

THE LORD IS COMING
1 Corinthians 16:22



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MARANATHA

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LORD JESUS
THE NAME
OF GOD

.....Page 10

WHAT MUST I DO
TO BE SAVED?

.....Page 19

ACTIVITIES
REPORT

.....Page 13

BAPTISM IN THE NAME
OF OUR LORD
JESUS CHRIST

.....Page 18

GOD'S
PROPHETIC
Clock

.....Page 03



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EDITORIAL

20 YEARS!

May the wonderful Grace and Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be upon each one of you. May we never stop walking in wonder and amazement at His marvelous Grace, of which by His love and mercy we are unworthy participants. May we never see it as something ordinary, normal or deserving!

20 years ago, this July 4th at the early hours of the morning, that which my grandfather longed for, ardently desired, dreamed, sang, taught and preached about, throughout his 55 years of walking with the Beloved of His soul came to pass, he went to be before God's Glorious Presence! For me it was a great pain to see him go, but for him it was a great and joyous moment. It was a great privilege for me to have had held his back and head in my arms when he departed into the Presence of the Lord. In those moments, I thought about how he carried me in his arms when he presented me as a newborn before the Lord, and at that moment I was embracing as if I were presenting him at the end of his journey; at his moment of departure to the Lord.

In the early morning of July 3, around 1:30 a.m. to 4:30 a.m., my grandfather sitting at the corner of his bed, holding his frail body with his hands on his knees, told us in great detail about his walk (myself and three other men). In particular, he shared with us with great wonder, emotion, feeling and passion, when and how the Lord loved and called him. That morning we prayed and wept together in the atmosphere of the Presence of the Lord. That early

morning before he departed with the Lord was unforgettable.

That passion, wonder and amazement with which he shared with us about the sacrifice of the Lord and how it impacted and transformed his life, was something that he was able to sustain and increase in his 55 years of walking with the Lord Jesus Christ, the Beloved of his soul. I witnessed this during my time with my grandfather. He never stopped being in awe of the Lord and serving Him out of love, with fervor and gratitude.

My grandfather was inspired by the Holy Spirit of God to write spiritual hymns of the glory and majesty of our God. Hymns about the Great Revelation: God is One. Hymns about our supreme hope: the Second Coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Hymns of encouragement and inspiration. Instructional hymns on how to serve the Lord. Hymns of his own testimony. Hymns of passion his for the Lord. Hymns of worship and praise. Hymns of admonishment. Spiritual hymns of the sacrifice and the Grace of our God, which have encouraged and moved the hearts of many of God's people with affection and gratitude, throughout the Americas.

My grandfather lived *"equipping the saints for the work of the ministry"* (Eph. 4:12), and helping to prepare a people passionate for the Lord and *"ready and prepared for the day of the Lord"* (Mt. 24:44), with messages inspired by God *"for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness"* (2 Tim. 3:16). He counseled multitudes in person, some by letter, and others by telephone; he did it with such special attention.

He never stopped *"Considering Him (seeing in his mind)"* (Heb. 12:3) to be able look with wonder and awe *"what manner of love"* the Father had

One of the many Scriptures he cited fervently to provoke us was: "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation..." (Heb. 2:3). And then he would ask: "Is this salvation something or Someone? He would the answer, "It's Someone!" Another scripture he would frequently cite passionately was: "For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself..." (Heb. 12:3). With this scripture he would encourage and provoke us to focus our minds on the Lord.

given him, to be called a son of God (1 Jn. 3:1). My grandfather lived with such an elevated gratitude and love towards the Lord Jesus Christ, that it infiltrated every aspect of his life. He lived passionately for the Lord because of the love He had shown him. His hymns are full of his expressions of gratitude and passion

for the Lord. Expression-filled hymns about never forgetting what the Lord did for him.

One of the many Scriptures he cited fervently to provoke us was: *"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation..."* (Heb. 2:3). And then he would ask: "Is this salvation something or Someone? He would the answer, "It's Someone!" Another scripture he would frequently cite passionately was: *"For consider Him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself..."* (Heb. 12:3). With this scripture he would encourage and provoke us to focus our minds on the Lord.

My grandfather finished his journey 20 years ago. The question for us now is, how much time do we have left? In the time that remains of our journey in this life, let's use our minds to *"Behold* (carefully see and acknowledge in our minds) *what manner of love the Father has given us..."* (1 Jn. 3:1), and thus may *"The love of Christ* (will) *constrain us* (draw us to Him, keeps us in Him and keep us from evil)" (2 Cor. 5:14), as it did my grandfather. I repeat again that it is necessary that we walk in wonder and awe of His Marvelous Grace, of which we are unworthy partakers. May we never see His Grace as normal, common or that we even deserve it!

Thank you, my beloved grandfather for your faithfulness and passionately intense love for the Lord. Thank you for being consistent, perseverant and unshakable in your conviction. Thank you for not holding back from speaking the Truth, and speaking what we wanted to hear, but what we urgently needed to hear. "Pa", I've really missed you these 20 years. Thank you, Lord Jesus Christ, for my beloved "Pa" (my grandfather). We will see each other soon and be with the Beloved of our soul! God bless you. ■



“Seventy weeks are determined upon your people (Jewish People) and upon your Holy City (Old City of Jerusalem)” (Dan. 9:24).

I greet you with the shalom (peace) that only Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior can give. We are living in times that more than ever this world and in particular the Holy Land needs most is the His Shalom!

Jerusalem and the Temple site, Mount Moriah, is the most disputed piece of land in the entire world. It is the place that God chose and declared that His Name would be there forever. We are in the most critical and prophetic times in all of human history. And at this end of times, God has given us the privilege of witnessing what the prophets and apostles desired to see in regards to the returning to the land of Israel, restoring of the Land, and of Jerusalem. They prophesied and believed that His Word would come to pass but were not witnesses. Undeservingly, we have been given the privilege of being able to live in the time that they prophesied about. Woe unto us if we aren't moved with a Holy Spirit stirring and urgency to work and prepare for the day of Lord!

The following are highlights of news concerning the nation of Israel and the city of Jerusalem for the last three months.

April 9, 2023. Published *“The Jerusalem Post”*: A week of attacks against Israel, including rockets fired from Lebanon, Gaza and Syria, represents the manifestation of an Iranian strategy to confront Israel with multiple threats on different fronts.

GOD'S PROPHETIC CLOCK

Pastor Efraim Valverde III

April 10, 2023. *“Israel National News”* reported the following: 19 Israelis have been killed in terrorist attacks so far in 2023.

April 16, 2023. *“The Jerusalem Post”* reported: “A total number of 147,199 Holocaust survivors live in Israel as of 2023, including 462 who celebrated their 100th birthday last year,” according to data released Sunday, by the Holocaust Survivors Rights Authority before Holocaust Remembrance Day.

April 17, 2023. *“All Israel News”*, reported that there was another sharp increase in the number of anti-Semitic incidents in the United States and other Western countries in the year 2022, demonstrating with this that the motivations of the current anti-Semitism are not transitory as some expected.

April 18, 2023. *“Boulder Jewish News”* announced: Auschwitz, Poland – The annual March of the Living took place today (Tuesday) from Auschwitz I to Auschwitz-Birkenau, marking Israel's National Holocaust Remembrance Day. The March of the Living, which has been going on for 35 years now, was led by 40 Holocaust survivors, along with more than 13,000 participants from 25 countries around the world.

April 24, 2023. *“Israel National News”*, reported the following: 75 years after its establishment, the

population of Israel reaches 9.73 million.

April 27, 2023. *“Israel National News”* published the following: UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese: “I will investigate whether Israel is committing genocide.” In his comments on the panel, Albanese accused the Jewish State of the crimes of “apartheid” (segregation of a human group for ethnic, cultural or social reasons) and “ethnic cleansing”.

May 1, 2023. *“The Jerusalem Post”* reported that more than 100 rockets have been fired at Israel from Gaza in less than 24 hours. The IDF (Israel Defense Forces) attacked 16 sites of the Hamas terror group in Gaza in response to the rockets.

May 3, 2023. *“The Times of Israel”* announced the following: Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi warned that if Israel launched a direct military attack on his country, it would be overwhelmed by the immediate response and destroyed. **May 4, 2023.** *“Israel National News”* reported the following: “Make no mistake: Iran will not be satisfied with a single nuclear bomb.” Defense Minister Galant reveals significant progress in Iran's nuclear program. “Iran has enough enriched material for five nuclear bombs.”

May 22, 2023. The *“Al-Monitor”* news outlet published the following: Lebanon's Hezbollah

paramilitary movement organized war games on Sunday near the border with Israel. Around 200 fighters displayed Hezbollah's growing capabilities and heavy arsenal including a new anti-drone weapon.

May 31, 2023. *The Times of Israel* reported the following: A survey by the Anti-Defamation League found that a significant portion of people in 10 European countries believe there is a variety of anti-Semitic stereotypes, including more than one of every three people in Poland and Hungary.

June 12, 2023. *“Israel National News”* reported the following: National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said of reports that Israel will approve 4,000 new housing units in Judea and Samaria: “We don't want to see steps that only increase the tensions”.

June 20, 2023. *“Israel National News”* announces that the UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, criticizes the Israeli construction in Judea and Samaria: “a violation of international law. The settlements are a major obstacle to the realization of a viable two-state solution.”

June 20, 2023. *“Israel National News”* reported the following: At least four Israelis were killed and many more wounded in a terrorist shooting attack at a gas station near the city of Eli in the Binyamin region on Tuesday afternoon. The IDF stated that two terrorists approached the gas station in a vehicle and opened fire.

June 25, 2023. The *“Daily Mail”* news reported: Scariest thing I've ever seen: Worshipers outraged as



neo-Nazis wave Nazi flags outside Georgia synagogue, police refuse to stop intervene because it is “freedom of expression”.

July 11, 2023. “*EFE y Aurora*”, reported the following: The Knesset (Israeli Parliament) approved this morning in first reading of the law that eliminates the doctrine of reasonableness, which allows the Supreme Court to review and revoke government decisions. This is one of the pillars of the judicial reform promoted by the government of Benjamin Netanyahu. While hundreds of anti reform protesters rallied outside the Knesset in Jerusalem, some even sneaking inside. “The rights of the Israeli courts and citizens will not be harmed in any way. The courts will continue to inspect the legality of official decisions and appointments,” Netanyahu said in a message ahead of the vote.

