

TRUTH

The power of our faith is the absolute, immutable, didactic, revelatory truth of God, the “manna of God” that empowers the entirety of our faith responses including all of the administrative gifts of the Spirit as well as our individual ministry gifts and anointings of the Spirit. It is, therefore, Satan’s primary purpose to hinder our obedient faith responses and our unity through the corruption of God’s absolute, immutable, didactic, *rhema* truth.

By Jim Sayles

Part 2: The Deadly Triad of Error

How important is the *rhema* truth of God? Our reception and obedient faith responses to the absolute, immutable, didactic, revelatory Word of God is the only way in which we will individually or corporately overcome the assaults of the beast kingdom against us and ultimately prevail against it as we manifest and glorify Christ through through our obedient faith responses to His *rhema* truth, promises, and commands.

Thus we need to examine the deadly triad of error assaulted against the body of Christ to prevent us from receiving and responding to the absolute, immutable, *rhema* truth of God by faith. And through the understanding intended by the Author and authority for all truth, overcome the enemy’s assaults against the kingdom of God in the earth.

We love traditions. Traditions provide us with a sense of identity and purpose. Traditions literally provide us with a framework for our lives, both individually and in larger corporate groups. Traditions are the billboards upon which we post the memories of family, friends, and all other relationships with a continuing expectation of refreshing those billboards with new memories.

Traditions provide us with a psychologically comfortable “group-think” anchor of authority and identity for our beliefs and actions, whether personal, institutional, political, or spiritual.

For this reason the assault of the beast kingdom ruled by the father of lies against the kingdom of God in the world, is primarily carried out through his demonically empowered strongholds of false presumption, deception, and the unknowing assumption of false presumption and deception by the body of Christ, which ultimately become a literal beast kingdom stronghold (fortress) of TRADITION opposed to the truth of God.

As the Lord demonstrated, when the Pharisees and scribes confronted Him because his disciples did not perform all the ritual washing that was their tradition under the Law, tradition had become a STRONGHOLD (fortress) opposed to the absolute, immutable, *rhema* truth of God, which is the Word that proceeds from the very mouth of God and conveyed to us by the Spirit of truth.

The Pharisees and the scribes asked Him, “Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with impure hands?” And He said to them, “Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written:

“This people honors Me with their lips,

But their heart is far away from Me.

But in vain do they worship Me,

Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.’

Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men.”

He was also saying to them, “You are experts at setting aside the ... (revelatory) ... commandment of God in order to keep your tradition.; and you do many things such as that.” Mark 7: 5-9 NASB (insert is the author’s)

In this regard their tradition had become a false tradition opposed to the absolute, immutable *rhema* truth of God. And many such things do we also do, because it is so much easier just to conform to whatever “group-think” denominational or leader oriented tradition we are associated with. (i.e. We are “comfortable” with our group-think doctrine and practice, and we deliberately avoid and reject anything that disturbs the comfort of our group-think doctrine and practice).

Paul was aware of the power of tradition, whether religious tradition, or societal tradition, inhibiting men from receiving and responding to the truth of God spoken into our hearts by the Spirit of truth, and he warned Colossian believers in this regard.

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. Col. 2:8 NASB (emphasis is the author’s)

The vast majority of institutional and denominational Christianity, divided by varying “winds of doctrine,” having become Pharisaical slaves to whatever denominational traditions, whatever ministry leader’s opinions, or whatever intellectually discerned opinions they have individually adopted and believe to be

the absolute, immutable, didactic Word of God, are literally in bondage where certain areas of the truth of God are concerned.

These have become deaf and blind to the absolute, immutable, revelatory truth of God if and when that truth contradicts the emotively powerful group-think traditions they have adopted.

Thus, the tradition of belief and practice, whatever these may be, have become strongholds (fortresses) opposed to traditions of faith based on the revelatory truth of God.

Yet, we are instructed (commanded) to continuously WAR against those traditions that weaken the body of Christ by opposing and denying the *rhema* truth of God.

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. ... (defined as various traditions of deception and error)... We are destroying speculations... (false presumptions)... and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, ... (Satanically imbedded false doctrine)... and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ... 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 NASB (inserts are the author's)

Paul also addressed this phenomenon in his letter to the church at Ephesus in what we identify as the “armor of God” passage (Ephesians 6:11-18). In this passage the very first essential of our armor is identified as the belt of truth.

Thus truth empowers the helmet of salvation (the renewing of our minds); the breastplate of righteousness (obedience to the revelatory commands of the Lord); the shield of faith (overcoming all of the assaults of the enemy through our obedient faith responses); our shoes (our equipping to “go” in His name and His authority, rather than going only in the name of various forms of institutional Christianity); and, ultimately, the sword of the Spirit (the absolute, immutable, revelatory *rhema* Word of God spoken into our hearts by the Spirit of truth who is the voice of our Lord in regard to all of the truth, promises, and commands of God in Christ, and spoken through us by faith against various manifestations of the enemy).

