

# TWO GATEWAYS TO RECOVERING SPIRIT & TRUTH

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*Adapted from a teaching I did on the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles last fall. -DB*

Jesus (Yeshua) said to the Samaritan woman at the well, "Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. 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. God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:22-24).

## A BALANCE OF SPIRIT & TRUTH

For several decades I have taught about the importance of worshipping God with a balance of Spirit and Truth. Just as we have two physical legs to carry us forward in our physical walk, so we have two spiritual legs to take us forward in our spiritual walk. Those two legs consist of Spirit and Truth.

Just as we need two legs of equal length to properly walk, so we need equal amounts of Spirit and Truth to properly walk with the Lord. If one leg is shorter than the other, you can still walk, but you will walk with a limp. With a balance of Spirit and Truth, you can walk without a limp. You can walk uprightly and you will be less likely to fall.

If you focus only on the moving

and manifestations of the Spirit and neglect the importance of Truths that are revealed in the Scriptures, you will fall into fanaticism. You will embrace fantasies spawned from your overactive imagination and your wishful thinking.

If you focus only on in-depth study of the Truth of the Scriptures and neglect the moving and manifestations of the Holy Spirit, you will have a cold, sterile, stagnant faith that consists of nothing more than a list of biblical facts to believe and a list of biblical rules to obey.

Believing correct doctrines and obeying God's commandments is important, but our faith is supposed to consist of more than just believing facts and obeying rules. Our faith is supposed to consist of knowing the Person of Yeshua and experiencing His Presence in our daily life.

In Acts 3:21, Peter said that the heavens must retain Yeshua until the time of the restoration of all things. Yeshua said, "Elijah truly shall first come, and restore all things" (Matt. 17:11).

If some "things" are going to be "restored" before the Return of the Lord, that means that those "things" have to be things that the Body of Messiah formerly had and somehow lost. If you say "Our electric power was restored," that presupposes that you formerly had

electric power and lost it. If you say “The correct data was restored to my computer,” that presupposes that you formerly had the correct data and lost it.

Two things that need to be restored to the Body of Messiah are not electric power and computer data, but the Power of the Holy Spirit and the Truth of God’s Word. For a little over a year I have been praying for increased confidence in the Power of God’s Spirit and the Truth of God’s Word. The first century disciples had the Power of God’s Spirit and the Truth of God’s Word, and that is what we need to recover.

#### THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

There are Ten Commandments engraved on the Tablets of the Law. Briefly condensed, they are as follows:

Have no other gods. Do not worship idols. Do not take the LORD’s name in vain. Remember to keep the seventh day Sabbath holy. Honor your father and mother. Do not murder. Do not commit adultery. Do not steal. Do not bear false witness. Do not covet other people’s things.

Here are some questions about the Ten Commandments:

1. Which of the Ten Commandments is the only one that God specifically said to “remember”? The Sabbath commandment. This suggests that this commandment will be the easiest of the Ten to forget.

2. Which of the Ten Command-

ments is the only one that God specifically said to “keep” (Hebrew *shamar* = “to guard, protect”)? The Sabbath. This suggests that this commandment will be the easiest of the Ten to lose.

3. Which of the Ten Commandments is the only one that God said would serve as a sign between Him and His people? The Sabbath, as it is written, “It [the Sabbath] is a sign between Me and the children of Israel forever” (Ex. 31:17).

4. Which of the Ten Commandments takes up the greatest amount of text on the Tablets of the Law? The Sabbath. The Sabbath is only one of the Ten Commandments, but it does not take up just one-tenth of the text. It takes up about one-third of the entire text. Most of the commandments are quite brief. Some consist of only two words in Hebrew. *Lo tirtsach* (“Do not murder”). *Lo tinaph* (“Do not commit adultery”). *Lo tignov* (“Do not steal”). God gave more detailed instructions about the Sabbath than about any of the other nine.

5. Which of the Ten Commandments is the most often-repeated commandment in the Bible? The Sabbath. Look in an exhaustive concordance and see for yourself.

6. Now for the final question. Which of the Ten Commandments is the most neglected, rejected, discarded, shunned, and even opposed and ridiculed by some Christians? The Sabbath commandment.

