

*"You priests teach God's laws only for a price."
Micah 3:11*

Real

&

Traditional Christianity



Lt Col Parmenas Mall (r)
MBA (Executive), B.Sc, LL.B

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This book is dedicated

To

The Pakistan Army

Author

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Series Introduction

When a person is born in the Christian family, he attends Church throughout his life before going to lie under the marble cross in the Christian cemetery. But mostly, neither he understands Christianity nor Christianity enters in his life. I was also born in a religious Protestant family. Our parents never missed to take us to the United Presbyterian Church. I am very thankful to the United Presbyterian Church for educating me, including my parents, grandparents and enabling me to get a respectable status in an Islamic country. May God bless them for the job they have done for the Christians in Pakistan. In my teens I started attending Roman Catholic Church in the vicinity of my College. Later on I found a Pentecostal Pastor who taught me the importance of repentance and water baptism through immersion. After visiting all the major denominations, a question arises in my mind, “Why in the presence of so many churches, pastors and evangelists people are mostly spiritually dead? This dejected situation is not present only in Pakistan it is prevailing with minor variations nearly in all countries of the world. After reading the Bible several times and comparing it with the rules, regulations and laws of Church I got the answer to my question, and found the working of “The devil through false teachings.”

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Water Baptism

Various denominations are having different teaching about water baptism. Some churches are giving water baptism to the infants and others are giving to the adults after repentance through immersion. We need to read the verses carefully regarding water baptism and then we will see who is wrong and who is right. Because every priest interpret the same verse in a different way and mostly misleading the common man. In the Bible, water baptism was given after confession (Mk 1:5) repentance (Ac 2:38) and to those who believed with all their heart (Ro 10:10). As faith comes from listening (Ro 10:17) and we all know that only adult can listen and believe. Sometimes God gave the Holy Spirit before water baptism but even then people were baptized (Ac 10:47-48) to fulfill the righteousness (Mt 3:15). To enter the kingdom of God we have to born again through water baptism and the Holy Spirit baptism (Jn 3:5-6). God saves us through the washing (water baptism) of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit (1Titus 3:5). The person of this world can be born again by hearing the word of God (1Pe 1:23) and it is obvious that only adult can hear and believe. We can't expect the same from two weeks old baby. Water baptism means making pledge with good conscience (1Pe 3:21) and we know that only adult can make pledge. Christ gave us a great commission, go and make disciples, teach and baptize them (Mt 28:19-20). We can't make few weeks old baby as a disciple of Christ. From the verses mentioned earlier we can conclude that only adult can:-

- Confess
- Repent
- Hear the message
- Believe
- Pledge with a good conscience

Few weeks old babies can't do even a single action mentioned above. The scholars nullify the word of God for the sake of their own tradition (Mt 15:6). In the Bible the water baptism was always given through immersion. John baptized people at Aenon, because there was plenty of water (Jn 3:22-23). Jesus (Mk 1:9) and people of Judea were baptized in the river Jordon (Mk 1:5) Philip and eunuch went down into the water for baptism (Ac 8:38). Some people think that if a child expires without baptism where his soul will go. About children as Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these (Mt 19:14)." It is obvious that if a child dies without baptism his soul will go in heaven. If husband or wife is unbeliever even then the children are holy (1Cor 7:14), therefore they don't need any water baptism. Ask your religious leader to show you a single verse in support of an infant baptism and without immersion. They must be silenced. By their wrong teachings, they have already turned whole families away from the truth. Such teacher only want your money (Titus 1:11). May God give us wisdom to understand his word!

Tongues

One of the gifts frequently exalted in the Pentecostal movement is the gift of tongues. In the book of Acts there are many mentions of Christians being filled with the Spirit, but only one time is tongues speaking mentioned. It is strange then to try to make tongues speaking the primary evidence of Holy Spirit filling. The evidence of the filling of the Holy Spirit in Ephesians 5-6 does not mention tongues at all. To connect spiritual gifts with Spirit filling is unscriptural. 1Cor 12:13 says all have been baptized by the Holy Spirit, but verse 30 of the same chapter says not all speak in tongues. There is no instruction in the Bible about how to speak in tongues. If tongues speaking was important for the Christian life and if it was a good thing for every Christian to speak in tongues, surely God would have plainly instructed us in how to do such a thing! The Pentecostal/Charismatic method of speaking in tongues is unscriptural. When a person asks how tongues can be received. They are instructed to simply open their mouth and start muttering words without using normal language. There is not a hint of such a practice in the New Testament. The Bible warns Christians that there are deceiving spirits which attempt to influence Christians and that can appear as angels of light and ministers of God (2Cor 11:13-15; Mt 24:24). The Bible warns us to be sober and vigilant (1Pe 4:7; 5:8). When challenged that the modern tongues spoken today is not a known earthly language, as it was in Bible times, it is replied that they are speaking in a heavenly prayer language. The tongues spoken in the early churches were real earthly languages (Ac 2:6-10). Those that heard the disciples speak in tongues on that day said, Acts 2:11 "... we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. Biblical tongues were languages, not some sort of unintelligible mutters. God plainly tells us the purpose for tongues. It was to give a sign to

those who needed the Gospel in their own native language (1Cor 14:20-22). The form of tongues is not the original manifestation found in Acts 2 of speaking in foreign languages, but rather the practice of speaking in an unknown and unintelligible language, which is promoted among charismatic churches. The main passage used will be 1st Corinthians 12-14, which is confused by Christian charismatic's to support their view on tongues, but when we see it in its original historical context the passage actually teaches the exact opposite of what they believe. And it will be shown that the error that the Corinthian church made is the same exact error that the modern charismatic movement is making.

