

What is Christianity?

Christianity is not religion nor 'ism'. The word 'religion' means to tie back, or to bondage. Religion is a defiled, a fallen activity. Jesus came to set us free to be functional humanity. Christianity is a relationship that God has established with His children. The Bible states that there is nothing man can do to make himself right with God. *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*(ROM3:23) But men rebelled and turned against their creator God and followed their own ways, even though it would cost us our life. Our sin poisoned his perfect creation, giving way to sickness, injustice, and death. According to Christianity, God did for us that we cannot do for ourselves. *He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses.*(COL2:13) Our sin separates us from His presence, and sin must be punished. *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*(ROM6:23) But, because God loves us, He took our punishment upon Himself. All we must do is accept God's gift of salvation thru faith. *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,*(EPH2:8-9) Grace is God's blessing on the undeserving, and to the humble. The grace-based relationship between God and man is the foundation of Christianity. "Love" speaks of relationship. Obedience to all God's commands had to listen from a love for God. God desires we be holy as He is holy.

Christianity is about being born into the family of God. Jesus answered and said to him, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*(JOH3:3) It is a relationship. *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.*(JOH1:12) We can accept His invitation to know Him as Father through adoption. as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, *but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."*(EPH1:5;ROM8:15) God sent his Son Jesus to enter into the world. Jesus willingly gave himself up to die on a cross to save us from God's judgment and the death we deserve. The Son of God died so we could live. And on the third day, he rose to life again, defeating death forever. He lived a perfect life - the one God intended we live - and called us to repent of our sin and follow him in faith. The infilling of the Holy Spirit follows salvation experience and empowers believers with power and understanding of spiritual truth. A growing and maturing life is characterized by love and to live like children of the God. He asks that our old self be crucified with Jesus on cross so that His power can live through us. Now, Jesus sits on the throne of heaven, offering life thru Holy Spirit to all those who trust in Him. God wants us to know Him, to draw near to Him, to pray to Him, love Him above everything, build a relationship with Him.

A Christian is someone who believes in Jesus Christ and follows his teachings. The Bible says *'if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.'*(2CO5:17) This means that when we become a Christian we may look the same on the outside, but something has forever changed on the inside. There are various metaphors to describe it—we have 'changed citizenship', 'come under new ownership', or 'been born again'. Bible teaches that the sign of a new life in Christ is baptism. This step allows us to public confession that we have personally trusted in Jesus for salvation. In becoming a Christian, a person has changed the direction of their life. They have committed themselves to go in a new direction, following Jesus. Bible refers to that new lifestyle, 'you are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit if the Spirit of God lives in you'. Christianity teaches that this repentance and new faith restores a person's relationship with God because God is willing to forgive and give each person a fresh start. As a result, have a relationship with God which will continue forever. He is the good news we need to help us restore our lives.

Christianity traces its beginning to the miraculous birth (conceived by virgin Mary through the power of the Holy Spirit), ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, about 2000 years ago. During his ministry, Jesus built up a loyal following, led by his twelve disciples. Jesus healed every kind of disease/sickness, cast out demons, told parables, preached sermons that taught what God wanted people to do. In the end, Roman governor sentenced Jesus to death and had him crucified. The third day after Jesus' death, his followers found his tomb empty, discovered He had been raised from the dead. The resurrection (rising from the dead) is the sign of God's salvation offered to all people. Jesus left the Earth by being taken up to Heaven to re-join God the Father. Jesus is the Son of God. After His resurrection, followers spread His message throughout world. Followers were referred as Christians. *And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.*(ACT11:26)

Jesus Christ declared He *"did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many"*(MAR10:45). The idea of a ransom is a payment that must be made in exchange for the release of a person. Jesus paid our ransom to free us from bondage to sin and its consequences of death. Jesus paid our ransom, by dying on the cross.(1CO15:3,22) Jesus came to reverse the curse. God promised that Jesus would be born of a woman and would grow to be a man who would battle with Satan and crush his head, defeat him, even as the serpent bruise His heel and liberate people from their captivity to Satan, sin, death, and hell through Christ's death.(GAL4:4;GEN3:15) As believers in Christ, we no longer have a fear of death because, in Christ, we have promise of eternal life. *Whoever believes in me, though he dies, yet shall he live.*(JOH11:25)

