24:4-5 (KJV)

Traditionally, most of us have depended upon the King James Version of the Bible, and most of us still use it as the basis of our understanding of scripture because we are more familiar with it. However, we often struggle with its archaic King James English in our effort to fully grasp the understanding of what God would say to us through His Word. Few of us would be able to get much meaning at all from the original 1611 King James Version which differs from today’s version with even more archaic English. The compilers of that 1611 version wrote a letter to those who would read its pages saying they had done the very best job they could. While we revere and respect the King James Version, we are to search diligently for **all truth**.

To help us understand more fully what God has said to us through the Old Testament's chroniclers and prophets and through the New Testament's gospels and epistles, we reach out for other translations, comparing them all, so that we can gain more insight into what God has said to us, always trusting the Holy Spirit for guidance into all truth.

Therefore, we quote often from the Amplified Classic Bible, which is one of many new translations available in these last of the last days. It is one of our favorites because its purpose is to reveal to the English reader a breakdown of the original Hebrew and Greek words in an equivalent form to gain a proper understanding. The goal of the Amplified Classic Bible is to offer word for word clarification to the most precious book we have available to us, God's Word.

Daniel 12:3-4(AMPC) speaks to us concerning our day saying: *And the teachers and those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness (to uprightness and right standing with God) [shall give forth light] like the stars forever and ever. But you, O Daniel, shut up the words and seal the Book until the time of the end. [Then] many shall run to and fro and search anxiously [through the Book], and knowledge [of God's purposes as revealed by His prophets] shall be increased and become great.*" We also see something similar in Matthew 13:43 (AMPC). *"Then will the righteous (those who are upright and in right standing with God) shine forth like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let him who has ears [to hear] be listening, and let him consider and perceive and understand by hearing."*

However, we can clearly see that Amos lays out our age and dispensation clearly in these scriptures. *"Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord God, when I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but [a famine] for hearing the words of the Lord. And [the people] shall wander from sea to sea and from the north even to the east; they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord [inquiring for and requiring it as one requires food], but shall not find it."*
Amos 8:11-12 (AMPC)

Now, while we keep in mind the revealing of God's Word in these last days, let's talk about the "fullness" of Christ. *"For out of His fullness (abundance) we have all received [all had a share and we were all supplied with] one grace after another and spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing and even favor upon favor and gift [heaped] upon gift."* John 1:16 (AMPC)

For comparison, Ephesians 1:3 (KJV) it tells us that God *"...hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ."* Then we have it in the Amplified Classic where it says God, *"...has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual (given by the Holy Spirit) blessing in the heavenly realm!"* Ephesians 1:3 (AMPC)

"Hath blessed us" or *"blessed us"* means **He has already done it!** *"All spiritual blessings"* means **ALL** spiritual blessings – *"Every spiritual blessing"* means **EVERY** spiritual blessing! **NOW!**

Let's look at Ephesians 1:23 (KJV). *"Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all."* It is **HIS FULLNESS** we must desire, and it is available to us because the Word of God says so.

Now let's consider the phrase *"all in all"*. The Greek margin in the King James says it means, "He fills up all the members with all spiritual gifts and graces."

Now, let's look back at 1 Corinthians 12:6 (KJV), where we again find the phrase *"all in all"*. *"...it is the same God that worketh all in all."* This is referring to **ALL the gifts, in ALL the members**. Many of us have traditionally been taught that people get one gift or another, and we do not know why or how this happens. Sadly, others are still looking for someone else to manifest (as they were manifested in the New Testament, or in the early days of their particular denomination) even one of those gifts.

Some people think that God is selecting only certain individuals for specific gifts. Yet again, we are reminded God's Word says, *"For there is no respect of persons with God."* Romans 2:11 (KJV) The Amplified Classic translates it this way, *"For God shows no partiality [undue favor or*

unfairness; with Him one man is not different from another]. Romans 2:11 (AMPC) According to God's Word He sees us **all** equally equipped.

