

Life in The Early Church

Studies on the 4 basics according to Acts 2:42

THE APOSTLES' TEACHING



Maurice Barratt

Life in the Early Church

THE APOSTLES'
TEACHING 

British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data
A catalogue record for this book is available
from the British Library

ISBN: 978-1-904592-76-1

First Published & Printed.

December 2017 by Barratt Ministries Publications

114 Daisy Bank Road, Victoria Park, Manchester M14 5QH, UK.

info@barrattministries.org.uk

www.barrattministries.org.uk

Life in the Early Church

THE APOSTLES'
TEACHING 

by Maurice Barratt



Barratt Ministries Publications
Manchester M14 5QH, England

Copyright disclaimer

You are free to quote, copy, and distribute the material in this book. Barratt Ministries operates a non-copyright policy on all original material.

Contents

Preface. Urgent - Reformation Needed!	
Introduction. A New Covenant	
1. The Other Great Commission	
2. 3 Baptisms	
3. Body, Soul and Spirit	
4. The Word of God	
5. Tares Amongst the Wheat	
Postscript – Back to the Bible	

THE APOSTLES' TEACHING

Since then your serene Majesty and your Lordships seek a simple answer, I will give it in this manner, neither horned nor toothed. Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason (for I do not trust either in the pope or in councils alone, since it is well known that they have often erred and contradicted themselves), I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. May God help me. Amen.

Reply to the Diet of Worms, April 18, 1521
Martin Luther,

Preface

Urgent – Reformation Needed!

The Reformer is always right about what's wrong.
However, he's often wrong about what is right.

G.K. Chesterton

Repentance is a 180 degree turn, whereas Reformation
is only a 90 degree turn.

Atom Tate

As I write this volume (2017) the Christian world are celebrating the 500th anniversary of the reformation started by Martin Luther in 1517. October 31st is recognised throughout the world as reformation day. The Catholic church recently recognised it as well, because they have seduced and wooed protestant denomination back into her fold and the Lutherans are leading the way, having already made a declaration which will be ratified this year (2017).

Many other denomination are in the wings waiting to do the same. The Anglicans and Methodists are not far away from an alliance and the 'Faith and Prosperity' preachers have for many years been educating their unsuspecting congregations to embrace the Catholic church. Billy Graham has led the way since the 1960's. The Jesuits are in control of all bible versions translated by the United Bible Society, and the Wescot and Hort translation that all the modern versions are based on is actually a Catholic bible. I will share more on this in later chapters.

135

Not Far Enough!

My firm belief is that we need another reformation. The first one broke away from many evil and un-biblical practices, but it was nowhere near a return to

the early church model. For example; they kept the man made division between clergy and laity, they still thought of buildings as the house of God, instead of God dwelling in human beings. They kept many more religious practices, and doctrines, and did not change the completely pagan calendar that the Catholic Church adopted when they paganised the true church. Nearly all denominations still adhere to this calendar when there is no biblical authority for using it.

Back to Our Biblical Roots

It is time to look at the early church model and get back to the roots of what Jesus and the apostles taught. I realise it is far too radical for a denomination to even consider change and they will resist any move towards it because they have too much to lose. The big mega ministries of America, South Africa, and Asia will never consider the biblical roots for they would have to change their indulgent and covetous lifestyle and close their buildings that have become entertainment centres for self centred believers.

Those few who are looking for the straight gate and the narrow way, and who are convinced that we need to change will be pushed out of the denominations and mega churches just as Luther,

Wesley, and the early Pentecostals were. However, that is God's way of bringing new life – the mother gives birth to a new baby. The mother in this case may be the whore of Babylon, but the baby of a prostitute is born a virgin and that is how God brings revival and reformation.

Radical Change Necessary

I trust as you read these volumes it will give you the resolve to do away with all your religious practices and concentrate on your relationship with God, because that is all that will count when you stand before Jesus to be judged for the deeds done in your body (how you have lived as a Christian).

For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ; that every one may receive the **things done in his body**, according to that he has done, whether it be good or bad.

2 Corinthians 5:10

No hiding Place

No one will be able to hide behind their denomination or tradition if they have not

obeyed the instructions of Jesus and the apostles. We will have to account for our disobedience and resistance to conform to what the bible actually instructs us to do. I trust you will be challenged and motivated to start the process yourself to 'come out of Babylon' as you are faced with the 'apostles' teaching'.

THE APOSTLES' TEACHING

Behold, the days come, says the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, says the LORD: but this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, says the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Jeremiah 31:31-33

Introduction

A New Covenant

All that is deformed ought to be reformed. The Word of God alone teaches us what ought to be so, and all reform effected otherwise is vain.

Francis Lambert

This is the 3rd volume in the Early Church Series, and I am looking at the 4 basic activities of those believers who had been transformed by the preaching of the apostles just after the resurrection

of Jesus. The Holy Ghost was now dwelling in people instead of working with them (as happened under the old covenant). Jesus clearly made a new covenant in blood and, according to Paul, the old one was now abolished.

In that he said, A new covenant, he has made the first old. Now that which decays and waxes old is ready to vanish away.

Hebrews 8:13

New Wine – New Wineskins

New wine needs to go in new wineskins or it will damage the old skins and the wine will be wasted. The skins in the parable Jesus gave, because of the context, were the old and new covenants. The Old Covenant was made void by the new one. The Old Covenant, based on a relationship with God, had deteriorated into a religion – Judaism. Jesus came to abolish what had become 'traditions of men'. He came to restore a relationship with God under a new covenant ready for the new wine to be poured in. The the new wine, the Holy Ghost, had to be poured into the new covenant believers. The laws of God were now written on their hearts and in their minds and they had a spontaneous and refreshing new life.

These are the 4 things they did from house to house.

And they continued steadfastly in the **apostles' doctrine** and **fellowship**, and in **breaking of bread**, and in **prayers**.

Acts 2:42

No Religious Buildings

Please remember, there were no special religious buildings (churches) for 400 years after Jesus died. Jesus did not come to start a new religion, but to reconcile men to God. He did not change the place of worship (the temple under the Old Covenant of God) with places of worship called Churches. The places of worship were now people, and God would dwell in temples not made with hands. The buildings were now people and he would dwell in them. That is why Jesus said that now we have to worship God in spirit and truth and not in Jerusalem, or Samaria, or any special building built for God to dwell in.

Jesus said unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when you shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. You don't know what you worship:

we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, **and now is**, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

John 4:21-24

A New Tabernacle

Paul often talked about his body being a tabernacle (a dwelling place for God).

For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens ...for we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed.

From 2 Corinthians 5:1-4

Peter also calls his body a tabernacle – a place to be inhabited.

Yes, I think it fitting, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in

remembrance; knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ has shown me.

2 Peter 1:13-14

A Personal Relationship

This New Covenant enabled all believes to have a personal relationship with their creator, and not through a priest. This was something new and for the first time God would dwell in their mortal bodies. How differently would Christians live if they really believed this truth. Paul warns about indifference to this fact.

Under the Old Covenant; for a man to pay a prostitute for her services was indulgent, but there was no punishment under the law for this. Now that God, Jesus, and the Holy Ghost dwell in our mortal flesh it is a very different situation under the New Covenant and Paul puts it very strongly in his letter to the Corinthian believers.

Don't you know that your bodies are the members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid.

1 Corinthians 6:15

We should not have a relationship with God through our 'Church' or our Pastor, but directly with God. There is now only one mediator between God and man – Jesus.

For there is one God, and one mediator
between God and men, the man Christ
Jesus.

1 Timothy 2:5

When a person has a relationship with God based on love, and not duty, then religion is not only redundant, but a great hindrance.

In the first 2 volumes of this series I looked at the 'breaking of bread' and 'fellowship' and I now want to look at the 'apostles doctrine'.

Doctrine – What is Taught

Firstly we need to understand what is meant by the word 'doctrine' for it has nothing at all to do with 'Church doctrine' or dogma. The word is translated from the Greek 'didache', and simply means teaching. So, they continued in the Apostles' teaching, but what did the apostles teach? If we know the answer to this question then we will know what we must teach when the church comes together.

The apostles had not yet written the New Testament so the 4 gospels and the letters to the churches were not available to the new believers at this time. The apostles themselves had no written Old Testament in book form, as we have, and obviously did not carry all the scrolls around with them; although, as Jews, they would have learned much of the history of the children of Israel and learned many passages from the prophets and Psalms verbatim.

More Than Imparting Information

Secondly we need to understand that teaching is more than giving information, or the passing on of knowledge. It is even more than mentoring. I used to use this word and thought it good until a friend told me that 'Mentor' was part of Greek mythology. The story of Mentor comes from Homer's *Odyssey*. Odysseus, king of Ithaca, fought in the Trojan War and entrusted the care of his household to Mentor, who served as teacher and overseer of Odysseus' son, Telemachus. A mentor is really only an advisor and trusted friend, and biblical teaching is much more than this. The Hebrew word translated as 'knowledge' implies 'to know by experience', and the best way to describe bible teaching is to use the word 'discipling'. Unless,

and until, a person is applying the knowledge you have given them they have not been taught – they only have the information. Christians are full of bible knowledge and yet they have not applied it and are not disciples of Jesus for they do not do what he says – they only believe it is truth.

More Than Knowledge

Teaching should be much more than imparting knowledge – it needs revelation. Before Jesus died, his disciples had a vast amount of information from him, including the parables, the Sermon on the Mount and the long discourse in the upper room as recorded in John's gospel chapters 13-17. However, they did not have the revelation about all this until Jesus had risen from the dead and they had been filled with the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost.

These things his disciples did not understand at first: but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written of him, and that they had done these things unto him.

John 12:16

Jesus told them that the Holy Ghost would lead them into all truth but of course, they did not

understand what he was intimating until after they had received this experience.

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it doesn't see him, neither does it know him: but you know him; **for he dwells with you, and shall be in you.** I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world sees me no more; but you see me: because I live, you shall live also. At that day you shall know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

John 14:16-20

It is imperative, when someone is teaching, that the Holy Ghost is with them, and in them, to convict those who are listening; or it is all in vain. Knowledge without the anointing is more deceptive than lies. As Paul says – knowledge only puffs up.

Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but charity edifies.

1 Corinthians 8:1

We Need the Spirit of Truth

It is the Holy Ghost that convicts men of sin, and righteousness, and judgement, and a person will never change and be disciplined without these 3 convicting things the accompanying Holy Ghost will achieve in their heart.

When the apostles received the Holy Ghost they not only knew what Jesus meant but they also had revelation on what the prophets of old revealed in prophecies and mysterious sayings, and they quoted extensively from the Old Covenant in their writings to the new believers.

And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, **which from the beginning of the world has been hid in God**, who created all things by Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 3:9

Even the mystery which has been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints.

Colossians 1:26

We have the teaching of Jesus and the letters to the churches and we do not need anything else.

