

IDCCST®
Christian Education

THE SEAL OF THE SPIRIT
THE SUSTAINING POWER OF FAITH



Ephesians 1:13



by
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Second 8th Week® Ministries

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CONTENTS

Introduction	3
The Abrahamic Pattern of Faith.....	4
4 Steps to Covenant Faith	5
Following the Steps of Abraham.....	8
Defining the word “Covenant”	10
Why it is Important to Preach the Covenant.....	12
Salvation is Free, but not Free of Responsibility	13
What it Means to Receive Jesus as Your Savior.....	15
Receive the Spirit	18
You Must Believe in Jesus Christ	20
Remain in Contact with God’s Plan.....	21
We Cannot Argue Truth Against Our Own Experience.....	22
The Abrahamic Pattern is now the Record of Jesus Christ	24
The Seal of the Spirit.....	28
Tongues as a Sign.....	31
God Tests the Heart	32
There are Two Manifestations of Tongues.....	34
Tongues #1.....	34
Tongues #1 is our prayer language	36
The purpose of praying in tongues.....	36
Apostle Paul focused prayer and intercession on the healing of the soul:	37
Jesus focused faith on the fruit of the Spirit.....	38
Apostle Paul focused faith on the fruit of the Spirit.....	39
Edification Through Tongues	39
Tongues #2, the Gift	41

Introduction

If you are feeling stuck, lost, and spiritually out of sorts you are not alone. Many Christians say they are ready for a change of direction, but are unsure of which way to go. They are tired of wandering from church to church looking for truth and from conference to conference looking for the move of the Spirit.

There is a certain weariness that believers experience when they are not in covenant with God. They don't have the knowledge, tools, or spiritual priesthood for their faith to be fruitful in God's kingdom.

They don't know the difference between the works of the flesh and the works of the Spirit and their soul is consumed with works that the Spirit of God does not use to confirm Christ. Maybe you've noticed that about your faith, it's like trying to drive a nail through concrete. You're doing a lot of pounding with the hammer, but the nail is just getting bent. And that can be frustrating.

Many believers are beginning to see that a paradigm shift is necessary for the church to return to the cross of Christ, but do not know what to expect from that shift nor how to begin the journey back.

Our study on the Seal of the Spirit is a study on what it means to come into covenant with God—what it means to be converted. We will learn why God uses the method of grace, faith, righteousness, and the seal to prove faith in Jesus Christ.

The focus of this lesson, as the title suggests, is on the 4th step, the seal, because this is the defining step that brought Abraham into covenant with God. Christians today do not experience the wonders of covenant faith because they have not fully understood the essentials of each step. The reason for this lack is that most believers, upon hearing the testimony of Christ, only go through the first 3 steps. As a result they believe in Jesus, but are not converted by covenant and this is where faith crisis begins. If your faith is not sealed by the Spirit it is not carried by the Spirit nor empowered by the Spirit.

Q. I was never taught the Abrahamic Pattern of Faith. I was taught that if I invite Jesus in my heart I am saved and in covenant with God. Tell me more!

A. The Abrahamic Pattern of faith was lost to the church when Apostolic Governance was lost. What believers experience when inviting Jesus into the heart is grace, faith, and righteousness.

These are important steps towards conversion, but must result in God sealing your faith by the baptism of the Holy Spirit evidenced in tongues.

When believers do not fully follow the Abrahamic Pattern of Faith (now the record of Jesus Christ) they are unconverted believers. They believe in Jesus as their Savior, but are not yet converted, not yet brought into covenant with God.



The Abrahamic Pattern of Faith

The Bible says 3 things about Abraham that are vital to our study:

1. That Abraham is the father (pattern setter) of faith.
 - "Therefore it is of faith that it might be by grace to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham who is the *father of us all*" (Rom.4:16).
2. Abraham received the covenant of circumcision as a pattern for us.
 - "And He (God) gave him (Abraham) the *covenant of circumcision...*" Acts 7:8
3. The steps of faith that Abraham took to come into covenant with God are a model for faith in Jesus Christ.
 - "And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in *the STEPS of that faith of our father Abraham*, which he had being yet uncircumcised." (Rom.4:12).

What are the STEPS of the faith of Abraham that every believer should know about and be walking?

There are 4 steps to covenant faith that Abraham took that became the model for faith in Jesus Christ. We, who believe in Jesus, take these same 4 steps to come into covenant with God. We will first review what the Bible says about these steps and then we'll move on to a discussion about Abraham and observe that these 4 steps resulted in him coming into covenant with God. Next we will mirror this model in Jesus Christ and observe how a sinner follows the same steps Abraham did to come into covenant with God.

We will then focus on tongues and learn why tongues accompanies the Seal of the Spirit and learn the value of this important covenant tool you can put to immediate use.

"The steps of faith that Abraham took to come into covenant with God are a model for faith in Jesus Christ."



4 Steps to Covenant Faith

THERE ARE 4 STEPS TO COVENANT FAITH.

THEY ARE

1. GRACE
2. FAITH
3. RIGHTEOUSNESS AND
4. THE SEAL

The focus of this lesson, as the title suggests, is on the 4th step, the seal because this is the defining step that brought Abraham into covenant with God. Christians today do not experience the wonders of covenant faith because they have not fully understood the essentials of each step.

The reason for this lack is that most believers, upon hearing the testimony of Christ, only go through the first 3 steps. As a result they believe in Jesus, but are not converted by covenant and this is where the faith crisis begins. If your faith is not sealed by the Spirit it is not carried by the Spirit nor empowered by the Spirit.

Our study on the Seal of the Spirit is a study on what it means to come into covenant with God—what it means to be converted. We will learn why God uses the method of grace, faith, righteousness, and the seal to prove faith in Jesus Christ.

Learning the 4 steps to conversion is really not as difficult as it may first appear. As you study each step you will realize that you have experienced these elements already and be able to draw from that experience to understand each step.

“We will learn why God uses the method of grace, faith, righteousness, and the seal to prove faith in Jesus Christ.”



THE STEPS OF THE FAITH OF ABRAHAM	
STEP	SCRIPTURE
1. GRACE	"For by GRACE are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves." (Eph.8).
2. FAITH	" Therefore it is of FAITH, that it might be by grace" (Rom.4:16).
3. RIGHTEOUSNESS	<i>"For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for RIGHTEOUSNESS" (Rom. 4:3).</i>
4. THE SEAL	"In whom ye also trusted, AFTER that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also AFTER that ye believed, ye were SEALED with that holy Spirit of promise" (Eph.1:13).

Now that we know what the 4 steps are let's learn their importance to your conversion. We're going to do that by looking at the Abrahamic Pattern of Faith. Abraham is called the Father of Faith because God set him forth as a pattern the church was to follow in Jesus Christ.

We have now come to that point in our discussion when we define each step:



GRACE: God communicates to man to draw him. This is called "grace for salvation."

Did Abraham experience God's grace? Yes he did. Reading from Genesis 12:1:"Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee."

Here we see that God communicated with Abraham for the purpose of drawing him.



FAITH: Faith is man's responds in obedience to grace, yielding his will to God. Grace awakens faith.



Did Abraham follow this step? Yes he did for we read in Hebrews 11:8: "By FAITH Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, OBEYED and he went out, not knowing whither he went."

Let's read Romans 4:16 again: "Therefore it is of FAITH that it might be by GRACE to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the FATHER of us all."

We see here that God purposely paired grace and faith together. And now we can understand why grace is the first step: God initiates communication and obedience is man's faith response.



RIGHTEOUSNESS: Righteousness means that God declares that you have met His standard. You have yielded your will to him in the presence of grace. God accepts your faith. For the Bible says:

"For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness." Romans 4:3

Apostle Paul understood these 3 beginning steps of conversion for he wrote: "Cometh this blessedness then upon the circumcision only, or upon the uncircumcision also? for we say that FAITH was reckoned to Abraham for RIGHTEOUSNESS." Romans 4:9

Apostle James also understood this and wrote: "Abraham BELIEVED God, and it was imputed unto him for RIGHTEOUSNESS: and he was called the Friend of God." James 2:23



THE SEAL: The Seal means this: God provides a sign that your faith is of His righteousness. This sign is the token of the covenant.

Let's read about that in Genesis 17:11: "And ye shall CIRCUMCISE the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a TOKEN [sign] of the COVENANT between Me and you."

Paul acknowledged physical circumcision as the "SEAL" OF THE COVENANT for Abraham:

"And he [Abraham] received the SIGN of circumcision, a SEAL of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the FATHER of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also" (Rom. 4:11).



Following the Steps of Abraham

Although this token in the flesh seemed foolish, circumcision as the sign or seal of Abraham's faith was not optional, but a commandment meant to be obeyed. Abraham is called "the father of faith" because God uses this same pattern of grace, faith, righteousness and the seal to bring us into covenant with Him.