The first step you can take is to receive the love, forgiveness, relationship Jesus is extending to you today! In order to experience grace, you must be born again and have Jesus Christ as your Savior. For making a confession of faith, all you have to do is repent of your sins, believe in Jesus as your hope for Salvation, fully accepting His death as sufficient sacrifice for your sins and follows Jesus as Lord. Acknowledge God's power and His care for your life. Thank God for His works in your life. *Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.*(MAR16:16)

Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God – fully human and fully divine – and that through believing in him and following his teachings they can inherit eternal life. Christians believe that Jesus died for humanity, that God raised him from the dead, and that Jesus will come again at the end of age. Christians believe in one God that exists in three persons—Trinity—God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit. (Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier) Christian believes man is made in the image of God. affirm that man is eternal, that there is a literal heaven and a hell. Christians believe in one God that created heaven, earth and universe. Christians believe that the sacrifice of Jesus' life on the cross shows message of God's love and forgiveness. Jesus paid with his life on Earth for the sins of the world. Christians believe Jesus died for our sins, was buried, was resurrected, and thereby offers salvation to all who will receive Him in faith (1CO15:1-4) It teaches that salvation is a gift God extends freely through Jesus Christ to all people. Jesus is the Messiah or savior of the world. Jesus' teaching: Love the God with all your heart, soul, mind, strength. Love your neighbor as yourself, forgive others who have wronged you. Love your enemies. Repentance is essential. Christians believe Bible is the inspired, God-breathed Word of God and that its teaching is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice.

The [Holy]Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.(1TI4:1)The“doctrines of demons,” then, are things that demons teach. Satan knows how to manipulate men, that is why seducing spirits are so effective. It leads many people away from a genuine faith relationship with Christ. Apostle fears Christians be led away from sincere and pure devotion to Christ by deceit of the serpent's cunning deception of Eve.(2CO11:3-6) How the Head of the church become infant? How unbiblical beliefs and practices entered in the church? (MAR7:9;JUD4) We can identify doctrines of demons by immersing ourselves in truth. Any deviation from bible teaching practices lawlessness. Traditions are only valid if they are built on firm foundation of scripture, in full agreement with whole counsel of God and keep devotion to Christ. Any religious books other than Bible is to be filtered and discerned.(ACT17:11)

"Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the motives of the hearts.(1CO4:5) Church should quit pronounce judgment on someone is holy, in heaven and declaring saint. Ascension of Mary is not for Christian belief, not Apostolic doctrine nor part of Gospel. (JOH3:13) God never given authority to men to judge people who will be there in Heaven or Hell until rapture. *when you see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but yourselves being thrown out.*(LUK13:28) It is God's sovereignty to declare eternal destiny of each saint. He is the only one qualified to evaluate what is inside heart of a person. It is God's decision who takes seats of honor in Heaven. *Those places belong to those for whom they have been prepared.* (MAR10:40) By making themselves judges, they proudly focused on status. Christian will face judgment by Christ to receive what is due for our works whether good or bad while living.(2CO5:10) *You are all brethren.*(MAT23:8) Jesus does not want His followers to be driven by pride of position, arrogance of power. Apostle Peter described himself as a fellow Elder.(1PE5:1) *So, dear brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and don't forbid speaking in tongues.*(1CO14:2,39;12:27-28) The Lord gave ministry gifts like miracles, healing, prophecy, and speaking in other tongues to accomplish certain purposes in the church. He will not withdraw any of spiritual gifts without the purposes being accomplished. For this reason, all the gifts which God gave to accomplish these objectives are still operative today.(ROM11:29)God will not change His mind and take back a gift/a calling He has given. Holy Spirit distributes gifts to every believer according to His will, to manifest himself through various gifts, thus edifies church. Baptism in the Holy Spirit/ointing has many purposes in the lives of believers.

