

August Questions / Answers

**The following questions are taken from emails and are printed below exactly as I received them. Names and contact information have been removed. The answers are in note form (sorry for any of my grammar errors) to be studied through. You'll have to examine each Scripture below to see the points. Please be mindful that there are often circumstances and details to every question that could potentially change the answer (there are generally no blanket answers to Bible questions).*

1. "WHEN SEALED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THAT THE POINT THAT YOU CANT FALL AWAY?"

- From the way you have worded this question, I can tell you do not understand what it **meant** to be sealed with the Holy Spirit. So, let's begin there. Saints in the first century (remember the letters written then were not written to you or I) were sealed with the Holy Spirit (**II Corinthians 1:21-22; 5:5, Ephesians 1:13-14, and Ephesians 4:30**).
 - * The way that occurred was through the laying on of an Apostle's hands (**Acts 8:12-24 and Acts 19:1-7**).
 - * The evidences of that seal was spiritual gifts (**Acts 19:6 and I Corinthians 12:3-11**) and their being literally led by the Spirit separate and apart from the written word which was not yet completed (**Romans 8:14 and I John 2:27**).
 - * Prior to the Scriptures being fully revealed, the giving of the Holy Spirit was their evidence that they were saved (**I John 3:24; 4:13**). The Scriptures were not complete to give them any other proof. The working of the Spirit and spiritual gifts was for proof and discerning truth vs. error in a time wherein the word of God was yet to be fully revealed (**Mark 16:15-20, Acts 10:1-11:18, Acts 14:3, and Romans 15:15-21**).
 - * There are no Apostles today. That tells you that the Holy Spirit is not being given today. Furthermore, spiritual gifts have ceased (**I Corinthians 12:28-31; 13:8-13**) as we now have the fully revealed perfect [complete] word of God (cf. **James 1:25**). We are fully equipped through His word (**II Timothy 3:15-17 and II Peter 1:1-11**).
 - * When you are studying the New Testament, you must keep in mind that there were differences then from today. The direct working of the Spirit then, not today, changes how many Scriptures are applied. Be careful. Even with Scriptures about how the Holy Spirit worked then, there were differences (**Romans 12:6-8**).
- Having made that clearer (hopefully), those who had the Spirit working through them were able to fall away (**Galatians 3:1-5; 1:6-9**).
- If a person belongs to God, being a disciple of the Lord, he or she can fall away. Such has always been the case (**Genesis 3:1-24, Jeremiah 3:1-25, Hosea 4:1-6, Luke 8:13, Acts 8:12-24, I Corinthians 9:24-27, I Corinthians 10:1-12, Galatians 5:4, Galatians 5:7-9, I Timothy 4:1, Hebrews 3:12-13, Hebrews 6:4-6, Hebrews 10:26-31; 38, II Peter 2:20-22, Revelation 2:1-3:22, and Revelation 22:18-19**).

2. "why do you abrahmics worship a god that is partial , promotes narrow mindness , jealous of other gods , not at all loving to all his creation , and full of humanly emotions?"

- I am not sure what YOU mean by identifying me as being among "abrahmics". I am a child of Abraham, but not according to the flesh (**Galatians 3:7; 26-29**).

