

Questions That Demand Answers

Introduction: In the course of many years of ministering to the body of Christ, I have had the opportunity to share a number of words of wisdom and counsel with the brethren. Some time ago, I realized that it would be profitable to share these principles in a more general sense with the church. What follows is a small sampling of some of the questions that I have received, and the answers that the Lord has given me to enlighten the questioner primarily, and the rest of you secondarily. In addition, I have included some of the letters that I have had the opportunity to share with the church.

I have made efforts to disguise the identities of the specific parties involved, and where necessary, reworded the questions, and/or answers to make them much more generally instructive, rather than personally identifying. Despite all of my efforts, it may still be possible for individuals to “recognize” themselves in a particular letter. Rest assured that it is highly unlikely that anyone else would also recognize your story. Consider the clandestine exposure of your situation to be edification for your brethren who, by learning obedience through your sacrifice, may be spared the heartache that prompted you to seek my counsel in the first place.

So, let’s get started. The questions will be presented in bold type, with the answers immediately following. In the case of the letters, they will be presented redacted and as separate epistles.

Chapter 1

1: Hello, I have a marriage question. I want to know if the Holy Spirit can guide and tell you whom to marry? I am single but want a godly husband. Are there any Scriptures in guidance? Thank you, and may God bless you always.

Greetings to you

The answer to your question is somewhat complicated, but I will try to condense it down. In short, the Holy Spirit leads and guides us primarily by the written word of God. In there are all of the instructions that we need to make an informed decision in choosing a spouse. For a single woman, the choice is particularly critical since you are in the position of having to submit to your own husband. If your choice is not wise, then that husband can end up being a very big thorn in your flesh. I think that the most basic thing that I can tell you in choosing a "godly" husband is to judge by the fruit of his life, and not merely by the words of his mouth. This, of course, requires an honest appraisal on your part. A perfect example of what I am talking about is this. If a man claims to be a Christian and to love you, then he certainly would not be seeking to defile you and cause

you to stumble by fornicating with you. I think that any woman who takes the time to frankly judge a man by the word, will have all of the guidance that she needs to decide if this man is the "one." Lastly, giving your father and/or your pastor the opportunity to weigh in on the matter will also be useful in helping you make this most critical decision.

I hope that you find this helpful. Thank you for your inquiry.

Grace be unto you.

2:

Dear Pastor Ron

I have examined some of your teachings on the web, and I noticed that you seem to be very dogmatic in the things that you teach. I was wondering if you give latitude for differences in thought within your congregation? In one of your lessons you made mention of angels marrying. I am not familiar with any such doctrine portrayed in the Bible. Could you please explain where you got this information? Thank you.

Dear Brother

I am glad to be of service to you in answering your questions. With regards to your comment on giving latitude for differences of thought, let me make the following statement. If we happen to be discussing something non-scriptural, everyone is entitled to formulate his or her own opinion on the matter. However, when it comes to matters of doctrine, we all have a perfectly valid reference source, which speaks clearly to all: namely, the Bible. So, there is no sense debating something upon which the Word of God has clearly spoken. Now, this is a lot easier than you might think. Once one decides to view the Bible as the inerrant word of God, and to take it as literally as we do our morning newspaper, we will have no problem getting knowledge and understanding on the ways of righteousness.

I will use your comment on the angels marrying as an example. Have you not read in Genesis 6:2 how the sons of God took wives for themselves from amongst the daughters of men and bore offspring to them? Notice how these offspring were certainly superhuman, both in stature and strength, as well as being exceedingly wicked. They ultimately corrupted all of mankind (with the exception of Noah's household). If we are to accept the Bible as true, then there can be no doubt that these events occurred.

Undoubtedly, you have read this Scripture since you have previously correctly mentioned its location in the Bible. So then, I can only conclude that either you didn't believe what you read, or you found some other alternate way to "interpret" the verses. If you don't believe the Bible, I cannot help you. However, if your understanding of the Holy Scriptures is deficient, then I am your man.

The first thing that you must understand is that the Bible, by and large, does not need any interpretation at all. It speaks to us in plain language and in a literal sense. In other words up is up, down is down, etc. Historical events that are depicted can safely be

received as having actually occurred. The ONLY things that need interpreting are certain prophecies and, in that case, the correct interpretation is usually given. So then, if the Bible says that the sons of God married the daughters of men, we may have great confidence in the truth of the assertion.

Now allow me to anticipate what might be accounting for your error in this matter. There has been an erroneous doctrine floated in times past concerning these events depicted in Genesis chapter six. It was thought that the so-called sons of God mentioned were actually members of a "godly" line of Seth, and they married into the ungodly line of Cain. If you adhere to this view, then I hope you are not offended when I say how ridiculous this notion is. First of all, there is no such thing as either a godly or ungodly line of anything.

“For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

Secondly, the only thing that has ever resulted from the coming together of a human female and a human male is a normal human. The creatures mentioned in Genesis are obviously superhuman and, therefore, could not have conventional origins.

Moreover, Jude references the events that transpired during this time in his epistle where he discusses the fate of the angels that sinned, and were judged by God. (Jude v: 5-7) In addition to this, there is a marvelous account of the whole affair given in the book of Enoch.

Finally, with regards to what the Lord Jesus said in Matt. 22:30, He was alluding to the fact that those who were found worthy to obtain eternal life would become like the angels in administration. This means that the only creatures that require procreation are those who have limited life spans. Eternal folk have no need to reproduce themselves so that they do not perish from under heaven. It is never stated that angels are incapable of procreating. It is sufficient to understand that it is merely not lawful for them to do so. In much the same way, an unmarried woman is quite physically capable of having a child. However, it is certainly unlawful for her to do so.

Well anyway, I hope that you find this edifying. Thank you for the opportunity to share with you the wonderful word of God.

Yours in Christ Jesus

3:

Good Evening Pastor Ron,

I am very impressed with your teachings, which have blessed me, and want to share them with my husband. I would appreciate being given the opportunity to listen to the teachings and share them with my family members and, prayerfully, with our future church members. One thing I have prayed about for a long time and need to see come to completion, one-way or the other, is my husband's ministry. I know that God will complete in us what He has started. My husband said he was called to preach the Gospel in 1977. We went to ministerial school and sat under anointed teachers for 250 hours of study. We established a church in 1982.

Please pray for us. I am trying to be obedient and do what I think a virtuous wife should do. I am praying that his (our) ministry is blessed by God to prosper and increase. I am also praying for guidance in my marriage.

What I need are any tapes that you have on the responsibility of a pastor, husband, wife, and husband and wife in a ministry, etc. I just want to be obedient to the Scriptures and to do the right thing according to the word and help my husband do the right thing according to the WORD. Can you help me out with your teachings, prayer, and words of encouragement and wisdom? I believe you are truly anointed and that is why I am writing to you personally.

Thanks, and looking forward to response to this email. May God continue to bless your ministry and your family.

Greetings to you Dear Sister

It is good to hear from you. I trust that this letter finds you in good spirits. I am especially overjoyed that you find my teachings to be useful. It is my high honor to have the opportunity to share them with you. With regards to your question about being placed on our list. I would be most happy to do so. Just email me with your address.

Now to speak to the matters that you wrote me about, it is imperative that you do not allow discord to enter into your marriage. This is especially necessary if you have presumed to preach to others. There is much that I can instruct you on in this matter. However, I have found that in these cases, dealing with only one party in this two party system, is largely unprofitable. Moreover, inasmuch as the Lord sees the marriage as one unit, and the husband is the head of that unit, it would be unlawful for me to deal with you in confidence behind your husband's back. Having said that, it is my hope that you will share the following epistle with your husband.

My Brother in Christ Jesus

I would presume to speak to you boldly. I, who am a fellow elder, as well as, one in whom He has entrusted His eternal doctrine. The man who would be shepherd under the Lord Jesus has aspired to a high calling. However, there are requirements that must be met and maintained in order for such a one to build on the house of God rather than helping the enemy to tear it down. These are found in the book of 1st Timothy 3:1-7. Among other things, we find that such a man must be faithful in all things. His family must be exemplary, with his wife and children in submission with all reverence. The premise for this being that if a man cannot take care of the little (his family), how then can he take care of the much (God's house)? In addition, if we are not faithful in taking care of and providing for our own family, then we have denied the faith and have become worse than an unbeliever. This should not be the testimony of those whom the Lord has commanded saying, "They should be obeyed and their faith be followed, considering the outcome of their conduct." The man of God must also have a good testimony amongst those who are outside. In other words, our yes must be yes, and we must be diligent to avoid even the appearance of evil. If we have fallen short of any of these things in the pursuit of our aspiration to the ministry, then we have become disqualified and in danger of the judgment if we make the sheep stumble.