GRACE: God's revelation is Jesus Christ. He is the Saviour of the world. God reveals to the sinner the purpose of the redemptive work of Christ. This communication of grace brings illumination and enlightenment, awakening the sinner, "By grace are you saved through faith," Eph.2:8.

You can most likely recall how the grace of God drew you. How living that knowledge was. You knew that you knew that Jesus is real!



FAITH: Just like Abraham, we must obey the grace of God. There must be a yielding of the heart to God after He has communicated. When the grace of God is present, the sinner can say as Peter, "Thou art the Christ." To which Jesus replied, "Flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father which is in heaven.," Mt.16:17.

The grace of God awakened faith in the heart. Peter's yielding of his will to God under the influence of grace pleased God. Now we can understand Hebrews 11:6, "Without faith it is impossible to please God."



RIGHTEOUSNESS: Having met God's standard of acceptance (which is obedience to grace), the sinner is declared righteous. The sinner demonstrated faith by yielding to the revelation of Jesus Christ, accepting the testimony of Jesus Christ to be true, repented of sin, and agreed to the terms of the covenant.



Q. Where does repentance play in the 4 steps?

A. True repentance is seen in the yielding heart to grace. False repentance is seen where people are just made to feel sorry for their sins. This emotional exploitation does not create faith in the heart. Grace draws faith, not guilt.

True repentance is a turning away from Satan, his kingdom, knowledge, and promises because one is turning towards the true light of God's grace. Peter said, "[We] preach unto you that ye should TURN from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein" (Acts 14:15).

In order to turn unto the living God one must hear the words of the truth of the gospel. The testimony of Jesus Christ must be preached. The testimony of His life, death, and resurrection. A repentant sinner must believe this testimony under the power of grace and yield to God to receive forgiveness of sins and be declared righteous.



Just as God sealed the righteousness of Abraham's faith and brought him into covenant, God must also seal the righteousness of the faith of the sinner and bring him into covenant.



THE SEAL: God uses the Holy Spirit to seal our faith. This seal is called, "The baptism of the Holy Spirit" as experienced in Acts 2:4, "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance."

The Seal and Regeneration: The primary purpose for God using the Holy Spirit to seal our faith is to bring us into covenant with Him to begin the work of regeneration (healing the soul and forming Christ within). Later we will make the connection between tongues and the work of regeneration.

Many people *do* believe that Jesus is the Son of God, the Saviour of the world, yet their faith is not sealed by the baptism of the Holy Spirit and they are not brought into covenant with God. They follow the pattern God set through Abraham in grace, faith, and righteousness, yet not the seal. Therefore they are unconverted believers.

The power they felt in the grace of God to bring them to repentance soon dissipates and they begin to look for purpose in life.

The Seal and Service: Another reason why God seals faith with the Holy Spirit is for service. The faith of the repentant sinner needs to be **JOINED** to God through covenant. The covenant is designed for service.

When sinners do not receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit after repentance and confession of faith in Jesus Christ, they don't know how to serve God in covenant. Sensing that lack of connection, they begin to look for the will of God outside covenant. God sets the terms of the covenant whereby we must serve Him acceptably.

Let's read Ezekiel 20:40: "For in mine holy mountain, in the mountain of the height of Israel, saith the Lord GOD, there shall all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, **SERVE** me: there will I **ACCEPT** them, and there will I **REQUIRE** your offerings, and the first fruits of your oblations, with all your holy things."



Q. I have seen what you are describing about false repentance and often wondered why sin is such a big issue after conversion. It seems as if we have no power over sin.

A. Exactly. The signs of false repentance are everywhere. Because the 4 steps of conversion were not observed, sin continues to be an issue after conversion. The soul remains unchanged. And this unchanged condition becomes the water mark of faith.

In true conversion the watermark of faith is not sin, it is Jesus Christ. We can understand this more clearly by thinking about what happens when you put yourself on the market for a new job. Once you land a job you stop looking and start working at your new place of employment.

True conversion is like that. Once you are in covenant with God you stop thinking of yourself as a sinner and start building the kingdom of God.



It's through **CONTACT** that we experience these things:

- A. God tests our faith
- B. God establishes relationship
- C. God receives fruit
- D. We gain trust
- E. We are brought into God's care
- F. We are preserved in His framework
- G. We experience the circumcision of the heart

God designed the baptism of the Holy Spirit for covenant contact. When this contact is missing, believers begin to feel as if something is missing in their faith.

“When sinners do not receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit after repentance and confession of faith in Jesus Christ, they don't know how to serve God.”

Defining the word “Covenant”

We now come to that point in our discussion when we look at the definition of the word “covenant”. People nowadays use so many words without understanding the meaning of them and this is true about Christians. Words that were once very familiar to the church have been misused and abused beyond God's intention.

The words God selected to preach Jesus Christ are all connected to His system of salvation and work to engage man in a reciprocal relationship. The words God selected work with His pattern of truth. When Satan watered down the gospel we lost God's true definitions twice. We lost it once from its original meaning and then lost it again as a covenant term.

As a result, the words of the covenant are not understood and God's pattern of truth is lost. The word “repentance” is not justified at the altar of tears, it receives its justification by God's



Q. What is Second Covenant faith? I have not heard any teaching on this subject. I think it is important for me to know how to serve God correctly.

A. Yes, you are right, it is important for us to walk with God correctly. God accepts us only on the terms of the covenant Jesus shed His blood to provide.



seal. God's definition works with His plan to be the contact point of our faith.

The word "grace" is not justified by assigning it to "God's undeserved/ unmerited favor". This identification of grace works in the opposite direction of God's covenant purpose. The word "grace" receives its justification inside covenant. If grace remains outside covenant it has lost its power to redeem.

The word "covenant" is not justified by assigning to it what have been called the "blessings of Abraham" or the blessings of Deuteronomy chapter 28. The word covenant receives its justification from the pattern of Jesus Christ who alone is the record for our faith. The system of His righteousness overcomes the system of sin and death.

Let's move further into our study of the word "covenant" and see what the Bible says about it:

Deuteronomy 29:1, "These are the *words of the covenant* which the Lord commanded Moses." What does this Old Testament scripture have to do with us today? Simply that God defines the word covenant and the definition is applicable whether applied to the First Covenant (Moses) or Second Covenant (Jesus Christ).

The evangelist or preacher of the gospel brings to the people the words of the covenant which the Lord God now commands through Jesus Christ.

Deuteronomy 29:11, "That you should *enter into covenant* with the Lord your God, and into His oath, which the Lord your God makes with you this day."

We are not bringing the repentant sinner into the Old Covenant, but into the New Covenant, a better testament (Heb.7:22; Heb.8:6,8), a covenant for which Jesus shed His blood.

The evangelist preaches with the measure of grace and power of the Spirit to make known and proclaim the fullness of the message of Jesus Christ.



Q. Tell me more about true repentance!

A. True repentance is a result of grace. And the purpose of grace is to bring the repentant sinner into covenant where h/she would continue in the grace of God. Repentance is sealed by the Spirit and the confession of faith upon conversion results in a confession of Jesus after conversion.

When repentance is not a result of grace then repentance is not sealed by the Spirit. The tragic consequence is a powerless faith, as the Spirit is not present to carry faith. What happens in this scenario is that a believer needs to continue to validate h/her faith by repeated sessions of repentance.

In other words, instead of growing in the grace of God and fulfilling God's purpose for them in covenant, believers try to rebuild their faith through repentance and continue to confess sin rather than Jesus Christ.



The evangelist must fully prepare the sinner to abandon and turn from the system of sin and iniquity and all that is contrary to God and to be willing to embrace the knowledge of Jesus Christ and be joined in covenant with God.

Why it is Important to Preach the Covenant

Why is it important to preach the covenant when preaching Jesus Christ? The message of Christ cannot be separated from His covenant. To be saved means to be joined in covenant with God.

If we were to ask the children of Israel (who heard all that Moses preached in the wilderness, and who had come in agreement with God through covenant) what it meant to be saved, they would answer within the context to all that they had received from Moses. Being saved encompassed ALL the things that God gave them to observe.

We read in Deuteronomy 33:29, "Happy are you O Israel; who is like unto you, O people *saved* by the Lord." When the children of Israel saw the dead bodies of the soldiers of the powerful and mighty Egypt washed upon the shore, they knew that God had *saved* them from their enemy. However, there was a very important purpose in their deliverance. God brought Israel OUT of Egypt to bring them INTO covenant with Him.

Deuteronomy 26:17, 18, "You have AVOUCHED (to affirm openly, give testimony to) the Lord this day to be your God, and to walk in His ways, and to keep His statutes, and His commandments, and His judgments, and to hearken unto His voice."

"And the Lord has AVOUCHED (to affirm openly, give testimony to) you this day to be His peculiar people, as He has promised you, and that you should keep all His commandments."

COVENANT --- The agreed participation with the tools and articles given, with the hope of the promises in return. Amos 3:3, "Can two walk together accept they be agreed?"

