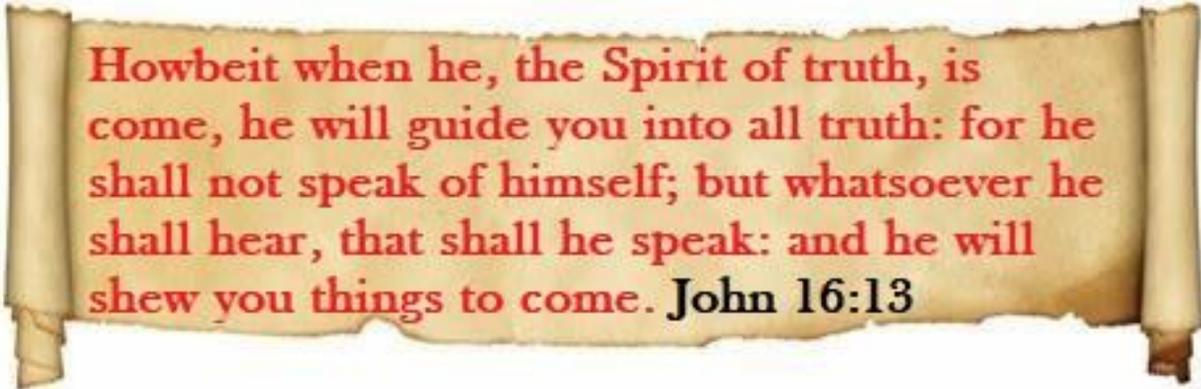


The Authority for Truth

As Ordained by the Father and Spoken into our Hearts by the Spirit

By Jim Sayles



Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. **John 16:13**

The vast majority of Christianity has accepted our division into thousands of denominations and millions of rabbinic opinions concerning the truth, promises, and commands of God in Christ as “normal.” (i.e. functioning perfectly as designed to function). But God’s intent for us is to be united in His absolute, immutable, revelatory truth, the truth that empowers our faith and manifests the presence, power, and glory of the kingdom of God in Christ.

That unity and the full manifestation of His truth, His covenant promises, and His power are all empowered only as the Spirit of truth reveals it and confirms it in scripture.

The authority for truth is not the Vatican or our specific protestant denomination. Nor is it the apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor or teacher. Likewise, scripture, even in the original languages, is not the authority for truth.

There is only ONE authority for truth, and that authority is the AUTHOR of all truth, the Father.

“Author” literally means originator, and the Father has delegated this authority to the Son, Jesus Christ, who speaks His truth, His covenant promises, and His commands to us through the Holy Spirit who was given to us to supernaturally “guide” us, corporately and individually, into all truth, with the Father’s intent being the revelation and confirmation of His absolute, immutable, *rhema* (revelatory) truth to us in scripture.

Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. John 17:17 NASB

We are sanctified, set apart, and empowered for His purposes by the absolute, immutable revelatory truth of God. Thus, any understanding, based on false presumption, or assumptions of understanding we have adopted from authorities other than the Father through the Spirit of truth as confirmed in scripture, hinder our sanctification and the manifestation of the Lord's will through us.

The absolute, immutable truth of God is not limited to scripture, but it is always confirmed in scripture. It comes to us in numerous ways including dreams, visions, prophecies, and the still small voice of our Counselor, the Holy Spirit. Yet, whatever we receive directly from the Father and the Son through the Holy Spirit can be confirmed in scripture.

Scripture is, then, a God-ordained codex provided for our confirmation as the Spirit of truth supernaturally "guides" us into all truth.

Thus scripture, the *logos*, though perfect as intended by God in its original languages, must be interpreted, revealed, and confirmed to us in order for us to obtain the supernatural understanding given to us by the Spirit of truth.

This perfect understanding of the *logos* (written Word) is the *rhema* (Spirit of truth revelatory Word of God) that sanctifies us and empowers us to walk by faith manifesting the truth, life, and love of God that glorifies our Lord, Jesus Christ, in the world.

It is also this truth that unifies believers regardless of what language they speak or what denomination of Christianity they are identified with.