I would strongly advise you to get your house in proper order before you step in to shepherd the flock of God. I admonish you that He is very jealous for those who belong to Him. It is not wise to be found having made them fall short of the glory of God by providing a poor example. Moreover, my brother, remember that your wife is a product of your spiritual stewardship over her, so lead and guide her. Be on one accord, so that your ministry, not to mention your prayers, are not hindered. She loves you and is concerned that God's will for your lives may go wanting.

I trust that you will not find these words too harsh, but I am willing to bruise your soul that I might also save your spirit. May the Holy Spirit witness to your heart that I have spoken words of truth and life to you this day.

Grace to you.

Now, back to you, Sister. The most important piece of advice that I can give you at this juncture is found in the 1st Epistle of Peter, Chapter 3. Here, you are admonished to be submissive to your own husband in all things. Consume yourself with this noble pursuit, and you will find that much less of your attention will be directed toward your husband and his shortcomings.

Having said all of this, I am going to assume that I have not offended either of you out of measure, and that you are still reading. So, therefore, let me say this. I have many hours of instruction on these very topics. I am sure that if you attend yourselves to them, they will be as much of a blessing to you as they have been to many other married couples that have heeded them. Once again, let me have your mailing address, and I will instruct my tape ministry people to send them out to you.

Now, may the grace of our God and Lord Jesus Christ be upon you always, and may He strengthen you to endure and to be a crown of rejoicing.

Writing with love
Pastor Ron

Chapter 2

4:

Pastor Ron and Family,

I hope you all are doing well and are highly blessed. My wife is recovering from her surgery quite well. She is starting therapy now. We are glad that problem is behind us. We are writing to let you know that the church is growing. We have included a copy of our church brochure to let you know what our plans are. We rented space and installed our Assistant Pastor! That was a wonderful service, and we had 123 people to attend!

Pastor Ron, we have come to realize that, "Doing God's Work God's Way through Love by Faith" is the only way to build this ministry. That is our church slogan! Our church praise song is, "This is the Day that the Lord has Made! I will Rejoice and be Glad in it!" We have a lot of work to do, we know. But we have discovered that doing this as unto the Lord has made the journey fun! As we strive to meet our goals (as you can see on our brochure, we have many aspirations), we need expert advice from you. Our first goal is to get a building. We are still conducting services and business out of our home. We would like to rent a facility as we accumulate the funds. We have a small congregation of 35, with 20 faithful members. We are in the process of writing grants for assistance with the building or renovation of an existing building. We are also conducting and planning fund raising activities (selling fish and soliciting donations). We need your advice. If you can offer any advice as to how we can improve upon our efforts, we would appreciate it. Please email us back or write. You may call, but we are finding ourselves away from the house more and more, administering to the needs of our congregation. Thank you again for the encouragement and prior advice. It has taken us thus far.

Your brother and sister in Christ,

Greetings to you my Dear Brother and Sister

I am glad to hear of your wife's recovery and that you both are doing well. Everyone here is doing fine, and we continue to grow in grace. It is pleasing that you are of a mind to do the will of God regarding your ministry. It is vitally important to realize that this is the most critical juncture in the process, for choices that you make now will have long lasting consequences. Therefore, it is imperative that you proceed cautiously. At this point I think that the most important piece of advice that I can give you is to avoid attempting to model your ministry after any other one, even the ones that may seem to have a successful formula. This is one of the biggest mistakes that fledgling churches make. You see, what may be God-breathed and successful in one church, may not necessarily be God's will for another one, for He may have different plans for that church. So, make sure that you make your calling and election sure by seeking the will of God for

your own ministry. In that way, you are sure to be found faithful in fulfilling what He has called you to do.

Point number two is that a real man of God is not at all concerned with the size of his congregation. He is only concerned with whether or not he is being faithful to minister the things that God has called him to do. The size will take care of itself. In other words, some will hear and some will not. Some will come, and others will go. Those called to be vessels of God will be judged only on the delivery of the message, not the reception thereof. Many a man of God has been made to stumble by being more concerned with filling seats than filling hearts. The man who makes one true convert is more honored by God than the one who presides over a host of forgetful hearers. So, therefore, I would say that your first priority should be to focus on building on the house, which is eternal in the heavens, by using living stones. Then attention can be given to building that which is futile, and perishes, in that it is constructed with that which is dead. No matter how grand the edifice, the only building that we ever build that God cares anything about is the building that His Son is raising up: an invisible, yet marvelous, structure that will endure forever. Ultimately, the only purpose that the brick and mortar building serves, is to keep the living stones dry while they are being fashioned into something glorious.

The next issue to discuss is finances. You made mention of fund raising activities, such as selling stuff and writing grants, which I am assuming has something to do with getting the government to give you money for your ministerial endeavors. When it comes to money matters, the man of God must proceed with extreme caution. Next to sexual impropriety, money is the most common mechanism that the devil uses to undermine the church. Concerning this matter, I can only pass on to you the wisdom which the Lord has given me that has been enormously successful in my ministry. I let the Lord worry about how to finance anything regarding this ministry. I only concern myself with the feeding of His sheep. I have instructed my people in the ways of righteousness, which includes all things related to finances. My people are, therefore, fully versed in their responsibility as those who have been taught the good word, to share in all good things with him who teaches. They are very faithful to what they have been taught, therefore our ministry is very well supplied, and we want for nothing. I never do anything along the lines of "fund-raising." For my stand is that if God wants me to do something, it is His responsibility to supply what I need to accomplish the task. Moreover, He must do it in a way that does not make Him appear to be poor or deficient in resources. He has never failed to show Himself mighty on our behalf in anything, least of all when it comes to finances. Therefore, I don't sell chicken dinners, rummage, pies, or any such thing. And most of all I would not go to those who are least esteemed by the church for aid: namely Caesar (the government). For his aid surely comes with strings attached.

Well, there are doubtless many other things that can be covered, but I believe that I have laid a foundation. If you would like, please feel free to call me, since I'm sure that I talk faster than I can write.

I remain at your disposal
Pastor Ron

5:

Dear Pastor Crenshaw

I am basically a Protestant, but I am not interested in dogma, manmade rules, or popish dictates. I find organized religion a bit baffling. There is only one God, his Son, and the Holy Spirit. I love God, and He loves me. That is it. The only thing I am sure of is that I want to be baptized, but by whom is my problem. I leave the matter to you, with thanks for your interest.

God Bless.

Greetings Friend

You must forgive my terse greeting, since I do not know your name. I was very intrigued by your email, for I perceive that you are such for whom the Lord Jesus is looking. I assure you that He also dislikes organized religion so, in that instance, you are in some very good company. God does not care about such manmade conventions as Catholic, Protestant, and the like. All of these denominational camps only serve to divide us and to distract us from what is truly important: namely a relationship with the true and living God through Christ Jesus. It seems to me that you have correctly discerned this truth. Unfortunately, we live in a time when the truth is increasingly more difficult to find. There are so many different "points of view," all of them claiming to be the correct answer. The poor soul who is looking for God can easily become dizzy and hopelessly mired in confusion. But not to despair, for He has promised us that if we seek, knock, and ask, that answers will be given.

I perceive that you are someone who is indeed seeking the Lord. This is why I am taking such a keen interest in this correspondence. To the extent that I might impart to you something that helps you in your journey toward salvation, I will consider myself most blessed amongst men. As a man of God, I have dedicated my life to be in His service, and there is no greater service than to share words of truth and life with an inquiring soul. What I can share with you is this. You are right to be cautious regarding religion and the traditions of men. The Lord spoke concerning these things that they make the word of God of no effect. So then, the absolute way that you have to judge any matter of spirituality that comes before you is to measure it by the Bible. That is the only source of information that we can absolutely be sure will never mislead us or let us down. If you don't already have one, I would strongly advise you to get a Bible and to begin to familiarize yourself with it, especially the New Testament, since this is the part that directly speaks to us today. I recommend the New King James version, since this one is very accurate and generally written in plain English. With your Bible, you should then check out whatever you are told by anyone who purports to teach you anything (including everything that I am writing to you).