In a poll taken in the United States, 60% of Americans agree that the United States reevaluate its relations with Israel if judicial reform is approved in Israel. **THE “CLOCK OF GOD” HAS NOT STOPPED!** Everything is going ahead according to the plan and the will of the God of Israel. The tension continues building until suddenly things will get to the point where they can’t be stretched anymore, then things will be unhinged! Thank God that we can understand that “God’s Clock” is already marking the last seconds and that we can understand the meaning of what is happening before our eyes. Let’s be looking unto and seeking the Lord more than ever. Be encouraged! Our Lord Jesus Christ is coming!

Pastor Efraim Valverde III ■

LETTER FROM RABBI CHAIM EISEN FROM JERUSALEM

Rabbi Chaim Eisen



Some Thoughts on My Experience with You at Temple Philadelphia Church

by Chaim Eisen

Shalom to my dear friends Pastor Efraim and Claudia Valverde III and all my new friends at Temple Philadelphia Congregation!

This past week was a unique and unforgettable and incomparable experience for me, sharing God’s word with you at Temple Philadelphia Congregation! We have an ancient saying in our tradition that, in sharing God’s word, “more than the calf wants to suck, the cow wants to nurse!” Yet, at Temple Philadelphia Congregation, I experienced such extraordinary enthusiasm and desire to share in the gift of the holy word that God gave Israel, I feel overwhelmed with gratitude! The encouragement you have given me in my bridge-

building ministry is completely beyond what words can express! May God reward each and every one of you richly, one thousandfold and more, for the strengthening you have given me in my ministry!

Pastor Efraim told me about his grandfather of blessed memory, Pastor Efraim, Sr., and the ministry he launched, in connecting Christian believers with traditional Jewish believers in God and His word — a ministry that, when he launched it, was so amazingly ahead of its time. And I appreciate that, while the breathtaking enthusiasm I experienced is the work of Pastor Efraim and Claudia and their dedicated staff, it is also the legacy of his grandparents. I feel so blessed to have spoken by telephone with Pastor Efraim’s grandmother, and I hope one day to meet her face-to-face in Jerusalem. I feel so sad not to have had the opportunity to meet Pastor Efraim, Sr., in this world. However, in a way, I feel I have met him!

Our tradition notes that, when our father Jacob ended his passage in this world, the Bible states only that he “expired, and was gathered unto his people” (**Genesis 49:33**) but not that he “died” (as it states at the end of the lives of other righteous people). Why is there no mention of our father Jacob’s

death? It is because his children are still alive — living by, and actualizing, his spiritual legacy — and, therefore, he is still “alive”! In a similar vein, I feel I can state that, as the spiritual legacy of Pastor Efraim, Sr., is kept alive and actualized by all his children — both his biological children, like Pastor Efraim and his children, and his spiritual children, including each and every one of you — so, he, too, is still alive!

Anyway, my experience with all of you last week has left me not only spiritually uplifted but also “hooked”! I feel an unbreakable bond to my dear brother Pastor Efraim and also to each and every one of you! I’m “chomping at the bit,” eager for the next opportunity to partner in sharing God’s word with you — in God’s Holy City or in Salinas or anywhere else possible! In particular, I look forward to meeting each and every one of you in God’s Holy City, as soon as possible — I dearly hope, this winter! Meanwhile, may God bless you all from Zion, the source of His blessings (**Psalms 128:5, 132:13-15, 133:3, 134:3**), and may you each “*see the good of Jerusalem all the days of your life*” (**Psalms 128:5**)!

With God’s blessings,
Rabbi Chaim Eisen ■



“And Enoch lived sixty and five years, and begat Methuselah: and Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters: and all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty and five years: and Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him” (Gen. 5:21-24).

When those of us who are familiar with the Word of God speak about the subject of “Walking with God” we immediately think about the patriarch Enoch. We are aware of all the Biblical heroes who are heroes precisely because every one of them walked with God. But the Holy Scriptures don’t mention specifically that they walked with God as is the case with Enoch. For this reason when we deal with the subject of walking with God we find a conclusive, specific example in the life of this antediluvian patriarch.

It should call our attention that in the case of this brief Biblical story we are citing here, the Holy Spirit inspires the writer to twice mention the fact that Enoch *“walked with God.”* As a result of this he *“was not, for God took him.”* The apostle Paul confirms this when he declares the following: *“By faith Enoch was taken up so that he would not see death; and he was not found because God took him up; for he obtained the witness that before his being taken up he was pleasing to God” (Heb. 11:5).*

What the Holy Scriptures tell us about the patriarch Enoch is relatively brief. But what’s stated is sufficient for us to understand that it’s speaking about a person who lived a relatively common life. Enoch doesn’t stand out because of certain supernatural things that he

WALKING WITH GOD

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

did or for any outstanding miraculous accomplishment as is the case in the lives of the prophet Elias and King David respectively. What stands out in such a special manner about this son of God is the very simple, but extremely important fact, that he *“walked with God.”* As I emphatically mentioned previously, this behavior isn’t one of spectacular feats. It’s the basic, fundamental, yet indispensable, way of a believers life. It’s something that can and should distinguish each and every one of the true sons of God, without exception, throughout all the ages and places.

The idea that I have tried to establish in the mind of my readers by using the example of Enoch is the fact that walking with God doesn’t consist in something mystical or incomprehensible which is thereby unattainable to the common Christian. It’s not something that corresponds exclusively to “certain” distinguished vessels that are used in a special way by God. It’s not something that is limited solely to being lived out in the life of a certain group or a special class of persons among the children of God. On the contrary, walking with God consists in nothing more or nothing less than in our daily lives as the child of God simply walks (lives) humbly before God. There isn’t anything “mysterious” or “sophisticated” about it, but at the same time it’s something which is most appreciated and pleasing before the Presence of the Lord of Glory.

MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY IN WALKING WITH GOD

Being one of those who God has granted to obtain this privilege, I can and should make this declaration here: If walking with God wasn’t a fact and a reality in my own life, then it wouldn’t be worthwhile to spend time and speak about this subject here. I would fall into the same absurd, ridiculous behavior of those who say they will do something but who don’t live nor do they do what they are asking others to do. It’s precisely this pharisaical behavior I have repented during my lifetime. I thank my God because with all satisfaction I can call out to Him today in the presence of His people in the same manner that Hezekiah (one of the faithful kings of Israel) did because he knew that he had been walking with God: *“Remember, Lord, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes” (2 Kings 20:3).*

Those who were in attendance the year that my wife and I gathered together with our brothers in Christ to celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary and of our walk with God are witnesses to the fact that with great fear and reverence I made the following verse personal: *“And thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart,*

whether thou wouldst keep his commandments, or no” (Deut. 8:2). There in the presence of a multitude of my brothers, I wholeheartedly blessed my Lord and God, Jesus Christ, and gave Him thanks for having granted me the supreme privilege of walking with Him for a lifetime, and I promised Him that I would continue to do so until I finished my race. Presently, my greatest satisfaction is to see God’s testimony in favor of my walk with Him which is reflected in the lives of many of His children whom I have served, both near and far, throughout the course of my life. My words are backed up by my own personal experience, I will continue with this explanation about what it means to walk with God. I’m fully confident that the anointing of the Lord Jesus is in these words so that they will once again be a help and a blessing to my faithful companions in the ministry, as well as to my precious brothers in the faith, and to my beloved spiritual children in the Lord and to every person who might read these words with a clean and sincere heart.

WHO GOD IS AND WHO WE ARE

As I have previously explained, the only way to understand walking with God, is by revelation from God, just as is the case with all that pertains to the Divinity. The Lord having emphasized the importance and necessity of the understanding and communion required so that two persons can walk together, uses the prophet Amos to pose the following question: *“Can two walk together except they be agreed?” (Amos. 3:3).* If it’s indispensable that this requirement be met so that two humans walk together, then how much more of a necessary



prerequisite it is to walk with God? In order to be “in agreement with God” in order to walk with Him, the first thing we have to do is to acknowledge how insignificant we are compared to the Almighty God. It’s this point which is precisely the basic problem which affects the lives of many who claim that they’re walking with God. God Himself, after naming the wicked works that they’re doing, tells each one of them: *“When you did these things and I kept silent, you thought I was exactly like you”* (Ps. 50:16-21). As long as the so called Christian doesn’t realize in a complete and profound manner the significance of this divine observation, everything else that he says or does will be in vain. The only way that is an acceptable way for His child to walk with Him is in the manner that the Lord Himself points out: *“O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God”* (Micah 6:8).

It is also written: *“Thus saith the LORD, Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word. (Isa. 66:1-2).* The truth is that the Bible is saturated, from Genesis to Revelation, with this indispensable condition that God demands from His children so that they can be accepted by Him, and so that in that manner we can walk with Him. I once again emphasize and strongly insist that it’s imperative that our spiritual eyes be open, not only to see the

marvelous truth of God’s love, but to also see and acknowledge the tremendous reality that *“our God is a consuming fire”* (Heb. 12:29).

It’s no secret that the great majority of Christians acknowledge that *“God is love”* (1 Jn. 4:8), and He truly is. However, their recognition of Him stops there. On the other hand, there are only a relatively few Christians who have their eyes open to see the awe inspiring aspects of God. These Christians recognize that *“With God is terrible majesty. touching the Almighty, we cannot find Him out, He is excellent in power”* (Job 37:22-23). God is Infinite, Omniscient, Omnipresent and Omnipotent. He is the Creator of all things (read Colossians 1:16). He cannot be reduced to just one aspect of His multiple manifestations. But this is precisely what limited human minds usually try to do. Among those who do this are a great number of people who claim to believe in God.

There are declarations in the Sacred Scriptures that very few teachers dare to mention. They’re Scriptures that have no pleasantness to them and which don’t sound agreeable to the natural senses. There have been many occasions in which I mention these Scriptures and noticed the reaction of surprise, and sometimes of disgust, reflected on the faces of those who were hearing me speak. On one occasion, after I had left the place where I had been speaking, I was accused of “scaring the brothers.” The truth is that there exists a mental addiction in the reasoning of multitudes of those who profess to be Christians. This addiction is nothing less than the subtle operation of the *“god of this world”*

(2 Cor. 4:4) who always tries to limit in the minds of Christians the majesty and the sovereign, infinite power of the Almighty. I include here some of these tremendous declarations I alluded to previously: *“I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else. I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.”* (Isa. 45:5-7). *“Who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass, when the Lord commandeth it not? Out of the mouth of the most High proceedeth not evil and good?”* (Lam. 3:37-38). *“Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the Lord hath not done it?”* (Amos 3:6). What tremendous declarations indeed!

