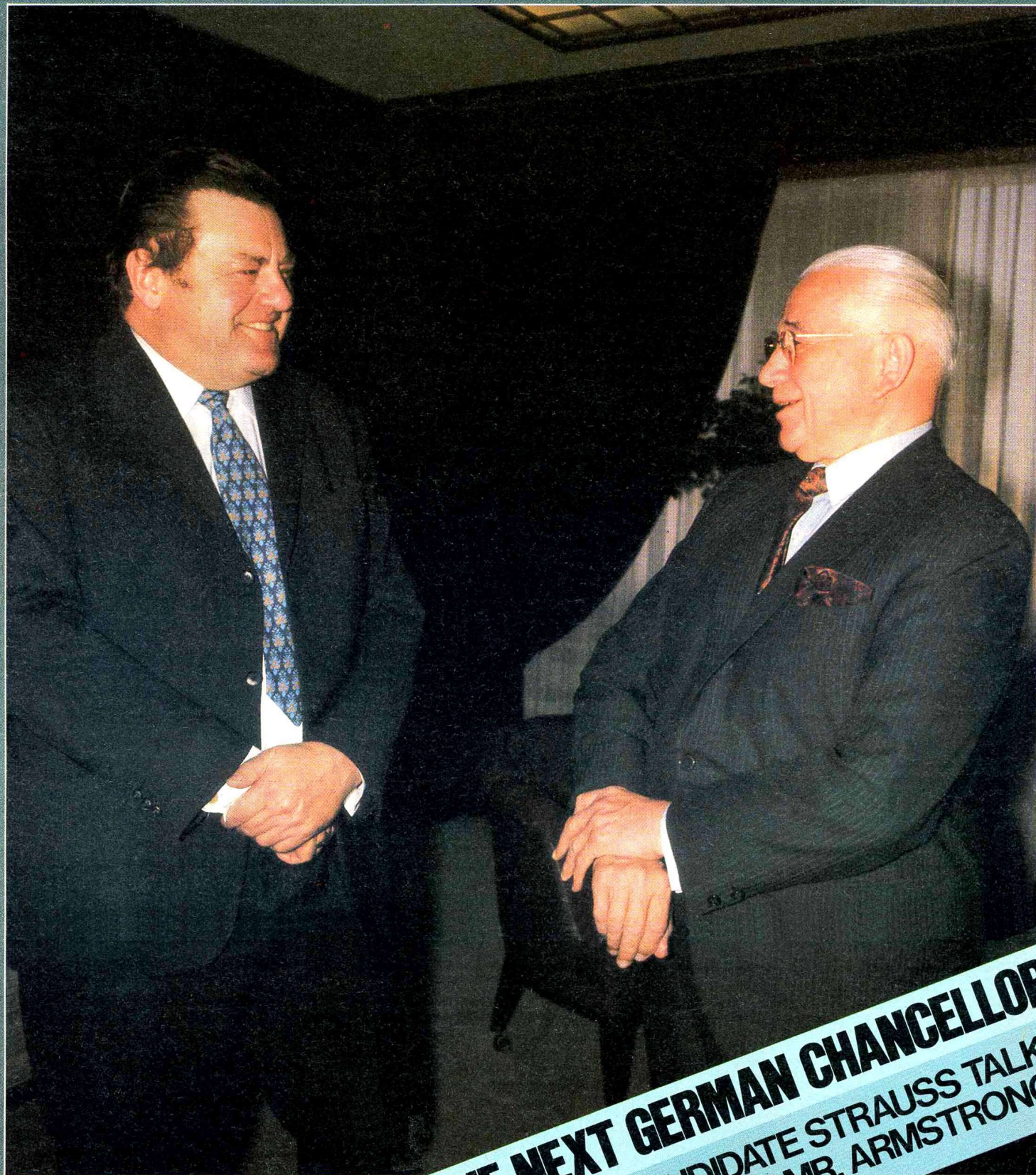


# THE PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding



**THE NEXT GERMAN CHANCELLOR?**  
CANDIDATE STRAUSS TALKS  
WITH MR. ARMSTRONG





Personal from...

## The Hidden Knowledge

**W**hy so many different religions in the world? No two agree. Yet I suppose most feel that theirs is the one and only **RIGHT** religion.

And then there are the millions, religious and nonreligious, who, through modern education, accept the theory of evolution. Evolution is a theory **UNPROVED**, and by its very nature **UNPROVABLE**. Therefore it is another **FAITH** or **BELIEF**, even though most of its adherents may not think of it as a **RELIGION**.

Why do people *believe* whatever they do? How did they come to believe it? Do you know that most people never stop to ask themselves those questions? Of course most who accept a religion were simply brought up to believe the particular religion of their parents, or of their part of the world. They never made an examination of it, or of other religions, to **PROVE** whether it is true. And that is true of most who accept the evolutionary theory of origins. That is, they were taught it in school — in college or university — and they simply went along with the others who were being taught it, and simply **ASSUMED** it to be truth.