**What was not taught by Jesus and
the apostles should not be taught
by the church today.**

For example, the 'Trinity' doctrine was not taught by Jesus or the apostles. It is a man-made doctrine to try and explain God and it falls far short, because it is an assumed doctrine and not from plain scripture. The bible does not talk of 'God the father', 'God the son', or 'God the Holy Ghost'. Nor does it talk of the 1st 2nd and 3rd persons of the Trinity. The doctrine was formulated at the first council of Nicaea by the Catholic Church in AD 325.

Of course, the bible talks of the father, and of the son, and of the Holy Ghost, but does not formulate a doctrine for us called 'The Trinity'. This doctrine comes from pagan roots. It is so easy to believe that our church doctrines are in the bible rather than man-made assumed ones because scriptures are used which try to support these doctrines, but often they are never stated as such in the scriptures.

Just an Example

I have only used the Trinity doctrine as an example to show how easy it is to put the traditions and

doctrines of the church above the word of God. Jesus was really hard on the Pharisees for doing this and yet Christendom has done exactly the same with its traditions of men.

What About Tithing

Tithing is taught as a New Testament doctrine and yet **there is not one scripture in the New Testament to support Christians giving tithes to the church.** Of course it is the business model of most evangelical churches and they will never change it because they would have to trust God for finance, and they could never do that because they have faith in the world's systems of sales, finance, and politics.

The early church lifestyle is far too radical for any system to change into. That is why revivals always come from those who – 'come out of Babylon'.

We surely need another Reformation.

THE APOSTLES' TEACHING

The last word of our Lord to the church was not the Great Commission. The last thing He said to the church was 'Repent.' He said that to five out of seven churches.

Vance Havner

1

The Other Great Commission

**Most of us are married to a model of ministry and
we flirt with the Great Commission.**

Andy Stanley

All Christians know of the great commission
in Mark's gospel, where the 11 disciples were

instructed to go into all the world and **preach the gospel** with signs and wonders following. If I ask any evangelical Christians what is the Great Commission there is only one answer they will give. Below is the scripture that all evangelical Christians quote.

And he said unto them, Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believes and is baptised shall be saved; but he that does not believe shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe. In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Mark 16:14-18

Only To 11 Men

The first thing to note about this commission is that it was not given to the multitudes or even to the 120 in the upper room – it was only given to the 11 disciples after Jesus has risen from the dead. Judas had committed suicide so the number of them was not 12.

Afterwards **Jesus appeared unto the eleven** as they sat at meat, and upbraided them

with their unbelief and hardness of heart,
because they believed not them which had
seen him after he was risen.

Mark 16:14

The scripture lets us know this for a reason. These men – notice there were no women amongst those who had this commission – were the foundations of the early church. It was built on these men and they had the promise that when Jesus returned they would personally sit on 12 thrones and judge the 12 tribes of Israel (God obviously had a replacement for Judas – I personally believe it was the apostle Paul).

And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, that you which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Matthew 19:28

They were very special men and we must not underestimate the effect they had on the whole world. Their message spread as far as to Great Britain, India and the whole of the known world in the first few years after Jesus died. History records

they were all martyred. Most of the man made apostles of today pale into insignificance compared to these men who had this first commission.

Preach the Gospel

The second thing of note is that they were to go to the whole world to 'preach the gospel'. The gospel was the good news that Jesus has paid the price of our redemption with his own blood so that men could repent, believe and be saved. They could be redeemed by the blood, just as sure as the Israelites were redeemed by the blood on the lintels of the doorpost and were delivered from the bondage and judgement that came upon Egypt.

Preaching is uncompromising and dogmatic – it is not discussion or debate, it is a clear proclamation that there is only one way to God and that is through his son Jesus Christ. If this is true, then there is no room for dialogue or challenge, a person believes or rejects his type of biblical preaching. Jesus words confirm this for he said, "Those that believe will be saved and those that believe not (reject it) will be damned". There is nothing complicated about preaching. It's 'black and white stuff', and the modern church with its silly friendship, compromising, and un-biblical evangelism should take note, repent, and start

preaching the biblical gospel for it is the power of God unto salvation. We should not try to force people, or use sales techniques. Paul talks about the foolishness of preaching the cross of Christ, but that is all we have to do when we go out into the world with our message.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believes; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Romans 1:16

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18

Followers or Disciples?

Many of the modern evangelists are not even making followers of Christ, they are making followers of the Whore of Babylon and she is flourishing in these last days exactly as Jesus and the apostles said she would.

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, **except there come**

a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.

2 Thessalonians 2:3

The third thing to note in this commission is that it was when they went out into the world that signs and wonders would follow – the Church in the West expect sinners to come into a church building which is not biblical at all. Evangelism, outside the church walls, followed by signs and wonders, is so that the world can see the power of God, repent, and be saved, not for those who are saved to indulge in to boost their egos.

Give us a Sign

The sign of a backslidden Church is when they are looking for signs and wonders when believers meet together. Jesus rebuked God's people who were looking for signs when they were backslidden in heart.

A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.

Matthew 16:4

This first commission is to make followers of Jesus. Those who are born the second time of the

spirit and not of the flesh. Those who accept the message, repent and are baptised now need to meet together for fellowship, breaking of bread, prayers, and the teachings of Jesus and the apostles. This is what the early church did and therefore we should follow the pattern if we want to be true disciples, and men and women who use the bible as our example.

What Do We Do Now?

On the day of Pentecost when 120 were filled with the Holy Ghost, they came out of the upper room and were speaking in all the known languages of the day and people said they were drunk, but Peter stood up and gave a gospel message. He pulled no punches and told them that they had killed the prince of life and his blood was upon them. The crowd made the appeal not Peter. They asked the question; "What must we do to be saved?". Peter told them, they were baptised, and 3,000 were added to the 120 in one day.

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God has made that same Jesus, whom you have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, **they were pricked in their heart, and said unto**

**Peter and to the rest of the apostles,
Men and brethren, what shall we do?**

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost ...Then they that gladly received his word were baptised: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

From Acts 2:36-41

A Great Deception

What did they do with all these people? Did they teach tithing so that they could erect a building for all of them to meet in and call it a Church? No, buildings were not even in their minds, it was only when Imperial Rome morphed into Religious Rome that churches were built to satisfy the pagans who had their temples. The early disciples knew that God, Jesus, and the Holy Ghost were now in them and not with them and they could not put up a building for God to dwell in. The veil of the temple had been torn from top to bottom because God was coming out of a building and into the flesh and blood of human temples. What a deception to call a building, a tabernacle or temple as 'The Church' has done.

The early believers met from house to house and did the 4 things that I am writing about in this series. This is where the neglected, other great commission comes into operation. After a person becomes a follower of Jesus, and is righteous by faith, then it is a 20 year process to become a mature disciple. Just as a baby needs time and discipline to become a mature member of society so it is with a new believer of Christ. That is why small groups are necessary, because teaching and discipling cannot function in large crowds where questions and discussion are necessary for understanding and growth. Jesus only trained 12 to be apostles so to think a church can disciple people en masse is rather foolish.

Who Will Build the Church

Jesus said he would build his church and this happened when the believers did the 4 things I am discussing from house to house.

And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Acts 2:46-7

A minister is not supposed to grow and build his church. If I have a man coming to my church to tell me how to expand and grow it then I can only be building a counterfeit church, the whore and not the bride. Christ will build his Church. There is no mandate to win souls or save the lost in the New Testament. The mandate is the commission to preach truth to the whole world, but the ambitious leaders have changed this to win souls and build the church – God forgive them for this perversion of what the bible says.

The Other Great Commission

Let me now compare this commission in Mark with another similar commission in Matthew's gospel. It has many similarities, but is fundamentally different and needs different people to fulfil it. Jesus gave this other 'Great Commission' at the end of Matthew's gospel.

Then **the eleven disciples** went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go therefore, **and teach all**

nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, know that I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Matthew 28:16-20

This was to the same 11 disciples but the commission is different in some of its points.

The 1st point is the same – go and teach all nations – this obviously means the whole world.

The 2nd point is different, in that Jesus does not say **preach** the gospel, but **teach** and he tells them what to teach – **all the things I have commanded you**.

This means that the first commission is to be fulfilled by apostles and evangelists and this second one needs to be fulfilled by teachers. The 5 ministry gifts to the Church are to the body of Christ and not to individual churches. They are recorded in Ephesians.

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Ephesians 4:11

An apostle is not a pastor and a teacher is not an evangelist. They are separate ministries. Ministers are so mixed up in their roles in the modern church because they do not read the bible for themselves – they listen to the traditions of their denominations. A pastor never had oversight of a group of believers in the New Testament, it was always an elder or bishop who are chosen by the believers and ordained by the apostles. That is why in the C.V. of an elder Paul says they must be 'apt to teach', because they are to fulfil this commission in Matthew's Gospel.

A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, **apt to teach;**

1 Titus 3:2

Who Does God Set?

This list of 5 ministries were given by Christ but God sets 3 of them apostles, prophets and teachers and they are not ordained or chosen by men, they are to the body of Christ world wide. Notice that Evangelists are not mentioned because they should work outside of the body of believers - Jesus said 'go into all the world'.

And God has set some in the church, first
apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly
teachers

1 Corinthians 12:28

No Signs and Wonders!

Notice that there is no mention of signs and wonders to accompany this teaching. Why is this? It is because the power of God and the manifestations of the spirit do not make people holy. Discipleship is becoming like Jesus in character, which means being different than the world. This is holiness or sanctification (separateness) and the supernatural power of God cannot accomplish this. The children of Israel experienced all the power of God in the signs and wonders that were done in Egypt and the divine protection on them at the same time, but it did not separate them from Egypt. The signs and wonders got them out of Egypt but the signs and wonders did not get Egypt out of them, and within 40 days of a miraculous deliverance they were dancing naked around a golden calf. Evangelism is for salvation (to bring people to new birth as immature babies), but teaching should be to followers to enable them to become disciples (mature believers).

The Gifts or the Fruit?

The gifts of the spirit are the manifestations of the power of God and do not make anyone holy – in fact they can gender pride and covetousness so easily.

It is the fruit of the Spirit – the character of God that makes a person different or holy.

My father had a radical conversion at the age of 25 and, without bible school or teaching from men, began a supernatural ministry of healing and deliverance. It drew the crowds and a large church was established in Manchester. Signs, miracles and healings were the order of the day and it was an exciting and emotional time for all those who witnessed this revival of the early church lifestyle.

After many years God spoke clearly to my father and told him he would never produce mature Christians on this exciting ministry, and so he stopped the divine healing meetings except when he went around the world evangelising and started to teach the Sermon on the Mount to his regular congregation. God gave him wonderful revelation.

Each Sunday, before taking communion, he went through the 3 chapters of Matthew's Gospel. It took 5 years of teaching but it devastated my life and deposited something in me that neither bible school nor ministry could achieve. It is the manifesto for discipleship and having taught it myself for over 35 years in as many countries I have seen thousands of followers become disciples all over the world. I am still being challenged by this teaching of Jesus as I go through it weekly in the UK or in the many countries I visit for the purpose of making disciples.

Reasoning

This commission is to make disciples of Jesus because they are expected to obey the instructions Jesus gave. Teaching is not bombastic and is not dogmatic. It is placing the word for people to hear, understand, and ask questions if necessary. It is not a lecture to impart knowledge, it is reasoning and imparting experience as well as principles to live by. Paul was an excellent teacher and he reasoned with people. He was not intimidated or fearful of what people would think and he asked them to judge his words.

