

# What is the Temple of God?

Fred R. Coulter—February 21, 2015

Matt. 13 is quite a Scripture, when you think about it. Remember what Jesus told the Laodiceans. He said, 'I would that you would either hot or cold.' No in-between, no lukewarm, no tepid nicey-nicey. None of those things.

Let's show you something very important concerning how God works. Today's Christianity thinks that they have to get out and save the world. I got a great big flyer through the mail one day that said, World Prayer Project.

Let's see that Jesus, in many cases, to the average person looking at Him that God wasn't calling and hearing Him, He wasn't very nice. Remember what He told the man who said, 'Oh, Lord, I'll follow You wherever You go, but let me go bury my father.' Jesus said, 'Let the dead bury their dead.' Can you imagine how that would hit the television today?

Matthew 13:10: "And His disciples came to Him and asked, 'Why do You speak to them in parables?'" In v 11 He begins to answer. This is quite something! Remember at this time He had the 12 disciples with Him and here are all these crowds following Him. 'Oh, Jesus, oh, Jesus, heal me, let me touch the hem of your garment.' He healed thousands and thousands, but none of them were ever converted.

"... 'Why do You speak to them in parables.' "And He answered *and* said to them, 'Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven, but to them it has not been given'" (vs 10-11). Very interesting.

Remember when Jesus prayed His last prayer. He said, 'I pray for them, those whom You have given Me, that You would keep them from the evil one.' Then He made an astounding statement, 'I do not pray for the world.' Amazing!

Verse 12: "For whoever has *understanding*, to him more shall be given, and he shall have an abundance; but whoever does not have *understanding*, even what he has shall be taken away from him." That's why He gave the parable the sower of the seed, if you do not take it and use it and apply it, then it will just disappear from you.

For example: Some people, because of problems in the churches, quit keeping the Sabbath. God's Spirit was with them and in some cases after years nagging in the back of their mind. Knock, knock, **knock!** But what happened? Everything faded away except the very little bit that God used to call them back. It was taken from them. In order to get it back, they had to repent and come to God.

It's the same way in the world. What do we see happening with Christianity in the world? When this country was founded about the only thing that they didn't have right was the Sabbath. Even in New England, which now is a den of Satan's iniquity and liberalism beyond belief, the universities of liars and cheats and Grubers. Remember who Gruber was? *Yes!*

What's happening to it because they do not want to go God's way? *It's being taken away!* Now they're all ready to run back to Rome. Look at what happens. There is, through the centuries then, the result of incrementalism, step-by-step-by-step. That's why:

- we need the Sabbath
- we need the Holy Days
- we need the Word of God
- we need study
- we need prayer

because God is giving us spiritual knowledge and information and greater than that.

Verse 13: "For this *reason* I speak to them in parables, because seeing, they see not; and hearing, they hear not; neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, which says, 'In hearing you shall hear...' " (vs 13-14).

Just to show you how that comes about, I got an e-mail the other day about someone who was trying to prove the first day of the week in the Gospels where it mentions the women came on the first day of the week, and so forth, and he said that should be the first-day Sabbath. In other words, trying to say this is Sunday-keeping. If it's Sunday-keeping, don't go to church, go to a graveyard. That's what the women did. Who is in the graveyard? *The dead!* And who are spiritually dead? It all fits.

"...and in no way understand; and *in* seeing you shall see, and in no way perceive... [Here is the division. You've heard me mention this recently; there is a division.] ...For the heart of this people has grown fat, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and should hear with their ears, and should understand with their hearts, and should be converted, and I should heal them'" (vs 14-15). Think on that!

God wants them either hot or cold. He wants us converted and with them He wants them to be blinded, so that in the second resurrection He can take it away.

Verse 16: “But blessed *are* your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear.”

How does God reach down in this world and call individuals without the world even knowing it? Yes, those who are looking for aliens have one thing right, God the Father and His angels are aliens. They do have spirit beings as their friends: Satan and the demons. So don't you suppose that the world is being prepared to fight Christ when He returns? *Yes, indeed!* Here they come. Won't they be surprised.

