

# TEARS ON THE ALTAR

As told by Abram Toews



# Tears on the Altar

## Memories of Abram & Alma Toews

as told by

Abram Toews

May 2004

*Abram Toews*

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*As told by Abram Toews  
~May 2004~*

My earliest memories begin in the small town of Watrous, near Manitou Lake in the province of Saskatchewan, Canada. I was part of a family with ten children and we all attended the little prairie schoolhouse in our community. We also attended the Mennonite Brethren (MB) church faithfully. We had Sunday School every week. Our father loved to sing and he taught the children to sing in four-part harmony. Mother was the one who told the stories after she had read them in the Mennonite periodicals. Making a home in the bald prairies was a great challenge. In spite of that there was love, laughter and a lot of work done together as a family.

We moved to the Fraser Valley in British Columbia in 1946 and established a residence in Arnold near the American border. There was an MB church nearby where we again took part in all of its functions. I was baptized by immersion in my teen years in the titles Father, Son and Holy Ghost. This was how we understood Matthew 28:19. I attended the Mennonite private high school and had four years instruction in the Mennonite Bible School.

My wife had a similar background and also attended the same high school and Bible school. She then went to the Provincial Normal School to get her teaching certificate. She lived with my sisters Helen and Kathy in Vancouver for one year. They then all

went their separate ways to teach and Alma taught in Agassiz, B.C. We started writing and dating in the fall of 1956, and married in July 1957.

We worked at the Union Gospel Mission in Vancouver and after our first two girls, Brenda and Heather, were born, we moved to Langley where our third daughter, Marion, was born. We helped in the Otter Road Gospel Chapel with Rev. J. Neufeld as the pastor.

Work at the plywood mill was sporadic because of production problems or strikes. When I was laid off, our income was \$36 per week from the unemployment insurance. We had three children at the time, and it was difficult to make ends meet. I felt the pressure of the responsibility for the family. At one point the pressure was so great I thought I would collapse. I went to someone to ask for financial help. Even though I could have had help, I decided not to take it because I felt I should be able to trust God at this crucial time. When I got home we gathered the family around the table. Because we had never been through this before I didn't know how to handle the situation. That added a lot more pressure. We opened our Bible and started to read. There it was!

Proverbs 3:5-10: Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and then verses 9-10: Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: so shall thy barns be filled with plenty and

thy presses shall burst out with new wine. (Years later we were astonished at what that really meant for us—the new wine being the Holy Ghost.) With that, my burden was completely gone. Hope and anticipation of something new and special came from God.

When my next unemployment insurance check came in, I honored the Lord with my offerings. The next day someone in the community asked if I would like to come to work. The job lasted only a few hours but I knew that God's promise had been sealed.

Shortly thereafter someone came by and enquired about the land across the street where we were living. We arranged that after he acquired the property, he would skid the cottonwood trees out of the bush and I would prepare them for pulp and paper use. Thus I was able to buy and get accustomed to using a chainsaw. I would cut the logs into 22 inch lengths. When I had two cords of wood cut and ready, they would be taken to the mill. Then a first aid class opened up for me, which I attended and I was certified.

I felt we should move from Langley because there was no work there. I was aware of a possible job offer in Cranbrook working on a pipeline, but I felt that God opened the door to go to Prince George, 500 miles north.

I left for Prince George in the fall of 1961. The second place I applied for work, I got a job with my chainsaw and first aid ticket. I enjoyed the chainsaw work but never had a first aid case.

In January 1962, I returned to Langley to get my family. It was cold and snowy with temperature reading  $-30^{\circ}$  F. All our belongings were loaded into a '48 Dodge car, pulling a 4 x 8 ft trailer. A friend helped us with his '46 Chevy coupe. The only thing we left behind was our small fridge, which we stored at my folk's place. We stayed the night in Quesnel, about 70 miles south of Prince George. It took us till nearly noon to get going because the cars were both cold and hard to start. We were finally on our way when we noticed that something was wrong with the trailer. One wheel nearly came off but we noticed it in time, fixed it and continued on our way. We were thankful indeed that nothing worse had come of the incident.

