

**Take the HIGHWAY!**

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(Australia)

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#### Bible verse referencing convention

If the text refers to a particular verse in the passage of scripture quoted, then the reference will *precede* the verse. In all other cases, the reference will appear at the end of the verse.

#### Abbreviations

EMTV	English Majority Text Version
ERV	Easy to Read Version
YLT	Youngs Literal Translation
MKJV	Modern King James Version
KJV	King James Version
Viz.	Namely

*Dedicated to my teachers, my instructors and all those who are genuine fathers in the faith, who have helped lay foundational truths in my life that has subsequently enabled me to become a person of an understanding heart.*

*This book would not have been possible without the guidance, prayers, teaching and perseverance of those men and women of faith who have gone this way before me.*

And a highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called, The Way of Holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it. But He shall be with them; the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err in it. Isa 35:8 MKJV



# CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1	Who is God?	1
CHAPTER 2	God Creates Light	9
CHAPTER 3	Walking in the Light	18
CHAPTER 4	The Works of Faith From the Beginning	24
CHAPTER 5	What Judgement?	30
CHAPTER 6	Faith that Works	35
CHAPTER 7	What Does it Mean to be Born Again?	43
	Part 1 - Born of Water	46
	Part 2 - Baptism in the Holy Spirit	54
	Part 3 - The Baptism of Fire	60
CHAPTER 8	Who am I?	70
CHAPTER 9	Finding Our Place	79
CHAPTER 10	What is Genuine Fellowship?	89
Appendix A	What is Sin?	97
Appendix B	A Disquisition on the Seven Days of Creation	104
Appendix C	Practical Aspects to be Considered in Seeking Genuine Fellowship	112
	Summary Scriptures	121
	Recommended Reading	123
	Resource Reference Works (Genesis)	125

## PREFACE

We are blessed to be living in such a time as this where Christ's body is at last coming together, not only in love, but also in right order of godly relationships - but there is a headwind of traditional ways that wants to drag the Church of the Living God back to former ways. We need grace for *today* - not former days - glorious as those days may have been back then.

In many ways the Church has unfortunately suffered a major cardiac arrest in her failure to love and believe. She is on life support dependant on government tax benefits and accreditations in order to survive. Conformity to the unspoken Church "rules of engagement" has now become our measure of belonging to the Church.

There has been many an injustice committed in churches throughout the nations for the sake of order, conformity to constitutions, order of service, submission (often demanded by elders/pastors/leaders), or countless other aberrations that have become the norm in the name of Christian service - and the saints tolerate it for the sense of *belonging* - or they simply stop going to Church altogether!

This book has been written with a mind towards those who have been hurt, wounded, dislocated, deceived, abused, excommunicated and anything else thrown at people who have become a victim of a church religious system. Jesus is the Great Shepherd of the sheep and knows how to find, care for and heal all those who need restoration. We are either victim or victor - if you feel like you're a victim, then this book is for you.

There have been some things that have been a millstone around the church's neck for centuries. Generally speaking, the various churches of today haven't been able to grow beyond the beliefs, faith or understanding of their leaders or founding fathers<sup>1</sup>. All that is about to change.

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<sup>1</sup> Admittedly there was a time (and still exists unfortunately in some places) that it was indeed necessary for strict order to be maintained, as many came into the assembly ignorant, illiterate, unrepentant, drunk, demonized or just worldly. Order needed to be maintained for proper teaching and instruction into the way of salvation.



**We are about to see a very different Church emerge in the days ahead that will not be restricted by the trappings of an 'old system.' New wine is about to expand into new wineskins.**

If you are discontent with the present system of 'doing church', then perhaps God has been preparing you for something new?

Are we ready for the 'new wine'? Jesus said that those who taste new wine immediately prefer the old wine.<sup>2</sup> Why is that so?

We need to become *accustomed* to the 'new wine'.

The old traditional ways of 'doing church' that suppresses the leading of the Holy Spirit amongst the many-membered Body of Christ *must* make way for the new. Yes, the old ways 'tastes' better but we cannot cling to the old any longer. It is time for God's glory to be revealed in His Church for all the world to see and behold. There have been revivals in the past but the 'old wine skins' could never retain it - they always burst. The time is now for all of us to come into the fellowship of the 'new.'

