



## A Ministry of Teaching

*But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age...to discern (diakrisis) both good and evil (Heb. 5:14)  
Whom shall He teach knowledge? and whom shall He make to understand doctrine?... (Is.28:9)*

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TA Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational faith ministry, teaching, informing and equipping the church.

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The members of the advisory panel may not necessarily agree with all the views expressed in this newsletter.

We welcome comments and articles contributed by readers. Unless otherwise requested, these may be included in following newsletters at the discretion of the editor.

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We are a faith ministry and this newsletter is distributed *free* of charge. We welcome donations of approx. \$20 per year to cover the annual cost of production.

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### Editors Comment

The Twentieth Century saw many new doctrines, teachings and new revelations enter the church. Some sprang from various groups within the church. Others were spawned from, or were extremes of the holiness movement of the late nineteenth Century. However, many new teachings that have developed in the 20th Century are teachings unheard of in '*the faith once delivered to the saints*', (Jude 3).

Many sanctification/holiness methods, various kinds of 'spirit baptisms', the (unknown) tongues movement, and much of the current teachings in the neo-Pentecostal/Charismatic and signs and wonders movement, *cannot be traced to early historical orthodox Christianity*. They are recent inventions and nowhere to be found in the writings of the early church fathers or in the 'confessions' of faith down through the running centuries.

If we accept unorthodox teachings then the question should be asked: is '*the faith once delivered*' deficient? Why do we seek more? Perhaps the answer stems from the sin of Adam and Eve, who in going *beyond* what God had given and commanded them, precipitated the falling away which continues today.

In defence of new teachings some say we must 'not put God in a box' and that He has, and is revealing new revelation. But if this be true then why did He leave such out of His Word or deny it to the church for nearly 1900 years? It will do no good to be philosophical and find fault in denominations and movements, as an excuse to say that all is vanity or all teachings have some error; neither to be pragmatic and point to supposed results and 'good fruit'. We must ask two important questions: *is it clearly in Scripture, and is it part of the historical orthodox faith once delivered to the saints?*

I believe the Church is fast slipping into perilous times. This may well be the last '*apostasia*' spoken of in 2Thessalonians 2:3. This newsletter is a call to check our foundations; to go *back* to Scripture; *back* to sound doctrine; *back* to '*the faith once delivered to the saints*'. God has limited Himself to His Word and we must not go beyond such, (Ps.138:2; Nu.22:18). **Terry Arnold**

### \*\*New Newsletter E-mail Format\*\*

*Diakrisis* is now available to our readers by e-mail in *Acrobat* pdf format. A link to the *Acrobat* reader is provided with the e-mail. This is an easy to read format similar to the hard copy presentation. If you presently receive the newsletter by hard copy and have e-mail facilities you may like to consider receiving the newsletter by e-mail. This will assist us in distribution and in costs.

### \*\*Newsletter Changes\*\*

Due to the increasing workload and finances, and a rapidly expanding worldwide mailing list, this newsletter will soon be published bi-monthly. However, we hope to increase the content from 8 pages to 12 pages. We thank you all for the continued prayers and support. **Editor**

### Sydney Seminar

**Topic:** '*Foundations For Evangelism & Discipleship*': Vital material on a scriptural understanding of: evangelism & methods; preparation of hearts to receive the Gospel; true/false conversions; law/grace; what is/is not the Gospel; discipleship; etc. **Speaker:** Terry Arnold **Date:** Sat. 12th August, 1.30pm - 4.30 **Venue:** Grace Bible Church, Kingswood, Ph. (02)47363619 or Terry 0411489472

## The Emmaus Experience

The *Emmaus* programme began in Spain in the late 1940's. The *Emmaus* walk is a 3-day weekend retreat experience and includes singing, prayer, worship and discussions which revolve around 15 or more talks given by laity and clergy. It originally was named '*Cursillo de Cristiandad*', meaning a '*short course in Christianity*'. For more than 20 years the movement was Roman Catholic until in the 1970's in the US the ecumenical movement saw Protestant Methodists become involved. The name of the movement was changed to *Emmaus*.

In 1983 the movement began in Australia and is now sponsored largely by the Uniting Church of Australia.

The *Emmaus* Website states: '*The Emmaus Walk is...a common meeting ground for the great diversity of Christians...who celebrate their unity in Christ and feel they can learn from one another, be they traditionalists, Evangelicals, liberals, conservatives, activists, Charismatics, and especially all those who seek to follow Christ without regard to labels and camps.*'

The publicity material for the *Emmaus* reads: *If you cannot affirm your unity with other kinds of Christians, if you tend to define Christianity narrowly and legalistically or are intolerant of those who see things differently, then Emmaus is probably not for you.*

What is obvious here is that '*other kinds of Christians*' includes those that profess and practice with false religions and other gospels such as Roman Catholicism. Although legalism, sectarianism and intolerance of other Christians is against the Word of God, what does one do when confronted with the prospect of fellowshiping with those who practice

and believe *another gospel* and *another jesus*?

Roman Catholicism denies written Scripture as the only and highest authority; denies and *curse*s the doctrine of *faith alone*; sacrifices another jesus again and again contrary to Hebrews 9 and 10, and adds many other traditions that blatantly contradict the Word of God. Added to this 'Liberals' usually deny essential doctrines such as the deity and resurrection of Christ. So what do the Scriptures advise us to do?: '*Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them*', (Rom.16:17); '*Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us*', (2Thess.3:6); '*And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them*', (Eph.5:11).