Do you not see the irony and

the tragedy of this? On the Tablets of the Law, written with the finger of God, the one commandment to which God devoted the greatest amount of text, the only one of the Ten Commandments that God specifically said to “Remember,” the only one of the Ten Commandments that God specifically said to guard, protect, and keep, the only one of the Ten Commandments that God said would serve as a sign between Him and His people—that commandment somehow became the only commandment on the Tablets of the Law that Christians forgot, neglected, rejected, discarded, shunned, and now, in some Christian circles, even opposed and ridiculed. All this, in spite of the unique character of the Sabbath commandment among the Ten Commandments.

### SABBATH: THE GATEWAY TO RECOVERING TRUTH

Here is something else unique about the Sabbath. When Christians begin keeping the Sabbath, they soon begin discovering and recovering other forgotten, neglected Torah commandments, such as the biblical dietary laws and the biblical feast days.

I have not taken any formal surveys to compile statistics, but based on my observation, most believers who are on a journey to rediscover and recover lost and forgotten Torah instructions started their journey by keeping the Sabbath. If a disciple of Yeshua follows biblical dietary laws and

celebrates biblical feast days, you can be almost certain that he also keeps the seventh-day Sabbath, and he probably started keeping the Sabbath before he embraced those other Torah commandments. And if a disciple of Yeshua keeps the seventh-day Sabbath, you can be almost certain that he will eventually start keeping the biblical dietary laws and celebrating the biblical feast days. There might be rare exceptions to this, but based on my observation, they are few.

For most people, the seventh-day Sabbath appears to be the Gateway to the Recovery of Truth. Is there something specific that functions as a Gateway to the Recovery of Spirit? I believe there is.

### THE GATEWAY TO RECOVERING SPIRIT

On the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles, Yeshua cried out, “If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. He that believeth on Me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water” (John 7:37f).

In the next verse John says, “But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Spirit was not yet given; because that Yeshua was not yet glorified” (John 7:40). This is a very important point, as we shall later see.

On the last day of the Feast of Tabernacles, the Jews drew water from the Pool of Siloam, paraded it up the hill with great rejoicing, and poured it on the altar and prayed

for rain. In effect Yeshua was saying, “You are praying for physical rain, which is important for your physical well being. But your even greater need is for spiritual water, the Holy Spirit, for your spiritual well being.”

In John chapter 4 Yeshua spoke to the Samaritan woman about water in a well. In John chapter 7 He spoke about water flowing from a fountain deep inside us.

What is the difference between water from a well and water from a fountain? Water in a well is still, motionless water. You need a bucket lowered and lifted up by external strength to draw it up. Water from a fountain is moving water. It flows up and gushes out of you, propelled by a God-given power inside you.

The Holy Spirit was not yet given because Yeshua was not yet glorified, John says. The Spirit was present and active in this world ever since the very first day of creation, when “the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters” (Gen. 1:2). What did John mean when he said the Holy Spirit was not yet given?

In Old Testament times, before Yeshua was glorified, the Spirit came upon only certain individuals chosen by God, usually prophets, priests, and kings. The moving of the Holy Spirit could not be experienced by just anyone. But after Yeshua ascended and was glorified, all of God’s children could experience the moving of the Holy Spirit like rivers of living water flow-

ing up from their innermost being, as we see on the Day of Pentecost in Acts chapter 2, when all of the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues.

On that Day of Pentecost, Peter explained to the onlookers that they were witnessing the fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy about a time when the Holy Spirit would be poured out “upon all flesh,” not just upon specially selected prophets, priests, and kings. The glorification of Yeshua ushered in a time when *all* of God’s children—sons and daughters, youngsters and oldsters, servants and handmaids—*all* can personally experience the moving and manifestations of the Holy Spirit.

Yeshua called this baptism with the Spirit “the promise of the Father” (Acts 1:4). “For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence” (Acts 1:5).

This baptism with the Spirit does not turn us all into prophets in the sense of filling the “office” of a prophet as mentioned in Ephesians 4:11. But the baptism of the Spirit puts us in the company of the prophets, because it enables all of God’s children to potentially prophesy. As Paul said, “For ye may all prophesy” and “Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues” (1 Cor. 14:31 & 39).

#### THE NINE “GIFTS” OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In 1 Corinthians chapters 12-14,

Paul discusses what most Christians usually call “the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit.”

I prefer to call them something else. They are indeed gifts, because they have been given by God. However, the Greek word that typically refers to a “gift,” *δωρον* (*doron*, the word that is used, for example, to describe the Magi’s “gifts of gold” in Matthew 2:11) is nowhere used to describe these nine “gifts,” which are of far more value than gold.