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE TRULY KNOW WHO GOD IS

I will never forget the expression that I heard many years ago that came from the mouth of a confused Christian woman: “Why (she asked with a visibly perturbed look on her face) is it that in the Old Testament it states that God commanded the Israelites to kill all the habitants of the cities that they invaded?” This poor woman was confused precisely by the deceitful operation that I mentioned previously. Since she had received her instruction in the superficial Christian environment that surrounds us today, where it’s taught that God is only love. As she read certain biblical portions about events which happened in antiquity, she became confused and

spiritually ill.

If the Scriptures that I cited previously and what I am declaring here troubles and shakes some of my brotheren who read this. For us to walk with God it’s necessary to be spiritually mature. A child has to be carried in a person’s arms or has to be guided by the hand. The only way two persons can walk together in companionship and BE IN AGREEMENT is if they’re both mature.

The patriarch Job thought that he truly knew the Lord and that he was already walking with God. However, it turned out that things were’nt as he thought they were. At the beginning of the book of Job we are told that Job lived surrounded by material riches and comforts. He naturally thought, as is the case with multitudes of Christians today that are still children spiritually, that God is only love and blessings. However, after experiencing the tremendous trial that God put him through, we hear Job exclaim at the end of the book: *“Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes”* (Job 42:3-6). It wasn’t until he reached the point of an unconditional humiliation that Job truly began his walk with God.

As long as Joseph, the favorite son of Jacob lived at the side of and under the protection of his father, he didn’t realize that he didn’t know how to walk with God. In order for Joseph to be used by God as he desired to be used, and what he even dreamed about, it was indispensable for him to



acquire the maturity necessary to walk with God. Therefore, it was in the depths of the pit into which he had been hatefully cast by his brothers and in desperation cried out and wept. Being overcome with anguish as he didn't receive any help from his brothers, it was then that he was forced by his circumstances to call out to the God of his father in a way that he had never done before. It was in that situation in which he found himself with no other alternative that he began *"seeing Him who is invisible"* (Heb. 11:27) and to completely trust in Him. He began to learn how to talk and walk with God.

His school of learning continued in Egypt in the house of Potiphar and later in the dungeon where he was kept prisoner for years. Throughout this process that was in no way pleasing to his flesh, but healthy for his inner man, Joseph acquired the maturity required for him to walk with God. The spoiled, daydreaming young man of the years past was transformed into a mature son of God, who had been prepared to be used mightily by Him. Having learned to trust and to walk with the Lord every day and with every step, he was able to overcome all the personal problems and struggles. But even more than this, he in due time became a tremendous blessing for Egypt and the end also for his beloved father and brothers. Therefore, we see that Job, Joseph, as well as all the other men and women in the Bible in both Testaments, without exception had to be first purified so that they could then walk with God. Not a single one of them could walk with God without having first learned how to humble themselves unconditionally before

their Lord.

The truth is (and I will continue to tirelessly repeat this) that as long as the child of God, whether he or she is a member of the congregation or if he is a minister, does not reach the level of recognition that we are describing here, it will not be possible for that child of God to truly walk with God. Someone can be living in appearance and can deceive all those around them, but knowing in their conscience that they're not living in true humility and surrender that God requires. A person can also be confused by satan, the deceiver, and can try to convince themselves that they are fine, just as what occurred with Job at the beginning and with Joseph when he was still living with his father. However, if they aren't living in true humility and surrender demanded of them by the Lord, then they aren't truly walking with God.

THOSE WHO TRULY WANT TO WALK WITH GOD

Having spoken in general terms, I will now speak directly and particularly to my brother who are determined to pay the price to walk with God. We already understand that the expression "walk with God" is not literal but symbolic. In the literal sense, to walk with someone means that one person is walking beside another person. That other person can be a spouse, a family member, a friend, or someone else that they can see, and that they can talk to on the same level. However, the symbolic walk with God is something completely different. This difference consists in the tremendous and powerful reality that He is God and we are in

this life limited. He is a Spirit and we are part matter. He is the High and Lofty One, Perfect in Holiness and we are sinful, imperfect and abide in a limited human condition.

So what does it truly mean and how can we understand (and that it be a reality in our lives) this symbolic walk with God? The answer to this question, as I have previously mentioned, first of all has to come by divine revelation. It is necessary for the Lord to open the understanding of a human so that they can understand this mystery. The Lord told the apostle Peter: *"Blessed are thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven"* (Mt. 16:17). In this same manner God reveals this secret to those who love Him with a deep passion and who are willing to surrender their lives unconditionally. The Lord begins this process by opening up our understanding to that we can understand His will which is specified throughout the pages of the Holy Book.

HOW IS IT POSSIBLE FOR SOMEONE TO WALK WITH GOD?

Having pointed out the tremendous differences that exist between God and man let now consider the aspect of our being in which we are similar to Him, because it's this aspect that makes it possible for us to walk with Him. This part of our being is the spiritual aspect which the apostles referred on several occasions as the *"inner man"* (Eph. 3:16). This inner man is manifested in our being in what we recognize as our mind.

When the Bible tells us that God made man in His Image and in His likeness it's primarily referring to the spiritual likeness that we have with Him. Therefore, it's in this aspect in which we have something in common with our Infinite Creator. He is a Spirit and in the inner aspect of our being He also made us spiritual beings. For this reason it's in this spiritual sense that we can walk with God. It's imperative that as believers in the Lord we should not underestimate this basic, profound truth. We should give this truth the supreme importance it has in our relationship with God.

The reality is that referring to God; the only way that we as humans can walk with Him is with our mind. The Lord has made it this way so that He can walk with us. If we, understanding and appreciate this truth, take advantage of this marvelous connection that our Creator offers to us, we can then, throughout the course of our earthly life, experience that special privilege that Enoch had in being able to walk with God. And, this walk will not only be for a brief period but for our entire lifetime. Then, after having the testimony of having pleased the Lord here, we can then take part with Him on that Supreme Day of the resurrection and of the manifestation of His glory.

We must always remember that the key is in our minds. Our enemy, who is also a spirit, knows perfectly well about what I am explaining here. That is why it is written that *"the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not"* (2 Cor. 4:4). That is why one of the most common tricks that the devil uses to confuse the child of God who



wants to walk with the Lord is to seduce him so that he will not walk according to the understanding that he has in his mind, but according to what he feels. I have seen many fall into this Satanic snare. They have been imprisoned in this manner because they didn't understand where the key lies for their deliverance.

Our *"inner man,"* our spiritual being, which we have already explained is our mind, is superior to and even more real than the material part of our being. The apostle James mentions this truth when he declares: *"For the body without the spirit is dead"* (Jam. 2:26). It's not the body which controls the inner man, but it is the inner man which controls the body. The mind via the brain is the spiritual aspect that controls all the organs of our body, our actions, our behavior and all of the other aspects of our natural human life. On the other hand, without exception, every one of us can attest to the fact that on some occasions it's very difficult, and at times impossible, for us to be able to control certain operations and functions of our own mind.

WALKING WITH GOD IN OUR MIND

It's true that through the power of our mind (the inner man) it's possible to reach the level of being able to exercise complete control over our humanity (1 Cor. 9:27). However, we can never have a complete control over our mind (the inner man) even by using our own mind. In this aspect of our being, the only One who can empower us to exercise a complete control over our mind is the Creator, Jesus Christ our God. The human mind can be controlled

and dominated by a superior spirit. It's precisely in this truth that lies the key. Every mind is subject or dominated by the influence of one of two spiritual powers which are superior to man: The Spirit of the Almighty God or the spirit of the *"god of this world."* The truth is that mankind, including many persons who profess to be followers of Christ, doesn't realize that man never walks alone. He either walks with God or he walks with the *"god of this world."*

On one hand is the sad truth that among the children of God, there are many who at times walk with God and at times walk with the *"god of this world."* On the one hand, they live and do works that are of God, but on the other hand, they do works that are clearly contrary to the will of God. We can easily understand that this behavior is detrimental to any Christian. Nevertheless, included among those who walk in this manner are two types of Christians: There are those who live this way being fully aware that what they are doing is evil but they could care less. There are also those who realize that they are doing wrong and they feel bad. The latter group will seek and ask for help so that they can walk with genuinely God and He will certainly come to their aid, for *"everyone that asketh receiveth"* (Mt. 7:8).

To educate our own mind to truly walk with God isn't something to be obtained from one day to the next. It's a gradual process which can take a relatively short time for some, and longer for others. The natural order of life teaches this to us. We see children who quickly learn to walk and to speak, but there are others for whom it takes more time to do so. However, the

process of learning can never be erased from their mind. In fact, what a child learns he cultivates and grows throughout life and hopefully he will continue to build upon that which he already knows and he will continue to accumulate and assimilate knowledge.

What I have mentioned here about our physical being illustrates the spiritual aspect of our process of learning so that we can walk with God. The reason for this similarity is that both things (the physical and the spiritual) invariably depend on what we have previously assimilated into our mind. Herein lies something that, although it's certainly unpleasant to speak about, we cannot simply ignore. It's the undeniable fact that without too much effort on our part, it's easy to assimilate in our minds the things that pertain to our natural physical being and also those things that are not beneficial to us spiritually. On the other hand, it will never be easy to assimilate in our minds nor put into practice those things that are spiritual, that are pleasing to the Lord and that are necessary for us to be able to walk with God.

But it's precisely here that the man or woman who has made the determination to walk with God can manifest before Him the determination of their love. It isn't easy and not for the faint of heart, but not impossible. Our God knows what He is doing. He knows what is best for us, and is stirring us to do whatever it takes to live out the supreme privilege of walking with Him. God knows that the only effective method for the minds of His children to become firm is by paying the price of surrender and humiliation that He requires of us. Once the determination to walk with God

is firmly cemented in the mind of the child of God, he will then do so. No one or nothing will be able to hinder or stop him from doing so (Romans 8:35).

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success" (Josh. 1:8).