Conversely, the armor of God is NOT empowered by traditions of belief or religious acts that are not genuine acts of faith, but are things we do in order to be aligned with and conform to whatever tradition we are desperately attempting to identify with (i.e. religious acts devoid of genuine faith and obedience).

Denominations and the multitude of conflicting theological beliefs themselves do not separate us from receiving the truth of God in Christ, but our unyielding conformance to denominational truth and actions in what we think, say, and do

will definitely hinder our obedient faith responses to the truth, promises, and commands of the Lord in various ways.

Why? Because it is so much easier just to conform and receive the “group-think” comfort of conforming to institutional Christianity in its multitudinous forms rather than seeking and responding to the unifying, absolute, immutable, revelatory truth, promises, and commands of the Lord.

And, like the Pharisees who rejected Christ, we work really hard at defending our doctrinal positions and traditions, rather than working hard at receiving the truth and rejecting the lies and deceptions that cause us to be separated from others in the body of Christ in the same way Christ was separated from the Pharisees, priests, and elders of religious Israel.

This is the POWER of denominational, “group-think” tradition that hinders our individual ability to receive the *rhema* truth, promises, and commands of our Lord that result in a life of genuine faith responses manifesting the presence, power, and glory of our Lord as intended by the Father.

I will present only one example, though a book could be written about the strongholds of religious, but profane, doctrines and practices that have become traditions assaulted against the absolute, immutable, *rhema* truth, commands, and promises of our Lord.

In the Lord’s final commands given to His disciples, and conveyed to us both in scripture and through the Spirit of truth He identified the primary actions they would be engaged in to “***the end of the age***,” which is identified as the “last day” resurrection of all the saints of all time, living and dead, on 1 Tishri, the first day of the “Feast of Trumpets.”

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Matthew 28:18-29 KJV

Some absolutes we can discern in this passage, even without guidance from the Spirit of truth include:

1. We are commanded to go into all nations, bringing them to faith, and teaching them to observe EVERYTHING He commanded His original disciples to do in His name;

2. He will be with us to the end of the age in all the same ways He was with His original disciples after His resurrection.

What is implied in His **COMMAND** recorded in Matthew 28:18-29 is our requirement to teach new believers to obey everything He commanded His original disciples both before and after His resurrection.

This includes teaching new believers to recognize and respond to the administrative leadership of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.

There is, then, no scriptural explanation for the absence of any of the administrative offices in the body of Christ except that which is discerned in the parable of the ten virgins (Matthew 25:1-12) in which He prophesied that the body of Christ would become spiritually drowsy and fall asleep when He tarried (a subject I have written extensively about, because it also reveals the time of our awakening in the immediate future).

The same is true about both the “operational” or “manifestation” ministry gifts. These have not “passed away” as many have falsely taught and believed. They simply are not present among those in the somnolent body of Christ who do not believe and have established comfortable, but erroneous denominational traditions of unbelief.

Yet, ALL of these administrative and operational, ministry gifts are intended for the body of Christ until the end of the age just as it is written.

We are told, “*the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal...*” These manifestations include the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, (special or unique) faith, the gifts of healing, the working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, divers kinds of tongues, and the interpretation of tongues.

This also includes our individual instruction through spiritual dreams and visions. (Acts 2:17)

To deny and disobey this truth because the comfort of our group-think denominational TRADITION, or our individual or group experience, is to deny the truth, promise, and intent of God in Christ as revealed and confirmed in scripture.

Thus religious, denominational TRADITION becomes the profane lie of Satan replacing the absolute, immutable, didactic Word of God spoken into our hearts and minds by the Spirit of truth, robbing us of the joy, presence, and power of the Lord in the ministry He has intended for each of us until the end of the age.

Every tradition within Christianity that has become a false tradition opposed to the absolute, immutable, revelatory truth of God has come to us through the deadly triad of false presumption, assumption, or deception.

False Presumption:

Presumption is the conclusion we have reached concerning any area of belief, whether correct or incorrect. Thus, any presumption we have made concerning the truth, promises, and commands of God in Christ that does not align with the absolute, immutable, revelatory (*rhema*) truth of God hinders our ability to receive the absolute, immutable, revelatory (*rhema*) truth of God in its stead.

In my walk with the Lord I have frequently arrived at false presumptions. But as I matured in the Lord I gained more and more spiritual discernment, and I no longer receive anything, even from trusted sources, without examining and confirming it in the written word as the Spirit of truth supernaturally guides me in my understanding.

The Pharisees in the Lord's own day were the intellectual giants of Israel who constantly examined the scriptures, but without revelatory guidance from the Spirit of truth.

