

The goal of the Church is to save the world from sin

Mt. 1:21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, [Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua, which means the LORD saves.] because he will save his people from their sins."

God's purpose in bringing Jesus Christ into the world was clearly stated by the angel in Mt. 1:21; to save the world from sins. Sin is rebellion towards God.

*Mt. 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
Mt. 28:20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

The Church is supposed to fulfill the Great Commission, which is all about teaching the world to obey every commandment of God.

*2Ti. 1:8 So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God,
2Ti. 1:9a who has saved us and called us to a holy life.*

Every member of the Church has been called by God to a holy life.

The origin of sin

*Ez. 28:14 You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones.
Ez. 28:15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you.*

How did wickedness enter the former guardian cherub? In the early days of man, when God transformed man into a living soul (Ge. 2:7)—a soul that can grow towards the level of God or decay towards the level of animals, angels became alarmed that God had favored the new creation above them. One third of God's angels, led by the former guardian cherub now called Satan, rebelled against God because of the elevation of mankind. But in reality, it wasn't God's plan to arbitrarily raise man towards His level. There's a condition attached, which is that man must be obedient to all commandments of God.

As soon as some angels rebelled against God, the next thing they did was to get man to disobey God's commandment. Since then, the rebellious angels have been in the business of getting mankind to disobey God's commandments. The big problem with accepting to follow the path of rebellion towards God, like Satan, is that the rebellious person instantly

loses godly spirit and acquires the spirit of rebellion, which is called sin. This was what happened to Adam and Eve. Their nature changed instantaneously, the moment they chose to disobey God's commandment.

Ge. 5:1 This is the written account of Adam's line. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God.

Ge. 5:2 He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, he called them "man". [Hebrew adam]

Ge. 5:3 When Adam had lived 130 years, he had a son in his own likeness, in his own image; and he named him Seth.

God created Adam in His likeness. Along the way sin entered Adam and he became the likeness of sin (rebellion). All the children that he had were in his new likeness—likeness of sin. The human race is therefore in the likeness of sin.

The Son of God appeared to destroy the devil's work

Ro. 7:19 For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do — this I keep on doing.

Ro. 7:20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

Sin enslaves mankind. Most human beings want to be known as good people and they would want to be always seen doing good deeds. Unfortunately, they are often not doing the good that they want to do, instead they do the evil that they do not want to do. The sinful nature within overwhelms them.

Ro. 3:25 God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood.

Jesus Christ died as a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of mankind. He thereby redeemed mankind from the power of sin. Jesus came into the world as a new man—an Adam. He was therefore the beginning of a new human race. He was qualified to save the fallen old human race because he himself is a full human race. After dying as a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the old human race, God raised him back to life, to build a new human race out of the old human race.

Mt. 13:31 He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field.

Mt. 13:32 Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches."

Mt. 13:33 He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough."

Mt. 13:31-33 is about the old human race. It started with one man—like a mustard seed, but has grown into a huge tree with billions of branches. Unfortunately, evil spirits lodge in the branches. A woman (Eve) mixed sin into the whole of human race.

Jn. 15:5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

Jesus Christ began a new tree of mankind—the vine. Quite unlike the old human tree into which we were all born biologically, people are born into the new human tree (born again) spiritually, by being baptized into Jesus Christ in water and in the Spirit. Water baptism unites a person with the death of Jesus Christ (Ro. 6:3), so that the law which says that the soul that sins must die (Ez. 18:20) is fulfilled by the death of Jesus Christ, and the person transitions from the old human tree to the new human tree, spiritually.

A member of the new human tree is qualified to receive the Holy Spirit.

Getting rid of sin

We have seen that Adam’s disobedience to God’s commandment made godly spirit to exit from him and spirit of rebellion (sin) to move into him. Getting rid of sin means causing the exit of the spirit of rebellion so that godly spirit could come in. In order to cause the exit of the spirit of rebellion, we must remember how the godly spirit was driven out. The reverse will drive out the spirit of rebellion.

Ge. 3:4 “You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman.

Ge. 3:5 “For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Ge. 3:6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

Driving out of godly spirit from man involved Satan speaking a word that contradicts the word of God. Man took some time to examine Satan’s word; while doing that, man could not have the word of God in view. During this short period of focusing on Satan’s word, man became enticed by the spirit of rebellion to go ahead and act on Satan’s word. And man finally disobeyed the word of God.

1Jn. 5:19 We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

We must bear in mind that the whole world is currently under the control of the spirit of rebellion (the evil one). The evil one enslaved mankind with lies and continues to do so to this day. Many of the things people in the world think are good life are the opposite. In order to drive out the spirit of rebellion so that the godly spirit could come in, man

should focus well enough on the commandments of God; while man is doing that, he will at least temporarily not focus on ways of Satan. Once man loses focus on the ways of Satan, the grip of the spirit of rebellion upon man weakens. It now becomes possible for man to act according to God's word.

Ep. 1:13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.

The starting point in the process of driving out the spirit of rebellion from a human being is to receive the seal of God, the Holy Spirit. In order for that to happen, the human being must believe in the gospel of Jesus Christ and then submit herself/himself for baptism into Jesus Christ in water and in the Spirit. Once a person is in Christ Jesus, s/he has been grafted into Israel, therefore every promise of God to Israel is applicable to her/him.

Ez. 36:25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols.

Ez. 36:26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

Ez. 36:27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws

God promised the people of Israel purification from sins. The promise is also applicable to every person that is in Christ Jesus. But how does a Christian get this promise to be fulfilled in her/his life?

*Ep. 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her
Ep. 5:26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word.*

Ep. 5:26 shows that washing with water of Ez. 36:25 is done through the word of God. Washing with water of Ez. 36:25 is done by God, using the word of God spoken by the Christian. How does this work?

Is. 55:10 As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,

Is. 55:11 so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

In Is. 55:11, God says that His word cannot return to Him without accomplishing what it says. So, when a Christian returns God's word to Him, the Spirit of God accomplishes what the word says in the life of the Christian. Let me show you an example of how I remove the spirit of rebellion from my life and receive godly spirit as a replacement.

Mt. 5:48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Mt. 22:37 Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’

Mt. 22:38 This is the first and greatest commandment.

Mt. 22:39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’

Mt. 22:40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Lk. 6:31 Do to others as you would have them do to you.

By your grace, Holy Father God Almighty, I shall be perfect, even as you, our heavenly father are perfect. I shall be holy and blameless. In the name of Jesus Christ.

By your grace, glorious Father God, I will always love you with all my heart and with all my soul and with all my mind and with all my strength. I shall love my neighbor as I love myself. In the name of Jesus Christ.

By your grace everlasting Father God, I shall do to others as I would have them do to me.

The above example shows how I return specific words of God to Him. I do this every morning and evening. As I continually return God’s words to Him, I see my heart becoming cleaner and cleaner. God’s righteousness is increasing in me. This is not mere story or theory. Practice continually returning God’s word to Him as illustrated in the above example and see yourself becoming free from sin.

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