With regards to your desire to be baptized, you are proceeding wisely, for it was the

Lord Jesus Himself who commanded that we, who believe in Him, should submit to this act of faith. The purpose of being baptized is to identify with Christ Jesus in His death, burial, and resurrection. He experienced these things on our behalf in order to cleanse us from sin and to present us to His Father as those who would be called the children of God. According to the symbolism of baptism we, who believe, have died with Christ Jesus. In the immersion, we are buried with Him. In the coming up out of the water, we are raised with Him. So then, when one is baptized they are immersed into the body of Christ, and not into any particular religion or denomination. In your search for someone to baptize you, keep these things in mind. If this precept is explained to you in any other way than I just did, then it is likely that they are giving you their denominational slant rather than the truth of the word of God.

The following are some Scriptures to help you understand the doctrine of baptism.

Matthew 3:11

Matthew 28:19

Mark 16:16

Romans 6: 1-14

Colossians 2: 11-12

A word of caution is in order here. Remember that baptism is a symbolism of our sharing in the passion of the Lord Jesus. When someone dies, do we not bury him or her? Now of course, this involves putting them under significant amounts of earth. Well, in like manner, baptism requires complete immersion, not sprinkling or dousing. Now proper baptism may be inconvenient, but it is nevertheless necessary. Moreover, if a church is compromising in this area, where else in the doctrine of Christ might they be cutting corners?

Let me speak briefly regarding some of the issues that you wrote about. Your outlook on salvation is quite insightful. You are correct that the only true salvation is the kind that is so much a part of our lives that it is tangible and clearly evident to all who encounter us. It is good that this is the kind of relationship with the Lord that you seek. The Lord Jesus said that the Father is looking for those who would worship Him in spirit and in truth. In other words, those who want their Christianity to be as you have said, "tasted and lived." Now, contained in the concept of salvation is the notion that we are forgiven of all of our transgressions. The engine of our salvation is a belief on the Lord Jesus. When this belief is coupled with faith it results in an actual change in the very core of our nature. We become, as the Bible says, a "new creature," the old one having passed away.

Now here is the important part. When we become born again, we do not receive a new body, or a new soul (or mind). What is changed about us is our innermost core, or our spirit. That is the place where He fundamentally changes us. Our outward appearance remains unchanged, and we still have, at least initially, the same mind. In other words, if we are short, fat, and bald before we become born again, we will still be short, fat, and bald after we become born again. In like manner, if we are anxious and a worrier before salvation, we will still be that way the next day after being saved. Now this is not to say that salvation cannot impact these areas of our existence, it's just that the effects in our outer layers take longer to occur. Salvation begins in the innermost region, namely our

spirits, and then it works its way toward the outer. In due season, and after much instruction, the fruit of our salvation will manifest itself both in our minds and in our bodies. For now, the important thing to remember is that, "feeling" is of the soul realm, and salvation is of the spirit. Therefore, we may not "feel" particularly saved, but that is irrelevant. For salvation is based upon faith, and that too is of the spirit and not of the natural realm. Our confidence comes from the fact that God cannot lie, and it was Him who promised, that if we would be faithful to the name of His Son Jesus, we would not perish with the unbelievers, but we would inherit eternal life. So then, salvation is based on the promise of God, and not on how we feel.

I have found this fact to be enormously comforting over the years, since there may have been times that I didn't feel particularly saved. But I didn't waver in faith because I knew that God was faithful and that I did indeed believe in the name of Jesus with all of my heart. I guess what I'm saying here is that forgiveness is a state of being and not a feeling. Therefore forgiveness doesn't "feel" like anything. It just is. It is a tactic of the evil one to try to keep us mindful of our former selves, when we lived in futility, and to cloud us with a veil of condemnation. But we can have full confidence in the fact that God has declared to the one who believes on Christ Jesus that there is no longer a place found for condemnation. Trust me on this. When we allow ourselves to grow strong in the word of God, and become mature in the things of the Spirit, we will be so confident of our salvation, that there is no force in the universe that can shake us.

Once again, dear sister, I thank you for the opportunity to be of service to you on your journey. Please do not hesitate to avail yourself of me, for I consider this to be of the highest honor: to help one who is precious to the Lord. May God breathe upon these words that I have written to you, so that they may fill you with spirit and with life.

Writing with love
Pastor Ron

Chapter 3

6:

Dear Pastor Ron

You referred to “the evil one,” by which I assume you mean the devil? I am not sure where I stand with that. I am inclined to be a bit wary of some demon of a stature to challenge God. I am not a hellfire and brimstone sort. God is a happy, if difficult, business. However, I would welcome your view. On the whole, I feel evil is a human thing bound up with the absence of God and a lack of true understanding of what we do, really, to ourselves and others when we do wrong or harm. Maybe I have a lot to learn.

God Bless.

K

Greetings, Beloved of the Lord

Yes, you are correct. In my reference to the "evil one" I was indeed referring to the cherub known as the devil, or Satan, or by any number of other names. Now, let me see if I can help you to find a place to stand on this matter. First, I will tell you what the Devil is not. He is not a mere concept, or the personification of an idea. In other words, he is not an anthropomorphic model used to represent the generalized notion of evil. I know that many labor under this false assumption and, as such, they are actually playing into the devil's hands, (since any thief prefers to work under the cloak of anonymity). Let me say, in no uncertain terms, that there does indeed exist an entity or creature (an inhabitant of the spirit realm) who, although created by God for His glory, nevertheless rebelled and, as such, has become an enemy to the kingdom of God. Of the assurance of this fact, there can be no doubt. The Bible contains over a hundred references to a personal enemy of the kingdom. His existence is testified to by all of the members of the Godhead (Father, Son, and Holy Ghost). The entire authority of the Bible becomes unraveled if we do not accept this fact: namely the existence of the devil. Remember, when it comes to the word of God, we cannot pick and choose as to which parts of it are inspired and which are not.

You might find this exercise to be useful. Go get a concordance and look up the word “Satan,” and “devil.” See how many times he is referred to in a personal sense by the holy men who wrote as the Holy Spirit inspired them. It is entirely fallacious for us to come along, thousands of years later, and ignore the testimony of the men upon whom we depend for their witness concerning our salvation.

Now, about your view regarding hellfire and brimstone, these things are clearly portrayed in the word of God as real phenomena and not as metaphorical. Again, ignorance of these facts plays right into the hands of the kingdom of darkness. Is not the path to sin made all the more easily traveled by the absence of the specter of judgment?

For example, how long would a bank last if there were no punishment for robbing one? And how willing would one be to follow another into evil deeds if their enticer gave them assurances that their acts would be unassailed by any higher authority?

What I have shared with you, thus far, has only scratched the surface, but it should serve to convince you that your position regarding the existence of a real entity who is known as the devil needs to be modified.

As we come to know each other better, you will understand that I accept the Bible as the absolute and inerrant authority concerning the witness of the truth. To me, it is the actual testimony of God Himself, and it speaks to us personally. It is not a collection of nice stories or interesting parables. Moreover, the Bible is to be taken literally; otherwise, it is incapable of speaking to us in any kind of substantial way.

Now allow me to speak a word about evil. Yes, it is a human thing, but we certainly do not have a monopoly on it. As a matter of fact, evil existed long before mankind got here, therefore, we cannot claim to be its inventors. Moreover, evil does not result from a lack of understanding, but it is the result of a choice that is made to walk contrary to the instructions given to man by our Creator: namely God. The Bible tells us that what may be known of Him is clearly visible to all, so therefore none may claim that they were unaware of the responsibility that we all bear to walk according to His ways. (Romans 1:18-32) But we would rather serve the lusts of the flesh and fulfill the desire of sin, which resides in all who are of the first Adam, and have not yet partaken of the last Adam. So to simply sum up, evil is defined as the failure to walk according to the will of God, and His will is clearly evident. Now, this applies whether one is a member of the community of men or of angels. And there were certainly angels who walked contrary to the wishes of their Creator, and became enemies of the Kingdom, or evil.

Well sister, I have probably laid enough on you for one day. I trust that you are being edified. As always, it is my pleasure to serve you.

Pastor Ron

7:

Good Morning Pastor Ron

Thank you for your guidance in this. It is true that most believers I have spoken to assure me that Satan is a thing in the world. I am bound to take notice of that and reports of him. The experience of many people cannot be discounted. As with all my efforts, I am accepting, on a trial basis, that Satan is all that is said of him. From the ordinary, logical mind point of view, this presents some problems. Maybe the answer is to think/feel with the spiritual mind. I mean if I were to observe some natural phenomena in a physical vacuum, they would not behave as they do in the atmosphere. There's no point in applying the wrong approach/rules to a problem.