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will ...supernaturally...guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come... so that we are prepared by faith for these events...He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine...the covenant promises... and shall shew it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you....so that we can walk in the covenant promises by faith... John 16:13-15 KJV (inserts are the author's)

It is the very word that proceeds out of the mouth and will of God the Father, through our Lord, Jesus Christ, spoken into our hearts and minds by the Spirit, and believed and responded to by us, that causes us to manifest the truth and will of God in our thoughts, words, and actions.

And it is these thoughts, words, and actions that glorify Christ and manifest His presence, power, and love in and through the spiritual body of Christ.

At the same time, the intellectual understanding of the perfect *logos* apart from the supernatural guidance of the Spirit of truth, is subject to error, and, even, deception, as has been clearly demonstrated throughout the history of both the institutional church and the spiritual body of Christ by our division into thousands of denominations (distinct doctrines and practices) and millions of rabbinic opinions concerning the truth, promises, and commands of God in Christ.

Thus, though helpful, a doctorate in biblical Hebrew and Greek is not a guarantee that the one examining scripture in its original languages will achieve an absolute, immutable, revelatory understanding of scripture apart from guidance by the Spirit of truth.

This is fully demonstrated by our division into countless denominations of belief and practice, led by doctors of theology who understand Biblical Hebrew and Greek, which is the complete opposite of the unity that comes from the Father to those who “hear” and “see” the absolute, immutable, revelatory truth spoken into our hearts (spirit-soul connection) by the Spirit of truth.

What this literally demonstrates is that it is unlikely that any denomination of Christianity is in perfect alignment with the absolute, immutable truth of God.

Therefore, what we believe individually is not necessarily the truth. We might believe the truth, but truth itself is an absolute originating from, and revealed by, the originator and AUTHOR of all truth.

I confess this as being true for me personally, and any who cannot confess this are in bondage to authorities other than God the Father, the AUTHOR and absolute authority for all truth.

So how are we to individually and corporately determine and confirm what is, and what is not, the true intent of the Father as revealed by the Spirit and confirmed in scripture? And why is it important to know and conform to the truth in all things? Isn't it enough just to know and believe that Jesus Christ is our Savior and Lord?

I, like all believers, did not choose the anointing and ministry I was given by the Lord. But, because I was rescued out of deep Satanic bondage as an adult, I have pursued the word and will of the Lord with total commitment, knowing that I have an enemy who wants to kill me or at least neutralize me through sin and error, as well as the assaults of real, but unseen, beast kingdom entities and forms so that I will not be effective in the warfare that the kingdom of God in Christ is waging against the beast kingdom.

After being led by the Lord through a lengthy time of cleansing and deliverance, the Lord woke me up one morning by calling my name. As I sat bolt upright in bed, I saw **John 14:15** written like a holograph across my mind's eye.

I quickly awakened my wife, Peggy, who was responsible through prayer for my rescue and redemption in Christ, and, as she stared in wide-eyed astonishment, I blurted excitedly, "The Lord gave me a scripture."

Then, as I opened my Bible to John 14:15 I read, "***If you love Me, obey My commands.***"

His commands, His truth, His covenant promises, and His empowerment for ministry all come to us through our knowing or unknowing reception of His truth, promises, and commands as revealed to us by the Spirit of truth and confirmed in His written word.

All else is of the flesh, and, even, of the enemy, who sometimes manifests through various Christian authorities who have unknowingly believed lies and deceptions as though these are the truth of God in Christ.

What has been revealed and confirmed to me is that His primary intent for all believers, is to hear and respond to His spiritually revealed and confirmed truth, covenant promises, and commands, as is demonstrated in **John 16:13**, which then leads to supernaturally empowered Christ glorifying manifestations of His truth, power, and glory in the world, and it unifies us with all others who are hearing and responding in obedience to His spiritually revealed and confirmed truth, promises and commands.

