

Hearing...

I hear some “spiritual teachers” claim... *I’ve got a... new... special...way of getting closer to God. If you’ll just follow my way to God... you’ll experience Him in a... new... special... way—a way that’s never been experienced before... until... He showed it to me in... a vision... a dream. And... it’s all in my book at Amazon... or, better yet... at my seminar.*

I pause... then I remember... their “angle” is what’s been tried in times past to no avail... was forgotten... and, today... is repackaged as the ... *new... that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun. Is there any thing whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us... That which is crooked cannot be made straight: and that which is wanting cannot be numbered...*

*whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him. That which hath been is now; and that which is to be hath already been; and God requireth that which is past* ([Ecclesiastes 1:8-10,15; 3:14-15](#)).

The rhetoric of... *clear out your mind... quiet your soul... repeat a prayer over-and-over... and, what’s whispered to you is... God speaking...* is NOT innocent—it’s down-right destructive... dangerous.

I’d rather not have experience to speak from... but, I do.

As a young man, I started to pursue the... visualization... positive affirmations... positive thinking crowd. I wasn’t trying to blatantly run away from God... but, “successful voices” in the business world were recommending the stuff. Then... I ran into “christianized” versions of... *see it... speak it... it’s yours... wait in silence until a voice... or “tingle”... speaks to you...* so... I thought I was on the right track. The result—I couldn’t *set aside the sins that beset me* for any length of time.

I’m not saying God will not speak to us in a dream... prompting... or, what we see in the natural (He did create the natural)—but, it has to point to... support... be in agreement with... highlight... God’s written Word—the whole Word... not just “spotlighted” scripture. It has to reveal who Jesus Christ is... in context of the Holy Bible. And... I don’t base this solely on my opinion of... *I had a vision.*

The Holy Spirit authored... through inspiring humans to write, record, and preserve for us... the Word of God revealing Jesus Christ for us to read... *All scripture is given by inspiration of God... (2 Timothy 3:16)*. That’s what the Holy Spirit does... He reveals Christ... *when he, the Spirit of truth, is come... for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak... He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine* [including God’s Word], *and shall shew it unto you... he shall testify of me...* ([John 16:13-14; 15:26](#)).

How can I claim God's Word is verifiable? Just live life for awhile. What's written is experienced over time—if we “buck” the Word of God... we'll experience the *warnings* of doing so.

In times past when I've veered off... venturing... to find the “new” approach... I'd eventually end-up talking about the central doctrine of Jesus Christ as described in God's Word. I ultimately wasn't willing to let go of this doctrine in lieu of the... “new”. Why? Because when I start thinking about the Jesus Christ as revealed in the Word of God... my heart starts to experience... *joy... hope*.

God's Word... the Living Word... Jesus Christ... *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us... (John 1:1-14)...* was left for us in “substance and evidence” form (the Holy Bible) we can read. And, with Christ's Life... the Holy Spirit... who He sent to us when He returned to God the Father... we can understand what He's done for us... and, what He has in mind for us who are grafted into God's Holy Nation—Israel—by faith in Jesus Christ... *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life...*

*Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost...*

*ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people...*

*For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. (John3:16; Acts 2:38;1 Peter 2:9-10; Jeremiah 29:10-14).*

What about those who have no access to the Word of God—do they have an excuse for not knowing Jesus Christ? Is the natural a valid testimony about Jesus Christ... *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse...*

*The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork (Romans 1:18-25; Psalm 19:1)?* This doesn't give us an excuse for not studying the Bible. We have it... we can read... let's take advantage of it.

This being said...

After years of... frustration... failure... confusion... I've learned my... Lord... Master... Savior... Creator... the only begotten Sod of God... King of kings... Lord of lords... doesn't seem to operate based on what He... *dreams... feels... sees... hears*.

I don't base this on what I... *feel*. So... what “substance and evidence” do I base this on?

If Jesus Christ appears to not judge by what He sees... or, make a decision by what He hears... *he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears* (Isaiah 11:3)... then... how does He lead? He leads by... *the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord*; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord... *with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth... And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins...* ([Isaiah 11:1-10](#)).

Jesus Christ operates the way we're supposed to... *Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows...*

*The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate... By me [the spirit of wisdom and understanding] kings reign, and princes decree justice... princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth...* ([Hebrews 1:8-11](#); [Psalm 45:6-7](#); [Proverbs 8:13-16](#)). He operates by the *tangible*... *the fruit of*... *the actions*... that we can... *see*... *describe*... *engage*. (Also, see the [essay... Fill 'er Up](#).)