He fills up **all** the members with **all** spiritual gifts and graces. To set this in stone we turn to the book of John. *"For out of His fullness (abundance) we have all received [all had a share and we were all supplied with] one grace after another and spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing and even favor upon favor and gift [heaped] upon gift."* John 1:16 (AMPC)

This means that by our believing in God, His power is made available to us making it possible for us to receive all that He has for us. Not some of His fullness for some of His elect, but **ALL OF FULLNESS, FOR ALL OF HIS ELECT!**

ALL OF THE MANIFESTATIONS FOR ALL OF THE MEMBERS

"But to each one is given the manifestation of the [Holy] Spirit [the evidence, the spiritual illumination of the Spirit] for good and profit." 1 Corinthians 12:7 (AMPC) The manifested Spirit includes all nine gifts: word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, diverse kinds of tongues, and interpretation of tongues. There is **NO LIMIT** to what is available to the born-again BELIEVER. Are we asking? Are we seeking? Why not ask for all He will give? *"Ask, and it will be given to you..."* Matthew 7:7 (NKJV) Why not seek all of God we can get? *"...how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"* Luke 11:13 (NKJV)

Always foremost in our seeking should be the question, "How much more will God give me"? The more He has for us, the more we should desire. God's Word says, *"...He satisfies the longing soul, And fills the hungry soul with goodness."* Psalm 107:9 (NKJV) We must have that hunger and desire for His Spiritual gifts.

"But earnestly desire the best gifts..." 1 Corinthians 12:31 (NKJV) What are the *best gifts*? Consider this, at any gathering, or meeting,

where there are several sick people, what good will the gift of prophecy do them when they need a healing or the working of miracle?

WE ARE ALL CALLED TO HEAR FROM GOD. HOW DO WE?

If we believe the Holy Spirit has passed away, or that He is no longer present today, how can we believe that we can hear from God?

From whom will I hear His word? When making our petitions to God we are to go, *"...boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."* Hebrews 4:16 (KJV) How else do we hear the answer, if not from the Holy Spirit and the working of God in our lives? As we read the Word of God, the Holy Spirit carries the truth into our hearts. The Holy Spirit confirms that truth deep within us, as a teacher speaks the Word of God, and our ears are open to hear.

Jesus said, *"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—"* John 14:16 (NKJV) This is a promise! The Holy Spirit dwells with us forever! Forever is forever! Concerning the Holy Spirit Peter says, *"For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."* Acts 2:39 (KJV) This is still for us today! Glory be to God, in Jesus' name! There is not one scripture that says the Holy Spirit is gone. NOT ONE!

WHAT IS THE KEY TO THIS POWER?

The scriptures say, *"That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,"* **[LOVE IS THE KEY TO ALL POWER]**. *"May be able to comprehend with all saints"* [not just the ones you choose, or you like, but **ALL**] *"what is the breadth and length and depth and height;"* [in the Greek, breadth is 'boundless,' length is 'endless,' depth is fathomless,' and height is 'measureless.']. *"And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be*

filled with all the fullness of God.” Ephesians 3:17-19 (KJV) God is love, and His love is immeasurable – without limits!

In fact in the Amplified Classic verse 19 reads like this, *[That you may really come] to know [practically, through experience for yourselves] the love of Christ, which far surpasses mere knowledge [without experience]; that you may be filled [through all your being] unto all the fullness of God [may have the richest measure of the divine Presence, and become a body wholly filled and flooded with God Himself]!*” Ephesians 3:19 (AMPC) Through coming to **KNOW** the love of Christ, we are **FILLED and FLOODED WITH GOD HIMSELF!!!** That certainly bears repeating! Praise God, in Jesus’ name!

THE EARNEST

When we first give ourselves to God, and receive Jesus Christ as Lord, we receive an “*earnest*” of the Spirit (which is like a down payment such as in “earnest money,” i.e., only part of the Holy Spirit). However, there is so much more to come!

We can understand a bit more by reading it in the Amplified Classic. *“That [Spirit] is the guarantee of our inheritance [the firstfruits, the pledge and foretaste, the down payment on our heritage], in anticipation of its full redemption and our acquiring [complete] possession of it—to the praise of His glory.”* Ephesians 1:14 (AMPC) This only a mere taste of what awaits us. What awaits our heritage in anticipation of its **FULL** redemption, and our acquiring complete possession of the **FULLNESS** of God, to the praise of His glory.