What I have desperately desired from that time forward, then, is to be both a "friend" and a "bond-servant" of the Lord, fulfilling the anointing and purpose He has appointed for me during this brief life on earth, which I now understand to be the initial testing and training for an eternal life of adventure and blessing in Christ.

In this life His truth, promises, and commands come to us by various means, in dreams and visions, in prophetic revelations, through the teaching and ministry of others, and through our own examination of the written word as the Spirit of truth "guides" us in our revelatory understanding.

But for many believers "The Bible says..." is the phrase that commonly precedes our multitudinous **intellectual opinions** about the truth, promises, and commands of God, and we use that phrase, or something similar, to give authority to our individual and group-think opinions and traditions, though our opinion about almost any doctrine or practice in Christendom is contradicted and condemned by a multitude of contrary, opposing doctrines and practices.

To overcome this conundrum, we need to be aware that there are two different Greek words used in scripture for the singular phrase in English: "word

of God.”

“**Logos**” is used to mean the exact representation of the abstract reality (i.e. Jesus of Nazareth is the exact representation of God, the Father, in human form.) “Logos” is also the written word of God in scripture, and, specifically, in the original languages in which it was written. Thus, the King James Version of the original texts is already compromised, because it is a translation and not the exact “logos” representation.

Scripture, then, in the original languages is the exact “logos” representation of what God intended to provide for us as a very specific codex of truth.

But the revelatory intent of God in the written word, even in the original languages, can be mistaken by us, as numerous scholars of biblical Hebrew and Greek have demonstrated over the centuries.

For this reason, He has deliberately caused us to be dependent on the Spirit of truth for our true understanding of His *rhema* word as the *rhema* word is then confirmed in the *logos* word. (John 16:13-15)

“**Rhema**” is the absolute, immutable, revelatory word that proceeds out of the very mouth of God and is translated to us by the Spirit of truth. And this *rhema* word is both revealed and confirmed to us in scripture by the Spirit of truth, even through imperfect translations of the logos. Therefore, when any two agree in regard to this true *rhema* understanding they are united in their faith and understanding, not merely united in the understanding that comes through intellectual consent. More importantly, it is this *rhema* truth, not the *logos* truth, that fuels our obedient faith responses as we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to manifest the truth, power, and glory of our Lord in various ways.

When the Lord told His immediate disciples that He would soon be parted from them as far as His natural presence was concerned, He explained that He would continue to be present with them in the form of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth. This is also how He is present with us in this age, and it is how the Father has ordained that we receive His truth, promises, and commands.

What John 16:13 demonstrates is that the source of all truth is the Father, conveyed by His Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth. And this “truth” concerning “all things” is limitless. We may discern facts in the written word, the logos, but all doctrine and practice, including some very specific prophecies that apply to the body of Christ in general, such as Matthew 24 and 25, as well as the entire book of Revelation or Daniel, must be interpreted to us by the Spirit of truth as He supernaturally “guides” us into the *rhema* understanding at the specific time, and to the specific generation for whom it is intended.

Thus, all speculation concerning “things to come” prior to the God-ordained

time in which He has intended for us to receive a revelatory understanding have frequently become traditions of understanding opposed to the true, revelatory intent of the Father available only at the time specifically ordained by God.

The book of Daniel is a perfect example.

But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end. Daniel 12:4 KJV

What the Father's instructions demonstrate is that the *rhema* understanding of the prophetic aspects of Daniel's book were not available to believers until the God appointed time of the end, which time is now.

Yet, many have believed interpretations of Daniel's various prophecies related to the time of the end that were not, yet, opened.

These, then literally contradict the *rhema* understanding that is available now, thus hindering our ability to receive the *rhema* truth at the time intended by the Father.

Thus, tradition has taken the place of truth, and is, by default, opposed to the absolute, immutable, revelatory truth that originates from the Father.

“But in vain do they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.” Mark 7:7 NASB

This “guiding” by the Spirit of truth is an active process in which we are engaged with the Holy Spirit as we examine scripture, but it is not an automatic process imposed on believers apart from our personal wills. Likewise, it is progressive.