Has the enemy made Church a comfort zone to put us all to sleep?<sup>3</sup> Maybe!

My faith in writing this book is that you, the reader, will see and comprehend, and be built up into the godly relational structure of holy living that has been designed and ordained by God for you personally. It is not a one-size-fits-all conformity to church meetings and agendas that stifles individual faith and initiative.

We need to cast out the familiar *religious* structure (the old wineskins) that we are all so familiar with (a structure that binds faith and suppresses growth) in order to find our God-given rightful place in the new. For faith to grow, fear and doubts must go. We must allow God to raise up true elders to lead the Church in the way it needs to grow.

At last, every member of the body of Christ will begin to *know* who they are in Christ as a functional viable member of His glorious body growing up into the fullness of Him. We too often sacrifice people on the altar of our theology. That is a red flag warning that we are fundamentally wrong. This must change.

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<sup>2</sup> Luke 5:37-39

<sup>3</sup> A metaphor for causing our faith to become dormant. Inactive.

**WARNING:** The temptation for many will be to jump ahead to a chapter that grabs your interest. I urge you to resist that temptation and proceed through the various chapters in much the same way as proceeding through a course of study. This is essential as there is much that has to be established fundamentally – like building blocks – so that a proper understanding of the foundational principles of the doctrine of Christ may be had. There is a sequential path that needs to be followed or else the conclusion may be a giant; Huh? What’s he talking about?

Feel free to digress to the appendices when they appear – they are included by way of explanatory blocks that would otherwise distract from the main theme of the chapter.

Will you come on this journey with me through the pages of this book, and as each page of each chapter is turned, a new adventure will begin in the discovery of all things becoming new. It is a Highway for the holy of the Lord.

## Acknowledgements

e-Sword - An invaluable resource linking original text to Strong's Concordance.

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I am deeply indebted to the many proof-readers and Biblical scholars who have freely given of their advice, helpful criticisms and encouragement to make this publication more readable and less doctrinally obscure.

A special thank you to my wife who has tirelessly read and corrected the *plethora* of grammatical mistakes in previous versions of this manuscript before it finally became acceptable for publication.

## INTRODUCTION

The Lord our God has made a way for us to enter into His presence and be of His very own nature that we may have fellowship with Him and with one-another.

God has made a way for us that is a Highway of Holiness. Not everyone can walk on this highway - the unclean, the proud, the arrogant will stumble trying to find it. Ironically it is for those who have chosen the 'narrow way'<sup>4</sup> - the humble, the poor in spirit, the meek - those being sanctified by the washing of the water of the Word.<sup>5</sup>

So often we can make our Christian lives miserable simply because we compromise our walk. A little bit of *His* way mixed with a little bit of *our* way. It just does not work! God will not bless anything outside of what He has already designed and purposed for us.

Who am I? Who is God? Who are you? What have you to do with me? And what am I supposed to be doing here on planet earth anyway? These questions and many more begin to be answered when we see things from God's perspective and begin to walk in it. It is the only perspective that takes away our blindness and settles the soul.

In a nutshell these questions find their answer through this simple analogy: In all things Real Estate, the catch cry is position, Position, POSITION. In all things pertaining to God and man, it is **relationship, Relationship, RELATIONSHIP**. I cannot emphasise this enough! If we miss this foundational truth, we miss everything! God is love. Love is expressed in and through relationship. If we get this wrong, we understand nothing.

Through the pages of this book, the author will take you on a journey beginning with God at a time 'before the beginning' and ending in the culmination of all things in Him - in His Body, the Church. This book intends to reveal the mystery of God that has been hidden throughout the ages and is now being revealed in these end-times in order that the Church may grow up into the FULLNESS of Christ.

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<sup>4</sup> Matt.7:14

<sup>5</sup> Eph.5:26

It's not only about God saving souls, but it is about Him also taking us through to restoration of relationships in holiness so that His glory may be fully revealed in us.

The days of playing church as an 'adult' babe are over. God wants his church fully operational and functional as it ought to be according to His design and purpose, no longer ensnared with false doctrines, demonic strongholds, and relational immaturity.

