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## **THE SIN OF DENOMINATIONALISM: 7 THINGS THAT EVERY BELIEVER SHOULD KNOW**

by

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**“.....When the Son of Man comes, will He find the Faith on the Earth?”**

**The words of Jesus, quoted from Lk. 18:8 from the Literal New Testament Greek**

1. **Denominationalism is of the Devil.** Cooperate with it and you are cooperating with the Devil and doing his work for him. **It divides the body of Christ.** If you are in it, you are sanctioning it by your presence and cooperation, testimonies that you agree with what they are doing. The Book of Acts (Chapter 2) says that the true church does everything in **UNITY** and **ONE ACCORD** (AGREEMENT). Jesus said that **there is only ONE THING, ONE CRITERION, by which we judge something if it is of God: FRUIT.** Is the fruit good or bad? If the Bible says that the church operates in unity and one accord, and **the fruit of denominationalism is division and separation, then the fruit is bad,** and it is of the Devil and contrary to God, His Will, and His Word.

2. All denominationalism is the work of a demonic religious spirit, a spirit of religion, which divides. It is enhanced through the efforts of the flesh of man. That is the reason why, at denominational worship services, it is difficult in many instances to perceive the anointing, because the anointing is quenched, opposed and stifled. The religious spirit does this by energizing the "flesh" of the members of the congregation, since the demon cannot directly go against the Holy Spirit. Because He cannot directly oppose the Holy Spirit, he indirectly opposes the Holy Spirit by energizing the "flesh" of the church members ( Gal.5:17) and also by putting a spirit of stupor or sleep upon them.

3. That religious spirit in every denomination has a master, and his name is Satan. Jesus said: **"NO MAN CAN SERVE TWO MASTERS."** Pastors who are willing to be pastors in a denominational church are serving two masters....Christ AND Satan, whether they know it or not. They are doing the Lord a great disservice, whether they know it or not. They are worshipping Christ and dancing with the Devil. **It is not God's standard. God has a standard and He does not lower His standard because of man's ignorance.** To be in right relationship with God, pastors need to leave their denominations and lead their people OUT of their denominational church *OR THEY ARE BEING FALSE PASTORS AND FALSE BRETHREN to their flock.* Why? Because **their refusal means that they think MORE of their denomination than they do of the truth of the Word.** They have an IDOL and God must take it away from them. **When God brings revelation of the truth, THAT is Grace. But Grace DEMANDS a response. That response to GRACE is OBEDIENCE, requiring them to DEPART from their sin of denominationalism or any sin. It is not done by self effort. It is done through surrender and submission to the Holy Spirit. They must adopt the Biblical model of the assembly of the brethren, get the Spirit, and worship in-the-Spirit. Jesus said "The things of the Spirit are spirit, and the things of the flesh are flesh." Denominationalism is "flesh". Without the baptism in the Holy Spirit, one cannot truly discern "flesh" from "Spirit" well. Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a requirement according to John 3:5 where it tells us that every Christian must be "born of water and the Spirit...". To be born of the Spirit means that every Christian must have and receive his own personal Pentecost experience called the Holy Spirit baptism and gifts. Read Luke 11:10-13.**

**So what to do?** Have a meeting between the pastors, elders and congregation members. Do the following: 1) agree to secede from the denomination, 2) determine if it is feasible to buy the church and become non-denominational, and 3) if it is not possible, there are several options: Revert to the home-church model and meet in homes or rent a storefront space in a shopping center, in which to meet, or pray the Holy Spirit to lead you to a meeting place. Renting time and space from another non-denominational congregation is frequent, particularly if you explain to them what you are doing and what you are trying to achieve. Asking your school district to allow you to meet in the local high school cafeteria or auditorium on a Sunday or Saturday is another option in many States, as Courts have ruled that they must do so because believers are also taxpayers and their money goes to support those schools. Be creative. The Holy Spirit will lead. By the way, the home church model is the only model for the church that the Holy Spirit ever gave believers in the Book of Acts. The church was never meant to be established under the Constantinian model of Rome, where people would assemble on a Sunday morning, go to a church building, sit in pews, sing a few hymns and listen to a brief sermon with one man up front doing all of the talking, followed by dismissal within 60-90 minutes. That is telling the Holy Spirit that there is only one person in the building who has anything worth saying. No, the early church model, the home-church, was **a living dynamic spiritual organism full of life** which met in homes, perhaps in groups

