

Feasts*of*Charity

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Scriptures from the KJV

Last time I spoke, we were discussing the overall condition of the church of God, and how the church is lacking; yes lacking in *spiritual power* in these latter days in which we are living.

We were discussing how the miracles that our Lord assured would follow those who believe (*the signs that He would perform to confirm where He is working*) are absent today from the roll-call (if you will) within the church of the Living God.

Where are these signs brethren? The *signs* that were to *follow*? The Powerful *Spiritual gifts* that God has promised *would follow* those who believe? Where is the *casting out of devils*? Where is the *speaking with new tongues*? Being these signs, these powerful signs were promised to those who believe, but are not present, one can only conclude that there is a belief problem in the church of God today.

Yes, there appears to be a lack of faith, an epidemic (if you will) of unbelief that abides today in the members of the body of Christ.

Matthew 17:14 please. (Unbelief is nothing new to God's people; even the original disciples were guilty of it.)

Matthew 17:14: *And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying,*

15: Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oft times he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water.

16: And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him.

17: Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me.

18: And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.

19: Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?

20: And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Is there not even one among us today brethren, in the church of God, who is in possession of even a *mustard seed* of faith?

It's no wonder why nearly 2,000 years ago our Lord questioned whether He would find faith on this earth at His return. And brethren, when He posed that question (He was with His disciples.)

I ask Brethren, Where are these gifts, these Spiritual gifts, these signs? Where are those *hands* that were to be *laid on the sick*, for their recovery, for their total, immediate & miraculous recovery?

Brethren, *He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised, bruised beyond recognition, for our iniquities.* Isaiah prophesied that our Lord & Savior's appearance would be so disfigured, beyond that of any man, and His form marred, beyond human likeness. Our Lord & Savior went through all of that suffering. Those prophecies were fulfilled.

The chastisement (the punishment) that was to bring us peace, was upon Him, Isaiah said; and with His stripes, we were to be healed.

Brethren, did our Lord and Savior receive those stripes in vane? Has His Word lost its authority, has His arm weakened? Has the Immeasurable Power of the Almighty God, dwindled, in these latter days?

Or is the problem not with God, but with us, His church? Is the lack of these signs, due to a chronic case of doubt, unbelief and unfaithfulness?

We need to move a mountain today brethren, we need to cast the mountain of unbelief and unfaithfulness that has been running rampant in the church of God these days, into the sea. We need to know why the church is in this condition and most importantly how to get back to *"the faith which was once delivered to the Saints."*

I have much to say today concerning getting back to the faith like it was in early New Testament times. I also want to address a tradition today, yes a tradition that the New Testament church was keeping back then, that is not only no longer kept in the church of God, but has even been totally forgotten about. So I ask, please hear me out.

Some of what I have to say will be considered by some as heresy. But let us realize that "heresy" is not necessarily bad. Heresy is just the opinion or doctrine at variance with the normally doctrine. Paul was accused of preaching heresy, and he was proud of it. (Acts 24:14) Now there is another kind of heresy that is bad, it's called "damndable heresy" But I warn you not to get your heresies mixed up, because we live at a time when good is called bad and bad is called good.

Now the disciples had trouble casting the devil out of that Lunatic back then because of their unbelief, but that was before the Holy Spirit was given. That was before Christ returned to the Father's Throne.

Remember, He said: *"He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."*

Brethren, after the Holy Spirit was given to them on Pentecost, the miracles began flowing – Spiritual Power was in their possession, and God was confirming where He was *working with signs following*.

But, let us remember that the Key ingredient has to be there for this "confirming" to take place, God has to be there, Our Lord has to be the one working with us, and especially leading us!) Because *"of and by ourselves, we can do nothing."* And this holds true for congregations too. The Lord has to be there leading, especially the "leaders". God's Spirit needs to be flowing, yes, flowing in and out of its members.

But all too often, the Spirit is not flowing, but instead is quenched. Hierarchy (which Christ Hates) manages to creep in and occupy the pulpits. Sad to say, many of those "leading" are not imitating Christ. But instead score high in "Hindering and Quenching the spirit of its members.