But something must be lacking in all religions! For none has really made this a better world. None has shown us the **WAY** to a lasting world **PEACE**. None has the answer to all the poverty, the destitution, the illiteracy, the filth and squalor of the hundreds of millions in Asia, Africa, South America—or the solution to the moral degeneracy, the tragedy of broken marriages and split-up families, the crime, the violence, the discontent throughout our supposedly educated and affluent Western world.

Not one of these religions—nor the evolutionists—nor modern science—has been able to explain *why* man is *as he is*—with the almost **AWESOME** human mind that can send men to the moon and back, but can't solve humanity's problems here on earth.

Do you know that there *is* a source that *does* explain all this? There is a source that can be **PROVED** to be true — and the *only* source that can give us the answers. It is the source the Christian religion is supposed to follow,

but *doesn't!* It is a source not followed by the Eastern religions—a source rejected by modern science. This very **REJECTION** is the **REASON** that modern science offers **NO SOLUTION** for humanity's greater problems—the way to lasting world **PEACE**—the way to universal happiness, prosperity, and abundant well-being.

You can **PROVE** the existence of God, the Creator of all, the Ruler of all, and the Great Educator, whose revelation of **BASIC KNOWLEDGE** is the **FOUNDATION** of **ALL** knowledge, understanding and wisdom.

You can prove the authenticity and the **AUTHORITY** of the revelation of that Supreme God—which revelation we call the Bible. Why not write for the free booklet titled *Does God Exist?*

Why is there so much **MISSING** knowledge? Or, why is the most **VITAL** and important knowledge **MISSING**? And on the other hand, **WHY** is there so much **MIS-knowledge**—so many fallacies, fables, untruths being taught in the guise of fact or of truth?

Let me tell you, when you really let the true answer to those questions come into your mind, you'll be on the way to understanding this whole riddle of life—and the **REASON** for the really terrible and sickening conditions that exist on this earth today.

Let me tell you some of the vital factors of knowledge that have been **HIDDEN** from this world—yes, hidden from the world's leading educators, hidden from modern science, hidden from all religions, hidden from statesmen, heads of state, and the world's rulers, hidden from the public—yes, and hidden from **YOU!**

One vital factor of knowledge hidden from the world is knowledge of the **CAUSE** of a lasting world **PEACE**—and, conversely, knowledge of the **CAUSE** of the lack of it!

Another vital factor of knowledge hidden from the world is the true **MEANING** of life—the **PURPOSE** for which humanity was put here on the earth. Another is the **REASON** why man can invent such marvelous machines, can fly to the moon, yet **CAN'T SOLVE** his own problems here on earth.

The Bible is our Maker's (Continued on page 38)



# Part Seven:

## 7

# PROOFS OF GOD'S TRUE CHURCH

*Where is the one and only true Church today—the Church founded by Jesus Christ in A.D. 31? Seven major eye-opening proofs identify it unmistakably.*

by Herbert W. Armstrong

*The first five proofs of the true Church appeared in the February, March, April, and May Plain Truths. The first and second installments of proof number six appeared in the June/July and August issues. In this article—part seven of the series—proof number six continues.*

### Proof Six (Continued):

## WHAT AND WHY THE CHURCH?

**W**hat about the “loner” Christian who says, “I will serve Christ in my own way”? What about the one who *leaves* God’s Church to have *his own private relation* with Christ—to *get his own salvation*—without *giving* his part of the Church’s effort to send the true gospel into ALL THE WORLD?

Or, what about the one who follows a MAN because of that man’s

personality, charisma or attractiveness, or some other group?

Stop and THINK!

Is Christ going to marry a number of differing groups, not in complete harmony with each other—yet all “professing CHRIST”?

Jesus said, “He that is not *with me* [and since He is the Head of God’s one and only Church, He plainly meant with Him where HE is working—in God’s one Church] is against me; and he that gathereth not *with me* scattereth abroad” (Matthew 12:30).

Jesus Christ is going to marry THE ONE AND ONLY TRUE CHURCH—not a number of scattered groups or scattered individuals.

God’s law and way of life may be summed up in the one word “LOVE”—which is outflowing—the way of “GIVE”—while Satan’s way is that of “GET.” The one who tries to GET his salvation apart from the one Church Christ is going to marry is on the “GET” way. Those loyally in the Church are GIVING of their prayers, loyalty, encouragement and support

to Christ’s chosen apostle in GIVING the GOOD NEWS to the world—its ONLY HOPE!

In other words, he that seeks to GET his own salvation *without* GIVING his part in the *team effort* of the Church—or who follows a man or some other group—is surely NOT BUILDING ON THE ONE SURE FOUNDATION of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone.