How does God do this? *It's a spiritual exercise!* Let's see what it is. This is something that God the Father and Jesus Christ do together.

Revelation 1:4: “John to the seven churches that *are* in Asia...” He wrote the letters. Some people say, ‘Why didn't Jesus write anything that we could read?’ He did, two chapters, Rev. 2 and 3 to His people. All the rest He sent through His prophets to the world. Hopefully they may listen one way or the other, but are not.

“...Grace and peace *be* to you from Him Who is, and Who was, and Who *is* to come; and from the seven spirits that are before His throne” (v 4). What are they? That's part of how God works in the world, so the world will never see Him.

Revelation 4:5: “And proceeding from the throne were lightnings and thunders and voices, and seven lamps of fire, which are the seven Spirit of God...” What do they do? *The truth is when you began to understand the Word of God, you heard the Gospel!* You wanted to do something with it. You wanted God. You were in trouble, whatever it was. God uses the seven Spirits to begin contact with those people to see if they really want God or not.

Revelation 5:6: “Then I saw, and behold, before the throne and the four living creatures, and before the elders, *was* standing a Lamb [Christ] as having been slain... [everything about His life, death, and resurrection] ...having seven horns...”

What are horns in the book of Daniel? *They are likened to nations!* If He has seven horns in His head, Who is the Head of the Church? *Jesus Christ!* How many Churches are in Rev. 2 and 3? *Seven!* These represent the seven Churches.

“...and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God that are sent into all the earth” (v 6). For what purpose? *To find those who are seeking God!*

Today we can understand how that works, because we have satellites going around the earth here and they can do many wondrous things. They can even from how far up get your license plate loud and clear. So, you're going 90 miles an hour to escape from a crime and when you get to where

you're going the police are there. The satellite read it and conveyed the information to them and they went ahead and met you.

2-Chron. 15 tells us what the seven eyes do. So, out of the billions of people on the earth, and in some cases, all they know is someone who preached the Gospel, they cry out to God and they are really sincere. How is God going to raise people up and let's them know that God answers? *Sends one of the seven Spirits!*

2-Chronicles 15:1: “And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded. And he went out to meet Asa, and said to him, ‘Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. The LORD *is* with you while you are with Him. And if you seek Him, He will be found by you. But if you forsake Him, He will forsake you” (vs 1-2).

What happened? *The Spirit of God led them and brought them back to God!* They also know who is doing good and evil.

2-Chronicles 16:9: “For the eyes of the LORD... [the seven Spirits of God] ...run to and fro in all the whole earth to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart *is* perfect toward Him... [in other words, as long as you are seeking God, He'll deal with you] ...In this you have done foolishly; therefore, from now on you shall have wars.” So it leaves.

How does that work with us? Let's see something very important in Isa. 66. Here is the whole basis for the New Testament. People think if they build buildings, build temples, and everything like that—and didn't Solomon build the temple of God? *Yes, he did!* God's plans, God's instruction. He put His Spirit in there. They saw the cloud. They knew God was in the temple.

Think about what they did with it as we read this. That's why we have the whole history of Israel with the things that they did well, the things that they did wrong, why God dealt with them the way that He did, etc.

Isaiah 66:1: “Thus says the LORD, ‘The heaven *is* My throne, and the earth *is* My footstool. Where, then, *is* the house that you build for Me? And where *is* the place of My rest? For all these things My hand has made...’” (vs 1-2). God is saying, ‘What are you going to do for Me with what I've already made? What is it you're going to do?’

“...and these things came to be,’ says the LORD. ‘But to this one I will look, to him who is of a poor and contrite spirit and who trembles at My Word’” (v 2). That is where the difference is. That is the whole difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant.