I have some reservations about the Bible being literal (theory of evolution?) but

those types of things are not insurmountable. What I am very cautious of, is accepting that the various writers have correctly interpreted God's word to them. Paul seems overly fanatical about sexual matters (gay, divorce and so on), but I cannot find Jesus being so unforgiving. I agree that you cannot pick and choose the comfortable bits and leave the others aside, but even the Bible shows signs of development. So, Peter gets the message that Gentiles are not excluded from God because they are unclean (after the old Jewish rules). Of course, in early tracts a Jew was almost damned if he had anything to do with non-Jews in any close sense. I feel there is a possibility that God tells us what we need to know and can cope with a bit at a time: rather like you explain things to children according to their age, maturity, and understanding. So, as far as our conversation goes, it may be that you and I will not agree on some points, but we can always agree that God exists.

Have a good week.

K

Greetings, beloved of the Lord Jesus

I trust that this day finds you in good spirits and growing in grace.

The simplest answer to your question is yes, the devil is as real as anyone else under creation. Remember, just because someone doesn't believe in someone does not nullify their existence. If the tree falls in the forest, and there is no one to hear it, it does indeed make a sound.

You made comment that the concept of a personal devil is not logical. Well, I submit to you, that the concept of a personal deity is equally illogical. Yet we both confess to believing in someone that neither of us has ever seen. Hmm, just something to think about. It is important for you to understand that I am not serving as the devil's booster or his publicist. He is an enemy of all that is holy and righteous and, eventually, he will have his place in the lake of fire. Nevertheless, we cannot lose sight of the fact that he is.

It is interesting to note that you list the "theory of evolution" as evidence that militates against the literal acceptance of the Bible. I offer up the following observation. It requires far more "faith" to believe that the existence of the present universe can be accounted for by eons of random quantum events, than it does to accept that it is the product of intelligent design and implementation. The discipline of science is in no way inimical to the notion of a hands-on God in the initiation and maintenance of this universe. As a matter of fact, science is merely the study of God's grand creative design. At the end of every great scientific endeavor there is an end point beyond which logic fails to explain. This is the place where you will find God. So then, science is not the hindrance to faith in God, but scientists are.

In addition, when questioning the accuracy with which the human vessels brought forth the word of God, the matter can be resolved if the following premise is accepted. If we are to accept the Bible as instructions from God, then who the human transcribers were becomes absolutely irrelevant. It does not matter about Paul, Peter, or James. We

must accept that the words are from the Lord Himself, no matter how fanatical or out of touch with the times they may seem. We have to realize that God is far wiser than we are, and has been at it a whole lot longer. So then, we really don't have sufficient standing to dissent.

Now, the adversary is not some antithetical alter ego to God. As previously stated, he is a created entity and, as such, falls under the authority of the Godhead. Although given a position of prominence in the economy of God, he nevertheless rebelled against the eternal Father and became an enemy of the faithful. The reality of his existence is not abrogated by unbelief. I have already given you two surefire ways to judge this matter. Number one is that you must ask yourself if you accept the Bible as the inerrant word of God. If the answer to number one is no, then we have an insurmountable problem, since the only authority that I can use to "prove" any principle is the word. If you don't accept the Bible as the words of God, then any discrepancy that we may have in our views can never be satisfactorily resolved. I'm going to assume that your answer to condition number one is yes, meaning that you do believe that the Bible is the inerrant word of God.

The second way to judge this matter is to simply consider the following Scriptures. Go to your Bible and read Luke 4:1-13. You will notice that the Lord Jesus is having a contention with the devil. Now, this contention involves a two-way conversation characterized by the devil's attempt to get Jesus to fall short of His calling. Let's take for example verse 3.

And the devil said to Him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread,"

I submit to you that mere ideas or concepts don't hold conversations.

Here is another example. Go to Revelation 12: 1-9. Here we find that there will be a war in Heaven between the forces of light and the kingdom of darkness. We find that the devil and his angels are defeated and cast out of Heaven. Look particularly at verse 9. The devil and his angels are cast out. You do not make war with, and cast out, metaphors. But no, these creatures are as real as we are. There are literally scores of similar examples in the Bible that make it clear that it is fallacy to relegate the devil to the notion of some kind of idea or metaphor.

Sister, this is the truth of the matter. If you follow my advice and look up the words "devil", and "Satan" in the concordance, you will find over one hundred references, and all of them make no sense at all if they are not speaking of an actual individual. Now, that's my best shot on this one. Continue to ponder on it and, in due time, I think that you will come to see that what I have shared with you is the absolute truth.

Hopefully you will find this useful. If so, then glory to God.

It is my pleasure as always

Pastor Ron

Chapter 4

8:

Hello Pastor Ron

Well, I am pleased to find that we do agree on science and arriving at the point where explanation and empirical observation fail. God is all the bits after the full stop. I am persuaded to re-evaluate my stance on Satan, now that I can feel confident he is not some human construct designed to take the blame instead of us. I have always been keen to take responsibility, rather than look for an excuse that excuses me. Maybe that is why I am so guilt ridden. Not only is it entirely my fault, it is all my doing; a bit arrogant in some ways, I suppose. The idea that some force is out to trap me, cause me to stumble, gives me something to work against in a way that you cannot work against yourself alone. It goes from beating yourself up, to looking out to protect yourself and being kinder to yourself if the adversary wins one. There is a lot of hope in learning what you really are up against and obtaining some understanding too.

Moving on, it seems that some of the things recorded as offending God (sins) can be hard to swallow in this day and age and all the modern and individual formulative experiences. However, some of the pronouncements that I struggle with are clearly designed to save us heartache and, in so far as that is the case, God is saying "I do not approve of X, Y, Z - because I know in the long run it will hurt you and keep you from being able to come to me." However, I am still left struggling to sort things out. Let us say, I had a rocky upbringing. All this life experience could lead to a lot of emotional and spiritual problems, to creating a person who would sin from anger, or ignorance and hurt. How can that person be fully responsible for all their mistakes and errors? How can they be expected to resist doing evil when they knew nothing else and had no weapons to fight with and no earthly person to turn to? My only answer at the moment is, once/if they get on the right track, they simply have to draw a veil over all that. Forgive all the players and circumstances, wash their hands and walk a new road. Walk with greater care for themselves and others, and hope that their tears will wash away past wickedness.

Sorry if this all sounds a bit grim. These are practical questions about life, as it is, but they are about how to live and live well with God.

I do hope I am doing you as much good as you are giving me help. It is just lovely to talk freely with someone who understands beyond the words.

God bless.

K

Greetings Sister

I trust that this day finds you in good spirits. Ok, the topic for the day is guilt. Remember this one thing. To those who have been accepted by God through the Lord Jesus, there is no condemnation to be leveled at them. He has completely and utterly forgiven such a one of ALL their transgressions. Now, if the eternal Father in the heavens has forgiven us and does not reckon our sins, then it is altogether silly for us to do so. Ultimately, it is just another indicator of our faith, for if we really do believe that God has forgiven us, it should not be too difficult for us to forgive ourselves. A very good faith-building exercise for you is to go to your Bible and find many of the Scriptures that speak of the forgiveness of God toward us, and write them down. Then read them and ponder them until you believe them. Once this happens you will find that it is no longer logical for you to continue to be mindful of whom you used to be. Consider my words, for they will help you to be free in the Gospel, for that is exactly what it is designed to do: set you free.

Now about your second point, yes, God has clearly stated the things of which He disapproves. His reasons are not really our concern if we accept Him as the Creator. It would seem logical that since He was here first and will still be here long after we are gone, that His view of things should be considered to be inerrant. Otherwise, in order to dissent, we would have to consider ourselves wiser than Him, since we would be required to ascertain when His logic is flawed, and when it isn't. Surely it is errant thinking to believe that the ever-changing canvas of our social mores would have the effect of changing how God reckons what He considers to be right or wrong. If His moral compass was that untrustworthy to guide us, then one could legitimately ask, why we should believe in a deity in the first place. On the contrary, the word tells us that Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). Remember this true statement. Deeds of darkness do not get any lighter through repetition. It does not matter if every human on earth agrees that murder is ok, as far as God is concerned, it will always be wrong.

Lastly, I can say that I am thoroughly enjoying our fellowship. Remember that it is my commission from the Lord Jesus to feed His sheep, one of which I consider you to be. So then, in that sense, we are both being blessed. Also, the things that I have promised to send you should be shipping within the next few days, so expect them in a couple of weeks, I guess.

May the Lord continue to be gracious unto you and to show you His salvation.