We lived about 26 miles east of Prince George in Newlands, a small community with a sawmill and a few cabins that could be used by employees. Our cabin was 350 square feet with two bedrooms and a bigger common room. Oil heat kept our home warm consistently, as long as the oil was running. The first night I was away at a camp 50–60 miles farther into the bush, the oil gelled and the fire went out. My wife covered herself with more blankets and stayed in bed for a while. She checked the children and made sure they were warm but never thought to check the

stove. A neighbor came by early in the morning and asked if the fire was going. He had seen that there was no smoke coming from the chimney. Alma looked in the stove and the fire was out; the oil had gelled to the point it could not flow. He kindly thawed the pipes for her.

I really enjoyed the chainsaw work but it was dangerous. Once while we were cutting a pile of logs, one log I cut was twisted. When I had cut it a certain amount, it snapped. One end struck me on the chest, throwing me backwards and I landed on my back, unconscious. That was the first close call.

The second close call occurred when we were cutting old trees by the forest road. When I tilted my head to get a better look at what I was doing, a rotten piece of wood from above me fell down and hit my head under my hard hat. I was dizzy for a while.

The third close call took place when I was working close to the mill. I skidded logs to a shallow pond. From where the skidder stopped, there was about a 30-foot shallow embankment to the pond. Six or seven logs at the top were pushed to roll down the hill to the pond. Since the pond was shallow, the logs would often get tangled, so it was necessary to spend time untangling them. I was doing this one day and came back up the embankment when someone at the top let a log go. It came bouncing down the embankment to the pond. The only thing I



could do was jump. As I did, the log hit the dirt beneath my feet and was gone before my feet hit the ground. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all." Psalm 34:19 Somehow through it all, I felt everything would turn out right because I had received a promise from God.

The work at the logging camp was enjoyable and fulfilling, but seasonal. We moved to Prince George and took over a house with four cabins around it; it was our job to keep the cabins rented. This paid our rent, but I needed a job to pay the living expenses. After moving in, I stopped the milkman one morning and asked where I might find a job. "Be here tomorrow and you can have this truck and this milk route," he said. I was delighted. I could be home for a hot lunch since the route passed our house. This town also had an MB church, so we got involved with the Sunday School program. Since my milk route was in this area, I met all the kids and invited them to Sunday School. I even picked them up for Sunday School in my milk truck and the kids thought that was great fun.

Another daughter, Bonny, joined us in 1964. Our only son, Jonathan, was born in 1966. This completed our family.

\* \* \* \* \*

During this time, we were busy in the church and the community, but an empty feeling settled in our hearts—a hunger that did not come and go, but came to stay and grew in intensity. We started a diligent study of the New Testament church primarily according to the book of Acts. We compared our experience with the New Testament church. We wanted to see what they did and what they had. If it lined up with Scripture, we wanted the same experience. The usual explanation for the difference in our experience and that of the people of the book of Acts did not satisfy anymore, so we became gold diggers in the New Testament, especially in the book of Acts.

At this time a charismatic group came from Kansas and we met some of them. They talked with such freedom about the Holy Ghost that it stimulated our hunger and thirst to know more. I was still a door-to-door salesman, responsible only to my family and myself. I would often take my briefcase in one hand and my Bible in the other, and hide in the woods where no one could find me. I would read, pray and weep for answers and direction from God. Slowly the puzzle pieces that had never fit, now started falling into place.

During this time, our young son Jon had a bad case of whooping cough, for which the doctor had no answer. He would literally turn a dark color when he coughed. We would run to him to watch helplessly as he coughed so hard. I had never prayed for a sick

person before, so I put him on the bed, knelt down and prayed for his healing. God heard our prayer and he was instantly healed.