Again, “Except God build the house, they labour in vain that build it . . .” (Psalm 127:1).

The Church is the HOUSEHOLD OF GOD and a BUILDING—the glorious TEMPLE to which Christ shall come!

### How Well Organized?

Notice again how well organized is the one true Church for getting the GREAT COMMISSION to the whole world:

“In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord” (Ephesians 2:21). Again: “From whom the whole body *fitly joined together* and com-



pacted [pressed together, knit or drawn together, consolidated] by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of *every part . . .*" (Ephesians 4:16).

"And he [Christ] gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, TILL we all come in the UNITY of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11-13).

The true Church of God has these offices, as the living Christ put them in His Church.

#### **A Tithe-Paying Church**

God's continuing original Church is also a tithe-paying Church.

The Church receives that ONE SAME THING they all are commanded to believe—even as the Church beginning in A.D. 31 did—from the APOSTLES who received the doctrines and teachings FROM CHRIST!

The Church of God under Peter, Paul and the first-century apostles was a Church which gave not only tithes but offerings!

Tithing started BEFORE Moses and the Old Testament Israel. It started with Abraham, who, after the slaughter of the kings, gave the tithe of all to Melchizedek, priest of the Most High God (actually the one who became Christ). Write for the free reprint article "The Mystery of Melchizedek Solved."

Tithing to God—PAYING a tenth of one's "increase"—became a law in Old Testament Israel. After both Israel and Judah had gone into captivity and slavery, the prophet Malachi, writing about 450 B.C., as one of the prophets who with the apostles and Christ form the FOUNDATION of the Church, wrote PROPHETICALLY concerning our time today: "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? IN TITHES AND OFFERINGS. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation" (Malachi 3:8-9). Both the kingdom of Israel and the kingdom of Judah

had long before been taken out of their land as slaves. A comparatively small contingent was sent back to Jerusalem 70 years after Judah's captivity by King Cyrus of Persia under governorship of Zerubbabel to build the second temple. Some of these Jews were still in Judea when Malachi wrote, but the two nations, as a whole composing ancient Israel, were not there. THIS WAS NOT MOSAIC LAW—this was PROPHECY for OUR DAY!

Malachi continued, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and PROVE ME NOW HEREWITH, saith the Eternal, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (verse 10).



*Jesus Christ is going to marry the one and only true Church—not a number of scattered groups or scattered individuals.*



That is *not* "Old Testament stuff," as God's true Church KNOWS—and because it has TITHED, it has had God's blessing and prosperity.

Speaking of tithes, Jesus said, ". . . these ought ye to have done . . ." (Matthew 23:23); Hebrews 7:4-12 binds tithing in the New Testament. I Corinthians 9:1-14 definitely upholds the principle of tithing and GIVING.

#### **Knowledge of God's Master Plan**

Of all the religions—and of all the denominations and sects in "Christianity"—God's true Church alone has understanding of the master plan of God for His spiritual creation of man. This is forcibly reminded every year in the Church by the seven an-

nual holy days and festivals Christ instituted in the Church.

Small as the Church is in numbers—Jesus spoke of it as the "little flock" and said that as they had persecuted Him so would they His Church—nevertheless the Church's great annual autumnal Feast of Tabernacles is the LARGEST church convocation, convention or festival held on earth!

As God made the weekly Sabbath FOR MAN (Mark 2:27) when man was made, so He gave His Church seven annual Sabbaths and seven annual festivals when He first established the Church. In Acts 7:38, you will find the Old Testament congregation of Israel called "the church in the wilderness." It was composed of the human-born children of *Israel*; the Church of the New Testament is composed of the begotten children of GOD. As the Old Testament church was called the congregation of Israel, so the New Testament Church is called the Church of GOD.

To the Church—both Old Testament under Moses and New Testament under Christ—God gave these annual occasions to emphatically remind His people, annually, of His master plan.

No other church or religion, to our knowledge, observes these festivals or knows their tremendous MEANING!

It has been stated before that as the physical creation of man began with the physical Adam, so the SPIRITUAL creation of man begins with the spiritual Christ.

The first of these annual festivals is the Passover, observed on the eve of the fourteenth day of the first month of the sacred year. This is the year's most solemn service, on the anniversary—as a memorial—of the death of Christ to reconcile those called to God.

This is immediately followed by the next seven days—the Festival of Unleavened Bread. All leaven must be put out of members' houses, and nothing leavened may be eaten. Leaven is a symbol of sin. It emphatically reminds God's called-out ones daily for seven days through their stomachs that we must *put sin out* of our lives. Also it is a memorial, on the  
*(Continued on page 44)*



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# Christians Have Lost Their POWER!