Writing in love
Pastor Ron

9:

Dear Pastor Ron

What a week! Today finds me not at all well physically, but I have a question.

A young acquaintance with lots of problems and a chip on his shoulder (just the sort who needs the comfort of faith) keeps on saying Noah's ark is a problem. He says those who believe the Bible cannot explain evolution, like everything in the world could not have been put on the ark. Polar bears in ancient Israel? He has got a point, but I want something to say to him that might make him think along another line, or just shut him up. A crude and voluble denial of God by a person of limited education and spiritual background cries out for some sort of pointed riposte. Maybe if you could give me some ammunition, we could get him into a different groove for his own good. It will need to be something simple-minded.

Relying on you and Him.

K

Greetings, Beloved Sister

What a pleasure to hear from you. Concerning your physical maladies, I will bring them up for prayer at this week's prayer meeting. I trust that you will feel better soon.

Now, about your friend, the way it works is this. For those of us who believe in God, it is a matter of faith, and faith does not sweat the details regarding creation (especially since we weren't around at that time to witness any of it). We simply accept the physical world as we find it, and attribute it to God's creative handiwork. Some things may be hard to understand, or not seem logical, but this is only due to insufficient knowledge. The arguments that scientists put forth to explain the universe are equally illogical, and hard to understand, but no one struggles with putting their faith in the words of mere men. We may not fathom God, but we can be sure that no man has ever created a universe. So in comparison, the only truly illogical thing is to trust in the arm of flesh. I'm sure that to someone from long ago, many of the technological achievements that we enjoy today would be equally as confusing and impossible to understand. It would be foolish, indeed, to disavow a belief in God, simply because of ignorance.

About his statement regarding evolution, how dare he hold those of faith to a higher standard than those who trust in uncertain knowledge! He says that those who believe in the Bible cannot explain evolution. Well, those who believe in evolution cannot explain evolution either! It is universally understood that there is no actual verifiable evidence that life here on earth resulted from a series of random quantum events. No matter how long one is willing to wait, the law of entropy requires that closed systems proceed from a state of order to disorder, never in the reverse. In every conceivable system that one cares to observe, the ordered, low entropy state is always the result of outside influence,

accompanied by the expenditure of much more energy than the system itself is capable of producing. This model is observed 100% of the time throughout the known and unknown universe. It is utterly fallacious to think that the one time that this model was not followed was in the introduction of life on Earth. No, I'm afraid that life on this planet could not have possibly formed without outside help. Most reasonable people, and I, choose to call this outside influence God. As I have previously stated, it requires far more faith to believe in evolution than it does to believe in a divine creator. The notion of evolution serves as a sandbar upon which the proud and self-righteous stand. What they don't realize is that they are standing on sinking sand. In other words, evolution is the refuge for those who refuse to receive the true witness of the creation, which, by its very presence, is declaring the glory of God. The only ones who don't see this are the fools who, having been blinded by pride, say in their hearts that there is no God. Sister, this is all basically academic, but the one who is so blinded by the god of this age cannot actually see these simple truths, no matter how eloquently or frequently they are offered. What I am saying is that none of this will likely help your friend, but you may find it useful for your own understanding.

Now I will edify you about the animals and the ark. It is a mistake to assume that the ancient world was ontologically identical to the one that exists today. There is an evolution-like analogue that is actually valid. It is called natural selection. This process speaks to a species' ability to adapt to a changing natural environment. The changes result in genotypic modifications that produce alterations in phenotype, but not in species. The way that this works is as follows: a white moth that is consistent in coloring with its background is harder to be seen and subsequently eaten by birds. But, as those backgrounds become darker in coloring due to soot production, the lighter colored moths are easily seen and eaten. Moths that end up as dinner do not survive to procreate. However, the darker ones do. So then, over time, the species becomes darker in color, as an adaptation to its surroundings. It does remain, however, the same species. I think that it is safe to say that much of the diversity that we see in creation today, including amongst humans, is directly the result of natural selection. So then, the burden on the poor ark may not have been as severe as one might have expected.

I'm not so sure how simple all of this has been to understand. It certainly would have been easier to simply believe in God in the first place. It's only when we try to deny the obvious that we end up twisting in the wind trying to make sense of things that can only be understood with the heart.

Well, anyway, run this by him, and see what happens. Maybe he will have an ear to hear, but, be that as it may, I have certainly enjoyed sharing these things with you.

Rest in Him and I'll talk to you again soon.

With Love
Pastor Ron

Chapter 5

10:

Hello Pastor Ron

Wow, you seemed a bit steamed up! So too have I been, by the opinions of this young man. However, I have given it some thought, and I have come up with an interesting (to me) idea. Whatever you may think about the ark story (and that will depend on whether you want to take all of the Bible as literal, or not) - how did the ancients know there was a flood to explain? The geological history of the Earth is a relatively new science, and we can only give good guesses at the floods, ice ages and so on. The really smart bit may not be the answer (the ark), but the fact that people back then knew there was an event, or events, that needed explaining. They knew there was a question and the ark was their best shot at it. Now, I think that is truly inspired.

By the way, thank you for prayers for me. Please thank all my brothers and sisters in God.

K

Greetings K

No, I am not at all "steamed up" about this matter. I am just very passionate about the things of God.

Your logic about the flood is interesting, but unnecessary in the following sense. The fact that the word declares that the event happened should be sufficient for anyone who professes to believe in the God that is depicted in those same pages. If we are not to take the entire Bible as literal, then how do we choose which parts to relegate to metaphor, and which parts we find acceptable as doctrine? Is it the parts that we do not understand, or the parts that we disagree with, or perhaps the parts that defy human logic? I rather think that it is the prerogative of the Deity to operate at a level that exceeds our ability to comprehend. He would also reserve the right to be disagreeable, as well as to have His ways and abilities defy human logic. Again, it all comes down to that elusive quantity that He called faith. If we have it, no explanations are needed. If we do not, then none are sufficient. So then, each Christian must decide if it is as He has spoken, that in the volume of the book it is written of Him. If we so choose, then, as far as we are concerned, every word in the Bible is out of the mouth of God. This is a stand that you must settle in your own heart, if you ever want to fully understand the way of the Lord. For there are many things concerning the kingdom that defy logic; not the least of which is the very foundation of Christianity. It was proclaimed that there was a man who came down from Heaven as God in the flesh, and He was tortured and killed for the crimes of

others. Then, He refused to stay dead as all others before Him had done, but He rose from the dead and proclaimed a victory over death in which He invited all of mankind to share. Now, if that story is not the epitome of illogical reasoning, then I don't know what is! However, whoever does not believe that farcical tale with their whole hearts has no claim to Christianity. So, as for me, I choose to accept the Bible as the word of God and accept it as such. Whether I understand it or not, or find the logic in it or not, is not at all relevant, because my faith bridges those gaps in understanding that wait for the building blocks of knowledge.

It is my hope that you find these words edifying.

With Love
Pastor Ron

11:
Dear Pastor Ron

Thank you for your last guidance. You helped me to see what is there to be found, but almost too close to see. (I want to explain something about my present situation. I have rheumatoid arthritis and I am on medication that is the equivalent of mini chemotherapy. This means I get very tired. If you email me and there is a long silence, or the briefest reply - please understand I have not dropped out, just dropped off.)

It may interest you to know that I am trying to get dual nationality. Talking to you has made me realize that part of me is an American and that after years of denying that - maybe I should do something about it.

Back to business. OK, so my best pal at work is gay. He is also a Christian, but he is gay. I do not feel it is my place to shun him, or tackle him about it. That is between him and God. That is more or less my rule. If someone behaves in a way that may be in error according to God's word - it is for God to administer His justice - not for me to carry out a crusade. On the other hand, if he expressed pain or doubt - I would try and talk him through it. I see my role as a Christian to be loving (if I can and I have problems with that) or at least practically helpful and if someone notices the cross I wear - they will get the message. Not that I am scared to talk about God or Jesus. Yet, I know from experience that to talk to the wrong people is a waste of time and can be dangerous. Like speaking Mandarin to a Welshman. It also unsettles those unprepared, unwilling or unable. My position in this is provisional, but I hope it is a good enough ledge to rest on, until I am given something else to do.

I have had a very difficult, painful and disheartening week on the health front and my spirits are low. I am looking forward to tomorrow - Sunday - and my radio service. I always seem to cry when I sing hymns, or hear a passage that strikes my heart. They are beautiful tears, tears of joy, relief, hope and renewal. Tears that heal. God is good.