By agreeing to keep covenant with God through the observance of His commandments, the Jews then could call themselves the saved of the Lord, and they could say that the eternal God was their refuge (Deut.33:27).

Outside of this covenant, outside of observing these commandments given through Moses,

- God was NOT their refuge and
- they were NOT the saved of the Lord as we see when their enemies overthrew them, and all but 2 of that generation died in the wilderness, not having seen the promise.
- God delivered them out of Egypt, but they did not inherit the promises of God because they refused the covenant (Heb.3:14-19; Heb.4:1,2).



In the children of Israel's temptation in the wilderness we see another example of what an unconverted believer is. They were willing to follow Moses for the promises, but not the covenant. They were willing to repent (exit Egypt), but not willing to take responsibility for their faith.

- The repentant sinner is not simply escaping hell (being SAVED from hell).
- The repentant sinner is not merely being SAVED from the kingdom of darkness.
- The repentant sinner is being saved, being brought INTO covenant with God.

Salvation is Free, but not Free of Responsibility

When the gospel is perverted we hear people say that salvation through Jesus is a “free gift”, meaning that they are under no obligation to God in any way, that God requires nothing at all of them. Yes, salvation is freely given by God, just as God freely sent Moses to release the children of Israel from the bondage of Pharaoh. However, God has always expected His people to serve Him with perfect faith. You cannot be saved and walk your own path.

When you followed the steps of Abraham part way, only through grace, faith, and righteousness (but not the seal), the faith world you grew up in was full of the language that focused on what was still missing in your faith: holiness, virtue, power, peace, victory, knowing God, and knowing self to name a few.

“When the gospel is perverted we hear people say that salvation through Jesus is a “free gift”, meaning that they are under no obligation to God in any way, that God requires nothing at all of them.”



- This language described faith that was journeying towards these elementary things that true repentance and true faith experiences.
- This language described the frustration of faith that was not connected to God.
- This language described the depression that results from powerless faith.

I said earlier that the words God selected work with His pattern of truth and that when Satan watered down the gospel we lost God's true definitions twice. We lost it once from its original meaning and then lost it again as a covenant term.

The faith world you grew up in was full of the language that first focused on what was missing in your faith and then focused on a whole new system of expressing a powerless faith where the record of man is substituted for the record of Christ.

The word "covenant" is not justified by assigning to it the record of man. This identification of covenant works in the opposite direction of God's purpose. The word covenant receives its justification from the record of Jesus Christ. If faith reflects man's record it remains void of the power of God for the Holy Spirit will only bear witness to the record of Christ.

Marriage is another way to understand covenant. In marriage we freely give ourselves to our spouse within the terms of the agreement, or marriage contract. In the same manner, God set terms that would obligate us to the knowledge of His Son.

Understanding covenant is a tool to use in the process of building a healthy relationship with God.

"The faith world you grew up in was full of the language that first focused on what was missing in your faith and then focused on a whole new system of expressing a



Q. What are some of the signs of an unconverted believer?

A. Unconverted believers are on many false journeys, looking for truth, holiness, wholeness, purpose, true worship, healing, and blessing. Unconverted believers identify themselves as sinners because they are still walking in a defiled conscience. They continue to talk about the abuses of the past and try to find closure in their loss, using the Bible to psycho analyze the turmoil and pain of the soul.

A whole theology and system was designed around the unconverted believer. So instead of building the house of God, they rehearse the issues and psychological state of the unconverted.

Unconverted believers are not walking in the dissolution of Moses and therefore still observe tithing laws and look for renewal in carnal things, taking hope in fables.



What it Means to Receive Jesus as Your Savior

It does not matter whether the church you attend is Baptist, Assembly of God, Pentecostal, or a non-denominational church, all these belief systems make the same mistake when bringing a sinner to Jesus Christ. We hear this plea, "Repent of your sins and accept Jesus as your Saviour"; "Receive Him into your heart." Consequently, we hear people say they are saved because they "invited Jesus into their heart". Or, they are born again because they "accepted Jesus as their Saviour." Unfortunately, this path does not lead the repentant sinner into covenant with God; the steps of grace, faith, righteousness, and the seal are ignored.

To **RECEIVE** and **ACCEPT** are the same thing, but what exactly is the sinner accepting or receiving ABOUT Jesus Christ? John 1:12 tells us, "But as many as **received Him**, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on Him name."

To receive Jesus means to receive His testimony. Those who believe the testimony about Jesus Christ are receiving His testimony.

- Jesus testified of Himself saying that He is the Son of God, the Savior of the world and that He came to die for the sins of the world and rise again from the dead.
- Jesus testified of Himself saying that He is the only door to salvation ; that He is the way, the truth, and the life.

In John 3:33 we see the doctrine of receiving the testimony of Jesus. "He that has *received His testimony* has set to his seal that God is true."

In Acts 22:18 we see this doctrine again: "Make haste, and get thee out quickly out of Jerusalem; for they will not *receive your testimony* concerning Jesus Christ." Those who receive Jesus are receiving the testimony concerning Jesus Christ, believing the gospel because they are being drawn by grace.

Acts 13:38: "Through Him is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins." This is the testimony we receive about Jesus. This is what we believe and confess.

"To receive Jesus means to receive His testimony. Those who *believe* the testimony about Jesus Christ are *receiving* His testimony."



Acts 4:2: "Through Jesus was preached the resurrection from the dead." This is the testimony we receive about Jesus. This is what we believe and confess.

Acts 4:12: "Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." This is the testimony we receive about Jesus. This is what we believe and confess.

In Acts 8:37 we read that after Philip preached the gospel to the man of Ethiopia, the man said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." In other words, he received the testimony about Jesus Christ which led to his confession of faith.

- The Ethiopian convert **DID NOT say**, "I receive Jesus as my Savior."
- The Ethiopian convert **DID NOT say**, "I receive Jesus into my heart."

We observe further in Acts chapter 9, when the apostle Paul was converted, Jesus Himself gave testimony of Himself and Paul believed Jesus' testimony. When Barnabas came to Saul he did not lead him into what we have come to know as the "sinner's prayer" for conversion, nor did he tell Saul to "invite Jesus into his heart". Paul had already believed the testimony of Jesus.

after Saul believed, he was **sealed**, (filled with the Holy Ghost) and spoke in tongues (I Cor. 14:18). This pattern shows not only repentance, but *repentance unto life*.

This is the same pattern that Cornelius followed in Acts 11:18: "Then has God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life."

This was spoken by Peter after he observed that the house of Cornelius was sealed with the Spirit and he heard them speak in tongues. Peter preached the gospel to Cornelius; he preached the testimony of Jesus Christ. Peter said, "Whosoever believes on Him shall receive remission of sins." (Acts 10:44-47; Acts 11:14-17)



Q. Tell me more about the difference between false repentance and true repentance.

A. False repentance is sealed or evidenced by tears instead of tongues. A sinner may experience real sorrow and remorse for sin, but is not given anything to embrace to seal their repentance.

If repentance is not sealed by the baptism of the Holy Spirit then the Spirit is not present to carry faith and repentance is not until life (Acts 11:18), repentance is unto death.

This is seen in how believers try to carry righteousness by the moral code, which results in trying to perfect holiness by that same standard. The Christian faith is then walked out by the lens of the moral code with believers trying to step into the virtues of Christ by trying to change their attitudes, judgments, and nature.

This is enough to prove the absence of the Spirit, for the Spirit does not work with the moral code of man but rather the record of Jesus Christ.



Peter did not tell Cornelius to “receive Jesus into his heart,” or “invite” Him in. Cornelius received Jesus by receiving the testimony about Jesus and was sealed after he believed. If Cornelius had received Jesus (His testimony) and yet had not been sealed after he believed he would not have experienced a true conversion, he would not have experienced repentance unto life. He would have repented, but his repentance would not have been sealed by the Spirit, he would not have come into covenant with God yielded the life of Christ, which comes through the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Why do we hear these terms used:

- “Invite Jesus into your heart.”
- “Receive Jesus as your Savior.”
- “Receive Jesus into your heart.”

Unfortunately, these terms have become popular like certain logos you see on clothing. They give the person a status that flatters the heart, but offers no reality for the soul. Other logos we see in the world, like the All State symbol of the caring hands, have become popular because they have earned our trust. We trust that the logo stands for what it says.

Confessions such as, “I invite Jesus into my heart” have become nothing more than fashion statements. We feel others will identify us a born again Christians because of these confessions. Yet, these confessions fall short of the true pattern delivered by the apostles for our faith for they do not really represent true conversion.

Upon these confessions, people are led to imagine that the Spirit of God enters into them when they say, “I invite Jesus into my heart” or “I accept Jesus as my Savior.”

In reality, the Holy Spirit does not enter into them upon confession. God already gave a specific language to identifying the Holy Spirit coming into a believer and He provided the sign of tongues to accompany that baptism. We’ll discuss more about tongues later and find out why this tool is so vital to your salvation.