Nowhere in the entire Bible are we ever told to follow a man. (Following men will only lead you to the ditch.) Scripture says: *"Cursed be the man who puts his trust in man."* *"Psalms says: "Put your trust not in mortals."* We know the Scriptures, the question is do we follow them?

Whenever the word "follow" is used in the Scriptures, it always (and only) refers to Christ, never to follow any man. That word "follow" in 1 Corinthian's 11:1 is mistranslation in the KJV. Paul was saying "imitate" me as I imitate Christ. (Big difference in the two words.)

(Mark 16:17.) Let's look at how powerful these "signs follow" were back when the New Testament church was in action, and also, what could have caused them to stop.

Mark 16:17: *And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues. 18: 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.*

19: *So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.* That's where our Lord is now brethren still up there at the Father's right hand. But not necessarily sitting; Remember Stephen saw Him standing on that sea of glass looking down on him as he was being stoned to death. Christ is up there all right, and He's busy. Headquarters is a busy place.

Don't hear that too often, referring to "God's Throne" as headquarters. Most people in the church (especially the leaders) consider headquarter to be at their place. I remember when John (leader of one large following) stated that God's headquarters was in his garage (that's where he worked out of.) But how could that be, because Rod said headquarters was at his place, and some of the other hundreds of churches of God had their own particular location for "headquarters".

Brethren, anyone thinking that Headquarters is in his particular place, "Better Think Again. They don't seem to realize that our Lord and Savior is alive and well, and quite capable of heading and leading His church. Headquarters (for those who may be confused) is up in Heaven, not down here. Let's not let those "leaders" lead us astray.

Let's go back to some of our Lords statements concerning how He would be "working" with the "church" and "confirming" the Word with "signs follow."

In John 14:12 Our Lord said: *"greater works than these shall ye do; because I go unto my Father."*)

And in Mark 16:20 we see how the New Testament church with its powerful gifts, was in action.

And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.

We need to define some of these words to better comprehend what is being said here.

Working = The Greek: To be a fellow worker. "coadjutor" = an associate in action, a co-worker or colleague, especially one appointed to assist in official duties, as the assistant of a bishop.

Now for those who have been connected to organized churches (or are still sitting there in one) one can comprehend the above definition quite well. Many have been living that life for a long time. (Especially if one has been appointed into some position by the ministry.) Just like the Catholic church Pope on top, cardinals, bishops, priests, etc. (apostles, evangelists, ministers, deacons, etc.) we know all about authority. But too often than not, the one on top is not our Lord, but just some man, pushing his own agenda. It has to be our Lord and Savior on Top brethren. He is the one, and the only one that can lead us. We have to hear "His" voice and follow Him. And this is a very serious thing, because if ones focus is too much on the pulpit (which often times it is) and not on our Heavenly Father and His Son, that's Idolatry. And let us remember something else here that is quite important. It is the Father who places people into positions in His church. *"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased Him."* 1 Corinthians 12:18. The members that the Father chose Himself and has placed into positions are out there brethren; you can identify them by their behavior, by their fruits. They will be "imitating" God the Father and Jesus Christ.

Brethren, our Lord has to be working with us; He's the one, and the only one who will have us on the right track, and moving in the right direction. And He is the only one who can do the confirming of the Word with signs follows. If we're not working directly with Him (And most are not) If we're working through some man (as most are) the sign follows will not exist (and they don't).

Don't be fooled by man, man is our biggest culprit to learning and walking in Truth. Remember what our Lord said concerning men: *"Take heed that no man deceive you, for many men will come in my name and deceive many."*

Peter said: *"There were false prophets among the people even as there shall be (better put today "are") false teachers among you, bringing in damnable heresies. Even denying the Lord that brought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many (listen to what is being said here) **Many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.**"* This is where the church is today, many following "pernicious" ways. Pernicious means = ruin or loss, damnable, destruction. Comes from Strong's 622 meaning to destroy, perish. Brethren, this should make our hair stand up. What Scriptures is saying here, is that if we follow (as the many are) these false teachers and leaders, we are headed down the path of destruction.