There is no record of anyone "praying in tongues" in the Bible. Check every single prayer and song in the entire Bible. None of them were ever done in any way other than in an intelligible language that the person praying or singing knew and used. There is not one biblical example of a prayer or song in unknown, unintelligible tongues for us to follow. Furthermore, there is not even one biblical mention of a person ever praying or singing in unknown/unintelligible tongues to God when they were filled with the Holy Spirit. Not Moses, not David, not Daniel, not Paul, not Peter, and not even Jesus. If anyone would have had the "gift" of praying in tongues it should have been Jesus, but there is no record of Him ever praying in an unintelligible prayer language to the Father. Therefore, since we cannot come up with a single example of how it would have been done or even find one mention of someone praying in tongues in the Bible, the modern "gift" of praying in tongues does not have any actual biblical support via description.

It is confusion and disorder. In a group setting, speaking in tongues becomes a practice of disorderly confusion, and in the church at Corinth worship was extremely disordered. The apostle Paul describes the worship service of the Corinthians by saying that everyone was trying to use their spiritual

manifestation at the same time (1Cor 14:23,26). Some were babbling in tongues, some were trying to preach, some were trying to sing a solo. And when an unbeliever would enter their assembly he would equate the disorder of the Corinthians to the God that they were worshipping (1Cor 14:23). In other words, the Corinthian confusion showed that God Himself was a God of confusion. And the Bible says that “God is not a God of confusion” (1Cor 14:33). Furthermore, Jam 3:16 says that where confusion and disorder is, “every evil thing” is accompanied by it. By practicing worship like this, we actually open a door for demons to enter into the service.

It was originally a pagan practice that still exists. Historically, the ancient Greek philosopher Plato (427-347 B.C.), in his *Dialogues* (Phaedrus, Ion, and Timaeus), described extensively the pagan practice of speaking to their gods in unintelligible ecstatic mystery languages. Then one began to utter sounds without meaning, and the spirit of the god would then control the sounds so that they became an outpouring of ecstatic worship to the god. Sound familiar? We also know from history that when someone who lived in the first century A.D. would visit the priests and priestesses in pagan temples, they would worship one of the pagan gods by speaking in the tongue of that god. They would go out of themselves and the pagan god would control their vocal uttering. They would then proceed to do sexual perversions with the priests and priestesses to further their worship. The church of Corinth came out of this pagan background (1Cor 12:2), and Paul wrote to correct some of the pagan practices that they carried over into their Christian worship (1Cor 10:21). So when Paul says that when “one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God,” (1Cor 14:2) in the original Greek Paul says he speaks to *a god*. Paul is not *prescribing* a Christian gift. He is *describing* the pagan mystery practice that the Corinthians had brought into their worship of the true God. This is why Paul

makes a distinction between tongues (plural), and *a tongue* (singular) throughout 1Cor 12-14. There are many different kinds of languages (tongues; the true spiritual manifestation) but only one kind of gibberish (a tongue; the false pagan practice). Coincidentally, satanic cults today call their modern practice “the tongues of angels,” and these ancient pagan cults began to reemerge in the 1950s (i.e. Wicca, Celtic cults, etc.) just before the charismatic movement began.

It does not edify the Church. Spiritual manifestations (1Cor 12:4-7) are given only to edify other members of the church (1Cor 14:12, 26; cf. Eph 4:29; 1 Pet 4:10), not oneself. Paul directly, and sarcastically, says that those who speak in “a tongue” cannot possibly edify anyone but themselves (1Cor 14:4). If true spiritual manifestations were given to edify the church and speaking in “a tongue” (gibberish) does not edify the church, then speaking in “a tongue” is not a spiritual manifestation. There are two other big reasons why speaking in “a tongue” should not be done in the church: A) It causes others to stumble. Since the practice is originally pagan, it would cause others from that background to stumble, and causing others to stumble is sin (8:11-13; cf. Mt 18:6-7). B) It is unloving and selfish. Paul says that true love does not seek its own edification (1Cor 13:5; cf. 10:23-24). When we encourage each other to pray in tongues for their own edification we are actually telling them to use a “spiritual gift” for themselves. And this is the exact opposite of what the manifestations were meant to be used for; they are for edifying others. Therefore, one who attempts to edify himself through private praying in a tongue is actually showing that he does not have true love for the brethren, but rather is motivated by vain self-interest.

