

Your Comments and Questions

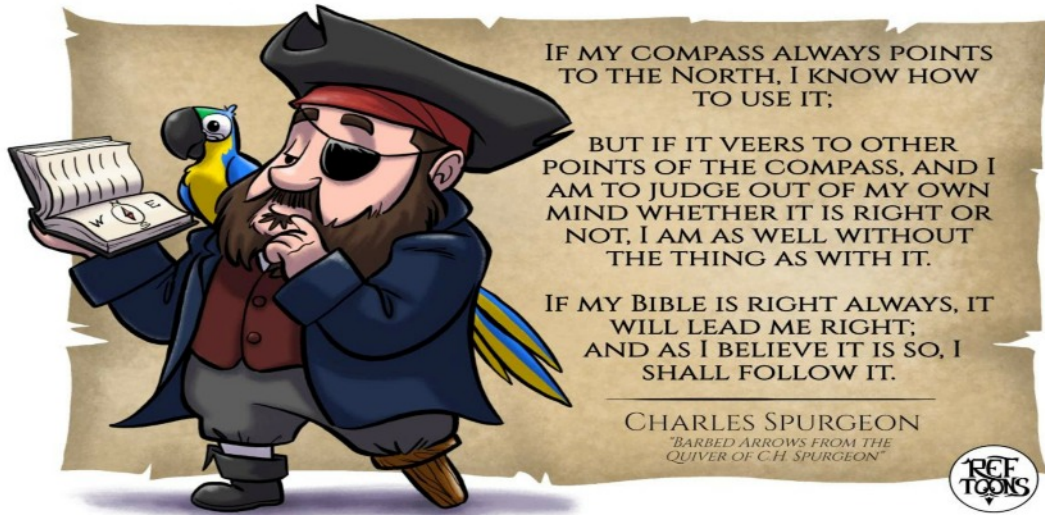
(Views expressed here are not necessarily those of the editor)

Hi, Terry and Beth!

Yours is a vital mission in the midst of so many denominations teaching salvation by man's freewill. May God continue to open the minds and hearts of His people to the wonders of His free, unmerited sovereign grace in Christ Jesus!

Trusting God's faithfulness,

(E.&V. B. Qld)



IF MY COMPASS ALWAYS POINTS
TO THE NORTH, I KNOW HOW
TO USE IT;

BUT IF IT VEERS TO OTHER
POINTS OF THE COMPASS, AND I
AM TO JUDGE OUT OF MY OWN
MIND WHETHER IT IS RIGHT OR
NOT, I AM AS WELL WITHOUT
THE THING AS WITH IT.

IF MY BIBLE IS RIGHT ALWAYS, IT
WILL LEAD ME RIGHT;
AND AS I BELIEVE IT IS SO, I
SHALL FOLLOW IT.

CHARLES SPURGEON
"BARBED ARROWS FROM THE
QUIVER OF C.H. SPURGEON"



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'But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern [diakrisis] both good and evil', (Heb.5:14)

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Teaching, Informing and Equipping the church.

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If there is one doctrine that has been so added to and confused, it is pneumatology (the study of the Holy Spirit). If this doctrine is taught in error then we may well have the wrong spirit, the wrong Jesus and a false gospel (2Cor.11:4; Gal.1:6,7).

The study of the Holy Spirit falls into two main areas - His *person* and His *work*. The *Holy Spirit is a person* and *deity* (Is.6:9,10 cp. Acts 28:25-27; Acts 5:3,4; Jn.16:13,14); He is *grieved*, being *holy* (Is.63:10; Eph.4:30); and He has a *will* (1Cor.12:11; Acts 16:6,7).

Today many might acknowledge Him as a person, yet present Him as a *force*, an *atmospheric power*, something even manipulated by man's worship methods. Yet He is a *person* who *indwells* Christians. The Reformers and Puritans had many struggles against heretical and extremist groups such as the Socinarians and the Quakers (17th century), who either denied the Spirit was a person or emphasised Him as a force more than a person. These groups often focused on the experiential.

The *work of the Holy Spirit* is first shown in *creation* (Gen.1:2). Then the Old Testament has the Spirit coming *upon* people, not as a permanent placement but often quite *temporary*. Saul had the Spirit come upon him and at times leave him (1Sam.10:10; Judg.16:20; 1Sam.16:14). But God prophesied a future permanent *indwelling* when the Spirit would be *within* people (Ez.36:26,27).

Yet today many groups teach the work of the Spirit as though we are still in the Old Testament. The Spirit is spoken of as an outside phenomenon who comes as a force, often in various forms of worship, especially with music.

But Jesus Himself taught the transition of how the Spirit would come when He clearly distinguished the Holy Spirit being '*with*' the disciples (present tense) until Acts 2; but upon His ascension His spirit would then be '*in*' them (future tense Jn.14:16,17).

The power of the Spirit is not governed or manipulated by experiences, events, music, but is rather available to *all who believe, according to Christ's resurrection and His authority at the right hand of God* (Eph.1:19,20).

The Holy Spirit reveals truth - in *nature* and in the *scriptures* ('*general revelation*' - Rom.1 / '*specific revelation*' - 2Tim.3:16,17). The former is not spoken but '*shown*' and '*seen*' (Rom.1:19,20); the latter is *written as scripture* (Matt.4:4; Lk.24:44...) and is the '*prophecy of the scriptures, not of any private interpretation*' (1Pet.1:20). It is the latter that has the '*truth*' that sanctifies (Jn.17:17)! *The Holy Spirit guides us into this truth* (Jn.16:13).

This orthodoxy has been added to, as now the Spirit is supposedly speaking new words to many on a daily basis. Yet the scriptures clearly speak of '*God, who at various times and in various manners spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Has in these last days spoken unto us by his Son*' (Heb.1:1,2). The '*various manners*' refers to the means of revelation - direct words, visions, dreams, etc - all the means people often seek today, the scriptures not being sufficient to them. Yet this revelation is said here to be '*past*' and now finalised in Jesus Christ.