As I read the Living Bible, God's words came alive to me. It became common for me to stand in my home, with my Bible open in my hand and say, "Alma, listen to this!"



We met with some other families to study, sing and pray together. We often had our five children and our friends with their five children with us as we gathered around the table. We questioned each other why we could not have miracles and wonders like we saw in the book of Acts.

Some of the questions we asked: if the Holy Ghost is for us, do any of us have it? Have any of us

spoken in tongues? If that's the evidence of the Holy Ghost, why haven't any of us spoken in tongues? If what they had in the book of Acts is not for us today, why not?

God was working on our behalf. He moved on the heart of a Pentecostal preacher in Louisiana, 3,000 miles away. Pastor J. P. Vogt was sent by God to come to Canada. The Lord let them know there would be a group waiting for them in Prince George, B.C. They pulled a house trailer with them, and also brought a piano and an organ. This trailer was adequate in Louisiana, but it was certainly not meant for the cold weather which we had in northern B.C. They had their trials with it, although we did not know about them early on. It took us a year to go to the first service. Somehow Sister Vogt found out that my wife taught piano lessons, so Alma taught several of the children that were in the two families that came with them. When it came time for our little piano recital, they invited us to have it in their newly-finished sanctuary. Brother Vogt was not feeling well, so I and several of our friends went in, and he asked us to pray for him. We did, and he got better!

Slowly we started to attend the occasional service. We were hesitant, but curious about what their services were like. We discovered that we enjoyed the exuberant singing, which was louder and faster-paced than what we were used to. It was common to clap during the faster songs. Instruments such as guitars, and accordions accompanied the piano and

organ. The congregation would worship at the conclusion of each song and we heard hearty “Hallelujahs” and the voice of our Pastor’s wife speaking in tongues. We were slow to join in the clapping during the singing, or the raising of hands. We watched and wondered how it all fit together.

We were attracted to the simple modest style of dress on the women. They all wore dresses and their hair was long. We eventually learned of the scriptural foundations.

Brother Vogt, a soft spoken man, was a very thorough Bible teacher. We found him really interesting and he presented a different slant on things. Everything he taught, he supported with Scripture. He spent months teaching on the tabernacle, comparing it to the New Testament. The Old Testament form of worship is our type of the plan of salvation given in the book of Acts. We made notes, and took home lists of Scriptures to study. These we studied at home and took every chance to discuss and learn all we could. The winters were long and cold, but the music and the teaching warmed our souls. Week by week, we moved closer to the fire.

We couldn’t put words to it then, but we were drawn to the good teaching and the presence of God that was in each service. It just felt peaceful—like a blanket of the presence of the Lord over us. We just

wanted to be there, and our children begged to be in each service.

Our Sunday evening service included singing, testimonies and Biblical preaching, followed by an altar call. We began to respond by making our way to the altar, kneeling, and burying our head in our arms as we talked to God. We weren't yet comfortable with standing upright, hands raised in the air and audible prayer. God heard our quiet prayers and we wept as we responded to the preached and powerful Word of God. The Vogts observed our responsive hearts by the evidence left behind as we returned to our seats—a puddle of tears on the altar.

The more we read and studied our Bible, we recognized the truths in the book of Acts illustrated in this church family. We noticed that in the book of Acts they often spoke of people being "full of the Holy Ghost". Was this for today? What did the Bible mean by this phrase? All four Gospels talk about Jesus being the baptizer in the Holy Ghost. It always seemed Jesus greatly anticipated the church to have this experience.

We drew up a chart and compared all the baptisms practiced in the New Testament churches in the book of Acts. We soon found some answers summed up in the verses Acts 2:38-39. Repentance was first, then baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus for the remission of our sins. Then we were promised the gift of the Holy Ghost, with the

evidence of speaking in another language as the Spirit gave the utterance. The 39th verse said this promise was unto us and to our children and to as many as the Lord our God shall call. I was baptized in water on June 7, 1970, in a gravel pit that had water in it, and this time it was in the name of Jesus.