It was not meant for every believer. Firstly, it is the Holy Spirit who gives manifestations as *He wills* (1 Cor. 12:11), not as we will. So asking God for the “gift” of praying tongues will not work because He decides who gets which manifestations, not

us. Secondly, not every believer was given the manifestation of speaking in tongues. Paul says that some believers were given tongues, some were given prophecy, some were given discernment, etc (1Cor 12:7-11), for the common good of the church. Therefore not every believer could have the manifestation of tongues (1Cor 12:29-30). And finally, the church would not be a body if every believer had the manifestation of tongues. Paul says that the church is like a human body with distinct parts (1Cor 12:12), and that if all had the manifestation of tongues then the body could never be taken care of properly (1Cor 12:19, 25). Furthermore, a believer is commanded not to seek a manifestation they have not been given because the one that they do have is necessary (1Cor 12:15-18, 22) and specifically designed personally for them by God Himself (1Cor 12:7, 18; cf. Rom 12:3-6). Therefore, one who has been given the gift of teaching, or service, etc. must not seek a different or second gift, but must seek to use and perfect the one he has been given. *It is direct disobedience to Christ.* Jesus Himself addressed the pagan practice of praying in tongues. In Matthew 6:7 Jesus says “And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.” In the original Greek Jesus is saying not to repeat meaningless, unintelligible gibberish (Gk. *battalogo*) when we pray. Please note that Jesus does not say that we are not to pray exactly what the pagans pray, rather he is saying that we are not to do anything that is even similar to what they do in prayer. In other words, He doesn’t say not to pray the same *things* the pagans pray, but not to pray the *way* they do. Also, in the context Jesus is speaking of private prayer. Therefore, speaking words/sounds that one cannot understand, just like the pagans do to their gods, is direct disobedience to the Lord Himself.

God, Christ and the Holy Spirit

In the Bible the concept of one God is very simple and clear. When words like only, alone, and no other God is used, then we should not have any doubt about the oneness of God. However, from the last so many centuries, so called Christian scholars and theologians ignored the Biblical Christianity and formulated own concept about God based on their imaginations and self created philosophy. And unfortunately various denominations kept on following the same. Verses from Bible will help us to understand the nature of God. Now it is the responsibility of every intellectual, irrespective of his religious background, to find out what is wrong and what is right. I leave it to the reader to ponder and decide. In this era, every person believes what he would like to believe and one person cannot force or drill his own ideas in the minds of others against their will. Christian scholars of this era cannot explain what they believe and layman Christian does not have enough time to understand their teaching of myth and mysteries. Generally people would like to give their opinion nearly on every issue without reading the Bible in depth. Our faith should not be based on manmade teachings but should be based on verses of the Bible. When Jesus clearly tells us that for eternal life we should know him, the only true God (Jn 17:3). Paul says there is no God but one (1Cor 8:4). Then Jesus used the word alone when he said no one is good except God alone (Mk 10:18). God himself is saying I am God and there is no other: I am God and there is none like me (Isa 46:9). To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal? Says the Holy One (Isa

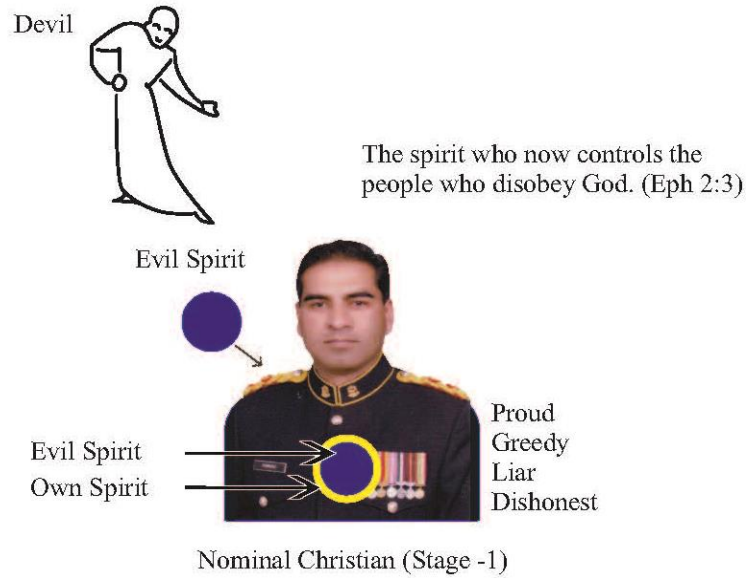
40:25). From all these verses it is clear that God is mathematically one because we do not need to consult Encyclopedia Britannica and Encyclopedia Americana to understand the meanings of alone and only. Generally our faces are very similar to our father or mother, in the same way the face of Christ was very similar to his father. That's why he said: Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. (Jn 14:9) It does not mean that he was saying I am God. Because Jesus also said that no one has ever seen God. (Jn 1:18) Again he clarified by saying that you have never heard his voice nor seen his form. (Jn 5:37) Then Paul says that God alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. (1Tim 6:16) Then God himself said, you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live. (Ex 33:20) People saw Jesus and even crucified him. If there is a unity and good relationship between brothers or friends people will generally say they all are one. Here the word one is used for unity not one of mathematics. Similarly, when Jesus said, "I and the Father are one." (Jn 10:30) Here one stands for unity in which true Christians are also included. I (Jesus) pray also for those who will believe in me through their message that all of them may be one. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one. So that they may be brought to complete unity. (Jn 17:20-23) If we are true Christians then we all are one in Christ Jesus. (Gal 3:28) In the Bible the word God is used for the prophets (Jn 10:35), word of God (Jn 1:1), Moses (Ex 4:16), Jacob struggled with God (Gen 32:28) here the word God is used but actually he was an angel. (Hos 12:4) The word God is also used for stomach (Phil 3:19)

