

THE WAY, PART THREE

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Long before there were terms like Christian, Pentecostal, or Apostolic, the early church referred to itself simply as “The Way.” Luke uses the term a half dozen times in the book of Acts. The idea wasn’t original with them; rather, it came from the words of Jesus Himself. **“The Way” is an exclusive term!** And that’s why the early Christians were persecuted and even called heretics in the first century. It’s much the same today, because there are not many roads to God – there is only ONE WAY!

Acts 24:14 But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets:

The gospel message has three components that work together.

1 John 5:7-8 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

There are “three that bear witness” – the Spirit, the water and the blood – and these three agree in one.

There were THREE ELEMENTS involved in the deliverance of Israel from Egypt on the night of Passover ... BLOOD ON DOORPOST, RED SEA, PILLAR OF CLOUD AND FIRE (Blood, Water, Spirit).

There were 3 pieces of furniture involved in ATONEMENT in the Tabernacle (other 3 were involved in worship) ... BRAZEN ALTAR, BRAZEN LAVER, ARK OF THE COVENANT (Blood, Water, Spirit).

Paul and Peter each said that the gospel has THREE ELEMENTS ...

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ **died** for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was **buried**, and that he **rose again** the third day according to the scriptures:

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, **Repent**, and be **baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the **Holy Ghost**.

The ORIGINAL ALTAR CALL of the New Testament Church contains ALL THREE ELEMENTS of salvation (blood, water, Spirit) ...

STEP ONE = REPENTANCE

Greek METANOIA – An inner change of attitude leading to an outward change of behaviour. That’s why John the Baptist said, “Bring forth therefore fruits – evidence! – meet for repentance.”

Hebrew SHUB – verb found over 1000 times in OT, used 164 times in a covenant sense, meaning “TURNING AWAY from a previous life.” Root of this word means “DESTROY THE HOUSE,” leaving nothing behind.

Romans 6:6-7 Knowing this, that our old man is **crucified** with him, that the body of sin might be **destroyed**, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is **dead** is freed from sin.

WHEN I REPENT, I APPLY THE DEATH OF JESUS TO MY LIFE.

STEP TWO = BAPTISM

THE LAST COMMAND OF JESUS ...

Mark 16:15-16 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the **gospel** to every creature. He that **believeth** and is **baptized** shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Luke 24:47-49 And that **repentance** and **remission of sins** should be preached in his **name** among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the **promise** of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with **power** from on high.

BECAME THE FIRST COMMAND OF THE CHURCH ...

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, **Repent**, and be **baptized** every one of you in the **name** of Jesus Christ for the **remission** of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the **Holy Ghost**.

Two critical things: MODE (what is done), FORMULA (what is said).

- **BAPTISM MUST BE DONE BY IMMERSION IN WATER.**
- **BAPTISM MUST BE DONE IN THE NAME OF JESUS.**

Romans 6:4 Therefore we are **buried** with him 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.

WHEN I’M BAPTIZED, I APPLY THE BURIAL OF JESUS TO MY LIFE.

Remember how REPENTANCE means “destroy the house”? Well, you could say that BAPTISM means “drown the army”! Paul compares our baptism to Israel crossing the Red Sea, while Pharaoh’s army drowned.

1 Corinthians 10:1-2 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

Once Israel crossed the red sea, Pharaoh and the armies of Egypt couldn’t get through the water! When you are baptized, the “army” of past sins can’t get through the water to condemn you any more!

STEP THREE = HOLY GHOST

There were TWO BAPTISMS for Israel – a BAPTISM BY WATER (“through the sea”) and a BAPTISM BY SPIRIT (“under the cloud”). Both baptisms were necessary – for THEM and for US.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

If it had not been for the PILLAR OF CLOUD AND FIRE resting on the Tabernacle (the center of their lifestyle of worship), Israel would never have made it through the wilderness to the Promised Land. Without the HOLY GHOST, we have no power to live for God!

DESTROY THE HOUSE! DROWN THE ARMY! FOLLOW THE FIRE!

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

WHEN I RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST, I APPLY THE RESURRECTION POWER OF JESUS CHRIST TO MY LIFE.

1 Corinthians 6:14 And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power.

So many churches celebrate Easter, but totally miss the point of the resurrection! It was so you and I could be raised up also – not just in the future after our physical death, but right now out of our spiritual death!