Every believer, like school children, begins in kindergarten and then progresses at whatever pace we are willing and able to go. Yet, we can hinder the process if we falsely presume that our intellects and our scholarship alone is adequate just as the intellectual giants of Israel did during the first advent of our Lord, Jesus Christ, and many of the intellectual giants of the organized church are doing in our own time.

Likewise, the flesh is attracted to shortcuts of understanding in which we simply adopt the view of our denomination or our favorite prophets, pastors, and teachers without confirming what they teach as we are supernaturally guided by the Spirit of truth.

Paul addressed this when he called the Bereans “noble,” because they examined the scriptures to see if what Paul, the apostle, told them was true.

The Thessalonians, on the other hand, believed Paul on the basis of his perceived authority. Then when a false teacher came to them, they also believed him on the basis of his perceived authority.

The body of Christ in general is presently guilty of this on a large scale.

Some didactic, intellectually discernible logos FACTS we learn from the **John 16:13-15** passage include:

1) It is the Spirit of truth who “guides” us supernaturally into the revelatory understanding of ALL truth. There are “facts” that we can discern with our natural minds, but faith and true understanding only comes through the Spirit of truth’s impartations of the *rhema* word of God through our spirit-mind (soul) connection.

2) It is the Spirit of truth who reveals the unsealed revelatory *rhema* understanding of “things to come” at the time and to the people and generation for whom they are intended. Thus, all intellectual speculation concerning things to come prior to the unsealing and revealing by the Spirit of truth potentially become strongholds (fortresses) of intellectual error and/or demonic deception assaulted against the revelatory truth when the revelatory truth is made available to us by the Lord.

3) All of the covenant promises and commands of the Lord are conveyed to us, both individually and corporately, by the Spirit of truth who reveals the *rhema* (absolute, immutable, truth of God) to us by whatever means He has chosen to use, including spiritual dreams and visions, prophetic impartations, the spiritual gifts of others, and our own spiritual gifts.

“Faith,” then, is not merely a strong belief. Faith is a *rhema*-revealed and confirmed belief, understanding, or command that cannot be reproduced through intellectual beliefs and actions alone. Faith in action, then, produces actions and results that cannot be produced through strong belief alone, because the actions and results of faith are spiritually empowered.

Demons, for instance, cannot be cast out based on intellectual presumption as well as various programmed techniques. Demons only respond to the authority of Jesus Christ exercised by faith through a believer. The same exact words and actions when spoken or manifested through intellectual presumption, even by born-again Christians, will not have any impact on demons, because our authority over demons is only manifested through faith, which is the delegated *exousia* authority of our Lord.

Likewise, we frequently pray for the healing of others, but, at the same time, most of us are simply hoping that God will heal the one for whom we are praying. (i.e. we are pleading with God for the healing, rather than confirming whatever the Spirit is speaking into our heart-mind in the circumstance). Thus, many believers add the phrase, “if it be thy will,” to their prayers, demonstrating that their prayer is not a prayer of faith, but a polite action intended to calm the afflicted one.

Yet, we are instructed that the prayer of faith **will** heal the sick, and in every instance of instant or miraculous healing faith has been involved. Faith is not, therefore, mere intellectual consent or mere personal desire. It is the will of God manifested through our obedient faith words and actions.

In the large home group that my wife and I led early in my walk with the Lord the Spirit revealed to me that someone needed prayer but was inhibited from asking for it.

I spoke that word out loud, and a young man new to the group raised his hand and told us that his wife, who was weeping as she covered her face with her hands, was blind in one eye and was told by the doctor that she would soon be blind in the other eye because of macular degeneration.

I watched with joy as a number of those present raised their hands in order and prayed with confidence as the Holy Spirit moved them one at a time.

On the following Sunday the couple were present in our Sunday School class, and the husband announced with tears of joy that she now had perfect sight in both eyes, demonstrating that those who prayed, had prayed by faith.

This happened among a group of Baptists who presumed that this was an extraordinary event, rather than the “normal” intent of God in Christ.

At the same time, I noted that none of these had added, “if it be thy will,” because their prayers were empowered by the Spirit-given confirmation that she would, in fact, be healed.