Always remember that in the power of your mind resides the ability to constantly realize that the Lord is always at your side. God always walks with man, but it's man who doesn't always walk with God. Many times you might think that your walk with God is only something imaginary and this is precisely what the enemy wants you to think. The truth is that if there is something real here, even more real than creation itself, it's the Creator. It's our God who is the Infinite Being and who is Incomprehensible in all of His aspects. He sees what I am writing here and knows what I am feeling and what I am thinking. He also knows when you read this article and what you will be feeling and thinking when you read it. He is always present. He can do all things. He knows all things and absolutely everything is under His absolute control.

This Infinite, Incomprehensible God with whom Enoch walked in antiquity is the same God who is present today in the mind of the devout Jew who is observant of the Law and of the traditions of his fathers. He is a God who has prohibited them to form any image of Him, even in their minds. For this reason it's not possible for them to personify Him and



believe in Him as Messiah. This mentality doesn't make it easy for the Jew to walk with God. In spite of this, these people, displaying an astounding tenacity, have sustained their identity for almost four millennia. Not having nor believing that they should have an image of God in their minds, this nation has marvelously used the written Word of the Law (the Torah) to personify the Divinity and in this manner they have been able to relate to their God and to walk with Him. You and I know, my Gentile Christian brother, that for the love of us the veil of unbelief has been placed by God to this day over Israel so that they cannot see nor understand that *"God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself"* (2 Cor. 5:19). You and I can legitimately imagine Him in our mind. We read in the Bible how God, the Infinite and Eternal Spirit, begot His own Visible Image. The fact that God granted us who weren't part of His people the ability to understand and to sustain Him in our mind implies an incomparable privilege, but also a tremendous responsibility. The Jewish people, who are the original people, have not been given this privilege. It's not until they see the Lord, just as it happened with Thomas, that they will believe (Jn. 20:27-28). On the other hand, to you and me, without deserving it, has been granted this divine manner to assist us make to walk with our God. My fellow believer, what are you doing with this privilege today? God has granted us the privilege of being able to see and hear Him today by means of His Holy Word. We also experience him through the manifestations of His Holy Spirit. If having all these advantages provided to us by the Eternal Almighty God, you and

I still don't walk with the Lord, it's most certainly true that this can easily become our judgment and even our condemnation (read **Hebrews 2:3**).

Those of us who understand and appreciate how much this incomparable privilege of walking with God is worth, we won't exchange this treasure for anything in this world. It cannot fit into our minds to lightly esteem this privilege that God has given us, which has brought peace, joy and blessedness into our lives that no one or nothing in this world has been able to nor will ever be able to give to us. There are some people in this world who have deemed themselves privileged and honored to walk with a famous or well known person. On the other hand, the children of God, having previously been the foolish, the weak, the base and the despised of the world (read **1 Corinthians 1:27-28**), are now walking with (not sporadically, but consistently) the King of kings and the Lord of lords, with Jesus Christ our God and Savior. What a supreme privilege!

The original Scripture tells us that Enoch walked here in this life with God for 300 years. But that was only the first part of the story because after having walked with God he *was taken up so that he would not see death; and he was not found because God took him up.*" The apostle John, who also walked with God, tells all of us who have walked and are today walking with God that *"it doth not yet appear what we shall be"* (1 Jn. 3:2). That which is the most supreme and most glorious will come at the end and this promise is exclusively for those who have walked with God

FINAL COMMENTARY

To conclude this present study I believe it's indispensable to say something referring to the children of God who want to walk with Him, but who at the same time don't feel that they're worthy of this supreme privilege. This way of thinking usually occurs in the minds of those children of God who are truly humble and sincere. They're Christians who are not seeking to justify their faults and their mistakes. On the contrary, they accuse and blame themselves. This mindset affirms that they're children of God, just as the opposite mindset identifies those who live *"having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof"* (2 Tim. 3:5).

If you, my brother and sister, are one of those children of God who feel in your soul the pain that I have previously described, the Lord is strongly moving me to tell you that you should not allow the enemy to steal your blessing. After all, neither Enoch, nor Abel before him, nor anyone of the persons who later walked and are those of us who are currently walking with God have been able to do so because we are worthy. The truth is that God has wanted to choose us in order to offer us the supreme privilege of being able to walk with Him and not because we deserve it, but because of His Grace and Mercy. You have been seeing all your faults, failures and shortcomings and you have beat yourself. You have been considering the desires and the thoughts that are a product of the filth of your flesh and you have felt extremely bad about this. And when it comes to your walk with God, the enemy has taken advantage of your

acknowledgement of these things and has turned them against you. Therefore, instead of this acknowledgement being a blessing to you, the devil has used it to make you feel crushed and discouraged.

I recommend that you read the sincere, and at the same time profound, expressions made by a man that you know very well walked with God, the apostle Paul. In his letter to the Romans, chapter 7, from verse 15 and forward, he, speaking about his own life, makes a statement which perfectly describes the mindset of every faithful and sincere Christian. These verses aren't speaking about the life of a person who is living in sin, but they are speaking about the life of a sinner who, having been redeemed by Christ the Lord, struggles continuously with his human condition to submit it to the will of God. At the end of the chapter, the apostle launches a cry of victory and gratitude, saying: *"I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord"* (Rom. 7:25). This is precisely what I invite you to do, my brother and my sister, who desires to walk with God and who feels and thinks that you don't deserve this supreme privilege. It's certainly true that neither you or I or anyone else is worthy, but by His Grace we can now WALK WITH GOD.

I trust that what I have written here will be a help to many of my brothers who are WALKING WITH GOD.

God bless you ■



"WHAT IS HIS NAME, AND THE NAME OF HIS SON, IF YOU KNOW?" (Prov. 30:4).

"HEAR, ISRAEL: THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD" (Deut. 6:4; Isa. 44:6).

The main reason why Israel rejected the Lord Jesus, to the degree of taking Him to the crucifixion, was because, He being in likeness of man, presented Himself God, and Israel knew that only the "God of Abraham, God of Isaac, and God of Jacob" (**Ex. 3:6**), is the Only God and there is no other besides Him. In a way, Israel had reason to reject the Lord, because it was not given to them to recognize that indeed the God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, is JESUS THE LORD.

To those who was given the understanding, they recognized Him, and their expressions remain as a testimony for us in the Holy Book. Those who did recognize the Name of there God, this is how they declared their understanding of who our Lord Jesus Christ is: THOMAS: *"My Lord, and my God!"* (**Jn. 20:28**), PETER: *"our God and Savior"* (**2 Pet. 1:1**), JOHN: *"This is the true God, and eternal life"* (**1 Jn. 5:20**), PAUL: *"God above all things"* (**Rom. 9:5**).

God, in the incomprehensible depth of His holy judgments, set Israel in a *"blindness in part"* (**Rom. 11:25**), so that they would not recognize *"the Lord of glory"*, and thus ask for His crucifixion (**1 Cor. 2: 8**), this being the means that the Lord used to remove the wall of separation that prevented us Gentiles from reaching the supreme privilege of being counted as part of the people of God (**Eph. 2:14-15; 1 Pet. 2:10**). When Christ surrendered Himself on the cross, access to the Holy of Holies was opened, *"so that everyone who believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life"* (**1 Jn. 3:16**).

It has been more than 20 centuries since the Church began to be built by the Lord Jesus, and the foundation of its principles is based on the same sublime and marvelous truth: GOD IS ONE AND ONE IS HIS NAME (**Dt. 6:4; Is 44:6; Acts 4:10-12; Phil. 2:9-10**), because *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever"* (**Heb. 13:8**). Now, when reading the apostolic letters, we find them filled with warnings that the Holy Spirit points out through the instrumentality of those vessels, announcing in a very clear way, about the apostasy that would enter the Church of Christ, warning us about the doctrines of demons, the heresies and the twisted teachings that would be introduced in due time among the people of God. Warning us also of the ravenous wolves, the false prophets, merchants and mockers who would walk according to their evil desires.

LORD JESUS THE NAME OF GOD

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

This terrible warning did not take long to be fulfilled, because while those vessels that the Lord chose as very special pillars in the spiritual building which is His Church lived, they contended for *"the faith that has been given once to the saints"* (**Jude 3**), but then "what prevented" the apostasy from manifesting itself, was taken out (the lives of the apostles) of the way (**2 Thess. 2:7**).

The apostle Paul, writing to the brothers in Thessalonica, cautions them and warns that there was something that prevented the antichrist from settling at that time in the Spiritual Temple of God, which is the Church. The apostles died, and with them the visible doctrinal authority that, by the absolute will of Christ, resided in those unique vessels, was taken away (in their death). It's worth noting here that the declaration "unique vessels", is verified by pointing out the irrefutable truth that God chose them to use their God inspired writings within the Holy Book, the Word of God. All those who throughout the centuries that have passed (and up to the present time), that have claimed or are today claiming to have the same right or power as the apostles, they are false prophets used by Lucifer (the antichrist) to unsettle the foolish.

The first, second and third centuries passed in the Church, and the heresies of apostasy that had already been sown by the antichrist while the apostles were still alive, once they died, the apostasy gradually gained more and more strength. The only human element that contributed so that it would not openly manifest sooner, was the series of persecutions that the Church was subjected to intermittently by the universal power structure of the then pagan Rome during the first three centuries. But the fourth century entered, when the followers of Christ would experience the last and most terrible persecutions. The Emperor Constantine seized power, and ordered the persecutions against Christians to cease definitively and then the course of history radically changed.

The great majority of the Christians of that time (and many up to the present day), maintain that the imperial order was the greatest blessing that Christianity

could have received. But the reality was so different, it was the birth of the apostate church! The story is very extensive, but it is already written and no one can change it, nor deny it. For my part, I will reduce myself to mention the events that have to do directly with the theme that heads this article, that is, the Divinity of Jesus Christ our Lord, Savior and God.

Just as Philip's mind was troubled, and he asked the famous question, *"Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us"* (**John 14:8**), many others, whose minds were also led astray by the same spirit of error, continued asking themselves over the course of nearly three centuries: How is it that Jesus, being a man, presented Himself as God? And having no longer the direct revelation of the Holy Spirit in those minds, for reasons that only God knows. They then began to deviate from the fundamental truth of the existence of ONE GOD, and by the year 325 there were already many ministers (and therefore also believers), who had already accepted that theory of the existence of Divinity as "a God made up of three distinct persons", which they named: "The Holy Trinity", thus giving form to a doctrine of error so strong, that to this day it controls the minds of the so called of Christian world.