- the New Covenant is a spiritual operation
- the Old Covenant was partly spiritual, but mostly physical

They were never the Holy Spirit of God unto conversion. That's one of the key important things to know about the things in the Old Testament. The only ones who were called to conversion were the prophets and certain kings, as Peter says there in 1-Pet. 1:10, they had the Spirit of Christ, prophesying of what would be done here.

What happens? *God says, if you don't do that, you can have a temple!* You can have the priesthood, you can have all of that. But if your heart is not right, that is the key. *One of who is a poor and contrite spirit, broken-hearted, contrite spirit.*

If not, v 3: "He who kills an ox... [even at the temple of God] ...*is as if he killed a man; he who sacrifices a lamb is as if he broke a dog's neck; he who offers a grain offering is as if he offered swine's blood; he who burns incense is as if he blessed an idol. Yea, they have chosen their own ways... [it's the choice. God sets before us choices all the time] ...and their soul delights in their abominations.*"

How does God deal with us with the seven Spirits? We know it tells us in John 4 that God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. Here again is the division line. Just like with what we read in Matt. 13. He's not calling them to conversion. They're just out there in the world.

John 6:44: "**No one...**" Doesn't matter who or what you are, God has to deal in your life and you have to desire God and His way.

"...**can come to Me unless the Father, Who sent Me, draws him...** [there we have it] ...and I will raise him up at the last day" (v 44).

Sidebar: To solve some confusion. We have a Holy Day that is the 8<sup>th</sup> day after seven days of Feast of Tabernacles. That is called the 8<sup>th</sup> day and it is the Last Great Day. However, this last day is not referring to that last day. Sometimes you need to understand the Scriptures work that way. The reason is, is because when you count from the Feast of Trumpets, which is the day on which the civil year begins, that is the first Holy Day.

Then you have Atonement; that's a second Holy Day. Feast of Tabernacles, first day; that's the third one. Last Great Day; that's the fourth one. Passover is a feast, but not a Holy Day. Then you have the first day of Unleavened Bread, Last Day of Unleavened Bread. What is the last day? **Pentecost!** Interesting.

Let's see something else that happens, because it changes the way you think. It changes the way you look at things, because if you really want God, and you're really seeking His way, He'll keep responding to you.

One of the seven Spirits will search you out. Then you come to a certain point and then God begins to deal with you directly by drawing you. You're not there yet, because you haven't come to complete repentance and ready for baptism, but He is drawing you. That has had to happen with every single one of us, regardless of the circumstances through which God worked.

Then here's what happens, v 45: "It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore, everyone who has heard from the Father, and has learned, comes to Me." There's no forgiveness of sin unless you come to Christ.

- doesn't matter what you can do
- doesn't matter how much money you can give or donate or have
- doesn't matter what you can build or not build

God is not interested in those things, because His hand made it all anyway. He is interested in something special for you. The reason that is so, is because now God no longer dwells in temples made by hands. There's something even more important than that.

Verse 63: "It is the Spirit that gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you, *they* are Spirit and *they* are Life." That's why, when you read the Bible you have meaning come to you that you couldn't get from reading a novel. You couldn't get it from reading a history book, because God's Spirit is involved in it.

Even in the middle of this, v 64. "'But there are some of you who do not believe.' For Jesus knew from *the* beginning who were the ones that did not believe, and who would betray Him. And He said, 'For this reason, I have said to you... [Notice, again:] ...no one can come to Me unless it has been given to him from My Father'" (vs 64-65). This is all part of the process of God:

- calling us
- leading us to repentance
- leading us to baptism
- continuing to lead us through His Spirit

We're going to see why God destroyed the temple twice. He did because of the sins of the people. He also did it because He didn't want any temples around for the spiritual church. Remember what happened to the church in this age that built a

temple in Pasadena? *Yes!* Everyone who builds temples gets himself in trouble.

John 14:6: “Jesus said to him, ‘I am **the Way...**’” That’s why we are to walk in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. Not how people *think* that Jesus did it. Not how people *say* that they would follow Him. He said, “...‘I am the way...’” There’s no other way. He didn’t say *a way*, He said, *the way*.

