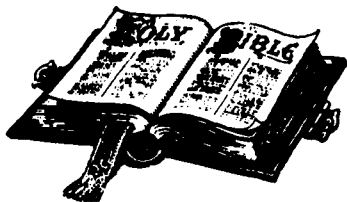


THE INSTRUCTOR



“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

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MISCELLANEOUS FACTS ABOUT THE SPIRIT OF MAN

All that we really know about the **spirit of man** is what is revealed in the Scriptures. Erroneous ideas about the **spirit of man** can be removed if we are willing to accept **divine revelation** as set forth in the **Word of God**. Let us consider some miscellaneous **facts** about **“the spirit of man.”**

1. **NO ONE KNOWS THE WAY OF THE SPIRIT OF MAN!** A long time ago Solomon declared: **“As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: Even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all.”** (Eccl. 11:5).

2. **NO MAN HAS POWER OVER THE SPIRIT TO RETAIN IT!** We read in Eccl. 8:8 that **“There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of his death: . . .”**

3. **ONE’S OWN SPIRIT MAY BE FOLLOWED!** About six hundred years before the Messiah came to earth, Ezekiel warned: **“Thus saith the Lord God; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing!”** (Ezekiel 13:3). **NOTE:** False prophets were speaking **“out of their own hearts!”** Although they claimed they were speaking God’s Word, they were speaking vanity and lies! They **“seduced”** God’s people! He had not sent them. The same is true of many preachers now. They follow their own spirit and speak out of their own heart instead of speaking the **truth** as revealed in the Scriptures.

4. **THE SPIRITS OF THE PROPHETS ARE (AND WERE) SUBJECT TO THE PROPHETS!** In Cor. 14:32 the apostle Paul declared that **“. . .The spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.”**

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Editorial . . .

WHY DO YOU BELIEVE. . . ?

The apostle Peter exhorts Christians to **“Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.”** (1 Peter 3:15). **“Be ready. . .”** suggests the idea of **being prepared**. We should be able and willing to give an answer for our hope. We should know **WHAT** we believe and **WHY** we believe it. Otherwise, we have no true convictions. Our convictions must be based on the Word of God!

Faith is very important! By **faith** we are **justified** (Romans 5:1), **purified** (Acts 15:9), and **saved** (Acts 16:31). We **walk by faith** (2 Cor. 5:7)! It is by **faith** that we live! Paul said: **“For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”** (Rom. 1:17). **Faith** can make us **victorious** over the world! John declared: **“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”** (1 John 5:4).

Without **faith** it is impossible to please God! (Cf. Heb. 11:6).

From whence cometh faith? In

other words, how do men obtain or receive faith? It is **not** inherited! It cannot be bought, borrowed nor stolen! Paul declared: **“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”** (Rom. 10:17). True faith is produced by hearing the Word of the living God! (Also see Luke 8:11-15 & John 20:30-31). In order for me to have faith I must **hear** God’s Word! Since man cannot direct his steps, we must listen to God as He speaks through His Word! Neither **you** nor **I** have any right to believe anything in spiritual matters unless it is taught in the Word of God!

Why do you believe what you do? Both what you believe and why you believe it are important!

I DO YOU BELIEVE WHAT YOU DO BECAUSE THE MAJORITY BELIEVES IT?

Under the Old Testament, the children of Israel were told: **“Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment.”** (Exo. 23:2). In the days of Noah **“... God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.”** (Gen. 6:5). Then in Gen. 7:1 we read: **“And the Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.”** NOTE: The majority perished in the flood!

In Exo. 32 when Aaron made a molten golden calf and the Israelites worshipped it, only the sons of Levi stood with Moses when Moses said: **“Who is on the Lord’s side? Let him come unto me.”** (Verse 26). Only **one** tribe out of **twelve** stood with Moses! The majority did **not** stand with him!

Of the **twelve** men who were sent
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WHY DO YOU BELIEVE . . . ?

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to "search" the land of Canaan, the **majority** gave "**an evil report**" of the land. Only **two** gave a good report! The congregation "**bade stone them with stones.**" The majority of the "spies" were wrong and the majority of the Israelites stood with those who were wrong and desired that the two men who were right be stoned! (See Numbers 13 & 14).