On one particular night, October 10, 1970, I just wanted the Holy Ghost. Alma went to bed between ten and eleven, so I stayed alone in the living room, sitting on the floor in the front corner of the room. Three hours passed as I prayed and waited. At 2:00 a.m., God came by, and I felt like His hand was on my head. I collapsed down on the rug and began to speak in tongues which kept pouring out like a river for fifteen to twenty minutes. Then I was satisfied and my hunger was met. A great peace enveloped my heart and I finally went to bed at 2:30 am.

In the morning I remarked to my wife what had happened to me. She said to me, "Oh, you received the Holy Ghost!!"

This was Sunday morning and, of course, we all got ready to go to church. I was very buoyant—an exuberance was there and I knew I had received the Holy Ghost. It was easy to speak in tongues in the service. During testimony service, I got up and tried to describe what had happened to me. Sister Vogt was looking for a song and did not catch what I said. So that evening, while my wife was at the organ during the altar service, Sister Vogt had walked by

me kneeling at my pew and overheard me speaking in tongues. She asked Alma, "Does your husband ever pray in German?"

She said, "No, but he got the Holy Ghost last night." Well, those were some exciting days as one after another received their own personal Pentecost.

Alma was baptized in Jesus Name in February 1971. On June 20th, while in Surrey, we stayed up late into the evening visiting with our friends. It was after midnight, so we headed to bed and I fell asleep right away. Alma started to pray and a word she didn't understand came to her. She prayed, "Lord, if that's You, then increase it." Then she started speaking fluently in tongues. In a little while she woke me up with the exciting news. Even though it was late, we made phone calls to some of our friends.

By 1980, all of the children had been baptized in Jesus Name and received the Holy Ghost.

Now, you may ask, what did this experience do for us? A whole lot!

- We had joy and peace. We knew we had what we were looking for, according to Romans 14:17.
- God gave assurance in our soul. The turmoil was gone.



- The puzzle pieces fell into place.
- Revelation of the oneness of God came. I asked God to show me and He did. I saw it everywhere in Scripture. For my wife, it was Emmanuel – “God with us”. Saul on the road to Damascus said to the voice, "Lord, Who art thou?" He answered and said, "I am Jesus."
- Our experience was identical to those who received it in the book of Acts.
- A wonderful freedom of worship: we could pray and worship and it seemed like minutes when actually it had been hours.
- It was almost as exciting to see someone else get baptized and receive the Holy Ghost as when it had happened to us.

David described my life the best when he wrote, “Thou hast turned for me my mourning into dancing: thou hast put off my sackcloth, and girded me with gladness” Psalm 30:11.

## ***Have You Considered New Testament Baptism?***

**What do we find in the Gospels** (the first four books of the New Testament)?

- Birth, life, ministry of Jesus
- Death, burial, resurrection of Jesus

**What do we NOT find in the Gospels?**

- No Christian church was founded
- No one received the baptism of the Holy Ghost  
John 7:38-39

**What do we find in the book of Acts?**

- The church founded on the Day of Pentecost:  
Acts 2:1-4
- Water baptism in Jesus' Name at Jerusalem (Acts 2), Samaria (Acts 8), Caesarea (Acts 10) and Ephesus (Acts 19)
- Baptism of the Holy Ghost with the evidence of tongues at the founding of the church in Jerusalem (Acts 2), Caesarea (Acts 10) and Ephesus (Acts 19)

**What do we NOT find in the book of Acts?**

- No one was baptized "in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost."

**What do we find in the Epistles** (Romans to III John)?

- Instructions to the churches (AFTER they were baptized in Jesus' Name and AFTER they had received the baptism of the Holy Ghost) on how

to live, worship, conduct church discipline and develop the fruit of the Spirit

**What do we NOT find in the Epistles?**

- No one was baptized in water
- No one received the Holy Ghost

Have you considered  
water baptism in the  
Church Age  
as given in the  
Book of Acts?