“...and **the Truth...**” (v 6). The Bible is the whole substance of Truth necessary for us to understand what is God is doing and what conversion is about and what God’s plan is all about. God has one other little secret that He adds to this, very simple: **Obey My voice!** It’s all written here.

You can’t say, ‘How do I hear God?’ He’s gone one step further and had it preserved and printed for you. We’re reading the words of Jesus! *Yes, indeed!* Can God do that? *But of course!*

“I am **the Way**, and **the Truth**, and **the Life...**” (v 6). In other words, you’re not going to get any eternal life any other way than through Jesus Christ and the plan of God.

Since the name of Jesus Christ has so many things going for it, many people are out there trying to have different ways of coming to Jesus. Different churches, different things. You can’t get to the Father, no one—‘ou dunatai’—have *no power*. When it gets so bad, what did God tell Jeremiah? ‘*Don’t even pray for these people, because I’m not going to listen to you!*’ How can a God of love do that? *He has something else in store!* Remember, almost all the questions of the difficulties and problems and disasters in the world are solved with the second resurrection.

God is such a God of love that He’s going to give them a second life—how’s that? He’s going to make it so they can be forgiven their sins—how’s that? Is that not better than what any man can do? Has any man restored one life from WWII? *No!* Or any war that has gone on? *No!*

Verse 10: “Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I speak to you, I do not speak from My own self... [Jesus said, ‘I do nothing of My own self.’] ...but the Father Himself, Who dwells in Me, does the works.”

Then He said, since Philip wasn’t yet converted, v 11: “Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; but if not, believe Me because of the works themselves.” Then they would do works, and even greater ones.

Then He gives a promise in v 13. Why does God answer prayers that Protestants pray, if they are so wrong? *Because some of the things they are doing*

*right and some of those who have been deceived really are sincere in what they’re doing*, so God answers their prayers, so that they will continue searching more for Christ. He doesn’t do it because of their righteousness. Did Jesus heal all the masses because of their righteousness? *No! He does it as a witness to them!* Will they respond to God and one of the seven Spirits of God come to them to lead them along into the Truth? *Very possible!*

Here’s why there is no temple. Here is why being a son or daughter of God is so important and what receiving the Holy Spirit of God actually does.

Verse 13: “And whatever you ask in My name, this I will do that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do *it*” (vs 13-14). What is the caveat that goes with that?

- if it’s according to the will of God
- if it’s in the timing of God

—both. You’ll find you will pray something and then you’ll forget all about it. Then, lo and behold, it’ll come true and you’ll sit there and go, ‘Hey, God answered that prayer.’

Here’s another caveat that goes with it, v 15: “**If** you love Me...” (v 15). That’s the whole purpose of conversion—loving God the Father and Jesus Christ.

“**If** you love Me, keep the commandments—namely, My commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter...” (vs 15-16). It’s tough living in an evil world where you have to live by a totally different standard than they do because you’re living by God’s standard with God’s Spirit and His laws.

“...that it may be with you throughout the age” (v 16). Once you receive it, you’re not going to lose it unless you commit the unpardonable sin, which is the absolute blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, the rejection of God the Father and Jesus Christ—period. Then you’re turned over to evil.

Notice what you’re going to receive. What does the carnal mind, which is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, need most of all? *Truth!* Not truth as we perceive it from human point of view, but Truth from *God’s* point of view.

Verse 17: “*Even* the Spirit of the Truth, which the world cannot receive because it perceives it not, nor knows it; but you know it because it dwells with you, and shall be within you.” Within you. We’re going to see the true New Covenant temple of God.

So, He says, v 18: “I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. Yet, a little while...” (vs 18-19). He’s speaking in a parable, hard for them

to understand. How's He going to leave and come back? He was standing right there in the room. He didn't go outside the door. He was talking about His death, burial, resurrection, and return.