Rather than being called *doron*, they are described with other Greek words. Look at a Greek New Testament, and you will see the words *pneumatikon* (spiritual matters, 1 Cor. 12:1 & 14:1), *charismaton* (charismatic manifestations, 1 Cor. 12:4, 10, 28, 31), *energematon* (workings, “energy,” 1 Cor. 12:6a, 6b, 10, 11), and *dunameon* (powers, “dynamite,” 1 Cor. 12:10, 28).

To just call these nine things “gifts” is an understatement. Yes, they are gifts from God, but to just call them “gifts” waters down what they are and what they do. Therefore I prefer to call them by a different name.

### THE NINE POWERFUL CHARISMATIC MANIFESTATIONS & WORKINGS OF THE SPIRIT

The Nine Powerful Charismatic Manifestations and Workings of the Spirit. That is a mouthful, but based on the four Greek words used in connection with this subject, it is a more accurate and fuller descrip-

tion of what we are talking about. However, for the sake of brevity, I will just refer to these things as “manifestations” in the remainder of this article.

The nine manifestations of the Spirit can be categorized into three groups of three, under descriptive headings as follows:

- I. Revelation from the Spirit
  - a. Word of wisdom
  - b. Word of knowledge
  - c. Discerning of spirits
- II. Signs & Wonders by the Spirit
  - a. Faith
  - b. Healings
  - c. Miracles
- III. Utterance inspired by the Spirit
  - a. Prophecy
  - b. Speaking in tongues
  - c. Interpretation of tongues

Just as we considered some questions about the Ten Commandments to help us see the Sabbath as the Gateway to Recovering Truth, let us now consider some similar questions to help us determine the Gateway to Recovering Spirit.

1. Which of the nine manifestations of the Spirit never occurred in the Old Covenant Scriptures, and is given only to New Covenant believers? Speaking in tongues and interpretation of tongues. There are examples of the other manifestations several places in the Old Testament, but no manifestation of speaking in unknown tongues.

2. Which of the nine manifestations of the Spirit, along with

healing the sick, was mentioned by Yeshua as a sign that would follow those who believe? Speaking in tongues, Mark 16:17f.

3. Which of the nine manifestations of the Spirit occurred on the Day of Pentecost as evidence that the disciples were filled with the Spirit in fulfillment of Yeshua's promise that the Holy Spirit would gush up and flow like rivers of living water? Speaking in tongues.

4. Which of the nine manifestations of the Spirit occurred when Cornelius and other Gentiles were baptized with the Spirit? Speaking in tongues.

5. Which of the nine manifestations of the Spirit proved to Peter and the other Jews with him that the Gentiles had received the gift of the Holy Spirit? Speaking in tongues, as it is written, "For [Greek *gar* = 'because; for this reason'] they heard them speak with tongues" (Acts 10:46).

6. Which of the nine manifestations of the Spirit occurred when the Spirit came upon the believers in Ephesus in Acts 19:6? Speaking in tongues.

7. Which of the nine manifestations of the Spirit can be used to speak mysteries in the spirit and to edify oneself? Speaking in tongues, as it is written, "he that speaketh in an unknown tongue... in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.... He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself" (1 Cor. 14:2 & 4).

8. Which of the nine manifestations of the Spirit did Paul specifically give thanks for that he experi-

enced? Speaking in tongues, as it is written, "I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all" (1 Cor. 14:18).

9. Which of the nine manifestations of the Spirit did Paul say he wished all believers would experience? Speaking in tongues, as it is written, "I would [i.e., I wish] that ye all spake with tongues" (1 Cor. 14:5).

10. Which of the nine manifestations of the Spirit did Paul specifically warn us to not forbid? Speaking in tongues, as it is written, "forbid not to speak with tongues" (1 Cor. 14:39).

11. Which of the nine manifestations of the Spirit takes up the greatest amount of text in Paul's writing about the manifestations of the Spirit? Speaking in tongues. Paul only briefly mentions the other eight manifestations of the Spirit, but he devotes almost an entire chapter to giving detailed explanations and instructions for speaking in tongues.

12. Now for the final question. Which of the nine manifestations of the Spirit is the most neglected, rejected, discarded, shunned, and, in some Christian circles, even opposed and ridiculed by Christians? Speaking in tongues.