Peter used the keys given to him by Jesus (Matthew 16:19) when he said to the crowd in Jerusalem, "...**Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ** for the remission of sins and ye shall **receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**" (Acts 2:38)

How were baptisms performed in the book of Acts?

Location of Baptism	<b>Baptism in <u>Jesus Name</u> for remission of sins</b>	<b>Baptism in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost</b>	<b>Baptism in the name of the Father, Son &amp; Holy Ghost, which is Jesus.</b>
Jerusalem Acts 2:38-39	...be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ...	None	None
Samaria Acts 8:15-16	...they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.	None	None
Caesarea (Cornelius) Acts 10:44-48	...he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord...	None	None
Ephesians Acts 19:5-6	...they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.	None	None

Rebaptism is Biblical as illustrated when the Ephesians were rebaptized in Jesus Name (Acts 19:4-6). After Calvary, John's baptism was no longer valid.

In Matthew 28:19, Jesus said “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the NAME of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”

“Name” in the singular form means that the “Father”, “Son” and “Holy Ghost” have one name in common. “Father”, “Son”, and “Holy Ghost” are all **titles**, and not **names**.

So then, what is the **name of the Son?**

*“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name **JESUS**...” Matthew 1:21*

*“...she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name **JESUS**.” Matthew 1:25*

What is the **name of the Father?**

*Jesus said, “I am come in my Father’s name...” John 5:43*

So the Father’s name must be “Jesus”.

What is the **name of the Holy Ghost?**

*“Jesus answered and said...But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in **my** name...” John 14:23, 26*

Therefore the name of the Holy Ghost is Jesus.

The Holy Ghost was the Father of Jesus:

*"...she was found with child of the Holy Ghost." Matthew 1:18*

*"...The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." Luke 1:35*

The name of the Son	is	Jesus
The name of the Father	is	Jesus
The name of the Holy Ghost	is	Jesus.

Therefore, if we baptize in Jesus' Name, we have obeyed the command to baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

All the writers of Acts and the Epistles were baptized in Jesus' Name and had received the Holy Ghost. There is no Biblical record of anyone being baptized "in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost."

Baptism in Jesus' Name and the infilling of the Holy Ghost open the door to an exciting walk with God. The Holy Ghost is still being poured out just like on the day of Pentecost. This wonderful experience can be yours today!!

## ***The Benefits of Baptism in Jesus Name***

### **1. Baptism is an essential element of the new birth experience.**

#### **A. *Explained***

- “He that believeth *and is baptized shall be saved*;...” Mark 16:16.
- “The like figure whereunto even *baptism doth also now save us*...” I Peter 3:21.

#### **B. *Commanded***

- “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and *be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ* for the remission of sins,...” Acts 2:38.
- “And he *commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord*...” Acts 10:48

#### **C. *Demonstrated***

- (Jerusalem) “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins,....Then they that gladly received his word were baptized:...” Acts 2:38,41
- (Samaria) “...they were *baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus*.” Acts 8:16
- (Ephesus) “When they heard this, they were *baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus*.” Acts 19:5

## 2. The Forgiveness of Sins

“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for *the remission of sins*” Acts 2:38. Translations we have checked, including several English and the German Martin Luther reworked, say “forgiveness of sins”.

“Arise and be baptized, and *wash away thy sins*, calling on the name of the Lord” Acts 22:16.

“...that repentance and *remission of sins* should be preached in his name” Luke 24:47.

## 3. We enter into a covenant relationship with God.

Through circumcision, the Jews entered into a covenant relationship with God; so we through baptism enter into covenant relationship with God.

“And God said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, thou and thy seed after thee in their generations. This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised.”  
Genesis 17:9, 10

“In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off



the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses.” Colossians 2:11-13

#### **4. Jesus name is invoked into our lives in baptism.**

Just as the Jewish male child received his name at the time of circumcision and entered into a covenant with God (John the Baptist—Luke 1:59, and Jesus—Luke 2:21), at the time of our baptism in Jesus name we enter into a covenant relationship with God, and Jesus’ name is invoked into our lives.