"...and the world shall see Me no longer; but you shall see Me. Because I live, you shall live also. In that day, you shall know that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I am **in** you" (vs 19-20)—*within!*

Notice again how that's going to happen. It's not because people desire it that it's going to happen. God must make it happen.

Verse 21: "The one who has My commandments and is keeping them, that is the one who loves Me..."—if you love Him, **you'll obey His voice!** And His commandments were spoken!

In 1-Tim. 6:5, Paul said that *if they don't speak according to the wholesome words of Jesus Christ, there's no light in them!* What does that statement tell you, because he wrote this in 61<sub>A.D.</sub> if they don't speak according to the words of Christ? Christ was crucified in 30<sub>A.D.</sub> His ministry was 3-1/2 years before His death. What does that tell you? *They had the Gospels in their hands!* How are they going to know what His words were unless they had the Gospels already. How many times have we read over those things and we hadn't even thought about it.

(go to the next track)

Now we'll see why God does not want a temple on the earth, because God dwells in the temple in heaven above. He does something very special for those who:

- repent
- are baptized
- seek God
- love Him in Spirit and in Truth
- receive the Spirit of Truth from God

Isn't that something that you have from God? His Spirit? *That will give you a conscience of right and wrong, according to the Word of God!* The Spirit of the Truth.

Verse 22: "Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him ... [He couldn't figure this out.] ...Lord, what has happened that you are about to manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?" "How are you going to do that, Lord?" *I'm going to walk through a wall when you're all assembled together.*

Verse 23: "Jesus answered and said to him, 'If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word...'" The difference between word (singular) and words (plural) is that singular means *His whole total message.* Words can mean the *words that He is*

*saying at the minute.* That's why He's called the Word (John 1:1)—***in the beginning was the Word and the Word was God!***

Verse 23: "...If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and **We...**" This is perhaps one of the greatest verses in the Bible. **We!** I want you to think about that when we read the rest of this, because this is what happens with baptism, receiving the Holy Spirit of God.

Baptism is you say, 'God, I'm through with my old way of life. I am burying it dead.' He says, 'All right, I'll raise you out of that watery grave, but you're going to live in the flesh so you can learn to overcome. But I'm going to give you My Spirit.'

"...My Father will love him, and **We** will come to him and make Our abode with him" (v 23). Abode is *dwelling.* We're going to see some Scriptures that tell us that each one of us individually is a mini-temple of God the Father and Jesus Christ. God does not want big buildings dedicated to Him. He wants converted people *loving Him, obeying Him, doing as He has commanded!*

Notice v 24 and where this puts a lot of people. A lot of people say that they love God, but they don't keep His commandments. So, if they don't keep His commandments, they may have an emotional feeling, but they don't love God.

Same way in a marriage. You can tell your husband or your wife, 'I love you,' but if you're out committing adultery with other women or you're not honest with your husband or your wife, you really don't love them. Love is expressed in *thought, emotion and action*—all three.

Verse 24: "The one who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word that you hear is not Mine, but the Father's, Who sent Me." Isn't that something?

How are we going to be taught of God the Father and of Christ? *Through Their word,* but the word, unless you have the Spirit of God, is only going to go so far. It's like if you have an education to the sixth grade. If you read the Bible, and don't have God's Spirit, maybe kindergarten, because you don't believe it, but whatever. How is God going to bring you to the point of having the mind of Christ? *Because that's what it is!*

Verse 26: "But when the Comforter comes, even the Holy Spirit, which the Father will send in My name, that one shall teach you all things..."

Remember how that ties in with John 6:45. ***The Father Himself shall teach you! You'll be taught of God!*** Will teach you all things. Doesn't mean everything in the world. It means everything

necessary for salvation, because that's worth more than everything in the world.

"...and shall bring to your remembrance everything that I have told you" (v 26). You can write it down for future generations.