While some may argue that *Emmaus* does not foster Roman Catholicism itself, it does foster *fellowship* with Roman Catholics, liberals and others who deny the essentials of the faith and preach another gospel of salvation. If we love the Lord we will love and obey His Word. If we love Him and obey His Word we will not fellowship with those who have another gospel. Rather we will love them *scripturally* enough to show them from God's Word that we are separate and we will call them to the true Gospel. While the modern church today increasingly opens doors for fellowship with false religion and those that preach another gospel and another jesus, the message to a lost and dying world is *polluted*. **Terry Arnold**

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### Food For Thought?

*The reason that so many feel the need to run around the world seeking a 'second blessing' or 'Toronto Blessing' is because they never had a proper first blessing! The reason that so many feel the need to run around the world looking for 'signs and wonders' is because they have failed to receive the wonders of wonders - the regeneration of the soul through the power of the Spirit applying the finished work of Christ. The reason that so many feel the need to run around the world seeking numerous mystical 'anointings' from men and women*

*who dispense them with a wave of their hands is because they never had 'an anointing from the holy one' in the first place! (1Jn.2:20)...It is no surprise therefore, to discover that on the day of judgement there will be 'MANY' who will say to the Lord Jesus Christ: 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name, cast out Demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name? And then Jesus will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you who practise lawlessness' (Matt.7:22-23) (Alan Morrison, Diakrisis, England)*

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### \*\*Bible Study Programme - Review\*\*

'*Firm Foundations - Creation To Christ*' by Trevor McIlwain

At first I thought this book was just another Bible Study/discipleship programme. However, after reading the 65 pages of preamble I realised this was something altogether unique.

This 578 page book contains 50 chronological Bible study lessons from Genesis to Revelation. *The preamble of 60 pages contains simply some of the best teaching on the foundations for evangelism/discipleship I have ever seen.* It also deals with the dilemma of false conversions which are today rife within the modern church. I would urge any and all to read the preamble to this book and be challenged as I was.

The chronological approach to evangelism/discipleship is a tried and proven method with lasting results, especially in some tribal areas. Videos titled '*EE-Taow*' and '*The Taliabo Story*' graphically document conversions of whole tribes by the use of the chronological method. The chronological method is not new - Jesus used it in instructing disciples, (Lk.24:27).

This unique Bible study system is designed for unsaved as well as Christians. It lays solid foundations for both the Gospel and Christian growth. The lessons follow a chronological and Scriptural pattern of progressively revealing who

God is and His redemption plan through Jesus Christ. The key themes of the Bible are developed to show the *nature, character* and the *sovereignty* of God. I personally have also found this material very effective for relaying foundations to those who have been effected by false teaching and the cults.

This material is excellent for Sunday schools, pastors and Bible study groups. It also comes with charts and practical workbooks for students and children. It is set out in an easy to use and practical format.

Because this is an extended programme working first through the Old Testament, some may have concerns that it takes too long and does not necessarily present the Gospel up front. However, the writers themselves encourage the users to present the Gospel when the time is right and when there is *understanding*. There is some flexibility in how a teacher might present the lessons, although the programme is perhaps less inductive (student input) than many modern Bible studies.

All in all, this evangelism/discipleship Bible Study programme is worth a look. Details and prices are available from this ministry or from *New Tribes Mission*. **Terry Arnold**

## Response from Jacob Prasch/*Moriel*

We recently received a draft of an article written by Jacob Prasch of *Moriel* Ministries in response to an article published in the May/June 2000 edition of '*Diakrisis*', (Page 5,6). Our article detailed some prophecies and teachings made by David Wilkerson of *World Challenge* and *Times Square Church*, New York. We questioned their accuracy.

Mr. Prasch's response to our article will be printed in an upcoming edition of the *Moriel* newsletter and on their website. *Moriel* ministries sanction the work of David Wilkerson, urge prayer and financial support for it, and Wilkerson's writings are available through their postal order service.

In a 'shoot the messenger' style, Prasch's response includes the following: '*Australia, where 'Diakrisis' is published and where Mr. Arnold lives, appears to be a breeding ground for this manner of attempted character assassination. Indeed, we ourselves have been victimised by internet operators in Australia influenced by the Neo-Nazi beliefs of the 'identity movement' which rejects black people as 'beasts of the field'. Such people charge Jewish believers in Jesus with the crime of 'being Jews'.*

Prasch goes on to say we are not '*like them*' but are '*behaving like them*'. Same thing really?

This tirade concluded with the opinion that publishing such '*unbalanced misrepresentations of facts about a brother...is more characteristic of the perverted theology of those influenced (sic) Neo-Nazi beliefs we have seen in Australia, rather than any Biblical modality*'.

Mr. Prasch explains that although he doesn't know David Wilkerson all that well, he knows his son, and he is a credit to his father and that few things testify to the calibre of a minister more than the character of his children. Hence the summation: '*We find these groundless criticisms of brother Wilkerson carry no serious merit.*'

You might well ask - what brought this ire down upon us? Well, we dared to question the accuracy of the prophecies made by Wilkerson 15 years ago depicting the 'sudden' and 'imminent' demise of America, (nowhere in our writings have we labelled David Wilkerson a '*false prophet*' as charged by Prasch). We also questioned Wilkerson's application of Scripture written specifically for National Israel, to the church age. Mr Prasch asserts that Jesus prophesied events that have yet to take place yet said they would happen soon, and that therefore we have applied '*misguided criteria*' in voicing our concerns.

But surely one may determine for oneself what time frame the words '*imminent*', '*not far off*' and '*very soon*' infer? Most thinking people would interpret them as surely requiring less than the fifteen year gap since the book was written, especially when they concern the total financial collapse of the world's financial system! In the last twelve months Wilkerson has also made the claim that New York city is the '*Babylon*' spoken of in Revelation 17 and 18 and that God is going to destroy it in '*one hour*'. This is well outside orthodox, historical eschatology. Yet, amazingly Prasch says: '*the general constellation of events he warned of did in fact transpire*'. Really? Then which are they? Such a statement is just too broad a whitewash brushstroke for us.