“...of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.” Ephesians 3:14, 15

“...which are called by my name...” Amos 9:11-13. (The margin says, “upon whom my name is called.”)

Fulfilled in the Gentile’s conversion: “...to take out of them a people for His name.” Acts 15:14

“That the residue of men might seek after the Lord and all the Gentiles upon whom my name is called” or (AMP) “upon whom my name is invoked?” Acts 15:17

“Is it not they who slander and blaspheme that precious name by which you are distinguished and called?” James 2:7 (AMP)  
When is the name of Christ invoked, but in baptism?

The Bible does not recognize any baptism for the Church except baptism in Jesus Name.

**5. Baptism allows us to be “clothed” with Christ.**

“For as many of you as have been *baptized into Christ* have put on Christ”. Galatians 3:27

**6. Baptism identifies us with Jesus’ death.**

“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: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”  
Romans 6:3-4

“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel...how that Christ died for our sins...and

that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day..." 1 Cor. 15:1-4

Jesus died – we die in repentance.

Jesus was buried – we are buried with him in baptism.

Jesus rose again – we receive new life: the Holy Ghost lives in us.

### **Baptism Benefits Summary**

<b>In Jesus Name</b>	<b>In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost</b>	<b>In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost which is Jesus.</b>
Forgiveness of sins	None listed	None listed
Enter a covenant relationship with God	None listed	None listed
Jesus' Name invoked	None listed	None listed
Part of the new birth	None listed	None listed
We're clothed with Christ	None listed	None listed
We identify with Jesus' death	None listed	None listed

# ***The Experience & Evidence of the Holy Ghost***

***-- The Holy Ghost Promised --***

## **By the Prophet Joel**

**"It shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh." Joel 2:28-29**

## **By the Prophet Isaiah**

**"For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing..." Isaiah 28:11-12**

## **By John the Baptist**

**"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance ...he (Jesus) shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost..." Matthew 3:11**

**"I indeed have baptized you with water: but he (Jesus) shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost." Mark 1:8**

**"I indeed baptize you with water...He (Jesus) shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost." Luke 3:16**

“...Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending...**the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.**” John 1:33

### By Jesus Himself

“But wait for the promise (the Holy Ghost)...ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but **ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost** not many days hence.” Acts 1:4-5

### By Peter’s Preaching

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and **ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**” Acts 2:38

### *- - Evidence of the Holy Ghost - -*

Speaking in tongues is the consistent evidence that people received the Holy Ghost.

- The birth of the church—“And they were **all** filled with the Holy Ghost and **began to speak with other tongues** as the spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2:4
- The Gentiles—the Holy Ghost fell on Cornelius and his household. How did Peter know? “...**for they heard them speak with tongues...**” Acts 10:46

- The Ephesian brethren—“...they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **The Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.**” Acts 19:5-6
- Paul—“...and be filled with the Holy Ghost.” Acts 9:17; “...I (Paul) **speak with tongues more than ye all:**” I Corinthians 14:18

The outpouring of the Holy Ghost and baptism in Jesus name in Jerusalem became the **model** for other churches.

Peter speaking of Cornelius' household: “Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, **which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?**” Acts 10:47 (...**they have received the Holy Spirit just as we have...** Amplified Bible)

**“And as I (Peter) began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them (Cornelius' household) as on us at the beginning:”** Acts 11:15

**“...God gave them (Cornelius' household) the like gift as he did unto us (church at Jerusalem) who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ;”** Acts 11:17

**“And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; and put no difference between us and them...”** Acts 15:8-9

**- - The Importance of  
Receiving the Holy Ghost - -**

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and **ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**” Acts 2:38

Paul said, “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. **Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.**” Romans 8:9

Jesus said “...Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**” John 3:5  
(This is speaking of water baptism and the baptism of the Holy Ghost.)