“Peter did not tell Cornelius to “receive Jesus into his heart,” or “invite” Him in. Cornelius received Jesus by receiving the testimony about Jesus and was sealed after he believed.”



Understanding the divine connection between the seal of the Spirit and tongues and your experience of God can help you step back and see God's plan from a whole new perspective.

True conversion takes place when the gospel is preached in truth and the soul is brought into God's care through the contact that He sanctifies. God will not sanctify our faith if it bears witness to another pattern or confesses faith in another gospel other than the one that leads the repentant sinner to be sealed with the Holy Spirit.

Receive the Spirit

Incorrect terminology leads to incorrect believing and processes. It is incorrect to preach that people are saved because they asked Jesus into their hearts. This leads to the incorrect belief that the Holy Spirit is living in them without the due process of receiving the Spirit through what Jesus called the "baptism of the Holy Spirit".

In all places of scripture where the apostles spoke of "receiving the Spirit" they were not speaking of "inviting Jesus into your heart" but rather speaking of the baptism of the Holy Spirit evidenced by tongues (as the Lord initially gave it).

2 Corinthians 11:4, "**RECEIVE** the Spirit."

Acts 2:38: "Repent ... be baptized ... and **RECEIVE** the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Acts 2:33: "And having **RECEIVED** of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, He has shed forth this, which you now see and hear."

Rom.8:15: "You have **RECEIVED THE SPIRIT** of adoption."

This is the reason for Paul's question, "Have you **RECEIVED** the Holy Ghost SINCE (or AFTER) you believed?" Acts 19:2. The believing had to do with acknowledging and receiving the testimony about Jesus Christ and repenting of sin. The receiving had to do with the baptism of the Holy Spirit.



Q. Tell me more about false repentance.

A. False repentance can be seen in how the defiled conscience is imposed upon faith. The Holy Spirit is not present to purge the conscience and this is why we hear teaching about the importance of examining motives.

Christians are seen to be constantly weighing the conscience to improve upon it, testing their motives. This is called "will worship" because they are trying to bend the will to please God rather than walk in covenant to please Him.

Satan's roller coaster of promises keeps you yoked to the thrills and chills of self improvement and tethers the conscience to his perspective of false humility, false holiness, and false grace.



AFTER they believed they received the Spirit of Christ to indwell them, and they spoke in other tongues as a witness of this **SEAL**, Acts 19:6. If receiving the Holy Ghost is the same experience as 'inviting Jesus into your heart', as is presently taught, and there was no evidence of the seal through tongues, Paul would not have asked, "Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?"

Regardless of the clear path we have in scripture to receiving the Holy Spirit through baptism, and tongues being the evidence of receiving the Spirit, many continue to believe that the Spirit of God enters into them upon confession of faith and then proceed to "prove it" by their lifestyle: good clean living, generosity, benevolence, humanitarian efforts, change, show love, etc.

What we see happening here is that believers try to give acts of benevolence a holy makeover by drawing from scripture to create a fable with works of kindness. These insist that their benevolence is the true token of Christ, true piety; and that insistence is called a boast, and the boast does not work humbleness of mind.

The aggressive display of passion that is often seen to accompany these displays of false piety is excused as holy fervor, as if they are aglow with Christ, and they are not. That is Satan's crown that is expressing itself.

This is exactly what Satan thought when he was cast out of heaven; he thought his wisdom and brightness was working for him; and each minister who is caught in Satan's breach feels the same, that their signature is working righteousness.

Satan expressed frustration and anger before God because he did not want God to set boundaries for his capabilities and his protests went from whispering councils to open defiance; his frustration and anger turned into revolt.

There are many programs of high praise in the world by which people are helped to come to terms with loss and find a means for change. And in all reality, the world does much more in the area of giving than the church and Acts of benevolence do not draw people to Christ, grace does. The absence of grace is seen in the efforts to rectify social issues.

“Regardless of the clear path we have in scripture to receiving the Holy Spirit through baptism, and tongues being the evidence of receiving the Spirit, many continue to believe that the Spirit of God enters into them upon confession of faith and then proceed to "prove it" by their lifestyle.”



You Must Believe in Jesus Christ

In our examination or valuation of what it means to be saved we must define what it means to believe. If our definition of “believe” is too narrow it will cover too little, excluding things that God intended should be included.

For example, if we said that to believe in Jesus means to accept that Jesus is the Son of God and that He died for the sins of the world; and that you trust Him to make you right with God; and that you surrender your life to Him and trust He will enable you to turn from sin and live for Him, we are limiting this definition, failing to include the dynamic action of faith.

As a result, repentant sinners fail to understand the importance of each step of conversion, they think in terms of “being saved” rather than coming into covenant with God, they do not receive the seal of the Spirit and despite their “believing” and “trust” that God “can” enable them to turn from sin and live for Him, they do not understand that this power is experienced ONLY in covenant with the tools of Christ.

Their hearts of are not prepared for covenant faith and the grace they once experienced as God showed them their need, soon dissipates and they are left believing in something they are not equipped to walk in. They did not receive a daily in fusion of the grace of God.

It is true that once we know the range of things referred to by a word, we have a clearer understanding of its meaning. Not

- understanding how salvation is worked in the soul once confession of faith is made, not
- knowing the purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the tool of tongues, the elements of the gospel, the purpose of the priesthood of the believer, or
- the responsibility of covenant faith,



Q. Tell me more about false repentance.

A. False repentance produces false piety. When believers are not brought into covenant with God the unconverted begin to set the expectations for faith through morality, meeting certain standards drawn from the pages of the Bible.

Know this: You cannot create your own terms through the scripture. The terms of the covenant have been set by God and He uses His sanctified and prepared Apostolic Governance to instruct the church in covenant faith.

When repentance is not unto life, believers do not receive instruction of doctrine through living apostles and their tethering to Satan’s kingdom is not broken, there is no transition from death unto life.



the word “believe” and “faith” and “trust” understandably carries a very vague and unclear meaning. It did not include any dynamic actions whereby experience would be realized. So, what does it mean to believe in Jesus? The definition of believe must encompass these 3 things:

1. To acknowledge
2. Mold with
3. Submit to

To acknowledge: First of all, to believed means to *acknowledge* Jesus Christ to be the true Son of God, the Savior of the world and to accept His testimony.

To mold with: Secondly, to believe means to mold our confidence, expectation, and trust with God. God’s manifold grace is issued to believers that they can mold their expectation with God, and grow in confidence of His care. Confidence and trust comes through covenant contact.

To submit to: Thirdly, to believe means to submit to God through the terms of the covenant. If God has revealed Christ to you and drawn faith from your heart, then to believe means to submit to God by coming into covenant with Him. Accept the terms of His covenant and agree to live by these terms.

The Bible says that Jesus is the mediator of the new covenant (Heb.12:24).

Remain in Contact with God’s Plan

To remain in contact with God’s plan we have to keep in contact with the correct biblical pattern. When you think of “believing” in Jesus, think of how God is joining you in covenant to Himself through grace, faith, righteousness, and the seal. This is the purpose of Calvary. This is the purpose of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead; the covenant must be **SEALED** to each believer upon receiving the testimony about Jesus Christ.

Many preachers are not sent by God for they preach a false gospel. People hear a message about Jesus Christ, but are not brought into covenant with God. They are led to believe that they can experience salvation by simply inviting Jesus into their hearts. Because they are not led into covenant with God faith has nothing to join itself to, it stands alone, and the repentant sinner does not know how to serve God acceptably. Is this person saved? NO!

As we have seen, righteousness is granted to the believer on the basis of grace and faith alone, but without the baptism of the Holy Spirit, righteousness is not sealed by God.



Consequently, the believer's faith is not joined to that which makes it living, and "The pig that was washed has returned to her wallowing in the mire, the dog is returned to his own vomit" 2Pet.2:22.

We Cannot Argue Truth Against Our Own Experience

Many argue truth against their own experience and faith in God is not brought within the restrictions of the covenant. Some say:

- "I know I am saved because I repented and asked Jesus into my heart."
- "I know I am saved because I trust Jesus to make me right with God."
- "I know I am saved because I am a changed person."
- "I know I am saved because I have an intimate relationship with God."
- "I know I am saved because God has answered many prayers."
- "I know I am saved because I read the Bible."

If we argue truth against our own experience WE have become the contact point for faith in God rather than Jesus Christ. This cannot be, for we are not Christ. We argue against Christ when we speak for Him on OUR behalf instead of on His behalf. It is Christ who speaks for us on His own behalf, on the behalf of what He has provided for faith.

The repentant sinner must be brought into covenant to serve God so Christ can speak on his behalf, mediating the covenant in Himself. After conversion takes place, the doctrine of Christ (knowledge of the covenant) must be set in the heart through the stewardship of living apostles so that the believer knows how to serve God acceptably. The believer must know why he has experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit, why he is speaking in tongues, why Jesus shed His blood upon the cross, why Jesus rose from the dead.