In John 1:18, No one has ever seen God. *You shall not make for yourself an image..You shall not bow down to them or worship them;*(EXO20:4-5) Holy angels refused to be worshiped. The response is, Worship God!(REV19:10;22:9) Mary praises the Lord with song.(LUK1:46-48) Mary glorifies God for His power, holiness and mercy.(v.49-50) We are to worship God alone and give Him thanks, adore, praise, glory. Disobedience to God's commands and serve/worship/venerate to false gods is sin of idolatry.(ROM1:21- 2TH2:9-12)Those baptized as infants do not receive faith for salvation. A person will be judged based on this life, so we pray for mercy/repentance/sanctification after a person dies done in vain.(LUK16:31) Lighting candles before a statue/picture; repetition of prayers by rubbing rosary beads; celebrate days-months-seasons-years practice God forbid.(MAT6:7;GAL4:10)No one is called Holy but God only. Mary is a receiver of grace creature. Bible never calls Mary the mother of God nor Jesus, son of Mary. It is blasphemy. Blessed woman Mary is not yet resurrected nor glorified in heaven; how could possibly answer prayers? *And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.* (2CO11:14) Who proclaimed I am virgin Mary immaculate(no original sin)? Be aware of lies and false signs/miracles. Satan can appear in different forms, places and deceive last Eve, Christ's bride, Church.(MAT24:23-24) Pray to our Heavenly Father as children of God for all your needs/mercy/grace in the name of Jesus as mediator thru indwelling of Holy Spirit.(1TI2:5;HEB4:16)

How great is the love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!(1JO3:1) Becoming a child of God/born Jesus in our heart by Spirit requires faith in Christ, receive Him as Savior. Jesus is the way to Heaven; all other ways are wicked and to Hell. False teaching/unbiblical rituals/traditional belief contradict to Bible is harm to the church. Warning to those who lead Christians into sin will face God's judgment.(MAT18:7) Church discipline upholds truth/devotion glory of Christ, protects people from error, its consequences. God gives His grace to the humble that is attitude of humility.

In 2 Corinthians 11:2, Apostle Paul says *“For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.”* Sinful jealousy has at its root covetousness. Yet jealousy can also be a godly attribute. God is described as being provoked to jealousy over idolatry.(EXO 20:4-5) God is jealous when someone takes something that rightly belongs to Him. God alone deserves our worship and praise.(JER10:6-7) When we give worship to false gods, we commit a grave injustice, and God’s righteous jealousy is provoked.(2KI22:17;PSA78:58)

When Paul speaks of godly jealousy, he means the kind of jealousy that God has. He compares the believers in Corinth to a betrothed bride. They are betrothed to Christ, concept of an engagement to a man to be married in future. The father’s responsibility, in part, was to protect his daughter’s virginity and well-being until she was safely married to her husband. While the Bride has to wait for return of Bridegroom, she has consecrated herself to her husband alone, and should she prove faithful. But Corinthians’ ongoing tendency toward error(deviation from truth) and were being spiritually seduced by false teachers. They had encountered Jesus in different ways, they inclined toward disloyalty and unfaithfulness. In V.3 explain their problem in this regard: *“But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning, your minds may be corrupted from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.* Godly jealousy is love in action for the will of God in a situation. Paul rebuked, counseled, encouraged, corrected them. Godly jealousy wakes us up to intercede for a lost loved one. Godly jealousy motivates us to confront a sinning brother or sister, in order to save them from the enemy.(JAM5:20)

Sincerity is the quality of being free from pretense, deceit, or hypocrisy. Sincere people represent themselves honestly, and their verbal expressions are free from double-talk, gossip, flattery, or exaggeration. The Bible places a high value on sincerity: *“Love must be sincere”*(ROM12:9) So also must faith be sincere.(1TI1:5) Also the need for sincerity in worship. *“Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord”*(JOS24:14) It’s when sincerity is applied to our search for God and His righteousness that it pleases the Lord.(MAT6:33) Only those who sincerely repent and believe are granted for pardon. God knows depth of our commitment to Him and level of our sincerity. We cannot hide from Him or fool Him.(PSA139:1-10) To be devout means to be deeply dedicated to a belief or cause, that somebody stands firm in their loyalty to someone. but what ultimately matters is if a person is devoted to Jesus. *there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout.*(LUK2:25) We are a devout Christian if we are devout in our faith in Him and in putting Christ first and His Kingdom. The chief commitment of our lives should be to God. *‘Love the Lord your God’*(MAT22:37-38) God the Father sent the Son and glorifies Him,(JOH5:38) Those who do not follow Jesus wholeheartedly are devoting themselves to something else and are thereby rejecting God. We are warned; we cannot serve two masters. There are no half measures either a person is devoted to God, or he is not. *“Let your heart therefore be wholly devoted to the LORD our God, to walk in His statutes and to keep His commandments”*(1KI8:61) Essence of devotion is obedience. Every true Christian is devout; you cannot halfheartedly serve or live for Jesus. A true follower of Christ is devout because he or she commits every part of life to loving and living for God. Some people are devoted to idols in hearts and lives—devotion to them is misplaced.