If followers of the financial predictions had planned in accordance with Wilkerson's prophecies in 1985 they would have missed out on 15 years of unmatched growth in the American economy to the detriment of their livelihood and the welfare of their families! Anyone doubting this statement would well be advised to read Wilkerson's books '*The Vision*'

and '*Set The trumpet To Thy Mouth*' and compare them with reality! According to Prasch, since no definite time was affixed to events prophesied, then these prophecies of Wilkersons are not inaccurate predictions...tell that to someone who has rearranged their life in an effort to survive the coming catastrophe *that did not eventuate!*

Mr Prasch also refutes our claim that Wilkerson misapplies Old Testament Scripture, and says: '*we find the arguments directed at brother Wilkerson's use of the Old Testament as without substance. The Old Testament is co-equally the Word of God, it constitutes more than two thirds of the Bible, and is the only Bible that the early Church and New Testament writers initially had.*' This statement insults his readers intelligence to a degree not often seen. We at this ministry would not refute the Old Testament as the Word of God. However, our article clearly showed the misuse of Old Testament Scriptures to prove a New Testament principle, namely the different operations of the Holy Spirit in the Old and the New.

To illustrate the point here let me quote David Wilkerson from the sermon delivered on Dec.7th, 1998: '*There is a condition attached to getting and maintaining the presence of God in our lives. This condition is found in 2Chronicles 15.*' Whatever that teaching is, it certainly isn't orthodox Christianity. There is much of this in Wilkerson's teaching...but space is limited.

David Wilkerson's tapes and printed sermons are widely distributed in Australia and we at this ministry are alarmed at what is being taught to the unsuspecting.

In Mr. Prasch's 'response' we are accused of making the following 'allegations' against Wilkerson and his ministry: naming him as a '*false prophet*', and placing him in the same category as today's false prophets, eg. Rodney Howard Browne, Benny Hinn, Paul Cain, Mike Bickle and Rick Joyner. Yet nowhere in our writings did we suggest such things.

We urge our subscribers (many who may also be subscribers to *Moriel*) to re-read our May/June article alongside Mr Prasch's rebuttal and discern for themselves if we were being unfair in our questioning of those things said, written, and taught by David Wilkerson. If people are to accept Wilkerson's teachings as good Biblical exegesis, and accurate forecasting of the future, the precious Christian walk of many could be adversely affected. That was and still is our sincere concern.

No one teaching publicly is above question. If, because a man has Godly children; lives a Godly life; has an abundantly blessed ministry; does important work amongst the world's addicted; has been chosen sovereignly by God to do 'so much'; and is both personally and financially honest - is deemed that their teachings are beyond scrutiny, then we are headed for troubled waters indeed!

It is not David Wilkerson's person we are investigating, it's the teaching emanating from his pulpit in New York that we insist on the right to question - even if that attracts ludicrous charges such as 'Neo-Nazism'.

In the words of Bishop Miles Coverdale (who printed the English Bible AD1535): '*It shall greatly help you to understand Scripture if you mark not only what is spoken or written, but of whom, and to whom, with what words, at what time, where, to what intent, with what circumstance, considering what goes before and what follows.*' **Mike Claydon**

Anyone wishing to view the transcript of the full sermon mentioned above titled '*The Power of The Lord's Presence*' delivered by David Wilkerson (7/12/98), and our paper in reply, please contact this ministry.

## True Evangelism

*'They seek to make the man stand up; we seek to bring him down, and make him think that there he lies in the hand of God, and that his business is to submit himself to God, and cry aloud, 'Lord save, or we perish'. We hold that man is never so near grace as when he begins to feel he can do nothing at all. When he says, 'I can pray, I can believe, I can do this, and I can do the other', marks of self sufficiency and arrogance are on his brow.'* **Charles Spurgeon**

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### The Holy Spirit In The OT/NT

The operation of the Spirit in the Old Testament *upon* believers was different to the action of the Holy Spirit *in* believers today. In the Old Testament the Spirit fell *upon* believers for specific purposes and to enable the recipients to do specific tasks. In the New Testament the Holy Spirit came upon believers in Acts 2 (Jews), Acts 8 (Samaritans), Acts 10 (Gentiles), and Acts 19 (other disciples of John) but then *indwelt* them for the first time in history. *Thereafter the Holy Spirit never comes upon believers again but rather indwells them once for life.*

Many Scriptures in the Old Testament show clearly the operation of the spirit upon people. *'And the spirit of the Lord will come upon thee...'* (1Sam 10:6). Some people had the Holy Spirit come upon them several times. In some cases the Spirit left and an evil spirit came upon the person, (1Sam 16:13,14; 18:10).

However, after the book of Acts when the Holy Spirit had transitionally come upon and indwelt various groups of people, the Holy Spirit then *indwells* believers for life. This is shown in the teaching of 1Jn.2:27 concerning the 'anointing'. *'But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him'*. This Scripture shows clearly that the 'anointing' happens *once at a specific time in the past*, (Greek - aorist indicative tense), - at salvation, and then abides for life in the believer and is the *'same anointing'* as any other believer.

The Holy Spirit no longer comes upon believers today but rather has already at a set time *indwelt* them. The Holy Spirit does not dwell outside the believer somewhere in the atmosphere but rather fills (ie. controls) them *from within* moment by moment, (Eph.5:18).