of 25-100 or so, in which pastors simply acted to guide and shepherd their sheep but gave place to the Holy Spirit to move upon the congregation so that all who were present were permitted to give ministry to each other and receive ministry from each other, operating in the gifts of the Spirit, including word of knowledge, prophecy, tongues, interpretation of tongues, healing, deliverance, word of wisdom, etc., so that each meeting was a dynamic, spiritual experience that blessed and benefited all in attendance. Scripture says "Jesus Christ the same, yesterday, today and forever." The Holy Spirit is the same, yesterday, today and forever. If the Spirit was moving in home congregations back then, He certainly is able to do it today, and He is, to the Glory of The Father; 4) knowing these things, seek the Baptism in the Holy Spirit (see Addendum at the end of this article) for yourself and all congregants.

**4. Denominationalism is man's own righteousness before God. That was the sin of the Pharisees: they established their own righteousness before God.** Matthew 6:33 defines what makes a believer part of The Remnant-The True Church, those who walk by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, by the Word, the Water, and The Blood, alone, and no doctrines of men, the only true church of the Bible. The verse says "Seek first the Kingdom of God and HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS (alone, *NOT His Righteousness + man's righteousness*), and all else will be given you besides." Note the requirement to be true church? Seek His Righteousness ALONE. His Righteousness ONLY. NOT man's righteousness. **All** denominationalism is man's righteousness before God mixed with the pursuit of God's Righteousness. It is the sin of the Pharisees-man leading man according to their own human doctrines mixed with the doctrines of God. Pharisees were establishing their own rules and regulations (religion) and becoming the custodians of the souls of the people, pushing the Holy Spirit aside. The Holy Spirit is the custodian of the soul's of men. This is what the Pharisee's did: they imposed upon the people rules, regulations and traditions which were not in the Bible, establishing their own righteousness along with the Word of God. Can you imagine?....the Pharisees prayed and fasted for long hours, preached the Word of God, ministered to the people, loved God very much, and Jesus said to the apostles "Unless your righteousness EXCEEDS that of the Pharisees, you will NOT enter the Kingdom of God." What was Jesus saying? He was saying, indirectly, "They (the Pharisees) are not going (into the Kingdom)!" There are 18,000 different denominations. They each have to justify their own existence. Each one does this by establishing the idea that as a denomination, they have an exclusive doctrinal interpretation of the Scripture which makes them unique and different from every other denomination, and their interpretation is the only correct one. Thus, they establish their own righteousness. The command of Scripture is "Seek first the Kingdom of God and HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS (alone)....that means Christ alone, by grace alone through faith alone, through the Word, the Water and The Blood ALONE. Thus, the need for the home church! Furthermore, denominational churches impose law upon their congregants while they try to walk in grace through faith. In the Book of Galatians, Paul makes it quite clear that one cannot be under law and

grace at the same time. God is not in it. You say, "How do they have their people under law?" The answer is simple. If you are in a denomination, ask your pastor or an elder to show you your denomination's Constitution. Every denomination has one. In it, you will find a myriad of rules, regulations, that is, man-made laws that one must follow to be a member of the denomination. What is the difference if one is put under denominational law or Old Testament law? Law is law! I recently visited a pastor in a denominational church in Connecticut to discuss the Baptism in the Holy Spirit with him. He strongly resisted and I told him that his denomination had its own laws outlined in its Constitution. He denied it. We parted amicably. When I returned home, I did a computer search on the Internet of his denomination's Constitution. I counted 230 denominational laws enumerated in the Constitution of his denomination. When I attended one of their church services, **It was a heartbreaking experience because any move and Presence of the Holy Spirit was conspicuously absent, and the people were sitting in a dead church.**

Denominations must justify their existence by making the people dependent upon THEM for leadership, otherwise they will not have the money to continue to exist. It is man leading man. It is man telling man what to think and how to interpret the scriptures. The Holy Spirit is marginated from the beginning. So they promote dependence upon themselves, their teachings, and their ways of worship and believing.