When the kingdom of Israel divided, **ten** of the twelve tribes rebelled against Rehoboam, son of Solomon. Only **two** tribes (Judah & Benjamin) remained loyal to King Rehoboam! (Cf. 1 Kings 12). **NOTE:** The **majority** rebelled against God's arrangement!

According to Gen. 18 & 19, Sodom and Gomorrah were wicked cities. If **ten righteous people** could have been found in Sodom, it would have been spared. But there were **not ten** righteous people in Sodom, so it was destroyed! (Also see 2 Peter 2:6-8). **NOTE:** The overwhelming **majority** was wrong!

During His personal ministry here on earth Jesus warned: "**Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.**" (Mt. 7:13-14). **NOTE:** According to Jesus the **majority** (the many) will be lost! A **minority** (the few) will receive life!

WHY DO YOU BELIEVE WHAT YOU DO? What is **your standard**? Is it the **opinion of the majority** or is it **God's Word**? On what is you "**faith**" based? **Man's opinion** or the **Word of God**? Let us consider some things that **man's opinion** says but the **Word of God** does **not** teach!

1. The **opinion of the majority** says that "**It does not matter what one believes as long as he is sincere**" but the **Word of God** does **NOT** so teach! (Cf. 2 John 9-10; Gal. 1:6-9; John 8:32; Heb. 13:9; Mt. 15:7-9; 15:13 and Jude 3).

2. The **opinion of the majority** says that "**All good (moral) people will be saved** but the **Word of God** does **NOT** so teach! (Cf. Acts 10 & 11; Mt. 7:21; Titus 3:5; Mt. 26:28 and Eph. 2:8-9).

3. The **opinion of the majority** says that "**One church is as good as another**" but the **Word of God** does **NOT** so teach! (Cf. 1 Cor. 12:13; Mt. 16:18; Acts 2:47; Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18; 1 Cor. 12:20; Eph. 4:4-6; 3:10-11; Acts 20:28 and Mt. 15:13).

4. The **opinion of the majority** says that "**One is saved by faith only**" but the **Word of God** does **NOT** so teach! (Cf. Eph. 2:5, 8-9; Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; James 2:14-24; Gal. 5:6; Heb. 5:9; Rev. 22: 14 and Mt. 7:21).

5. The **opinion of the majority** says that "**It does not matter how we worship God**" but the **Word of God** does **NOT** so teach! (Cf. John 4:23-24; Mt. 4:10; Phil. 3:3 & Mt. 15:7-9).

6. The **opinion of the majority** says that "**It is alright to drink intoxicants, dance, dress immodestly, curse a little, tell dirty jokes, lie some, cheat a bit, use tobacco, gamble, etc.** but the **Word of God** does **NOT** so teach! (Cf. 1 Peter 4:3-4; Rom. 13:13; Gal. 5:19-21; 1 Tim. 2:9; James 3:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 10:31 & 1 Thess. 5:22).

Why do you believe what you do? Is it because of what the **Word of God** says or what the **multitudes** (the majority) say?

(To be continued)

(CRS)

MISCELLANEOUS FACTS ABOUT THE SPIRIT OF MAN

(Continued from page 1)

NOTE: When the Holy Spirit moved men to speak he did **no** override their own spirits and force them to do things against their own will. In other words, the Holy Spirit was **never** (and **is not ever**) responsible for the improper conduct or actions of any person!

5. ONE MAY RULE HIS OWN SPIRIT! Solomon said: “**He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city,**” and “**He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.**” (Proverbs 16:32; 25:28). NOTE: We are responsible for ruling or controlling our spirits!

6. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST CAN BE WITH THE SPIRIT OF MAN! The apostle Paul said: “**The Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit. Grace be with you. Amen.**” (2 Tim. 4:22).

7. WHEN THE SPIRIT LEAVES THE BODY, IT (THE BODY) DIES! The inspired writer James declared: “**For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.**” (James 2:26; Also see Gen. 35:18). (CRS)

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— SENTENCE SERMONS —

The best way to keep your chin up is to close your mouth and quit complaining.

* * * * *

Most quarrels, like muddy water, will clear up if you don't keep stirring them up.

* * * * *

The circumstances of others seem good to us, while ours seem good to others.

* * * * *

He who believes in nobody knows that he himself is not to be trusted. — Auerback

* * * * *

Rumor is something that gets thicker as you spread it.

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