

THE GREAT DECEPTION

The Test of the Spirit of God

Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God. 1 John 4:2, 3

Many Christians profess to have the Spirit of God, but the Apostle John here lays out in very clear terms the test that must be passed for those who claim to have the Spirit of God. How many persons will consider that the confession (belief) of Christ coming in the flesh is the acid test of having the Spirit of God? Only those who have the Spirit of God are the children of God (Rom. 8:14).

The apostle here in our theme text gives a foolproof method of those who persons who have the Spirit of God, and it is not keeping the Sabbath, the Godhead doctrine, being water baptized, speaking in tongues, or even loving one another, but rather confessing that Jesus is come in the flesh. Can it be that simple as confessing that Christ did come in the flesh, like you and me, which evinces a person having the Holy Spirit? Don't misunderstand what is being said, the above are most important doctrines, but John and the other Apostles emphasis of Christ coming in the flesh is their core message and that of the entire Bible. So that anyone who does not confess this truth

is a deceiver and an antichrist, and have not the Spirit of God. Deceivers will claim that they believe this truth and therefore they have the Spirit of God. But if such make this claim and yet behave like the original deceiver, Satan, in pedaling lies, misrepresenting the truth, pretentious, seeking out sympathizers, and working secretly to establish themselves how are they different from Absalom who deceived and rebelled against David. It is evident that such behavior is not of the Spirit of God, but is of the spirit of Antichrist. God's modus operandi have always been love, truth, honesty, transparency and harmony. Such the Antichrist and those with his spirit of deception know not.

“When Satan became disaffected in heaven, he did not lay his complaint before God and Christ; but he went among the angels who thought him perfect and represented that God had done him injustice in preferring Christ to himself. The result of this misrepresentation was that through their sympathy with him one third of the angels lost their innocence, their high estate, and their happy home.” 5T 291.1

The doctrine of Christ coming in the flesh is that which:

1. Shows who is the Antichrist and tests all others antichrist deceivers making them one with antichrist in spirit.
2. Establishes the truth of the incarnation of Christ

In the Bible every other doctrine centers around this truth thus making it the core message.

“The whole teaching of Holy Scripture places the incarnation at the center of the methods of God with a sinning race. Toward that incarnation everything moved until its accomplishment, finding therein fulfillment and explanation. The messages of the prophets and seers and the songs of the psalmists trembled with more or less certainty toward the final music which announced the coming of Christ: All the results also of these partial and broken messages of the past led toward the incarnation.” W.W. Prescott, TDOC 51.2

“The central theme of the Bible, the theme about which every other in the whole book clusters, is the redemption plan, the restoration in the human soul of the image of God. Ed. 125.2.

But what does the redemption plan entail? It entails man’s uplifting through our Lord Jesus Christ who accomplished it in our humanity despite being cumbered with our sinful human nature (flesh) (Rom. 8:3) which he assumed. Therefore, according to the Apostle John this is how we know the Spirit

of God. “... Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God.”

The servant of God, E.G. White, gives us an insight into this important teaching where she says, “The Lord in His great mercy sent a most precious message to His people through Elders Waggoner and Jones. This message was to bring more prominently before the world the uplifted Saviour, the sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. It presented justification through faith in the Surety; it invited the people to receive the righteousness of Christ, which is made manifest in obedience to all the commandments of God.” TM 92.1

What is this most precious message according to E.G. White that the Lord sent through Elders Waggoner and Jones which she herself endorsed and championed? A careful study of this most precious message shows that the message presented was the doctrine of Christ (2 John 1:7, 9, 10), Christ coming in our sinful fallen human nature.

“The humanity of the Son of God is everything to us. It is the golden chain that binds our souls to Christ, and through Christ to God. This is to be our study. Christ was a real man; He gave proof of His humility in becoming a man. Yet He was God in the flesh ... We should come to this study with the humility of a learner, with a contrite heart. And the study

of the incarnation of Christ is a fruitful field, which will repay the searcher who digs deep for hidden truth. 1SM 244.1

Consider the following except from A.T. Jones, E.J. Waggoner, E.G. White as they lay out in clear, simple and convincing language this precious message.

A.T. Jones – 1893 GC Bulletin

“The Third Angel Message” Lesson 16. “The incarnation of that enmity that is against God, and that separates between man and God, — the papacy built up ... the false idea that he is so holy that it would be entirely unbecoming in him to come near to us, and be possessed of such a nature as we have, —sinful, depraved, fallen human nature. Therefore, Mary must be born immaculate, perfect, sinless, and higher than the cherubim and seraphim; and then Christ must be so born of her as to take his human nature in absolute sinlessness from her. But that puts him farther away from us than the cherubim and the seraphim are, and in a sinless nature.

But if he comes no nearer to us than in a sinless nature, that is a long way off; because I need somebody that is nearer to me than that. I need someone to help me who knows something about sinful nature; for that is the nature that I have; and such the Lord did take. He became one of us. Thus, you see, this is present truth in every respect.”

E.J. Waggoner – Christ and His Righteousness page 14

“A little thought will be sufficient to show anybody that if Christ took upon Himself the likeness of man in order that He might redeem man, it must have been sinful man that He was made like, for it is sinful man that He came to redeem. Death could have no power over a sinless man, as Adam was in Eden, and it could not have had any power over Christ, if the Lord had not laid on Him the iniquity of us all. Moreover, the fact that Christ took upon Himself the flesh, not of a sinless being, but of a sinful man, that is, that the flesh which He assumed had all the weaknesses and sinful tendencies to which fallen human nature is subject, is shown by the statement that He “was made of the seed of David according to the flesh.” David had all the passions of human nature.”

E.G. White – Ms. 94, 1893 par. 4.

“The point you inquire of me is, In our Lord’s great scene of conflict in the wilderness, apparently under the power of Satan and his angels, was He capable, in His human nature, of yielding to these temptations?

I will try to answer this important question: As God He could not be tempted; but as a man He could be tempted, and that strongly, and could yield to the temptations. His human nature must pass through the same test

and trial Adam and Eve passed through. His human nature was created; it did not even possess the angelic powers. It was human, identical with our own.”

The truth of the humanity of the Son of God which means everything to us is present truth. This doctrine of Christ is the truth which the people of God need to know as the deception of persons calling themselves the children of God has become a fine art.

Yours in the Service of God

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