Dear Terry,

...Thanks again for the Diakrisis newsletter and some of its excellent articles highlighting scripture alone...I hope you might be interested if I expand upon just a couple of the scripture references you make in your articles.

Halfway down P.12 in the 'What About Theology?' article you quote John 3:16 and say that 'so loved' shows the emphasis on the degree of the love of God. Now certainly God had a great degree of love for the world to plan (Acts 2:23) the sacrifice of His Son as a means of saving the world but in John 3:16 the Greek word translated as 'so' is 'houto' the meaning of which is given as 'in this way'. The NET Bible translates it as 'For this is the way God loved the world...'. I think this gives a different emphasis to the verse and is probably how the word 'so' was used in the old English of the KJV translators and sometimes today e.g. when in conversation someone may respond to what we are saying with an inquiring 'so?', in essence asking us to elaborate on the implication or working out of what we have been saying; rather than its modern nuance of degree or intensity as someone might say 'I do so love the Diakrisis newsletter!' rather than 'I love the newsletter because of the way it proclaims the importance and sufficiency of scripture'.

Perhaps God could have shown his great love for the world in other ways, as Jesus said that God sends rain on the just and unjust (Matt 5:45), but He chose this particular way. This can open up further study on why God chose that way. You may say that this is a minor point but if we consider another verse where 'houto' is used i.e. Romans 11:26 'And so all Israel shall be saved ...' a better translation I believe is the ESV which begins 'And in this way all Israel will be saved...' When we read it like this it should cause us to ask 'in what way?'. My answer to that is found in the preceding verses in the chapter and helpfully in the analogy of the olive tree...and the cutting off branches and grafting in branches...

(D.M. e-mail)

Editor's reply:

Yes, although as you say there is no limit to God's love, my use of the 'so loved' here was not accurate. I had been reading a devotion somewhere which saw the 'so' as an 'emphasis in degree or intensity' as you say, rather than simply what the word refers to. Even a Strong's Concordance shows the Greek 'houto' as referring to 'what precedes or follows; after that; what follows; in this manner, this fashion...' As you state, the 'so' is referring to the way God's love was shown. The 'so' points to what follows that which shows the way God loved.

Arguably other Bibles may attempt to expand the 'so' to show the connection with what follows. But I don't see any error in the KJV translation, but rather my error, a slip into more eisegesis rather than exegesis. It is my mistake to read in more than what is there in the word. Appreciate the correction.

The Koran and The Bible

The Koran says that if a later verse contradicts an earlier verse, the later mention is Allah's final word on the subject. Thus, while the Koran says 'there is no compulsion in religion' - that is nullified by the later verses that require non-Muslims to submit, either by conversion or dhimmitude, or be put to death.

[In contrast] *The Bible allows for NO contradictions, from Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21. The Bible says of itself that it is infallible, Divinely-inspired and, most significantly of all, a completed work. When the Holy Spirit's Divine dictation session was over, He ended it with a 'period' (Amen) and signed off with a warning:*

'For I testify unto every man that hears the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the Book of Life, and out of the Holy City, and from the things which are written in this Book' (Revelation 22:18-19).

(The Omega Letter Intelligence Digest, Vol.119 Issue 4, Aug.04, 2011)

Mysticism

A well-known charismatic pastor told me that sometimes in the morning when he's shaving, Jesus comes into his bathroom and puts His arm around him and they have a conversation. Does he really believe that? I don't know. Perhaps he wants people to believe he is more intimate with Christ than most of us. Whatever the case, his experience contrasts sharply with biblical accounts of heavenly visions. Isaiah was terrified when he saw the Lord and immediately confessed his sin (Isa.6:5). Manoah feared for his life and said to his wife, 'We shall surely die for we have seen God' (Judg.13:22). Job repented in the dust and ashes (Job 42:5-6). The disciples were petrified (Luke 8:25). Peter said to Jesus, 'Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!' (Luke 5:8). Each of them was overwhelmed with a sense of sinfulness and feared judgement. How could someone casually talk and shave while in the presence of such an infinitely holy God?

(John MacArthur)

Quotable

'Six feet of earth make all men equal. Death is the great leveller. The worm has no respect for knighthood or nobility. The mighty monarch and the slave, find common bed within the grave'.

('The Salt Cellars: Being a Collection of Proverbs, Together with Homely Notes Thereon' by Charles Spurgeon)

The Spirit today fills His people (Eph.5:18-20). This is a continuous control from within, not from without as some mistake the word 'fill' ('pleroo' - control).

The Holy Spirit seals every Christian at salvation which is also our assurance (Rom.8:16). 'In whom you also trusted, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also when you believed, you were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory' (Eph.1:13,14).

The Holy Spirit Glorifies Christ (Jn.16:13,14). Today many movements speak far more of the Holy Spirit than of Christ crucified and the Gospel. Yet this is not the desire of the Spirit Himself who 'will not speak of himself' (vs.13). Spirit centred study of the Holy Spirit must point to Christ and His Word. For example, Puritan theology was Trinitarian and Christocentric. Their Christology was pneumatic; their pneumatology was Christocentric.

The Holy Spirit convicts of sin - the very necessity within the gospel that brings salvation (Jn.16:8-11; 1Cor.15:3). Today sin and the doctrine of, is too often completely missing from many modern gospels.

The Holy Spirit intercedes for us when we are weak and without understanding (Rom.8:26,27). Modern movements have amazingly invented a new teaching which equates this verse with 'speaking in tongues', when the text itself says it is prayer by the Spirit that 'cannot be uttered' (vs.26).

The Holy Spirit supplies fruit - 'love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self control: against such there is no law' (Gal.5:22,23).