Thus believers are never commanded to tarry for the Holy Spirit to come upon them, but rather to be continuously filled as we surrender to the Holy Spirit's work of sanctification within. **Terry Arnold**

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### Holiness

*'...the man renewed by grace cannot abide sin, it is a coffin to him; he cannot bear evil pleasures, they are as a shroud; he cries for liberty...Farewell, thou deadly love of sin; we have done with thee! Farewell, dead world, corrupt world; we have done with thee!...Let us exercise the new life in suitable pursuits...let your actions be agreeable to your new life....let us quit the vault of carnal enjoyments, wherein men seek to satisfy themselves with provision for the flesh. Let us not live by the sight of the eye, nor by the hearing of the ear. Let us not live for the amassing of wealth, or the gaining of fame, for these ought to be as dead things to the man who is risen in Christ. Let us not live for the world which we see, nor after the fashion of men to whom this life is everything. Let us live as those who have come out of the world, and who, though they are in it, are no more of it...'* **Spurgeon**

## Mike Warnke

Mike Warnke and his third wife Rose humoured millions of Christians around the world throughout the eighties and the nineties. He claimed to be twice wounded in Vietnam, a heart specialist with the US Navy, and a Satanist high priest with 1,500 followers before being converted to Christ.

Over one million records and cassettes were sold. He appeared on many TV shows and his love offerings alone brought in over one million dollars in 1986.

However, Warnke was a fraud. Various magazines began to expose him in 1992. Initially Warnke slammed his critics but the evidence mounted. Eventually he did admit some lies and his ministry diminished over the years. But in the meantime Warnke made merchandise of God's people, (2Pet.2:3).

However, if one thinks Warnke was a danger, what are we to make of the likes of the famous TV evangelist Benny Hinn, who has also told outright lies and made gross exaggerations? Worse than this are the deaths of people who were told, and believed, they were healed through him.

The Bible warns of *'many'* such men who will come in the last days. *'For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple'*, (Rom.16:18); *'Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things'*, (Phil.3:19).

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### What Do the 'Anointed' Ones Have To Offer?

Jesus warned of many *'false christs and false prophets'* showing *'great [false] signs and wonders'* to deceive Christians, (Matt.24:24). The word *'christ'* in Greek means *'anointed one'*.

Today we have people such as Hinn, Copeland, Hagin, Howard-Browne, etc. who claim, or who are believed to have, a special 'anointing'. They claim to be able to pass this on to other Christians. Although this idea is nowhere to be found in Scripture, millions are being deceived. What do these people really have to offer us when:

- We have received *'all spiritual blessings'* at salvation, (Eph.1:3).

- We are *'saved'* to the *'uttermost'* by Christ Himself, (Rom.10:9; Matt.1:21; 18:11; Acts 4:12; 16:30,31; 1Tim.1:15; Hebrews 7:25).

- We are now *'new creatures'* in Christ, (2Cor.5:17; Gal.6:15).

- We are *'complete'* in Christ, (Col.2:10).

- We have God the Holy Spirit indwelling us, (Rom.8:9-11; 1Cor.3:16; 6:19; Gal.2:20; Eph.4:6; 2Tim.1:14).

- We have been *'sealed'* by God, (2Cor.1:22; Eph.1:13; 4:30).

- We have, and experience, the *'fruit of the Spirit'*, (Gal.5:22,23).

- We have been justified and declared legally innocent of the guilt we deserved, (Rom.4).

- We are *'blessed... with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ'*, (Eph.1:3).

- We are raised up and seated in heavenly places with Christ Jesus, (Eph.2:6).

- We have the right to go boldly to God's throne of Grace to obtain mercy, (Heb.4:16; 10:19,22).

Why should we attempt to get a false anointing from another christ ('anointed one') when the Bible says we already *'have received'* the *'same anointing'*, (1Jn.2:27)? Everything we need is *in Christ* and we can appropriate it *through His Word!* **Terry Arnold**

## The Baptism & Filling With The Spirit

Phrases such as *'the Baptism with the Spirit'* or *'the filling with the Spirit'* today have entirely different meanings to various groups of Christians. Yet, until the turn of the Twentieth Century this problem hardly existed amongst Christians and Bible teachers. What does the Bible and orthodox historic Christianity teach concerning these phrases?:

There are many 'baptisms' in the Bible: *water baptism*, *'baptism of repentance'* or *'of John'* (Mk.1:4; Matt.21:25); *'baptism with the Spirit'*; *'Baptism into death'*, (Rom.6:4); etc. However, the Bible teaches there is only *one* baptism that places one into the body of Christ: *'...one Lord, one faith, one baptism...'* (Eph.4:5). *'For by one Spirit are we baptised into one body, all made to drink into one spirit'*, (1Cor.12:13). The word *'by'* here is the Greek word *'en'* and is perhaps better translated *'in'* or *'with'* since in all other cases with baptism this is so. The word *'into'* (*'eis'*) - carries the meaning: *'with the intention, purpose, aim; in order to - ie. to be made members of the body of Christ.*

For 1900 years orthodox Christianity taught 1Corinthians 12:13 as synonymous with the 'Baptism with the Spirit' - meaning to place into the body of Christ *at conversion*. At the turn of the Twentieth Century the new Pentecostal movement found difficulty with this Scripture because of their new teaching of 'the Baptism with the Spirit' as being a *subsequent* experience to salvation.

The *'Baptism with the Spirit'* is mentioned directly in only six places, (Matt.3:11; Mk.1:8; Lk.3:16; Jn.1:33; Acts 1:5; 11:16). All these Scriptures are repetitions of, and referring to, the one event in Acts 2 when the Holy Spirit came to earth for the first time to permanently *indwell* believers, beginning with the Jews in Jerusalem: *'I [John the Baptist] indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire'*, (Matt.3:11). Acts 1:5 has the same message but adds *'not many days hence'* - again looking to the soon coming Acts 2.