I speak as to wise men; you judge what I say.

1 Corinthians 10:15

Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?

1 Corinthians 11:13

I can say with certainty that I know what the apostles taught for they had a commission from Jesus himself, and it was very clear. Jesus said they should teach the things that he had commanded them to do (teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you). So all the things that Jesus instructed the apostles to do they were to teach to those who believed and had come into fellowship with others who had also believed.

The Sermon on the Mount

I believe the whole teachings of Jesus are contained in the Sermon on the Mount in the 3 chapters of Matthew 5-7. It is paraphrased in Luke 6, 9 and 12 and the parables and miracles in the 4 gospels are all teaching the principles of this sermon. All of the letters to the churches only amplify and confirm the Sermon on the Mount and there is no new teaching that Jesus did not cover in his manifesto for discipleship. I also believe that the whole of the Old Covenant is covered in this teaching from Jesus to his disciples. To teach these principles Jesus took them away from the crowds and up into a mountain.

And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him: and he opened his mouth, and taught them.

Matthew 5:1-2

I believe the reason many Christians are weak, immature, and lacking discernment when confronted with the false teaching of many so called men of God is because they have not been taught this sermon or encouraged to make it their lifestyle. This sermon of Jesus is the manifesto for a disciple and nothing can substitute this teaching. To read it and not put it into practice is to build on sand according to Jesus' interpretation of his final parable in this sermon. Without this practice, when the rain, winds, and storms of life come, then the house will fall. There would be no church splits, no ministers using the gifts of the spirit for their own covetous pockets, and Christians would have clear discernment when false teaching came their way if ministries were built on this rock.

Still Being Challenged

I have been studying and teaching it for 35 years and I am still being challenged by what it asks me to do and the attitudes I need to change to fulfil

the commandments of Jesus. I have personally seen thousands of lives changed beyond all recognition by this teaching. I have testimonies from people all over the world from every continent and from over 60 countries. This teaching of Jesus has stood the test of time. John Wesley preached many sermons on it, as did Dietrich Bonhoeffer who was martyred by Adolf Hitler just before Buchenwald concentration camp was liberated. His book, 'The Cost of Discipleship' is a book I cannot recommend too highly. I have written 6 books (Footnote 1) and 5 of them are the teachings from the Sermon on the Mount so I will not cover it in this volume but will share some other teaching of Jesus that the Church have misunderstood or missed completely.

Footnote 1

The 6 books in the 'Radical Christianity Series' are obtainable from the website as paperbacks or PDF's. **www.barrattministries.org.uk** The books are also available worldwide from Amazon as a kindle download. The teachings are also on the Barratt Ministries YouTube channel and can be downloaded, or streamed, from the Barratt Ministries 'Vimeo' channel.

THE APOSTLES' TEACHING



In whom also you are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: buried with him in baptism, wherein also you are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who has raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, he has quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses.

Colossians 2:11-13

2

3 Baptisms

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for remission of sins, and you'll receive gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 2:38

In the other Great Commission in Matthew's gospel there is a command that is easy to miss, or misunderstand, and I was guilty of this for

most of my adult Christian life. Let me look at this commission again. Here it is;

Go therefore, and teach all nations, **baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost**: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Matthew 28:19-20

Traditions of the Elders

Jesus told the apostles to teach and baptise them. He did not say "in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost", he said in the name of the Father, **and** of the Son, **and** of the Holy Ghost which is different and implies 3 distinct baptisms. In the past I had assumed, like all the other Christians I have met, that he was talking about water baptism even though there is nothing to convey this in his command, and that we should immerse them using the words above. Here again I had accepted the 'Traditions of the Elders' without question and without any scriptural foundation whatsoever. Why would I challenge it when everyone practised it the same way and used

the same words that I did – and anyway it sounded good to me?

A few years ago a good friend and minister asked me how I had been baptised in water and I told him I was immersed in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. He surprised me when he told me I was wrong and there was nothing in the bible to say we should be baptised in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. He told me to check the acts of the Apostles to see how they baptised the new believers. I knew he was wrong but did not want to argue so I told him to leave it with me and I would look into it and get back to him.

What a Shock – I Was Wrong!

The next day I looked at all the scriptures that talked about water baptism in the New Testament and the actual baptisms themselves and I was really surprised. Not once did they baptise anyone in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

**In every single instance they
baptised in the name of Jesus**

I have put the 3 scriptures that demonstrate this below for you to read for yourself.

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, be baptised every one of you **in the name of Jesus Christ** for remission of sins, and you'll receive gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 2:38

For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only **they were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus.**

Acts 8:16

And he commanded them to be **baptised in the name of the Lord.**

Acts 10:48

Other scriptures that are teaching on baptism also support that it is in the name of Jesus alone. They are below for you to see for yourselves

...as many of you as have been **baptised into Christ** have put on Christ.

Galatians 3:27

Therefore **we are buried with Jesus by baptism into death**: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:4

Buried **with Jesus in baptism**, wherein also you are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who has raised him from the dead.

Colossians 2:12

Of course, I was stunned to find that they did not do what I ignorantly supposed they had done, but at the back of my mind I couldn't get away from the fact that there was scriptural evidence for baptising in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. I looked in my concordance and sure enough I found the scripture that niggled away at the back of my mind whilst looking at the practice of the Apostles in the book of Acts. It was the one we are looking at in Matthew 28.

We Need Logic

I now had to apply some logic (always recommended when reading the bible) for there was apparently clear instructions for the disciples to baptise in the name of the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost and yet none of them ever did it in practice. It was always in the name of Jesus and Paul confirms this when he says we are baptised into Christ – not the Godhead.

I remember a principle that my father taught me of 'Precept and Practice'. He said I should look at the

teaching or commandments of Jesus and then see how it was practised or interpreted by the apostles in the book of Acts. This has been a tremendous help to me and saved me from many of my own interpretations or from that of other people who have put their own doctrinal or denominational bias to what Jesus taught. I had never done this with water baptism and now I had a dilemma.

Choices

I went through the possibilities in my mind.

1. Jesus told them to baptise them in the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost, but they did not understand so disobeyed by baptising them in the name of Jesus only.

2. They knew exactly what Jesus meant and practised it which meant that I did not understand what Jesus was meaning.

3. Jesus did not know what he was talking about and the disciples put things right.

It was obvious that I could discount thoughts 1 and 3 so I was left with the conclusion that I had to reappraise what Jesus said and what he actually

meant. I now fully understand what he meant and here is the fruit of my studies.

I realised that Jesus did not mention water baptism in this passage in Matthew where he gave this commission, so I could not assume that this was the baptism he was referring to because I knew there was a baptism of the Holy Ghost as separate event.

Not a Mantra

I also realised that in the bible name denotes character. When Jesus told us to cast out devils in his name he was not saying there was power in the word 'Jesus', but in the very character that the name implied. In fact, when the sons of Sceva used the name of Jesus without having his character the devils came out of the possessed man and into the sons of Skeva and they fled naked and wounded.

And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you? And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and

prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.

Acts 19:14-16

My conclusion, and what I now teach, is that Jesus was talking about 3 separate baptisms that a follower of Jesus needs on their journey to be a disciple. It is fundamental for it is in his commission.

Before I look at these 3 baptisms it would be good to look at what baptism actually means.

Dipped or Pickled?

The Greek word translated as baptise is baptizo which is not to be confused with the Greek word bapto, which only means 'to dip'. Here is an excellent explanation

The clearest example that shows the meaning of baptizo is a text from the Greek poet and physician Nicander, who lived about 200 B.C. It is a recipe for making pickles and is helpful because it uses both words. Nicander says that in order to make a pickle, the vegetable should first be 'dipped' (bapto) into boiling water and then 'baptised' (baptizo) in the vinegar solution. Both verbs concern the

immersing of vegetables in a solution. But the first is temporary. The second, the act of baptising the vegetable, produces a permanent change. The vegetable is pickled.

(Bible Study Magazine,
James Montgomery Boice, May 1989).

This is what baptism means in a Christian context – to be not only dipped, but to be permeated with the one we are being baptised into, and to be fundamentally changed over time.

Reconciled to God

These are the 3 baptisms that Jesus is referring to. The first is the baptism into God. When we accept Jesus as our saviour we are reconciled to God and his seed is now in us for we are his child.

Whoever is born of God does not commit sin;
for **his seed remains in him**: and he cannot
sin, because he is born of God.

1 John 3:9

He is not only on the outside of us (with us) but he is on the inside as well and his life should permeate through our physical body.

Under the Old Covenant God went with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob. It is different under the New Covenant for now God dwells in our mortal flesh and we are the tabernacle of God. Paul states this clearly to the Corinthian believers.

Don't you know you **are the temple of God**,
and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

1 Corinthians 3:16

This terminology is nowhere used under the Old Covenant.

Baptised into Christ

The second Baptism is into Christ and this is water baptism as I have shown with scriptures from the book of Acts and the epistles. My wife has done a study linking circumcision under the Old Covenant and water baptism under the New Covenant and shows that both are to roll away the flesh. I will not go into this too deeply because it would take a whole chapter but I will share a few thoughts. First, here is a scripture to support this link of circumcision to Water Baptism.

In whom also you are circumcised with the
circumcision made without hands, in putting

off the body of the sins of the flesh **by the circumcision of Christ: buried with him in baptism**, wherein also you are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who has raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, he has quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses.

Colossians 2:11-13

Circumcision

When a child, under the law of Moses, was circumcised it was on the eighth day after his birth and so he would know nothing about this operation. He would have no memory of this at all. He would not even know he was different from a Gentile until he grew up and was told of it, and the reasons for it and how he had to live a different lifestyle that anyone who had not been circumcised. So it is with baptism, and that is why we do not need lessons or classes to learn about it before we are baptised. As soon as a person accepts Christ as their saviour then they should be baptised straight away. This is the only scriptural way. The apostles always asked those who were believers if they had been baptised in the Holy Ghost and with water and we should

always do the same. It does not need any waiting time for water baptism or for the baptism of the Holy Ghost – waiting meetings for the Holy Ghost have no biblical basis. The waiting is over.

The Holy Ghost is Waiting for Us

The early disciples were told to wait until the promise of the Holy Ghost came, but he is now here to enter people's bodies and manifest in the gifts of the spirit as soon as they are reconciled to God. Again, a person does not need instruction on how to be filled with the Holy Ghost or on the gifts of the spirit – they just need the baptism and the pickling process will start to permeate them. The process only starts at baptism. With pickling it takes time even when submerged in a fluid for the fluid to permeate right through the vegetable (around 2 months). So it is with us – even though we have been baptised into Christ it takes many years for his life to permeate our very character and manifest through our flesh.

After water baptism Christ is not only with us he in us.

To whom God would make known what is
the riches of the glory of this mystery among

the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory.