By then, the Emperor Constantine had already earned the appreciation of the previously persecuted Christianity, which I point out in passing, was no longer the persecuted Church hidden in the catacombs in those days, but the nascent "Imperial Church", which now lived in the royal palaces. And wanting, therefore, the Emperor to better solidify his relations with the now majority who professed the Christian religion, he proposed to intervene personally to help them resolve some "doctrinal articles" that he observed were dividing Christianity. He then convened the already historically known "Council of Nicaea", where more than 300 bishops from different parts of the vast empire made an appearance. The Emperor himself presided over that august assembly, thus giving the official approval of the state to such an important meeting.

The debate began, considering as the main topic, the doctrine of the Divinity

of Christ. At the end of that Council, by majority vote and the subsequent approval of the Emperor, the false doctrine of the "Trinity" was established to this day as the "Official Creed of the Universal Church" which, to the present date, there are millions upon millions of professing Christians, of all races throughout the world, who in an innumerable number of religious organizations and institutions submissively accept the interpretation of the aforementioned Council, and continue to uphold and defend a false doctrine, which not even the many centuries of its existence, nor the immense multitude of those who have believed it, can make it true. And it's to this day an undeniable fact that none of the many scholars and authors of the thousands of books that have been written about the so-called "Trinity" can clearly explain how it is that God, who IS ONE, according to them is "three persons".

The Holy Bible, which to this day is the supreme doctrinal authority of the people of God, declares the mystery of Divinity, thus revealing it by the Holy Spirit to each one of those who with an open heart and without predetermined concepts, sincerely placing their faith in the Lord Jesus, look in its pages for God's own explanation. Next, in an abstract form, only as a sketch to start the reader on the path of revelation that only God can give, I point out the following Scriptural Portions and logical reasoning about them, asking the Lord that what I write may be a blessing to at least one of my brothers.

"GOD IS A SPIRIT" (**John 4:24**). In His Spirit, He covers the incomprehensible vastness of infinity, both in time and distance. In His Spirit He is the Supreme and Infinite Wisdom that has created everything and controls with marvelous precision the immensity of creation, from the incredibly small particles that make up quarks, to the indescribable vastness of 2 trillion known galaxies. God in His Spirit is Infinite, Invisible, Intangible, Eternal, without beginning or end. This Omniscient, Omnipresent and Omnipotent Spirit is whom the Bible calls "Our Father" (**Mt. 6:9**), the *"Eternal Father"* (**Is. 9:6**), the *"Father of lights"* (**James 1:17**), the *"Father of spirits"* (**Heb. 12:9**), the Holy Father. "God is Spirit" (**Jn. 4:24**) and God is "Holy" (**Lev. 11:44**). The Father is the Holy Spirit. In Divinity, there are not three persons, for the simple reason that the Spirit is not a person. Nor are there two Spirits, much less two Gods. *"One body, and one Spirit; just as you are also called to the same hope of your vocation: one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all things, and through all things, and in you all"* (**Eph. 4:4-6**).



In God, that is, in Divinity, the terms FATHER, SON, and HOLY SPIRIT aren't for God to divide Himself, much less to justify the existence of "two" or "three persons," but to specify His different aspects and functions in relation to His creation, and more particularly in His dealings with His creation whom He endowed with the divine faculty of reasoning, be they now both heavenly and earthly beings. As Father, He presents himself above all as the Infinite, Eternal Existence. As the Holy Spirit, He singles out His redemptive action and His regenerative power operating in the fallen human race. Indeed, this is the title that He uses to name the sublime Gift of inspiration and power that He has promised and given to multitudes of His redeemed: the Gift of the Holy Spirit!

AS A SON, God presents Himself in His visible Image; because the Son, *"is the Image of the Invisible God, the Firstborn of all creation"* (Col. 1:15), God's visible Image is identified as "The Son". The Son is the Only Image of Divinity, *"Who being the brightness of the glory of God, and the express (exact) Image of His Person (substance)"* (Heb. 1:3), *"...who is the Image of God"* (2 Cor. 4:4). For in that Body *"dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily"* (Col. 2:9). That is why it is written that, *"no one has seen God at any time: the Only Begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He declared Him"* (Jn. 1:18). *"And no one knows who the Son is except the Father; nor who is the Father, but the Son, and to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him"* (Luke 10:22). There are innumerable occasions in the Holy Scriptures, which mention the Father and the Son, but NEVER speaks of "them" but ALWAYS speak of HIM; the simple and powerful reason for that is that GOD IS ONLY ONE. I repeat: Father in His Infinite and Invisible Spirit. Son in His visible Image. Two Gods? No! But not two people either, let alone three.

Indeed, *"without contradiction, great is the mystery of godliness: GOD has been manifested in the flesh"* (1 Tim. 3:16). All those who don't have this revelation cannot reconcile this Scripture with the one that says: *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son"* (Jn. 3:16). But the Scripture is firm, and the wonderful answer is the explanation that with the same Word is described here: Who came into the world and was made flesh and dwelt among us? (Jn. 1:14), GOD! Because, *"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and you shall call His Name Emmanuel, which declared, is: GOD with us"* (Mt. 1:23). Now I ask: Was it the Infinite Eternal, Invisible Spirit who left the entire universe empty and reduced to living in a human body taken from among the inhabitants of the Earth? No! It could never be such a thing, for Solomon says, *"Behold, the heavens and*

the heavens of heavens cannot contain you" (2 Chron. 6:18). And even God Himself says: *"Heaven is My solemn, and the earth is My footstool"* (Is. 66:1).

Instead, the apostle Paul tells us of the One *"who for your sakes became poor while being rich"* (2 Cor. 8:9). And, *"Who, being in the form (Image) of God, thought it not robbery (usurpation) to be equal to God: yet humbled Himself, taking the form (image) of a servant, made in the likeness of men"* (Phil. 2:6-7). Who? The visible bodily manifestation of our Invisible God and Father! Not another body taken from the inhabitants of the Earth, but His own unique Body of Glory; not the second person (for there is none), but the Only Person of Divinity. The same one who spoke to Abraham (Gen. 18:1-33). The same one with whom Jacob wrestled (Gen. 32:24-29). The same one whom Joshua worshiped and before whom Joshua also prostrated himself (Jos. 5:13-15). The same one who appeared to Manoah, father of Samson (Judg. 13:2-25). The same one that the prophet Isaiah saw on His throne of Glory (Is. 6:1-4). The same one that Daniel saw being adored by millions of millions (Dn. 7:9-10). The same one that Nebuchadnezzar saw accompanying the Hebrew men (Dan. 3:24-25).

This same Wonderful Personage, before whom all the ancients prostrated themselves and rendered adoration (assure us that they were all men who knew well that only God should be worshipped), is the same one who manifested His Glory before Peter, John and James (Mt. 17:1-8), during the time the Bible calls *"the days of His flesh"* (Heb. 5:7). It is this same Sublime and Glorious Personage, who after having *"participated"*, as *"the (His) children, of flesh and blood... to destroy by His death the one who had the power of death, that is, the devil"* (Heb. 2:14), is seen by the Apostle John in His revelation full of glory, saying: *"...I am the First and the Last; and He who lives, and was dead; and behold, I live for evermore, Amen; And I have the keys of hell and of death"* (Rev. 1:17-18).

What is the hidden NAME of this Divine Being who in ancient times manifests with His memorial name YHWH as the Almighty God (Gen. 17:1)? The Lord Himself declares it to Joseph (Mt. 1:18-21), making known the *"Name that is above every name"* (Phil. 2:9-10), *"because there is no other Name under heaven, given to men, that we may be saved"* (Acts 4:12). The Name of God is JESUS the Lord. Because if the Lord Jesus were not the same YHWH ("Jehovah", as currently appears in most Spanish Bibles, this being a commonly incorrect interpretation, supposedly created to facilitate pronouncement of the Original Name of God YHWH), if the Lord God of the Old Testament wasn't the Lord Jesus

Himself, then He could not save, and His followers would be utterly lost (Is. 43:10-11). The Lord JESUS is the *"Eternal Father"* (Is. 9:6). JESUS the Lord is the Name of the Father (of the Eternal Spirit). JESUS the Lord is the Name of the Son (The Father's Visible Image). JESUS the Lord is the Name of the Holy Spirit (the same Father, Mighty Eternal Spirit in His regenerative action and power).

The Father is Eternal, but the Bible never speaks of the term "Eternal Son", because the Infinite Spirit (the Father) never began and never ends. But His visible Image, His Glorious Body, in which *"dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily"* (Col. 2:9), (in other words, the Son) does have His beginning. For His own Image is *"the Firstborn of every creature"* (Col. 1:15), He is *"the Beginning of the creation of God"* (Ap. 3:14), He is the *"Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the last"* (Rev. 22:13). The Eternal Spirit (the Father) begat His own Image (the Son). For this reason, precisely, our Lord Jesus Christ said: *"For the Father is greater than I"* (Jn. 14:28).

The Bible calls the Son *"ONLY BEGOTTEN"* (Jn. 1:14), and it is so because there is no other being like Him. All other rational beings in creation, both heavenly and earthly, are made *"in the Image"* of God. The Son is not one of the billions as we all are, He is different from all, because The Son is God's Only visible Body, and just as the Eternal Spirit is God, so is His own Image. Not another God or a second God, but the same and Only blessed God revealed! (Read Hebrews 1).

Being the Son (the only visible Image of His own invisibility) in this world in His aspect of Humanity to be able to shed the price of Blood of our salvation (Heb. 2:14). In His aspect of Humanity He was the Perfect Man, the Only Man without sin (Heb. 4:15), proposed by the Eternal Spirit to be both; Lamb for sacrifice, and Supreme High Priest (Heb. 7:24-28), *"God in Christ reconciling the world"* (2 Cor. 5:19).

I pointed out at the beginning, that Israel's religious leaders rejected the Lord Jesus, and even requested His crucifixion, because according to them He being a man, presented Himself as God (Jn. 10:33), but it was because they could only see His aspect of Humanity. No revelation from God was given to them then, to see that it was God in His aspect of perfect Humanity, as He Himself explained to Philip (Jn. 14:8-11).

The spiritual blindness that seized those who deviated from the principles of the Church, those who confirmed their confusion about Divinity as the "official doctrine", and thus fell into the prophesied apostasy was a

blindness not of God as the veil he placed "in part" upon His people, but a blindness from the God of this world (2 Cor. 4:4) At the present time, after the passing of more than 20 centuries, there are many hundreds of millions of professed followers of Christ the Lord who have been taught in the error of the Council of Nicaea, but God is powerful to reveal *"the mystery of godliness"* (1 Tim 3:16) to all those who seek Him and serve Him with all their hearts, and guide them by His Holy Spirit in His Holy Word, that they may recognize that God is not two or three, but that HE IS ONE, and that His Wonderful Name is JESUS the Lord.