Denominations of varying beliefs and practices, and various schools of interpretation, then, are man’s devices, traditions of understanding which may, or may not, be what the Father has intended. Thus, our division into thousands of denominations and millions of rabbinic opinions concerning the truth, promises, and commands of God in Christ demonstrate that there is a massive disconnect from the Spirit of truth throughout the body of Christ at this present time. (i.e. we are the virgins, innocent before God because we are in Christ, who have become drowsy when the Lord tarried. Matthew 25:1-12)

Yet, we have excused ourselves by ineffectively responding to this division through ecumenicalism (i.e. letting the main thing be the main thing and being somewhat tolerant regarding everything else). This ecumenicalism, though appropriately polite, is a denial of God’s will that we be united in the truth, promises, and commands of our Lord.

Augustine was a 4th century Roman Catholic theologian frequently quoted for his brief ecumenical slogan: “In essentials unity. In non-essentials liberty. In all things charity.” This is an emotionally polite thought, but is it really God’s will that we have liberty in all other doctrine and practice? And is it really “charity” (agape love) to ignore deception and error when it is encountered, knowing that it is Satan, the father of lies, who is responsible for causing division and error to flourish for the purpose of inhibiting and defeating the spiritual body of Christ?

Over the years I have encountered this willingness to compromise the absolute, immutable, revelatory truth of God concerning the entire range of Christian doctrine and practice in numerous believers, all of whom value the “group-think” consensus and group-think comfort of their own denominations, fellowships, and worldly associations, or even their own personal reputations as prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers, more than they value the absolute, immutable, faith-empowering *rhema* truth of God.

At the same time, these respond to any challenge to their doctrine and practice either with anger and rejection, or by the insistence that their exegetical expertise is superior to the one or to the group challenging their doctrine or practice.

This is exactly what we observe in scripture concerning the Pharisees, scribes, and priests, the intellectual giants of Israel, during the first advent of our Lord, Jesus Christ. These not only had the Old Testament revelation of the coming Messiah, they also had God’s very specific calendar for the seven primary events of covenant redemption in Christ. And these still rejected Jesus of Nazareth as “Messiah,” not because the truth was not available to them, but because the introduction of false doctrine and deception, having become strongholds of tradition, caused them to be both “deaf” and “blind” to the absolute, immutable, *rhema* truth of God when it manifested through the life and ministry of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

This, then, resulted in the judgment of Israel and Israel’s dispersion into the nations as prophesied by the Lord.

For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, and shall lay thee even with the ground, and they children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another;...why?...because thou knewest not the...God appointed...time of thy visitation. Luke 19:43,44 KJV
(inserts are the authors)

If it was tragic for Israel to be deaf and blind to the *rhema* truth of God lived out before their very eyes, it is no less tragic for the present spiritual body of Christ to be deaf and blind to the *rhema* truth of God as that truth is intended for this present generation of the body of Christ, because the warfare between the beast kingdom and the kingdom of God in Christ is scheduled to escalate dramatically in our immediate future.

Those, then, who are expecting to escape this time of “trouble” will not be prepared for the testing to come in our immediate future, and those who have led them to assume the Zionist (Jewish supremacy in the covenant intent of the Father) doctrine of a pre-tribulation “rapture” will bear spiritual responsibility for those who fall from faith in that trouble.

And I, for one, do not want to go before the Lord as He confronts me with the lies I have taught that have condemned the very believers who received those lies from me.

The Lord has specifically prophesied that there will ultimately be a great falling away from the faith during “*tribulation*” and “*great tribulation*” because of the spiritual deafness and blindness of those who have misled them. (See Matthew 24:9-13 and Matthew 25:1-12)

Yet, few there are among the spiritual leaders of the body of Christ who will confess this truth to those whom they are responsible for leading, because it not only condemns the status quo, but also condemns their specific leadership.