Bible says that God’s people are, first and foremost, to have “sincere and pure devotion to Christ” Paul desired to present the Church as a chaste virgin to her betrothed husband, the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is returning for His Bride, a Glorious Church, without spot or wrinkle or any such blemish, but that she would be holy and blameless.(EPH5:27) Christ desires the church to stand before Him in brilliance and triumph. His desire is for believers to one day appear before Him without any flaws or marks or imperfections. Particularly on the wedding day, a bride seeks to look her absolute best for her husband, and Christ wants the church to look its best for Him when that day comes. The purpose for Christ’s relationship with the church is to bring on greater holiness. The reference to blemishes is about the church being pure before the Lord. *This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the Church.*(EPH5:32,22-24) Marriage as an illustration of union of Christ and Church. Bride who transformed into Christ likeness and image from glory to glory. Bride of Christ adorned herself with the incorruptible beauty of a meek and quiet spirit, ready for her marriage with the Lamb. The wedding garment is divine character the bestowing righteousness of Christ. *You ought to live holy and godly lives.*(2PE3:11;1PE3:4)

Paul was concerned that cunning way that Satan twisted the truth of God’s word in the garden of Eden and spread his deceptive lies to Eve. He compares deceit to twisting of Scripture resulting in corrupted teaching of Biblical doctrines. Deceiving spirit in the false teachers is trying to seduce church away from Jesus. (2CO11:13-15) They disguise themselves as servants of righteousness as Satan transforms himself as an angel of light. Satan dragging many people away from Christ’s headship and turn to idolatry, thereby fallen from grace, ends up souls to the woman at Babylon/Hell. The weapon of enemy is deception. Victory in the battle is decided by a believer’s choice to believe God and maintain pure and devotion to Christ.

It is God’s desire that we grow daily in our understanding of Him and His Word so that we will remain faithful to the end It is important to spend quality time with God in daily devotions. Let the Holy Spirit search your life and deal with. If you will make this a practice with a heart long for-loves the Lord, you will truly be walking in the Spirit and growing in grace! Prayer: Heavenly Father, give us right discernment as we study Your Word. Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth, free from deception, so that our mind will not be led astray from simplicity of the glorious gospel, purity of devotion to Christ.

"Revive us, and we will call upon Your name. Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; cause Your face to shine upon us, and we will be saved." (PSA80:18-19) The word "revival" means to bring back to life, to restore to realization, or to restore to a previous condition. Revival is renewal, restoration a fresh inflow of the life, love and power of God. People faint and then, when help is brought, they revive. Flowers droop and when placed in fresh water they revive. Christians and churches also droop, faint and need reviving. A sick person may revive and get a little better and then later be restored to full health and strength. The same is true with Christians and churches. A revival is to restore full relationship between God and His people, flow of His power and wisdom. We have to recognize revival is an act of mercy in the God. *Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.* (ACT3:16)

Blow the trumpet in Zion, declare a fast; proclaim a sacred assembly! (JOE2:15-16) Revival speaks of a restoration to pure sound doctrine and a restoration in the Christian's life. Reformation speaks of a return to teachings of Scripture, revival of a life brought into proper relationship to God. Finally, getting ready for the Lord's return. There can be true revival by doing the Lord's Work in the Lord's Way, so that this dying dark world in which we live may have an exhibition of the church returned to both biblical teaching and a Spirit-filled life. Revival in Christianity refers to a spiritual reawakening of a Christian from a state of spiritual stagnation in the life of a believer. Revival strengthens, deepens faith of a Christian and opens eyes to God's truth, grace in a fresh and new way. It is initiated by a prompting of the Holy Spirit, creating an awareness of something missing or wrong in the believer's life that can be righted by God. In turn, Christian respond by acknowledging our need. Then, in a powerful way, the Holy Spirit allowing believers to fully see themselves in comparison to God's majesty and holiness. Such comparisons bring humility, great awe of God, and His grace. Resulted restoration of fellowship with God, increasing of love for God, gratitude of God's holiness, passion for God's Word and His church.