The apostles were very aware of this wonderful Truth here briefly discussed. When the Lord commanded and sent them to *"teaching all nation and baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit"* (Mt. 28:19), they faithfully obeyed what the Master commanded them, and baptized the thousands *"in the Name of Jesus Christ"* As we read in the Acts of the Apostles, which means the book of the apostles actions of obedience in accordance to the commands of the Lord Jesus (Acts 2:38. 8:16. 10:48. 19:5. 22:16). And so too, they spoke to a church whose members had been baptized *"in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ"* (Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27; 1 Pet. 3:21).

Now, the Church is waiting for the return of the Lord according to His promises (Tit. 2:13). When I meet my Lord Jesus Christ in the clouds I will see only ONE, My LORD JESUS! When I see Him, I will see the Father as He can be seen, I will see my God. No one else because there isn't another. *"Beloved, now we are sons of GOD (then He is our Father), and it doth yet not appear what we shall be; but we know that when HE (our Father) appears we will be like HIM, for we will see HIM AS HE IS (as the Father can be seen in His Visible Image, Body, The Son and NOT as they are!)"* (1 Jn. 3:2).

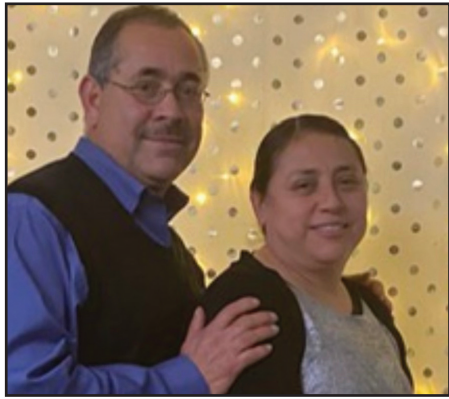
Those of us who by the mercy of God, have received divine revelation to know the Name of the One who is Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit, and who have also understood that we must love without exception those who don't have this revelation. We cannot help but feel pain when seeing so many of our brothers and sisters who also love and serve the Lord with all their hearts, but cannot accept that JESUS THE LORD IS THE NAME OF GOD. Let us pray that He will reveal it to them.

God bless you ■



WOMEN OF GOD

Sister Maria Martinez



women to be prudent, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be temperate, holy and to take good care of their homes. Also, that they be good mothers, subject to their husbands, so that the Word of God be not blasphemed (**Tit. 2:4-5**).

Today, I want to encourage my married sisters, who still have their children at home, to do everything within their power to help them walk with the Lord. I am not perfect; I have many flaws. I have made many mistakes, but thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ, I continue walking towards the Goal, which is Christ Jesus (**Phil. 3:14**).

In our church there's a special woman of God, our sister Esperanza Barraza. She is a strong woman in the Lord. Sister Esperanza has been through many trials. In the year 2020, her late husband, Pastor Francisco Barraza, parted to be with the Lord. In 2021, her daughter, Paty Barraza, also left to be with the Lord. It has been a very difficult time for her, but thank God that she keeps going forward. Please pray for our dear sister, may our Lord continues to strengthen her.

God bless each one of you. Let's continue to strengthen ourselves in the Lord Jesus Christ. *"Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee."* (**Is. 12:6**).

Your sister in Christ,
Maria Martinez ■

I greet you with the peace of Christ, dear sisters. I am Maria Martinez, Pastor Raul Martinez's wife, from the Congregation in Independence, Oregon.

I thank our Lord Jesus Christ for the opportunity to receive the Word of God through this "Maranatha". I rejoice as I read the testimonies which encourage me to continue moving forward. Thank you to all who contribute to this work.

I give thanks to our Lord for giving me the opportunity to meet a servant of God, my late Pastor Francisco Barraza. From him, we learned to love God above all things. It will be three years since he left to be with the Lord, and we still miss him dearly.

I thank the Lord for Pastor Efraim Valverde III, and his wife, Claudia. At camp in Olympia, Washington, Sister Claudia imparted counsel to the sisters. She advised us to pray for our children and to teach them the importance of searching the Word of the Lord and applying it so their lives are protected by him. She instructed us to teach young

YOUTH SECTION

Sister Naara Galvez



May our Lord Jesus bless you. First of all, I thank the Lord for the privilege of being able to write and share these words. I hope they are a blessing.

I bless my Lord, who gave me the privilege of growing up in a Christian home and now I long to seek the face of the Lord as my parents have done. In your Name Lord I will.

Today more than ever, with all the changes that exist and more that are coming, as children of God we need the guidance and strength of the Lord. I thank God for Pastor Efraim Valverde III, who has been encouraging us to work in the work of the Lord. I know that today more than ever the satan is attacking us (**Rev. 12:12**). Because of this we must, *"put on the full armor of God, so that we can stand firm against the wiles of the devil"* (**Eph. 6:11**). The pastor has been encouraging us to be useful vessels for God with a willing heart, as is says in His Word: *"know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the Lord searcheth all hearts,"* (**1 Chron. 28:9**).

Discouragement will inevitably come to the lives of both the one who grew up in a Christian home and the one who received the Word of God later in their life. Therefore, our walk with God must be a personal walk of

conviction. Regardless of where we are or what worldly influences come against us, we must keep honoring the Lord. Personally, I don't want my walk with the Lord to be a performance. I want my life to be used for His purposes. We should not live a life of mediocracy because then our lives become a tedious religious routine, and mediocracy, that in turn dulls our spiritual senses. Although we may be discouraged by trials, illnesses, problems and material needs, as we acknowledge and call out God, He will help us to fight against the operation of discouragement. I ask the Lord to help me to be faithful to Him in every circumstance.

Moses, King David, the prophet Jeremiah, and the prophet Elijah were also overcome with discouragement at some point in their lives. Yet in the midst of it all, the Lord raised them, sustained them, and used them in a mighty way. They continued walking with the Lord until He took them home. In the midst of our human weakness, the Lord also wants to glorify Himself in us. He wants to raise us, sustain us, and use us to continue walking and testifying of His wonderful greatness (**Col. 1:12**).

I don't know what situation you are experiencing, but I know that the Lord is always faithful. I encourage you to serve the Lord Jesus with a willing heart and to live glorifying the Most High God at all times. Thank God that up to now He has helped and kept us. I ask prayers for my pastor, Carlos Gálvez, and the congregation in Paso Robles, California. May the Lord help us to get closer to Him. Let's strive, for there is not much time left. Don't give up! Let's press on young people!

Your Sister in Christ, Naara Galvez ■



I bless our Lord Jesus Christ for allowing us to gather from the 7th through the 9th of July of 2023.

The glory of God was certainly present through His Word and His Presence, and we were all aware of His it especially on Saturday night! It was four days of glory! We had communion with His Word, with our Beloved One and with one another. We remembered and honored the blessed memory of my grandfather, Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr., who 20 years ago this 4th of July departed to be with the Lord. The Orthodox Rabbi Chaim Shalom Eisen from Jerusalem, honored us and blessed with his visit and teachings concerning the return of the exiled to the Land of Israel, the restoration of the Land of Israel and of Jerusalem's importance. He also spoke about repentance, about the foundation stone, as well as the paramount importance of the Temple Mount, and about God's command to build the Third Temple.

Our God is Marvelous!
Pastor Efraim Valverde, III

Since Tuesday, the fourth of July, we experienced something very special as we visited our elder pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.'s tomb. It was something very special for us to ponder on the life of our elder pastor and the impact he had and continues to have in our spiritual lives. Friday during the day our brothers and sister began to arrive into Salinas. In our first service our elder pastor spoke to us through a video and he admonished us to live in sincerity and in truth, without pride in our hearts.

We thank the Lord for allowing us to have another gathering after three long years.

We were able to enjoy the spiritual warmth of our brothers fellowship, hearing the songs of the young people and each of our companions who participated in this activity with their greetings. The most wonderful part was to have had the

**REPORT OF FELLOWSHIP SERVICE
IN SALINAS, CALIFORNIA**



Saturday, the Lord used our pastor Efraim Valverde, III to speak to us about the special place that Israel has and the heart and understanding we should have for them, he explained these important points with great and edifying biblical details. During afternoon service we were ministered "What if..." What would God do? If we would....

Sunday we received and met Rabbi Chaim Eisen, who visited us all the way from Jerusalem, Israel. He was very impacted with the welcome we gave him and the love he experienced the

moment he entered the church building. He shared with us a variety of topics and teachings. He taught on the topics concerning the building of the Third Temple, about prayer, about the precepts of the people of the Book, amongst other teachings. The activity continued Monday where the platform was opened for questions. We thank God for making His presence very real in the teachings, in the worship and in the outbursts of the cries of God's people at the altar, it was amazingly divine. We also give thanks to our Pastor and his efforts to establish strong ties with the spiritual leaders of the Jewish people;

his work has been highly rewarded by the Eternal One.

We invite you to our next gathering here in Salinas.
Your brother and servant,
Phillip M Nava

In this occasion we had the privilege to attend to the Fellowship in Salinas, California, where we partook of the service for the 20th anniversary of our beloved pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr. who departed his earthly vessel to be present in God's presence on July 4th, 2003.

The Lord used Pastor Efraim Valverde, III to speak to us about Israel on Saturday, he exhorted us to be aware and cautious that when we bless Israel, we must do it out of love and only by love, not seeking to receive something in return from them because we have already received much of the Lord from the Jewish people. On Sunday we had the privilege to receive Rabbi Chaim Eisen from Jerusalem, who shared from the Holy Scriptures. He spoke to us of the current prophecies of the building of the Land of Israel and Jerusalem, utilizing God's word with many Scriptures. He also taught us how we must pray.

This service was a great blessing. I also thank God for our Pastor Efraim Valverde, III, for the connection God has given him with the Jewish people, which first began with Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

Pastor Fred Griffith ■

**REPORT OF FELLOWSHIP SERVICE
IN EXETER, CALIFORNIA**
Pastor Herminio Cruz

privilege of hearing the Word of God through the voice of our Pastor Efraim Valverde, III. Let's keep him in our prayers. We pray that the Lord will continue to give him more of His grace each and every

day and may He continue to use him.