Satan has even effectively deceived us into believing that we will escape this future time of testing through a “secret” (not disclosed in scripture) “rapture” event prior to “*tribulation*” and “*great tribulation*,” though the Lord clearly prophesied that the end time body of Christ would experience both “*tribulation*” and “*great tribulation*” prior to the last day resurrection of the saints of all time. (See Matthew 24 and 25)

Unfortunately, much of the organized *ekklesia* of Christ is in this condition where the absolute, immutable, *rhema* truth of God is concerned, as is demonstrated by our division into thousands of denominations and millions of rabbinic opinions concerning true doctrine and practice. Thus, Augustine’s “liberty in non-essentials” and “charity in all things” applies to each of our “groupthink” denominational positions or our individual doctrines and practices, but not to those who challenge our doctrine and practice.

This is obviously a God-given concern for me.

I was similarly challenged many years ago when Don Harris of Think Red Ink ministries out of Pietown, New Mexico responded to something I had written that reflected the dispensational view of a pre-tribulation “rapture” of church only saints.

Don gently and respectfully persuaded me to first examine the origin and history of that intensely popular doctrinal position, and then to examine what that doctrine literally expresses in regard to God’s covenant intent for the remnant of believing mankind in Christ.

What I noted is that he did not argue with me. He politely, and with genuine concern and respect, simply urged me to examine the issue completely.

It was the loving confrontation of a brother who cared for me, not the angry challenge of one guarding his own beliefs, that caused me to receive the *rhema* truth of God in this regard.

In humility, and with the desire to know God’s absolute, immutable, *rhema* truth that the prophetic anointing inspires, I examined (and continue to examine) the origin and true doctrines of Dispensationalism and “Christian” Zionism (national ethnic Israel’s predominance in the covenant intent of the Father) which includes the belief in a pre-tribulation “rapture” of church only saints, as well as a future, but separate redemption of “all Israel,” believed by Zionists to be national, ethnic Israel rather than spiritual Israel, the body of Christ.

What I discovered is that what we believe about the pre-tribulation “rapture” of church only saints is not only important, but that it is either the absolute, immutable, *rhema* truth of God or a doctrine of demons deliberately introduced into the church to lead end time believers into the tragic apostasy of the “foolish virgins” of the end time church as clearly revealed in Matthew 24:9-13 and Matthew 25:1-12.

It is, then, not mere intellectual error, because error has consequences. **SERIOUS** error in this specific regard.

I confess that I have wept with the Lord concerning the massive tragedy that will befall the “foolish” (deceived) believers during “tribulation” as prophesied by the Lord in Matthew 24 and 25 as well as many other passages in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. I am, therefore, willing to experience the rejection of many for the sake of the few.

Which then is *agape* love? “Charity in all things” or our willingness to suffer the angry rejection of others in order to bring the truth to the few who desire the truth more than they desire being right in what they already believe.

Thank you, Don Harris, for your willingness to challenge me with the truth, not out of spiritual pride, but out of agape love.

And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, **It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every ... (rhema)... word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.** Matthew 4:3,4 KJV

“Man” in this passage applies to all born again believers in Christ, and it clearly demonstrates our individual responsibility to receive and obey the *rhema* Word of God spoken into our spirit-soul connection by the Spirit of truth. It does not, in any way, demonstrate the need to respond to the religious rules and traditions that come to us through man and his institutions alone.

What this clearly demonstrates is that we have “life” (continuous spiritual life) through the truth, promises, and commands of God in Christ “spoken” into us through the agency of the Holy Spirit, our spiritual conscience (reflecting the perfect law of God) a.k.a. the Spirit of truth who “guides” us supernaturally in various ways into ALL truth, including the truth about things to come.

This is the *rhema* word that “**proceeds out of the mouth of God**” and is confirmed by our revelatory understanding of the *logos* word in scripture. This is the truth that we “hear” with spiritual ears and “see” with the eyes of our hearts as it is supernaturally “spoken” into us by the Spirit of truth.

Paul himself frequently and consistently corrected and protected the early church from false doctrine and practice, knowing that Satan was secretly involved in the introduction of false doctrine and practice into the body of Christ, which is Satan’s primary weapon of propaganda and deception against the kingdom of God in the earth.