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*Probably you, too, are spiritually powerless! Here is the shocking truth! Read why your prayers are not directly—miraculously—answered!*

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by Herbert W. Armstrong

**T**he chances are that even *you*, if you believe you are a Christian, are today on mighty dangerous ground! You'd better STOP—and *check up!*

Open your Bible! Take a look at the *real Christians* back in the days of Peter, John, and Paul—AND COMPARE! Take a look at the POWER in the original true Church—in the lives of *those* Christians. See how *your* life stacks up!

### ... But Are You Sure?

You *think* you are under God's GRACE? Safe and secure for all eternity?

Well, *listen!* "Let him that *thinketh* he standeth *take heed* lest he FALL!" So warns God's Word (I Cor. 10:12). It's time to realize you are going to be finally *judged* by the very WORD OF GOD. You need to see to *what standard* you must measure up.

Jesus told His disciples just before He ascended to heaven that they should receive POWER when they were converted. "Ye shall receive POWER, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you," He said (Acts 1:8).

Do *you* have that same POWER today? Did you ever study closely to see what that power is? Have you

ever been concerned about HOW you may receive it?

Have you ever checked to see WHETHER YOU NEED IT? It's time you did, for without it you are not truly Christ's!

### What We Do See

Of course many of you professing Christians see that you must accept Jesus Christ as personal Savior to be saved.

You may even see that you must *repent* of transgressing God's law—His spiritual law, as summarized in the Ten Commandments—because *sin is* the transgression of the law.

Perhaps you've gone far enough to realize WHY you were born—you've learned God's great PURPOSE being worked out here below.

You may *see* that today ALL NATIONS are spiritually *drunk* on the false pagan doctrines of the modern spiritual "Babylon"—that all nations are *deceived*—that the TRUTH has been turned upside down.

You may *see* that even the churches are deceived, and have turned away from the truth and embraced fables.

You may *realize* that *grace* has been turned into *license!*

You may even have progressed so far as to comprehend that God is *molding* our lives until we shall be literally BORN of Him—His character created within us—this *mortal* becoming *immortal*—this human be-

coming *divine* in the very Kingdom of God.

But haven't you overlooked, or failed to "see," the POWER of the Holy Spirit of God within you?

You may have come to see how evil and paganized this world has become, and to be *disgusted* with its ways.

You may *recognize* that you must forsake YOUR WAY, and turn to and *live* God's way! Yes, you may fully understand that Isaiah said: "Seek ye the ETERNAL while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked *forsake* HIS WAY, and the unrighteous man HIS THOUGHTS" (Isa. 55:6-7).

But have you *overlooked* or neglected verse 1: "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the WATERS..." Thirsty for *what*? WHICH "waters"? Why, the very "waters" Jesus spoke of:

"If any man thirst," He said, "let him come unto me, and *drink*. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly [innermost being] shall *flow* RIVERS of *living water*. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should *receive*: for the Holy Spirit was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified)" (John 7:37-39).

Have you ever fully realized that the Holy Spirit is something that was not born in you? We hear a lot today about tapping your own inner hidden



resources—the dormant powers *within* your mind. Modern religions are springing up calling that sleeping, dormant, latent *part* of your mind “GOD”! But the Holy Spirit is something you have *not had*—something you must RECEIVE from GOD! Something infinitely greater and more POWERFUL than any powers *within* you—something from the great God who *created* YOU—who created the entire vast universe and all that exists!

It is the essence—the very *life*—the NATURE of God. But it also is something from God, which He *gives* you *from* Himself, which is actually a *part* of Himself—and which IMPARTS POWER!

Do you know *what* that power *is*? Has *that* POWER come into you, so that you can *wield* it?

You, as a professing Christian, may have come to realize, to see, to comprehend, many of these things—to have accepted them—but is this POWER actually being manifested in *your* life? Are you *sure* you know *WHAT* that power *is*?

#### What Is This Strange Power?

First, let me tell you what this power is NOT.

It is *not* an emotion physically worked up through the senses. It is *not* something that *you* can generate, or work up, yourself.

It is *not* falling over backward “*under* the power.” It is *not* being *robbed* of all power, as some people who have accepted the counterfeit *emotional* religion are, while “*under* the power.”

It is *not* something that makes people shout, shriek, jerk, laugh insanely and uncontrollably, or go through ridiculous and childish antics in a meeting where the preacher *generates* a fake, false “power” and a counterfeit spirit by constantly calling for loud emotional responses of “Hallelujah!” “Praise the Lord!” “Amen!” etc., in response to his oft-repeated: “All who believe it say ‘AMEN!’” etc., etc.

To know what it truly is, look into your Bible!

Jesus is our example, and we find this POWER first of all in His life. It was nothing physically inherent

within Him. He said: “I can of *mine own self* do NOTHING” (John 5:30). But, He said, “the Father that *dwelleth in me*, he doeth the works” (John 14:10).