These, like modern Pharisees, were divided in their opinions, and because they were sold out to their various intellectual opinions, they did not recognize the Messiah when He walked amongst them even though He fulfilled all of the prophecies with which they were familiar.

At that time Jesus began to say, I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth [and I acknowledge openly and joyfully to Your honor], that You have hidden these things from the wise and clever and learned, and revealed them to babies [to the childish, untaught, and unskilled]. Matthew 11:25 Amplified (emphasis is the author's)

Man's nature apart from the indwelling Spirit is to be in control, and we have a tendency to trust and believe that education, methodologies, and various keys to scriptural interpretation, including our individual opinions concerning the correct translation of the Bible, will result in the truth.

Yet, intellectualism without supernatural guidance by the Spirit frequently results in false presumption just as the intellectual giants of Israel continually demonstrated. The proof of this is observable by our division into numerous denominations and schools of doctrine and practice led by highly esteemed doctors of theology.

This is particularly important when it comes to the interpretation of biblical prophecy. Most schools of theological thought, the "isms" of doctrine and practice, including various doctrines related to "things to come," were declared to be doctrinal "truth" prior to the opening or unsealing of those same prophecies by the Spirit of truth. (Daniel 12:9)

Therefore, most of the schools of prophetic doctrine about which we spend an inordinate amount of debating were developed without guidance from the Spirit of truth.

Likewise, many of these doctrines were influenced over a lengthy period of time through the influence of a Jezebellian spirit of deception. Therefore, man's intellect without the supernatural guidance of the Spirit opposes the truth and divides us, while man's intellect guided by the Spirit reveals the truth and unites us with all others who have the truth regardless of language, denominational affiliation, or even which translation of the Bible we are using.

Assumption:

Assumption is our receiving of doctrine from human religious authorities in our lives either with or without confirming them for ourselves by carefully searching the scriptures with guidance from the Spirit of truth.

A tendency common to all mankind, not just Christian believers, is to take shortcuts for obtaining doctrinal knowledge by adopting the authoritative conclusions of others without thoroughly examining and confirming those conclusions for ourselves.

This is spiritual laziness leading to denominational bondage.

It is appropriate for us to receive what is being imparted to us by those who are anointed and equipped by the Lord to teach the body of Christ, but not without subsequent personal confirmation through a Spirit-guided examination of the written text.

The psychological tendency of man to seek "experts," "authorities," and groups whose doctrines and practices we can comfortably assume and identify ourselves with demonstrates the "group-think" fear of man inherent in denominationalism. This is also expressed in the multitudinous "isms" of various schools of theology that may or may not be based on a revelatory understanding of biblical theology.

Ask any graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary who has ultimately overcome Dispensationalism. They will tell you that the pressure to conform to the doctrine of Dispensationalism is extreme in that seminary, and students are NOT encouraged to examine the scriptures inductively for themselves. Rather they are pressured to assume the false presumptions originating from established sources.

Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him;...(as do many Christian leaders)...***but because of the Pharisees...***(those who are "experts" in the eyes of Christian believers)...***they...***(Christian believers)...***did***

not confess him...(by not confessing His *rhema* truth)...*lest they should be put out of the synagogue...*(church/denomination/seminary). *For they loved the praise...*(and acceptance)...*of men more than the praise...*(and acceptance)... **of God.** John 12:42,43 KJV (inserts are the author's)

This fear of man resulting in denominationalism was also addressed by Paul as recorded in 1 Corinthians 3:4 KJV:

For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal?...(believing and following man rather than believing and following Christ our Teacher who is the *logos*, the exact representation of God in human form).

The best any teacher of the word of God in scripture can do is to present the written word in a manner that allows those who “hear” or “read” the presentation to carefully examine and confirm the truth intended by the Spirit of truth for themselves.

Denominationalism in itself is proof that assumption, without guidance and confirmation by the Spirit of truth concerning doctrine and practice, is the common condition of the body of Christ today.

In a conversation with a Roman Catholic friend he expressed being offended by my statement that the Roman Catholic belief in the diety of Mary is “heretical.”

His “proof” against my claim that the deification of Mary is heretical was to cite the Roman Catholic Catechism as THE authority for absolute truth. However, the Catechism is NOT scripture. It is, instead, the papacy’s doctrinal interpretation of biblical scripture (i.e. a false presumption in this specific case).

THE authority for what Roman Catholics believe is the Pope as the so-called “cleric of Christ,” and the expression of what the Pope and the papal council believes is presented through the Catechism, a document overflowing with non-revelatory, false presumptive intellectual opinions concerning biblical doctrine and practice.

