

"THE WORDS OF THE LORD ARE PURE WORDS, LIKE SILVER TRIED IN  
A FURNACE OF EARTH, PURIFIED SEVEN TIMES.  
YOU SHALL KEEP THEM, O LORD, YOU SHALL PRESERVE THEM FROM  
THIS GENERATION FOREVER." (PSALM 12: 6 & 7)

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## **“Test All Things”**

*“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.” (1 John 4:1)*

*“Test all things; hold fast what is good.” (1 Thessalonians 5:21)*

*“Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.” (Matthew 24:11)*

For the past sixty-eight years, I have experienced life on the planet earth; and all of those years have been lived within the Christian community --- among those who claim to believe in and follow Jesus Christ. During this nearly seven decades, I have been a member of several Christian denominations, including an independent-charismatic church; and I have fellowshipped in numerous other churches representing the major branches of the Christian faith that are active in this season of time. In addition to my personal experience within what we refer to as “the church”, I have made it a point to study the historic record of our beginnings (as the church) from the day of Pentecost, as well as our history which had it’s origin in the Garden.

For the past 10 years or so, I have searched the scriptures as well as the early historic record relating to the behavior of God’s people, and God’s response to His people’s behavior. What I discovered is that there are patterns of behavior that are repeated over and over again, down through time. I also discovered that God has always responded in the same way to the behavioral patterns of His people. This is not surprising in light of His declaration:

*“I am the Lord, I do not change;” (Malachi 3:6a)*

Our current behavior, as it relates to what God has said to us, is quite similar to that of our forefathers. In fact, we are just repeating once again, a response to God’s word that was prevalent in the days of Moses, as he led God’s people through the wilderness. Our behavior today is a repeat of our behavior in the days of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Hosea, Amos, Micah, Zephaniah, Malachi, etc. The historical record, both ancient and modern, declares that nothing has changed; as we were, so we are, even now:

*“That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun. Is there anything of which it may be said, “See this is new”? It has already been in ancient times before us. There is no remembrance of former things, nor will there be any remembrance of things that are to come, by those who will come after.” (Ecclesiastes 1:9-11)*

As I reflect on our past history, our present behavior (which mirrors that of our forefathers), and our God’s never changing response to such behavior, I am absolutely amazed that there are so few of us who “test all things spiritual”. I am amazed!! With our eternal destiny at stake, how can we allow ourselves to be programmed by the countless voices of religion and the dictates of our own heart, without eating the Word of God and “testing all things” under the tutorship of the Holy Spirit, and do so with such indifference to the Word of God? How can we? I am truly amazed!

Is it any wonder that we find ourselves in such a state of spiritual bankruptcy, when we have ignored our Heavenly Father, and chosen instead, to follow a man or an institution of man? Surely such behavior is the result of our having lost all fear of God; and it also gives some insight into our Lord’s statement when He said: *“Many are called, but few are chosen” (Matthew 22:14).*

Dear reader, the Book that we call the Holy Bible is either God’s word or it is not! It is either what it says of itself, or it is not! The Holy Bible is either True, or it is a lie! Each of us must choose what we believe concerning this ancient Book; parts of which are 4,000+ years old. We can believe it to be untrue, partially true or true. Most of us believe it to be whatever we have been programmed (some from birth) to believe it to be. We go through life rarely questioning what our preacher, priest, teacher or denomination tells us about this book that no man, nor government, nor nation, has been able to silence. Many of us, after receiving the blessing of life, and the opportunity “to become children of God” (John 1:12), go to our graves filled with deception ----- never having come to the knowledge of the Truth (2 Timothy 3:1-7).

The older we become, the more convinced we are that we have the Truth; and the less teachable we become, until there is no hope for change --- apart from God’s intervening directly, and the record indicates that He rarely does that.

A couple of years ago, I was sitting in my doctor’s examination room, in the process of getting an annual physical. I asked my doctor, who is a believer and an active member of the Christian community here in Kentucky, the following question: “Why do you believe whatever you believe?” There was silence; he was thinking. I could tell that no one had ever asked him this question, and so I repeated it again. “Why do you believe whatever you believe?” My doctor friend continued to think about his response. After a long silence, I answered the question for him: We believe whatever we believe concerning Christ, the Bible, life, death, heaven and hell, according to how we have been “programmed”. Starting from birth, first by parents, then teachers, friends and the church, we are continually being programmed. We at times consciously, and at times subconsciously, allow ourselves to be programmed by the church, and by books and articles that we expose ourselves to. Over time we literally become the likeness and image of whatever we have been programmed to be.

The end result for man is that he becomes a Baptist, a Methodist, a Catholic, an independent charismatic, a Muslim, Hindu, etc.; each of us sincerely believing that we have the truth, that we are

right, slowly become so rigid and un-teachable that the “lie” becomes our “truth” and we are given over, by God, to the “many” who are not chosen (Matthew 22:14);

*“because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”*  
(2 Thessalonians 2:10-12)

My doctor friend agreed that in fact, we have been programmed. I then asked him why Christians will not “think” for themselves, and seek the Truth? His response was immediate: “We are too lazy!” I agreed. It is much easier just to follow a man or movement that we feel comfortable with and enjoy; that way we can continue to do our own thing, satisfy our own affections (2 Corinthians 6:12) and avoid the pain and suffering of the cross. God’s word becomes almost irrelevant except the parts that we lift out of context to give us comfort in our deceived state of mind and heart. In mass we press on through time toward our eternal destination with no fear of God, and virtually no thought given to God’s word. We much prefer the words of “A Purpose Driven Life”, “The Shack”, or “The Prayer of Jabez”, or some other book of man ---- anything but the “Blood Soaked Word of God”! May God have mercy on those of us who show such blatant, blasphemous, disrespect for the Word of God! May God have mercy!