Brethren, try to understand something here. We are not living at the time that Jesus began to build His church that was 2,000 years ago. We are living at the time when He is going to complete the job. This is not the time when the false teachers are going to begin coming into the church, this is the time when they have already been here and well seated for a long time now. Don't look at their outward appearance, we are warned about those in sheep's clothing.

Matthew 7:15-20

Jude says: *For there are certain men crept in unawares, ungodly men, turning the grace of God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Note some of the words here like "denying" our Lord. Denying here means – to assert the contrary or opposite of, disavow. And we see abundance of this ungodly behavior in the "church" today. Look at the one man "leader" who won't even allow his members to associate with their own flesh and blood family and relatives if they're not in his organization. How sad. Is that Godly behavior, is that what our Lord wants us to do?

Brethren, men, have the church divided into hundreds of separate groups, all divided, all separate. But don't be fooled by man. In God's eyes there are only two groups, yes two: The Wise and The Foolish – The Sheep and The Goats. Which category we are individually in, is our choice. We need to be wise sheep, not foolish goats.

Think about it, how many churches is our Lord and Savior building? O, everyone will answer correctly "ONE" But there's hundreds and hundreds out there. Are they all being led by our Lord? No. If they were, they would all be on the same page. But they're not. Why? Because they're all divided by men, men and their various agendas. One man ("minister") his whole ministry is his calendar. If you don't follow his calendar, you are out. Another one ministry is that you have to use sacred names, and if you don't you're out, (and also lost your salvation according to that man.) Another is Malachi's message; you have to read it and believe that "he" is the prophet; and the "apostle" or you're out. (The scary part here is that many (if not most) sitting in these various (and sometimes ungodly) organization, fear that if they separate themselves (if they leave), they will lose their salvation. Can't they understand that God's church is a Spiritual organization?

Even when they sometimes see awful behavior by their "minister" they will not leave, do to fear. One man (appointed deacon at the time) was well aware of the terrible behavior their "minister" was continually doing. But said (and I'm quoting) "Better to suffer under his poor leadership, than to lose our salvation." Thinking they will lose their salvation, as if they left God's church. We can go on and on with so many separate groups with so many *different* agendas, leading so many brethren astray. How sad! But the saddest thing is that so many continue to follow those men.

The Scriptures say cursed be the man who puts his trust in man. Timothy says: "from such turn away". You run a much better chance of losing your salvation, IF you stay there.

Many of those “leaders” are not disciples of our Lord and Savior, they don’t qualify. They disqualify themselves by not having love, one to another. Our Lord made it very clear how to distinguish who His true servants are and who are not: “*You will know **IF** they have love one to another.*” That’s Christ’s words. That’s Christ’s warning to us.

Too many in the church put faith in men. But just because one has been appointed by other men, doesn’t necessarily mean its Godly ordained. And paper credentials hold absolutely no weight when it comes to verification of discipleship. The proof is always in the pudding, you have to observe ones behavior, to know if he is a disciple of Christ or not. One has to demonstrate Love, and not any love “Agape” love to qualify as disciple of Christ. (Among other things like “denying everything, and following Christ only”.)

One of the biggest problems in the church today, is Hierarchy, the very thing which our Lord hates, “lording over the brethren.” Luke 22:24-27 Controlling and exercising lordship over the brethren is ungodly, and hated by our Lord. It’s the deeds of the Nicolaitans. But many (if not most) of the church of God “leaders” today, do just that. And they demand one to pledge their allegiance to them, and if you don’t, you’re out, and often times marked. One cannot even question a doctrine.

Brethren, that behavior is not supported or backed by our Lord and Savior. It is total contrary to His and our Father’s ways. It’s no wonder why there are no “confirming” of the Word with “signs following” with this type of mentality in the leadership.

