



The One Who Comes in His Own Name

If another [spirit] shall come in his own name,
him [the false Holy Spirit] ye will receive.
(John 5:43)

Semantics Part 5

This series on *Semantics* has raised questions about the Church's common practice for "gathering souls to Christ." Pastors, teachers, and evangelists have often used the terms *saved*, *regenerated*, and *born again* interchangeably. The goal of these studies is to motivate true Christians to carefully examine each of these terms for themselves—for they indeed have different meanings. *Conversion* is the *beginning* of salvation;¹ *Regeneration* is the *means* (or method) of salvation;² *born again* is the rebirth of the spirit;³ and the *end of salvation* is the full and complete *restoration* of fallen man.⁴ But perhaps the most challenging statement the Church makes today is that upon conversion to faith in Jesus Christ, the new convert is immediately *indwelt* by the Holy Spirit.⁵

Israel's Blindness

Two thousand years ago Israel rejected Jesus as their long-awaited Messiah. As a consequence, the Lord pronounced spiritual blindness upon them—because they *did not recognize* the day of their visitation.⁶ Jesus held them responsible for what they *should* have known. But because their hearts were far away from God they neither knew the Father, nor did they recognize the Son.⁷ Israel's blindness was not simply because they *did not* believe—it was because they *would not* believe. Though they had all the necessary evidence to believe, Jesus said, they *would not!*⁸

The Church's Blindness (or) The Falling Away

The Christian apostasy predicted by the Apostle Paul is already here.⁹ But this apostasy it is not merely the acceptance of false doctrine. No. The Great Apostasy is the *rejection* of the Holy Spirit of God! Why are so many false doctrines, false teachers, and false pastors accepted and even *revered* in the Church today? It's because the *Spirit of Truth* is missing from the lives of most Christians. They *are unable* to properly discern *truth* from *error*.¹⁰ For the great falling away is the *rejection* of the *Spirit of Truth!* Christians have accepted false leaders and false teachings—because they have *already* rejected the true *Spirit of Christ!*

But something else is also involved—*pride*. *Pride refuses* to accept truth. But the true Berean spirit openly receives the message—AND THEN searches the Scriptures to verify that message.¹¹ And so

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the apostasy begins with the Christian's *refusal* to believe they might be wrong about the Holy Spirit and the *Indwelling Christ*. In their pride they *presume* to have it all! As a consequence, blindness has been declared on the Church as well. The Bible is clear: The last-day's Church will be *Laodicean*. And the Laodiceans were blind! They *presumed* to be rich in spiritual blessings. But the Lord declared them to be naked, miserable, wretched—and BLIND!¹² They had rejected the true coming of the Son of God *as the Holy Spirit*, and accepted something else instead.

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For Christians to be told they have “received” the Holy Spirit, when they have not, prevents them from seeking the *Promise of the Father* for themselves. Instead they have believed in the holy spirit of the modern pastors, teachers, and evangelists—who neither have the true Indwelling Christ *in themselves*, but prevent others from receiving Him as well.¹³ And as those without the Holy Spirit come in *their own name*, so, too, they offer a spirit in their own name—by which they have deceived and *short-changed* the Christian!¹⁴ And while it is easy to convince new converts that they have received the Indwelling Holy Spirit, it is near impossible for seasoned Christians to accept that they have been deceived. It is because of this false confidence that Christians will *never* seek the true and genuine *Promise of the Father*—for they believe they already have it. This is the Enemy's deception!

Fullness of the Gentiles vs Completion of the Bride

And because the Church *will not* believe, Jesus has made it so that they *cannot* believe.¹⁵ Thankfully this judicial blindness is not declared upon every Christian, just as not all Israel are blinded. Many Jews have indeed believed in Jesus (Yeshua) as their Messiah; so, too, many Christians have believed the truth about the Indwelling Christ. And as Israel blindness is temporary—until the full number of Gentiles come to saving faith in Jesus Christ¹⁶—so, too, the Church's blindness is temporary—until the full number of the *Bride* is completed. For the Bride and the Church are not the same. Not all Christians are the *Bride of Christ*. (Study this!)

The Spirit of God

This series has examined terminology that has become the backbone and mantra of the modern Church.¹⁷ But we have yet to truly examine other phrases such as the *Spirit of God*, the *Spirit of Jesus*, the *Spirit of Christ*, the *Holy Spirit*, etc. But for now consider this: *Everyone* born into this world *has* the *Spirit of God*!¹⁸ This same Spirit of God the Father is what leads the seeking soul toward salvation in Jesus Christ!¹⁹ And although the true Christian may indeed receive a greater measure of the Spirit of God *at conversion*—yet this is not the fuller, richer, baptismal reception of the *Promise of the Father*—the *Gift of the Holy Spirit*—which only comes through faithfulness and obedience.²⁰ And as the Spirit of the Father is the One who guides the soul to Jesus Christ for salvation, it is that same Spirit of the Father who leads the faithful and obedient soul to receive the *Indwelling Christ*.²¹

Old Covenant—New Covenant

The great difference between the Old Testament Saints and Christians today is simply this: The Old Testament Saints believed in a promise that was yet future. The Christian has the opportunity to receive the fulfillment of that promise today. The Old Covenant is the promise—the New Covenant is the fulfillment. *The Promise of the Father is the New Covenant!* Many Christians are living under the Old Covenant *promise*;²² but have never entered into the New Covenant *fulfillment*.

They are as the Sadducees: They receive not—because they believe not.²³

To be continued...

NOTES & SCRIPTURES

Scriptures are from the King James Bible

1 Semantics Part 2.

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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. (1Th 5:23)

Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. (Act 3:21)

5 This **modern** presentation of the Gospel message, and the invitation to “receive Christ” through the “Sinner’s Prayer” can easily be traced Billy Graham, Billy Sunday, and Campus Crusades for Christ. However, in 2,000 years of Church history, this method was never the practice.

6 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. (Rom 11:25)

For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. (Joh 5:46)

And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation. (Luk 19:44)

7 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. (Joh 8:42)

Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also. (Joh 8:19)

8 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, *thou* that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children

together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under *her* wings, and ye would not! (Mat 23:37)

9 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils. (1Ti 4:1)

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; (2Th 2:3)

10 He that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error. (1Jn 4:6)

11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so. (Act 17:11)

12 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, poor, blind, naked. (Rev 3:17)

13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in *yourselves*, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in. (Mat 23:13)

14 I am come in my Father’s name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive. (Joh 5:43)

15 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. (Joh 10:26)

Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with *their* eyes, nor understand with *their* heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. (Joh 12:39-40)

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. (2Co 4:4)

16 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in

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your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. (Rom 11:25)

17 Conversion, Salvation, Regeneration, Born Again.

18 Behold, all souls are mine... (Eze 18:4)

Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it. (Ecc 12:7)

19 I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. (Joh 17:6)

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

21 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in **thy name**: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. (Joh 17:12)

I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: **thine they were**, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. (Joh 17:6)

That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which **thou gavest me** have I lost none. (Joh 18:9)

All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. (Joh 6:37)

22 It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth. (Isa 49:6)

23 For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit...(Act 23:8)

Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. (Jas 4:2)

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts. (Jas 4:3)

Then saith he to Thomas...be not faithless, but believing. (Joh 20:27)

While it is said, Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. But with whom was he grieved forty years? *was it* not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? And to whom sware he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief. (Heb 3:15-19)

Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. (Heb 4:11)