I am still trying to work out who does full immersion baptisms in the UK and looking forward to your package.

God bless you and the Shekinah Church.

Kay.

Greetings Highly Beloved One

May God's grace be upon you this day. It is always good to hear from you. By now you are probably beginning to understand, how the disciples felt when they walked with the Lord Jesus. It seems as though I have something either illustrative, or corrective to say about just most of what you bring up, huh? Well, my sister, welcome to the world of the teacher.

Now I will speak to the issue you raised concerning homosexuality. I declare that what I share with you is absolutely the truth of the matter. This is an example of something that we discussed previously in that there can sometimes be a difference between how the world views something and how God views it. Remember that the wisdom of God is in no way abrogated by the rebellion of man, no matter how much it is trumpeted. You must know and understand that, as far as God is concerned, homosexuality is a vile evil that threatens the fabric of civilization itself. Historically every time a nation has succumbed to institutionalized homosexuality, God has judged that nation, with devastating effect. Institutionalized homosexuality means that it has become normalized by the society, as evidenced by the unfettered practicing of it, with the support of the generalized society, as well as the castigation of those who would continue to speak against it. Once this has happened, a nation has become irretrievably lost, and is set apart for destruction.

You made a comment regarding your co-worker being gay and also a Christian. I submit to you that this is an impossibility, for one cannot be **simultaneously** set apart for both life and death. We know that those of us who have accepted Christ Jesus have passed from death unto life, meaning that judgment no longer has any claim on us. This is a fact of Christianity that cannot be lawfully contested. We also know this: among others, homosexuals, and sodomites **will not** inherit the kingdom of God (1st Cor. 6:9). So then, you must see that it is impossible for anyone who is practicing a lifestyle of rebellion in this way to have any legitimate claim on eternal life. Otherwise, the Bible has lied to us. This is a premise that I cannot accept. It is much easier to accept that people are deceived. This is the condition of your friend. Now, what is deception? It is the act of accepting as truth, that which is known to be a lie. Remember that the word of God is truth. Remember also, that truths do not conflict. So in this case, someone is in error. Either your friend has allowed himself to be deceived, or else God has lied to us about what constitutes acceptable behavior. You make the judgment.

Now, I agree with you that there is no profit in shunning this person, or in some way raking him over the coals. You also speak correctly when you say that God will be his judge. Our job is not to judge him in the sense of reckoning, but it is to be the light of the world. "How do we do that?" You ask. By saying what God says and, more

importantly, by living how God says. In exactly the same way that we judge whether it is day or night, we also judge whether something is spiritually light or dark. The word of God gives the method of distinction. What He says is dark, is dark indeed, and what He says is light, is light indeed.

Go get some rest now. Write me back after you have carefully considered these things, and consulted the Scriptures.

May our God richly bless you in the name of Jesus

Pastor Ron

12:

Hello Pastor Ron

A lot of what your last email said, I agree with, (faith bridging gaps and God's logic being beyond us) though I am not quite at the stage where I accept everything in the Bible is the word of God. I would, at the moment, distinguish between that high state and things written that were inspired by God but interpreted by man. It is the interpreting that I may find a bit suspect. After all, when God speaks to you, you know it. But if you try to relate the event, human words fail. It is difficult to translate what you know in your heart. Words just get in the way. Either you know or you do not.

But I will give it all some more thought.

God Bless.

K

Hello Dear One

Your argument against the inerrancy of God's word is an ancient one. Going back a couple of thousand years, there were those who said, "How can I know that the words that I hear are really those of the Lord, and not those of mere men?" All I want you to do at this juncture is to very carefully consider the following Scriptures. Go get your Bible, and turn to 2nd Peter 1:16-21. Focus in particular on verses 20 & 21. Accepting this as fact is critical to receiving the Bible as instructions from the throne room of God. I have already given you sufficient logic to show that it is far from fallacy to give heed to the entire word of God as doctrine. I would also suggest that you go back and re-read the

emails that I have sent you which deal with this matter. There is more evidence there than you have seen thus far. Sister, I understand that no one wants to be made a fool of by believing in something that ultimately turns out to be a lie. But consider this, who would be the bigger fool? Would it be us for believing in a non-existent God, willing to sacrifice so much for something worth so little, or would it be Him by allowing mere men the opportunity to undermine His creation by fomenting lies about His plans and purposes? You decide.

Edifying you in love

Pastor Ron

Chapter 6

13:

Dear Pastor Ron

As usual, I have as many questions as answers, but the most pressing is: I assume being reborn is about being called to God and begins with heartfelt confession of your sins. I am guessing that a next step is baptism. My problem is I cannot find a church at which to be baptized. I do not want to join a church just to be baptized. I do not want a church that gives only religion. At present the only church that seems to fit the bill, is your (well you know what I mean, not yours) church. Yet, I am here, and the church is there. This is a problem. Any ideas?

God bless you and the church.

K

Greetings to you Dear Sister in Christ Jesus

I am glad that you have finally received our teachings. I am sure that as you listen to them, they will engender questions so please feel free to write me with them, and I will do the best that I can to answer them. I encourage you to listen to these CDs with your Bible close at hand, so that when I reference a Scripture, you can follow along. In this way, you can be sure as to the authority behind the things that I teach. This helps to factor me out of the equation so that I am not seen as the source, but merely the vessel.

We will pray for you tonight at prayer meeting. Please be encouraged, for the Lord cares for you, and He will respond to you according to your faith. It would also be wise for you to learn to look at yourself the same way that He does. For He sees you not as weak, but strong in Him, lacking nothing, and full of the beauty of the Holy Spirit who

bears witness to our salvation.

Let me address your first question. I believe the specific term that you are referring to is the concept known as being, "born again." You will find this term introduced in the Bible by the Lord Jesus Himself, specifically in John 3:3. By the use of this term, He is describing the process by which we put off the old man of sin, through the "death" of the flesh, and replace him with the new creature that is born of the Spirit of God. Since God makes a distinction between the old man and the new man, it is reasonable to consider the new man as being the product of a new birth, except this birth is not of the flesh but of the Spirit. So, in essence, the person who has believed on the Lord Jesus unto salvation has ceased to exist in the old sense, but now lives to God through Christ Jesus and, as such, they have become born again. I suggest that you read the first 21 verses of John chapter 3, and let Jesus Himself explain this process to you.

You are correct; the next step for the one who has become born again is to submit to baptism. I am rather distressed that you can't seem to find a church body prepared to baptize you. This is certainly one of the elementary principles of the doctrine of Christianity. It is amazing that there are not hundreds of churches tripping over each other for the honor of baptizing you. One possible solution is to seek for a less than conventional organized type of church (translated dead): one where they are more concerned about transforming souls than they are in upholding stale traditions of men. These kinds of churches are not likely to be found in the usual settings, meaning in three hundred year-old giant brick buildings, with interiors covered in tapestries and marble. They are more likely found off the beaten path in smaller accommodations, which are far less grand: maybe a small loft, a storefront, or the like. A good thing to do is to ask any committed Christians that you may know if they are aware of someplace that performs traditional baptisms. Hopefully, these tips may help you. If this doesn't work, then we will figure it out one way or another. I promise you that if you are serious about being obedient to the Scriptures, then it is God's responsibility to see to it that you have the opportunity.

So then, keep listening and asking and, most importantly, follow along in your own Bible as you listen to the teachings. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

May the peace of God flood your heart and bring you complete joy in Him.

Writing with love
Pastor Ron

14:

Dear Pastor Ron

I have started reading your book. It is slow and lovely work, as I track down all the Bible extracts. Your words have led me to some very fine places, helped to crystallize things I have felt/thought but not been able to articulate. Such an adventure!

Some time ago, I asked you what forgiveness felt like. I think I now know, and I dare to hope that I am right in my belief that I am truly forgiven for all that has gone before and so troubled me. I am aware of a feeling of relief, a lifting of a great burden, and a new sense of responsibility to our Lord, others, and myself. It is as if a channel has opened up to two-way traffic. Fledgling that I am, and in my early days, I am still feeling my way forward and still making mistakes, but I notice them faster and make a mental note to pray for better focus. I know I have a long way to go, but I know I will get there to whatever degree our Lord has determined. God is good.

Very best wishes

K

Greetings to you, Beloved of the Most High

I trust that this email finds you in good spirits. I received your last communication with great joy. How was your holiday? Fine, I hope. Everyone here is well. We, in the church of Shekinah, are all excited about the coming year. We expect God to move mightily in our midst. The hunger for the word of God is strong amongst my people. That is very good since that tends to stimulate the teaching anointing in me, and when that happens, great revelations from the word usually occur.

