

ARE YOU IN THE FAITH?

By Brother Mike Sutherland

I want to state at the outset today that we are the strongest of advocates of what theologians refer to as “The Trinity”. “The Trinity” is a theological term that describes the Biblical term “The Godhead”. The Godhead is made up of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. They are three persons in one. There is but one God manifested in three persons. They are co-equal, co-eternal, co-existent, and co-powerful. God the Father is the “first person” of the Trinity. The first 35 occurrences of the word “God” in your Bibles is translated from a uni-plural Hebrew noun. In Hebrew, you have three different states for nouns. They are singular, dual, and plural. Singular is one. Dual is two. Plural is three or more. *Deuteronomy 6:4* says that God is ONE. What that proves is that the Trinity was present at the creation. We see God in *Genesis 1:1*. We see the Spirit of God in *Genesis 1:2*. *Colossians 1:12-16* says that the Lord Jesus Christ was at the creation: in fact, he is the creator.

God the Son is the “second person” of the Trinity. God the Son has three titles. He is referred to as Lord because he is God manifest in the flesh. He is called Jesus because he is Jehovah who saves (In other words, he is the Saviour of all who will receive him). He is called Christ because he is the “Anointed One”; the promised Messiah of Israel who will rule and reign over the whole earth from the literal throne of David in the literal city of Jerusalem. His proper full title is the “Lord Jesus Christ”. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God and as such is an eternal being. He has always existed in one form or another. The Bible says in *Micah 5:2*:

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, *though* thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me *that is* to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from everlasting. *Micah 5:2*

The marginal note in the King James Bible says of the word everlasting “from the days of eternity”. The word “eternal” means without beginning and without end. The word “everlasting” means having a beginning with no end. What that means is that the God– Man, who is the crucified and resurrected Lord Jesus Christ is an everlasting being. His beginning came at the incarnation when he was conceived of the virgin Mary by the Holy Ghost. At that conception, the Word was made flesh. The Word did not become flesh or take on a robe of flesh. The Word was made flesh. Proverbs chapter 30 had this to say about God and his Son:

⁴ Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what *is* his name, and what *is* his son’s name, if thou canst tell? *Proverbs 30:4*

God the Holy Ghost is the “third person” of the Trinity. The “third person” of the Trinity in the New Testament is not the Holy Spirit in the King James Bible. The “third person” of the Trinity in the New Testament of the King James Bible is the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost is used 90 times in the New Testament. The term holy Spirit (holy spirit, Holy Spirit) is only used a total of seven times in

ARE YOU IN THE FAITH?

the King James Bible; three times in the Old Testament and four times in the New Testament. The only time both Holy and Spirit are capitalized is when they appear together is in *Luke 11:13*. When the Holy Ghost is working in any vessel of flesh including the Lord Jesus Christ he is called “the Spirit”. The word “Spirit” will always be capitalized when that is the case. The phrase “the Spirit” is used 137 times in the New Testament. When speaking of the authorship of the scriptures the “third person” of the Trinity will be referred to as the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost sews the seed of the word of God in our hearts

The Word of God is the seed that germinates in the womb of Holy Ghost conviction. Absent the Word of God or Holy Ghost conviction the embryo for a child of God will not be conceived. So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Faith is the father of salvation and repentance is the mother of salvation. Faith and repentance come together in holy matrimony to produce a born again child of God. Faith plants the seed of salvation in the womb that germinates to produce the fruit of Holy Ghost wrought repentance. Faithless repentance is fatherless salvation. Repentanceless faith is motherless salvation. Our churches in America are chock full of illegitimate children who are going to burst the pits of hell wide open. Most of them have been led in faithless sinner’s prayers that produce no fruits meet for repentance. Do you know for sure, that if you were to die today that you would not go to hell? I did not ask you that if you were to die today if you know for sure that you would go to heaven. I asked do you know for sure, that if you were to die today that you would not go to hell?. Folks, hell is a very real place of eternal fire, eternal damnation, and eternal pain from which there is no escape. 54 times the King James Bible uses the word “hell”. At least 88 times the concept of eternal punishment and damnation are mentioned in the King James Bible. The first mention of hell in both the New Testament and the Old Testament is connected with fire. If you, as a professing believer, routinely do not show forth the fruits of repentance that is God’s proof to you that you have not exercised saving faith. Can I say this? If you spend most of your professed Christian life fighting off the work of the Holy Ghost then you better check up on your salvation. If you are constantly at war with the Holy Ghost, then you are still at enmity with God. If you are constantly under condemnation, then you need to do a serious soul searching and prove to yourself that you are in the faith. The Bible says in *2 Corinthians 13:5*:

⁵ Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? 2
Corinthians 13:5

For decades now I have heard people get up in church services and state that the Devil is making them doubt their salvation. I do not believe that the Devil makes anyone doubt their salvation. Why would the devil do that? That doubt could and should motivate the professor to examine whether they are truly saved. Continuous doubt of salvation in the heart of a professing believer is God the Holy Ghost warning them that they need to examine themselves as to whether they are truly in the faith. My experience in 34 years of being saved is that when a person says the Devil is making them doubt their salvation either they are saved and in sin or, they are lost and giving credit to the Devil for the convicting work of the Holy Ghost. Doubt comes slithering out from under the rock of a

ARE YOU IN THE FAITH?

hardened or unrepentant heart. A hardened heart resisteth the work of God the Holy Ghost both unto repentance unto salvation in the unbeliever and unto repentance unto restoration to fellowship with God for the believer.

You cannot be saved and not know it. God the Holy Ghost in you is both the proof, the witness and the assurance that you have been born again. Turn in your Bibles to Romans chapter 8:

¹ *There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: ⁴ That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. ⁵ For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. ⁶ For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. ⁷ Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. ⁸ So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

¹⁰ And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. ¹¹ But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you. ¹² Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. ¹³ For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 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. ¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: *Romans 8:1-16*

There are many scriptural reasons why we say that if you are saved you will know it. You cannot have God the Holy Ghost dwelling in you and not know it. It was by the power of God the Holy Ghost that the Lord Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. It is by that same power that the virgin Mary conceived the Son of God; the Lord Jesus Christ; God manifest in the flesh. It is by that same power of the Holy Ghost that lost sinners are raised from spiritual death by being born again of the Spirit. For the lost sinner, it is the Holy Ghost that draws them, convicts them, and regenerates them. You cannot get saved anytime you want to. You can only get saved when the Holy Ghost is working in you to convict you and to draw you. It is the Holy Ghost that empowers saved sinners to live holy lives and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. What follows are ten scriptural reasons why you cannot be saved and not know it:

¹⁵ If ye love me, keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and he shall

ARE YOU IN THE FAITH?

give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; ¹⁷ *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. ¹⁹ Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. ²⁰ At that day ye shall know that I *am* in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. ²¹ He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. *John 14:15-21*

⁶ Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you: *1 Corinthians 1:6*

¹⁹ What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? *1 Corinthians 6:19*

⁵ Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? *2 Corinthians 13:5*

⁵ One Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ One God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all. *Ephesians 4:5-6*

¹³ For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure. *Philippians 2:13*

²⁵ Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; ²⁶ *Even* the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: ²⁷ To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: *Colossians 1:25-27*

²⁶ These *things* have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. ²⁷ But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. *1 John 2:26-27*

⁴ Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. *1 John 4:4*

¹⁰ He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. ¹¹ And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life

ARE YOU IN THE FAITH?

is in his Son.¹² He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.¹³ These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. *1 John 5:10-13*

So, I would ask you, do you have the Spirit of God in you? Do you know for sure that if you were to die today that you would NOT go to hell. The ten passages of scripture we just read say that if you are saved, you will have the Spirit of God in you. Yet, how is it that anyone can say that they do not know if they are saved? If you have the Holy Ghost in you, I cannot make you doubt your salvation on a continuing basis. Why would the Devil make anyone doubt their salvation? That would be counterproductive to his goals. One of Satan's greatest works is to deceive someone into believing they are saved when they are on a path straight into the pits of hell. So, is the Devil making you doubt your salvation or, is the Holy Ghost trying to warn you that you have bought into a religion that makes you twofold more a child of hell? The most often perverted Biblical doctrine man-ward is the doctrine of salvation. The second most often perverted doctrine man-ward is the Biblical doctrine of the scriptures. The most often perverted Biblical doctrine God-ward is the Trinity especially as it relates to the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost. The Lord Jesus Christ is not just some ideal man. He is God manifest in the flesh. The Holy Ghost is not just some force; he is the "third person" of the Godhead. He is directly called God in *Acts 5:3-4*. In closing, Satan is not just some evil force. He is an evil entity that possesses all the traits of personality who seeks to usurp the throne of God. He is not a fallen angel. He is the fallen, "anointed cherub" that covereth, a spirit being higher than the angels (*Ezekiel 28:11-19*)