and even for the devil. (2Cor 4:4) Here the words are used symbolically it does not mean all are God. It is written that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth below. There is no other. (Dt 4:39) We all know that figure 4 is greater than figure 3 and no one can claim they are equal. In the same way God is greater than Christ. (Jn14:28) But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. (Mt 24:36) As we have our God similarly Christ also has the same God. I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God. (Jn 20:17) In the Bible the word man is used for Christ. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus (1Tim 2:5) God has given Christ authority over all things. It does not include God himself. (1Cor15:27) God raised Christ from the grave. (1Cor15:15) One person is raising another person how both can be mathematically one or same. Christ is sitting at the God's right hand in the place of power. (Mt 26:64) Christians should ask their religious leaders if God and Christ are one then how Christ is sitting with God. It is also taught that Holy Spirit is a person. It is written in the Bible that Mary became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. (Mt1:18) If Holy Spirit is a person then Christ is the son of Holy Spirit not the son of God. It is written in the Bible that Christ is the son of God. (Jn 20:31) If Holy Spirit is person then what is his relationship with God and Christ? Can any theologians or self proclaimed scholar can explain? Christ is sitting at the right hand side of God. (Mt 26:64) If Holy Spirit is person he should be sitting towards left of God or right hand of Christ. We cannot find any verse in the Bible. Jesus used the word power

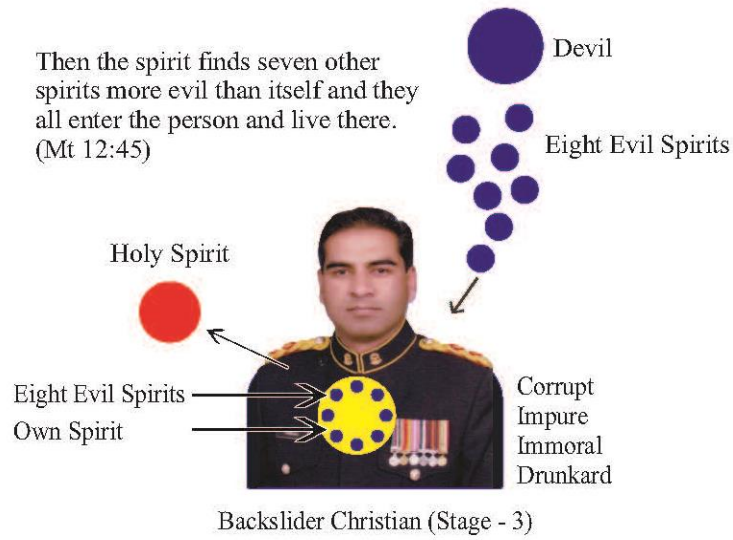
for the Holy Spirit. (Lk 24:49) and Luke again used the word power for the Holy Spirit in. (Acts 1:8) If Bible is using word power for the Holy Spirit how we can say Holy Spirit is a person. May God give us wisdom to understand his word!



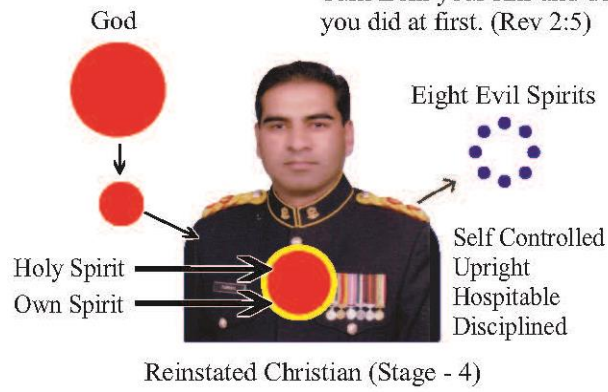
The Process of Regeneration



Then the spirit finds seven other spirits more evil than itself and they all enter the person and live there. (Mt 12:45)



Think how far you have fallen! Turn from your sins and do what you did at first. (Rev 2:5)



Spiritual Warfare

Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour (1Pet 5:8). Be firm and resist him, because you know that other believers in the entire world are going through the same kind of sufferings (1Pet 5:9). We all need to know that Satan is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God (Eph 2:20). This is the reason why every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood (Gen 8:21). We all know that he who sins is of the devil (1Jn 3:8) and there is no one who does not sin (2Chr 6:36). The sinful nature (due to the presence of evil spirit) wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Holy Spirit wants. And the Holy Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature (evil spirit) desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other in our mind, so we are not free to carry out our good intentions (Gal 5:17). The word of God teaches us how to overcome our sinful nature (evil spirit). We have to get rid of our sin (Job 34:31) and turn from our evil ways (Zech 1:4) and submitting ourselves to God (Jam 4:7). When we will come to Christ, we will be circumcised, but not by physical procedure. It will be a spiritual procedure – the cutting away of our sinful nature removal of evil spirit (Col 2:11). God will remove from us our heart of stone (evil spirit) and give us a heart of flesh Holy Spirit (Ez 36:26). In this way we will turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God. When we repent and baptize, we receives the Holy Spirit as a reward (Ac 2:38). So letting our sinful nature (evil spirit) to control our mind