Pastor Efraim, III shared God's word to us and encouraged us make good decisions in our life as we seek

good council and to be awake and to guard our heart (**Proverbs 4:23**). He encouraged us to receive counsel that comes from the Lord and obey it in order to acquire wisdom.

I pray to God that He keep you all. Let us not faint, for our redemption draweth nigh.

Pastor Herminio Cruz ■



Greetings to all the readers of this Christian Newspaper "Maranatha", in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

We report to you that the Olympia Camp, held on the 15th through 18th of July of this year 2023 was an enormous blessing.

On Thursday night we heard from our pastor about the importance that humbleness has before God, in our personal lives and in the congregational environment. We were also imparted about the need to surrender to God. On Friday during the day many questions were answered. Some of the questions asked were predominantly from young people. The questions covered areas from music, laziness, foolishness, how to look for a mate for marriage and other related topics. In the afternoon service the power and glory of the Lord descended upon the place and those in attendance in a very powerful earthshaking way. God sent a spirit of brokenness on the majority of those of us that were gathered, this powerful outpouring lasted for at least

The spiritual gathering began on the afternoon of Friday the 5th of May with songs of worship to our Lord Jesus. I had the privilege of sharing the God's Word on the topic of being chosen by God (**Deut. 7:6**). The second night I preached about "the importance of knowing God's voice" (**John 10:3**) and in doing so we can be ready for the Lord's return. On Sunday morning I ministered in uniting a couple from

The Lord Jesus Christ our God granted us the privilege to hear the nourishing message for our souls from the 5th through the 7th of May of this year, 2023. The messages were refreshing to us, especially in these last days in which the time is being fulfilled before our eyes, in the which we must be awake. We are grateful to our Lord for allowing our brother, Pastor Efraim Valverde, III to have

REPORT OF FELLOWSHIP CAMP SERVICE OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

Phillip M Nava



two hours. On the last day we gathered for a short period of time before heading to the baptisms. During that short time on Sunday the Lord spoke to us again in a special way on taking action that leads to change, and then we went joyfully to the lake to witness the baptisms of several young people in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We were ended with joy and gratitude to the Lord for His goodness and to our brothers and sister that hosted the Camp and all those that participated in the running of the camp. May the Lord continue to give vision and strength to the pastors of those regions. And may they continue with these important gatherings. We also that thank the Lord for the strength that He provided to our pastor to minister all the days of the camp. May the Lord continue to give him strength to continue ministering the Divine Seed of the Word of God (**Psalms 126:6**). God bless you.

In Christ,
Phillip M Nava ■

REPORT OF FELLOWSHIP SERVICE IN LOS MOCHIS SINALOA, MEX.

Pastor Alfredo Tienda

Mazatlán in matrimony, they were also baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. We thank the Lord for this activity. Let us keep praying for

brother Manuel Madera who is now pastoring the church in Colonia Ferrusquilla, let us also pray for the congregation as well.

I thank God for the example that our elder pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr. left us, which continues in the life of Pastor Efraim Valverde, III.

May the Lord Jesus bless you.
Let us pray one for another in the love of the our Lord Jesus.
Your servant,
Alfredo Tienda ■

REPORT OF FELLOWSHIP SERVICE IN INSURGENTES, BCS

Pastor Francisco Rojas Mendoza



been with us along with bro. Daniel Perez. Valuable teachings were given to us Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Pastor Francisco Rojas Mendoza and the congregation of Villa Insurgentes, Baja California are grateful to you and may the Lord bless your lives.
Shalom! ■



PASTORS AND MINISTERS SEMINAR IN LA PAZ, BAJA CALIFORNIA

Pastor Elias Murillo Perez



Lord with a clean heart and much humility (**Phil. 2:3-5**), subjecting ourselves one to another in the fear of the Lord, and in all that the Lord's work entails (**Eph. 5:21**), not using the liberty to do as we please (**Gal. 5:13**). The Lord, though our brother, pastor Efraim invited us to remain in one mind and in the same message.

May the Lord allow us to return HOME, we came from the Father's house (**Luke 15:11-32**). When the Lord begot His body, which is His visible Image (**Heb. 1:5, 3**), after begetting His Image, He begot us, His children (**Heb. 2:13-14**), giving us, at some space in eternity, the promises and spiritual blessings (**Eph.1:3-6**). Thank God for His word! Let's not forget that our Lord Jesus Christ is coming back (**Matt. 24:30**), we await the King of Glory, Israel is also waiting their promised Messiah. What a tremendous and marvelous day when He manifests Himself and they see that the promised Messiah is the All-powerful God! They will mourn with great mourning, but they will also rejoice with thunderous joy, in that day the Lord will remove the veil (**Zac. 12:10, 13:6**).

Thank God for this meeting. May the grant us the opportunity to put into practice what we heard. May the Lord Jesus Christ continue to bless you. Your brother in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Elias Murillo Perez ■

Shalom! May the Lord of Glory, Jesus Christ our Lord continue to bless you greatly. I thank the Lord for allowing me to write these words.

The Pastors and Ministers seminar initiated Thursday with great and valuable instruction. Our brother and Pastor, Efraim Valverde, III was used by the Lord to instruct us concerning the personal life of every pastor and minister (**I Tim. 4:16**). He asked us to consider if there is truly a consecration to the Lord in our daily living, if there is a daily reading and a passion for God's word, if there is prayer and above all righteousness in our lives. He encouraged us to examine ourselves if we are caring for our wife, our children and the congregation (**I Tim. 5:8, I Peter 5:6**). The valued instruction continued with him explaining about the excellerating worldwide shifts and conflicts (**Matthew 24:6-8**) as well as the present situation of th Nation of Israel (**Psalms 137:5-6**), the world economy and the hunger that is coming (**Luke 21:25-28; Rev. 6:6**). My Lord Jesus, please help us!

As we continued, we took the study book written by Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr, titled: "Liberty or Libertinage" and the Lord spoke to us, telling us that though we are not a religious organization, but rather a live organism, we must have the mindset of living our lives in the work of the

May the Lord bless all my brothers who have the privilege to read this Issue of Maranatha. I want to thank my Lord for His great love and mercy towards us.

By His grace we were able to hold our Fellowship Gathering once again. It was a great blessing.

On Saturday, we began our activity with songs of worship to the Lord with great joy. After our worship to

God, our brother Daniel Ybarra, minister from Salinas, took the place and the Lord spoke to us through our brother Daniel, to seek the Lord and also on the theme: "I am Jonah". We later enjoyed a meal, with joy

and sincerity of heart. The festivity continued and once again the Lord used our brother Daniel to speak to us about his testimony, he gave council and he prayed for the marriages. At the end of the activity

all of us enjoyed the rest of the afternoon fellowshiping together. What joy and blessing it was!

May the Lord bless all of our beloved brothers who were with us in this special event. I thank my wife, my children and the congregation that served with all their heart. Please pray for us to remain faithful until the end.

God bless you
Pastor Jose Covarrubias ■

REPORT OF FELLOWSHIP SERVICE IN TIJUANA, BC

Pastor Jose Covarrubias



20 YEARS

REMEMBERING AND HONORING THE MEMORY OF OUR LATE
PASTOR EFRAIM VALVERDE, SR.



I thank God for giving me the privilege of having known and have been ministered to by Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr., especially since I am not Hispanic. The example he left us of how to love God and His People (Israel and the Church) is extraordinary. Thank God for his relentless efforts to document in his writings what God revealed to him. Thank you, Lord, for this special vessel.

Pastor Fred Griffith

I was only 17 years of age and in search of my God when I met Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr. In him, I found Godly inspiration, anointing and a mantle from God. At that time, he was still a strong man physically, and I learned under his cover, as the apostle of the Gentiles learned under the cover of his teacher Gamaliel (**Acts 22:3**).

Over the years, one message found in **1 Samuel 15:22-23** impacted me most. Without regard to weariness or distance, I drove from the city of Anaheim to Salinas every Friday after work for a good number of years. I did this initially being single and continued even after I got married. These were moments of which I did not waste a second. Over time, that once physically strong man became an elderly and frail man, yet he never ceased to possess that spiritual strength and anointing from the Lord.

If you loved this man of God, don't lose heart in the ministry God has placed in your hands regardless of what may come your way. We had a great example in Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr. Although he was criticized and falsely accused even until the last moments of his life, he never wavered. Thank God for the way the Lord used Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

Pastor Armando Mejía Almaguer.

God bless all my brothers. Remembering our Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr., brings back many unforgettable memories for me. I remember first meeting him when I was a child, in the 1970s, when he came to visit my father in the state of Texas. God used the pastor with my parents, and they were converted and baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

My father, who had been a priest in the Catholic Church in the 1950s, had become disappointed and confused, yet the day he had the privilege of hearing Pastor Valverde for the first time, he realized that it was God's plan for him to understand the true doctrine of the Name. I'm sure that along with my parents and myself, many others around the world were also impacted by the Word and life of our dear Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

What I remember most about my pastor is the love he had for my parents and I. I'm sure he had that same love for all the brethren. In 1999, I had a blessed experience with Pastor Sr., that year my father went to be with the Lord, and he ministered at my father's service in the city of Vista, CA. There he anointed me with oil and prayed over me as confirmation into the ministry. I will always be grateful to my God for giving me the great privilege of having met the pastor that God used to guide me in the true doctrine of the which I remainin to this day. Shalom!

Pastor David Pavia

God bless you, beloved brothers. It is a privilege for me to write honoring the memory of our beloved Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

Since I was a child, I heard of him in churches and sometimes saw him preaching. However, as a child, I couldn't appreciate this man of God. When the Lord called me at the age of 16, I began to hear and understand how the Lord used our Bro. Efraim, Sr. Then in December 1987, I went to Salinas, CA, for the first time. I was amazed by his teaching and how God used him. I was so impacted by him that by the end of that seminar I approached him and stated, "I want to come and live in Salinas." He smiled and said, "May God guide you."

Although that desire didn't come to pass, I kept going and learning from him. Three years later, in 1990, the Lord brought me to Tijuana to serve in the Lord's work, and Bro. Efraim prayed for me. For many years I had the privilege of learning from him. His walk with the



Lord was such a blessed example to me. Learning from his personal life, his anecdotes, and his scoldings were all a great privilege. I bless the Lord who allowed me to partake in this privilege of knowing Pastor Efraim.