There are two important aspects that will help the reader understand this *'Baptism with the Spirit'*. The first is the phrase *'the promise'* which is mentioned in several Scriptures and is the 'coming' of the Holy Spirit to *indwell* believers: *'...I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem...'*, (Lk.24:49); *'...wait for the promise of the Father...'*, (Acts 1:4). This *'promise'* of the Holy Spirit coming to earth to *indwell* believers for the first time then happened *transitionally* - first to the Jews, (Acts 2); then the Samaritans (Acts 8); then the Gentiles (Acts 10); and finally to disciples of John the Baptist, (Acts 19). Thereafter *'the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call'*, (Acts 2:39). This *'promise'* of the 'Baptism with the Spirit' is historically documented in the book of Acts as the receiving of the Holy Spirit *at conversion* - to *'as many as the Lord our God shall call'* and *'through faith...to them that believe'*, (Gal.3:14,22).

The second aspect to understanding *'the Baptism with the Spirit'* is mentioned in Jn.16:7: *'Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you'*, (Jn.16:7). The Holy Spirit could not come to indwell any believer before Acts 2 because Jesus had not yet ascended. Any operation of the Holy Spirit before Acts 2 was a sovereign empowering for God's specific purposes but not an indwelling. *In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit came 'upon' people and was with them but never indwelt believers.*

The book of Acts shows the *transitional* history of the Holy Spirit coming to every group of believers on earth, (see diagram at end). *These were not second experiences, for the Holy Spirit came upon and indwelt these people for the first time!* - the Jews in Acts 2; the Samaritans in Acts 8; the Gentiles in Acts 10; and disciples of John the Baptist in Acts 19.

In Acts 2 the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples, *indwelt* and filled them *for the first time*. This was accompanied by the miracle of speaking real languages they did not know, yet were *known* earthly dialects to the hearers. In verse 4 the word 'tongues' (*'glossa'*) means *known* languages. In verse 6 the word translated *'language'* is the Greek word *'dialektos'* - from where we derive the word *'dialects'*. The same Greek word *'dialektos'* is translated *'tongue'* in verse 8. In verses 9-11 these known dialects are listed as groups of languages.

After receiving the indwelling Holy Spirit, Peter preached to the crowd of mostly Jews that they could also receive *'the promise'* of the *'gift of the Holy Ghost'* if they were to *'repent...for the remission of sins...'* This was not a second experience but speaking of *salvation*.

In Acts 8 *'Philip...preached Christ unto them'* and the Samaritans received the Holy Spirit for the first time *in conversion*. Pentecostals attempt to link 'tongues' with this passage but no tongues are mentioned.

In Acts 10 the Holy Spirit next came to the Gentiles. Again, *the Gospel is preached* (vs.34-44) and they receive the Holy Spirit *for the first time*. This was the *same* experience as at Acts 2 as proved in verse 45 and 47: *'on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost...which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we [the Jews in Acts 2].'* (See also Ch.11 and 15: *'the Holy Ghost fell on them [the Gentiles] as on us [the Jews] at the beginning.'*) With verses 45 and 47 in mind, the 'tongues' (the same *'glossa'*) mentioned in Acts 10, were again *known* languages as at Acts 2.

In Acts 19 we read of the last occasion in the transition of the coming of the Holy Spirit to all people groups. Here a special group of followers of John the Baptist were *indwelt* with the Holy Spirit *for the first time*. They spoke with known earthly languages as at Acts 2 and 10, and prophesied, (vs.6).

Acts 19 is misused by some who would seek after a subsequent reception of the Holy Spirit in the believers life.\*

Paul meets disciples of John the Baptist and asks the question: *'Have ye received the Holy Ghost since [when] ye believed?'* Some mistakenly see the word *'since'* as showing the necessity of a subsequent work of the Spirit after salvation. However, the tense of *'Have you received'* refers to *a set time in the past*. Thus the word *'when'* is arguably more accurate than *'since'*. Paul was asking whether these disciples of John had received the Holy Spirit at the exact *same time* (indicative mood) in the *past* (aorist tense) when they believed. A literal translation from the Greek is: *'did you receive the Holy Ghost having believed?'* The answer given must have startled Paul: *'they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost'*. These people were not disciples of Jesus but of John the Baptist and believed in His *'baptism of repentance'*. *They had never received the Holy Spirit!* Paul urged them to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, (vs.4). He did not say *'have you received 'the baptism with the Spirit'?* but rather *'have you received the Holy Spirit when you believed?'*

In all four cases of the 'Baptism with the Spirit' in Acts *the recipients were receiving the Holy Spirit for the first time* and were being saved according to the New Testament salvation *'promise'* of the coming of the Holy Spirit to earth. The Old

Testament Saints were not *indwelt* with the Holy Spirit. Even the disciples before Acts 2 were still as Old Testament believers until the overlap between the Old and New covenants was complete with the coming of the indwelling Spirit in the book of Acts. Today, no one can enter the kingdom of Heaven without the indwelling Holy Spirit: **'But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His'**, (Rom.8:9).

Misinterpretations of the 'Baptism with the Spirit' were introduced at the turn of the Twentieth Century when some small groups tried to seek a *repetition* of Acts 2. \*\* Pentecostal Statements of Faith read that this so called subsequent experience is for those 'who ask for it'. Yet nowhere in Scripture did anyone seek such a subsequent experience! The 'Baptism with the Spirit' as a *subsequent* reception of the Holy Spirit is unorthodox and cannot be found in *any* writings of the early church fathers. It fails to take into account the historical progression from the Old Testament workings of the Holy Spirit to a new transition of events in the book of Acts, where the Holy Spirit came to indwell various groups of believers from Jerusalem to the **'uttermost parts'**.