Each believer must learn how to function as a New Covenant priest, how to offer the spiritual tithe of his faith, how to go through the cycles of growth, how to overcome himself, the devil, and the world. The believer must come to understand the law of grace and truth in order to be led by the Spirit, and know with certainty the voice of the Lord which speaks from the foundation of truth.

"Many argue truth against their own experience and faith in God is not brought within the restrictions of the covenant."



Each believer will enjoy:

- the mediation of Jesus Christ as he uses the tools of the covenant, for
 - Jesus will bear his griefs and carry his sorrows, and
 - bring equity in the inner man.

Each believer will experience

- the manifold graces of God and
- the powers of the world to come,
- daily healing of the soul,
- the divine nature by the divine power, and
- will accept the responsibility of sharing Christ in the assembly with the measure of grace given to each.
- He will also be ready and willing to share Christ with those who are yet in need of salvation.

The confession of faith in Christ is the repentant sinner's opportunity to

- agree with the testimony of Jesus Christ, and to
- agree with Jesus' testimony of Himself; to
- agree and accept what God is offering as salvation for the soul. God is not simply offering a "get out of jail free" card, God is offering a covenant.

The repentant sinner must

- abandon his own house and
- be brought into the house of Jesus Christ (Heb.3:6).

God establishes the house (covenant) and then we must inhabit it (Rev.3:20). To bring a soul to Christ we must inform the sinner what it means to be saved according to this word; then their confession of faith will be according to this word.

When we bring souls to Christ we are to bring them into ONE faith and ONE doctrine. Just as the children of Israel were not free to serve God their own way, so Christians today are not free to serve God their own way (I Cor.10:1-6).



Q. Tell me more about false piety.

Human benevolence is a product of the moral code, which is a portion of God imprinted upon the soul as a memorial of Him, to preach to man God's existence and to cause man to seek unto Him.

This portion of God is present in all religious systems because people see in the portion (the moral code) a promise of wholeness and they see within themselves the ability to achieve some measure of it.

In the absence of the Holy Spirit, faith is not carried or sustained by the Spirit and God is not affecting change. Meaning, that God is not healing the soul and setting the virtues of Christ within by covenant contact.

Committing faith to humanitarian works is a dynamic move to claim the moral code as a virtue of Christ, a token of salvation. But the portion does not represent Christ's fulness. His image is not in it.



The Abrahamic Pattern is now the Record of Jesus Christ

It must be understood that the Abrahamic Pattern of faith is now the record of Jesus Christ. What does that mean? That means that God has given you very precise and practical steps to steer your faith in the right direction.

God points to covenant faith through Abraham and makes a connection between the steps of Abraham and how we are to interpret faith in Jesus Christ.

The Bible says, "Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham" (Gal.3:6-9).

Abraham was first blessed because God issued grace to draw Abraham to Him. Abraham was next blessed because his faith, being drawn by grace, was accepted of God and God declared him righteous. Abraham was further blessed because God sealed the righteousness of his faith by covenant contact. In establishing a covenant with Abraham, God took ownership of his soul and Abraham was brought into God's care.

These same practical, action steps can now be followed through Jesus Christ, that all who believe in Jesus may have the same simple way to come into covenant with God. These steps of grace, faith, righteousness, and the seal are now yours. They are not just window dressing, words we throw around just to make ourselves sound spiritual and then cast aside when we are through with them, eagerly looking for keys to material blessings. On the contrary, they are the very core of your Christian walk. To not know them and how they operate is to not know God and how to walk with Him.

To put the importance of these steps into sharp perspective, what would happen if your faith did not follow this record of Jesus Christ?

First, God would have a controversy with you because your faith does not reflect His truth. Consider Hosea 4:1, "Hear the word of the Lord, ye children of Israel: for the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is *no truth*, nor mercy, nor *knowledge of God* in the land."



With a church on every corner and a Christian book store in every mall, how can we say that there is no knowledge of God in the land? There are plenty of authors who write on biblical themes and topics and plenty of preachers who take the pulpit, but they are all building on the knowledge of previous generations, which knowledge has been proven to be removed from the original.

Second, Satan would take advantage of your ignorance and you would be caught in the same broken faith as everyone else. God said that ministers “eat up [feed on] the sin of My people, and they set their heart on their iniquity,” (Hosea 4:8). What this means is, when sinners are made to confess Jesus without proper vetting to the covenant they are not really led to Christ and continue in an unregenerate state with no means of forging a relationship with God.

Christian authors, ministers, and preachers feed on the very condition they helped create. When ministers do not teach nor preach the record of Jesus Christ in the 4 beginning steps they cannot teach nor preach the record of Jesus Christ in regard to the gifts of the Spirit, the purpose of tongues, and the way to victory.

“Christian authors, ministers, and preachers feed on the very condition they helped create.”

If they cannot give you the practical steps to covenant faith they cannot give you the practical steps to holiness. If they cannot give you the practical steps to holiness they cannot give you the practical steps to a full and mature relationship with God. If they cannot do these things, then what is left? What *can* they do?

They can set your heart on your iniquity (as we read in Hosea 4:8). Let's see how this happens:

- In covenant you would daily experience God healing your soul through the divine power designed to give you the divine nature with the assisted ability of the Holy Ghost. Missing this chance, you must learn to cope with the fruits of iniquity that trouble and spoil the soul.

25 |

page



Q. Why the Cross?

A. The cross is the New Covenant. Jesus said, “For this is my blood of the NEW TESTAMENT, which is shed for many for the remission of sins” (Mt. 26:28). The simple truth is that God came in the flesh to shed His own blood for the forgiveness of sins and to establish in Himself a new covenant.

This is God's love, to provide covenant terms that would release man from the curse of death, break the bonds of Satan's tethering, provide new knowledge for faith, a bridge to the throne of God, and spiritual tools by which we could serve God perfectly, know Him, receive healing for the soul and have Christ formed within.

In this we see the power of the resurrected Christ, that we not only believe on Him, but live through Him.

It is vital that you understand why Jesus died and what His covenant means to you.



- This is why preaching is geared towards the psychology of the conscience, trying to bring resolve to the conflict of the motives of the conscience, which is not the gospel Paul preached. This is “setting their heart on your iniquity.”
- By using modern day psychology, mixing it with the gospel, ministers try to call the work of modern day psychology the work of Christ, but its not. That’s why they have to write numerous books to give carnal knowledge (the psychology of the world) a spiritual makeover. But that’s like putting lipstick on a demon; putting lipstick on a demon does not change the nature of a demon, it just beautifies that which is evil.
- And so we see ministers using modern day psychology, trying to beautify the evil conscience. This is “setting their heart on your iniquity.”
- The things that God gives as tokens of honor are the manifold graces of God. But when you are not taught covenant faith you use the tokens of this world for your honor instead of using the things of God as tokens of honor. This is “setting their heart on your iniquity.”

The first thing God issues to you for entrance into His kingdom is the Spirit—the baptism of the Holy Spirit. That’s the power of the resurrected Christ for God wants you to live by a purged conscience, not the evil conscience. He issues that first power to you (the Holy Spirit) when you follow the record of Christ.

The Lord says, “The Holy Spirit is your first token that you have chosen Me above your own passion, that you have chosen truth regardless of your own signature, inclination of life, or principle, and that you have chosen faith in place of your aspiration. I am giving you a token for your conversion.”

That which the Holy Ghost begets in you starts to take form and that form is Christ. That’s the mark of a true Christian. We bear in

Questions & Answers

Q. Was Jesus our substitute?

A. No. Jesus was not our substitute. The Bible says that Jesus is the propitiation for our sins (1 Jn.2:2) not our substitute. This means that He died for our benefit, not in our place.

Consider Num.18:1, “And the Lord said unto Aaron, You and your sons and your father’s house with you shall bear the iniquity of the sanctuary; and you and your sons with you shall bear the iniquity of your priesthood.”

He, God, has made Jesus to be the sin bearer for us, just as in the case of Aaron and his sons. They did not become sin any more than Jesus became sin.

Sin bearer: One who takes the responsibility of atoning for sin under the demands of God’s justice to appease the wrath of God.



our bodies the marks of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have a reward awaiting us that is equal to what we carry.

Now when a sinner enters into the day of judgment, they have nothing to offer the king, they stand right there in the courts of the king and have nothing to offer Him but Satan's image. God despises Satan's image because it does not bear the face of Christ.

All it does is bear defiance, indifference, riotousness, and lawlessness; and this is why the Antichrist is called the lawless one, the impious one. Everything they achieve by man's psyche to try to resolve inner conflict will only bear Satan's image. That's not the work of regeneration.