- I am not sure what you mean by “partial”. If that you mean He is not a fair judge, a respecter of persons, you are incorrect (**II Chronicles 19:7, Romans 2:11, Ephesians 6:9, Colossians 3:22-25, James 2:1-12, and I Peter 1:17**). He has granted equal opportunity of redemption for all sinners, everywhere (**Matthew 28:18-20 and I John 2:1-2**).
- God does promote narrow mindedness [*if* by that you mean not willing to entertain other people’s ideas] (**Psalms 1:1-6, Psalms 119:97-128, Proverbs 1:10-31, Proverbs 9:6, Proverbs 23:23, Matthew 7:13-23, Matthew 15:1-14, Matthew 16:6-12, John 14:6, I Corinthians 1:18-3:11, Ephesians 4:1-6, Ephesians 5:6-11, Colossians 2:4-23, I Timothy 5:22, II John 1:9-11, etc.**).
- God is jealous [*if* by that you are talking about how He does not want His followers to worship idols, etc.] (**Exodus 34:14, Deuteronomy 4:24, Joshua 24:15-21, Nahum 1:2, and I Corinthians 10:14**). If by calling God jealous you are saying He does not permit His people to love anyone but Him, you are sorely mistaken (**Luke 6:35, Ephesians 5:25, Hebrews 13:1, Titus 2:3-5, etc.**).
- Your charge that He does not love His creation is false and His actions prove such (**John 3:16-18, Romans 5:6-10, and I John 4:7-10**).
- God does have emotions (**Genesis 6:5-6, Joshua 23:16, II Chronicles 36:15, Psalms 7:11, Psalms 78:38, Proverbs 6:16-19, Isaiah 65:17-19, Luke 19:41-44, John 11:5; 14; 32-35, John 12:27, John 13:21, Hebrews 5:5-7, etc.**), but I am not sure what you mean by saying he is full of human emotions. How do you define that? Man was created in HIS image (**Genesis 1:26-27**), not the other way around. Emotions originated with Him, not with man. I hope you understand that there is a difference between having emotions and being led by emotions. Note this study: <http://www.wordsoftruth.net/BulletinJuly082018.pdf>
- So, why do I worship Him? There is no short answer to that one and there are more reasons than I can count. I will say this, I worship the good and severe (**Romans 11:22**) Creator of Heaven, earth, humanity, etc. (**Isaiah 40:28**) because I want to and love doing so. It is what is due Him (**Revelation 4:11**). If you learned of Him through His word you would fall in love with Him too and would want to serve and worship Him. I initially sought to serve Him out of fear of being lost spiritually (**Proverbs 1:7, Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, and Philippians 2:12**), but since then have grown to love Him even aside from my desire for salvation. I could not explain this to you. Thus, I will not try. I will repeat, if you learn of Him properly you would understand His way of thinking to some degree and would appreciate the simplicity of all He has done. You would love Him once you learned of His love for you (**I John 4:19**). Jesus said: *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and **learn of me**; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light”* (**Matthew 11:28-30**).

3. “I was reading something you wrote on your website and was really pleased with it until I came to you saying something about brown bagging the Lord’s supper with discussing taking it to nursing homes being wrong. If it is wrong to take the Lord’s supper to older members and those that are shutins how are they supposed to worship?”

- The Lord’s Supper is only authorized to be partaken of on the first day of the week when the saints assemble together for that purpose (**Acts 20:7**). The requirement of

when the saints assemble is so significant that the congregation errs if they do not wait for all to assemble for that purpose (**I Corinthians 11:18-33**).

- The Lord's Supper is referred to as "communion" (**I Corinthians 10:16**). That term means "fellowship" and "joint participation" (Strong's # 2842).
- Therefore, there is ZERO authority for anyone, who is not assembled on the first day of the week with faithful saints, to partake of the unleavened bread and fruit of the vine in remembrance of the Lord's death. To act without our Lord's authority is wrong; thus sinful (**Leviticus 10:1-2, Deuteronomy 4:2, Deuteronomy 12:32, Deuteronomy 29:29, II Samuel 7:1-7, Isaiah 8:20, Jeremiah 7:30-31, Luke 6:46, Luke 11:28, John 14:15, John 14:23-24, I Corinthians 4:6, Galatians 1:6-12, Ephesians 5:10, Colossians 3:17, I Thessalonians 5:21, II Timothy 1:13, James 1:21-25, James 2:10-12, I John 2:3-6, I John 3:1-10, I John 5:2-3, II John 1:9, and Revelation 22:18-19**).
- Under the Law of Moses, which we are not to obey today (**Romans 7:1-6, Galatians 5:4, and Colossians 2:6-15**), when an Israelite missed the Passover the Lord authorized a make-up (**Numbers 9:1-14**). There is no such authority given for anyone missing the Lord's Supper to be able to later partake. If God wanted a "make-up", He would have indicated it as He did under the Law of Moses.
- I do have something else for you to consider... Why are you concerned with someone who cannot assemble with the saints missing the Lord's Supper and NOT concerned about everything else they miss by not assembling with the saints (**Romans 10:14-17, I Corinthians 14:14-17; 16:1-2, Colossians 3:16, I Thessalonians 5:11-14, Hebrews 10:22-25, etc.**)????