To add error to error some groups also introduced further additions such as seeking a 'baptism of fire'. This is taken from Matthew 3:11: **'...He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.'** The tragedy of this should shock those who seek such a baptism, for the verses following speak of *judgement* and burning with **'unquenchable fire'**! If one searches out the word 'fire' in Scripture we find it refers to *judgement* - as in the literal fires of Hell; punishment; or of trials and judgements to purify the believers life and works.

Still others say the '*sealing*' in Ephesians 1:3,13; 4:30 is a subsequent work of the Holy Spirit. The word '*sealed*' means a '*closing up; to make fast; to secure; authenticate*'. In this there is no limit or time. The Scriptures in Ephesians in context show that the '*sealing*' of the Holy Spirit takes place *at conversion*: **'In whom ye also trusted, after [when] that ye heard the word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation: in whom also after [when] that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise...And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption'**, (Eph.1:13;4:30). The word '*after*' is best translated '*when*' as the Greek clearly refers to a past (aorist) event *at conversion*.

The '*Baptism with the Spirit*' is also often confused with the '*filling*' by the Spirit. The 'Baptism with the Holy Spirit' occurs once at salvation but the '*filling*' by the Holy Spirit continues moment by moment from salvation, (see diagram). It is a *continuous* experience as we yield to the control of the Holy Spirit *within*: **'And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit'**, (Eph.5:18). The tense here shows not a second experience but a *continuous* and repeatable action. It is the same tense used in 1Thessalonians 5:17: **'Pray without ceasing.'** The Greek word for '*filled*' is '*Pleroo*' and shows a meaning *to control*, (eg. Acts 5:3: **'Satan has filled (*pleroo*) your heart'**; Jn.16:6: **'sorrow has filled your heart'**; see also Rom.1:29; Phil.1:11; Lk.2:40; Acts 2:28).

Confusion in understanding the Spirit *baptism* from the *filling* occurs when some attempt to teach that Paul was 'saved' on the Damascus road and then later received a 'Baptism with the Spirit' (Acts 9). However, Paul was not later 'baptised in the Spirit' but rather **'filled'**! (vs.17) The Corinthian Christians were baptised in the Spirit. Yet at the time Paul was writing to these believers they were not 'filled' but were in fact behaving carnally like unsaved people. They were not con-

trolled by the Holy Spirit as in Ephesians 5:18.

Any emphasis on the 'Baptism with the Spirit' should be - *how do we receive the Holy Spirit?* The answer is found in *the Gospel* and not in any subsequent experience. An added tragedy is the addition of unknown tongues as a sign of this 'Baptism with the Spirit' which has caused enormous confusion and heresies concerning the 'necessity' of this 'sign' as evidence of salvation or a higher spirituality. Such teaching separates Christians into classes - those that have and those that have not.

In summary, there is only *one* baptism that puts us into the Body of Christ. The '*promise*' of the Holy Spirit was the *indwelling* Spirit in Acts 2, 8,10 and 19 to the various groups of people on earth after Jesus ascended to Heaven. All these were receiving the Holy Spirit *for the first time* and being saved in the same way we today are saved - they heard and believed the Gospel. In Acts 2 they '**repented**'. In Acts 8 they '**believed**'. In Acts 19 they '**received**'. Thereafter all believers '**afar off**' are similarly *indwelt* with the Holy Spirit *at conversion* and *filled continuously* as they experience His work *from within*.

When we receive the Holy Spirit at salvation *we have all of Him!* We were '**blessed with all spiritual blessings**', (Eph.1:3). May we not seek after 'something more' and grieve the Spirit who is already within us, for we are '**the temple of the Holy Spirit!**' (1Cor.6:19) As believers saved by Grace *plus nothing*, it is not a matter of seeking more of the Holy Spirit but rather Him having more of us!

**Terry Arnold & Mike Claydon**

(TA Ministries PO Box 1499, Hervey Bay, 4655)

\*Prominent Pentecostal author David Wilkerson in an audio tape '*Baptism With The Spirit*' misquotes and takes out of context Scriptures from Acts 19. In an attempt to teach that the 'Baptism with the Spirit' is a subsequent experience to salvation he says these men in Acts 19 were '*disciples of Jesus*'. However, the text shows clearly these people had not believed in Jesus Christ but were disciples of John the Baptist and believed in the repentance that John preached. These disciples had never received the Holy Spirit and were thus baptised *again*. Yet Wilkerson later contradicts himself and acknowledges that one '*cannot be saved without receiving the Holy Spirit.*'

\*\* See papers '*Pentecostal/Tongues Roots - The Amazing Facts*'; and '*The Other Side of Azusa St.*' by this ministry.

### Baptism With The Spirit

- Many Baptisms ('repentance', 'water', etc), but **only one Baptism into the body of Christ, (Eph.4:5; 1Cor.12:13).**

- **Jn.16:7 - The Holy Spirit ('the promise') could not come until Jesus ascended.**

'Baptism with the Spirit' (the '*promise*' of the Holy Spirit)

Matt.3:11

Mk.1:8 → all referring to → Acts 2

Lk.3:16

Acts 1:5

↓  
Acts 2 - Jews receive Holy Spirit

↓  
Acts 8 - Samaritans receive Holy Spirit

↓  
Acts 10 - Gentiles receive Holy Spirit

↓  
Acts 19 - Disciples of John receive Holy Spirit

↓  
The Filling by the Spirit

Eph.5:18 (*continuous filling/control from within...*)

## Your Comments and Questions

(Views expressed here are not necessarily those of the editor or advisory panel)