Sidebar: Read the commentaries in the front of the *Faithful Version Bible*. On the Passover that Jesus had, how many disciples were with Him? *Twelve, including Judas at the beginning!* How many were gathered in the upper chamber just before Pentecost? *120!* Where were the other 102? *They were having the Old Testament Passover and knew nothing about the New Testament Passover!*

How about the next year when Passover came around? What would be the important thing? *Because now they had thousands of believers!* What did they have to write down first of all? *How to keep the Passover!* Only with the Spirit of God can we follow these things through the way that they should be.

John 16:12: "I have yet many things to tell you... [How is He going to tell them?] ...but you are not able to bear them now. However, when that one has come, *even* the Spirit of the Truth, **it will lead you into all Truth**... [necessary for salvation] ...because it shall not speak from itself, but whatever it shall hear it shall speak. And it shall disclose to you the things to come" (vs 12-13).

We can understand that today. I can call you and leave you a message on your answer phone, but you're not there and you answer the answer phone and you get my message. God's Spirit comes to us. God teaches us things. We are to be learning all the time.

What was the one thing that was absolutely impossible for them to bear at that time? Christ did not reveal it until the 60s<sub>A.D.</sub>, maybe late 50s. ***That we will be born again into the Kingdom of God and have an existence like God!*** Just projecting ahead a little bit here.

1-Cor. 3—at this point, they understood that with the Spirit of God in us that we are a temple of God. But notice there are conditions for it. We have to be careful how we build upon it. The foundation is Christ.

1-Corinthians 3:11: "For no one is able to lay any other foundation besides that which has been laid, which is Jesus Christ." This shows we are to be growing, changing, building spiritually.

Verse 12: "Now, if anyone builds upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones... [those things all improve when heat is applied to them] ...wood, hay *or* stubble." These are the ones who are

not zealous. Maybe they are a little better than lukewarm, but they are not zealous.

Verse 13: "The work of each one shall be manifested..." What did Jesus say to the seven churches? *And I will give to you as your works are!* What did He tell the Thyatirans? *He who keeps My works to the end!* If you're keeping Christ's works and God's works, whose works are those? *God's!* You're keeping them, but it's not originating from you, so they're not your works, even though you're doing them, because God's Spirit is motivating you to do them. See the difference?

"...for the day of trial will declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall prove what kind of work each one's is" (v 13).

- Do we have a day of fire coming here pretty quick?
- Did you witness the picture of the 21 that had their throats slit and heads cut off?
- *For professing Christ!*

Verse 14: "If the work that anyone has built endures, he shall receive a reward. If the work of anyone is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but *he* himself shall be saved, yet, as through fire.... [they were beginning to understand this]: ...Don't you understand that **you are God's temple**..." (vs 14-16).

Remember where we started, Isa. 66, 'Where is the temple that you will build for Me?' No! Where is the temple that God will live in and He will build His sons and daughters?

"...and *that* the Spirit of God is dwelling in you?... [because of that]: ...If anyone defiles the temple of God..." Living in sin! What were the sins in Corinth?

- politics
- favoring one apostle over the other
- incest
- divorce and remarriage
- false apostles
- false teachers

"...God shall destroy him because the temple of God is Holy, which temple you are" (v 17).

1-Cor. was written before Romans. When we come to Rom. 8 we see something else here, very different. Now we're getting into what is the sonship of God. That's the whole purpose of repentance and baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit of God and growing and overcoming. The sonship of God.

Romans 8:9: "However, you are not in *the* flesh..."—as God views you. Always remember this: God views you as you will be at the resurrection, because He can see the things that are

not as though they are, because He's God, because He's going to build in us what He wants in us.

"...but in *the* Spirit, if *the* Spirit of God is indeed dwelling within you... [Didn't Jesus say the Spirit of the Truth would be dwelling in you? *Yes!*] ...But if anyone does not have *the* Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him" (v 9).

Again, another dividing line. Look at all the dividing lines between the world and the people of God that we've seen just today.