The Father dwelt IN Jesus by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit imparted POWER. What WAS that power?

The inspired Peter, bringing salvation to the Gentiles for the first time, explained: “God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with POWER: who went about *doing good, and healing* all that were oppressed of the devil; for *God was with him*” (Acts 10:38).

Notice, that POWER *in* Jesus did none of those things that are done today by the very ones who most loudly profess to have the power of the Holy Spirit. He used that power, going about quietly, unobtrusively, not shouting, bragging, falling helpless “under the power,” or any of those “wildfire” things—but DOING! Yes, His was a life of DOING—but doing *what*? Doing GOOD! Serving, helping, OTHER PEOPLE! There was *divine* power—with it He performed MIRACLES—He HEALED all that were sick—He cast out demons, and had discernment to *know* when a person was demon-possessed.

His was the POWER of the Creator GOD! The *very same* POWER that produced all creation—when “He spake”! God is a *miracle-working God*! With that POWER, which came from the Father, and was *in* Jesus, He stilled the storm, He turned water into wine, He fed five thousand with only five loaves and two fishes!

#### The Power of the True Church!

Now notice that POWER in the original Church, before the apostasy set in, and before the degeneracy of our day.

Soon after being filled with that power from God, Peter and John went up together into the temple at Jerusalem, at the 3:00 p.m. hour of prayer. They entered through the gate called “Beautiful.” At the gate a beggar, crippled from birth, asked for money.

“Look on us,” said Peter. “Silver and gold have I none; but *such as I have* give I thee: In the name of Jesus

Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk”!

Grasping the beggar’s right hand in perfect faith, Peter lifted him sharply to his feet. The beggar was healed instantly. He *leaped* up, and then walked with Peter and John into the temple, leaping as he went, shouting out praises to God (Acts 3:1-8).

Jesus, powerless of His own *human self*, was filled with the divine POWER of the Creator. The very supernatural power of God did the WORK OF GOD through His human BODY. Jesus said, “The works that I do in the Father’s name, they bear witness of me” (John 10:25). And again, “If I do *not* the works of my Father, believe me not. But if I do . . . believe the works: *that ye may know*, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him” (John 10:37-38).

Today that *same Spirit*—that SAME SUPERNATURAL *power*—utilizes the *collective body* of the true Church of God as God’s human instrumentality, through which God accomplishes HIS WORK here on earth. In that way the true CHURCH is also the BODY OF CHRIST (1 Cor. 12:27).

And Jesus said: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do *shall he do also*; and greater works than these shall he do . . .” (John 14:12).

That same POWER of God was in Peter and John. It did the WORK OF GOD in proclaiming Christ’s gospel.

#### God’s Power in Action!

The miraculous healing of the beggar aroused the antagonism of the priests and Sadducees until they seized Peter and John and threw them into prison for the night. The next day, these religious leaders threatened them, commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

Then these *true* Christians went immediately to their own group of believers. And here is a point I want you to get. They were human. They had none of this power inherent within themselves. They, themselves, were not the *source* of this dynamic power. It had come from God.



And the important point is this: We do not receive enough of this divine power all at once to last forever.

Remember, Jesus said this power of God SHALL FLOW OUT from our innermost being! (John 7:38.) This POWER of God is active—dynamic! It is not static. You cannot get a supply of God's Spirit, and then bottle it up within you. This power comes into you from God *daily!* It *circulates*—from God, into YOU—and then on out *from* you in love, in faith, in joy, in patience—even in performing miracles.

You might have been imbued with this power yesterday and depleted of it today!

### A Refilling of Power

The threatenings of these chief priests and elders, after a night in prison, apparently left Peter and John a little depleted of faith and the confident POWER of God. Yes, they were human!

They went to their brethren in Christ. When they reported what had happened, all their brethren were shaken. They, too, being human, must have felt a sudden sense of spiritual inadequacy—a lack of power! But they sensed and knew their NEED. They knew the SOURCE of constant *refilling* of this POWER OF GOD within them! They didn't delay! They went immediately to the SOURCE of their divine power!

"And when they had heard that, *they lifted up their voice to God with one accord*, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is. . . . And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: *and grant unto thy servants*, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, by stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus" (Acts 4:24, 29-30).

Yes, suddenly this company realized their own human inadequacy—realized their need of renewed POWER FROM GOD. They didn't run from their difficulty! They didn't cower and tremble in fear. They didn't give up their Great Commission. They went directly to the

SOURCE of their power. They yielded themselves into God's hands, as His servants, anew. They urgently, intensively, cried to God to FILL THEM with His power—to give them boldness, faith, power of speech. They asked God fervently and believingly to heal and perform miracles.

Was there any God listening? Was there any response? Listen!