For far too long the church has been ineffective (mostly) and powerless in the face of a great satanic onslaught that she has been battling against for centuries. It is now time for the emergence of a victorious church that has overcome every hinderance, obstacle and stronghold. We cannot be victorious in battle if we are shackled with our immaturities.

Who am I? Who are you? And Who is God? We can answer these questions when we discover what God himself has to say about this, and what it means to have a foundation laid within our hearts of normal, relational, victorious Christian living. It all begins with Him opening our eyes so that we can believe what he says about this most important subject that is revealed throughout His Word, and our complete willingness to accept and obey what He is saying to his Church today.

It is well to remind ourselves that God has no intention of building His glorious Church on faulty foundations that are partially of our own design and workmanship. We must build wisely according to what He has planned and ordained for this end of the age. His way is a Highway of holiness in the midst of all opposition that we may face as we daily walk with Him.



# CHAPTER 1

## WHO IS GOD?

*"... I can know God only as He reveals Himself to me. I cannot know Him by embracing a system of teaching about Him. I cannot know Him by looking at myself or my father and projecting the best in us to its ultimate dimension. God must reveal Himself, and He does that through His word – through the written word called the Bible and through the living Word, His son, Jesus Christ..." Jerry Cook <sup>1</sup>*

It is essential that we begin at the beginning, for all our beginnings are in God and emanate from God. If we have a skewed idea of who God is, then we will end up with a skewed idea of all that God has created and what He is doing in and with His creation.

God is Spirit and we are flesh – albeit created beings in the *image* of God.<sup>2</sup> But can we discover what God is *like* by examining the image – i.e. ourselves? Certainly not! We know this to be true when we see two people who we might say are the ‘spitting image’ of each other – we see an uncanny resemblance - but they are nothing *like* each other. We need to look elsewhere – other than ourselves – to see what God is *like* - to understand His nature. Is He a God that cannot be known?<sup>3</sup>

It is fortunate for us that God *does* want to reveal Himself to us and He has been doing that throughout the ages in several most powerful ways, notably:

1. God reveals Himself in His creation<sup>4</sup> – just like an artist or sculptor reveals something of themselves in their artwork. We can see for

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<sup>1</sup> Quote: "A Few Things I've Learned Since I Knew It All" by Jerry Cook with Stanley Baldwin. P.49 ISBN 0-8499-0679-2 Word Publishing. Dallas TX USA

<sup>2</sup> Gen.1:26

<sup>3</sup> Agnostics believe this.

<sup>4</sup> For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.

instance; attention to detail, perhaps the artist's mood or intellect, financial restraints in the quality of the material etc. Some works of art would require the artist to have a degree in structural engineering, or at least a thorough understanding of the physical properties of the material including the aesthetics of; colour, light, shape and perhaps even sound and texture. Likewise, we see God – the Creator of the universe in much the same way.

2. God has (and does) reveal Himself through direct communication with man. He created man to be able to hear and communicate with his Creator. The most common way that we use is through prayer - a spoken voice (as Jesus demonstrated), or even a prayer uttered from the heart only (as many can testify).

Sin<sup>5</sup> is the greatest impediment to our communication with God, and because we were born with a propensity to sin, sin had to be dealt with. This brings us to the third way in which God has revealed Himself to us.

3. Jesus the Son of God came in flesh. At the appointed time, a virgin woman, Mary, gave birth to Jesus who is God in flesh.

Jesus came to reveal the Father to us. He condemned the religious system of the day because it was hindering the people from finding relationship with the Father. Jesus was revealing the Father's love in all that He did. For those who had eyes to see, they could behold the Father, Son and Holy Spirit working together for our salvation. God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.<sup>6</sup>

4. God reveals Himself to us through the written word – the Holy Bible. The record of the things that God did and said were recorded by faithful men over thousands of years. This record is available to us today - to study and allow God to speak to us as He did to the scribes and prophets of old. God has placed a seal on His word that we can be assured that it is His word.<sup>7</sup>

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Rom.1:20

<sup>5</sup> See Appendix A. What is Sin?