God, through His Holy Spirit, calls us to revival in a number of situations. Christ's letters to the seven churches reveal necessitate revival. In the letter to Ephesus, Christ praised the church for their perseverance and discernment, but He stated that they had forsaken their first love. (REV2:4-5). Many times, we lose the zeal that we had at first. We become bog down in the ritual, but we no longer experience the joy of serving Christ. Revival helps restore that first love and passion for Christ. Rev.2:10-11 refers to the church at Smyrna, which was suffering intense persecution. The cares and worries of life can beat us down, leaving us emotionally, physically, and spiritually exhausted. Revival can lift us up to new hope and faith. Rev.2:14-16 talks about the problem of compromise with the world and incorporating worldly values into our belief systems. Revival helps us to rightly discern what values we should hold. Rev.2:20-23 discusses the problem of tolerating false teaching in our churches. We need to examine the messages that we hear and compare them to the word of God. Revival helps us to find the truth. Rev.3:1-6 describes a dead church, a church that goes through the motions outwardly, nothing underneath. Here is a picture of nominal Christianity, outwardly prosperous, busy with externals of religious activity but lacking of spiritual life and power. Revival helps to lively spiritual life. In Rev.3:7-13, warned against satisfaction, a life that does not bear fruit. Revival helps strive to grow in grace, to be strong in faith, giving glory to God.

Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You? (PSA85:6) psalmist prays for revival. Let us pray that we may become deeply burdened for God to send a full-scale Holy Spirit revival in our land, indeed throughout the world. What are the steps that lead to such a revival? 1. We must confess our need of Revival: it was only when he felt the need that he prayed. Multitudes are without God and without hope in the world; most of them are outside the churches, and revival is the only key to this tragic situation. In the Church, many churches are worldly, lacking in spiritual power and vitality. Only revival can alter this state of affairs. In our own lives. How powerless we are! How frequently we fail, our testimony seems ineffective, how little we pray! Revival is our personal need. We are willing to admit our need for revival.

2. Are we convinced that revival is possible? And the fact that God has sent revival in the past demonstrates the possibility of revival coming again. And the promises of God, prove the possibility of revival. (MAL3:10) 3. Where does revival come from? It comes from God; when we look to God, we get what God can do. *my expectation is from Him.* (PSA62:5) *That power belongs to God.* (PSA62:11) 4. What is the secret of revival? It is prayer—passionate, believing, urgent prayer. (2CH7:14)

5. God is wanting to send revival. Revival is the outflow of the Spirit of God through the regenerated spirit of man" (JOH7:38-39) Thus, if revival is to come, be ready to receive the blessing of God and to be channels through whom that blessing can flow. 6. We must remove the obstacles to revival, that your people may rejoice in you. This indicates fellowship, walking with God, being right with God. The greatest barrier to revival is sin. Is there sin in your life? Are you living in disobedience to the Lord? 7. We shall enjoy results of revival which are mentioned in v.7-12 salvation; peace; glory; harmony; increase; provision. The Lord is pouring out his Holy Spirit to bring Renewal - restore the primitive model of early church. Restoration - restore to health and to recover. Revival - to return to life; to become active or flourishing again.

But before these things come, the Lord wants us to humble ourselves before him, pray and seek him, and repent of our sins. When we do these things, the Lord promises that he will hear us, forgive us of our sins, and bring healing! Hallelujah! Let us pray. Holy Father, bring revival to my life. Bring revival to our nation, my family, my church, my city. Give me a burden for souls. I dedicate my life, resources to You! Thank you for guiding us by your Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Jesus prayed for unity among His followers: *“Holy Father, protect them by the power of Your name, those whom You have given Me, so that they may be one as We are one”*(JOH17:11,21-23) Obviously, Christian unity is important to our Lord. Jesus gave the reasons that Christian unity is important: He asked that all believers may be in the Father and the Son, (V.21) Unity is being together at one with Jesus Christ. Later in the same prayer, Jesus asked *“I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity”* When Christians are united in Christ, the world sees: Jesus was sent by the Father and Jesus loves His church.

