

## **OUR FEELINGS AND THE WORD**      **by Lucas Perciful**

Many years ago, I was attending North Anderson Church of God where my mom went to “worship”, and I foolishly started to believe that NO other congregation could be better than THIS ONE. Unfortunately for me, this was towards the very beginning of my faith and I had barely read the Bible and had no concept of interpretation yet. So when my mom started dating one of the Church of God historians, I was thrilled to be learning the history of a denomination that I just knew was everything God would want it to be!

Even all these years later I can remember the exact wording he used and emphasized when he explained that “the Church of God WASN’T a Restoration Movement, it was a REFORMATION Movement.” I had absolutely NO IDEA what that meant but it sounded like a miraculous description of a church that dropped straight out of heaven to bless the world.

It wasn’t until last night that I remembered and realized what he was describing that day, and it wasn’t as “Biblical” as I assumed back then. Instead of attempting to Restore Christ’s church to its pure form, they believed it was God’s will to follow MAN’S attempt to REFORM the church to its original form. The early founders of the church of God saw themselves as the FINAL reformers in a lineage of other men’s progress and ideas of how to reform the church from Catholicism back to the true Church -like Luther, Calvin, and Wesley. And that my brother, is why they are slipping back into the doctrinal darkness like every other “denomination” man has had a hand in creating.

Their fatal flaw was when they decided that instead of following the New Testament pattern of salvation and entrance into the church they would just adopt Wesley's conclusion that Baptism of the Holy Spirit and subsequent Holiness were the means and evidence that one had been “saved” and “spiritually” adopted into church membership.

All those spiritual “feelings” and the belief that the Holy Spirit had purified them has untimely lead them into a false sense of what’s right and wrong. If an entire movement believes God’s truth is revealed to each individual based on emotion and feelings (that they mistake for the Spirit) instead of the written WORD, it’s only a matter of time before everyone’s sinful desires feel approved by Heaven instead of a path to Hell.