Look at this statement just put out by Living cog, concerning brethren who have been studying and questioning some of our beliefs:

Brethren this letter if being widely circulated and it shows quite well how: “*out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.*”

Living Church of God

There was a meeting of the Council of Elders, 5-7 November 2018. Gerald Weston commented: “We so often hear of members coming up with different doctrines, fancying themselves as Bible scholars. By the time they come to the ministry, they are so convinced of their own rightness that nothing will persuade them otherwise. The issues raised are almost always peripheral, or doctrines contrary to our long standing understanding. The Church’s Council of Elders often discusses subjects that may appear simple on the surface, but are frequently more complex than first thought. It is through thoughtful and prayerful discussion with the Bible as the foundation that 15 or more men, who have been in the ministry for decades, are able to come to a sound biblical understanding.” He means that doctrine has been set by what these men were taught when they were students in WCG’s Ambassador College, and only such men who are now the leaders of the LCG have that necessary knowledge and understanding to make changes.

Take for example Richard Ames’s “Marriage Supper in Heaven Doctrine” which he outlined to ordinary members in 2012:

“I will share with you some of what we have recently discussed in our Council of Elders meetings, on which I elaborated during a presentation at the Ministerial Conference in May of this year ... In fact, much of what Dr. Meredith and I have preached, and what I discuss in this article, follows closely from what Mr. John Ogwyn wrote in 2003 in his powerful booklet, *Revelation: The Mystery Unveiled!* Please be assured, brethren, that Dr. Meredith and I, and the many other faithful ministers in the Living Church of God, are not “departing from the truth.” We are simply striving to fulfill the biblical imperative to grow in grace and knowledge (2 Peter 3:18), and to rightly divide the word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15).”

Ordinary members who advocate doctrinal change are, however, “departing from the truth,” and are failing “to grow in grace and knowledge.”

Brethren, don't be fooled by those kinds of statements, calling those questioning our beliefs as "ordinary members" and concluding that they, "the ministry" are the only ones who can come to a "sound Biblical understanding". Our Lord prayed to the Father saying: *"Thank you father because Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, but hast revealed them unto babes."* Matthew 11:25.

The Wise & Prudent don't have it.

The Word of God says: *"a good understanding have all they that do His commandments."* Psalm 111:10. (and He never was nor ever will be a respecter of persons). We are all commanded to *"search the Scriptures", "Prove all things" "rightly divide the Word of Truth" "Hold Fast That Which Is Good"*

Don't be deceived by men, the true brethren are the ones who are doing the Scripture searching, proving all things, rightly dividing the word of Truth, and Holding Fast to that which is good, They are the ones on the right track. They are far and few between only a little flock. And as usual, being persecuted (same as our Elder Brother was) anyone who wants to speak up for truth when they plainly see error, are kicked out and oftentimes disfellowshipped.

But they're the ones (the ones Mr. Weston refers to as ordinary members) who are growing in Grace and Knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And, let me clearly state something here that is very very important: The things that the "searchers/provers/rightly dividers" and "holder on'ers" are learning, and raising red flags about, **do not** pertain to any "peripheral" matters, as stated by Mr. Weston, their Salvational Matters.

Jude also elaborates on what, yes what the church needs to be doing now, to get back on track. Jude very powerfully exhorts us to *get back to the "faith" that was once delivered to the Saints*. This important statement is twisted by the pulpits, as they continue to lead people astray. Let's look at this.

Jude 1:1-3. Jude is writing here to a very specific people. He's writing to those that are *"sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Christ, and called."* This is to His elect, His little flock, His true church. He tells us (and in a very powerfully way, using words like "earnestly contend" . The Greek word used there is normally used only concerning the Olympic Players struggle to compete for the Gold.) He tells us to *"earnestly contend for the "faith" which was once delivered to the Saints"*

Jude is admonishing us to get back to the faith once delivered to the Saints. The majority of pulpits in the cog mislead here saying we already accomplished that. They say we are already back to that faith once delivered, just have to hold on to it. Nope, (I don't know who will read this letter, so let me speak in other understood vernaculars here: "Nope" we are not back there yet. But for some, (hopefully many), they're getting back on the right track, headed in the right direction. Some are studying, proving all things. Some have a Love for the Truth. But those with that "we have it all attitudes and in need of nothing" only describing the Laodiceans.

The true church is fighting to get back to that faith once delivered, they are studying (they never stopped) But they are met with much opposition from within the church. Nothing new there, it started back in Apostle John's time. The only thing different now is that back then there was only one wanting preeminence, today there are many "Diotrephes" in the church of God.