The Holy Spirit is 'the anointing'. In the Old Testament the word referred to washings or consecration of kings, prophets, priests. In the New Testament it is the indwelling Holy Spirit which every Christian has the same (1Jn.2:27). Today the 'anointing' is misused to be a force, a power. It is staggering that many even use it to teach 'levels of anointing' and completely de-personalise the word. We all have the same anointing, it being the indwelling person of the Holy Spirit received at salvation!

The Holy Spirit Sanctifies/makes holy (2Thess.2:13; 1Pet.1:2; 1Jn.3:3...). This is a progressive work within us to conform us to the image of Christ (Phil.1:6; 2:12,13; 1Thess 4:3,4; Rom.8:29). It is done through the Word of God (Jn.17:17).

We have only skimmed the surface of these doctrines here. But we dare not go beyond what the scriptures teach on the person of the Holy Spirit and His work. The written Word is all sufficient. To go beyond is to invite mysticism, another christ, another spirit, another gospel. The Spirit's desire is to glorify Christ and Him crucified.

Terry Arnold

The Nigerian Slaughter



Open Doors, a global Christian persecution watchdog, has warned in recent years that more Christians are killed in Nigeria for their faith each year than in all other countries combined. According to the organization's annual World Watch List research, 3,100 of the 4,476 Christians killed worldwide for their faith last year were in Nigeria alone.

Nigeria also leads the world in Christians abducted for their faith, with 2,830 out of 3,775 worldwide....

(Excerpted from Christian Post, Nov.7/2025)



Editor's Comment:

The Nigerian slaughters have gone almost unnoticed by much of the world. Approximately 7,000 have been killed in one year.

More recently 303 children and 12 teachers were abducted from a Catholic school by armed gunmen (50 children have since escaped captivity and 100 have been returned).

ISIS Jihadis Slit Throats of Breastfeeding Mothers in Congo Hospital

A rebel group's attack on a Catholic hospital's maternity ward in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo killed around 20 people, including breastfeeding mothers and their babies. Authorities have blamed the Allied Democratic Forces, an armed group affiliated with the Islamic State, for the massacre.

The strike occurred Friday night in the village of Byambwe in North Kivu province's Lubero territory, where the ADF terror group targeted a health facility run by the Little Sisters of the Presentation.

Armed men moved swiftly through the village, killing patients in their beds and setting fire to the centre, local administrator Col. Alain Kiwewa told The Associated Press on Saturday. 'Women who were breastfeeding were brutally slaughtered and found with their throats slit in their hospital beds'. Of the 17 people killed, 11 were women and six were men, he said.

The same armed group also launched attacks in other nearby villages the same night...[but] The hospital's maternity ward was among the hardest hit. Witnesses reported that several women and their newborns were burned alive. The building was destroyed in the fire...

ADF is the deadliest threat to civilians in the DRC and was responsible for more than 1,000 deaths in 2023...In August, ADF fighters killed at least 52 people in a series of assaults over several days...In July, the group attacked a Catholic church in Ituri province during a vigil, killing nearly 40 worshippers, many of them women and children.

(Anugrah Kumar, Christian Post, Nov. 17, 2025)

A Way to Explain the Gospel

Apart from using tracts, literature and other methods in evangelism, the following is just one of many ways to give the gospel, explain it, and memorize it.

My favourite all time passage for the Gospel is 2 Corinthians 5:21. In just 25 English words (16 Greek words) it states, especially when expanded, all that one needs to know and understand of the Gospel.

'For he has made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him'.

By unpacking and expanding what the Bible teaches on these words, there is enough of the Gospel to save a sinner from the judgement for sin.

God ('He') '*made Him to be sin*' - God the Father made His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to be sin '*for us*'. God sent His only Son to take the place *by substitution*, to be as us - sinners. He was *sinless and perfect* - one '*who knew no sin*', yet '*made sin for us*'. By substitution the just One was treated as if unjust. Jesus took on our sin and was judged, punished by the Father as if He committed every sin that we ever committed. This was done 2,000 years ago for our every sin past, present and future in this life. Yet this One who was '*made sin*' was innocent, *without sin* and a *perfect* divine heavenly being. The Father in His wrath upon sin, poured it out upon Jesus who was punished for our deliverance from the judgement for our sin (Is.53:7,10). It was done once and for all (Heb.9&10).

The above is only half of the verse and half the redemption plan by God. Without a new righteousness, we would be left without a perfection to enter the perfect sinless presence with a perfect God. So God decreed He would make us '*the righteousness of God in Him*'. How this would be done is one of the greatest mysteries and marvels of the heavens. God would *impute* (reckon, credit) *His own righteousness*, gained by the perfect life of Christ, to the believers account by faith alone in who Jesus is and what He has done. At the heart of the Gospel is this Justification - by a double Imputation - the sin of the believer credited to Christ at Calvary; and the righteousness gained by Christ credited to us by faith (Rom.4).

This is how God keeps His own justice and judgement perfect, yet provides a righteousness to enter into the terrible and fearful presence of a Holy God. Christ's death and resurrection conquered death and Hell, which we deserved for sin.

The entire verse hinges around one person, one mediator and one name above all names - the God/Man Jesus Christ.

What comes after this justification by *faith* is the sanctifying *work* of the Holy Spirit with us as co-workers, as we live out a new life having been adopted into the new family of God.

What is written above is a simple expansion of one mighty verse, a verse that can be expanded in so many more endless ways as the Holy Spirit leads within the text. May it adorn the billboards of churches, give power to sermons, capture the hearts of sinners, and so be used to the glory of God.

Terry Arnold

Did Paul have a 'free will' to resist before this conversion? Yes. He was freely resisting! Did that will have any ability to choose Christ in and of itself? No (1Cor.2:14; Rom.8:7,8; Jn.6:44). But at the same time the Lord was drawing him and intent on *freeing his will* for that which Paul could not do himself.