<sup>6</sup> Matt.3:16,17. 1Jn.5:7, 2 Cor.5:19

<sup>7</sup> See Gematria – Ivan Panin at end notes. Note: Almost all of Panin's wonderful works proving a mathematical seal on the Bible has now disappeared from the internet. What remains are his 'lesser works' where he erroneously attempted to rewrite portions of the Bible based on his mathematical discoveries in gematria. There have even been attempts to fraudulently use his work



5. Acts of God. This isn't necessarily the acts of nature that we refer to as 'Biblical' in its catastrophic nature, but more to do with God's direct intervention in our way of life. E.g. Saul seeing a blinding bright light and hearing the voice of God speak to him.<sup>8</sup> Although not quite so spectacular for most of us, He does still grab our attention through His voice speaking clearly to us in our innermost being - also in dreams and visions, angelic appearances, and "God-coincidences" that have no other explanation.

Down through the generations, God has been revealing Himself and His way of life to us little by little, but man has never really understood God. Man's response to God has nearly always been in a 'religious' kind of way. I.e., we initiate an action (praise, worship, offerings etc.) *expecting* God to respond towards us favourably in some way. Man's religious efforts has created all sorts of sacrificial systems of worship with its mysticism and idolatrous behaviours. God isn't impressed with our religious ways - He just wants us to accept *His ways*.

It is the purpose of this book (amongst other things) to draw open the veil that separates us mortals from our loving God and not just to behold His *acts*, but to behold His *ways*. The early Church were known as a people of the 'way' because they lived a different '*way*'. They understood God's '*way*' even as Moses did.

*He made known His ways to unto Moses, His acts unto the children of Israel. Ps. 103:7*

What was this 'way' that Moses could see, but the rest of Israel were blind to see?

Let us begin by looking into the heart of God.

There was a time when it would have been impertinent to the highest degree, for unholy sinful man to even consider examining the heart and motives of a holy God.

It is through Christ and by the grace of God that we, by the Holy Spirit

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to validate other Greek texts than the Textus Receptus which he used.

<sup>8</sup> Acts 9:3-8

dwelling within us, can behold the glory of the Father through the provision that Christ has made for us to do so.<sup>9</sup> We *can* know God and be known by Him!

When we consider God, we must not venture to believe Him to be someone that we imagine Him to be, rather He is who He reveals himself to be. To do otherwise is idolatry. We would be worshiping a false god, a god of our own imagination!

God has revealed himself in various ways and at various times throughout history. It is not the purpose of this book to cover this fascinating journey of God's revelation of himself to mankind, but to accept the fact that He *has* revealed himself, most notably through Jesus, the Son of God by demonstrating to us the love of God to us in human flesh.

Throughout scripture, we see that God has revealed himself as a triune God.<sup>10</sup> We know God as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are *one* yet have their own separate identities just as you and I have our own separate individual identities.

God is love. God is eternal and God is Holy<sup>11</sup>. These truths are without contention amongst those who are approved of God and know God who is the truth. There are many excellent theological books that examine this subject in greater depth.

When we look at how God has revealed himself in the person of Jesus, we see an historical event that has happened just over two thousand years ago that has been recorded in the gospels by four different authors.<sup>12</sup> If we look at the book of John for instance, we read in chapter 1 verse 18 that the Son was *begotten* of the Father. (There are many references attesting to the fact that Jesus is the begotten Son of God).<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> 1 Cor. 2:10-12

<sup>10</sup> Proving that God is three persons is not the subject matter for this book.

<sup>11</sup> God is also Light. Rev.21:23, 22:5. It is noteworthy that the combination of three primary-coloured lights (red, green and blue) gives white light. White light can be refracted into seven primary colours of the rainbow. Is.11:2 and Rev.5:6 speak of Seven Spirits of God, underscoring the truth concerning the capacity of God to reveal Himself in His creation. White light when separated into its individual wavelengths of energy, is revealed as seven visible colours – never three. That is why we can do an injustice to ourselves in studying God primarily as 'three' rather than 'seven'. Note that candlestick in Moses' tabernacle shone with seven lamps on seven branches. Ex.25:31,32. Num.8:2.