3John 1:9-11.

Now I'm not here today to push my beliefs on the controversial doctrine issues that are being raised by some who are studying. But I do admonish you to check out the doctrines that are being red flagged. Because you are eventually going to find out that we (the church in general) is not totally on the right track with all of its doctrines and beliefs correct. We need to be growing in both "grace" and "knowledge" of our Lord and Savior. What we must realize, is to never be scared to double check any and all of our beliefs. Truth always has and always will stand on its own two feet. And Scriptures is for "Proof" and "Reproof" 2 Timothy 3:16. The word "reproof" means reproofing, censuring, or rebuking.

So let us (as James admonishes us) *“be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath.”* We need to *study, rightly divide, and hold fast to that which is good.*

Like I always tell our impoverished brethren over in Kenya, we need to treat men’s words (all men’s words, no matter who is speaking) like we do our food when eating chicken. You cannot just put a chicken leg in your mouth and swallow it, you will choke. One has to chew first, swallow only the meat, and be sure to spit out the bones. When men speak, we must also chew first and spit out any bones, only swallow the meat.

And speaking of our impoverished brethren (and there are many around the world.) Let us remember how much the Scriptures talk about caring for the poor. (Especially the poor that are of the household of faith.) And let us remember what *“Pure and undefiled religion is: to visit the fatherless and widows in their afflictions, AND to keep oneself unspotted from the world.* James 1:27. Taking care of our widows and orphans should be top priority in the church, but sad to say, it’s not..

Some of these leaders are using funds improperly. Look at Mr. Flurry, it’s been reported that he purchased a very expensive, very sophisticated airplane. Does he really need that? It’s reported that he made two trips with it in the past year (and both were domestic flights.) His brethren have been paying hundreds of thousands of dollars for him to own and operate that jet. At the same time, we have “True” widows and church orphans that are suffering severely. Even now we are caring for 18 church orphans. Trying to keep them fed, clothed, and in school. And also trying to teach each and every one of them a trade so they can become self-supportive after finishing school.

But it’s been a struggle, because very few who have compassionate hearts are aware of the situation. We have tried time and time again to give exposure to the dire needs of some of our poor brethren, but the hierarchical group “leaders”, will not only not help (even though many of them are sitting on tens of thousands of dollars in their bank accounts, some sitting on hundreds of thousands of dollars.) not only have they turned their backs on the needy brethren, but also refuse to allow us to inform their congregations of the cry for help. Even now, I know of numerous “true” widows and more church orphans who are literally starving, and crying for us to help them.

Just visit our Web site and see for yourself. Our “Latest Update Page” documents the suffering that our brethren have been enduring over the past few years. The link is: khofh.org

Now most in the cog today know of the various doctrines that have been questioned, and as I said, I think it is in everyone’s best interest to look at the issues, and check the Scriptures yourself and decide what is Scriptural and what is not. Let us not forget who we are: *“The church of the Living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.* 1 Timothy 3:15 Truth is what sanctifies us, sets us apart from everyone else: *“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”* John 17:17. And Truth is how the Father wants us to worship Him: *But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father seeketh such to worship him.* John 4:2 *God is a spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth.* John 4:24 We need to live by truth. We need to do things according to God’s way, following HIS instructions.

Now I have something that I want to address here concerning a tradition that the early NT church was often conducting. An important tradition that was removed from the church so long ago, that most never even heard of it. It something that was given to the church to do, instituted by our Lord and savior Himself. It was given us by our Lord to put Life in us.

Feast of Charity or Love Feast

Acts 2:37 please. It was the day of Pentecost, (*were cutting in here*) - this is where the multitude came together, and were pricked in their hearts upon realizing that it was the Christ that they had crucified.

Acts 2: 37: *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?*

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 Spirit**.

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. (That's us)

40: And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, **Save yourselves from this untoward generation**. (That's us again brethren, in need of saving ourselves from this untoward generation.)

41: Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

(And then, they began what became a tradition in the church) (Not a worldly tradition) (Not a man made tradition) (But a tradition that originated and instituted by our Lord, on the night He was betrayed.)