Verse 10: "But **if** Christ *be* within you, the body *is* indeed dead because of sin; however, the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness."

Verse 11 ties in with John 14, 'We will come and make Our abode with him.' We talked about the <sup>1</sup>Spirit of Christ right here. That's one, that's Christ.

Verse 11: "Now **if** the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from *the* dead is dwelling within you..." The <sup>2</sup>Spirit of the Father. When we receive the Holy Spirit of God, there are two components to the Holy Spirit of God:

1. ***Spirit of Christ***, so we can develop the mind of Christ
2. ***the begetting from the Father*** to become His sons and daughters when we're resurrected from the dead

Verse 11: "Now, if the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from *the* dead is dwelling within you, He Who raised Christ from *the* dead will also quicken your mortal bodies because of His Spirit that dwells within you."

Verse 14. "For as many as are led by *the* Spirit of God..." God's Spirit will lead you sometimes you don't even know it is. There are other times when God leads you with your conscience—don't do this, don't do that, don't do the other thing—prompting your thoughts.

This will become important when we come to the Days of Unleavened Bread. I'm going to answer: Why does God not remove the law of sin and death from us instantly? *We'd all love that!* But even Paul had to struggle with it. I don't think there are many people that truly really understand Rom. 7. We'll cover that for Unleavened Bread.

Verse 14: "For as many as are led by *the* Spirit of God, these are *the* sons of God. Now, you have not received a spirit of bondage again unto fear... [Who does that come from? *Satan the devil!*] ...but you have received *the* Spirit of sonship... [there it is chronologically, the first time mentioned] ...whereby we call out, 'Abba, Father'" (vs 14-15). You're praying to God the Father Who is in heaven

above. He is dwelling *in* you. You are a mini-Spirit of God.

Verse 16: "The Spirit itself bears witness conjointly with our own spirit, *testifying* that we are *the* children of God." *To show what we're going to be!* That's an amazing thing. That's why the dividing line is so severe. God is saving the world for a later time. Here's why we are to not get bound up in the world, because sooner or later the encroachment is going to come—incrementalism will come:

2-Corinthians 6:14: "Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and lawlessness *have* in common? And what fellowship *does* light *have* with darkness?"

We're to be the light of the world. The world is dwelling in darkness. Jesus said that *if the light be in you be darkness, how great is the darkness?* We're going to see that. I'm absolutely amazed and appalled of all the things that they're teaching the young people in occultism. Then wrap that up with all of the free sex they're taught. Wrap that all up with all of the music they are taught. Amazing!

Verse 15: "And what union *does* Christ *have* with Belial? Or what part *does* a believer *have* with an unbeliever? And what agreement *is there between* a temple of God... [being us] ...and idols? For you are a temple of *the* living God, exactly as God said: '**I will dwell in them...** [the Spirit of God in us] ...and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people'" (vs 15-16). Tie that in with Rev. 18:4, 'come out of her my people,' that is come out of Babylon the Great. I tell you, if this end-time world society is not Babylon the Great, it's an amazing thing.

Verse 17: "'Therefore, come out from the midst of them and be separate,' says *the* Lord, 'and touch not *the* unclean, and I will receive you; **and I shall be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters,**' says *the* Lord Almighty'" (vs 17-18).

Those are staggering promises! Think of that! Amazing thing what God is going to do. 1-John 4 talks about *dwelling in God and dwelling in love!* This is always a good one to read when you kind of feel down, when you're fighting a problem, when you're depressed, when nothing goes right. Have you ever had a day nothing goes right? I've had those days; when it's a week that's tough. Sometimes it's that way.

1-John 4:4: "You are of God... [having the Spirit of God, you are of God] ...little children, and have overcome them... [the false prophets in the world and the spirit of Satan in the world] ...because

greater is He Who *is* in you than the one who *is* in the world. They are of the world...” (vs 4-5). The way the world is today. Things that are taking place, what they are planning, quite amazing.