<sup>12</sup> Matthew, Mark Luke and John

<sup>13</sup> Jn.3:16; Acts 13:33; Heb.1:5,5; 1 Jn.4:9 to name a few.

Now when we consider God who is from the beginning, who is ETERNAL, we have an immediate problem. How is it that God the Father can beget (bring into being) a Son if the Son is an eternal being too!

The very phrase that says that “God sent His only begotten Son into the world” is a seeming contradiction to what we know to be true about God’s eternal being. The Jehovah Witnesses have ensnared many a believer with this very argument and unfortunately many Christians do not have an answer to this fundamental theological issue. It would seem to many, that the Father must be “older” than the Son by some measure of time. But that is impossible!

The answer to this paradoxical dilemma is found in the way that the Word of God uses natural or earthly terms to express eternal or spiritual truths.

When we think of an earthly father *begetting* a son, we think in terms of bringing into existence a son through means of procreation. When we think this way, we can say, yes, there was a time that the son didn’t exist, and then after the birthing event (through his wife), we now have a son brought into existence. Now when we think of our heavenly Father bringing into existence a Son, we need to think differently.

When Jesus came in flesh into this world through a natural birth as a baby,<sup>14</sup> it wasn’t this event that the Father is referring to when He says that He has begotten a Son. Rather it is the RELATIONSHIP of father/son that came into existence long beforehand and is now manifested in human flesh.

The Son was begotten (and confirmed to be begotten) in several separate occasions. The first being before the beginning of the world.

Let us consider the verse in Revelations that says: “*And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*”<sup>15</sup>

We well know that the Lamb spoken of here is Jesus, the sacrificial Lamb that takes away the sins of the world. John the Baptist said so.<sup>16</sup> But how can He be slain from the foundation of the world when history records that He was crucified around 33 AD?

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<sup>14</sup> Albeit conceived by the Holy Ghost. Matt.1:20

<sup>15</sup> Rev. 13:8

<sup>16</sup> Jn.1:29

Here is a clumsy explanation, but hopefully it will enable us to get the idea: Let us begin way back before creation and before anything was even thought of or conceived of in the heart of God about anything! What do we know about God at this point before the beginning? Well, some things never change, viz. we know that the nature or essence of God is that God is Love.<sup>17</sup> God did not *choose* to love when the human race came into being, but *love* is of His very *essence*.<sup>18</sup>

I'll defer from referring to the triune persons of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit for now by way of explanation: Before God had "names" by which we could refer to them separately, God was simply known as Elohim in the Hebrew language which simply meant "One who is worshipped."

Before we come to the point in time when God began to reveal himself as a compound unity (like our word "crew" which is singular but is a collective noun signifying many members), we'll just call each Person of the Godhead, say, Identities A, B and C without anyone being greater or lesser than the other.

Now the identities of each person in the Godhead is unique. They are not interchangeable with one another, and neither can any do *works* independent of the other.<sup>19</sup>

At some point before time (time is locked in with creation), one of the members of the Godhead INITIATED out of PURE LOVE the desire to express that selfsame love towards created beings (created in their image).

None of the other members of the Godhead have the capacity to initiate something so wonderful into existence. The One who has this "seed-thought-capacity" is expressing "Father-love," hence He is the **Father-love** member of the Godhead.

When the Father conceived of His plan for the love of God to be shared and expressed in and through a multitude of beings, the other members of the Godhead joined with the Father to see it fulfilled. They counselled together in fellowship.<sup>20</sup> Can you imagine the computing power of the three persons in the Godhead devising and structuring the purpose-built universe with

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<sup>17</sup> 1 Jn.4:8. God is Love, God is Light and God is also Holy. This defines the essence of who God is.

<sup>18</sup> God cannot be a singular identity as love would of necessity be self-love i.e. narcissism which is self-idolatry

<sup>19</sup> Jesus did the works of the Father demonstrating His capacity to lay down His life and become a slave. More on this in later chapters. John 5:36, 10:37

<sup>20</sup> Job 12:13; Prov.8:14; Is.46:10; Heb.6:17

all the attention to detail in his earthly creation!