Verse 42: And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine **and in breaking of bread**, and in prayers.

This breaking of bread here is not just a partaking of a common meal. The mention of a common meal would Not be put here in the middle of this verse between the "apostles doctrine" and in prayers."

The New Testament church was partaking of this bread "often". You can read about this in many places, like in Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 10:16; John 13:18, and elsewhere like in Luke 24:30, where Jesus broke bread with the two disciples who were on their way to Emmaus. When Jesus broke **this** bread with them, they realized who He was, **and their eyes were opened**.

The breaking of this bread became a tradition in the church, and it became known as feast of charity or love feasts. (The Agape Love that comes directly from the Father was flowing in God's church at that time.)

And the gifts of the Spirit were being poured out upon the entire church by the Father, with some having a **psalm**, others having a **doctrine**, a **tongue**, a **revelation**, an **interpretation**, The gifts of the Spirit were flowing.

Yes, flowing amongst the brethren, not like it is today, in these latter days, where the Spirit has been quenched by the pulpits of the many false teachers and false leaders who have stepped in to take control over the brethren, stating that they have the gifts of the Spirit, as they continue to lord over the Laity.

Back to Verse 43, where God's Spirit was flowing amongst all the brethren:

Acts 2: 43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

This particular fear spoken of here was a good fear, it produced belief (the very thing that the cog is lacking) (like it says: and many signs and wonders were done.)

This particular fear is related to godly fear – reverence. It's the same fear that the disciples cried out with, when they saw Jesus walking on the sea that night when they were in the boat, and He approached them.

This particular fear caused Peter to walk on the water, to go to Jesus.

Notice when this fear came upon every soul?

When they began keeping the newly begun tradition.

Back to Verse 42: And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, **and in breaking of bread**, and in prayers. 43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

(If you investigate, you will see that this “breaking of bread” was not just the partaking of a meal together.)

44: *And all that believed were together (not divided into 300 separate man made groups) and had all things common; 45: And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.*

God’s Spirit was flowing at that time brethren, there was no one Lording over them and quenching the Spirit.

46: *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,*

47: *Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.* Those 5 words come from only one Greek word: SOZO it means = to save, make whole, heal.

God’s Holy Spirit was flowing back then, God’s church was of one accord. Many signs & wonders were being performed, faith & belief was being exhibited by the brethren, and the Word was being confirmed by our Lord with signs following.

Well, what happened brethren?

We need to know what happened in God’s church, why, or how the unbelief crept back in. We need to know the cause, and see how to address the cure.

We need to understand something about TRADITIONS, because over the years, the traditions within the church of God have changed, and not for the better, but for the worse.

Funk & Wagnall’s New comprehensive international dictionary of the English Language defines Tradition as such:

1 = The transmission of knowledge, opinions, doctrines, customs, practices, etc., handed down from generation to generation, originally by word of mouth and by example.

2 = That body of Christian doctrines handed down through successive generations and held by some churches to belong to the deposit of faith, even if they may not be found in the Holy Scriptures.

What? Traditions of doctrines handed down and believed even if they are not found in the Scriptures? Could this be possible? Could there be doctrines, teachings, traditions (that are not Scriptural) being taught & practices in the church of God today, and even believed amongst the many, as Truth?

Yes, because this is the Laodicean era, where the church thinks that they are rich, increased with good, and in need of nothing.

No need to study. Some think that we just need to hold on to the traditions that have been handed down. (Not realizing that some of these traditions are not Scriptural. That’s why Jude exhorts us with diligence to *earnestly*contend* yes, strive, fight to get back to the Faith, the Doctrines, the Truths that were once delivered to the Saints.

The “Word English Dictionary” defines Christianity itself, as a tradition, and defines it as such: = a doctrine or body of doctrines regarded as having been established by Christ or the Apostles, though not contained in the Bible.

Brethren, some traditions can be quite beneficial to the church, (If they are Scriptural) but some traditions can be quite damaging to the church (If they are not Scriptural.)

We need to be aware of which church traditions we are following & practicing, whether they are Scriptural or not.