leads to death but letting the Holy Spirit to control our mind leads to life and peace (Rom 8:6). We are controlled by the Spirit if we have the Spirit of God living in us (Rom 8:9). For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children (Rom 8:16). We all need to live righteously and then God will give us everything we need (Mt 6:33). No one will be able to stand against us as long as we live for God will be with us. God will not fail us or abandon us (Josh 1:5). If we want to enjoy life and wish to see good times, we must keep from speaking evil and stop telling lies. We must turn away from evil and do good. The Lord watches over the righteous and listens to their prayers but he opposes those who do evil (1Pet 3:10-12). Since the whole world lies in the power of the devil (1Jn 5:19) he will turn lot of people against us wherever we are living or working. Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach (Lk 15:1-2), so we need not to worry about such people but if you are true followers of Christ then we need to be careful about the priests and teachers of religious law because they were plotting how to kill Jesus (Lk 22:2) not the notorious sinners. The priests of present era are not different from the priests at the time of Jesus. We all need to be very careful and try our best to protect ourselves and other Christians because so many deceivers have gone out into the world (2Jn 1:7). Our enemies will be the members of our own household (Mt 10:36). And it is true that the children of this world are more shrewd in dealing with the world around them than are the children of the light (Lk 16:87). Therefore be as shrewd as serpents (Mt 10:16). The Lord's arm is not too weak to save us, nor is his ear too deaf to hear our call. It's our

sins that have cut us off from God. Because of our sins, he has turned away and will not listen us anymore (Is 59:1-20). But when we (like Uzziah) becomes powerful, we also becomes proud, which led to our downfall (2Chr 26:16). When an evil spirit leaves a person, it goes into the desert, seeking rest but finding none. Then it says, 'I will return to the person I came from.' So it returns and finds its former home empty, swept, and in order. Then the spirit finds seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they all enter the person and live there. That person is worse off than before (Mt 12:43-45). God has given us open choice; we want to live with Holy Spirit or one evil spirit or eight evil spirits. When God was with David he was able to kill lions and bears (1Sam 17:36). Killed Goliath with a sling and a stone without a sword! (1Sam 17:50). But without God we will see what happens? David many enemies surrounded him like bulls; they were all around him, like fierce bulls from the land of Bashan (Ps 22:12). His enemies surrounded him like a pack of dogs; an evil gang closes in on him (Ps 22:16). His prayer to his Lord, Save me from the sword; spare my precious life from these dogs (Ps 22:20). Rescue me from these lions; I am helpless before these wild bulls (Ps 22:21). When God was with David he quickly ran out to meet Goliath (1Sam17:48) but without God he has to run away from Absalom to save his life (2Sam 15:13-14). We can see the outlook of life with and without God. If we fall then we should go back to our Lord and pray like David. My Lord do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. Then I will teach your ways to

rebels, and they will return to you (Ps 51:11-13). Similarly, when God was with Samson he was able to kill 1,000 Philistines with a jawbone of a recently killed donkey (Judg 15:15). But without God, the Philistines captured him and put his eyes out. They took him to Gaza, chained him with bronze chains, and put him to work grinding at the mill in the prison (Judg 16:21). We can see the difference in life with and without God. The godly may trip seven times, but they will get up again. But one disaster is enough to overthrow the wicked (Pr 24:16). If we return to the Almighty, we will be restored (Job 22:23). We must acknowledge our transgressions (Ps 51:3). The life of a godly person is not trouble free; we have to pass through difficult time. We can take the example of Jeremiah what he says: Why was I ever born? My entire life has been filled with trouble, sorrow, and shame (Jer 20:18). Everyone makes fun of me; they laugh at me all day long (Jer 20:7). Jesus said, whoever does not have a sword must sell his coat and buy one (Lk 22:36) Christ has given us authority over all the power of the enemy, and we can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them (Lk 10:19). We have the right not only to defend ourselves but to crush our enemies. In spiritual warfare we will pass through difficult time like David. At one time he was in great danger because all his men were very bitter about losing their sons and daughters and they began to talk of stoning him. But David found strength in the LORD his God (1Sam30:6). To get power from God we have to concentrate on our conduct, as a body is dead without spirit, so also faith is dead without good deeds (Jam 2:26). We all need to pursue righteousness and godliness (1Tim 6:11). Live righteously, and God will give us

everything we need (Mt 6:33). We all need to pray, otherwise temptation will overpower us (Lk 22:40,46). As a true Christian our duty is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God (Lk 9:60). We all need to encourage one another and build one another up in our spiritual warfare (1Th 5:11). Put God's work first and do what he wants. Then the other things will be ours as well (Mt 6:33). Avoid godless, foolish discussions with those who oppose you with their so-called knowledge (1Tim 6:20). Anyone who is not working for Christ is really working against him; anyone who does not help Christ gather is really scattering (Mt 12:30). Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power (Eph 6:10). For we are not fighting against human beings but against the wicked spiritual forces in the heavenly world, the rulers, authorities and cosmic powers of this dark age (Eph 6:12). So stand ready, with righteousness as your breastplate (Eph 6:14). Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. (Eph 6:18). Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father (Mt 13:43). Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever (Dan 12:3). May God help all of us to win our war against the devil! At the end, we should be able to say like Paul that I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race (2Tim 4:70)