**- - The Holy Ghost is for Everyone - -**

“For the promise (of the Holy Ghost) 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

## **One God**

- The Hebrew and Greek languages both use a specific word for a numerical “one\*”. In each respective language, this same word is used to describe God.

Genesis 2:21 ...he took one of his (Adam’s) ribs...

Exodus 11:1 ...will I bring one plague more upon Pharaoh...

Luke 22:47 ...Judas, one of the twelve...

Mark 15:6 ...at that feast he released unto them one prisoner...

### **Who is God?**

Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

### **I am the LORD.**

Genesis 28:13 ...I am the LORD God of Abraham...

Psalms 50:7 ...I am God, even thy God.

Isaiah 43:11 I, even I, am the LORD...

\* All definitions are from Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance.



## **I am the Mighty God.**

Deuteronomy 10:17 ...the LORD your God is...a great God, a mighty...

Psalm 50:1 The mighty God, even the LORD, hath spoken...

Jeremiah 32:18 ...the Mighty God, the LORD of hosts, is his name,

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called ... The mighty God, The everlasting Father, ...

- Jesus is called “the Almighty” and “Lord God Almighty” in the New Testament.

Revelation 1:5-8 And from Jesus Christ... Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood... I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Revelation 15:3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty...

## **The Lord our God is One LORD.**

Malachi 2:10 Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? ...

- When He created us, we were made in one image, not images.

Genesis 1:26, 27 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

- This is brought forth in the New Testament.

Mark 12:29 ...Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:

John 10:30 I and my Father are one.

I Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

Romans 3:30 Seeing it is one God...

I Corinthians 8:4-6 ...there is none other God but one....But to us there is but one God...

Galatians 3:20 ...God is one.

James 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well...

### **He Alone is God.**

II Kings 19:15 ...thou art the God, even thou alone...

Nehemiah 9:6 Thou, even thou, art LORD alone...

Luke 5:21 ...Who can forgive sins, but God alone?

- So we can see that if Jesus can forgive sins, He must be God alone.

Matthew 9:2-6 And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee. ...And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.

## **There is None Else.**

Deuteronomy 4:35-39 ...the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him...he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else.

Isaiah 45:21 ...there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me.

Joel 2:27 ...I am the LORD your God, and none else...

➤ The New Testament bears this out.

I Corinthians 8:4 ...we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one.

Mark 12:32 ...Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God.

## **Who is Jesus?**

John 1:1-2 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Matthew 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

I Timothy 3:16 ...great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

Colossians 2:8-9 ...after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.

II Corinthians 5:19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them...

As a man, I am a father, husband and son. I wear all these “hats”, but I am just one person.

The Scripture plainly states that there is one God—Who revealed Himself as Jehovah in the Old Testament, robed Himself in flesh as Jesus in the New Testament, and now indwells us as the Holy Ghost.

But He is still one God.

God welcomes seekers. If you will seek Him, He will reveal Himself to you.

## Down From His Glory

Down from His glory, ever living story  
My God and Savior came, and Jesus was His name  
Born in a manger, to His own a stranger  
A man of sorrows, tears and agony.

What condescension, bringing us redemption  
That in the dead of night, not one faint hope in sight  
God, gracious, tender, laid aside His splendor  
Stooping to woo, to win, to save my soul.

Without reluctance, flesh and blood His substance  
He took the form of man, revealed the hidden plan  
O glorious mystery, sacrifice of Calvary  
And now I know Thou art the great "I Am."

Oh how I love Him! How I adore Him!  
My breath, my sunshine, my all in all!  
The great Creator became my Savior  
And all God's fullness dwelleth in Him.

-- William E. Booth-Clibborn  
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Thou hast turned for me  
my mourning into dancing:  
thou hast put off my sackcloth,  
and girded me with gladness.

Psalm 30:11