**You CANNOT be man-led AND Spirit-led. The Holy Spirit is NOT in it. You can only be man-led OR Spirit-led, but not both.** When it comes to knowing, receiving, and moving in the Holy Spirit, none of your education will help you. Your seminary training will neither help or qualify you, neither will Bible College or Ministry School or other contrivances of man. Your college degrees or doctoral degrees in theology will not help you. Your knowledge of theology will not help you. None of those things will help you to move into the Spirit of God because they are all soulish endeavors and Jesus said "...the things of the Spirit are spirit." Theology is what man says God says. God does not move in theology. He moves in REVELATION and revelation only. He is a God of REVELATION. He is a living PERSON who will reveal Himself to all who will reach out to Him in a desire for INTIMACY. It has nothing to do with head knowledge, seminaries, Bible colleges, Bible scholars, or whatever else. It has everything to do with knowing the Holy Spirit and moving in Him. These things do not qualify you to minister the Gospel of Christ or the things of The Spirit, nor do your degrees, certificates or diplomas. Knowing The Spirit of God does, and only knowing the Spirit of God and moving in the Spirit's Baptism qualifies a person to minister....and nothing short of that. May I remind you that Jesus did not choose 12 Bible scholars or theologians to be his apostles. He chose 12 common men. None had a college degree, none went to seminary or Bible college, none had a doctorate in theology, apologetics, hermeneutics, or other contrivances of men. They knew the Spirit and they ministered by the Spirit. They wrote a Spirit-filled New Testament by the Spirit, and not one them went to a seminary or wrote anything

through anything conferred upon them by man. **Do not be fooled.** The things of the Spirit are spirit. Nothing of doctrines of men will qualify you to serve God. So every Christian must choose whom they will follow. Every Christian must assess where he/she is at, spiritually. Man does not hold your future. The Holy Spirit holds your future. In John 2:27 we read : "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." The anointing (empowerment and gifts) of the Spirit through the Baptism-in-the-Holy Spirit and Indwelling of the Holy Spirit **will teach you all things**. And all your head knowledge and academic recognitions and degrees? Paul says in the Scripture, "...I count it all dung.". Many of you will not understand any of this until you have your first experience of the Person of The Holy Spirit relating to you through the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit that quickens, not books, studies, or degrees, which are man's attempts to engage God through the level of soul, rather than spirit.

Many will not leave their denominations because they are FEARFUL that they will lose their salvation because many denominations teach that outside of their church or denomination there is NO salvation. **But Salvation is NOT DEPENDENT UPON A CHURCH OR DENOMINATION. Salvation is dependent upon a SAVIOR and a SAVIOR ALONE and His Name is Jesus who is called The Christ, the Anointed One of God. He alone saves, and He will not withhold salvation from anyone who seeks Him. In the Gospel of John Jesus says " If any man come to me, I will in no way turn him away."**

5. In the Garden of Eden, there were two trees, in particular, the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, and the Tree of Life. The Knowledge of Good and Evil says "This is good, do this. That is evil, don't do that." It makes a believer walk his or her walk of faith through self-effort, trying to do this because it is good, and avoiding that because it is evil. Before you know it, the person is trying to keep rules and regulations about what he/she can and cannot do. Rules and regulations represent religion. And denominationalism represents rules and regulations of that particular system of belief. It is Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. At that tree you can know ABOUT Jesus, but you can never KNOW Jesus. You can know ABOUT the work of the cross, but you CANNOT KNOW the transforming power of the work of the cross. At that tree you can know ABOUT faith, but you cannot KNOW faith, because the Author and Finisher of our faith is at the TREE OF LIFE. Jesus says "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." Jesus is the Covenant Tree and it has nothing to do with religion or denominationalism. You CANNOT KNOW JESUS at the Tree of Knowledge because Jesus is not AT that tree....He is at the Tree of Life which represents COVENANT RELATIONSHIP....NOT RELIGION....The Tree of the Born-Again Experience. At the Tree of Knowledge, with rules and regulations, transformation is attempted from outside of the person by accumulating information ABOUT Christ. At the Tree of Life, transformation comes from WITHIN the person by the Holy Spirit living within the person, and working within the person to transform the person by

