

# PRESENT TRUTH

A Teaching Letter of Lifestream Teaching Ministries

*For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. (2 Peter 1:12 NKJV)*

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## Changing Your Mind

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### Introduction

As we enter this new year we are on the verge of a new move of God. This move will not appear like the previous moves but will be different at first. The question is, will we recognize it when it occurs? Whenever the Lord moves, it is difficult for those in the previous move to recognize, accept, and become a part of the new move. This is made even more difficult as these last days of the end times are rushing upon us. Because, one of the marks of the last days is a proliferation of deception with many false prophets, false Christs, false teachers, false doctrine, and false people.

### In Another Form

We have pre-conceived notions and ideas about what Jesus will or won't do. These are based on what we have been taught by our traditions and doctrines rather than an understanding from the Scriptures. Look at the story of the two on the road to Emmaus.

Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him. (Luke 24:13-16 NKJV)

After His resurrection Jesus approached and walked with the two disciples as they went to Emmaus. That they were disciples is clear from the previous verses and the use of the phrase “of them”, which means that they were familiar with Jesus' appearance. However, as He walked with them, they didn't recognize Him. I like the way that Mark says this in his Gospel:

After that, He appeared in another form to two of them as they walked and went into the country. Mark 16:12 NKJV

Jesus “appeared in another form”. A form that was not recognized as Him by the two disciples. They didn't know who He was until they got to their destination, invited Him in and broke bread with Him. In other words, they did not recognize Him until they accepted Him as a disciple also

and fellowshiped with Him over a meal.

How many times do you think that Jesus may have come to us “in another form” in our circumstances or relationships and we didn't recognize Him? If He will appear to individuals in a form that is hard to recognize, is it possible that He might also appear in a manner that we collectively will have difficulty recognizing?

## A Changed Mind

When Jesus came the first time, there were many that did not recognize Him for who He was/is. Israel was expecting the Messiah spoken of by the prophets. This anticipation was heightened by the national circumstances of that time. However, their *anticipation* was colored by their *expectations*. Their expectations were based on tradition, doctrine, and need. They had developed a mindset that expected the Messiah to appear as a conquering King that would restore the Kingdom of Israel in such a manner that they would rule the nations. However, Jesus, the Messiah, came to them collectively “in another form” making it hard for Him to be recognized because His form did not meet their expectations. Jesus was bringing forth a “new thing” that expanded and fulfilled the types and shadows of the “old thing”. Their mindset could not make the transition from the “old thing” to the “new thing”.

The question is, Why not? What do we need to learn from this? Can our mindsets be such that we miss the “new thing”? We are on a journey that moves us from camp to camp toward the fulfillment of the purposes of God. Those who have mindsets that are unable to see Jesus “in another form” are unable to move to the next camp. This is important as we begin to enter the next major move of the Lord.

It was not by accident that John the Baptist, the one preparing the way, brought a message of repentance. Neither is it an accident that the first message that Jesus preached was just like John's with an emphasis on repentance. This is a necessary first step in changing your mindset in order to continue into the new move of God.

We have placed all of the meaning of repentance into turning from sin. While it is true that we need to repent of our sins, the scriptural meaning is much broader than we have been taught. The word for “repent” in the original means “to change one's mind” or, to put it in military terms, it means an “about face”, to turn from your current direction and go in the opposite direction.

Repentance is listed as one of the six foundational principles of Christ in Hebrews.<sup>1</sup>

Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary *principles* of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. ([Hebrews 6:1-2 NKJV](#))

But, notice that it does not say “repentance from sins” but rather “repentance from dead works”. So, what are “dead works”. It means *lifeless, useless business, employment or work* according to Thayer's Greek Definitions. Anything that we are doing that does not involve the Spirit of God is lifeless, useless work—it is a “dead work”. When God moves the camp, when Jesus comes “in another form” bringing a “new thing”, we can no longer continue in the old without it becoming a dead work. We must repent—change our mind—concerning the old thing and open our

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<sup>1</sup> Further study on the six foundational principles can be found in “[Blueprint Series: Foundation Principles](#)” available on the website.

understanding to the new thing.