"And when they had prayed, the PLACE WAS SHAKEN where they were assembled together; and they were all FILLED with the Holy Spirit, and they spake the word of God with boldness! . . . And with GREAT POWER gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 4:31, 33).

### We Need It Today

Do *you*, today, have the SAME POWER the original Christians had? They were just as human as YOU! The *real* question, then, is this: Do *you* yield yourself as fully—surrender your will as unconditionally to God—pray as often, as earnestly and intensively, as they? If you *do* you will be filled with as much of the divine POWER as they—for God is no respecter of persons!

This same POWER OF GOD operated actively, continually, in those early original Christians. They actually *did* do greater works than Jesus—until even the shadow of Peter passing over the sick healed them! They did the very Work of God!

The Work of God, which God *started* in the individual body of Jesus, was carried on through the *collective* body of disciples, now becoming the BODY OF CHRIST—the true CHURCH of God!

Then the great apostasy set in. The apostate *false church* (Rev. 17:1-5) rose up in A.D. 33, two years after Christ started His *true Church*. It *professed* to be Christian, taking on Christ's name. This professing Christian church turned away its ear from the TRUTH and turned to FABLES (II Tim. 4:4).

But there continued, also, God's *true Church*, pictured in Revelation 12—persecuted by Satan and his great false church of Revelation 17. No longer was this persecuted Church able to proclaim the true gos-

pel to all nations—to the whole world—in great power.

But Jesus had said, prophetically, that just before the END of this world—*right now*—"This gospel of the KINGDOM shall be preached *in all the world* for a witness unto ALL NATIONS; and *then* shall the end come!" (Matt. 24:14.)

Today God is opening *gigantic doors*—the doors of radio, television, and the printing press. Doors of MASS COMMUNICATIONS. The original, true gospel of Jesus Christ—the *same* gospel HE brought from GOD and taught—is broadcast into EVERY CONTINENT around the world! It is hitting this world with terrific IMPACT—with tremendous POWER!

This very WORK OF GOD for our day is foretold in the prophecy of Revelation 3:7-13. But there is revealed that we, today, are a people of but *little* strength—*little power!* (verse 8)—within ourselves—though we have faithfully kept God's Word! The impact of this WORK OF GOD today is going out only through the *power of God!* Are you having *your part* in this very WORK OF GOD?

But—let's face it!—we do not have within ourselves, as God's instruments for His Work today, anywhere near the power of God that activated that original first century Church!

For that very reason, the living Christ says (Revelation 3:8) He has opened to us the gigantic door of MASS COMMUNICATION! The magnified power of the microphone and the printing press. Yet that is only physical mechanical power! The REAL POWER that makes God's Work *vital* and *alive* is the Holy Spirit of God!

We need to present our *bodies* a living sacrifice to GOD! (Rom. 12:1.) We need to receive a greater TRANSFORMING—and to be LESS CONFORMED to this present evil world! We need to REPENT! We need to more earnestly SEEK GOD! We need to put on the WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, as we are admonished in Ephesians 6:10-18! Perhaps some of us need to FAST and PRAY—as Jesus did!

Have YOU enough of the POWER OF GOD flowing dynamically into, and out from you? You need to seek a much closer contact with your GOD! □



## Personal from...

(Continued from page 1)

instruction manual—His basic revelation of necessary knowledge. And this book claims that ALL mankind, as a whole, is *deceived!* All nations are deceived. Listen! Let me show it to you. “The great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which *deceiveth the whole world*” (Revelation 12:9).

Notice Jesus’ warning: “For many shall come in my name saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

“And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.

“For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. . . . And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. . . . For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; inasmuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect” (Matthew 24:5-8, 11, 24).

And notice the apostle Paul’s warning to the Gentile Corinthians: “. . . the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them . . . for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works” (II Corinthians 4:4; 11:14-15).

These passages represent Satan the devil as the arch-deceiver of mankind. Probably most people today are deceived into thinking there is no devil. The very arch-deceiver has deceived the world into thinking he doesn’t exist and untold millions into thinking that God doesn’t even exist.

Another important fact the knowledge of which has been hidden from the world is that there was once peace on this earth—peace worldwide—happiness, joy! Originally this world was populated with angels—not humans. And that’s another bit of knowledge hidden from most

people today. So let us now notice the very first verse in all the Bible: “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Genesis 1:1).

The Hebrew words in which Moses originally wrote that sentence imply a perfect creation—not one in chaos and confusion, as described in the second verse. Many scriptures in other parts of the Bible reveal great world-shaking events that occurred between the time of the first and second verses of Genesis one.

In the book of Job the original creation is described as so perfect and so beautiful that the angels shouted for joy. God the Creator is described as asking Job: “Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? Declare, if thou hast understanding. . . . When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?” (Job 38:4, 7.)