Preaching

In Christianity, mostly people think that to win souls is the job of the priests and evangelists only and they need not to worry about the preaching to the sinners. Since every true Christian is a priest (1Pet 2:5), so we have to warn and dissuade the sinner to save his life. If we are not fulfilling our responsibility, he will die in his sins but God will hold us accountable for his blood (Ez 3:18). The importance of preaching can be gauged from the statement of Christ when he said, "Let dead people bury their own dead." You go and tell others about God's Kingdom. (Lk 9:59-60). On the very first meeting with Christ, the Samaritan women left her jar and started preaching about Christ and people believed although she was not a trained ordained preacher. The words of Christ are Spirit and life (Jn 6:63). Have you ever told someone about these words so that one can have eternal life? Paul reasoned and tried to persuade Jews and Greeks to save them (Ac 18:4). He convinced people from morning till evening (Ac 28:23), and on another occasions he kept on talking until midnight (Ac 28:7) and then whole night (Ac 20:11). Even the chains could not stop Paul to proclaim the word of God (Phil 1:10). We should ask ourselves how many hours we have spent to save others? Jesus commanded us to make disciples. How many disciples we have made up till now? Then we have to encourage and build each other so that they can grow in spiritual life (1Th 5:11). In this era, where we have full liberty to preach and modern communication infrastructure is available but even we people don't bother to fulfill our

responsibilities. In Christ we become the father or mother when people repent and mend their ways on our message and they becomes our sons and daughters (1Cor 4:15). We should ask ourselves how many sons and daughters we have in Christ or unfortunately we are barren or childless. It is written that God cuts off every branch in Christ that bears no fruit (Jn 15:2). After winning souls we have to keep them under observation to know how they are growing through effective follow up so that they should not fall. (Ac 15:36) Every Christian should try his best to lead many to righteousness so that they will be able to shine like stars forever and ever (Dan 12:3). If we are interested to enter in the kingdom of God then we have to win at least thirty, sixty or hundred individuals (Mt 13:23). We have to spread the good news as a true Christian (2Tim 4:5). During life time nominal Christians don't like to work for Christ but after few years we can read on their grave "I have fought the good fight (2Tim 4:7)" where as they never fought against false teachers and their deadly false teachings while they were alive. Throughout their life they never took a single step for Christ but we can read on their grave, "I have finished the race (2Tim 4:7)." We must learn lesson from the life of Paul. He visited so many countries to spread the word of God and so much he suffered for Christ. We should have the same spirit and enthusiasm with which he worked for Christ throughout his life. May God guide us to work for his Kingdom!

Work and Serve

From the last so many centuries, religious leaders in Christianity became burden on the church and society against the true teachings of the Bible. Paul use to work day and night in order not to be a burden to anyone (1Th 2:9). He never took food without paying for it, in order to make a model for other Christian leaders (2Th 3:7-9). Like Paul, Barnabas also worked for his living (1Cor 9:6). Christ teaches us to give freely and accordingly Paul preached the word of God free of cost. His hands provided for his necessities and for those who were with him (Ac 20:33-34). Why religious leaders of this era are not learning lesson from Paul? Elisha refused a gift of 68 kg Gold worth 37,30,356 US \$ or Rs 61,55,08,800 (rate Rs 90,516 -10 gram on Jun 11, 2020) excluding 340 kg of silver and ten sets of clothes (2Ki 5:15-16). When king offered gift to Daniel he refused (Da 5:17). Now, can we expect that our religious leaders will refuse costly gifts like Elisha and Daniel? If the religious leader of the previous centuries would have preached according to the Bible the outlook of Christianity in the 21st century would have been different, especially in the third world countries where so many people are living below the poverty line. How many Churches are helping widows? (Ti 5:16) It is expected, that the readers will help directly to the needy to play their role in the progress of our community, instead of wasting their hard earned money on false teachers. Christ promised to give drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. (Rev 21:16) Are you getting the same water of life even after paying for it? It appears that the verses mentioned earlier are

excluded from the syllabus taught in various Bible Colleges and Seminaries all over the world. Some priests want 10% (tithes) of our income. In that case there should be one priest for nine families so that his income will be equal to the average of other families. Suppose a person is earning 1,000 Rs per day and after tithes of 100 Rs he will be left with 900 Rs. If a priest has 50 or 100 families then we will be surprised to see his daily, monthly and annual income.

Income	One family	10% of 50 families	10% of 100 families
Daily	1000-100 = 900	100 x 50 = 5,000	100 x 100 = 10,000
Monthly	900 x 30 = 27,000	5,000 x 30 = 150,000	10,000 x 30 = 300,000
Annual	27,000 x 12 = 324,000	150,000 x 12 = 1,800,000	300,000 x 12 = 3,600,000

All over the world so many people are running various ministries and they are enjoying life on the money earned by others.