Colossians 1:27

The third baptism is into the Holy Ghost. All the gifts of the spirit were operating in the Old Covenant apart from speaking in tongues. There are 9 manifestations of the Holy Ghost according to 1 Corinthians 12. Here is the list.

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit **the word of wisdom**; to another **the word of knowledge** by the same Spirit; to another **faith** by the same Spirit; to another the **gifts of healing** by the same Spirit; to another **the working of miracles**; to another **prophecy**; to another **discerning of spirits**; to another **divers kinds of tongues**; to another **the interpretation of tongues**: but all these work that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

1 Corinthians 12: 7-11

It would be easy to show with numerous examples of all the 8 gifts in operation throughout the Old Testament. Miracles, healings, prophecy,

words of supernatural wisdom and knowledge, and discernment of spirits, are self evident if a person knows their bible. This can only mean that the Holy Spirit did not come to the earth on the day of Pentecost for he was already on the earth and working with men from the beginning. What happened on the day of Pentecost was that the Holy Spirit now came inside people to reside in their bodies. That is why Jesus said 'out of your bellies will flow the living water'. That is why they spoke in tongues – a new manifestation, to show that the spirit was now in them and it could be manifested from them. It was the evidence that the Holy Ghost now resided in their mortal bodies.

He that believes on me, as the scripture has said, **out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.** (But this spoke he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because Jesus was not yet glorified.

John 7:38-39

The Holy Ghost was With Them

The disciples already knew the Holy Ghost for he was with them when they went out and did the miracles while Jesus was alive. In Matthew 10, Jesus

sent the disciples out to heal the sick, cast out devils, and raise the dead and this was before Jesus died; never mind that it was before the day of Pentecost.

And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. Jesus sent these twelve forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. **Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils:** freely you have received, freely give.

From Matthew 10:1-8

In Them – Not With Them

Jesus explained to the disciples in the upper room that the Holy Ghost would come to dwell in them, and not just with them as was the case before Pentecost.

If you love me, keep my commandments,
and I will pray the Father, and he shall give

you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it doesn't see him not, neither does it know him: **but you know him; for he dwells with you,** and shall be **in you.**

John 14:15-17

Paul makes it clear that a person filled with the Holy Ghost has the Holy Ghost residing in their bodies.

What? Don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost **which is in you,** which you have of God, and you are not your own?

1 Corinthians 6:19

Full of the Holy Ghost

Remember that Baptism implies permeated or pickled inside and out and in Acts it is recorded that people were full of the Holy Ghost. Here are a few scriptures to support this:

Wherefore, brethren, look out from among you seven men of honest report, **full of the Holy Ghost** and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

Acts 6:3

But he, **being full of the Holy Ghost**, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God.

Acts 7:55

For he was a good man, and **full of the Holy Ghost** and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.

Acts 11:24

Part of the Great Commission

So, my conclusion is that the 3 baptisms are part of this Great Commission recorded in Matthew's gospel to make disciples of all nations, and to teach all the things that Jesus taught. It is the only thing that Jesus mentions specifically in his commission so it must be fundamental and necessary for, as I have already stated, without the Holy Ghost – the spirit of truth – how can we understand and have revelation on the teachings of Jesus.

Do We Receive the Trinity?

I have come across many Christians who say that when they accepted Jesus they receive the whole Godhead. They say 'how can you only receive a part of God if he is 3 persons – you

receive the Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost? (This is, of course, because they have accepted the Trinity doctrine as absolute truth instead of what the bible actually says). This sounds a good argument to some, but it is not scriptural as I have shown, for there are 3 separate experiences and 3 baptisms.

I believe the order is also relevant, because until we are reconciled to God there is no point in being baptised in water, and in the Acts of the Apostles they were introduced to the experience of the Holy Ghost after they had been baptised. This then is the biblical order. It must be noted that God could fill a person with the 3 baptisms all at once, and if someone has been filled with the Holy Ghost and then realise they need a full immersion baptism then it does not make them second class or disobedient.

THE APOSTLES' TEACHING

Secular history reveals that the concept of the immortality of the soul is an ancient belief embraced by many pagan religions. But it's not a biblical teaching and is not found in either the Old or New Testaments.

3

Body, Soul and Spirit

For you wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither will you suffer your Holy One to see corruption.

Psalm 16:10

Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Psalm 103:1

This book is about the apostles' teaching, but as the letters to the Churches only confirm and expand the Sermon on the Mount that Jesus taught to his disciples I do not propose to cover them in this book because I have written a series of 6 books covering the teaching of Jesus. (Footnote 1) What I would like to do in this volume is to show that much of what is taught in churches today is not what Jesus or the apostles taught and has no biblical basis.

What Does the Bible Say

What did Jesus and the Apostles teach about the body, soul, and spirit? They did not teach that man is a triune being so let me show from scripture what they believed and taught. I do not think I need to explain about the body of man for everyone seems to agree that it is not spiritual but composed of matter. Most people also understand that the spirit of man is not material, and the emotions, thinking and desires are all part of our spiritual make up. The problem seems to be with understanding the soul. Paul says that one of the difficulties we have differentiating between soul and spirit and that only the word of God can do this – obviously by divine revelation.

For the word of God is quick, and powerful,
and sharper than any two-edged sword,

piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

The apostles did not get any teaching from Jesus on the soul for although he mentions the soul he does not tell us what he meant by it. This can only mean that everyone in Jesus' day, and of the early Church, understood what is meant by the soul. Surely, if people did not know then it would have been important for Jesus and the apostles to define it.

Wherever I go throughout the world I find people teach that man is a triune being – body, soul and spirit, but this is not scriptural. They tell us what is of the soul and what is of the spirit and fit the emotions, will, conscious and sub-conscious thinking, and many other sub divisions into the spirit or the soul and seem to have it all figured out. My problem is that they have no clear unambiguous scripture to support their claims. Because I have knowledge of New Age and occult doctrines I can see where this teaching has come from.

Compromised

Unfortunately, and surprising to many Christians, is the fact that early church doctrines

have been compromised and have come through Egyptian, Babylonian and Greek influence, so that at this present time believers are taught a completely different message than is taught in the letters to the churches and from Jesus, and is a mishmash of Old and New Covenant scripture supporting false and erroneous suppositions. It is time for a new reformation to get back to the word of God and see what it really says without any preconceived ideas passed down through the ages culminating in the 'traditions of the elders'.

Let me present my understanding of what the soul is from reading the bible without reference to what others have said throughout the ages.

Only one Scripture

There is only one scripture in the whole of the New Testament that puts body, soul, and spirit together and it is in a benediction from Paul to the Christians in Thessalonica.

And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

In other verses of the bible it suggests that we are made up of more than 3 parts. Here are a few of them. There is no mention of the spirit in the following verse.

And fear not them which kill the **body**, but are not able to kill the **soul**: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Matthew 10:28

This verse below has 3 parts but does not mention body, but includes the mind.

Jesus said unto him, you shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart**, and with all your **soul**, and with all your **mind**.

Matthew 22:37

Here is a scripture that suggests we have 4 parts to love God with.

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your **heart**, and with all your **soul**, and with all your **mind**, and with all your **strength**: this is the first commandment.

Mark 12:30

No other scripture in the New Testament gives us any indication that man is a triune being – body soul and spirit, so we need to look afresh at what the soul is according to the bible.

Back to Basics

The first mention of anything in the bible gives a good definition and platform to base all other scriptures about that word or situation. The first mention of soul is in Genesis, right at the creation of man, so this mention will give us a good understanding if we look at it.

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and **man became a living soul.**

Genesis 2:7

This is my basis for all the rest of the scriptures about the soul and I find that all agree with this view and there is not one scripture about the soul that I cannot understand from this definition. This is the first mention right at the creation of man so it is fundamental – and **God's description.**

What is so difficult in understanding this sentence? God formed man from dust – obviously his body or

form, then he breathed into him the breath of life – obviously his human spirit. And then man became, or was now, a living soul – a body with a spirit in it. From God's statement there are only 2 parts to man. His flesh is his body and everything else is spiritual. His mind, his heart, his emotions, and his will, are all part of the spiritual, non-physical, make up and not of his soul. The soul is the name of the 2 parts together – that is what a person is – a living soul. I do not have a soul, I am a soul.

God does not say he put a soul into man's body or spirit – he says 'and man became a living soul'. That is what man is – a living soul.

If man became a living soul when he received his spirit – the breath of life – then he cannot have an immortal soul (he must have preexisted if it is immortal). He only became a soul when the breath of life – his spirit entered his body (I will look at this error of the immortality of the soul later in this chapter). Therefore, a living soul is a body with the spirit of life in it. Man does not have a soul – he is a soul. The word soul is synonymous with self – what I am – my very self. We use this definition in our everyday vernacular and may say about an old lady;

'Look at that dear old soul'.

Physical or Spiritual

Is a soul physical? Yes. Is a soul spiritual? Yes; because it is me and I am both physical and spiritual – that is what makes me a living human being – a soul, but it is not an individual part of me that needs saving. It does not exist on its own. However, I can talk about 3 things, for I can talk about body, and I can talk about the spirit and I can also talk about the soul. Maybe a simple illustration will help if you have not grasped what I am saying.

If I gave you a meal of beans on toast, I could say 'enjoy the beans', which means you may hate the toast, or I could say 'enjoy the toast' which means you may hate the beans, because the beans and the toast are separate items. But, if I say enjoy the meal you would enjoy both the beans and the toast. I have said 3 things you could enjoy – the beans, the toast and the meal, but there are only 2 things to eat – beans and toast. The 3rd thing to enjoy is the meal which includes the beans and the toast.

I have a body and I have a spirit but I can also talk about the soul but there are only 2 things that make me a person not 3 – the body and the spirit. The soul is the whole man, what he is and not a

part of him – 'the whole meal' (maybe you will have to read this a few times to understand what I am saying).

Corrupted Thinking

Why should we try and make other definitions of this simple fact stated in the creation of man. I can give you the simple answer, it is because the enemy of our souls – Satan had permeated our church doctrines with all sorts of occult definitions and mind sets to take us away from the truth of the bible.

The late C.S.Lewis said the following and he was half right.

You don't have a Soul. You ARE a Soul – you
Have a body.

Sadly, he did not go far enough, because you are not a soul if you do not have a spirit – the breath of life. He should have said;

You don't have a soul. You are a soul –
you have a body and you have a spirit

This is the bible definition.

Everything that has the breath of life (spirit) in a physical or spiritual body is called a soul in the bible. Animals, birds and fish are also souls and God talks about his own soul. One day all the animal kingdom as well as humanity will be redeemed at the return of Jesus. Here are scriptures that show this to be true.

And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creeps upon the earth, **wherein there is life**, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.

Genesis 1:29-30

The word life in the above verse is translated from the word Nephesh, the same word translated as soul all over the Old Testament.

In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind.

Job 12:10

For the earnest expectation of the creature waits for the manifestation of the sons of

God. For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who has subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and travails in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first-fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, that is, the redemption of our body.

Romans 8:19-23

An Immortal Soul

There is nothing metaphysical about the soul. Whatever breathes, man or animal, is a living soul, so where then does the belief of the so called 'immortal soul' come from?