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants...(men, not demons)... also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 NASB

Any understanding of the truth, promises, and commands of our Lord that does not come through this *rhema* word spoken into our spirit-soul connection,

and confirmed in the written *logos* word, then, is not the unifying, faith empowering word intended for us and “spoken” to us by the Father.

There are numerous “facts” observable by the intellect alone in scripture, but unless these facts are applied appropriately to the believer by the Spirit of truth, they are lifeless and without “light” in regard to the absolute, immutable *rhema* truth of God.

If we have been regenerated by grace through faith in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior we are now “joint heirs” in a covenant relationship with God, the Father, through our incorporation into the spiritual body of Christ. Therefore, the absolute authority over all that we think, say, and do is God, the Father, who has granted this authority to the Son, our High Priest and our **LORD**, and is conveyed to us by the Spirit of truth.

Almost anyone who is a believer recognizes or acknowledges this authority, but not everyone who is a believer is submitted to this spiritual chain of command.

Denominations, then, maintain rigidly protected, group-think sets of beliefs and practices that differ from other denominations also rigidly protected.

Thus, the denomination has unknowingly usurped the authority that belongs to the Author of all truth.

Yet, the *rhema truth* of God does not vary, either in its meaning or its application in what we think, say, and do. And it is this *rhema* truth, the absolute, immutable, didactic truth of God, through which we make obedient faith responses to our Lord.

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every ...rhema... word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Matthew 4:4 KJV (Deuteronomy 8:3)

Notice: The absolute, immutable, revelatory word of God is “spoken” to us, but it is spoken into our spirits, and through our spirits to our minds. And it is this *rhema* word that empowers our spiritual faith life, not the mere *logos* word (i.e. religious rules, regulations and traditions of belief). What is not seen in this passage is the possibility that the interpretation of the written word of God by man’s intellect alone can or will produce the absolute, immutable, *rhema* word of God to us. And without the revelatory word of God being “spoken” or interpreted to us by the Spirit we do not have the “spoken” or *rhema* word of God resulting in our obedient faith responses that manifest the truth, power, and glory (presence) of our Lord.

We may be in obedience to the religious expectations of men and whatever denomination of Christianity we participate in, but true obedience by faith comes

by receiving and obeying the revelatory impartations of the Lord's truth, promises, and commands.

The Lord Himself set the example for us as He revealed the source of His own wisdom, truth, and power.

I am able to do nothing from Myself [independently, of My own accord — but only as I am taught by God and as I get His orders]. Even as I hear, I judge [I decide as I am bidden to decide. As the voice...of the Holy Spirit... comes to Me, so I give a decision], and My judgment is right (just, righteous), because I do not seek or consult My own will [I have no desire to do what is pleasing to Myself, My own aim, My own purpose] but only the will and pleasure of the Father Who sent Me. John 5:30 Amplified

Because this was true for our Lord, Jesus of Nazareth in His physical life on earth, why would we believe that we can somehow manifest genuine faith on our own accord or by our conformity to the group-think doctrines of men?

Thus, His instructions for us: *Whoever ...actively...lives in Me...by hearing and obeying My truth, promises, and commands...and I...manifesting Myself... in him bears much (abundant) fruit. However, apart from Me [cut off from vital union with Me]...through the agency of the Holy Spirit, our counselor and guide... you can do nothing. John 15:5 Amplified*

“NOTHING” in this instance means nothing as a manifestation of faith. Yet, we often do things inspired by religious conformance that do not have their origin in Christ and do not, then, produce the fruit of our faith.

For this reason our obedience to the doctrines of men (i.e. denominational doctrines and practices that may, or may not be, the intent of God in Christ) may actually be in disobedience to the revelatory truth, promises, and commands of God in Christ, just as the Lord Himself encountered among the Pharisees of Israel who ultimately crucified Him.