Dear Mr. Arnold,...help me...the Lord knows I need help. I have not been to church for almost 12 months and have no fellowship. My family are nonbelievers and think the Bible and God is a crazy notion for severely unstable people. I am starting to believe they are right. The few 'Christians' I have met have been liars, thieves, dishonest, rebellious and adulterers. They have been involved in drugs & alcohol & regularly use their Christianity to manipulate and deceive others. Whilst I realise not all Christians are like this I must wonder why my life is being destroyed by the very people who claim to know the Saviour. My first Christian relationship since coming to the Lord 3 years ago has just ended in a devastating culmination of events. As a result I have found my heart crying out with the voice of Satan, cursing Christians and their God. I have voiced my belief that 'God is dead' and feel I have now committed the unpardonable sin of blasphemy of the Holy Spirit...is there anything you can do to help me...before my soul is completely in servitude to Satan. Am I doomed to spend eternity in Hell and is there anything I can do to be redeemed by God. I am confused, hurt and lonely and know not where to go or what to do. Please if you are in a position to assist me in any way I would be most grateful. My greatest fear is that I have sent not only my own soul but the souls of my two children on a road to Hell. (Name withheld, Port Macquarie, NSW)

**Editors reply:** Dear...please read carefully...Your belief in the Lord and 'Christianity' must never be based on what others say or do. It does not matter if *all* the 'Christians' in the world were 'liars, thieves, dishonest, rebellious

and adulterers...involved in drugs and alcohol...using their 'Christianity' to manipulate and deceive.' Your faith is not based on others behaviour. It is based on a *person* and what He has already done *for* you as a *substitute* on the cross! Your belief is in *who* He is and *what* He did to account you righteous *in God's sight!* Justification does not depend on what others do or don't do. It is based on Christ and His work - the death, burial and resurrection.

These so called 'Christians' cannot destroy you! No man can pluck you out of the Fathers hand, (Jn.10:28,29)

You have not '*blasphemed the Holy Spirit*'. You may have had doubts about your salvation or you are not truly born from above. Either way, go before the Lord in prayer and call upon His name...Trust in His name and His work ...

You cannot send your children to Hell. The Lord knows who are His, (2Tim.2:19).

I urge you to go back to the foundations in Christ. Do not look at man for he will disappoint you. The Lord will never dishonour you even when you think He is unfair. Read Psalms, Proverbs and other Scriptures about the nature and character of God. He is a wonderful and mighty Saviour! He allows persecution and trials - the false converts will fall away but the true believers will stand, (see parable of the sower). Wherever you are, run to the Lord and His Word for He has not moved in the least.

...please read your Bible and keep in touch. We pray for you. I will try to find a suitable fellowship in your area.

May the Lord...strengthen you and increase your understanding of Him in His Holy Spirit. All our love.

Dear Mike, can a Christian wilfully sin? How should we look at the Scripture 1Jn.3:6-9. Can a Christian commit adultery or get drunk? (Name withheld)

Dear...Not only '*can*' they, they do! I know I will be severely criticised for this statement but it is true: Hardly a day passes without every Christian on earth having wilfully sinned. Does the blood of Christ propitiate for the believer's sins of so called 'commission' and 'omission' equally? Yes! 1John 2:1 settles this. As Christians, we have been set free from the penalty and power of sin but not from the presence of sin. But God forbid that we should set our heart on a life of wilful sin!

Again, some Christians do commit adultery and get drunk! It's delusion to think they don't. The Bible exposes the lives of faithful saints who did. But it's far from the way God expects us to live. Paul found many drinking excessively around the Lord's Table, yet he called them '*brethren*'. By urging them to repent and seek forgiveness

he was not condoning or excusing their behaviour. But it has to be acknowledged that it did, and still does take place! 1John 3:6-9 illustrates the spiritual fact that our spirits are born again by God and are beyond the realm of sin and death. However, our '*bodies of death*' are still somewhat subject to the law of '*sin and death*'. A reading of Romans chapters 7&8 confirms this. Also the tense in the '*sins not*' of verse 6 refers to *habitual* or *continuous* sin.

Christianity is not a 'moral code' or 'a way of life'. It is a Sovereign call of God on a life, a divine appointment to eternal life. To confuse this with 'behaviour' is perhaps to confuse Justification with Sanctification.

It's always been my experience though, that the tender conscience of a genuine Christian always brings remorse for sin committed, wilfully or otherwise, and a repentance that longs for forgiveness and a restored relationship with Him who called us. The absence of that always sets apart the true from the false believer. Mike Claydon

Dear Terry, I would like to make a comment about all the fuss lately about this man Stace and 'eternity'. Just because this man Stace was converted from alcoholism to Christ did not give him the right to spread graffiti throughout the streets of Sydney? He says God called him to do it - to Graffiti pavements? Kids today get suspended sentences at best and a jail term at worst for just this activity!

This might be the old fleshly 'personal testimony' again, and oh how we love them! Prostitution to Christ is even better than booze to Christ, but are both better than a conversion brought about in an ordinary battlers life by a sovereign God! That you rarely hear of!

I've read the 'Eternity' tract...It glamorises Sydney (a

modern day Sodom) and arguably legitimises the illegal act of despoiling public property. Do you think for one moment that the authorities put the word 'Eternity' up in fireworks on Sydney Harbour Bridge on New Years Eve with even the faintest notion of what it meant? It's not the Gospel, and it only served to inflate mens egos on the dawn of a new millennium! Who is kidding who? The fact that a tract is needed to explain all this to people is evidence that what I am saying is true!

Few will see my viewpoint and I wouldn't endeavour to sway them. Is it any wonder many people out there think we Christians are naive and deluded!