The garments of the priesthood are laid aside for the garments of the flesh. Don't lay aside the garments of your priesthood for they are the armor of God. These are the things God has given to protect you. God's peace is His shield to you. The world offers peace through reassurances and promises and try to bring resolve to your problems by gold and silver. They think that money is the answer to everything. No it is not! Faith and covenant is the answer.

In this dimension everything was created by faith so everything is sustained by that same Spirit. But when Satan entered into this dimension, he came in here not only as a virus, but a contradiction of God's kingdom, changing the perception of his victims; as Cain. Satan worked on Cain's behalf, changing his perception about his brother Abel and put Abel in the shadow of evil when Cain was in the shadow of evil. And Cain, standing in Satan's shadow spoke by his desire, that which was in rhythm with his aspiration, that which was in rhythm with his perception of life and his own perception of right and wrong.

Cain continued to weigh right and wrong by Satan's counsel. Satan's children do the same things today; they carry the same thinking.



Q. Did Jesus become literal sin?

A. No. Jesus did not become literal sin nor did He take the place of sinners. When Aaron and his sons performed their duties as priests to prepare and slay the animal sacrifices that God specified, they were bearing the iniquity of the people. God placed upon them the responsibility of making the atoning sacrifice.

When Jesus shed His blood upon the cross, He was the sacrifice that God provided for the sins of the world, once and for all. God placed upon Jesus the responsibility of making the atoning sacrifice to remove the curse of God.

He offered Himself as a lamb without blemish. He cannot be the lamb without blemish, and then become blemished at the point of sacrifice.

He bore our sins: To bear the responsibility of; to take on the yoke of our redemption for our release from the penalty of sin.



Don the garments of the priesthood and you will have a great reward. You do not want ministers setting your heart on your iniquity for then you are always struggling with closure, balance, looking for truth, trying to find yourself, battling with the conscience.

The Seal of the Spirit

Now that we have taken full stock of the importance of the Abrahamic Pattern of Faith (now the Record of Jesus Christ) and have clarified its importance to you, we now come to the part of this lesson where we are going to discuss in detail God's meaning for the seal of the Spirit and the connection between the seal and circumcision, and discuss the value of tongues. Why did God give such a strange token as evidence of the indwelling Spirit?

I will continue to bring the reader back to the importance of the seal of the Spirit because this is where so many fail to understand what salvation is all about.

I brought out earlier how that Paul acknowledged physical circumcision as the "SEAL" of the covenant for Abraham:

"And he [Abraham] received the *SIGN of circumcision*, a *SEAL* of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the *FATHER* of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also" (Rom. 4:11).

As most of you know, it is the Spirit that circumcises the heart of Satan's root and fruit. Paul identifies this work of the Spirit when he wrote, "But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and *CIRCUMCISION* is that of the heart, in the spirit" (Rom.2:29).

Why is this important to our study? First, you must know that if you are not baptized with the Holy Spirit evidenced by tongues that the circumcision cannot take place. Secondly, we see here a



Q. Did God turn His back on His Son while He hung on the cross?

A. No, God did not turn His back on His Son at any time. This false doctrine came into existence when it was taught that the sinless Lamb of God became sin.

Why did Jesus cry out, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?" Let's shed some light on this cry from the cross:

Psalm 22:1, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me? Why are you so far from helping Me, and from the words of My roaring?"

God did not leave Jesus as to abandon one who is full of iniquity. God did not turn His back on Jesus because He could not behold the sin that Jesus had become.

God left Jesus on the cross because it was the will of God that Jesus should die for the benefit of the human race in redeeming them back to God.



change in circumcision, from the outer man (Abraham's experience) to the inner man (our experience).

Let's look at what the Bible says:

2 Corinthians 1:22: "Who has also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts."

Ephesians 4:30: "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby you are sealed unto the day of redemption."

Colossian 2:11: "In whom also you are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ."

God circumcises the heart, cutting away the sins of the flesh, through the Spirit. When believers are not baptized with the Holy Spirit they don't experience this separation of the flesh by the Spirit and fail to gain victory over sin.

God told Abraham that circumcision was a token; and God wrote through the apostles that circumcision was a seal. What do the words "token" and "seal" mean?

TOKEN: A signal as a flag, beacon, monument, evidence, mark, sign. Source: Dictionary

SEAL: A private mark which protects from misappropriation. To stamp with a signet or private mark for security or preservation or to attest as genuine. That which effectually shuts or secures. Source: Dictionary

A seal or token is a private mark from God that effectually shuts or secures the provisions and promises of God's covenant to us; it attests to our faith as being genuine and becomes the means for God to protect us from what is not of Him.

In Abraham's case the outward circumcision of the flesh was a private mark, a sign which indicated a covenant had been established. This private mark stamped Abraham's faith as genuine. It took an act of obedience for Abraham to circumcise



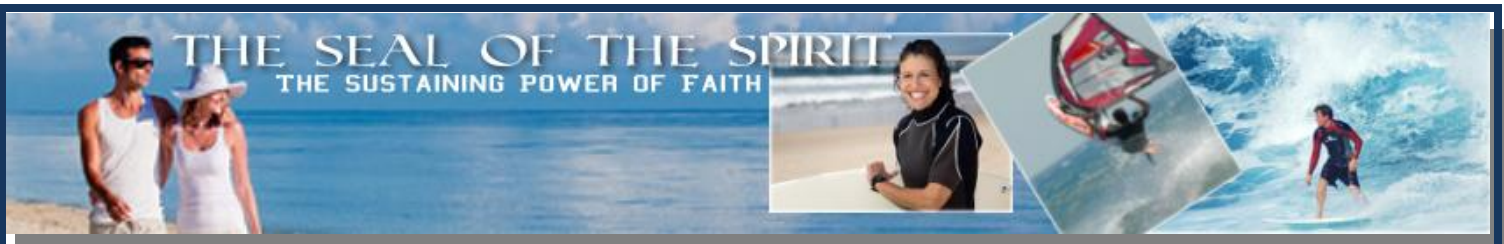
Q. Tell me more.

A. Jesus addressed God as His Father, not Satan. When Jesus proclaimed from the cross, "Father into your hands I commit My Spirit," he was proving again that at the time of His death he was still the same spotless, sinless, pure, and undefiled lamb of God.

Isaiah prophesied, "He (God) shall see the travail of His (Jesus) soul and be satisfied," (Is.53:11).

God looked upon the death of Jesus upon the cross as the fulfillment of the sacrifice that would atone for sin once and for all. He did not look upon Jesus as the magnet for sin.

Jesus died "for us": Jesus bore the responsibility of atoning for our sins for us. This does not mean in our place, but for our benefit. Not as our substitute, but as one who propitiates for the benefit of another.



the flesh, and this act showed that Abraham was serious about his faith in God, serious about keeping covenant with God.

As God provided physical circumcision for Abraham to enter into covenant, God also provided spiritual circumcision for us to enter into covenant with Him. We can understand that Circumcision provided a way for God to mark His people and set them apart from the rest of the world.

Under the New Covenant of Christ, God gives the seal to a believer by the baptism of the Holy Spirit (the inner circumcision of the heart) to provide the token of our faith. The inner circumcision of the heart is the private mark or sign indicating covenant has been established; this private mark stamps our faith as being genuine.

It takes an act of obedience on our part to receive this token from God. Therefore, the baptism of the Holy Spirit is given to all those who OBEY Him (Acts 5:32). This is the point of sanctification God identifies.

Sanctification: The act of God separating the believer from the world unto Himself.

Sanctification: That soul is being brought into God's care through contact.

Sanctification: The believer's destiny is being governed by His presence.

As we have discussed, many believers have accepted the testimony of Christ, however they are not sealed with the Spirit. These believers feel an inner void because they have not been brought into God's care through contact. They feel a sense that they have lost direction because their destiny is not being governed by His presence. After they believed, they were not sealed.

This is what we read in Eph.1:13: "AFTER you believed you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise." This gift was given to indwell a believer AFTER he had repented of sins, AFTER he had believed Jesus to be the Son of God the Saviour of the world, and AFTER he had accepted the testimony of Jesus Christ and agreed to the terms of the covenant.

AFTER believing we are to be sealed with the Holy Spirit; this means that a believer is to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. When God baptizes a believer with the Holy Ghost (witnessed by tongues) these things are taking place:

1. The believer is separated from the world and brought into covenant with God in order to serve Him.

Heb.8:6: *"But now hath he (Jesus) obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a **better covenant**, which was established upon better promises."*



2. The believer is now born again. When God places His Spirit into a believer, He is causing a spiritual rebirth.

John 3:6, 7, “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is **born of the Spirit** is Spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.”

3. The believer, being born of God, is now a child of God (the adoption).

Romans 8:15, “For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the **Spirit of adoption**, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.”

Galatians 4:5, “To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive **the adoption of sons.**”

Ephesians 1:5, “Having predestinated us unto the **adoption of children by Jesus Christ** to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.”