All born-again, regenerated believers have the ability to receive revelatory impartations and confirmations of the truth, promises, and commands of the Lord by means of the Spirit of truth (John 16:13). But this ability is hindered by the confidence we have in our own intellects, the authority of traditions of interpretation and denominational beliefs that have become “group-think” strongholds (fortresses) that hinder our reception of the revelatory word of God.

Thus, we are like the Pharisees and scribes of ancient Israel, receiving the demonically empowered lies spoken and taught by false prophets who do not

know they are false prophets, as well as lying shepherds who do not know they are lying shepherds.

A concern in the modern, western, protestant church, whether Charismatic or non-Charismatic, is that the protestant reformers, breaking away from the Pope and the Roman Catholic Church, continued to practice the priest-laity model, which is the clergy-lay people division. And it is this model giving authority to the apostle, prophet, priest, bishop, pastor, teacher or denomination for what we believe and practice that is responsible for the majority of division and strife in the organized church.

At the same time, apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers were given to the body of Christ until the end of the age to lead the body of Christ, but this ordained leadership of the body of Christ is potentially subject to error and is not the absolute authority for truth.

The purpose of these “fathers” of our faith is to lead, guide, and help us in our obedient faith responses to the truth, promises, and commands of our Lord. But they, themselves, are not the “authority” for the truth, promises, and commands of our Lord. These are imperfect “messengers” of the truth, promises, and commands of our Lord, but they are not, themselves, or their denominational organizations, the authority.

If these “messengers” are functioning in obedience to the revelatory truth, promises, and commands of the Lord, then we should receive the truth, promises, and commands of the Lord through them, but not without our own confirmation by the Spirit of truth.

In this regard Paul called the Berean believers “noble,” because when Paul, the apostolic messenger of Christ, revealed the *rhema* word of God to them they carefully examined the written *logos* word, allowing the Spirit of truth to confirm the message that Paul brought to them.

The Thessalonians, by comparison, received Paul’s words and instructions with equal enthusiasm on the basis of his authority, but they did not carefully examine the written *logos* word of God in order to confirm what Paul was teaching as the Spirit “guided.”

Their failure to carefully examine the written word of God with guidance from the Holy Spirit, even though Paul revealed the truth of God to them, demonstrated that the Thessalonians honored Paul’s status as apostle more than they honored the *rhema* word of God that came to them through Paul.

Then, when another “teacher” came to them with a false teaching, they believed him, too, based on his perceived status.

We, too, are frequently guilty of this error, and what this clergy (denomination)-lay people division leads to is intellectual consent by the “laity”

who accept whatever is being taught and practiced by the “clergy,” or by the denomination, as the absolute, immutable, revelatory truth of God, though, in reality it may be a doctrine of demons inserted into church doctrine through deceived men in authority over those they are supposed to serve.

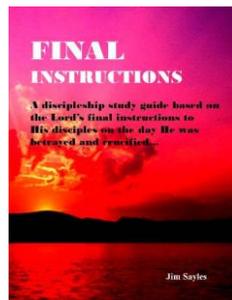
Our division into thousands of denominations and millions of rabbinic opinions concerning the truth, promises, and commands of the Lord clearly demonstrates that we do not ALL have the absolute, immutable, revelatory truth of God.

We are, then, to accept their appropriate leadership, but, at the same time, it is our individual responsibility to accept, confirm, and respond to the absolute, immutable, *rhema* truth of God as the Spirit of truth “guides.”

It is, therefore, this absolute, immutable, *rhema* truth of God that unifies the body of Christ in our obedient faith responses to the truth, promises, and commands of the Lord. And it is this absolute, immutable *rhema* truth of God that Satan has assaulted from the garden of Eden forward to defeat the intent of God through the body of Christ.

You may send comments and questions to: jim@logospubco.org. I may not be able to respond personally to the reader’s comments or questions, but I will consider them.

Website: theendtimeschurch.org



FINAL INSTRUCTIONS – a Bible study guide based on the Lord’s instructions to His own immediate disciples concerning how they would receive His truth, promises, and commands after He was gone. Available on Amazon or FREE as a print-it-yourself Bible study guide on the author’s website.