(Name withheld)

## Your Comments and Questions

(Views expressed here are not necessarily those of the editor or advisory panel)

To Terry & Mike,...we left a large church here in Melbourne just over 6 years ago, but for 5 years before that we were in the 'ministry' and leading people in the wrong direction. At the time we left I had been involved for 43 years and my husband for 26 years...It was a very unscriptural way we were dismissed...He has brought us through many things and taught us much...We have visited many churches...Sound churches are so scarce...Please continue to expose the false teachers - all of them...If we could find a church that really lifted up the Lord Jesus in truth within say 10 Km. radius, we would go...'Alpha' and 'Promise Keepers' are taking in many churches here...thank you for helping to teach us to stand for the truth.. (E.Y., Hampton Park, Vict.)

Dear Mike, Terry, Following my request for a sound church in my area, you advertised in the newsletter and then telephoned the responses to me. I wish to register my appreciation for your efforts and your diligence, and tell you that I am now attending [name of church] - one of those who responded. Many many thanks, (JP., Sydney)

Dear brothers in Christ, Thank you for the April edition. I was so pleased to see your forthright word here, particularly to 'abstain from all appearance of evil', (1Thess.5:22). So often...I have met believers who are vague about this, saying how that, 'It does not matter what anyone thinks; the Lord knows one's motives, intentions...But there are those who have taken the above reasoning...and have stumbled by it. They forget that poor behaviour before the world does not give a clear example...(W.J., NSW)

Dear sir, I was given a copy of your Dec/99 'Diakrisis' and was delighted with the stand you are taking regarding the apostasy of the present day church. We are at the stage where we can find no sound fellowship to attend and have begun a house church with a group of like minded people. For the past 40 years we have been involved with Baptist Union churches but no longer find one that has not gone to the neo-Evangelical camp...Yours in our Lord Jesus Christ, (Moorooka, Qld, Name withheld at editors discretion, )

Dear Terry,...I was attending the AOG here...I had to leave...and since obtaining some 'Diakrisis' newsletters and tapes, now I know I've done the right thing. I feel my mind and physical health getting better. (L.S., Sth.E. Qld)

### Praise Points

- Praise God for more conversions to Christ and from false teaching.
- Praise God for opposition and encouragement.

### Prayer Points

- Please pray for the Sydney itinerary.
- Pray for continuing fruit from the newsletter as it goes bi-monthly.

Dear Terry, What a pleasure to receive your newsletter...I pray you will hold the truth of God's Word always, and our Lord Jesus Christ will meet every financial need...you are in the front line and hold the truth of God's Word. Don't allow criticisms or unkind accusations to affect you or the ministry. Please, please, keep up the good work...(W.W., Vict)

Dear Terry,...to encourage you...The April newsletter was excellent. We have been seeing a continual fine tuning coming in your newsletters in regard to the true Gospel and discerning of error...(Christian bookstore, NSW)

Dear Terry, Mike...I'm so honoured that the dear Lord brought you and Mike into my exiled life, through your uncompromised teachings. I now live again, doubt no more, and rejoice continually daily in sickness and in health.

...'Diakrisis' reminds me of something I read a while back: 'God raises up men, who will not deviate from the truth and sometimes they have to be very loud to be heard over the enemies lies'...Appreciative of God's work well done, (Y.R., Vict)

### Terry's Itinerary

#### Sydney Itinerary

**Aug.5th** 8pm (Sat.) Combined (Burwood, Kingsgrove, Cambelltown) Youth Assemblies, Campbelltown, Ph.97083568

**Aug.6th** 12am Kingsgrove Gospel Chapel, Ph.97083568

**Aug.6th** 6pm Emmanuel Baptist, Glenwood Ph.96743007

**Aug.8th** 8pm (Tues) Kingsgrove Arabic youth Ph.97083568

**Aug.11th** 7pm (Frid) Guildford Assembly Ph.98351513

**Aug.12th** 1.30pm (Sat) Grace Bible Church, Kingswood, Seminar: 'Foundations for Evangelism/Discipleship' (see P.1)

**Aug.13th** 11am Villawood Baptist Ph.96863264

**Aug.13th** 7pm. Grace Bible Church, Kingswood, Ph.47363619

**Aug.15th** 8pm (Tues) Kingsgrove Arabic youth Ph.97083568

**Aug.16th** 7pm (Wed) Little Flock, Fairfield Ph.0411489472

**Aug.19th.** 11am Lethbridge Park Group Ph.98351513

**Aug.19th** 7pm. (Sat) Church For Everybody, Marrickville 95588828

**Aug.20th** 10am Picton Bible Church, Ph.46810227

**Aug.20th** 6.30pm Soul Salvation Assembly, Rooty Hill, 96266502

**Aug.22-25** New Tribes Bible College, Rooty Hill Ph.96258118

**Seminars:** (Half-days commencing 8.45am)

on **Mormonism** (Tues); **Jehovah Witnesses** (Wed); **Signs**

**& Wonders** (Thurs); **Seventh Day Adventism** (Frid)

**Aug.26th** 7pm. (Sat) Church For Everybody, Marrickville 95588828

**Aug.27th** 10am Nepean Baptist Ph.47218958

### Sept-Oct

**Sept.3rd** 9.30am Gympie Community Church, Qld. Ph.0411489472

**Sept.17th.** 10am Hervey Bay Church of Christ, Qld. (07)41284201

**Sept. 29th-1st Oct.** Oak Flats Church camp, Nowra, NSW

**Oct.15,22,29** 6.30pm Hervey Bay Church of Christ, Qld.

(07)41284201 **Series on Jehovah Witnesses (Video 29th.)**

**November: Victoria itinerary - to be completed.**

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