4. The believer is given an eternal inheritance.

Eph.1:13,14: “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, **ye were sealed with that holy Spirit** of promise, which is **the earnest of our inheritance** until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”

5. The believer is baptized into the Body of Christ (to function in the priesthood).

1 Corinthians 12:13, “For **by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body**, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.”

Tongues as a Sign

Acts 2:4: "And they were ALL filled with the Holy Spirit and [they ALL] began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." The manifestation of speaking in tongues IS the OUTWARD sign God gives that bears witness of the indwelling Spirit.

Why does tongues accompany the baptism of the Holy Spirit? This sign of speaking in other tongues is something visible on the outside that gives witness of that which is within.



1 Corinthians 14:22: "Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not TO them that believe, but to them that believe not." The translators should have used the word 'against' in place of the word 'to' in this verse. According to the concordance, the word 'to' in this verse could also be translated: AGAINST, among, as, at, before, by, concerning, until, etc.

The translators could have selected the word "AGAINST", and this verse would have read, "Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not AGAINST them that believe, but AGAINST them that believe not."

In the previous verse, the apostle Paul verified the word "AGAINST". What had the apostle just finished saying? He was speaking of tongues being REJECTED, quoting Isaiah the prophet who prophesied that tongues would be spoken against.

Isaiah prophesied, "For with stammering lips and another TONGUE will He speak to this people, to whom He said, This is the rest and this is the refreshing, yet they would not hear" (Is.28:11, 12). Wherefore, the apostle Paul says, tongues are for a sign, not AGAINST them that believe, but AGAINST them that believe not.

Is God pleased when people do not hear, when they refuse what He is offering? No. He is not pleased. The *stammering lips and another TONGUE* is the rest, the refreshing. This is the inbred edification of the soul, which that God designed into the plan of salvation, which comes with the baptism of the Holy Spirit for all.

To reject tongues as the sign of the seal of the Spirit, the sign of your separation from the world unto God, the sign of your conversion is to reject your own salvation.

God Tests the Heart

We see a pattern emerging in regard to Abraham's circumcision of the flesh and our spiritual circumcision of the heart. Knowing that circumcision was going to be a sign spoken against, knowing the temperament of man, that he would reject something that seems foolish and unnecessary by his standards, why did God use physical circumcision as a sign that He was bringing Abraham into covenant with Him?



Circumcision was an offensive sign. The people in the times of Abraham who heard what his God had requested of him must have laughed and said, "You serve a strange God who makes you do strange things!" Yet Abraham was obedient to this strange request and his faith pleased God.

Similarly, speaking in tongues is a "strange" thing for God to ask us to do to come into covenant with Him. Daily Abraham was brought into remembrance of the covenant when necessity was laid upon him, and we are brought into remembrance of the covenant when we pray in tongues.

God specifically designed tongues to be the stone of stumbling, and the rock of offense. Many cannot understand how God could put a sign of His presence in something like tongues. They can more readily connect with God's love being manifested through programs where humanitarian works are seen to make a difference in the day-to-day lives of people.

"Isn't it better to dig wells, build schools, orphanages, and hospitals rather than speak in tongues?" they ask. Isn't that a better way in which to show God's love? Understand that while it is a wonderful thing to help those who are less fortunate, this is not how the love of God is defined nor expressed, nor is it the purpose of the covenant, nor the purpose of Christianity.

God has not called us to right social wrongs or to bring social healing to the world. Jesus did not come to make the world a better place, He came to bring salvation to the soul, to bring us from Satan's kingdom to His own by establishing Himself as the contact point for faith.

While man puts value on social reform and the healing of the world by these means, God puts value on His Son Jesus Christ.

God tests the heart by setting His truth within the restrictions of the covenant where it cannot be manipulated by the moral code nor receive flattery from the flesh. God tests the heart by setting the sign of the covenant in something that man cannot value through his own logic.

1 Corinthians 1:27-31

27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.



30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

The church can no longer be divided on the issue of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the evidence of tongues. That is like having two kinds of Jew who claimed the promises of Abraham; those who claimed a right to the covenant and were circumcised, and those who claimed a right to the covenant but were NOT circumcised. Those who carry the mark, which seals their faith, they are the ones identified by God as being joined in covenant with Him.

There are Two Manifestations of Tongues

Not only are believers not properly educated to the purpose of tongues, but they are confused over the two manifestations of tongues God set in the church. We will now turn our attention to clarifying the differences between the two manifestations of tongues. For our study on tongues we will use the term “tongues #1” in regard to the manifestation of tongues received when baptized in the Holy Spirit and we will use the term “tongues #2” when speaking of the gift of tongues. We know that the apostles did not call these manifestations of tongues “tongues #1” and “tongues #2” , but they *did* teach about the difference between the two manifestations.

Tongues #1

Let's begin with Jesus' command: "And being assembled together with them (Jesus) commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which said He, you have heard of Me. For John truly baptized with water; but you shall be BAPTIZED with the Holy Ghost not many days from now" Acts 1:4-5.

The first thing we want to do is draw our attention to the word “baptized”. Jesus called His giving the Holy Spirit and our receiving the Holy Spirit a “baptism”.

“Not only are believers not properly educated to the purpose of tongues, but they are confused over the two manifestations of tongues God set in the church.”



The word “baptism” as applied to the Spirit carries with it all the applications of water baptism: It is for your cleansing, introduction into covenant, separation, sign of conversion, act of obedience, etc. Every importance we assigned to water baptism we should now assign to the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The cleansing however is not of the outer man, but the inner man.

The second thing that we want to focus on is that the giving of the Holy Spirit is also called the “promise of the Father” which Jesus said He taught about. So then, every thing that Jesus promised the Holy Spirit would do, comes with the baptism of the Holy Spirit, not apart from it.

What did Jesus promise? Jesus promised that

- faith would be living, that and
- He would be with us through the Holy Spirit.
- He promised comfort and peace through the Holy Spirit and that
- He would be in us; that
- we would experience His love, that
- our faith would be of His power and not our own, that
- our faith would make us whole, that
- He would seal our faith with the Spirit,
- carry our faith, sustain our faith; that
- we would remain joined to Him, that
- He would heal the soul of Satan’s scars, that
- He would form His virtues in our inner man, and that
- He would teach us. ¹

Peter called the baptism of the Holy Spirit the “gift” (Acts 2:38) indicating that the work of the Holy Spirit is beyond our capabilities, we cannot generate the work of Christ within nor can we know God or please God apart from the Spirit. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is indeed a precious gift.

Now that we have taken a sobering look at the depth of God’s plan for our experience of Him through the baptism of the Holy Spirit we can begin to look at this promise the same way Jesus did.

¹ The Holy Spirit teaches each individual believer the mind of Christ through each cycle of growth, but the Holy Spirit does not teach doctrine to each individual believer. Acts 2:42, “And they continued steadfastly in the *Apostles doctrine* and fellowship.”



We read in Acts 1:13 that the disciples obeyed the command of Jesus not to leave Jerusalem until they were baptized with the Holy Spirit. “And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.” Verse 15 states that approximately 120 disciples were present in the upper room awaiting this event.

When the day of Pentecost was fully come these 120 disciples were all in one place, "And they were ALL filled with the Holy Ghost, and (they ALL) began to speak with other TONGUES as the Spirit gave them utterance," Acts 2:1-4.

Tongues #1 is our prayer language

All 120 disciples spoke in tongues; all shared the same experience of baptism. While many believe the purpose of this tongues was to preach the gospel, these could not be preaching the gospel in tongues for there were no unbelievers to preach to in the upper room. This experience of tongues was manifested as the prayer language that accompanies the baptism of the Holy Spirit for the edification and refreshing of the saints.

We are still talking about tongues #1, which is our prayer language, but while we are here, let's carry this through. In Acts 2:6 the scenes change. The disciples are no longer in the upper room, they are in the streets of Jerusalem where the unbelievers are gathered. The apostles then begin to preach in the language of the people, manifesting the gift of tongues, not the prayer language of tongues.

When the apostles spoke of tongues as it applied to the experience of Acts 2:4 (the baptism of the Holy Spirit), they were referring to the prayer language of tongues, also known as the “tongues of angels” (I Cor.13:1). It is called the tongues of angels because tongues is the first tool of the covenant and indicates that we are citizens of heaven. We are already speaking the language of angels. How wonderful!

The purpose of praying in tongues

I Corinthians 14:2: “For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he *speaketh mysteries.*”

I Corinthians.14:4: “.....He that speaketh in an unknown tongue *edifieth himself;*”

I Corinthians 14:14: “For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.”



As stated, praying in tongues is the first tool of the Second Covenant. Tongues is the manifestation that comes with the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Speaking mysteries to God: When praying in tongues no man understands what is being said because no man is supposed to understand. The purpose of this manifestation of tongues is not rendered towards man, but towards God. The believer is speaking in an unknown tongue, praying mysteries to God.