Was Paul's will forced or violated when he accepted Christ? Rather, he was *freed* from a depravity deserving Hell. Paul voluntarily changed his mind with a will now free to do what it was not free to do before. His heart was opened. God revealed himself from above.

Could Paul have resisted and said 'no' to Christ, as many do today? Yes and no. 'No' only if he was not called, chosen, drawn, born again from above...But if called, chosen (elected), begotten from above, then any resistance is turned to willingness. John chapter 6 has no fail clause when Jesus says '*all that the Father gives me shall come to me; and...I will in no wise cast out...All which he has given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day...No man can come to me, except the Father which has sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day...no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father*' (Jn.6:37-65).

The born again experience is not of one's own will, but '*from above*', entirely '*of God*' (Jn.3:3-8; 1:13). Paul never once ever mentioned his own will in salvation. He always put the grace of salvation where it belongs - '*of God*' (Eph.2:8,9; Jn.1:13)! He even placed his calling by grace back as far as at least his mothers womb (Gal.1:15,16).

How different is this to today's testimonies of '*I chose Jesus...I decided, I accepted him into my heart...I gave Jesus a go...*' Paul rather testified that God '*revealed his son...and that he conferred not with flesh and blood*' (Gal.1:16)!

Again, was this experience any different to any of us who have been born again? We may not have heard a direct voice, had a light that blinded us, been knocked to the ground...But the same God spoke to us and revealed the same Lord Jesus Christ. The same word was engrafted in our heart which was opened. The same Spirit was put within us. The same change of the will occurred. The same righteousness was imputed to us to be justified in the courts of Heaven. The same Sanctification began with the indwelling Holy Spirit, the same glorification is promised. Ananias said to Paul '*The God of our fathers has chosen you, that you should know his will, and see that Just One, and should hear the voice of his mouth*' (Acts 22:14). If we are called, we are not chosen to hear and then decide on an offer from the Lord to accept salvation. This is simply nowhere found in scripture. Rather we as slaves to sin and children of wrath, were chosen to be bought with a price out of slavery to be children of the most high God.

Paul's experience of being called and freed to be a vessel to honour and glorify God, may well be unique in the associated signs and events. But like Paul, we were sinners with wicked hearts, slaves to and dead in sins on a Damascus road to Hell. Might every Christian marvel at the same rescue plan whereby God called, drew, regenerated and freed our will to respond to a glory yet to be revealed!

Terry Arnold

Roman Catholic Doublespeak



'Mary, mother of Jesus and all believers, is not co-redeemer, Vatican says. While praising devotion to Mary, the Dicastery for Doctrine of the Faith firmly rejected moves to formally proclaim Mary as 'co-redemptrix' or 'co-mediatrix'...The title co-redemptrix, or co-redeemer 'carries the risk of eclipsing the exclusive role of Jesus Christ'.

Regarding the title co-mediatrix or co-mediator, it said that Mary, 'the first redeemed, could not have been the mediatrix of the grace that she herself received. However, it said, the title may be used when it does not cast doubt on 'the unique mediation of Jesus Christ, true God and true man'.

...For more than 30 years, some Catholics, including some bishops, have asked for formal dogmatic declarations of Mary as co-redemptrix and co-mediatrix...The titles co-redemptrix, co-mediatrix have been used in the past millennium. St John Paul II 'referred to Mary as 'Co-redemptrix' on at least seven occasions'...While Christ, fully human and fully divine, is the one mediator between God and humanity, 'he enables various forms of participation in his salvific plan...we can all become...co-operators with God and 'mediators' for one another...how much more must it be affirmed of Mary in a unique supreme way' the doctrinal note said.

(Catholic Weekly, Nov 5, 2025)

Editor's comment:

This is confusing double speak and disregards many clear scriptures (1Tim.2:5; Heb.12:24; 7:25; Lk.1:47; Acts 4:12; Rom.8:27,34; 1Jn.2:1).

Benny Hinn Divorced...Again

'More than a year after she filed for divorce from televangelist Benny Hinn, Suzanne Hinn's marriage...is now officially over for a second time in 46 years...The former couple had been living in separate homes more than 60 miles apart...Benny Hinn's attorney...said his client was not the one who requested the divorce, but the case was settled amicably, claiming 'they are still very much in love with each other...There is no end of the relationship'...

(Christian Post, Nov.26.2025)

Editor:

Benny has proven to be a false prophet, a liar and a charlatan. In August, 2010, Hinn acknowledged an 'inappropriate relationship' with Paula White after being photographed holding hands, leaving a hotel where they had stayed a few days.

The 'comments' under this article said it all. One wrote: '*Benny Hinn is/was a shameless huckster who preyed upon the weak and ignorant with a*

blatantly heretical theology delivered by way of theatrical performance. Jesus warned us well in advance there will be false prophets, counterfeit miraculous signs and wonders, lying tongues, false apostles and a whole bunch of falsies masquerading as angels of light.

Another wrote: 'I was speaking at a church some time ago when we prayed for healing for the Pastor's daughter Amie. Someone suggested we contact Benny Hinn for prayer support and a divine touch from the one who claims so many healings. Benny Hinn responded by saying he sought the Lord in prayer and GOD promised a full healing for Amie. This delighted the...congregation and they celebrated...with songs of praise and thanksgiving prayers. TWO DAYS LATER LITTLE AMIE DIED. Can you imagine the distress, tears and sorrows that inflicted everyone?...We could feel so much pain and anger. Not because Amie died, as she would be with the Lord; but because of the sly, cunning, despicable beastly way this child of the Devil - Benny Hinn, Lied and deceived without any conscience or apology. Benny Hinn is a child of the Devil according to my Bible'.

More Covid-19 Truths

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) argued the COVID-19 injection Death Data is better hidden from the public lest it cause distress, anger, misinformation or vaccine hesitancy...