faith which is TRUST ON CHRIST ALONE. " It is God who is at work IN YOU to do HIS WILL AND GOOD PLEASURE." (Philippians 2:13). **So those who are in denominations are feeding from THE WRONG TREE.** Who was standing at that tree in the Garden of Eden? Satan! Religion is Satanic. For that reason, the Holy Spirit warned Adam and Eve of the Tree of Knowledge (religion, denominationalism) " In the day that you eat of THAT Tree you will SURELY DIE." It is spiritual and physical death. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil represents the "letter of the Word" which Jesus Himself says "**KILLS**". He says "**The Spirit of the Word gives LIFE.**" The Word of God is Christ Jesus (John 1). It is the Death Tree. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil is the Death Tree. Look what happened to Adam and Eve! They died spiritually! Why? Because Jesus is not AT that Tree. He is AT the Tree of Life. He IS the Tree of Life. Denominationalism is the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. It is the Tree of Death. For this reason Jesus warned "When Satan comes, he comes AS an angel of light." It does not say that he IS an angel of light but that he comes AS an angel of light. In other words, RELIGIOUS! It looks like the real thing in appearance, but in doctrinal content it is a COUNTERFEIT! **APPEARANCE WITHOUT CONTENT!** Wrong doctrine! Wrong Tree! Because they feed from the wrong Tree, **denominational religious people almost ALWAYS resist the Holy Spirit.** In fact, history demonstrates to us that religious people are among the meanest people in the world. It was religious people who crucified Christ. It was religious people who ran the Catholic Inquisition of 400 years duration in which over 40,000,000 people, both born-again believers and Jews, lost their lives. Today, it is religious people who are behind the problem of terrorism which has become a plague to all the nations of the world. Religion operates by control. Religious people control others. Control of others, in the Bible is referred to as WITCHCRAFT in the church. The whole Book of Galatians was written by the Apostle Paul to the Galatians because a few of the Jews were trying to control others in the Galatian church and make them conform to their beliefs. In Chapter 3 Paul says " Who has BEWITCHED you (put you under a spell of witchcraft)? Having begun in-the-Spirit, are you going to be perfected in the flesh?" Paul refers to witchcraft here as "flesh" because Old Testament Scripture refers to witchcraft as "a work of the flesh". Thus, religionists, denominationalists, are operating in-the-flesh, and their efforts involve control of their congregations, and this is nothing less than WITCHCRAFT in the church. Congregations can only submit to the Holy Spirit alone, not to the Holy spirit **and** man. The true "Church" is a spiritual entity and experience, not a human, man-made organization of structured teaching, worship and control to justify their existence.

6. The Holy Spirit manifests in ALL denominations to some degree or another. Because of this, many denominational believers think that this is a sign that the Holy Spirit is sanctioning and approving what they are doing. **NOTHING COULD BE FARTHER FROM THE TRUTH!** . The reason the Holy Spirit manifests in all churches and denominations is NOT to approve what they are doing, but to fulfill the prophecy of Joel 2:28 " In the last days I will pour out my Spirit upon ALL flesh." It is to fulfill prophecy. For WHAT PURPOSE? **To get them OUT of that**

**DARKNESS and INTO Him!!!** To get them OUT....OUT.....OUT and into Him ALONE!

1 Corinthians 4:19,20 says "THE KINGDOM OF GOD COMES IN POWER....NOT IN WORDS." You can sit in a dead denominational church every Sunday morning or every day of the week and UNLESS you are SEEING THE POWER, unless you are seeing demons cast out, healings, deliverances, manifestations of the spiritual gifts: prophecy coming true, word of knowledge, word of wisdom, tongues, miracles, discernments of spirits, etc., then the power is NOT THERE, and you should get up and RUN out of that church as fast as your feet can carry you and NEVER go back.