What are these mysteries? These mysteries have to do with the recovery of the soul from the fruits of iniquity, the healing of the soul from the effects of sin, and the release of the soul from the power of sin. The Spirit of God is using tongues to make intercession for these things.

Apostle Paul focused prayer and intercession on the healing of the soul:

Romans 8:26-27

²⁶Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our *infirmities*: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with *groanings which cannot be uttered*.

²⁷And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

When the scriptures speak of the Holy Spirit making intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered, it means that the Holy Spirit is making intercession for us as we pray in tongues.

What is the Holy Spirit making intercession about? As Paul taught in the above verses, the Spirit is making intercession for the infirmities of the soul. The Spirit of God came to indwell us to bring the salvation of Jesus Christ, to bring healing to our soul, to form Christ within, to restore the soul to the likeness of God. This is why we begin to experience regeneration and remission of sins.

The infirmities of the soul is the weakened condition of the soul because of the fall of Adam. After your conversion, your soul is like a house after a fire, it needs to be remodeled, and there is a lot of work to do. And this is what Jesus has promised to do—heal your soul—and form His nature within you.

Many teach that upon confessing Jesus as Savior we receive a brand new human spirit fully equipped with all the virtues of Christ and that salvation is about learning how to let these shine through. Experience teaches you that this is not true. The problem here is that believers never received an education about true regeneration.



Once conversion takes place God grants not only forgiveness of sins, but our freedom from the power of sin, and we experience daily healing of the soul from the damage sin caused to the inner man. *This inner healing is called regeneration.*

When the scriptures say that God “searches” the heart this means that the Spirit of the Lord is making intercession, moving from room to room in the caverns of the soul to make steps for healing to take place.

After conversion we can expect that God will focus His attention on healing your soul. For Jesus said that with His stripes we are healed (Is.53:5).

Remission of Sins: Freedom; deliverance; liberty. Remission of sins is not only the release from the penalty of sin, but the release from the bondage of sin and death.

Once the ransom had been paid for our release from sin, the transaction had to become a living and working reality in our lives. Because Jesus rose from the dead, He sent the Holy Spirit into the hearts of those who believe to bring healing.

Just as the body recovers from a deadly disease, and we say that the disease is in “remission,” God sent the Holy Ghost to cause sin to go into remission. This is why we pray in tongues. It is for this healing that the Spirit is making intercession.

Regeneration: Not only is the disease of sin and iniquity in remission through Jesus Christ, but God is causing new life to come to the soul. Regeneration is the process whereby the fruits of iniquity are removed as the fruit of Christ is born within.

God sees the scars of sin left in our soul, and the Spirit makes intercession for us as we pray in tongues, thus INITIATING the cycle of growth for Christ-Centered Spiritual Transformation® in the soul. The believer can initiate praying in tongues at will, and does not need to wait for an unction of the Spirit.

Jesus focused faith on the fruit of the Spirit

John 15:8

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

“God sees the scars of sin left in our soul, and the Spirit makes intercession for us as we pray in tongues, thus INITIATING the cycle of growth for Christ-Centered Spiritual Transformation® in the soul.”



What kind of fruit was Jesus talking about?

- The fruit of the Spirit? Or
- The fruit of evangelism?

Although evangelism is important, Jesus was talking about the fruit of the spirit. For this is why He shed His blood upon the cross for our salvation.

Apostle Paul focused faith on the fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Because bearing the fruit of Christ in the inner man glorifies God and is important to Jesus—PRAYER is FOCUSED on our spiritual growth.

After conversion we can expect that God beautifies the soul with His work. This is the will of God and the purpose of prayer.

Edification Through Tongues

The prayer language of tongues provides edification.

I Cor.14:4: “He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself.”

“*But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,*” Jude 20. The edification we feel while praying in tongues comes because of the mediation of Jesus Christ as we use this tool of the covenant.

“Because bearing the fruit of Christ in the inner man glorifies God and is important to Jesus—PRAYER is FOCUSED on our spiritual growth.”



We experience the presence of God and the peace of God because the Spirit of God is reconciling us to God through this tool, uniting us with Him. This is how God decided to manifest Himself to us after Jesus ascended back into heaven. This is what Jesus said the Comforter would do.

This “edification of self” is not selfish. This “building up of oneself” through praying in the Holy Ghost is a New Covenant commandment that the apostle Jude spoke of ([Jude 20](#)). The grace of God is manifested through this activity to bring the soul and spirit under the persuasion of the Spirit. The soul is being nourished by God through this divine tool. We can see a connection between the soul, the tool of tongues, nourishment, and the grace of God. Praying in tongues is critical for sustained communion with God as well as spiritual growth.

EDIFICATION: The edification of tongues is the impact of grace upon the soul as we labor with the tools of the covenant. As we labor with the Spirit through tongues, the will is humbled under the influence of the grace of God, the soul is being awakened, and the will receives strength. There is a great sense of peace as this tool provides a divine contact with the living God while faith is being drawn from the heart, enlarging the heart to allow an increase of fruit for God.

Some Christians say, "I get my edification from reading the bible or devotional books, or from singing praises to God." We must know that there is a specific design God placed in the tool of tongues that cannot be replaced. It goes beyond the “make me feel good” mentality. The Spirit of God initiates a path for our spiritual healing when we pray in tongues to personally create the fruit of His Son in the inner man. Praying in tongues is part of the YOKE of the New Covenant. Jesus said that His yoke is easy and His burden is light ([Mt.11:30](#)).

YOKE ---- The course you must take to know Him.

Now when we say that we BELIEVE in God this must mean that we are willing to take on this YOKE. The unbeliever does not take on the yoke of the covenant.

When we were in the world, we made provision for the flesh to fulfill the lust thereof. Now that we are in Christ, we make provision for the spirit to take on the yoke of the covenant daily. This is why we pray in tongues.

“This “edification of self” is not selfish. This “building up of oneself” through praying in the Holy Ghost is a New Covenant commandment that the apostle Jude spoke of.”



Tongues #2, the Gift

The nine gifts of the Spirit are listed in I Corinthians chapter 12. Each gift is a supernatural manifestation of God. Tongues and the interpretation of tongues are two of the nine gifts.

While all Christians will be used of God in the gifts, these are manifested as the Spirit wills, and God uses them for the edification of the Body. This is why the apostle Paul taught, "Even so you, forasmuch as you are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek that you may excel to the edifying of the church," I Cor.14:12.

- The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a gift from the Father *to all* who believe, while the gift of tongues is given *as the Spirit wills*.
- The manifestation of tongues that accompanies the baptism of the Holy Spirit is given as a prayer language the believer can initiate *anytime*, while the gift of tongues is *as the Spirit wills*.

It is because the gifts of the Spirit are manifested as the Spirit wills that Apostle Paul taught, "Do all speak in tongues? do all interpret?" I Cor.12:30. This refers to the gifts of the Spirit (tongues #2), not the baptism of the Holy Spirit evidenced by tongues (tongues #1). No, all do not have the gift of tongues or the gift of interpretation. The Spirit of God moves through some with a word of knowledge, some with a word of wisdom, some with tongues and some with interpretation.

So then,

- the manifestation of tongues #1 is *rendered towards God* and needs no interpretation for we are speaking mysteries to God.
- Tongues # 2 is NOT rendered towards God, but is *an utterance from God rendered towards man*, and that is why tongues as a gift of the Spirit needs the gift of interpretation.

“The manifestation of tongues #1 is rendered towards God and needs no interpretation for we are speaking mysteries to God.”



- Praying in tongues is *for the edification of the believer* and is done *privately*; the Spirit is making intercession for the believer towards God; the believer is speaking mysteries to God in prayer.
- The tongues that needs interpretation is done *publicly* in the assembly of believers *for the edification of all*. Look at what the apostle Paul taught, "Wherefore let him that speaks in an unknown tongue (in the assembly) pray that he may interpret," ICor.14:13.

WHY did the apostle Paul also say, "I would that you ALL spoke in tongues?" ICor.14:5. He is referring to the baptism of the Holy Spirit (tongues #1) desiring that all would make intercession in the Spirit in tongues.

If believers are not able to understand the difference between the two manifestations of tongues it would seem as if Paul is contradicting himself when he said earlier, "Do all speak in tongues?" and we might then use ICor.12:30 to give unauthorized permission to abstain from the sign of tongues as being a witness of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Remember: God engrafts the Holy Spirit within the heart of the repentant sinner to separate

“Praying in tongues is for the *edification of the believer* and is done *privately*; the Spirit is making intercession for the believer towards God; the believer is speaking mysteries to God in prayer.”

him from the world unto Himself. When we are brought into covenant with God, we find purpose through faith that never grows old because the Spirit makes it new each day.

God always requires those who love Him to also serve Him. The service must be accepted of God, and this is why God grants the baptism of the Holy Spirit. If our faith is not sealed, if we are not joined to God in covenant through the engrafting of the Spirit in us, we are not separated from the world, and we cannot serve God acceptably.

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