The dataset...was requested under freedom of information laws by the group UsForThem. UKHSA rejected the request, citing...reasons for its refusal - Publishing the data might upset bereaved families, the watchdog argued, or 'could lead to misinformation...[and] have an adverse impact on vaccine uptake'...

...Following a two-year dispute over the FOI request, the UK's Information Commissioner ruled in the UKHSA's favour, allowing the data to remain hidden...

...Last year, a cross-party group expressed alarm about...the UK's rates of excess deaths since 2020...Potentially critical data - which map the date of people's Covid vaccine doses to the date of their deaths - had been released to pharmaceutical companies but not put into the public domain...Richard Tice, the deputy leader of Reform UK, has argued... 'We knew there was concern about excess deaths, which is why we called for an inquiry...Instead, the unelected UKHSA is involved in a scandalous cover-up of how and why people are dying'

...The Death Data in Australia...According to the Australian Institute of Health & Welfare...over 95% of Australians aged 16 and over received at least two COVID-19 injections...After receiving almost 1,000 reports of Australians dying soon following a COVID-19 injection, the Therapeutic Goods Administration acknowledged a causal link in just 14 cases...[But] a freedom of information release earlier this year revealed the TGA did not investigate 35 same-day COVID-19 injection deaths, casting doubt on the regulator's official tally.

(Kurt Mahlborg, Daily Declaration, 18/Nov, 2025)

because it continues with God declaring 'I will raise him up'. Indeed, there is a definitive chain from the effective call: '...whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified' (Rom.8:29,30).

Paul's heart was captured. In 'trembling and astonishment' he said 'Lord, what will you have me to do?' (Acts 9:6). Like Paul, for some it appears as a quick work, for others it appears slower, and some even laboured. But like Lydia 'whose heart the Lord opened', the will 'attends to the things spoken' by the Lord (Acts 16:14).

Was Paul forced to submit, like a robot or puppet in the hands of God? Did God violate his unsaved will, or did He free it? Charles Spurgeon summarises: 'A man is not saved against his will, but he is made willing by the operation of the Holy Ghost. A mighty grace which he does not wish to resist enters into the man, disarms him, makes a new creature of him, and he is saved' (Sermons Vol.10 P. 309)

Are any of us any different? Before Christ, were we all not freely rejecting Christ by either our sin or refusing the Gospel? The effectual call we received was the same as Paul's, as the famous song says: 'Long my imprisoned spirit lay, fast bound in sin and nature's night; thine eye diffused a quickening ray; I woke, the dungeon flamed with light; my chains fell off, my heart was free, I rose, went forth, and followed thee'. Oh what unmerited favour; how amazing is this GRACE!

The Salvation

Most commentators believe Paul was not truly 'saved' until He received the Holy Spirit after the Damascus road encounter. 'And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias...the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prays, And has seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight...Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard...how much evil he has done to your saints at Jerusalem...he has authority from the chief priests...But the Lord said unto him, Go your way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. Ananias...entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto you...has sent me, that you might receive your sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized' (Acts 9:9-18).

Anyone who is to be saved must receive Christ. Paul clearly submitted to the Lord's direction. He confessed Jesus as 'Lord' and asked what he was to do (Acts 9:6). The resistance was broken. That change in the will was a regeneration deep within, not achieved through his race or heritage; nor from the energies of his flesh, nor in his own will, but entirely 'of God' from Heaven above (Jn.1:13; Acts 26:13). The blinders were taken from Paul's eyes for him to see both physically and spiritually (Acts 9:18). He was a chosen vessel, chosen before the foundation of the world (Acts 9:15; Eph.1:4). He received the Spirit of Christ.

says...every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God...' (Rom.3:10-20); 'The carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God' (Rom.8:7,8). We were all as Paul - 'dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh...' (Col.2:13; Eph.2:1)!

Are there degrees of being 'dead' when 'by nature we were the children of wrath, even as others (Eph.2:2-5) in the blindness of our hearts' (Eph.4:18) and as 'slaves of sin' (Jn.8:34), just as Paul was? Were there any of us who would be not so depraved that we could come to Christ of our own hearts? 'No man can come to me, except the Father which has sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day...no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father' (Jn.6:44,65).

Paul's depravity may have been unique in his actions in time, but by nature, by heart, by any of our own righteousnesses, by God's law, by our uncircumcised flesh, we all have the same depravity of heart that is 'deceitful above all things' (Jer.17:9). It's a universal 'all' in sinfulness heading for condemnation...

The Effectual Call

The trip Paul undertook to Damascus would have taken at least a few days. Paul had days to think about and prepare for the persecution of Christians. There is no hint in any scripture that Paul was having any change of heart. But before he reached the city the Lord intervened: '...he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? And he said, Who are you, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom you persecute...And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what will you have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told you what you must do....And Saul arose from the earth...And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink' (Acts 9:3-9).

Paul was drawn to a place and a time to be called, arrested, made willing to see who his new master would be. Was Paul resisting any salvation? Yes, all the way before and to Damascus! He was fulfilling the desires of his flesh being a child of wrath, not seeking the Messiah, he was blinded in mind by Satan and unable to come to Jesus in and of himself (Eph.2:3; Rom.3:11; 2Cor.4:4; Jn.6:44).

Were any of us any different? The scriptures above apply to all. 'Resistance' is the norm in the natural man! The issue is not whether man can resist God's offer of salvation, but rather can God effectually save those He calls and draws. 'All that the Father gives me shall come to me; and him that comes to me I will in no wise cast out' (Jn.6:37). Jesus says of these same people that He will 'raise it up again at the last day' (vs.39,40). This 'coming' to Jesus and being 'raised up' cannot be done using anything within the person themselves. They have to be 'drawn' first: 'No man can come to me, except the Father which has sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day' (vs.44). The tenses here are definitively showing God doing the work and any man passive in the call. The 'calling' is 'effectual'

Assemblies of God Shielded Predators

A children's pastor was caught filming girls in a church bathroom in Arkansas. Elders suspended him for a few weeks. In Illinois, a preacher was accused of sexually abusing children. Church leaders sent him to therapy rather than call police. In California, a worship minister went to prison for molesting boys. His congregation threw him a party when he returned. All of these men remained in ministry in the Assemblies of God (AoG), the world's largest Pentecostal denomination. All went on to abuse more children.