THE HOLY GHOST IS POWER TO LIVE FOR GOD – YOU NEED IT!

Luke 24:49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

**THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS WAS A SUPERNATURAL EVENT!
THE EVIDENCE OF RECEIVING THE HOLY GHOST IS THAT YOU
WILL DO SOMETHING SUPERNATURAL – SPEAKING IN TONGUES!**

Acts 2:1-4 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

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Every Christian in your Bible received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, and spoke in other tongues at the moment of their infilling ...

- When the church began on the Day of Pentecost, the disciples spoke in tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:1-4).
- For our dear Catholic friends, both Peter and Mary the mother of Jesus were in the Upper Room and spoke in tongues (Acts 1:13-14).
- Simon the Sorcerer saw “evidence” when the Samaritans received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost by laying on of hands (Acts 8:14-20).
- Cornelius’ household, who were gentiles, spoke with other tongues when they received the Holy Ghost (Acts 10:44-48).
- Paul had this experience (Acts 9:17-18), for he spoke with tongues more than anyone in the Corinthian church (1 Corinthians 14:18).
- Believers who had only experienced John’s baptism were re-baptized and spoke with tongues (Acts 19:1-6).

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PROPHESIED BY ISAIAH:

Isaiah 28:11-12 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

PROPHESED BY JOEL:

Joel 2:28-29 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

Acts 2:12 And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, **What meaneth this?**

Acts 2:16 But **this is that** which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

PROPHESED BY JOHN THE BAPTIST:

Matthew 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the **Holy Ghost**, and with **fire**:

PROPHESED BY JESUS CHRIST:

John 7:38-39 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the **Spirit**, which **they that believe on him should receive**: for the **Holy Ghost** was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, **the Comforter** will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

John 14:18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

Acts 1:5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the **Holy Ghost** not many days hence.

THE WHOLE POINT OF THE RESURRECTION IS THAT JESUS WANTS TO GIVE US RESURRECTION POWER – THE HOLY GHOST!

Acts 2:32-33 This Jesus hath God **raised up**, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the **promise** of the **Holy Ghost**, **he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.**

THE HOLY GHOST IS FOR EVERYONE! IT IS FOR YOU!

Acts 2:39 For the promise is unto **you**, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

Acts 5:32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom **God hath given to them that obey him.**

THE EVIDENCE OF RECEIVING THE HOLY GHOST IS THAT YOU WILL DO SOMETHING SUPERNATURAL – SPEAKING IN TONGUES!

Remember that it is IMPOSSIBLE for God to fill people with His Spirit when they refuse to YIELD. No one can be filled with SELF and GOD at the same time. Neither can two languages be spoken at once. Since God will not take your vocabulary away, you must VOLUNTARILY yield yourself to His control. **GOD does not speak in tongues – PEOPLE speak in tongues as His Spirit gives the words.** Become like a little child, surrender your tongue to the Spirit’s control, and don’t be afraid to speak in an unknown language. What an incredible experience it is to surrender completely to God and let Him fill us! **Just ASK and BELIEVE for God’s gift – you don’t have to earn it or beg for it! It’s for YOU!**

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A 2006 study by researchers at the University of Pennsylvania found that there may be a neurological parallel between what worshipers experience when they speak in tongues and what actually transpires physiologically in the brain. Scientists took brain images from worshippers as they were speaking in tongues and as they were singing. Comparing the two images, the researchers discovered that the frontal lobes (the willful, thinking part of the brain) were quiet, as were the language centers. Scans of people practicing meditation or participating in other spiritual practices differed sharply. Radiology investigators observed increased or decreased brain activity - by measuring regional cerebral blood flow with SPECT (Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography) imaging - while the subjects were speaking in tongues. Their study is titled, "The Measurement of Regional Cerebral Blood Flow During Glossolalia: a Preliminary SPECT Study." Co-authors are Andrew Newberg, Nancy Wintering, Donna Morgan, and Mark Waldman.

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YOU DON’T RECEIVE THE HOLY GHOST THROUGH YOUR HEAD, BUT THROUGH YOUR HEART! YOU MUST BE HUNGRY FOR IT!

Luke 11:13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father **give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?**

Acts 19:2 He said unto them, **Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?** And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.