WE KNOW ALL THINGS, WHEN WE ARE TAUGHT BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Once we receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, we must learn to listen to what the Holy Spirit is leading us to do. *“It is written in [the book of] the Prophets, And **they shall all be taught of God [have Him in person***

for their Teacher ...” John 6:45 (AMPC) Have we too quickly forgotten this next one? *“But the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, Standby), the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will cause you to recall (will remind you of, bring to your remembrance) everything I have told you.”* John 14:26 (AMPC) We should rely on the Holy Spirit to teach us **ALL THINGS** and bring **ALL THINGS** to our remembrance. This is not the only purpose of the Holy Spirit; there are many others. *“But as for you, the anointing (the sacred appointment, the unction) which you received from Him abides [permanently] in you; [so] then you have no need that anyone should instruct you. But just as His anointing teaches you concerning everything and is true and is no falsehood, so you must abide in (live in, never depart from) Him [being rooted in Him, knit to Him], just as [His anointing] has taught you [to do].”* 1 John 2:27 (AMPC)

WHAT MANIFESTATIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT SHOULD WE DESIRE?

“So it is with yourselves; since you are so eager and ambitious to possess spiritual endowments and manifestations of the [Holy] Spirit, [concentrate on] striving to excel and to abound [in them] in ways that will build up the church.” 1 Corinthians 14:12 (AMPC) As mentioned earlier, there are nine manifestations of the Holy Spirit which include; tongues, interpretation of tongues, prophecy, word of wisdom, word of knowledge, discerning of spirits, gift of faith, gift of healing, and miracle working power. **(Seek the best manifestations— more than one.)**

We are also told in that same scripture *“...to concentrate on striving to excel and abound in them...”* We are to desire to excel and abound in all nine manifestations to assist in building up the church. God is telling us through His Word to do this. Are you going to listen to man, or to God’s instructions?

HOW DO WE STIR UP THE MANIFESTATIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

2 Timothy 1:6 (NKJV) says, *“Therefore I remind you (this is us by the way) to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. How do we stir up the gifts? “...but ever be filled and stimulated with the [Holy] Spirit. Speak out to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, offering praise with voices [and instruments] and making melody with all your heart to the Lord,”* Ephesians 5:18-19 (AMPC)

Another way to stir up the manifestations of the Holy Spirit is praying in the Spirit. Sometimes this is done out loud, but you can also do it quietly without anyone being aware of what is taking place. It is like a spiritual generator, and it energizes the Holy Spirit inside of you! It strengthens you, and it lights your fire! God’s Word tells us always to pray in the Spirit always. *“praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit...”* Ephesians 6:18 (NKJV) In fact 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (KJV) says to, *“pray without ceasing,”* Then to go along with that we have verse 19 (KJV) which says, *“quench NOT the Spirit.”* In other words, in using methods to stir up the manifestations of the Holy Spirit, we must not go backwards and subdue or suppress the manifestations of the Holy Spirit which are building in us, as we stir them up!

There are more scriptures detailing what praying in the Spirit will do for our “inner man.” *“But you, beloved, build yourselves up [founded] on your most holy faith [make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher], praying in the Holy Spirit;”* Jude 20 (AMPC) Need more? *“He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself...”* 1 Corinthians 14:4 (NKJV) Praying in the Holy Spirit is one way we are, *“...strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man”* Ephesians 3:16 (NKJV).

“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” John 4:24 (NKJV) You see, since God is Spirit, the ONLY way we can truly worship Him is when we sing spiritual songs and praise Him, in the Spirit. There are no other substitutions, in which we can worship Him.

As a reminder, all throughout the book of Acts, God's people were filled again (and again) with His Spirit. may it ever be true in the lives on the remnant today! (Please see a few examples, Acts 2:2,2:4, & 4:8)

Praying the following prayers that Paul prayed have been proven to help one come to new levels of **FULLNESS IN HIM!**

Father, in the name of Jesus, we ask that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to us the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of You, the eyes of our understanding being enlightened; that we may know what is the hope of Your calling, what are the riches of the glory of Your inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of Your power toward us who believe, according to the working of Your mighty power. (From Ephesians 1:17-19)

Father, in Jesus name, For this reason we bow our knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that You would grant us, according to the riches of Your glory, to be strengthened with might through Your Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in our hearts through faith; that we, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that we may be filled with all the fullness of God. (From Ephesians 3:14-19)

We must learn from God's Word, what is available to us. Then we must desire it with all our heart and believe that we will receive it.

REMEMBER YOUR BELIEVING EQUALS YOUR RECEIVING!

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email: godswordkanab@gmail.com

address: Prevailing Word Publishing

PO BOX 842828

Hildale, UT 84741

phone:435-644-8675

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

“So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.” Acts 19:20

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PO BOX 2828
HILDALE, UT 84784
435-644-8675**

**EMAIL-GODSWORDKANAB@GMAIL.COM
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