In Exodus, the Israelites followed the Glory Cloud (The Holy Spirit) which gave them shade by day and light and warmth by night. When the cloud moved, they packed up the camp and tent of meeting and moved with the Cloud until it stopped in a place, and then they set up the camp again. There was a time when the camp of Israel got into sin, and the Glory Cloud moved and went outside of the camp after they had just set the camp up...why? Because they got into sin. Moses packed up his tent and moved it outside of the camp and under the Glory Cloud. He wanted to be where the Holy Spirit was...under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. What was Moses saying, in effect? "I'm going where the Spirit is!" YOU DO THE SAME. The Holy Spirit will HONOR your OBEDIENCE.

7. When a true Christian believer does not care that he is attending a denominational church, he is in sin. Why? Because his/her very PRESENCE in the congregation SANCTIONS what the members of the congregation are doing. The very presence of a Spirit-filled believer at a denominational service says " I approve of what you are doing; that is why I am here." Now some will argue "No, I am there to worship God." **But the Bible warns of false worship:** "Those who worship God MUST worship in Spirit AND in TRUTH." (John 4:24). **They are not worshipping according to God's standard**, because denominationalism is not God's STANDARD for all of the reasons I have mentioned previously. So, the believer who is WILLING to participate in a denominational service freely submits himself to the false or negative anointing of the demonic religious spirit assigned to that congregation, permitting that religious spirit to minister to him/her, and **knowingly or unknowingly puts himself/herself under two masters. "No man can serve two masters", Jesus said.** When you give the religious spirit permission to minister to you by your presence at the church service, he WILL put a demonic assignment against you.....spirits to minister to your thought life. What will they minister?.....appreciation of false doctrines, lukewarm-ness toward the things of God, unbelief which some of you already have, confusion, spiritual laziness, compromise, etc.. Here is how it happens: all man-made churches are the work of Satan's spirit of religion. Like all in Satan's kingdom, including Satan himself, they are all defeated by the work of the cross and Christ's Blood sacrifice for the sins of all men. That religious spirit that is behind all denominations, with a little help from man, cannot come against the Holy Spirit because it is already

defeated. However, Galatians 5:17 says "The flesh strives against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh.....". The religious spirit energizes the "flesh" of the members of the congregation, pastors and elders alike, and gets them to strive against the Spirit. It works slowly, continually, silently over the years, feeding religious doctrines to the people and persuading them to passively accept them; the end result is that most such congregations do not move beyond and into the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit, ordained by God to empower them to overcome in their faith walk and do a work for the Kingdom. Most stay "milk" Christians for most of their Christian faith walk. It is the nature of the spiritual warfare that Paul speaks of in Ephesians 6:12, the work of the religious spirit, the antichrist spirit, the spirit of subversion, and the spirit of sabotage, all working together to reinforce carnality of attitude toward God and the things of the Holy Spirit, and inability to discern "flesh" from "Spirit". Most Christians do not even have a clue to the fact that they are even at war, and that their Enemy is present in their lives and conducting warfare against them without their knowledge. From 1990-1992, I lived in a Midwestern State here in the United States, somewhere out in the Great Plains. I belonged to a nationally well-known Pentecostal denomination. My pastor told me that the State Superintendent of the denomination had sent out a questionnaire to all of their church pastors in the state to ask them if they believed that Satan and demons existed. When the survey was completed the Superintendent distributed the results of the survey to all of the churches. The result? Seventy percent of all of the pastors in their denomination in that particular state replied "No." They did not believe that Satan or demons existed and that they regarded such things in the Bible simply as cultural beliefs of the ancients at that time of history. When my pastor reported the results to me, I was taken aback. The denominational spirits of Satan had done their job well, and it went right over everybody's head. Jesus said "When a blind man leads a blind man, they both fall into a Pit. "

**A WARNING FROM THE SCRIPTURES:** The Bible says that "in the last days the Apostasy will come". The Apostasy is the falling away of the church and the believers from the Truth of the Word of God as it was originally given and originally meant to be interpreted through the Holy Spirit. It MUST come because it is a prophetic sign of the End-time. All denominational churches are apostate churches. Just because the Apostasy has come does not mean that you, as a Christian have to participate in it. Why? Because the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth, and the Bible says that **He will LEAD YOU into ALL TRUTH. When? When you seek Him ONLY.** THAT is what RELATIONSHIP is all about.