There was worldwide peace on earth for some time after the earth was first created, because the government of God was being administered here then. For how long a duration is not revealed. It could have been millions of years. In any event it lasted until about 6,000 years ago.

When this earth was first created, God, the Creator-Ruler of the universe, set one of two highest-ranking archangels—a cherub—who was thoroughly experienced in the administration of God’s government, as king to administer the government of God over the earth.

And all that, too, is knowledge hidden from the world today. And that involves also another important bit of hidden knowledge—the very ORIGIN of this Satan, the devil.

Notice what Isaiah reveals about this Lucifer or Satan. “How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit” (Isaiah 14:12-15).

This superarchangel who became Satan (see Ezekiel 28:12-17) led one-

third of all the angels—the whole earth’s population—in his war of aggression. And he is deceiving the whole earth today!

As a result of this colossal earth-wide mutiny and rebellion against the government of God, a physical destruction put this whole earth into chaos and darkness, and that’s what we find described in Genesis 1:2: “And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”

Then in six days God RENEWED the face of the earth: “Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth” (Psalm 104:30).

So now, notice the first thing God did in *renewing* the face of the earth: “And God said, Let there be light: and there was light” (Genesis 1:3).

It was on the sixth day of renewing the face of the earth that God created the first HUMANS—when MAN was first put here on this earth—for a tremendous purpose which also has been WITHHELD from public knowledge. “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth” (Genesis 1:26).

Satan DECEIVED the first woman and got to Adam through his wife. Adam rejected God’s revealed knowledge—just as humanity has been doing ever since—disobeyed the government of God, allowed the SAME ATTITUDE that Satan had to enter his heart—the self-centered attitude of vanity, lust and greed, of selfishness, of resentment against authority—especially the authority of God—of total unconcern for the good or welfare of others, of jealousy, envy and hatred.

And all humanity, under the sway of this active Satan, is traveling that way of life still. And that is the very CAUSE of all humanity’s ills and evils in this sick, sick world today.

Happily, the time is coming, SOON, when this whole world is going to be jolted into waking up to this vital knowledge, so long HIDDEN from a sleeping and sick world! □



# CHURCH

(Continued from page 3)

anniversary of Israel's exodus out of Egypt. Egypt also is symbolic of sin—and Israel was taken out by God with miracles, as He delivers His people today from the bondage of sin. There are two annual holy days in this festival—the first and the last of the seven.

The third annual festival is the Feast of FIRSTFRUITS, called in the New Testament of the Bible "Pentecost," because this is the one set-apart time of year when the Church COUNTS to calculate the proper day. It is 50 days, counted beginning on the "morrow after the weekly Sabbath" which occurs during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. "Pentecost" is simply the Greek for "fifty-count." This pictures the coming and indwelling of the Holy Spirit, begetting the "firstfruits"—those relative first few called to spiritual salvation. The Holy Spirit came on the very fiftieth day—the first time the Holy Spirit was given to a group, which formed the Church of God. This annual festive occasion reminds God's people yearly that they are merely the *first* to be called to spiritual salvation; that the world, except the few called, is CUT OFF from God—neither "saved" nor "lost"—just not yet called! Therefore not yet judged.

Another incidental proof of the identity of the one true Church is the knowledge, that with the foundation of the Church of God, "the time is come that JUDGMENT must *begin* at the house of God." Those called into God's Church *are* now being *judged*. Others are not—YET!

These annual festivals are built around the annual harvest seasons in Jerusalem. The first three portray the early grain harvest, typical of the first early spiritual harvest in the conversion of man. The last four correspond to the final great autumnal harvest. They all come in the seventh sacred month.

Festival number four is the Feast of Trumpets (*Rosh Hashanah* in Judaism), on the first day of the seventh month of the sacred calendar. The Feast of Trumpets pictures and reminds the Church yearly of the

SECOND COMING of CHRIST to reign over all the earth.

## Largest Convention on Earth

The fifth festival is the Day of Atonement, called in Judaism *Yom Kippur*—a solemn fast day. No food may be eaten from sunset to sunset. It pictures to God's people restoring man to AT-ONE-MENT with God. The world, cut off from God these 6,000 years, has been deceived and led by the god of this world, Satan. Jesus Christ QUALIFIED to replace the former Lucifer on the THRONE of the

“

*God's law and way of  
life may be summed up  
in the one word  
"love"—which is  
outflowing—the way of  
"give"—while Satan's  
way is that of "get."*

”

earth. When He comes as KING of kings, Satan shall be deposed, bound, shut up (Revelation 20:3) for 1,000 years. Without Satan, who has "worked IN the people of the world" (Ephesians 2:2), humanity at last may be made AT ONE with the true Creator GOD!