And... it seems He has no plans to change... *I am the LORD, I change not...*

*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever...*

*the word of our God shall stand for ever...*

*Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away* ([Malachi 3:6](#); [Hebrews 13:7-9](#); [Isaiah 40:8](#); [Luke 21:32-34](#)).

I underlined... *the word of our God*... because scripture seems to testify Jesus Christ... our Creator... acts in accordance with His own Word—the *Word of God*—the Holy Bible. If Christ would react to what He sees and *feels* at the moment... He would've bowed to the temptations thrown at Him by Satan. He stayed faithful—He... anchored... countered... and, overcame the deception... with the “substance and evidence” of... *It is written*... ([Matthew 4:1-11](#)).

Jesus Christ judges and acts in agreement with the Word of God...

*Jesus answered them, and said, **My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.** If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but **he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him...***

*For **he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God**: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand...*

And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: **the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day...**

I can of mine own self do nothing: **as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me...**

For I have not spoken of myself; but **the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak.** And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even **as the Father said unto me, so I speak...**

Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? **the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works...**

**I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things...** I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you...

Jesus saith unto them, **If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham...**

Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, **My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure...** ([John 7:16-18; 3:33-35; 12:46-48; 5:29-31; 12:49-50; 14:9-11; 8:27-29,37-39; Isaiah 46:9-10](#)).

If King David... *a man after mine* [God's] *own heart...* ([Acts 13:21-23](#))... wrote Psalm 119 (which some think it sounds like he did by the language)... he described what the Word of God meant to him...

Let thy mercies come also unto me, O LORD, even thy salvation, **according to thy word.** So shall I have wherewith to answer him that reproacheth me: for **I trust in thy word.** And take not the **word of truth utterly out of my mouth; for I have hoped in thy judgments...**

Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: **give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.** They that fear thee will be glad when they see me; because **I have hoped in thy word.** I know, O LORD, that thy judgments are right, and that thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me...

**Through thy precepts I get understanding:** therefore I hate every false way. **Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.** I have sworn, and I will perform it, that **I will keep thy righteous judgments ...**

*My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy statutes. **My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness...***

*For **the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth. He loveth righteousness and judgment...***

*for **thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name...***

***Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him (Psalm 119:41-43,73-75,104-106, 171-173; 33:3-5; 138:1-3; Proverbs 30:4-6).***

*And... we're warned if we don't have the same attitude... **Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded (Proverbs 13:12-14).***

God's Word is for our blessing...

*Sanctify them through thy truth: **thy word is truth...***

*It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: **the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life...***

***All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...***

*Incline your ear, and **come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David...** For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD... For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but **watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it (John 17:16-18; 6:62-64; 2 Timothy 3:16; Isaiah 55:1-4,8-11).***

We're formed from the Earth... *of the earth, earthy (1 Corinthians 15:46-48)...* to bear fruit from... *good ground...* the heart of flesh of the New Covenant ([Matthew 13:18-24](#))—made possible by the *watering of His Word... hear, and your soul shall live... watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud... So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth... .*

If someone says... *I have a word... a dream...* it had better be in agreement *the whole picture* given to us in God's complete Word—from Genesis to Revelation—not just *cherry picked* verses.

An example I've wrestled with:

There's the scripture... *Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world* (ASV) ([Matthew 28:18-20](#)).

This scripture in isolation would seem to say... *Christ commanded us to go... conquer the world for His glory*. Sounds righteous... but, is this the complete story?

Can complete victory be secured... thus... eliminating the ills of the world ... during "our current watch"?

Let's look at some excerpts from the [Essay... Turn Out the Lights...](#)

[Christ has returned to the Father—the "Light"... the Life of Christ... presently in the world is found only in the Holy Spirit (moon)... who shines in the Church (stars). They're the "Light" for the darkness (night) in the world—a world that appears to not want the "Light" ...

*the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not...*

*And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved...*

*Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you...*

*Redeeming the time, because the days are evil...* ([John 1:4-5; 3:19-20; 1 John 3:12-13; Ephesians 5:15-16](#)).

Even though the world will hate... it loves darkness... the Light must still shine...

*The Lord ... is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance...*

*As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live...* ([2 Peter 3:9; John 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:3-4; Ezekiel 33:11](#)). *Turn Out the Lights*, pp.7-8

Today... not all Jews have been... *clothed*. By this I mean... Gentile Christians are part of... *the commonwealth of Israel... the household of God...* ([Romans 11:17](#))... but, not all of Israel is part of the Body of Christ—only those who accept Jesus Christ as... Yeshua. Like Jews and Gentiles to date... it would seem not all of Israel will accept Jesus Christ... Yeshua...

*narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it...*

*saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein...*

*The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth...*

*Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, "THOUGH THE NUMBER OF THE SONS OF ISRAEL BE LIKE THE SAND OF THE SEA, IT IS THE REMNANT THAT WILL BE SAVED; FOR THE LORD WILL EXECUTE HIS WORD ON THE EARTH, THOROUGHLY AND QUICKLY." And just as Isaiah foretold, "UNLESS THE LORD OF SABAOth HAD LEFT TO US A POSTERITY, WE WOULD HAVE BECOME LIKE SODOM, AND WOULD HAVE RESEMBLED GOMORRAH" (NASB)... ([Matthew 7:13-15](#); [Zechariah 13:7-9](#); [Zephaniah 3:13-17](#); [Romans 9: 24-29](#)). *Turn Out the Lights*, p. 23]*

Further... let's not forget the language... *the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition...*

*For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many...*

*And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many...*

*But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways... ([2 Thessalonians 2:2-4](#); [Mark 13:5-7](#); [Matthew 24:9-11](#); [2 Peter 2:1-3](#)).*

The language... or, preaching of... *make disciples of all the nations... means we must conquer the world for Christ... doesn't match with... a falling away... shall deceive many... And many shall follow their [the false prophets] pernicious ways... narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it... two parts therein shall be cut off and die... The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity... IT IS THE REMNANT THAT WILL BE SAVED... . How do we reconcile these messages that seem to contradict? There's going to be some "gear grinding"... contorting the Word of God... to hold to one position... or, the other—and, we will... if we stop short of looking further into God's Word—if we don't let God's Word interpret God's Word.*

When we go further to look at God's promises to the Hebrews... Israel... the seed of Abraham... and, how the Lamb's Wife is described... the picture seems to change.

See the sections towards the end of the [Essay... Turn Out the Lights...](#) for the context of the following excerpt...

*[...Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth... Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God... Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven... Ye are the salt of the earth... Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid (Matthew 5:5,9-10,13-14)...*

(It's one thing to be a... *light*... it's another when the people... the nations... actually desire that light. Today, as it gets darker... I'd say this isn't the case... as it was at Christ's first coming... *and men loved darkness rather than light... and... I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you...* [John 3:19-20; 15:18-19; Matthew 24:3,9](#))

*They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious* (Isaiah 11:9-10)... . *Turn Out the Lights*, p. 30]

Yes... we're to share the Gospel and make disciples. We're commanded to. The Saints are Children of Light... not darkness... *Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness* ([1 Thessalonians 5:4-6](#)). If we joyfully anticipate the ... *marriage supper of the Lamb*... we can't help but share this joy. However... the following language from God's Word... *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD...*

*Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away...* does seem to be in agreement with... *Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence* ([Isaiah 11:9-10; Revelation 21:3-4; John 18:35-36](#)).

Said another way... God describes through His Word... how... when... He will establish His Kingdom... and, what it will be like. To ignore this part of the story... seems... from what I've experienced... and, read in the Bible historically (i.e. King Saul, King Solomon, the rogue Kings of Judah and Israel, the Sadducees and Pharisees, the Romans, the Greeks, etc. Also see [the Essay... Doctrines](#).)... is where idolatry and cults develop. They incorporate occult practices to establish... *a kingdom of their imagination... that will eventually burn up being reserved for darkness* ([2 Peter 3:10; Jude 1:12-13](#)). They reject the promises of God—His Kingdom... *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine... And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables* ([2 Timothy 4:1-4](#)). (Also... see the [Essay... What's Love Got to Do With It?](#))

The other side of the story—Abraham... his heirs... his Seed... know... believe... accept... God's Word... *For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness...*

*For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God...*

*they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city* ([Romans 4:2-4; Hebrews 11:8-16](#)).

When we see the destination... the road map makes sense... *Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he* ([Proverbs 29:18](#)).

Without *the Spirit of the fear of the Lord*... excesses seem to develop distorting our mind... *Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: why shouldest thou destroy thyself? Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time? It is good that thou shouldest take hold of this; yea, also from this withdraw not thine hand: for he that feareth God shall come forth of them all* ([Ecclesiastes 7:15-18](#)).

God tells us to be a student in His Word... *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*... so we'll not become untracked... *But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness* ([2 Timothy 2:14-16](#)).

This is just how I see it right now... it doesn't mean I'm right... I'm still learning... checkout the scriptures in context.

Said another way... don't take *my* word for it... only take God's Word for it. And... you can if... you know what it is.

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*All text reference scripture quoted or discussed is King James Version unless otherwise noted. Bold, colored lettering, brackets [my understanding of things right now], and underline—mine.*

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