Sister, I am particularly thrilled to hear how my writings have blessed you. As a matter of fact, what you have described is exactly how I wanted the essays to work. That is why I did not actually write out the Scriptural references. That way, those who read the book would have to follow along in their Bible and confirm everything that I have asserted from the word of God. In this way, it lessens the possibility that people would consider the teachings merely my opinion. Based upon your testimony, it seems as though it is working exactly as I had hoped.

Now about that forgiveness, you can have full assurance of it when you simply believe God who has declared it. You see, ultimately, it is not about how we feel about something, but it is about the trustworthiness of the One who has declared the matter. Now, what has He said? He told us that those of us who would believe on Christ Jesus with all of our hearts, would be forgiven of all of our sins and that we would inherit eternal life. This is His testimony, the One who created the heavens and the earth. His words are faithful and true, He cannot deny Himself. We can have full confidence in Him. Remember that He is not a man that He should lie, nor is He the son of man that He

should repent. I believe in Him with all my heart, He says that I am forgiven, and that is that, period. It matters not how I feel. Convince yourself of this fact, and the day will come when the question of whether or not He has forgiven you will never again be an issue for you.

Keep on studying, and let the light of His words fill your heart with joy.

Yours always in Christ Jesus

Pastor Ron

15:

Dear Pastor Ron

I have a question. I, as a youth, was reared in Church of Christ denomination, in which most of my father's family worshipped. I have been actively worshipping in the Church of God in Christ for twelve years but now I'm worshipping in a Baptist ministry, not as a member, but as a servant of God who fellowships through the Spirit. I do not claim any denominations, as I feel this divides. However, I yet have teachings within me from these various denominations in which I do reference back to the Bible. I said all of that to say this. I am an active monetary giver, and I love to give to those in need and various ministries.

The COC teaching taught giving freely and abundantly according to how God has prospered us as believers. I noticed that other denominations teach tithing (10th of gross) and offering and that you will be cursed (Malachi) if you rob God in tithe and offerings. (I have read that the book of Malachi, specifically this verse, is used to bring fear on believers, so as to use scare tactics to cause them to give).

I seldom struggle with this because of mixed places of worship, ultimately desiring to obey God rather than man. Do you have any spiritually inspired knowledge that you can assist me with, to bring liberty in this matter to defeat confusion, which is bondage, which is not of God. You, from reading your website, would appear to be a man who studies the word of God and not tradition.

Also, share with me why we are no longer required to do other commandments or laws, such as circumcision, and burnt offerings, from the Old Testament. Many denominations preach the tithe and money giving all of the time. I am an adult and recognize that we as believers understand that God's house costs to be opened and that it should be equipped with resources for the poor or information on how to assist the poor and elderly. Help.

In addition, I have some questions about the soul. Is there a difference between the soul and the spirit? What about mental illness? Can someone who is mentally ill still be saved? When someone who is saved dies, do they go directly back to God, or do they go into soul sleep? Are they aware of their surroundings?

Thanks

S.G.

Greetings to you, Beloved of the Lord Jesus Christ

I trust that this email finds you in good spirits, and growing in grace. I will now attempt to answer your questions. Rest assured that I do not render my opinion on these matters but, whatever wisdom and knowledge the Lord has given me, I will be dutiful to pass on to you for your edification.

About the "mentally" ill, this is a very broad term, and encompasses many different things. The first thing to realize is that the area of human existence that we call "mental" is a function of our soul realm. (I'll jump ahead a little here to answer your question about the soul and the spirit.) God has constructed us according to the following architecture. We are spirits that come from God. These represent the essential part of our existence. It is the part of us that we share with the Godhead, and forms the connection that we have with Him, and fuels our desire to seek Him. It is by our spirit that we know that God exists, and it is how we perceive Him, and how we receive Him.

We possess souls, in which reside our reasoning, emotions, and intellect. These are the mechanism by which we interact with each other socially. Finally we live in bodies, which are formed from the dust of the Earth, and which must eventually return there. Thus we are tripartite creatures, with each one of our parts serving a vital function in our existence. So then, our souls and spirits are not synonymous terms, but they do reference two different things.

So-called, "mental illness" can take several different forms. Someone may have classic schizophrenia and its related disorders, or they may have the more common manifestations of depression, fear or anxiety. Sister, the first thing that you must realize is that the soul is a non-corporeal entity and, as such, it is not subject to physical maladies such as sickness and disease. Things that we call disease, such as depression are really a manifestation of the soul's response to external pressures of the world. In this case, the "depressed," soul is one that has insufficient knowledge of, or is deficient in faith, in the word of God. Such a one is not equipped to trust in the promises of the word to give them deliverance from the world, and to elevate them above the cares that afflict those who do not know the Lord. People who are anxious and fearful, are certainly not trusting in the word of God, which promises that He has made us more than conquerors through Christ Jesus. Now if we are more than conquerors, then it stands to reason that there is no test that we cannot eventually overcome through faith in His word. That is why Jesus has commanded us not to be anxious over anything but, in everything, to make our supplications to God who is merciful unto us, and who will deliver us from all afflictions. With the case of schizophrenia, one is dealing with actual demonic oppression, or perhaps even possession.

The bottom line of all of this is that the soul cannot be "sick" in the conventional sense and, consequently, there can be no actual remedy found in methods that deal merely with the physiology of the body. Remember that the body is not the soul. Well, one would ask, "Why then, Pastor, do medications appear to work?" Pharmacologic

agents, both legal and illegal, work by interacting with the physiologic processes of the body, especially the brain. Now the brain is the organ by which the soul interfaces with the physical world, but it is not the soul itself. It merely transduces between the soul and the physical, in much the same way that a stereo speaker transduces between the electronic waveform of music, and the acoustic energy that we perceive as sound. Problems in the speaker may prevent you from properly hearing the music, but it does not mean that the amplifier is not doing its job to produce the waveform. In like manner, disease of the brain, or effects from chemicals, may interfere with the brain's ability to transduce between the soul and the physical, but the soul itself continues to function as God has designed it. This is a very brief answer to a very complicated subject, but it should give you insight into how these processes function, so that your understanding may be enhanced.

Now to your specific question about the mentally ill. Salvation is of the spirit, and mental "illness" is of the soul. It is entirely possible for someone to believe with the heart, (spirit) even while they struggle with the soul. That is why the Bible tells us to renew or transform our minds (souls) with the word of God. In that way, we may be in harmony with all of our members and, then, we may walk in all of the benefits of our salvation. In essence then, what I am saying is that mental illness, in and of itself, is no impediment to salvation, but it is certainly a hindrance to complete freedom in the Gospel.

Next question:

What is the fate of those who die in Christ? Do they go directly back to God, or do they rest until the second coming? The answer is that they do both. Death is defined as a "separation." In this case, those who die are separated from their bodies. For those who die in the Lord, they (soul and spirit) rise to heaven to "rest" while they await the resurrection from the dead, (which means to receive their incorruptible bodies). In this state of rest, however, they are not asleep in the soul realm, for sleep is of the body and not the soul. So then, one who is at rest in the Lord is completely awake and aware; even as those who die absent the salvation that comes from God through Christ Jesus, are also completely awake and aware, albeit in a very harsh environment known as hell. Pretty scary thought huh?

What about giving and tithing?

The Bible certainly encourages Christians who are taught, to share in all good things with those who teach. The Gospel is freely given to all men. However, the cost to deliver this free gift is not insubstantial. The elements of the darkness of this world will not support this noble effort. Therefore, it falls to those who have been blessed by the diligence of others to give of themselves, that those who come after them may also have the opportunity to partake of the blessed Gospel. It should not require legislation to accomplish this, as in the old covenant. However, the notion of the tithe is a very good model for biblical giving that is acceptable to God. So, one may feel free to adopt this model for their own personal giving, and have full confidence that they are complying with the biblical mandate to be a faithful and a cheerful giver.

Neither Malachi nor any other Scripture should ever be used to extort money from the brethren. A wise man of God knows that the only kind of giving that God honors is

that which is freely given, and cheerfully so. He does not respond to fearful or frustrated giving. I have found that it is sufficient to simply teach the people what the commands of God are, and they will be faithful to that. This I have proven in my own ministry. I have not passed a plate in seventeen years and, pound for pound, my people are the most financially faithful church on Earth. So, by this I know that the word of God is faithful to perform all that it has promised.