Do you not see the irony and the tragedy of this? The one manifestation of the Spirit for which we have the greatest amount of detailed explanation and instruction, the one manifestation that God reserved as a gift for only New Covenant believers, a manifes-

tation mentioned by Yeshua as a sign that would follow those who believe, the one manifestation that was given on the Day of Pentecost to confirm that Yeshua had been glorified, the one manifestation that was given to Gentiles as evidence that they had received the Holy Spirit, the one manifestation that normally occurred when believers were filled with the Spirit, the one manifestation that Paul said he wished all believers would experience, the one manifestation of the Spirit that can be used to speak mysteries in the Spirit and to edify oneself, the one manifestation for which Paul gave thanks that he experienced, the one manifestation that Paul specifically warned us not to forbid—that manifestation somehow became the manifestation that some Christians neglect, reject, discard, shun, and even oppose and ridicule. All this in spite of the unique character of speaking in tongues among the nine manifestations of the Spirit.

#### SPEAKING IN TONGUES: THE GATEWAY TO RECOVERING SPIRIT

Here is something else unique about speaking in tongues. When Christians experience speaking in tongues, they soon begin seeking other manifestations of the Spirit.

I have not taken any formal surveys to compile statistics, but based on my observation, most believers who believe in and seek the manifestations of the Spirit started their journey by speaking

in tongues. If a person believes in and seeks the other eight manifestations of the Spirit, you can be almost certain that he also believes in speaking in tongues, and has probably already experienced speaking in tongues. And if he speaks in tongues, you can be almost certain that he will eventually believe in and pursue other manifestations of the Spirit. Therefore speaking in tongues appears to be the Gateway to the Recovery of Spirit.

I am not urging you to seek tongues. I am urging you to seek the Lord and ask Him to fill you with the Spirit. And when He fills you with the Spirit, expect to speak in an unknown tongue, simply because that was the manifestation that normally occurred when people were filled with the Spirit in the Bible.

And keep in mind who did what when people were filled with the Spirit in the Bible. The disciples “began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:4). The Spirit will give the “utterance,” i.e., the sounds of the syllables and the ability to speak them, but *you* are the one who must “begin to speak” by audibly voicing those utterances that the Spirit has put in your mind.

#### A. W. TOZER'S TESTIMONY

In *The life of A. W. Tozer, In Pursuit of God* (Bethany House, 2009), author James L. Snyder writes about Tozer's experience of being filled with the Spirit.

"I was 19 years old," Tozer recalled, "earnestly in prayer, when I was baptized with a mighty infusion of the Holy Spirit ... I took a leap away from everything that was unimportant to that which was most important: to be possessed by the Spirit of the living God. Any tiny work that God has ever done through me and through my ministry for Him dates back to that hour when I was filled with the Spirit" (pg. 49).

Tozer went on to say: "Neither in the Old Testament nor in the New, nor in Christian testimony as found in the writings of the saints, as far as my knowledge goes, was any believer filled with the Holy Spirit who did not know he had been filled. Neither was anyone filled who did not know when he was filled." (Emphasis mine)

Tozer then adds, "(though of course it is possible to forget the date)". And I would add, but not the experience.

Tozer did not mention speaking in tongues, at least not in this particular account. However, Tozer was filled with the Spirit while praying with his future mother-in-law, who helped start a Pentecostal mission church. And since Pentecostals in those days viewed speaking in tongues as the initial outward evidence of the baptism of the Spirit, I think it is almost certain that Tozer spoke in tongues when he was filled, especially in light of his statements about the impossibility of not knowing if or when one had been filled with the Spirit.

## WHY SO MUCH CONTROVERSY?

Why is speaking in tongues such a controversial and explosive topic among some Bible believers?

"Because we have seen so much abuse and misuse and boasting about tongues among charismatic Christians."

So have I, but I'm not going to let that keep me away from the real thing. *Charisma* is a Bible word. We need not fear charismatic manifestations that are done "decently and in order" (1 Cor. 14:40).

"But it just sounds like gibberish to me."

Of course it does! It is *supposed* to sound unintelligible. "For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto man, but unto God: for no man understandeth him" (1 Cor. 14:2). If I hear someone speaking Chinese, or Swahili, or any other language I do not know, it will sound like gibberish to me.

"Well, I've heard that some pagans speak in tongues when they worship their demon gods."

Pagan worship mimics true worship in many ways. Pagans use musical instruments and sing praises to worship their gods. They have special holy days. If pagans are inspired by their demon gods to speak in tongues, that is actually further evidence that genuine Holy Spirit-inspired speaking in tongues exists. Satan has no reason to counterfeit something unless the real thing exists. It would be as pointless as a criminal making

counterfeit 90-dollar bills.