I saw his joy as he served the Lord and His people as well as his sadness and great pain for the slumbering church. I want to mention that EVERYTHING I KNOW AND UNDERSTAND, I LEARNED FROM OUR BRO. EFRAIM, SR. ALL THE GREAT REVELATIONS THAT GOD GAVE TO HIM HAVE BEEN A TREASURE TO ME. Thank you, God, for this vessel and also for our Bro. Efraim Valverde III, who continues with this blessed work.

God bless you.
Pastor Jose Covarrubias
Tijuana, BC, Mexico



Shalom! Brothers, there are many treasures in this material world, beginning with understanding the sacredness of a wife and family, but the treasure of salvation and the messages that God has given us through Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr., is something very unique. I thank my God for having understood the treasures of knowledge to know who God is! To know who the Church and Israel.

With much brotherly love and respect to the family of Pastor Efraim Valverde III, Pastor Jaime Vidal.

God bless you, I want to share that the teachings that I have received and have shared with the brothers are the ones that the late Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr., taught. I also greatly rejoice with the audio recordings of his preachings.



I thank God very much for having used Pastor Efraim Sr., and for the teachings. I thank God because Pastor Efraim Valverde III is further confirming us in these truths. I'm especially grateful for understanding the mystery of Israel and our relationship with this blessed people. God bless you.

Brother Miguel Ayala
Petlcalancingo, Guerrero, Mexico ■



BAPTISM IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

discussing the subject of water baptism with the purpose of obtaining members for a certain religious denomination or organization. Rather, my goal is that the obedient Christian, whoever and wherever he is, will receive from God the fullness of His salvation. Now that we are aware of these basic truths, let us now continue in our discussion by considering the following questions.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF WATER BAPTISM?

The Lord stated that *“he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved”* (Mark 16:16). On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit, through Peter’s lips, declared: *“Repent and be baptized, every one of you...for the remission of your sins...”* (Acts 2:38). Paul, referring to the Lord’s sacrifice, declares that the Lord gave Himself for His Church *“that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water (baptism) by the Word”* (Eph. 5:26). Peter, referencing the fact that Noah was saved by water in the ark, states: *“The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us...”* (1 Peter 3:21).

HOW SHOULD WATER BAPTISM BE ADMINISTERED?

Paul explains to us that baptism is a symbol of the burial of one who has died. For this reason he poses the following question: *“Know ye not, that so many of us as were*

baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death” (Rom. 6:3). On another occasion he explains to us that we are *“BURIED with Him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him”* (Col. 2:12). According to these Scriptures, baptism is a symbolic burial through which the believer, now dead to the world (repented) is buried in the waters of baptism and emerges from them, ready to live a new life in Christ. For this reason, baptism should be administered through immersion, submerging the body of the penitent completely in water, according to the example given by the Lord Himself when He entered into the Jordan River to be baptized: *“And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water”* (Matt. 3:16). Likewise, when Phillip baptized the Ethiopian eunuch, the Scriptures tell us that *“they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water...”* (Acts 8:38-39).

WHAT NAME SHOULD BE INVOKED DURING BAPTISM?

The Lord commanded His disciples to baptize the Gentiles *“in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”* (Matt. 28:19), and when the apostles carried out the Master’s commandment, they baptized thousands upon thousands of believers in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. They did

not disobey the Lord, as some have had the audacity to say. On the contrary, they faithfully executed His commandment, because they had understood that the “Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit” is JESUS the Lord, and that He is ONE. They understood when the Lord told them: *“He that hath seen me, hath seen the Father”* (John 14:9). They understood that *“God was manifest in the flesh”* (1 Tim. 3:16). They understood that the Lord Jesus was Israel’s Messiah, and that He could be none other than God Himself, because there is only one God (Deut. 6:4, Isa. 44:6). They understood that only the God, YHWH, can save, and they were given revelation to understand that the Lord Jesus is that same God, because the Name of God given to men that they might be saved is JESUS the Lord (Acts 4:12). This is the Name “which is above every other name” that Joel mentioned when he prophesied: *“That whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered (saved)”* (Phil. 2:9, Joel 2:32). The following Scripture verses bear witness that the original believers in the Church were all baptized calling upon the Name of Jesus Christ, and never with the titles Father, Son and Holy Spirit: Acts 2:38, Acts 8:16, Acts 10:48, Acts 19:5, Acts 22:16, Rom. 6:3, Gal. 3:27, 1 Pet. 3:21. The baptism invoking the titles of Father, Son and Holy Spirit was not utilized in the apostolic era or in the first centuries of the Church. It was an interpretation which came later as part of the package of many other false doctrines, fruit of the apostasy, which were accepted and confirmed by the Council of Nicea in the year 325 A.D.

The doctrine of baptism is a subject of supreme importance, and has been considered to be so throughout the centuries which have passed since the Church was founded by our Lord Jesus Christ. He himself demonstrated the prominence of this sacrament when he issued the following command: *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned”* (Mark 16:16). He also commanded His apostles to: *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost”* (Matthew 28:19). He also emphasized the importance of being baptized, when He traveled to the Jordan River where John was baptizing, and asked John to be baptized Him, saying: *“Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness”* (Matthew 3:15).

Many present-day religious leaders teach that baptism is not truly important; thereby contradicting the same Lord they claim to obey and serve. They are following the example of the Pharisees and lawyers who *“rejected the counsel of God against themselves”* by refusing to be baptized by John (Luke 7:30). Nevertheless, this tract is not directed to those who oppose the Word of God, but to the sincere Christians, who, having a pure and sincere heart, want to obey the Word of God. These Christians are willing to obey God’s commandments, whether they come directly from the Lord or through His apostles, since the Lord bestowed upon them His authority when He declared: *“He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me”* (Matthew 10:40). I must clarify here, that I am not



TO WHOM DOES THE BAPTISM BY IMMERSION, INVOKING THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS, APPLY?

You, the reader, can find the answer in the Word of God. It is for the Jews (**Acts 2:36-38**). It is for the Samaritans (**Acts 8:14-16**). It is for the Gentiles (**Acts 10:45-48**). It is for believers who have already been baptized with other baptisms (**Acts 19:1-5**). *“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”* (**Acts 2:39**).

In conclusion: My beloved brethren and friends, if you love the Lord and are one of those who are interested in being sure of the salvation of your soul, we sincerely invite you in the love of Christ to meditate on this important doctrinal subject. The message contained within this tract is not merely a denominational point of view, but is a very specific commandment given by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, who declared: *“He who believeth and is baptized shall be saved.”*

Note: If you were enlightened by reading this brief tract or if it awakened an interest in you to know more about this fundamental doctrine in the process of salvation, we invite you to visit your brethren at the address listed on this tract or write to the editor of Publicaciones “Maranatha.” ■

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Pastor Efraim Valverde, Sr.

“Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house” (**Acts 16:29-31**).

I must inform you that this message is not for everyone. It is only for those who are convinced of the fact that none of the many things that this world has to offer can give the peace that their soul desires.

Neither is it written with the intent of obtaining followers by attempting to convince someone to leave their religion to accept a different one. On the contrary, it is for those who have already experienced the fact that no religion can change their lives. This message is intended to help those who, because of the miserable circumstances in which they presently live, whether it is a sickness, marital or family problems, addictions, traumas, prisons or similar situations, have arrived at the conclusion that only God can deliver them.

It is for those who have come to the point in their lives in which they are compelled to ask the same question that the jailer at Philippi asked Paul and Silas: *“What must I do to be saved?”* If you find yourself in this category, through the love of Christ the Lord, I will explain to you God’s plan of salvation precisely as it is described in the Holy Bible.

FIRST STEP: You must acknowledge and confess your misery and need before God, and you must sincerely repent from your sins. Without this fundamental step, everything else you do will be in vain (**Acts 3:19**).

SECOND STEP: You must now accept the Lord Jesus as the Savior of your soul. You must believe that by His Grace and His Blood that He shed on the cross, He is able to cleanse all your sins, no matter how filthy they might be (Isaias 1:18).

THIRD STEP: You must believe that by doing the previous step, this is proof that you have become a partaker of the miracle of having been *“born again”* (John 3:3), which is the same miracle as having been *“born of God”* or *“begotten of God”* (**1 John 5:18**).

FOURTH STEP: It is now imperative for you to be immersed in the waters of baptism just as the Lord was, making certain that when you do so, the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ is invoked upon you (**Acts 2:28 and 4:12**).

FIFTH STEP: Being now a *“child of God”* (**1 John 1:12**), a *“new creature in Christ”* (**2 Corinthians 5:17**), allow the Lord—who now lives within you—to direct you in how you must live, what you must do and what things are not beneficial to you.

SIXTH STEP: The Lord has promised to give each of His

children the power of His Holy Spirit to help us to overcome and to give forth the *“fruit of the Spirit”* (**Galatians 5:22**). Ask the Lord to give you this gift together with the evidence of *“speaking with other tongues”* (**Acts 2:4**).

SEVENTH STEP: Exercise yourself in reading the Word of God so that you might grow spiritually and become grounded in your faith. Occupy yourself as much as possible in serving others, thereby doing God’s work.

FINAL STEP: now try to live the rest of your life in peace and in holiness, loving everyone, and being in communion with those who love the Lord as you love Him now. Seek out as much as you can the fellowship of those who live *“looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ”* (**Titus 2:13**).

CONCLUSION: Even though we may not know you, the Lord knows who you are, and our prayer is that He will bless you. We also ask our Lord Jesus that He will work in your life, praying that the plan described in this tract will bring the change in your life that you greatly desire. If the Lord places in your heart the desire to receive help from us in any way that we can, please contact us. We are here to serve you ■

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EFRAIM VALVERDE III
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FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE

The LORD our God is one
LORD (Dt.6:4)

God is not a Trinity
(John 1:1, Col. 1:15)

The Supreme Name of our
God
Is the LORD Jesus Christ
(Phil. 2:9)

Baptism is by immersion
(Rom. 6:4)
In the name of the LORD
Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38)

The Holy Spirit of God
manifests itself by means of
the fruits (Gal. 5:22-26)
The gift of the Holy Ghost by
the evidence of speaking in
tongues.

Seeking to live a sanctified life
is an imperative requirement
(Heb. 12:14)

The Church is ONE and it
belongs to the LORD
(Matthew 16:18, Acts 20:28)

The Church of the LORD is
not a religious organization,
It is the body of Christ
(1 Cor. 12:27, 2 Tim. 2:19)

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