Healers

Now a day's so many people claim that they have the healing power. They organized healing crusades in the stadiums, community centers and arenas, with lot of publicity, whereas mostly they end up with emotional healing and people feels that they are healed from their joint pains and other doubtful sicknesses. Such type of healers should show their healing powers in the hospitals not in the churches or stadiums. Any person who claims that he has the healing power, should be taken to any cancer hospital and the patient should be examined before and after his prayer, if the patient is healed he should be allowed to organize the healing crusades, if not he should be put behind bars for at least ten years with heavy fines for deceiving and misleading the general public and above all giving bad name to Christianity.

Instead of establishing a huge hospital with lot of staff like doctors, nurses, laboratory technicians and other administrative staff one should hire a healer and he should be made to sit at the gate of the hospital to heal all types of patients. Mostly the healers do not have the healing power but they claim and try to make fool of a common man. Christ warns us against such healers. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty work in your name? And then will I declare to them, I never knew you depart from me, you workers of lawlessness. (Mt 7:22-23) Jesus already warned us about such healers as they will be able to deceive even the elect. (Mt 24:24)

Deep observation of Khalil Gibran

The Cry of the Graves. His poor widow erected a cross upon his head as a witness in the silence of the night before the stars of heaven to testify against those priests who converted the kind teaching of Christ into sharp swords by which they cut the people's necks and tore the bodies of the weak.

Khalil the Heretic. The clergyman erects his temple upon the graves and bones of the devoted worshippers. The prince grasps the fellah's (agriculturist) arms while the priest empties his pocket; the ruler looks upon the sons of the fields with frowning face, and the bishop consoles them with his smile, and *between the frown of the tiger and the smile of the wolf the flock is perished*; the ruler claims himself as king of the law, and the priest as the representative of God, and between these two, *the bodies are destroyed and the souls wither into nothing*.

“With the sweat of thy brow, thou shall eat thy bread. But Sheikh Abbas (ruler) is eating his bread baked in the years of your lives and drinking his wine mixed with your tears. Jesus said, *Gratis you have taken and gratis you shall give.... Do not possess gold, not silver, neither copper. Then what teaching allows the clergymen to sell their prayers for pieces of gold and silver? In the silence of the night you pray saying, Give us today our daily bread. God has given you this land from which to draw your daily bread, but what authority has He given the monks to take his land and bread away from you?*

You curse Judas because he sold his Master for a few piece of silver, but you bless those who sell Him every day. Judas

repented and hanged himself for his wrongdoing, but these priests walk proudly, dress with beautiful robes, resplendent with shining crosses hanging over their chests. You teach your children to love Christ and at the same time you instruct them to obey those who oppose his teachings and violate his law. Your souls are in the grip of the priests, and your bodies are in the closing jaws of the rulers. What thing in life can you point at and say 'this is mine!' My fellowmen, do you know the priest you fear? He is a traitor who uses the Gospel as a threat to ransom your money ... a hypocrite wearing a cross and using it as a sword to cut your veins... A wolf disguised in lambskin... a glutton who respects the tables more than the altars... a gold hungry creature who follows the Dinar to the farthest land.. a cheat pilfering from widows and orphans. He is a queer (strange creature) being, with an eagle's beak, a tiger's clutches, a hyena's teeth and a viper's clothes. Take the Book away from him and tear his raiment off and pluck his beard and do whatever you wish unto him; then place in his hand one Dinar, and he will forgive you smilingly. When he talks he lifts his head towards heaven, but at the same time, *his thoughts are crawling like snakes through your pockets*. He asks you for charity when he has plenty to give; if you grant his request, he will bless you publicly, and if you refuse him, he will curse you secretly. In the temple he asks you to help the needy, and about his house the needy are begging for bread, but he cannot see or hear. He sells his prayers, and he who does not buy is an infidel, excommunicated from Paradise. This is the creature of which you are afraid. This is the monk who sucks your blood. This is the priest who makes the sign of the Cross with the

right hand, and clutches your throat with the left hand. This is the pastor whom you appoint as your servant, but he appoints himself as your master. This is the shadow that embraces your souls from birth until death. This is the man who came to judge me tonight because my spirit revolted against the enemies of Jesus the Nazarene. Who loved all and called us brothers, and who died on the Cross for us. *(Taken from his book Spirits Rebellious)*

John the Baptist

Life of John the Baptist is very strange and we can learn lot of lessons from him to improve our own spiritual life. After testifying several times (Jn 1:32) about Christ he continued his ministry parallel to the ministry of Christ. His own ministry was threatened when Christ was making more disciples than him. Regarding Christ the crowd praised God saying, “A mighty prophet has risen among us and God has visited his people today.” This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country. (Lk 7:16-17) Christ performed many miracles but John was unable to perform a single miracle. The disciples of John the Baptist started criticizing by saying that the disciples of Christ are not fasting. (Mt 9:14) Where those witnesses and testimonies have gone which John gave earlier about Christ? (Jn 1:18) John himself told that he baptize people with water for repentance, but after him comes one who is more powerful than him, whose sandals he was not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Mt 3:11) John baptized Christ, saw the Holy Spirit descending on him (Jn1:32) but he did not like to follow Christ even for few hours. Within few months John has forgotten everything and developed