My friend’s assumption of the false presumptive doctrine expressed in the Roman Catholic Catechism has, then, become an extremely powerful and deceptive “fortress” or “stronghold” of interpretive tradition assaulted against his ability to receive the absolute, immutable, rhema truth of God from the Spirit of truth.

Christian bookstores, denominational organizations, and popular, televised ministries are full of non-revelatory intellectual opinions concerning doctrine and

practice, and Charismatic believers, claiming additional insight and empowerment by the Spirit, are not exempt from inclusion in this category.

For that very reason it is necessary for us to become aware of the authorities from whom we are receiving “truth,” and to develop a noble Berean attitude by confirming everything inductively in scripture with the guidance of the Spirit of truth who wrote scripture and was sent to “guide” each of us supernaturally into ALL truth.

Deception:

Deception is the deliberate act of perverting the truth of God in order to prevent us from receiving the truth. The origin of all deception is Satan, the father of lies, but he employs men, including many born-again, regenerated believers, to unknowingly accomplish his purposes.

For such men are false apostles [spurious, counterfeits], deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles (special messengers) of Christ (the Messiah). And it is no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light; So it is not surprising if his servants also masquerade as ministers of righteousness. [But] their end will correspond with their deeds.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 Amplified

We also need to be aware that deception results in false presumption by those who receive it, and false presumption, when it is assumed (received as authoritative truth) results in the individual deception of those who receive it.

A little leaven (a slight inclination to error, or a few false teachers) leavens the whole lump [it perverts the whole conception of faith or misleads the whole church]. Galatians 5:9 Amplified

Deception, based on false presumption and the assumption of the dragon’s lies as truth, was the cause of the downfall of mankind, and it continues to be so in the body of Christ today.

False presumption, assumption of false doctrine, and deception, then become powerful STRONGHOLDS in our souls, and in our group-think associations, assaulted against the absolute, immutable *rhema* truth of God.

We are, therefore, instructed by Paul in 1 Corinthians 10:3-6 to **WAR** against these strongholds (fortresses) of error and deception in our souls.

For though we walk in the flesh [as mortal men], we are not carrying on our [spiritual] warfare according to the flesh and using the weapons of man. The weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood]...(intellect alone).... Our weapons are divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses....(described as)... We are destroying sophisticated arguments...(false presumption)...and every exalted and proud thing...(erroneous and ungodly denominational doctrine and practice)... that sets itself up against the [true]...(rhema)... knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought and purpose captive to the...(true)... obedience of Christ...(through genuine faith)....2 Corinthians 10:3-6 Amplified (inserts and emphasis are the author's)

This has never changed in the enemy's assault against us, and the Lord's instructions through Paul to WAR against everything that opposes the absolute, immutable, revelatory truth, promises, and commands of our Lord.

This warfare is to be engaged by us individually for our own instruction and benefit, and corporately for the benefit of the body of Christ entire. Yet, this warfare is to be carried out through the spirit of *agapeo* love, and not, in any way, by personal motive (i.e. spiritual pride and denominational "group-think" identity).

It is my hope that the reader, becoming aware of the influences that hinder our reception of unifying and faith-empowering truth from the Spirit of truth, will be increasingly equipped to examine what he/she believes, and, therefore, resist those sources of unbelief that hinder us in our desire to manifest the truth, love, and power of our Lord to a dying world.

May He, therefore, grant you a spirit of wisdom and revelatory understanding as you examine His written *logos* word and hear His spoken *rhema* word so that you may walk by faith in all that you think, say, and do, glorifying Him as you manifest His truth, His love, His power and His presence in a dark and deceived world.

The three primary foundational doctrines upon which the absolute, immutable, revelatory truth of God is confirmed are: 1) God's eternal covenant intent in Christ; 2) God's very specific calendar of "appointed times" for the redemption of fallen mankind in Christ; and 3) God's instructions concerning how the spiritual body of Christ, which is the sole presence of the kingdom of God in the earth, is to be led by our Lord, Jesus Christ, in the warfare of the kingdom of God against Satan's beast kingdom all the way to the end of this present age, which is the "last day" resurrection of the living and dead saints of all time.

The next article in this series is: **Truth Part 3: God's Covenant Intent in Christ** – God's relationship with His eternal, created spirit-being temporarily living in a body of flesh is through covenant. Any misunderstanding of God's covenant intent in Christ from Adam forward is, then, the primary source of doctrinal error and division in the body of Christ, including doctrinal error concerning things to come in our immediate and ultimate future.

The author's group or individual Bible Study Guide, "**Final Instructions**," is an examination of the Lord's final instructions to His disciples on the night He was betrayed and crucified concerning how they would continue to receive His truth, promises, and commands after His resurrection (John 13-17). These are still OUR instructions today. Available from Amazon. Also available from theendtimeschurch.org in spiral bound format, or FREE, in PDF, print it yourself format.