The sixth festival is the Feast of Tabernacles—a seven-day festival, with the first day the sixth annual Holy Day. The Feast of Tabernacles (or Booths) is followed by an eighth day, a one-day holy day—making in all an eight-day festival.

This pictures the millennial reign of the KINGDOM OF GOD, ruling all nations for 1,000 years. During this millennium, ALL living will be called to repentance and faith and eternal salvation through the reigning CHRIST—with no Satan to overcome. More of the details of this time will be given under PROOF number seven, to follow.

This seventh and final holy day begins at sunset just as the Feast of Tabernacles is ending. As stated ear-

lier, small though the Worldwide Church of God may be in numbers, this is the largest church convention or conclave held annually on earth—with festival sites all over the world.

## When the Billions Shall Be Called

The final eighth day (the seventh festival) brings to mind again every year what is in God's master plan for the BILLIONS of people who have lived and died since Adam—*cut off from God*—UNjudged—neither "lost" nor yet "saved."

They will be resurrected after the millennium in a special resurrection (Revelation 20:11-13). This is also described in Ezekiel's prophecy of the "valley of dry bones" (Ezekiel 37). All previously uncalled will be resurrected MORTAL, and with the 7,000 years of humanity now history, will face up to what their experience in sin really proved. All then will be called to repentance and ETERNAL LIFE.

## Final Fate of the Incurrible

There shall then be one more resurrection—of those who *were called* to salvation, but rejected it—the incurrible wicked. They will be resurrected MORTAL to realize their fatal decision. They will be "cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death" (Revelation 20:14-15). This "lake of fire" is pictured by Peter in his second letter.

"This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets [Old Testament], and of the commandment of us the apostles [New Testament] of the Lord and Saviour: Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

"For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: But the heavens and the



earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

“But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up” (II Peter 3:1-10).

Malachi adds, of that final destruction of the willful rebellious into unconscious (Ecclesiastes 9:5) annihilation:

“For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. . . for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts” (Malachi 4:1-3).

#### The Name of the True Church

The NAME of God’s true Church is important—but not alone the exclusive proof of identification, because a small number of professing Christian sects use the name. Yet the one and only original Church founded A.D. 31 by Jesus Christ most certainly will have the true NAME!

God names things and people what they *are*. The “church in the wilderness”—the Old Testament church (or congregation) was named the “congregation of Israel” because it was composed of the physically born children of Israel. The two-letter word of denotes ownership or origin.

The New Testament Church organized by Christ is called, twelve TIMES in the New Testament, “the CHURCH OF GOD,” sometimes with a modifying word or phrase such as “the Church of God, which is at Corinth,” or the “Churches of God in Judea.” Today it is known as the Worldwide Church of God.

The English word “church” is translated from the Greek *ekklesia*, and the Greek word used in the original writing of the New Testament means, simply, a group, an assembly, etc., without specific reference to a church. At Ephesus, for example, the city council—political—was called an *ekklesia*, with no religious connotation at all.

The ONLY FACTOR that makes the word “church” sacred is when it refers to the Church of GOD—in other words, the group, congregation, assembly or church that BELONGS TO GOD. It is GOD’S name connected with it that lends sanctity to the name.

For example, the name “Roman Catholic Church” means a universal (catholic) church of Rome. The “Lutheran Church” is that group or body of people following or established by Luther. The “Methodist Church” means (in its name) a group or body of people following a certain method. The “Baptist Church” by name means a group or combination of groups who believe in baptizing and who follow John the Baptist. The name “Congregational Church” simply implies a group of people who believe the lay people ought to have the authority. The name “Presbyterian Church” means an associated group who believe the “presbytery” of officiating clergy have the authority.

The name “Church of God” means that group of “called-out ones,” called out from this world, who look to GOD as the authority—and who submit to government from God through Christ, through (on the human level) apostles chosen by Christ—NOT elected by the people!

So there is vital MEANING to the name of the true Church. And the name is IMPORTANT!

In Jesus’ last prayer to God before being crucified, He prayed, “I have manifested *thy name* unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world. . . . And now . . . I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be ONE, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in *thy name* . . .” (John 17:6, 11-12). □

(To Be Continued)

## REAL CONVERSION (You can't win the prize unless you start the race)

The apostle Paul likened the Christian life to a race which must be run for the “prize” of eternal life. A person does not even begin his “race,” however, until he has undergone a *genuine* conversion. The New Testament concept of conversion involves much more than a mere intellectual or ritualistic acceptance of a set of beliefs. True conversion can be defined in two parts. The first involves a definite event which occurs when God fulfills His promise to place the Holy Spirit within a person after certain conditions are met. The second part is a process which continues through the Christian’s life. If you’d like to know more about the Bible’s teaching on conversion, request the free booklet *Just What Do You Mean—CONVERSION?* Write to *The Plain Truth*. (See addresses on inside front cover.)