Since the 1970's, AoG churches have repeatedly reinstated ministers and leaders accused of sexual misconduct...an NBC News investigation found. While some of the other largest Christian denominations now require safeguards...national AoG leaders have resisted, arguing such rules would increase legal risk...and defy a core biblical command: to forgive. The result is...protected accused predators have left generations of children in danger.

NBC identified nearly 200 AoG pastors, church employees, leaders accused of sexual abuse over the past half century...allegedly abusing more than 475 people - the majority were children...A California preacher was accused of holding knives to children's chests while forcing them to perform sex acts on each other. In Louisiana, a youth leader confessed to drugging and assaulting 3 boys at a sleepover...Of alleged abusers, 123 were ministers, nearly half youth pastors...convicted sex offenders led youth groups. Accused ministers were reinstated or moved to new congregations...Others said preachers twisted scripture to silence them. 'Touch not the Lord's anointed' they warned from Psalms.

In August, NBC News uncovered how an AoG college ministry funnelled hundreds of students to the home of Daniel Savala, a sex offender some pastors hailed as 'the holiest man alive'. In both cases, leaders dismissed warnings...

Other denominations have faced reckonings and made changes...The AoG has not taken these steps...For decades, survivors have pressed the AoG to do more. ...The AoG could make anti-abuse policies mandatory at its 13,000 U.S. churches. The General Council debated this...then backed away after lawyers warned it could expose the national office to costly lawsuits...

Pastors who demonstrated such gifts of the spirit were treated as God's anointed, their charisma viewed as proof of divine favour. The most gifted preachers transformed that aura into spiritual empires, drawing thousands to megachurches, filling television airwaves and sometimes amassing personal fortunes...This theology...often prioritised redemption over accountability...

(Mike Hixenbaugh, Senior investigative reporter NBC News)

Editor:

The rest of this article detailed dozens of cases with graphic details too explicit to print here. One wonders how those who claim to operate in all their 'gifts' cannot discern the offenders in their midst? Most of the recent church leaders who have fallen in such sins are of the Charismatic/Pentecostal persuasion. (The same is seen in almost all the early Pentecostal founders).

A False Prophet's Repentance?

'We're living in a leadership crisis that's bigger than politics...Pride has become the disease of the day. Leaders would rather double down than humble down...I've been there...I missed a public prophecy and wanted to contend for my reputation. But the Lord said a single word that changed how I lead.'

In 2020, I prophesied that Donald Trump would serve another term as president. I'd been accurate about 4 presidents in a row, so honestly, it didn't feel risky. When I preached the message...later, when I listened back, I realized I never said those words outright - but in my heart, that's exactly what I meant. When he didn't win, 10,000 people unfollowed me on social media...friends tried to defend me...I didn't need defenders; I needed to repent.

After the election...Everything in me wanted to hear 'Contend!' That's what...my family and leadership team wanted me to do...Paul exhorted Timothy to 'fight the good fight' by holding fast to the prophecies spoken over him (1Tim.1:18). I've preached for decades that we must contend with the words God gives us until they come to pass. But the word I heard was...Repent...I simply felt His presence, and that single word carried a holy conviction ...God wasn't testing my prophetic accuracy...my humility. When I owned my mistake, Heaven didn't demote me, it delivered me. Humility is the way forward.

...I've spent years teaching prophets to apologize when they miss it...Then God gave me the chance to walk it out. So, I repented publicly...I wasn't bowing to man; I was bowing before the Lord...Humility offends pride. When you choose the low road, it exposes the high horses we've been riding on...We need both - the courage to speak and humility to bow. We're in the midst of a humility revival...' (Extract from 'What My Trump Prophecy Taught Me About Humility' by Kris Vallotton, Senior Associate Leader Bethel Church, Redding, California; Co-founder of Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry; Cited in Christian Post, Nov.19, 2025)

Editor's Comment:

His prophesy stated 'the Lord's going to give Trump a second term...the Lord wants it...' Valotton says 'I've spent years teaching prophets to apologize when they miss it'. But since when did any biblical prophet 'miss it' or need that advice? He then has the arrogance to again prophesy that God gave him the false prophesy! What does God say of false prophets (read Dt.18:20-22...)?

Real Biblical 'prophecy' is to 'put forth the word of God' ('prophete'). Hebrews ch.1 makes it clear God's use of prophets ceased when Jesus became incarnate. The prophets and apostles ceased with the foundation of the church (Eph.2). No one receives prophetic words today!

At the risk of being accused of being unloving - this man is a false prophet who makes veiled clever excuses for his false prophesying. He re-evaluates a failed prophecy as some 'test' of 'humility'? He reinforces the credibility of a false movement. He tries to sanctify fortune telling. Is that true repentance?

The Bethel movement is racked with false prophets, false teaching, lying signs and wonders. Vallotton and Bethel have 'another Jesus, another spirit'.

Paul's Conversion - Unique or Universal?

One of the most amazing accounts of conversion and encounters with God in the Bible is that of the apostle Paul's conversion (from Saul to Paul). The radical depravity that existed in this man's heart was on full display in his barbaric treatment of Christians. Yet he was suddenly knocked to the ground, blinded by and spoken to by an unseen but compelling voice. He was then given orders as to what to do and where to go. It was a radical salvation. For three days Paul, then called Saul, was in a helpless state, yet suddenly obedient to a power that would change him in the very core of his being. He would never be the same again. The transformation simply shocked many.