doubts about Christ. He sent his disciples to ask Jesus; Are you the one who was to come or should we expect someone else. (Lk 7:18) As it is written do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do. (Jam 1:6-8) John was so close to Christ but was unable to get the benefit of that opportunity. Similarly so many nominal Christians in the world attend Church throughout their lives and read the Bible but failed to understand the ABC of true Christianity. Like John they are so close to the word that can give them eternal life but still they are spending their days and nights in spiritual darkness. Out of so many prophets, John the Baptist was the only one who had the opportunity to see and touch Christ but he never surrendered himself to Christ. In this era mostly people like to follow man made teaching instead of true teaching of the Bible. We must pray to God for wisdom to understand and live according to his word. A Samaritan woman was not a prophetess but even then on the very first meeting with Christ she was able to say, could this be the Christ? (Jn 4:28-30) She was also telling others about

Christ but the John the Baptist as a prophet at that time sending his disciples to Christ saying are you the one? How much Christ would have been hurt and surprised about John's spiritual condition? On another occasion many people in the crowd believed in Christ. They said, "When the Messiah comes, will he perform more signs than this man?" (Jn 7:31) We can compare ourselves the response of the crowd and the response of a prophet John the Baptist. If we have one thousand persons in the Kingdom of heaven, John the Baptist was declared even smaller than the person who is at the last or least important person. (Mt 11:11) At this moment the soul of John the Baptist is inside or outside the Kingdom of God I leave it to the readers to think and decide?

Christianity and 21st Century

When Bible Colleges and Seminaries all over the world will teach wrong concepts about various issues then we will see what happens. In the United States between 2006 and 2012 about 30,000 churches were closed, which means that 5,000 churches are closing each year. The Church of England closes about 20 churches per year. In Wales 110 Anglican churches closed in 10 years. Between 10 and 20 Catholic parishes in France are sold or converted each year. The Roman Catholic Church in Germany has shut about 515 churches in the past decade. Trier diocese, the oldest in Germany, will dissolve its 903 parishes and reduce them to 35. Germany is literally selling its churches. Between 1990 and 2010, the German Evangelical Church closed 340 churches. In the Dutch province of Friesland, 250 of 720 existing churches have been transformed or closed. In Europe, the Netherlands appears to be the hardest hit where Roman Catholic leaders estimating that two-thirds of their 1,600 churches will be out of commission in a decade. Christianity has clearly suffered the most in Europe. In Australia, shrinking congregations have led to the closure of 145 Victorian churches since 2009. Church buildings have been sold off and converted by new owners into houses, offices and even a childcare centre. The Uniting Church has sold 74 churches, 20 in Melbourne. The Catholic Church has closed and sold 17 churches in its Melbourne, Sandhurst and Ballarat dioceses. The Anglican Church closed 53 churches across its four dioceses. We all need to play our role for revival in the world.

Eternal life for the Gentiles

In the word of God we have good news even for the Gentiles. Because God has also given them the privilege of repenting of their sins and receiving eternal life. (Ac 11:18) God will not consider them as a second-class citizens (Is 56:3) because he will bless them too. (Is 56:6) There will be glory, honour and peace from God for all who do good and trouble and distress for every human being who does evil. (Rom 2: 9-10) God does not show favoritism, but accepts from every nation the one who fears him and does what is right. (Act 10:34-35) As we all know that the priest and the temple assistant both ignored the injured Jewish man but the despised Samaritan felt compassion for him. (Lk 10:31-33) We can see that the Samaritan was a better human being not only in the eyes of God but also in the eyes a common man. When Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature, do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law (Rom 2:14). We will see the teaching of Christ regarding the Gentiles. When Roman officer said, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come into my home. Just say the word from where you are, and my servant will be healed. When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. (Mt 8:8-10) Then Christ gave the great news even for the Gentiles. And I tell you this that many Gentiles will come from all over the world from east and west and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob at the feast in the Kingdom of Heaven. (Mt 8:11) Then Jesus clearly says, “But the children

of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Mt 8:12) King James Bible The citizens of the kingdom will be thrown outside into the darkness where people will cry and be in extreme pain there. (Mt 8:12) God's Word Translation Now self proclaimed Scholar should not have any misunderstanding about the teaching of Christ regarding the Gentiles. On another occasion, when he (blind) saw that he was healed, he turned back, praising God with a loud voice; He fell to the ground at Jesus' feet, thanking him for what he had done. This man was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, "Didn't I heal ten men? Where are the other nine? Why is this foreigner the only one who came back to give thanks to God? (Lk 17:15-18) All of us will stand before God to be judged by him. (Rom14:10) This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Mt 13:49-50) Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the Kingdom of God. (Mt 13:43) As a Christian we are suppose to treat everyone with high regard. (1Pet 2:17) May God, help all of us to live in complete harmony with each other. (Rom 25:5) My people, your leaders mislead you; they send you down the wrong road. (Is 3:12) The leaders of my people, the Lord's watchmen, his shepherds, are blind and ignorant. They are like silent watchdogs that give no warning when danger comes. They are dogs with mighty appetites; they never have enough. They are shepherds who lack understanding; they all turn to their own way, they seek their own gain. (Is 56:10-11)