God's people under the Old Covenant knew this bible definition of the soul to be the case and the Jewish encyclopedia states so. No one under the old covenant believed man had an immortal, never dying soul. The idea has been accepted into mainstream Christianity because of pagan philosophy slowly pervading the word of God and intellectual

philosophical Christian theologians, such as Origen and Thomas Aquinas who were heavily influenced by Socrates and Plato. The concept of the soul's supposed immortality was first taught in ancient Egypt and Babylon.

The belief that the soul continues in existence after the dissolution of the body is speculation, and nowhere expressly taught in Scripture. The belief in the immortality of the soul came to the Jews from contact with Greek thought and chiefly through the philosophy of Plato, its principal exponent, who was led to it through Orphic and Eleusinian mysteries in which Babylonian and Egyptian views were strangely blended
(Jewish Encyclopedia, 1941, Vol. 6, Immortality of the Soul, pp. 564, 566)

Here is a quote from Vines bible dictionary...

The word soul, Nephesh: "the essence of life, the act of breathing, taking breath"

The problem with the English term 'soul' is that no actual equivalent of the term, or the idea behind it, is represented in the Hebrew language. The Hebrew system of thought does not include

the combination or opposition of the 'body' and 'soul' which are really Greek and Latin in origin.

**Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary
of Old and New Testament Words, 1985,
p.237-238**

New Age Thinking in the Church

Modern church doctrine is so close to New Age and pagan philosophy in the area of the soul that it is frightening. Here is a quote from the mother of the New Age thinking, and it sounds like much of our modern theology.

The soul is the field of our psychological activity (thinking, emotions, memory, desires, will, and so on).

From Helen Blavastky's Theosophy

Everyone of us that breaths today is a living soul. When we will have breathed our last, we will no longer be living souls. There is no such thing as a dead soul because without the breath of life the body is dead and so by definition a soul cannot exist without a body or the breath of life. Our body would be dead but our spirit would not be dead – according to the bible we would be sleeping. However, our spirit could be conscious as when we

dream where our emotions, desires and fears are exercised but have no means to physically manifest anything. When we are raised from the dead we inherit immortality not because of our immortal soul but because we now have a body – albeit a spiritual one and our spirit returns to its original dwelling place – our metamorphosed, now spiritual, body.

The Soul of God

God is a soul so he must have a body and a spirit. It does not matter whether you have a spiritual body or a physical body you are still a soul – you have an identity comprising of body and spirit We are made in God's image. God has a spiritual body and he has, or is, a spirit so therefore God is a soul by definition, a self, and scripture uses the same expression as that of a human soul.

And they put away the strange gods from among them, and served the LORD: and **his soul** was grieved for the misery of Israel.

Judges 10:16

God does not have a soul that needs saving nor, has he a saved soul. The above verse is saying 'his whole being' was grieved.

Jesus said the same thing in Gethsemane. He was saying, my whole being, body and spirit are sorrowful.

Then Jesus said to them, **My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death:** you tarry here, and watch with me.

Matthew 26:38

The Human Soul?

Billy Graham, perhaps the most highly respected Christian evangelist in the world, made the following remarks concerning the human 'soul' in his Louisville Kentucky Crusade: and it is also repeated in his books (Peace with God, Chapter 7: After Death – What?).

Your eternal soul is the most valuable thing you possess. You have a body, but living inside of you is your spirit or soul. And when a person dies, what happens? The soul goes on.

(Speaking on the value of the soul.)

First, it's valuable because it's eternal. It's going to live forever. A million years from now, our soul will be living. The body is the

house, the soul is the tenant. But when the body dies, the soul lives on. The good news is that God offers eternal life to every soul."

Is this correct according to the bible and is the soul Immortal?

The bible states plainly that, rather than possess immortality, the soul can and does die.

Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sins, it shall die.

Ezekiel 18:4,

The soul that sins, it shall die...

Ezekiel 18:20).

There is an interesting verse in Ecclesiastes:

Who knows the spirit of man that goes upward, and the spirit of the beast that goes downward to the earth?

Ecclesiastes 3:21

This verse says the spirit, not the soul, goes upwards or downwards. The Hebrew word is 'ruach' (spirit) not 'Nephesh' which is sometimes translated

as soul. The Old Testament describes the dead as going to Sheol, translated into English as 'hell,' 'pit', or 'grave.'. Ecclesiastes 9:5-6 describes Sheol as a place of unconsciousness:

For the living know that they will die; but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, their hatred, and their envy have now perished...

Ecclesiastes 9:5-6

King David laments that death extinguishes a relationship with God.

For in death there is no remembrance of You; in the grave who will give You thanks?

Psalms 6:5

In the first century the Jewish philosopher Philo taught a Platonic concept that the death of a man is the separation of his soul from his body. Philo followed the Hellenistic view that the soul is freed upon death to an everlasting life of virtue or evil.

As with the definition of the soul the immortal soul concept isn't in the Old Testament. It

began to make inroads into Jewish thought as Jews came in contact with Greek culture.

From *The Works of Philo*,
translated by C.D. Yonge,
1993, p.37

What About Death?

How does the New Testament describe death? When talking about death and resurrection the apostle Paul says he will show the Corinthian church a mystery and he describes death as 'sleep'.

Behold, I show you a mystery; **We shall not all sleep**, but we shall all be changed,
1 Corinthians 15:51

Again in Thessalonians Paul, when talking about the resurrection of the believers, uses sleep for those who have died:

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, **concerning them which are asleep**, that you don't sorrow, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so **them also which sleep** in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by

the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them **which are asleep**. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17

The term immortal soul does not appear anywhere in the Bible. The Scriptures do not speak of the soul as being immortal. Immortality in the bible is eternal life. If a soul is immortal then it cannot die. For example John says:

You know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

1 John 3:15

Paul told the members of the congregation in Rome to seek immortality. You cannot seek for what you already have.

But after your hardness and impenitent heart you treasure unto yourself wrath against the

day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgement of God; who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing **seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:** but unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,

Romans 2:5-8

He taught Christians at Corinth that they must be changed and put on immortality.

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and **this mortal must put on immortality.** So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, **and this mortal shall have put on immortality,** then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

1 Corinthians 15:52-54

We will become like the risen Christ if we are in the first resurrection.

And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

1 Corinthians 15:45

Paul proclaimed that only God and His Son possess immortality:

That you keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: which in his times he shall show, who is the blessed and only Potentate, **the King of kings, and Lord of lords; who only has immortality**, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man has seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

1 Timothy 6:14-16

Paul says that eternal life is a gift from God.

But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, you have your fruit unto holiness, **and the end everlasting life**. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:22-23

Maybe the most powerful words come from Jesus Himself.

And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that **everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life**; and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:40

Satan's First Lie

The lie about the immortality of the soul is very interesting because it is the first lie in the bible. Satan is the father of lies and his 'first mention' of a lie is about immortality. It should be no surprise to us for he is always trying to pervert the thinking of believers to accept this belief in immortality of the soul. God said clearly that Adam and Eve would die if they ate of the forbidden tree. If they had an immortal soul then they would not die.

But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it: for in the day that you eat of it **you shall surely die.**

Genesis 2:17

God told the first human beings, Adam and Eve, that if they sinned they would die and return to the dust from which He had created them.

In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return unto the ground; for out of it were you taken: for dust you are and unto dust you shall return.

Genesis 3:19

Satan is very clever and the first thing he said was, 'You shall surely die'.

And the serpent said unto the woman, **You shall not surely die:**

Genesis 2:4

Offer of Immortality

This surely means they would be immortal and live forever. He also made a true statement to convince Eve that he was not telling a lie. Satan always uses the mixture. The good beef sandwich with a little bit of deadly poison in it. He never offers poison as he is far too cunning to be so naive that we would accept it. Lies are always mixed with a good dose of truth and it seems Christians fall for this mixture nearly every time.

For God knows that in the day you eat of the tree, then your eyes shall be opened, and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Genesis 2:5

This was true for it happened as Satan had promised her as is confirmed in the following verse.

And the LORD God said, Behold, **the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil:** and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

Genesis 2:22

Satan's Deceit

Satan cunningly injected into Eve's consciousness the notion that God was lying and that she and her husband would not die. He was presenting the unscriptural teaching of the immortality of the soul into human thought.

The tree of life would have kept Adam living forever (not because he was immortal) for when God cut him off from this means and stopped him eating from the tree of life he began to die. He never was immortal before or after sin. He was flesh and blood, and flesh and blood is not immortal even with a spirit dwelling it. Satan has since deceived the world on this important understanding as well as many other biblical truths. Much of the world, including millions of people in religions outside of traditional Christianity, are convinced they have, or

are, immortal souls and hope they will go to a happy place or state of being, or a place of punishment immediately after they die.

Eternal Life

Everlasting life does not start with death but with the resurrection! Till then, those who have died are presented as sleeping in the dust of the earth. God did not tell Daniel that; 'many of them whose souls are now in heaven'. He said they were in the grave – the dust of the earth.

And many of them **that sleep in the dust of the earth** shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Daniel 12:2

The Bible teaches that the dead lie in the grave so our brain is dead and cannot function. However, our emotions and thinking come from our spirit and not from our physical bodies. When we are asleep in this life we can still have dreams and spiritual experiences, so it is reasonable to believe that we can still have spiritual experiences when we are dead even though we are not a soul any longer, because the experiences are in our spirit. We no longer exist

as a soul; that is, a human being, and we will not be able to manifest our experiences as we will not have a living body. This will be far more painful than if we were still in flesh and blood I believe.

Is This the End?

Does this mean death – the cessation of physical life – is final, the end of everything? Not at all, for although mankind is physical, subject to death, the good news is that God promises a resurrection to eternal life to everyone who repents, worships God, and accepts Jesus as saviour. The first resurrection to immortality will take place when Christ returns to establish God's Kingdom on this earth. Later will come another resurrection to physical life to stand before the Great White throne to be judged by God himself for eternal life or the lake of fire. The true final answer is not death but resurrection. When our bodies are united with our spirits at the last trump and the 'dead in Christ' rise to meet Jesus in the air we will again be souls and live forever on the new earth. What a glorious hope!

Footnote 1

These 6 volumes are available from the Barratt Ministries website shop as a paperback or PDF, and are available as a Kindle downloads from Amazon. www.barrattministries.org.uk

Footnote 2

Early Christianity was influenced and corrupted by Greek philosophies as it spread through the Greek and Roman world. By AD 200 the doctrine of the immortality of the soul became a controversy among Christian believers.

The Evangelical Dictionary of Theology notes that Origen, an early and influential Catholic theologian, was influenced by Greek thinkers:

"Speculation about the soul in the sub apostolic church was heavily influenced by Greek philosophy. This is seen in Origen's acceptance of Plato's doctrine of the preexistence of the soul as pure mind (nous) originally, which, by reason of its fall from God, cooled down to soul (psyche) when it lost its participation in the divine fire by looking earthward." (1992, 'Soul,' p.1037)

Centuries later Thomas Aquinas (ca. 1225-1274) crystallized the doctrine of the immortal soul in *The Summa Theologica*. He taught that the soul is a conscious intellect and will and cannot be destroyed. A few centuries later the leaders of the Protestant Reformation generally accepted these traditional views, so they became entrenched in traditional Protestant teaching. The immortality of the soul is foundational in Western thought, both philosophical and religious. Belief in going to heaven or hell depends on it.