Dear reader, it is written:

*“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.”*  
(Matthew 4:4)

If you have been receiving my letters for very long, you know that I am continually pleading with my readers to read, study, eat and meditate on every word that proceeds from the mouth of God and recorded between Genesis 1:1 and Revelation 22:21. The very foundation of our Lord’s message to us is summed up in Matthew 4:4. No man can live life as Father intended that we live it, except by the Word of God. No man is drawn to Christ, no man saved, no man sanctified, no man will enter into heaven, except by the Word of God. When all is said and done, Jesus Christ declared:

*“He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him --- the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.”* (John 12:48)

Each one of us will be judged by the Word of God, and that is an absolute, unavoidable fact! Most professing Christians do not fear God, and as a result, they are unmoved by His word, being quite content with their “form” of Christianity, regardless of what “Is written”. This is why I am compelled to continually warn you of the consequences of neglecting the Word of God.

*“Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him.”* (Hebrews 2:1-3)

The primary focus of modern-day Christianity is upon “man”, and not the Word of God. Even among those who call themselves “evangelical” or “Spirit filled” (look up the meaning of “filled”) Bible believing Christians, the vast majority focus on how they can claim their spiritual blessings of financial prosperity, good health, soundness of mind, peace, etc. Of course, we throw in a few good works along the way, which help us earn credits with God; and then there is “money”.

Sooner or later, money becomes our primary focus, both for the church and its parishioners. Without God’s word reproducing itself in us, we are unaware that our Lord reserved some of His most scathing comments for the issue of “money” (Luke 18:24&25). Without the Knowledge of God, which comes through His Word (Psalm 119:1&2) we suffer loss and are destroyed (Hosea 4:6). Faith, without which it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6) comes through the hearing of God’s Word (Romans 10:17). In truth, faith begins in the Word of God (John 1:1) and ends there for every soul of man (John 12:48). There are no exceptions! None!

These truths alone should cause all professing Christians to pause and consider their own personal attitude toward the Word of God; the fact that they don’t, confirms the Word as written:

*“Let no one deceive you by any means; for that day (our Lord’s return) will not come unless the falling away comes first,” (2 Thessalonians 2:3a)*

*“When the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8b)*

Father’s word warns us clearly that prior to the return of Jesus Christ, there would be a “falling away” from faith. Since “faith” only comes from the “hearing” of the Word, it is clear that the “falling away” from faith is the fruit of neglecting, or not hearing, God’s Word. So great would this “falling away” be, that Jesus Himself, questioned whether or not He would find any faith left, when He returned. Again, we find that our present state of Spiritual bankruptcy has not taken Father by surprise; in fact, He warned us ahead of time ----- as it is written:

*“Behold, the days are coming”, says the Lord God, “That I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, seeking the Word of the Lord, but shall not find it.” (Amos 8:11&12)*

*“In them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive; for the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.” (Matthew 13:14&15)*

Dear reader, you and I are living out God’s prophetic word in ----- “real time”. What Father has declared would be ----- “is”! Hear me saints ----- please hear me! When I say: This is one of, if not “the”, most spiritually dangerous time in the history of the Church. Deception, in the church, has reached pandemic levels. Satan has disguised himself as an angel of light, accompanied by his ministers of righteousness (2 Corinthians 11:13-15), and they are moving freely among those who have no fear of, nor knowledge of God. These demonic spirits are reeking havoc among those who have no appetite for the Word of God, and do not “test all things spiritual”. I am fully persuaded, by

the Word of God, that the human losses are staggering and beyond our comprehension. May God have mercy on us all.

If you value your life, I urge you to begin --- NOW! --- to question and test all things spiritual, by the Word of God. Do not, I repeat, do not depend upon my word, your pastor's word, your priest's word, your teacher's word, the Pope's word, nor the word of any man of the flesh. TRUST only the Word of God, under the tutorship of the Holy Spirit; always remembering that --- It is written:

*"Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar." (Romans 3:4a)*

*"God is not a man, that He should lie, nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"  
(Numbers 23:19)*

*"Forever, O Lord, Your word is settled in heaven." (Psalm 119:89)*

The more excellent ones, from God's viewpoint are those who have a love for the Truth, and as they seek the Truth, they continually test all things by the Word of God. When they receive Father's gift of revelation, they are granted the grace to walk in the Spirit, confirming God's word ----- regardless of the cost ----- even unto death. May these words encourage, at least a few of us, to join with our forefathers in Berea ----- as it is written:

*"Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the Word with all readiness and searched the scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so." (Acts 17:10&11)*

Finally:

*"On this one I will look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word." (Isaiah 66:2b)*

Your brother,

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Thomas

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