Let’s go back to the book of Jude please and see something concerning these Love Feasts.

Verse 4: *because there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ*

(Dropping down to verse 12 for lack of time)

12: *These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, **feeding themselves without fear**: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; (We know this type brethren, we've seen them in action for many years, "ministers" lording over the brethren.)*

Verse 16: *These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.*

17: *But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ; 18: How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.* (Mockers # 1703 = a false teacher)

These men who crept*in*unawares were spots (The Greek means a ledge, or reef of rocks in the sea) the very thigh that caused many shipwrecks, with a high loss of life. The Spiritual side of that is that these "men" (many of them according to our Lord) what these men can do, is shipwreck you.

(2Thessalonians 2:15 please)

Church traditions are very important to the growth & well being of its members. (The correct church traditions will produce much Spiritual fruit.) (But the wrong church traditions will cause a shipwreck.)

2Thessalonians 2:15: Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.

Yes, we need to hold on to church traditions, but only the traditions that have been taught by word (Logos in the Greek – meaning Christ's teachings) or the traditions taught by the Apostles epistles.)

The traditions that began on the day of Pentecost, when God poured out His Holy Spirit in abundance, caused many to began receiving and utilizing their Powerful Spiritual Gifts.

Brethren, the church tradition of *breaking bread* (the breaking of the thin cakes) Those Love Feasts, were removed from the church so long ago, that there not even remembered. They were first attacked from within, by those certain ungodly men who crept into the church unawares, who were unholy men, having not the Spirit of God. Then later, at the Council of Laodicea they were formally removed and prohibited in the church.

The **Council of Laodicea** was a regional synod (an Ecclesiastical council) of approximately thirty clerics from Asia Minor that assembled about 363–364 AD in Laodicea. The major concerns of the Council involved regulating the conduct of church members. The Council expressed its decrees in the form of written rules or **canons**. Among the sixty canons decreed, several aimed at: Maintaining order among Bishops, Clerics and Laypeople. Outlawing the keeping of the Jewish Sabbath (Saturday) and encouraging rest on "Lord's Day" Sunday. And also forbade the churches for celebrating the Agape or love feast.

Let's read them (word for word as they are)

Now most of us are familiar with Canon # 29, we'll read that first:

CANON XXIX.

CHRISTIANS must not Judaize by resting on the Sabbath, but must work on that day, rather honouring the Lord's Day; and, if they can, resting then as Christians. But if any shall be found to be judaizers, let them be anathema (an ath a ma) from Christ. (Meaning: excommunicated, banned & cursed.) Most of us are familiar with that #29 Canon with that ruling.

But how many are aware of Cannon # 28, the Cannon that caused the *Agape Feast* to end. The very church tradition that increased the flow of God's Spirit amongst the brethren, which in tern brought about the working of *miracles, signs & wonders*, was removed, and forbidden to be practiced in the church?

CANON # 28. (Word for Word)

"It is not permitted to hold love feasts, as they are called, in the Lord's Houses, or Churches, nor to eat and to spread couches in the house of God."

Brethren, that was a sad day for the church, the removing of that church tradition, brought about the weak & sickly condition in the church of God that is spoken of in 1Corinthians 11:30 and has even caused many in God's church in these end times to die, due to the lack of Spiritual Strength, of the many gifts that the Father had previously given, including the gift of healing.

1Corinthians 11:17-34 is not about the Passover. Passover was address in chapter 5. What's being addressed here is a love feast, and how they were getting out of hand. And as Jude already told us the problem originated with ungodly men coming in. And when you realize that this incident here was not Passover service, it helps us clarify the Passover controversy.

The Lord Himself says in the book of John: *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him. As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, eve he shall live by me. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your father did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live forever."*

The life is in the blood; the blood is in the wine.

Concerning the frequency of partaking of the bread and Wine, the commentaries have little controversy, due to the meaning of the Greek word used. The comment that Jesus and the apostle Paul made was for the Love Feast, to be celebrated often. The WWC taught that this word "often" means once a year. (Nothing could be further from the truth.)