“...because of this, they speak of the world, and the world listens to them” (v 5). Try this when you watch the news, listen to what they say, the politicians, the religionists—just listen to them.

- they are of the world
- they speak of the world
- the world listens to them

Verse 6: “We are of God; the one who knows God listens to us; the one who is not of God does not listen to us...” Isn’t that interesting? That’s why you can even tell some people you know about what you believe in the Bible. They may nod their head, but they’re not listening.

“...By this *means* we know the Spirit of the Truth and the spirit of the deception” (v 6). Never have we lived in a time of ultimate deception that we have today. Hardly anything coming out of Washington, D.L.C., is true—the District of Liars and Corruption.

Verse 7: “Beloved, we should love one another because love is from God...” Today is a hard time to love one another, because there are so many things going on and so many problems taking place, but we do need to love one another. It is a salvational issue.

“...and everyone who loves has been begotten by God, and knows God.... [you have the Spirit of God] ...The one who does not love does not know God because God is love. In this *way* the love of God was manifested toward us: that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, so that we might live through Him” (vs 7-9). God did this first. Christ died at the appointed time.

Verse 10: “In this *act* is the love—not that we loved God; rather, that He loved us and sent His Son *to be the* propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also are duty-bound to love one another.... [in spite of all of that]: ...No one has seen God at any time...” (vs 10-12). We don’t see God. As James said, we operate by faith. That substance is ‘hypostasis.’ That comes God. *The substance of His faith in us!*

“...*Yet*, if we love one another, God dwells in us, and His own love is perfected in us” (v 12). That’s what God is doing through all the trials and tests and difficulties that come along.

Verse 15: “Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God... [the true Jesus, the real way, and so forth] ...God dwells in him, and he in God. And we have known and have believed the love that God

has toward us. God is love, and the one who dwells in love is dwelling in God, and God in him” (vs 15-16). This is what needs to keep being built and grown. It may not necessarily be a mushy-mushy lovey-dovey kind of love. Some of it will be that way.

- part of it will be *standing for the Truth*
- part of it will be *doing the things that are difficult*
- part of it will be other *aspects of how we live and serve people*

Verse 17: “By this *spiritual indwelling*, the love *of God* is perfected within us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment because even as He is, so also are we in this world. **There is no fear in the love of God...**” (vs 17-18).

That’s something we really need to emphasize now because there are a lot of things coming down the pike. I just got a book *Prepare for Persecution* by Maria Kneas; *it’s coming!*

Verse 18: “There is no fear in the love *of God*; rather, perfect love casts out fear because fear has torment. And the one who fears has not been made perfect in the love *of God*. We love Him because He loved us first” (vs 18-19).

This is the special thing that God is doing with His Spirit. The world doesn’t know it, but God does. God’s Spirit is active. The seven Spirits are active. God is going to be dealing with a lot of people.

How it’s going to work in different places, through different churches, how it’s going to work around the world, we don’t know. We take care of what we know and what God has given us to do, so that we can serve Him and love Him.

Always remember: ***God is with you wherever you are, because you are a temple of God!***

#### Scriptural References:

- 1) Matthew 13:10-16
- 2) Revelation 1:4
- 3) Revelation 4:5
- 4) Revelation 5:6
- 5) 2-Chronicles 15:1-2
- 6) 2-Chronicles 16:9
- 7) Isaiah 66:1-3
- 8) John 6:44-45, 63-65
- 9) John 14:6, 10-11, 13-26
- 10) John 16:12-13
- 11) 1-Corinthians 3:11-17
- 12) Romans 8:9-11, 14-16
- 13) 2-Corinthians 6:14-18
- 14) 1-John 4:4-12, 15-19



Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Revelation 2; 3
- 1-Peter 1:10
- 1-Timothy 6:5
- John 1
- Romans 7
- Revelation 18:4

Also referenced: Book: *Prepare for Persecution*  
by Maria Kneas

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