Many would assume this conversion was unique, miraculous, and some would say a one off conversion, unlike the born again experience of most if not all Christians. Certainly some of the events in time and space might have been unique to Paul. But are the spiritual forces that transformed Paul common to every person who has had a born again experience - the only experience that grants one access to the kingdom of Heaven?

The Depravity

'And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem' (Acts 9:1,2); 'I verily thought...I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth...in Jerusalem: many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. And I punished them often in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities' (Acts 26:9-11).

This was the evil and fury in the heart of Paul - to hunt down believers, torture and kill them. As a highly trained pharisee and teacher he would have known what the Christian Gospel was and likely heard it many times, even from the mouths of those he slaughtered. He hated the teaching that Jesus was the Messiah, the Anointed One, the Saviour, the final sacrificial Lamb who would turn many hearts from their depravity. Paul was witness to, and cheered on the death of the first martyr, Stephen, who preached the Gospel yet again in front of Paul (Acts 7:58).

Are any of us in our unsaved state less depraved in heart than Paul? What does God say? *'...Sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned...judgment came upon all men to condemnation' (Rom.5:12-18; 1Cor.15:22); 'The heart is deceitful above all things, desperately wicked: who can know it?' (Jer.17:9); 'All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags...there is none that calls upon your name...' (Is.64:6-8); 'There is none righteous, no, not one...none that understands...none that seeks after God...none that does good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulcher...the law*

at being a victim of unspecified ‘micro-aggressions’ and then receiving a 45-second standing ovation.

This is part of the reason why men in particular are leaving the Church of England for more conservative - i.e. Biblically faithful - expressions of Christianity. At a time when other religious faiths are growing so rapidly in Britain, appointing someone to the highest ecclesiastical office in the worldwide Anglican communion, but is also triggered by the slightest disagreement, is only going to end in more tears!

Sixth, closely connected to the previous point, Mullally is a fervent evangelist for open borders. For the pagan world coming into Britain, rather than Christians being sent out into the world. One has to seriously question how committed she is to seeing anyone come to follow Jesus, because the Islamic proselytisation of the United Kingdom is already well advanced.

Seventh, Mullally’s main passion seems to be saving not people but the planet itself. The only crusade the new Archbishop of Canterbury will be leading will be the ‘global fight’ (environmental jihad) against Climate Change, and especially the use of fossil fuels. As Mullally wrote when Bishop of London:

‘As stewards of God’s creation, we have a responsibility to doing whatever we can to act sustainably and protect the world we live in. Across the globe, we are already seeing the impact of climate change affecting lives and communities, particularly in some of the poorest parts of the world. Motivated by our own faith and our care for all of God’s people, we are committed here in London to reducing our carbon emissions as far and as fast as possible’.

Oh dear...well, at least when they close their buildings, maybe some of them can be converted - if it’s still ok to use that term - into community gardens to offset the carbon emission from all the candles they historically burned. Or maybe she can join the Pope in blessing blocks of ice?

All of which is to say - as my children would express it - if Mullally is the best candidate for archbishop, then the Church of England is officially ‘cooked’. That said, the writing has been on the wall for some time, as this picture from their recent convention illustrates [Below]...



Mark Powell, Pastor at Cornerstone Presbyterian Church, Hobart.
Full article at:
<https://dailydeclaration.org.au/2025/10/08/anglican-communion-cooked/>

Editor’s comment: The Church of England (CofE) has for centuries been drifting, even since the age of the Puritans. To justify female bishops, the Church of England points to Galatians 3:28 - which has nothing to do with offices but rather salvation. Scriptures on male leadership (1Tim.; Tit.) are considered now culturally irrelevant. Sadly the CofE has not learned from the demise of Denominations before them which have been decimated by unbiblical changes which follow the changing ungodly cultures of the age. Just look at the Methodist, Episcopal and Uniting Church (Australia) - all wracked with divisions and ideologies of the world...and the Gospel is lost.

Why the Worldwide Anglican Communion is Cooked



It would be difficult to exaggerate the mistake the Church of England has made in appointing Sarah Mullally to be the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury. At a time when there is a well recognised demographic crisis in Church of England ministry, this could well push the denomination over the edge into complete cultural and especially spiritual irrelevancy.

In contrast to what Daniel French recently wrote in the *Spectator Australia*, Mullally won’t fix the church but further break it apart, because she will take the denomination Henry VIII - not Augustine - first formed fully to the left. As Gerald Bray, Distinguished Professor of Historical Theology at Knox Theological Seminary in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, has written in *Evangelicals Now*: *‘Her theological training and ministerial experience are minimal. She was enrolled on a local ordination course rather than at a theological college and served a couple of part-time curacies before being very briefly rector of a parish church. She was soon promoted to the episcopate as suffragan bishop of Crediton, but her main achievement appears to be she was a competent administrator in the National Health Service. Is a record like that promising for a future Archbishop of Canterbury? The short answer must be no. Under trained, inexperienced, with a proper job somewhere else, the only reason she became a bishop is that she was a woman when women were wanted and in short supply. A man in her position would never have been considered. General awareness of that will make her task exceptionally difficult. Everybody in the Church of England will be polite to her, few will listen to whatever she says’.*

Dr Ashenden, former chaplain to the Queen, has referred to her as the ultimate D.E.I hire, which will ultimately help people join the Roman Catholic Church.

Many are already predicting that this will result in what they are labelling as *‘The Impending Worldwide Anglican Schism’* and a *‘Turning Point for the Church’*. As even satirical website The Babylon Bee has stated: *‘First Female Archbishop of Canterbury Is As Woke as You’d Imagined’*.

The Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON) issued an important statement in which it graciously but boldly stated in response to Mullally’s appointment that *‘This appointment abandons global Anglicans, as the Church of England has chosen a leader who will further divide an already split Communion. For over a century and a half, the Archbishop of Canterbury functioned not only as the Primate of England but also as spiritual and moral leader of the Anglican Communion. In recent times, the See of Canterbury was described as one of the four ‘Instruments of Communion’ whilst also chairing the other three Instruments, namely the Lambeth Conference, the Primates Meeting and the Anglican Consultative Council. However, due to the failure of successive Archbishops of Canterbury to guard the faith, the office can no longer function as a credible leader of Anglicans, let alone a focus of unity. As was made clear in the Kigali Commitment of 2023, we can ‘no longer recognise the Archbishop of Canterbury as an Instrument of Communion’ or the ‘first among equals’ of global Primates.*

Let me expand and briefly explain why the members of GAFCON are completely correct.

Moral Fence-Sitter

First, when it comes to the topic of abortion, Mullally is a confusing mixture of pro-choice and pro-life. In 2012, Mullally wrote: *'I would suspect that I would describe my approach to this issue as pro-choice rather than pro live (sic) although if it were a continuum I would be somewhere along it moving towards pro-life when it relates to my choice and then enabling choice when it related to others - if that makes any sense'*. No, I'm sorry, that doesn't make any sense at all and sounds as though you're trying to have a bet each way. It's the same kind of contorted logic that says 'Personally I'm in favour of the abolition of slavery, but I'm also supportive of another person's right to be master of another human being'.

Second, Mullally is just as inconsistent - or what Anglicans would like to refer to as 'theologically nuanced' - on the subject of everything LGBTIQ+. Mullally has desperately tried to weave a convoluted path between historic Christianity and the present sexual zeitgeist. As Rev. Dr Michael Bird, Deputy Principal, Academic and Lecturer in Theology at Ridley College in Melbourne, Australia, explains: *'She supports the Church of England's current teaching that marriage is between one man and one woman for life, though she has advocated for inclusive pastoral care for LGBTQ+ individuals. Mullally led the 'Living in Love and Faith' project for many years, a church-wide consultation exploring questions around marriage and sexuality. This work eventually led to the 'Prayers of Love and Faith', services of blessings for same-sex couples now available in Church of England parishes'*.

So, once again, Mullally's doctrinal and pastoral position has the same spiritual certainty of nailing jelly to the wall. My personal prediction is that, just like one of her predecessors Rowan Williams has done, Mullally's view will 'evolve' to be more and more inclusive. Although, unlike Williams, I'm pretty sure Mullally will reach the same - and possibly even more progressive - position he did while she is still archbishop. The reason I say this is because of how she has already responded to questioning around Pride events and the safety of children.

Bland Bureaucrat

Third, Mullally is an institutional bureaucrat and not a spiritual leader. Daniel French admirably writes that, *'Mostly I long for the new Primate of All England to dismantle this careerist, corporatist, managerial culture. Burn it down. Return to basics, starting with prayer'*?

Umm, does French though have any idea at all who Mullally is? As the former Chief Nursing Officer of England, bureaucracy is in her blood. As Michael Bird - who, by the way, was 'delighted' by her appointment - explains: *'As Bishop of London, Mullally has demonstrated significant administrative capability, having been tasked with modernising and professionalising what had been described as a diocese riven with factions between warring theological tribes and dogged by*

safeguarding troubles. Her NHS leadership experience equipped her for this managerial challenge, though her bureaucratic approach has raised some complaints, particularly among traditionalists'.

In case you still had doubts, Gerry Lynch who formerly worked with Mullally, has written on social media this blunt assessment: *'It's not easy to give a fair and balanced public assessment of someone you know personally, even slightly, but here is my best attempt as someone who knows Sarah Mullally slightly - she was Canon Treasurer at Salisbury Cathedral when I arrived in the city 12 years ago'*.

The strengths: Sarah is a superlative behind-the-scenes operator of the Church's machinery; she knows what governance is about and how to make machinery of governance work. Her colleagues regularly spoke exceptionally highly of her in this regard, spontaneously and without prompting, when she was in this diocese. She has succeeded as a liberal, Central Tradition, Bishop of London, in holding together a notoriously difficult diocese with large blocks of Conservatives on both the Evangelical and Anglo-Catholic ends of the C of E. It isn't even that the Diocese of London is a microcosm of the entire Church of England - it's actually far more difficult and far more divided than most of the rest of the Church, and it has been for decades. I presume that's why she got the job - she's seen as the person to improve the operation of central machinery and hold the Church together in an era of threatened splits and repeated criticism of poor governance.

The weaknesses: Sarah isn't a great preacher and isn't a great public communicator. She'll have people round her to help with this. She'll need them...'

Hence, rather than 'dismantle this careerist, corporatist, managerial culture', Mullally is more than likely to only further build it up. If you're hope for the new archbishop is ecclesiastical iconoclasm, or passionate preaching that inspires, then you've sadly backed the wrong horse.

Cultural Marxist

Fourth, Mullally is a believer in Critical Race Theory, or as others have more accurately referred to it, 'The New Religion of Woke'. Ironically, I would have thought that that was more than a little inappropriate for the most senior Archbishop in the Church of England to hold to, but then again, it is 2025.

Just to be clear, the worldview of wokeness is completely antithetical to the Christian faith, as I have sought to explain before...Mullally is clearly committed, though, to the core woke convictions of D.E.I. But as others have pointed out, her sense of 'social justice' didn't also include the likes of Calvin Robinson, whom it seems she prevented from being ordained because he didn't believe that the Church of England was institutionally racist.

Although, since that time, Robinson has also been more than clear in what he thinks about her clerical illegitimacy...

Fifth, Mullally is, quite frankly, too emotionally fragile for such an important and influential role, especially when dealing with the proponents of the 'Religion of Peace'. One of the more cringeworthy clips going around is of Mullally weeping