“May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ”(ROM15:5-6) A prayer for the church to grant God’s people the ability to live in harmony with each other in Christ and worship with one voice in glorifying God. To be in one accord praying being one in heart and mind.(ACT1:14) Christians bring honor to God’s name by pursuing unity in the power of the Holy Spirit who brings us together as one thru faith in Christ.(EPH4:3) God has given each Christian different gifts, their exercise in edification of the church leads to unity. *“we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ”*(EPH1:13)

To promote Christian unity, God presents the church as a living body. *For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.* (1CO12:12-27) The body has many members, each with specialized work to do, but all the parts are united in the Head of the Body, which is Christ.(EPH4:15) We must remember that the Lord built only one church, with one faith, one doctrine, one Head Christ. Jesus built His church which is Christ's body. Jesus said, and on this rock I will build My church.(MAT16:18) Christ is the head and all His people become holy-people (children of true God). Ever since the church was established, the gates of Hades/hell shall not prevail against it. The Kingdom of God will continue to exist until—For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet.(1CO15:24-

How the Bible tell if a person is creating division? *note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.*(ROM16:17) The word "offenses" means the divisive person causes others to a snare, stumbling-block, cause for error. Referring to an individual that is following teaching a different gospel.(GAL1:6-9) Do their works betray them as a hypocrite or an evildoer? They seek to have people say, "I follow Apollos," sounds like "I'm a Orthodox" and "I follow Cephas" sounds like "I'm a Roman Catholic," and "I follow Christ" like "I'm a Church of Christ-er". Paul writings of heresies(sects with peculiar opinions) meant destructive element within the church that creates division through consciously formed opinions and ideas in disagreement. Bible condemn as one of the works of the flesh. (GAL5:20,21) It is translated "factions" or "party spirit" a spirit of division and competition. They are worldly-minded.(JUD19

If the Lord is God, follow Him: Prophet Elijah went before the people and said, *“How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.”* *But the people said nothing.*(1KI18:21) On Mount Carmel, Elijah stood before all Israel, including the prophets of false gods, that brought out the simple contrast that challenges all Christians. Sometimes we complicate things, even in faith. This is why there’s a range of doctrine, different denominations, but ultimately one church under one faith. The trouble starts when we get caught up in disagreeing over details—foolish, stupid arguments.(2TI2:23) The end result is that the devil has his way, taking senseless believers captive to do his will.(v.26)

When Elijah spoke to all the men of Israel, his address is directed to those who are uncertain between two opinions. The prophet insisted upon the distinction which existed between the worship Baal, the god of Jezebel, and the worship of Yahweh, the one true God. the God of their fathers. People thought both Gods might be worshiped. "No," said the prophet when he began, "this will not do, these are two opinions; they are two contradictory things which cannot be combined. No man can serve two masters." If God be served, he will be a master; and if the devil be served, he will be a master; and "you cannot serve two masters." God and Mammon, Christ and Belial. Two opinions, would not allow any to profess to worship both. If we understood the things of God, we should not hesitate, but say at once, "Now God is my God, and that forever." Let your conduct be consistent with your opinions; if you believe the Lord to be God, carry it out in your daily life; be holy, be prayerful, trust in God, be faithful, upright, loving; give your heart to God, follow Him and serve Him.

And the challenge will arise for the Church—a decision is put before Christians which asks us to choose God or the gods of the world. How long will you waver between two opinions? Surrender. Christian purposes himself to surrender every part of himself to the Lordship of Jesus. So that’s all my heart. It’s difficult because my heart(/soul/strength/mind) doesn’t naturally love the things of God. But it wouldn’t be surrender if it were easy, no? This is so important it’s right up there with the First Commandment: And God spoke these words, saying, *“You shall have no other gods before me.”*(EXO20:1-3) You must be an intentional, conscious, sober to attempt to surrender all. May God grant you that you may turn unto Him!

What does God want of us? That we live pure and holy lives, gathering in the lost and prepare ourselves and those around us for the coming of the Lord. It is time to unite and be strong together with One Mind—the Mind of Christ and with One Spirit the Holy Spirit. We can no longer be divided as the world falls into darkness. We must stay united as One for Christ, making sure we are not living lukewarm lives. As we live accordingly, the World will see the Power of God in us. Stand together, warning others in love, spend time in the Word and pray in the Spirit at all times for all believers everywhere.