The Greek words 'hosakis ean' used in 1Corinthians 11:25 & 26 **as** "as often as" in the KJ, and "Whenever" in the NIV Have the same meaning.

When I say, "I will come as often as I can", it means, "I will come whenever I can.

"The Greek word used here, sets no specific time of occurrence, but its meaning does mean frequently or often, and not yearly.

This can easily be seen in Revelation 11:6 where the same exact word is used.

(Lets go there please Revelation 11:6) Speaking of God's two witnesses, we read this:

Revelation 11:6: *These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, **as often as** they will.*

It's up to their discretion brethren, surely there not going to call these plagues down in one-year intervals. . Men again have lead many astray with their false teaching concerning this matter.

While studying this Greek word, I found this:

The Greek word **HOSAKIS** translated "*as often as*" was used by many writers, including The Greek author Homer, the writings of Lysias (5th to 4th century BC) Plato (4th century BC) and Josephus (1st century AD) as well as various papyri and inscriptions, with the **uncontested** meaning to be: "As often As" denoting an event of **variable yet frequent occurrences**

Brethren, Jude's exhortation for us to get back to the faith once delivered to the saints, is vital.

Wesley says this about the faith that is spoken of by Jude; he says that this particular word translated faith here by Jude, (Represents All the fundamental truths that were once delivered.)

Were talking foundation here – The trunk of the tree. This word “*faith*” has to do with doctrine, is has to do with the belief in Divine Truths – Biblical Truth – Sound Doctrines. Not fables and myths of men that are not even Scriptural.

Yes, even the Apostle Paul spoke often of the false apostles & deceitful workers, who transformed themselves into the apostles of Christ. These imposters have done so much damage, and have gotten the church so far off the track, that it's no wonder that Jude used such exhorting words, to try and get us to return to that precious faith.

Let us look at another word that we have been misled on. It's in 1Corinthians 11:25 (By the way, 1Corinthians 11:17-34 is not about Passover service. Passover was addressed in chapter 5. This incident spoken of here by Paul concerned the improper way the Corinthian church began keeping the Love Feast.)

In verse 25, the word “remembrance” was taught by WWC to mean memorial, which is kept once a year. But the true definition of this word is “recollection” It to bring back to mind, what our Savior went through to save us. And Verse 26 we are told that as often as we eat this bread, and drink this cup, we do “shew” the Lords death till He comes. That word “shew” means to openly proclaim the Lords death till He comes. By doing this, we look both ways. Back at His suffering and death, and forward to His coming.

Brethren, Our Lord instituted this partaking of the bread and cup to be taken “often”, to keep us on the straight and narrow. It's a powerful tool. We all know how well it works at Passover time. Many clean up their acts in preparation for Passover. Then a few weeks after Passover many drift back into some of their bad old habits. Our Lord knew that we needed His help often. One way that help comes is from partaking of the bread and cup. Remember, the life is in the blood, and the blood is in the wine.

We have to examine ourselves before partaking, for if we eateth and drinketh unworthily, we eateth and drinketh damnation on ourselves, not discerning the Lords body. And notice verse 30: *For this cause (for not partaking of this love feast, for not discerning the Lords body) many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.* Yes, the current condition of the church of God, *weak* (meaning spiritually weak) and *sickly* (being of ill health and not healed) and many sleep. (Meaning dead when they should have been healed of their illnesses after being anointed by the elders.)

Brethren, returning to the faith once delivered to the Saints, Is going to be quite a difficult feat to accomplish for many in the church of God. Especially considering that a deceived ministry occupies the majority of pulpits within the church. Now these might be bold words that I'm speaking, but think about it.

How often do you hear the pulpits in the church today state that we need to get back to the faith once delivered? They don't brethren. O, they mention that Scripture from Jude, but they have a deceived twist to it. They say that we need to hold on to the faith once delivered to the Saints. Brethren, how can we hold on to something that we don't even have in our grip, yet?

We need to get back to the faith once delivered. We need to get back to the Scriptural tradition of keeping those “Agape Love Feasts” and partaking of the Bread & the Cup more often that just once a year at Passover time. We need to end the “Believe” problem that currently exists in God's church.