The *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible* makes this comment on *nephesh*. "The word 'soul' in English, though it has to some extent naturalized the Hebrew idiom, frequently carries with it overtones, ultimately coming from philosophical Greek (Platonism) and from Orphism and Gnosticism which are absent in 'nephesh' In the Old Testament it never means the immortal soul, but it is essentially the life principle, or the living being, or the self as the subject of appetite, and emotion, occasionally of volition (Vol. 4, 1962, 'Soul,' emphasis added).

In the New Testament the Greek word translated 'soul' is *psuche*, which is also translated 'life.' In Psalms 16:10 David uses *nephesh* (soul) to claim that the 'Holy One,' or Messiah, wouldn't be left in sheol,

the grave. Peter quotes this verse in Acts 2:27, using the Greek *psuche* for the Hebrew *nephesh* (notice verses 25-31).

Like *nephesh*, *psuche* refers to human “souls” (Acts 2:41) and for animals (it is translated 'life' in the King James Version of Revelation 8:9 and Revelation 16:3). Jesus declared that God can destroy man’s *psuche*, or 'soul' (Matthew 10:28).

THE APOSTLES' TEACHING

Jesus **is** the word.

The bible is the word, **about** the word.

My sermons are the word, about the word,

about the word.

Richard Wurmbrand

4

The Word of God

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

John 6:63

The early believers met together to have fellowship, pray, to participate in the breaking of bread, and for the teaching of the apostles. I have

established that they would be teaching all Jesus had taught them, but it must have been more than just the passing on of information. Jesus didn't just speak the word – he was the word. One of his names is 'The 'Word of God' so it is not Jesus' words but God's words. Jesus never ever spoke his own words, he only spoke what God was saying through him.

Who is talking?

God's word is only what God speaks and herein is a problem for us, because if God is not speaking then it is not his word even though I may quote what he has said in the past from the bible. Before you dismiss this let me use some logic. Jesus was tempted in the wilderness to obey 'God's word' quoted by the devil and turn stones into bread. He refused 'God's word' because the devil was quoting it and his answer confirms what I am proposing. Jesus answered him and said – **I only do that which proceeds from the mouth of God**, and although the devil quoted what God had said at one time it was repeated from the devil's mouth and not God's.

But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds **out of the mouth of God**.

Matthew 4:4

Paul says of those people who know God but do not want to retain him in their knowledge; he blinds them and they change God's truth into lies. In other words they use God's word to deceive people and God's word becomes a lie, because a lie is not necessarily a false statement but an intent to deceive. A true statement used to deceive someone is in fact 'a lie'.

Who changed the truth of God (his word) into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever.

Romans 1:25

When God's people, Israel, did not want to hear God speak personally to them God blinded them and they made God in their own image (a golden calf) and yet still thought they brought offerings to the LORD. (See Exodus 34.)

And they said unto Moses, You speak with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.

Exodus 19:19

If I say to my son, "Go and clean my car" and you overhear me, and the next day you tell my son that

I said he must clean my car, you would be quoting my words, but I did not say them because it was not my will for my son to clean the car the following day – they would be your words and not mine even though you were quoting exactly what I had said at another time.

Here is a great problem with Christians understanding God's word. They think that what God said to Abraham or David will apply to them thousands of years later. Of course the principles of God do not alter, but the specific instructions cannot be quoted for another time to another person unless God specifically speaks them to you. If it were not so I could justify sacrificing my son, as Abraham was told to do, or to marry a prostitute like God told Hosea to do, or kill all my enemies, and so on. Obviously, this would be absurd and yet Christians claim all the promises God gave to people in the past, without even considering that there is always a condition to every promise in the bible.

I Need to Hear God for myself

The bottom line to all this is that regardless of the bible I have to hear God for myself and this is scriptural. Jesus said 'my sheep hear my voice' so without the voice of Christ to quicken what is in the bible we are lost and fall into our own understanding,

bias, and doctrinal delusions. What if God tells me to go to China to be a missionary? There is no specific word of God in the bible to tell me to do this, so I need to hear it from God personally – I only have a general commission to go into all the world, but I would need a specific word from God to know which country to go to and when to go. If I do not know the personal voice of Jesus I cannot fulfil God's personal will for my life.

People in the Old Testament heard the word of God before the written word. Here is a scripture about Abraham who was before Moses and the written word.

And, behold, **the word of the LORD came unto him**, saying, This shall not be your heir; but he that shall come forth out of your own bowels shall be your heir.

Genesis 15:4

God spoke to Rachael and told her there were twins fighting in her womb, God spoke to Moses before he received the law, God spoke to Cain, the first born of Adam and a murderer at that. All these and many more testify that it is God's personal word that is important and not just the dead letter. The bible is a dangerous book for it can kill the life of Christ in you.

Who also has made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for **the letter kills**, but the spirit gives life.

2 Corinthians 3:6

Most Christians do not realise that when they tell you what the bible is saying they are actually telling you their own, or their denominations, interpretation of the bible and are using scriptures to support their interpretation. So many 'Church doctrines' are mere supposition and not statements from the bible although bible verses, often out of context, are used to support what they believe. There are many scriptures they have to ignore and explain away to keep most of their doctrinal views.

The Real God

If you have a wrong view of God and his character then how on earth will you understand what his word says? You will obviously misinterpret his intent and motives. For example if you think that God is a God of love and do not understand he is also a God of vengeance and hate, you do not know the real God and will bias all the scriptures to suit your distorted view. To know God is to know his word. To only know your doctrines is to be lost

to true revelation which can only lead to confusion – a symptom of Babylon which is always confusion – the mixture of truth and lies. Footnote 1

The 'word of God' (the bible) has caused much division and confusion and spawned 33,000 registered Christian denominations at this present time (2017) because it is not the living personal word of God; it is the bible – the written word of God, and the written word is always open to interpretation if you do not know the author.

God Would Never Say That!

How many Christians say "God told me to do something or to go somewhere" and then a few months later contradict it and believe they made a mistake and are on another path which God has also put them on. The truth is that most Christians do not know the voice of God or they would not have all the problems that they do have. Their life is a confirmation that they do not really hear God's voice, even though they daily read the 'word of God'.

Let me give an example of how difficult it is to interpret God's written word if you do not have an intimate relationship with him and know his voice.

The bible clearly says, "Do not kill", and it seems

like an absolute statement, yet you cannot hold this statement as absolute because God told his own chosen people to go and kill men, women, children, and cattle and leave none alive.

Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but **slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.**

1 Samuel 15:3

and they did exactly that

And we utterly destroyed them, as we did unto Sihon king of Heshbon, utterly destroying the men, women, and children, of every city.

Deuteronomy 3:6

He also tells Israel to execute an eye for an eye and 'life for life' and that a murderer must be killed. One hundred years ago I would think almost every Christian believed in capital punishment as being biblical and yet now I find only a few percent still believe in this practice because of the pressure of the world and its changed morals. They will use scripture to justify the abolition of capital punishment just as those Christians 100 years ago used scripture to support their view. Surely something is wrong if

God changes his moral laws and justice?

Under the New Covenant, Jesus says we must have a different law and his people are to love their enemies. How is it then that Christians join the armed forces, learn weapon training and how to kill people, then go to other countries and kill innocent young men whom they do not know and have nothing personal against? How can you love your enemy and then blow their brains out? What confusion abounds among Christians today interpreting the written word of God?

A Personal Word

What is the word of God? Christians would say – the bible, but in the next breath would say (for example) "God spoke to me yesterday and told me I should marry this woman". What they say would not be a quote from the bible. This shows that they believe that God's word is what God speaks to them personally and not only what is recorded in our bible.

From my own experience and that of many people I know, at this present time and from testimonies from history, I have found that often when I have told people what God has told me to do have said; "God would never ask you to do that". Time has vindicated that I did hear from God

and the abundance of testimonies through the ages show this is not uncommon. Well, the bible is full of instructions that before God spoke them no one would believe that he would say what he said (Maybe one day I will make a list of instructions, from the bible that God gave that were illogical, unreasonable, and 'unbiblical' from the 'word of God'.) It would shock most religious Christians because it would shatter some of their doctrines about God.

His Word on our Hearts and in our Minds

God wants to write his laws, his instructions, on our hearts and in our minds and that is how he speaks – not in an audible voice (or at least very rarely), but in our minds and our hearts. That is why the bible says it is in our mouth, because what is in our heart and in our mind we speak out and it becomes alive. A thought is a dead word until we speak it out and then it becomes alive and active.

For this commandment which I command you this day, it is not hidden from you, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? Neither is it beyond the sea, that you

should say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? But the word is very near to you, in your mouth, and in your heart, that you may do it.

Deuteronomy 30:11-14

I can summarise all I have said so far about God's word in a few statements.

It is not what is written or quoted. It is what God says to a person or a manifestation of it. Christ was a manifestation of the word of God. Before he was manifest in the flesh **he was God's word.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:1

True words are spirit and the written words are dead without spirit being breathed into them. Disciples of Christ are called to **be the word**, not talk about it. Paul said believers were living epistles known and read of all men.

You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men.

2 Corinthians 3:2

The Holy Spirit alone can give life to God's words and not our own spirit, so if we quote things that are traditions and not the word of God there is no life in them. If it is our denominational doctrine the Holy Ghost cannot breathe life into it. If we quote the bible it is only the dead letter unless the Holy Spirit breathes life into it. Only when it is God's word, that he is speaking at that moment, can he breathe his spirit into those words and make them effectual in a person's life or in a situation. That is why, when I teach, I am conscious that I must not teach words but Christ himself if there is going to be any change in a person's heart, mind, and lifestyle.

What About Paul?

Paul did not hear Jesus' words when he was with the disciples for 3 years but he claimed he receive his teaching personally from Christ. He received the word – from the word himself. He did not get his revelation from the other disciples because he distanced himself from them and received his own personal revelation of Christ – the word. Here are 3 scriptures to support this.

For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus

the same night in which he was betrayed took bread.

1 Corinthians 11:23

Paul claimed he saw the risen Christ (the 12 apostles had to be witness of this), and that is why I believe he was the replacement for Judas.

And that Jesus was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: after that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all **he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.**

1 Corinthians 15:5-8

It is surely not by chance that Paul was in Arabia for 3 years away from everyone – the same time span that Jesus trained the other of his 11 disciples.

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, to reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood. Neither went I up to Jerusalem to

them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus. Then **after three years** I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.

Galatians 1:15-18

My conclusion is that if you do not get personal revelation from God himself, the bible will only give you man's interpretation with all of its denominational bias and blindness, and it will take the life of Christ out of you instead of it putting the life of Christ in you. This is the reason so many Christians do not change into the image of God, to the stature of the fullness of Christ. It cannot be done with Church doctrines or the bible. Only the life of Christ will gender the life of Christ in a person to perfect them in the image of God. So many believers are fervent for the church and give their whole lives to it and yet have not given their whole lives to God. I can say this because it is evident by the lack of change in their lives. After thousands of sermons they are still not manifesting the character of Christ and their minds are still worldly. How sad, and yet they are blind to their own impotency, sterile doctrines, and emotional worship which is all in vain without the life of Christ – the word – living in a person.