All the super-computers in the whole world, networking together and running for billions of years would never get close to the intricate design contained in a fly's DNA - one of earth's least remarkable creatures - let alone the hundreds of thousands of animal and plant species found under the sea, on land and in the sky.

Impregnated in each species is a brain specifically wired so that it knows what to eat, what not to eat, how and when to breed, how to communicate, how to move, run, fly etc. etc. None of this evolved but was carefully designed and then created out of absolutely nothing!<sup>21</sup>

Because God was able to see the beginning from the end, He knew what would happen after he set his creation in motion. He could see that there was going to be a problem by giving man a freewill, and having multitudes of angelic beings (designed to be our protectors and ministering servants) also subject to self-will! The inevitable was going to happen. There was going to be rebellion, insurrection, defiance, envy, hatred, murder, and everything else that was contrary to the love-life of self-giving that was the life-force within the Godhead.<sup>22</sup>

It was at this point that the Three within the Godhead knew that there would need to be a rescue plan built into the creation plan. The Holiness of God could not just forgive and forget. There had to be a way to redeem mankind back to Himself and destroy sin. There had to be a Redeemer<sup>23</sup> and it had to be one of them! It is here that the second person of the Trinity knew that it was within His own *grace-capacity*<sup>24</sup> to become a "sacrificial lamb"<sup>25</sup> and suffer death for the sake of all mankind.<sup>26</sup>

When this Second Person of the Godhead GAVE himself in complete obedience to the Father, it was at this point that the Father could say "this day I have begotten a Son." At various steps in obedience to the Father's

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<sup>21</sup> Evolution: a theory devised by wicked man as an insult to his Creator.

<sup>22</sup> He even foresaw that man would believe that he just evolved out of nothing.

<sup>23</sup> Redeem: To buy back that which was previously in your own possession.

<sup>24</sup> Grace capacity: The ability to do something that is uniquely theirs to do. E.g. playing music is a grace capacity of a musician.

<sup>25</sup> Sacrificial lamb: A practice within Israel where an innocent lamb was slaughtered as a substitute for the sins of the people. Jesus was proclaimed to be just such a Lamb by John the Baptist in John 1:29.

<sup>26</sup> Rev.13:8

will while Jesus was on earth, the Father reaffirmed these words of declaration and comfort.<sup>27</sup>

The third Person in the Godhead is the Holy Spirit. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to safeguard the relationships within the fellowship of God. He not only gives *power* to the Word expressed, but also *preserves* their unique identities in the fellowship of love. He both *empowers* and *constrains*.

But what does it mean to safeguard the relationships within the fellowship of God?

Love has it's bounds, otherwise the Father would have given Himself as a sacrifice rather than sending His Son whom He loved. This gives us an insight into how we must love also. We cannot overstep our bounds for the sake of love. We cannot take the place of another that God is wanting to chasten. There is a *love-power* that constrains us.

The love of God will sometimes compel us to *do*, and sometimes it will constrain us *not to do*. It can be painful either way.

A practical example of this can be seen where 'love' can be corrupted in a most terrible way, for example, when a 'loving' mother or father steps in-between their child and someone of authority trying to bring discipline to their child as a means of developing godly character, e.g. a sports coach. It may seem like love to 'protect', but it isn't love when the consequences of not disciplining come to fruition. We all know what a spoilt brat is like. Each must bear their own guilt and become accountable for their own actions. It is the Holy Spirit that allows love to work, but it must be without interference from those who want to act with 'good intentions.'

Jesus said that the disciples would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them as was the case on the Day of Pentecost<sup>28</sup> and has been with the Church ever since. What the power of the Holy Spirit is, and how the Holy Spirit works is covered in a little more detail in a later chapter. Suffice to say here that the Holy Spirit jealously guards the will, and the purpose, that the Father has predestined for us from the beginning.

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<sup>27</sup> Psalm 2:7, Hebrews 1:5, 5:5

<sup>28</sup> Pentecost: A sacred feast celebrated by Israel (See Leviticus chapter 23) but had an historical fulfilment when 120 disciples gathered in an upper room fifty days after the crucifixion of Jesus and experienced an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.