“But I don’t understand how it works, how praying in the spirit in tongues can edify a person.”

I too do not understand how it works. I also do not understand how a computer works. But I can use a computer to type articles that edify readers without my needing to understand how a computer works. And I can pray in tongues and edify myself without my needing to understand how it works.

Some months ago a certain elderly woman of God told me that she felt prompted by the Spirit to tell me that one reason the Lord has blessed my ministry is because I have regularly and consistently prayed in tongues throughout my years as a believer.

I do not think that is the only reason, or even the main reason, but I believe it is one reason. Why? Because the Bible says “He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself” (1 Cor. 14:4). The more edified a man is, the more fruit he will bear. I realize there are many fruitful believers who have never spoken in tongues, and some of them are more fruitful than I am. But I believe if they prayed in tongues, they would be even more fruitful than they are now.

I know that Spirit-inspired speaking in tongues is real. How do I know it is real? For the same reason I know that Jesus loves me: “For the Bible tells me so.”

The Bible is my primary confirmation that it is real. A secondary confirmation is my experience and

the experience of many other credible believers I have known over the years.

I personally knew two brothers who were filled with the Spirit and spoke in tongues before they had ever even heard or read of such a thing. They were overwhelmed by the experience, and did not know what had happened to them, until they told Christian friends, and their friends showed them from the Bible what they had experienced.

As one brother said many years ago, “A man with an experience is never at the mercy of a man with an argument.”

#### ARE YOU EXPERIENCED?

The late legendary guitarist Jimi Hendrix called his band “The Jimi Hendrix Experience,” and the title of their first album was “Are You Experienced?” I assume Hendrix did that because he wanted his music to be something that listeners *experienced*, and not just something to be used as background music to fill in the quiet breaks in people’s conversations at parties and bars.

I never was a fan of Jimi Hendrix’s music, but I like the way he used that word “experience.” So I will ask you the same question Jimi Hendrix asked:

Are you experienced? Do you personally experience the Holy Spirit the way Yeshua described in John 7:38, as a fountain deep inside you that causes rivers of living water to spring up and flow out of you? Or do you experience only

occasional tiny trickles and drops of stagnant water, because your faith consists of little more than believing biblical facts and obeying biblical rules?

Believing biblical doctrines and obeying biblical commandments is important, but if you do not experience the Presence of the Lord, you are missing the point, the goal, the target, the *telos* of the Torah, as it is written, “For Messiah is the end [*telos*] of the law” (Rom. 10:4).

As most GOE readers know, this does not mean that Christ abolished God’s Law. The Greek word *telos* means “the goal, the target.” In other words, the Law points us to Messiah. As Yeshua said, “For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed Me: for he wrote of Me” (John 5:46). Stern’s *Jewish New Testament* translates Romans 10:4 as “The goal at which the *Torah* aims is the Messiah....”

Even Jews who do not believe in Yeshua understand that everything in the Scriptures somehow points to the Messiah, that Messiah is the culmination of all that is written. As the Talmud says, “All the prophets prophesied not but of Messiah” (Sanh. 99a). The Talmud basically says the same thing as Romans 10:4. The final goal, the target that the Torah and Prophets are pointing us to, is the Person we call the Messiah.

If your doctrinal knowledge and your Torah obedience is not leading you closer to Yeshua and causing you to experience the Presence of His Person, you are missing the

point, the goal, the *telos*, the target of the Torah.

“But Daniel, how can we experience the Presence of the Person of Yeshua? He is not here on earth like He was in the first century.”

We can experience the Presence of His Person by the Holy Spirit, because “God is a Spirit” (John 4:24) and “the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed [*metamorphe* = ‘transfigured’] into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” (2 Cor. 3:17f).

We are called to transformation, not stagnation. Our transformation is wrought by the Holy Spirit as we behold the glory of the Lord Yeshua. So get into your prayer closet, take off your mask, unveil your face in His Presence, behold His glory, and let Him transform you from glory to glory by His Spirit.

## EPILOG

Shortly after I presented this teaching, I was praying and wondering why so many believers do not experience the Holy Spirit like rivers of living water springing up.

The Spirit whispered to me, “Because Yeshua is not yet glorified.”

I was puzzled. “But Yeshua *is* glorified,” I said.

“Yes,” the Spirit said. “But He is not yet glorified *in their* minds.”

If you want the Spirit to move in your life, focus on the glory of Yeshua. □