4. "Do babies who die go to heaven?"

- Let me begin with saying that no human being [except Jesus] has ascended to Heaven yet (**John 3:13**; cf. **Acts 2:34**). Those whom die in the flesh live in hades [often translated Hell in the KJV; i.e. **Acts 2:22-33**] either in paradise or torment (**Luke 16:19-31, Luke 23:37-43, and I Peter 3:18-22**) until the return of Christ wherein all will be judged and sent to their place of eternity (**Matthew 25:31-46**).
- Regarding babies... Spiritual death is a result of sin (**Romans 6:23 and Revelation 21:8**). Sin is transgression of God's law (**I John 3:4**), acts of unrighteousness (**I John 5:17**). For a person to be able to sin, they have to have the capability of reason enough to choose to obey or disobey the will of the Lord (**James 4:17**). Babies are innocent and incapable of such. The fact is, children serve as an example of what sinners are to become like (**Matthew 18:1-4**).
- Another fallacy is the idea that children inherit sin. That too is false (**Ezekiel 18:1-20**).

5. "How long should the Church bear with a member that refuses to confess sin though it is obvious there is a need to do so?"

- I am going to figure that since the need for confession exists and is "obvious" that this is not a private matter that should be dealt with in accordance with **Matthew 18:15-17**. So, if it is a private matter that is obvious to you but not the whole congregation; you need to back up and follow the process in **Matthew 18:15-17**. What I am going to write from here forward is based upon the premise that this situation is a known,

public matter, that is sinful in accordance with the Scriptures and not just the opinion(s) of men.

- Even with the above statement, this is too difficult to answer with a blanket statement. Variables could exist that would change the answer (**Proverbs 18:13**). We know there is a time wherein some need “space for repentance” (**Revelation 2:18-23**). We also know that there is too much time as well (**I Corinthians 5:1-9**).
- Here are some things (not an exhaustive list at all) you could consider in answering this question...
 - * Do you know why this person has done this obvious transgression (ex. **Romans 14:10**, **I Corinthians 6:7**, and **Galatians 2:14**)?
 - * Has this person been rebuked and given the opportunity to confess and repent of this sin (**Luke 17:3-4** and **Galatians 2:11-17**)?
 - * Is this person spiritually capable of learning about what they have done or is there some other underlying issue that needs resolved first (**I Corinthians 3:1-3**)?
 - * Has the congregation been longsuffering and forbearing (**Ephesians 4:1-3**) without compromising the truth (**Philippians 1:27**)?
 - * Is this person’s transgression spreading to others or going to potentially spread to others (**Galatians 5:7-9**)?
 - * Is this person divisive and thus in need of immediate removal from among the saints (**Romans 16:17-18**)?
 - * Has this person rejected multiple, clear admonitions (**Titus 3:9-11**)?
- Your goal should be first, to restore this lost individual (**James 5:19-20** and **Jude 1:22-23**; cf. **Luke 15:1-32**).
- Yet, if this person is rebellious and refuses correction, there is no alternative but to have the brethren withdraw themselves from him or her (**II Thessalonians 3:6; 14-15**). With those whom refuse instruction, God has left us a pattern to follow from old (**Proverbs 1:20-33** and **Matthew 15:1-14**).
- Here are a few lessons to consider on this for more study:
 - http://www.wordsoftruth.net/truerepentance_byeager2009.html
 - <http://www.wordsoftruth.net/leadthemoutorletalone062011byeager.htm>
 - <http://www.wordsoftruth.net/wotvol12/wotbulletin03252012.html>