Spirit-filled Christians do not willfully participate in the Apostasy. "Be you holy...be you SEPARATE.", the Bible says. Some people dry up spiritually because they are waiting for God to do something in their lives. God is waiting for YOU to do something! He says

Draw near to ME and I WILL draw near to you." He does NOT say "Draw near to your local denominational church and I will draw near to you." Believe His Word.

Take Him at His Word. Receive His Truth. Obey His Truth. Teach others these truths. Set spiritual fires wherever you go!

The Bible says **CONTEND FOR THE FAITH ONCE GIVEN TO ALL THE SAINTS**. We are to **CONTEND** for the Christian faith. The Bible says "Tell them the truth **IN LOVE...**" but the implication is that we are to **TELL THEM THE TRUTH**.

Above all, remember that the Christian Faith is **NOT** a religion.....it is a **CONFESSION**, a confession of faith, and that faith is not in an organization but **upon a Person....and His Name is Jesus** who is called The Christ. The Confession, His Standard, is "His Righteousness alone" (Mt. 6:33), **NOT** His Righteousness + man's righteousness, which is what denominationalism is.

So now I ask you, "What will your decision be? For Christ or for men? You cannot be Spirit-led and man-led at the same time. God is not in it. He does not sanction it. He says in Old Testament Scripture, "**I share my Glory with no one.**" **God WILL NOT MOVE for you UNTIL YOU are ready to MOVE FOR HIM**. You will never experience the fullness of the Holy Spirit of God UNTIL you are ready, willing, and able to walk away from the darkness of denominationalism and do things His Way. You cannot walk with Christ and dance with The Devil. God has a standard and He does not lower His standard because of man's ignorance. It is up to us to move up to His standard.

**END**

**Addendum:** Every Christians should know that there are two separate and distinct spiritual experiences required to walk the fullness of the Christian faith walk with Christ. The first is the born-again experience which produces the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit (John 3:5) and the Fruit of the Spirit which molds, makes, forms, and breaks us into the Image and Likeness of Christ. This is referred to as "the Holy Spirit within". The second distinct experience which must be sought is called the Baptism-in-the Holy Spirit, referred to as "the Holy Spirit upon", which releases the 9 gifts of the Spirit which operate "as the Spirit wills" (1 COR.12:11), conferring upon the believer the power to overcome and empowerment (anointing) to carry out a work and purpose for the Kingdom. Some denominations, particularly those with a dispensational theology, teach that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is received when you get born-again. This is error. That is the Indwelling of the Spirit. The proof that this is true is noted in the following 2 scriptures: Lk. 11:10-13, Acts 1:8, Acts 8:14-17. Please note that in all 3 scripture verses, *those being addressed were already born again*, that is, they already had the Holy Spirit within, and were

now being told that they would receive the Holy Spirit UPON them if they asked and received without doubt. The Scripture itself confirms that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a separate and distinct experience from the born-again experience. It is a necessary experience to operate in the gifts God releases upon you when you receive this baptism by faith without doubting, so that you may see The Lord use the power He delegates to you (Lk.10:19; 1 Cor.4:20) and through you; otherwise you will never come to realize the fullness of who you truly are in Christ. I encourage you to seek the Baptism in the Holy Spirit from the Father. It can also be imparted by any upright Spirit-filled Christian who has the Baptism and operates in the gifts of the Spirit, through prayer and the laying-on of hands\* (Ro. 1:11).

**\* the ministry of impartation**

May the Lord Jesus Christ bless and protect you and all of your loved ones. and your efforts as you go forward to bring these truths to a dying worldly church and a dying world. Come, Lord Jesus, Come.

In Him,

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