There are many who are crying out for “revival” to come. Well, I've got a bulletin for them—God does not revive the “old thing”. His mercies are new every morning. The Lord is moving forward bringing to completion the plan and purpose of the Father. We either get on board with what the Lord is doing or we get left behind.

Now, this is not to say that there is no value in the old because that is not true. Jesus verified this.

And Jesus said to them, "**Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head of a household, who brings out of his treasure things new and old.**" (Matthew 13:52 NASB)

The old treasure is brought forth in the context of the new. The value of the old treasure is determined by the new. Our problem appears when our mindsets refuse to accept the new.

The so called “revivalists” are right, though, about the need for repentance. However, most of them need to apply it to themselves and repent from dead works—the old is gone, the new is arriving. We need to embrace the new.

The Lord leads His people by the Holy Spirit. Just as the Children of Israel followed a pillar of fire by night and a cloud by day, we are following the Holy Spirit as He leads us into all Truth. As He reveals or brings understanding to a new aspect of Truth, He camps around it for a while as we experientially make the new Truth a part of us. Then the Holy Spirit will move on to another aspect of Truth. Each time that this has happened, those who didn't move on but stayed in the old camp have created a new denomination around the old Truth and it became a “dead work” as the life of the Spirit moved on.

Our denominations are our “dead works” from which we need to repent. Not only are they dead but they also hinder or even prevent the unity of the Spirit. In the end all things will be summed up in Christ Jesus. Let it start now. Let it start with us. Let us repent of our dead works.

## **Expectations**

If we don't repent we will operate in false expectations regarding the Lord's second coming just as the scribes and Pharisees operated in false expectations about the first coming of the Messiah. This occurs naturally when one is functioning in a lifeless, useless work. The Scriptures tell us that the natural mind cannot understand the things of the Spirit.

But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. (1 Corinthians 2:14 NASB)

Without the life of the Spirit, the enlightenment of the Spirit, we cannot understand the things of God. So we read the scriptures with the natural mind and use logic and reason to interpret the Word of God. The scribes interpretation of the prophets and the Pharisees application of the Law were natural outcomes of reasoned interpretations of the Old Testament Scriptures. However, even though they had reached reasonable, logical conclusions about Messiah's coming, they were wrong.

We are now doing the same things. Smart people are applying their mental skills to understanding end time events; however, most are doing this with little spiritual insight. Our modern scribes, who call themselves prophecy teachers, have built many logical scenarios about

the return of Jesus. And the sad thing is that these scenarios are taught as if they are the only possible way of seeing the Lord's return. Just like the only possible way for the Messiah to come would be as a conquering King. When He came "in another form", they missed it because it was outside of their interpretation of the scriptures.

Have we done the same thing? Is our interpretation of end time events so solidified that it prevents us from seeing anything new that the Spirit might reveal? I have spent the last couple of years studying end time prophecies and reading various interpretations of them. There are several complete scenarios that are *internally* consistent but *externally* leave many biblical questions unanswered. How can we even think we have a complete understanding when Revelation reveals that there are the voice or sayings of seven thunders that John was about to write down when the Angel told him not to but to seal up the sayings of the thunders? It is obvious from the context that the seven thunders are important to the close of the age and what they are saying is important to the people of God; yet, it is sealed until the end when it will be needed. I suspect that when that happens, it will make everybody's end time charts worthless.

Dead works are dangerous because they lead to false doctrine and false understanding of the things of God. It is the Spirit of God that gives life not the application of the letter.<sup>1</sup> When we believe the letter without the Spirit, we are open to deception.

Let us hear what the Spirit is saying and repent of dead works.

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<sup>1</sup> II Corinthians 2:6 “,,, for the letter kills, but the spirit gives life”