This is what the 5 fold ministry, that God sets in his church, is for; to perfect us into the image of 'the living word' – Christ.

And he 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, until we all come **in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God (the word) unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.**

Ephesians 4:11-13

Am I saying that we do not need the bible? Certainly not, and in the next chapter I will try to show how important it is for us today.

Footnote 1

A good book to read on this is: 'Discovering the real God' by Stephen Whitehead. Available from the bookshop on www.barrattministries.org.uk

THE APOSTLES' TEACHING



And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

5

Tares Amongst the Wheat

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

2 Timothy 3:16

In the last chapter I emphasised how important it is to hear God personally, with or without the

written word. I now want to show how important the written word is to us who have it. If God speaks personally to us then why do we need to read and re-read the bible all our lives? Well, apart from personal revelation as we read it there are many benefits. Here are some of them.

1. It gives us a history of how God deals with his own people.

We can learn principles that are so important for Christians to understand, for he will use the same ones with us today. Just as the cycle of restoration, blessing, backsliding, and judgement are repeated by God's people under the old and new covenants, so God's ways of dealing with his people do not alter from generation to generation and will be the same for us today.

2. It gives us the plan of God from before the foundation of the earth to the new heaven and earth in the future.

It is so important to know his plan or we may fight against it. I have written a series of 7 books showing that God's plan is one of love, romance, and family life. I go through the history from creation to eternity

on the new earth (Footnote 1). Every Christian should know and understand God's plan. Sadly, most do not know it because they have learned from their denomination's doctrines and not from reading the bible for themselves. When they read the bible they fit it to their preconceived views and therefore do not read what it actually says.

3. The Holy Ghost can remind us of what we have read.

Jesus, when he was going to leave the disciples, said that he would send the Holy Ghost who would lead them into all truth, and remind them of all Jesus had said to them. How can the Holy Ghost remind me of the word of God if I have never read it?

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it sees him not, neither knows him: but you know him; for he dwells with you, and shall be in you.

John 14:16

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name,

he shall teach you all things, **and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.**

John 14:26

God often speaks through his word and maybe out of context to what the scripture is actually saying. I have a friend who, many years ago, was contemplating a career change from engineering to nursing – a massive change. He was seeking guidance so he opened his bible and his eyes lightened on a page of Isaiah. A verse jumped out at him and it was chapter 66:11 which said 'you shall nurse and be satisfied'. He did not even know that this phrase was in the bible and neither did I (it was from a version that I had never read).

For 4 Things

Paul told Timothy, a young minister, that scripture was for 4 things, teaching, reproof, correction, and instruction in how to live a right life.

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

2 Timothy 3:16

God's word is God when he speaks it. It is not necessarily his word if someone else speaks it – that is why it is so important to know and hear personally from God. Jesus said "My sheep know my voice". So many Christians say that they 'feel' God is speaking to them or they 'think' it is God speaking to them. How sad, that they have to guess or rely on their feelings. If my wife speaks to me over the phone, I know her voice and do not need to ask anyone if it is really my wife. If you have to ask your pastor or friend if you have heard God be very careful. You need to learn to hear God for yourself especially if you claim to have a personal relationship with him.

He is the Word

Jesus **is** the word of God so when we teach the word it is what God said and what he is saying now. It is powerful. At the end of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount he gave an illustration of a man building on the sand and a man building on a rock. The man who built on the rock was the man that heard and obeyed the words of the sermon. He could not obey if he did not hear it. So it is today. Most Christians do not know the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount in any detail and so do not have an opportunity to obey or disobey (Footnote 2).

In the parable of the sower, Jesus gives the interpretation of it and says the seed is 'a word about the kingdom'. Most preachers use this as a gospel message and think the seed is the gospel which is very different than the kingdom. Words are so important and if we are not diligent as we read God's word we will put our own interpretation on it.

When any one hears **the word of the kingdom**, and doesn't understand it, then comes the wicked one, and catches away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

Matthew 13:19

Under the Old Covenant

God's word created the heavens and the earth. In Genesis it says 10 times; 'and God said', and things were created out of nothing. God could have thought and caused creation to happen but he spoke it out. Words are manifested thoughts. It says that Adam and Eve heard the voice of God walking in the garden of Eden. A voice is not a thought it is an audible sound.

He said, I heard your voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

Genesis 3:10

In Acts it says that the voice of the Lord came to Moses and he heard it audibly as did the children of Israel on Mount Sinai.

When Moses saw it, he wondered at the sight: and as he drew near to behold it, the **voice of the Lord came unto him,**

Act 7:31

Psalm 119, the longest in the book of Psalms, is all about the word of God and we would do well to meditate on it. Here is just one wonderful verse from it.

Your word is true from the beginning: and every one of your righteous judgements endures for ever.

Psalm 119:160

Many years ago when I was an active musician, my bass guitar was stolen. God told me he would give me a double portion and I believed him. I believed God for 2 bass guitars – a fretted and a fretless bass. After 18 months the miracle happened and the bases were ordered. It is too long story to tell here but they were to come from America and I went to the Music shop in the town of Rochdale, England, to collect them. When we arrived at the shop we

found that only one of them had come from the USA even though they had both been ordered – we had waited many weeks for them to be imported and could not believe that only one had arrived. My wife, Joanna, said that maybe God was showing me that I had been presumptuous wanting 2 basses and my covetousness had blinded me. She suggested that I settled for 1 bass guitar. I had a battle in my mind, but could not get away from what God had told me. I had to make a decision as to whether I would just accept the one bass or ask them to order again the fretless one. I told the shop owners we would go and have a coffee and come back with our decision – I needed time to think clearly.

For ever, O LORD, your word is settled in heaven

In the cafe I suggested we open the bible and whatever God said I would do. My wife opened it to Psalm 29, and she read it aloud. It did not mean anything to her but it was as clear as the day at noon to me. Here is the Psalm – it is only 11 verses but it was verses 3 onwards that really hit me.

The **voice of the LORD** is upon the waters:
the God of glory thunders: the LORD is
upon many waters. **The voice of the LORD**
is powerful; **the voice of the LORD** is full of

majesty. **The voice of the LORD** breaks the cedars; yea, the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon. He makes them also to skip like a calf; Lebanon and Sirion like a young unicorn. **The voice of the LORD** divides the flames of fire. **The voice of the LORD** shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. **The voice of the LORD** makes the hinds to calve, and discovers the forests: and in his temple, every one speaks of his glory. The LORD sits upon the flood; yea, the LORD sits King for ever.

Psalm 29:3-10

A Valuable Lesson

I had heard God's voice and now God's word was all that mattered to me. God had told me he would give me 2 basses, and not 1, so we went back to the shop and told them to re order the fretless bass from America. Eventually it came and for many years the 2 basses were used for God all over the world as we travelled and ministered. I also used them on numerous CD's of Joanna's singing that we produced.

I learned a valuable lesson. When you know it is God speaking in the beginning, then circumstances do not matter and you must believe till you have

the promise. Now, I would rather die in faith than to doubt what I believed God has said to me in the past. I am still waiting for many prophecies to be fulfilled, but the word of God is sure – we just have to make sure it is God we hear and that it is not from our own imagination or the well-meaning words of some other Christian.

The New Covenant

John in his gospel does not look at the genealogy of Jesus or his physical birth, he goes right back to creation and says, 'In the beginning was the word'. Jesus was the word of God before he was born of Mary and became the Son of God. John tells us later in the first chapter of his gospel that the word – God's word – became flesh and dwelt amongst us. The dead letter of the word kills the life of Christ, but the living word is Christ.

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt
among us (and we beheld his glory, the
glory as of the only begotten of the Father),
full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

In Acts 6 there was a problem on a practical level amongst the believers but the 12 apostles did not

solve it because they knew their commission and would not leave what they were called to do – minister the word.

Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, find among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. But **we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.**

Acts 6:2-4

No Sermons

The ministry of the word was not preaching sermons (the 'sermon' came later when the church copied the orators of Rome) they meant they would minister Christ and his teachings. A far cry from the watered down, new age, ecumenical, self worth messages we hear from our pulpits today. Because they preached the word of God we find the results were that the word of God increased. We are talking about the living word that ministers Christ and transforms followers into disciples. It says; 'and disciples were multiplied'.

And **the word of God increased**; and **the number of the disciples multiplied** in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Acts 6:7

Notice, it says, 'the word of God' increased and not the Church increased. Here are a few more scriptures from Acts to show the emphasis was not on numbers but on the word – the believers and disciples were automatically added by God.

But **the word of God grew and multiplied**.

Acts 12:24

And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region.

Acts 13:49

So **mightily grew the word of God** and prevailed.

Acts 19:20

There is a real famine of the word of God in our modern era of Church growth, and Prosperity Gospel, and we need another reformation to challenge this apostasy and to move us back to the teachings of Jesus and the apostles.

The Word not the Image

I do not know why God has designed our bodies the way he has, but when we look at our physical senses some things are very revealing.

1. Our smell is quite limited.

It's been estimated that dogs can identify smells somewhere between 1,000 to 10,000 times better than nasally challenged humans.

2. Our eyes that are really limited.

We only see a very limited frequency of the electromagnetic spectrum. By most estimates, we can see about 0.0035% of the electromagnetic spectrum (that includes gamma rays, radio waves, x-rays, infrared, ultraviolet, microwaves, etc.).

3. Our hearing is also limited

We can only hear frequencies between 20Hz and 20,000Hz (there are sounds below 20Hz and frequencies above 20,000Hz). For example, dogs can hear sounds that are well above this frequency). However, our ears are amazingly sensitive. They

are capable of detecting pressure variations of less than one billionth of atmospheric pressure. The threshold of hearing corresponds to air vibrations on the order of a tenth of an atomic diameter. This incredible sensitivity is enhanced by an effective amplification of the sound signal by the outer and middle ear structures.

This is why a profoundly deaf person (stone deaf) from birth could play an instrument in a symphony orchestra. I have a friend who was born deaf and yet can dance because she feels the vibration enabling her to keep the timing.

Not by Chance

I am saying this because I do not believe it is by chance that God emphasises the word over vision. He said 'make no graven image'. The eyes are so deceptive. For example when we see a full colour print of some picture, we may see thousands of colours, but the picture was printed with only 4 colours (sometimes 6) This is because if you put blue dots and then add yellow dots at a different angle on top of them our eyes see green even though there is no green ink on the page. This means that the eyes can very easily be deceived and 'seeing is not believing'. We are now in a world where images on television and computer games show us things that are not real, but are

computer generated, and yet the world are deceived into thinking that the images are original or honest.

There are no moving pictures on film, only a series of still images. When we watch television in Europe (the USA have a different frame rate) there are 25 still images, or frames, each second to deceive us to believe that there is movement when there is no movement at all. We are being deceived. Television and film is the most deceptive medium in the world today.

I ask people when giving this illustration. "If it only takes 25 still image per second to deceive our eyes then how many images of sound do you think it will take to deceive our ears?". They accept our ears are more sensitive, but up to this present date no one has even been near in their estimation. Digital sound is a series of samples of the sound wave and a CD is recorded using 44,100 samples per second to deceive our ears (that it is a series of snapshots of the sound). Now many recording studios record at double this sample rate (88,200 or 96,000 samples per second).

Jesus was the word and not the image because the word is more truthful, sensitive and powerful. God created the universe with his word (Footnote 3).

Tares amongst the Wheat

Jesus told a parable in Matthew 13 about tares and wheat. He says that when the wheat is sown then an

enemy (he tells us this is Satan) sows tares amongst the wheat. I believe this is what happened with God's word. When the truth is spoken or written then Satan will put tares (doubts and additions or subtractions) amongst this word to deceive us. Tares and wheat look the same until the harvest when the wheat ripens. So it is with the word of God and the perversions of it. Only when the fruit comes do we discern the truth from the lies. Paul says that false teachers have turned the truth of God into a lie. They do this with the scriptures. This is why Jesus tells us to judge false prophets – wolves in sheep's clothing – by their fruit and not by their gifts or so called 'anointing'.

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. **You shall know them by their fruits...**

Matthew 7:15-16

God's word spoken or written is powerful, creative, and amazingly sensitive to us humans. For approximately 1600 years, the Church of Rome kept the written word of God hidden from the people and taught a spoken word that did not conform to what the written word said. When God in his great mercy allowed a few reformers to translate the Bible

into the common language of the day in English it was not by chance. God knew that one day English would become the One World language. Everyone could have the same version and be protected from languages that could not convey properly what God was saying. Satan resisted this and the translators were hounded by the Catholic Church, and many were persecuted and some martyred. As I write this chapter it is the exact date (6th October) that William Tyndale, who translated the Bible into English was burned alive at the stake for defying the Catholic Church and bringing us the word of God. That was only 481 years ago. It seems with the invention of the printing press the bible was being printed faster than the Catholic church could confiscate and burn them. Since Catholicism could no longer contain the Bible and keep it out of the hands of the laity, the issue has become one of authority to interpret it. Hence the different versions to allow many different interpretations of the same passages.

A Change of Tactics

For around 350 years we had the word of God and anyone could read it. Satan knew he could not stop people reading the word of God so he changed his tactics and started to sow tares amongst the wheat and we are now at the stage where we have

so many versions of 'God's word' that if I say to a Christian who challenges my teaching 'check it with the word of God in your Bible' they can say to me 'which version' for different versions say different things and convey different doctrines. There are now around 900 translations in English alone (see the Appendix at the end of this chapter).

Coming - A One Word Bible

I do not feel this is the book to go too deeply into this exposure but I am convinced that the modern versions are actually perversions and the Jesuits, who are behind all the modern versions, are working towards a One World Bible where every religion can read it and fit their own god and doctrine to it. All the modern versions are based on the 136 year old translations of Wescot and Hort and not from the original 'texus receptus'. The modern version are all really Catholic versions and have been accepted by Rome. The Authorised Version was on the banned list of books by the Catholic church and as far as I can gather has never been removed. This should make any reader think again about versions of the Bible. I have in my possession much evidence to support what I am saying, but it would take a whole book to show this. If anyone wants to pursue this I have recommended 2 books at the end of this

chapter which put much evidence and food for thought for any open minded person to consider. (Footnote 4) Of course, God can speak through any version of the Bible or even the line of a nursery rhyme, but that is not what I am talking about. I am talking about a deliberate plan to change doctrines and bring in a universal bible for the ecumenical One World Church. Please do your own research and do not be put off by ridicule, hearsay, or complicated discussions on the Greek and Hebrew texts that often accompanies discussions on bible versions.

Appendix

"I am afraid no one can give you an exact number for the English translations and paraphrases of the Bible printed since Tyndale's New Testament of 1526. In part this is due to the difficulty of determining what should be defined as a new translation as opposed to a correction or a revision of an existing translation. There is the additional question of how we should count translations that include not a complete Bible or Testament, but just a group of books or even a single book. And then, of course, there is the difficulty of sheer numbers. With all these caveats in mind, the number of printed English translations and paraphrases of the Bible, whether complete or not, is about 900".

Quote from the American Bible Society

Footnote 1

The series is called, 'Israel, the Church, and the Kingdom of God – the history and future of God's people'. They are available as paper backs, PDF downloads or kindle downloads from the Barratt Ministries web site www.barrattministries.org.uk

Footnote 2

I have written a series of 6 volumes on the Sermon on the Mount which are available from the Barratt Ministries website shop as a paperback or PDF.

www.barrattministries.org.uk

Footnote 3

I can only believe that when we have the spiritual body we will be freed from the limitations of matter and of this life and we will be able to see colours and hear and smell things to a far greater magnitude which is impossible for us to even imagine. What a blessed hope the resurrection is for those with insight.

Footnote 4

'An Understandable History of the Bible', by Rev. Samuel C. Gipp, Th.D.

'New Age Bible Versions', by G.A. Riplinger
ISBN 0-9635845-0-2

THE APOSTLES' TEACHING



Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresses, and abides not in the doctrine of Christ, has not God. He that abides in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that bids him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

2 John 8-11

Postscript – Back to the Bible

Your word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not
sin against you.

Psalm 119:11

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us
(and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only
begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

My father taught that the 2 great pillars of
the Old and New Covenants were the 10

commandments in the Old Covenant and the Beatitudes in the New Covenant. I have not seen any reason over the last 40 years to refute this and my studies have actually confirmed it to be true. Moses brought the moral law and Jesus brought grace and truth.

For the law was given by Moses, but grace
and truth came by Jesus Christ.

John 1:17

The whole teaching of the New Testament can be summed up by reading the 3 chapters of Matthew's gospel where Jesus, in private, taught his disciples the manifesto for how to think, and to live out practically, the lifestyle he came to bring – the kingdom of God within a man (chapters 5-7).

2 Marriage Contracts

I believe the law of Moses was the marriage contract between God and Israel, and the Sermon on the Mount is the marriage contract of the bride of Christ. John chapter 14-17 is all marriage talk and it is given by Jesus after he instituted the New Covenant in blood – the communion. Jesus also gives a commandment at this meal-time dialogue and calls it a new commandment. This was to the disciples after Judas had left the room and it is the commandment of

the New Covenant. Because Judas had left the room he did not receive the promise of the Holy Ghost or this new commandment which is significant as he is a type of antichrist who betrays Christ with a kiss.

A new commandment I give unto you, That you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this shall all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love one to another.

John 13:34-35

The first covenant in blood was when Moses read the law and all Israel said 'I do, we will keep it and we will obey'. I can only find 2 covenants in the bible called blood covenants (there are many other covenants, of course, but they are not called blood covenants). If Jesus said the communion meal is the New Covenant there must have been no blood covenant between the first one, where Moses sprinkled the blood on the people, and the New Covenant where Jesus told us to drink the blood. Both covenants were ratified with blood.

Words of Jesus

If there were any of Jesus' words that I would suggest to a follower of Christ for them to study and

understand the apostles doctrine I would suggest Matthew 5-7 – all dialogue of Jesus with no narration and John 13-17, again all Jesus' words with very little narration. The epistles only amplify and confirm these 2 great passages. I have written 6 books on the Sermon on the Mount but as yet have not found the time to do studies on the passage in John's gospel so you will have to ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten you. I do intend to write on this passage in the future

Early Church Model

When Christians come together it should not be to hold a service – that is religion. We should meet as the early church did for fellowship, prayer, communion and the apostles teaching where all attending should be active. Please tell me how I can have fellowship sitting down looking at the back of someone's head? How far have we come from Paul's instruction of how to meet together? And yet millions of believers go every Sunday to 'Church' and are entertained by the worship and then listen to one man exhorting them as they sit passively like dumb sheep.

How is it then, brethren? **When you come together, every one of you** has a psalm, has a doctrine, has a tongue, has a revelation,

has an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

1 Corinthians 14:26

This coming together was as relevant in Paul's day as it is now for us. All our factions, denominations, and religious services only hinder what is so simple to the life of Christ in a community of believers.

Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, that you come together not for the better, but for the worse. For first of all, when you come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.

1 Corinthians 11:17-18

Can I finish this book on the apostle's doctrine with a challenge to all who are reading it to go through the Sermon on the Mount and the upper room dialogue as a basis for your life and doctrine.

Please let us get back to the early church model and start another reformation. It will only begin with change in me and you. If you wait for the Church system to change you will wait until Jesus comes again, All reformations and revivals have come through individuals or small groups who were willing to change themselves. May you and I be one of these fire brands that start the process of change.

In this Early Church Series

Volume 1. Breaking of Bread

Volume 2. Fellowship

Other books by Maurice Barratt

Radical Discipleship

Maurice Barratt has written a 6 volume series on discipleship based on the Sermon on the Mount. It is not a theological, but a practical look at how Jesus expects us to actually live. He argues that Christianity is a lifestyle more than a belief, and if taken literally, and practiced, it will change any person radically.

Volume 1

'Will the Real Christians Please Stand Up'

Volume 2

'Salt and Light - the character of a disciple'

Volume 3

'Fulfilling the Law'

Volume 4

'The Secret Life'

Volume 5

'Content or Covetous'

Volume 6

'Choices for a Disciple'

6,000 Years of Babylon

Maurice has written a series of 5 volumes on the way that this system of counterfeit worship started in the Garden of Eden and through many permutations has come to fruition at this present time in history. A very challenging and thought provoking series for anyone of any religion.

Available from Barratt Ministries shop on

www.barrattministries.org.uk

or **www.amazon.co.uk**.

All the series are available on these sites as E-Books.

Intercession Series

Volume 1.

'The Journey from Judgement to Mercy'

Volume 2.

'Meeting the Conditions to Avert God's Judgement
- paying the Price for Revival'

Volume 3.

'Spiritual Warfare - Making His Paths Straight' **49,**
one hour talks covering the 7 books.

**Order all books from Barratt Ministries
114 Daisybank Road,
Manchester, UK.
M14 5QH**

**Tel. 0161 224 2620 or from the web site
www.barrattministries.org.ukwww.amazon.co.uk**

Israel, the Church, & the Kingdom of God

Maurice Barratt has written 7 volumes on this vital subject. He presents the whole plan of God from the creation to the destruction of the present earth and the new creation that will last for eternity. Throughout the volumes Maurice shows that God's plan is one of love, romance, and family life, and this refreshing approach will surprise and challenge the very basis of much Church doctrine. His style is easy reading based on logic and the bible.

This whole series of books are available as talks on DVD, MP3, or Video MP4.

There are 49, one hour talks covering the 7 books.

**Order all books from Barratt Ministries
114 Daisybank Road,
Manchester, UK.
M14 5QH**

There are hundreds of free teachings on
Barratt Ministries YouTube channel.

or

Video on Demand – to stream or
download on the Barratt Ministries Vimeo
channel.