Now, one final point about tithing. It is not as you think: a tenet of the old covenant, It was practiced long before Moses. It is a way to honor God for providing our prosperity. Remember how Abraham gave a tithe to Melchizedek? Now Abraham was a thousand years before Moses. The Lord incorporated the concept of the tithe into the Law of Moses as a way to encourage the people to be faithful in their finances; not so God could have their money, but that He would be able to bless them. I recognize that there are many men of God who use the Scriptures as tools of extortion, but we must be careful to avoid rejecting their truths because of the offense of those who have been charged to minister them to us. I would that all men of God everywhere would be as I am concerning God's finances. For it is far better to simply let the word of God reveal itself to the hearts of the people, than to resort to the sin of Simon who thought that the things of God could be corrupted by money.

Well, sister, I hope that you have found these answers useful. I declare that the truths that you have sought, God has been faithful to provide to you. May they penetrate your heart and bring you joy, peace of mind, and full confidence in the Lord who loves you.

If I can be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to email me. Thank you for your kind attention.

Yours in Christ Jesus

Pastor Ron Crenshaw

Chapter 7

16:

Pastor Ron,

You have been on my heart lately because of our friend to whom you have talked. My wife and I have been led to a lifestyle of witnessing and evangelism. Because I am an international airline pilot, I am using those layover opportunities to talk to people about Jesus and the Gospel in other countries. It has been amazing. My wife has been doing the same in our area. She is now the "outreach director" of our local church. She is also being set up to be the executive director of an organization called "Somebody Cares" in our area. "Somebody Cares" is a Christian organization that unifies churches and other organizations to meet people's needs in the community and also for disaster response. It is a nerve center, if you will, for being the body of Christ in the community. After reviewing some teachings on your website, I have some questions:

1. Can women be evangelists? Can they hand out tracts and talk to people about Jesus in public? Is this exercising authority over men?
2. Can women be in positions of authority in pseudo-Christian organizations like "Somebody Cares?" I can't do the job because of my schedule and it is my wife's heart to help those in need.
3. I believe I have been called of God to go into a position of governmental authority sometime in the future. The concept seems almost ludicrous to me since I have no experience in politics and so far above my capabilities. Would you pray about that?

Respectfully,

D.A.

Greetings to you Brother D.A.

I am most honored to hear from you. It is my pleasure to have this opportunity to share with you in the things of God. At this time, I feel that it is important to deal with you on the specific issues that you covered in your email. With regards to your first question as to the suitability of women being evangelists, let me start with the short answer: no. Now, let me also say that in order for this answer to be accepted and followed, it is necessary to have a thorough understanding of the biblical position regarding men and women issues. You will find that they are quite different from the ways of the world. Moreover, because the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ has, by and large, conformed to the image of the world, it is operating in a manner outside of the will of God. Therefore, it is lacking in power and effectiveness in fulfilling the holy calling. I would say that I have spent something on the order of one hundred hours teaching these principles to my congregation so obviously, it would not be practical to expound upon them in a single email. I will, however, speak briefly on these matters and, in addition, I will send you some of the relevant teaching CDs. I encourage you to listen to them with your wife and your Bibles, and to follow along very carefully considering everything that

is presented. As I present the Scriptures, make sure to follow along in your own Bibles so that you may see and understand that what I bring forth is from the heart of God and not some private interpretation. You see, my brother, there are many dozens of Scriptures in the Bible that give us insight into God's heart concerning the order of His creation. His hierarchy is neither ill considered nor capricious, but it is designed to allow mankind to flourish on the Earth and to be immune from satanic disruption.

What about the specifics of women as evangelists? The answer is easy if you understand, in general, how God has ordained women to function within society. He has, from the beginning and, to this day, been a God of androcentricity. This means that God's primary method of interaction and fellowship with the natural realm has always been through the sons of Adam. From the beginning, it did not take the devil long to exploit the weakness of womankind to nearly destroy men from the face of the earth in the days of Noah. Knowing this, the Lord has placed every woman everywhere under terrestrial authority. Now the form of that authority depends on that woman's station in life. For example, if she is married, then her head is her husband. If she is the unmarried virgin, then her head is her father, etc. This concept of headship is no mere social convention that is to be paid mere lip service. It is a divine ordinance that is designed to keep mankind from harm being inflicted upon him by the forces of darkness, using women as portals into the affairs of men. This is a system that has been in place since the Garden of Eden, and persists to this very day. Again, all of this will be painstakingly spelled out in the Scriptures that I cover in the teachings. Now in all of this, am I saying that women have no place in the economy of God? Certainly not! On the contrary, women rise to their fullest expression of Christianity when they live their lives in obedience to the word of God. But what you must understand is that God cannot use a woman who is not covered according to the divine ordinance. To do so would violate the very statutes that He instituted in the beginning to prevent womankind from being deceived by the spiritual forces of darkness. So then, it is necessary for this covering shield to work against all incursions from the spirit world, both light and dark. What I am being so bold to say is that because of the covering on a woman's head, the devil cannot directly use her as an instrument of deception. However, neither can the Lord directly insinuate Himself into the life of a woman. Both light and darkness must work through the head and, in the case of the dark, exploit the lack thereof, in order to effectuate any interaction in the affairs of men. This has been an extremely brief excerpt of the fullness of this teaching, but I believe that it certainly gives you incentive to explore the doctrine further so that you and your wife may serve the Lord without distraction.

The second part of your question asks about the suitability of women handing out tracts, and does this constitute exercising authority over men? Well no, it is not exercising authority of any kind. I define authority as, "the lawful ability to speak for another, and the power to direct their course." Handing out tracts does neither of these things. However, neither does it do anything substantive to promote the Gospel. I might be treading on your toes here, but it is always my policy to speak the truth on any matter brought before me. Handing out tracts is not telling anyone anything about the Lord Jesus that they don't already know. But it is the power of God that will speak for Him and declare His majesty and glory. Remember that it is written: the kingdom of God is not in

word but in power. What power you ask? Mainly, the power of God to change men's lives. It is the new creature who lives a life of godliness and self-control, with a foundation of love that will show everyone in the vicinity that God is real and rewards those who diligently seek Him. Most commonly, the Christians who are most diligent in telling people of the glory of God, or are prodigious in passing out tracts or sharing Scriptures, are the ones most responsible for destroying through hypocrisy, the very ones they are seeking to save. (Not at all to say that this is the case in your situation, but I speak in general). So what I am saying is this. It is far more effective in winning a soul to the Lord Jesus, for a Christian to be found blameless in his testimony than to knock on every door in the world, but bring in hypocrisy.

Question #2 asks about the suitability of women being in positions of authority in non-church related areas. This is a question that cannot be directly answered from the Scriptures since, in them; God speaks mainly concerning the role of women within the context of the home and the church. So then, statements about women in other areas can only be made, on the basis of applying the Biblical principles by extension. With that in mind, I would say that it is not necessarily unlawful for a woman to be in authority in a general life situation, nor is it necessarily expedient. I would think that each case would have to be considered separately. Certainly this can be said with impunity, if in the course of being in said authority, a woman allows it to impact negatively on her responsibility in the areas that God has spoken on, then she would do well to re-evaluate her position.

Question #3 has to do with where you believe it is that God is calling you. This one is actually pretty easy to judge. If you are convinced in your heart, without any fear or reservation, then I would say that you should pursue whatever is on your heart to do. And have full confidence, that if you are in the will of God nothing can withstand your effort. You may encounter obstacles, but they will not be able to hinder you. If this is the will of God for your life, then you cannot fail to achieve it if you are faithful. If it is not His will, then, in due season, you will know that as well.

Well, my brother, I hope that this email has been a blessing to you and yours. May our God be gracious unto you and reveal His perfect will for your life, so that you may accomplish all that He has purposed in His heart for you to do. Grace and peace be unto you and your household.

With all of my love

Pastor Ron Crenshaw

Chapter 8

17:

Pastor Ron,

Thanks for the reply. I am on CD #7 of the first series. All the teaching rings true biblically, but I have to say your revelation concerning the spirit realm is unique. You seem to have a depth of knowledge that most do not. Incidentally, I was researching the Dead Sea Scroll documents today to use them to help validate the preservation of the Scriptures. Anyway, as I was reading the translated texts, there were several instances of a pre-flood race of beings that were of large stature and who were the result of "angelic beings" having children with human women. These angelic beings also intermingled with the animal kingdom, so they say, and created a whole mess of "hybrid species," half humanoid and half animal. I remember you had mentioned angelic "interference" in one of your previous teachings and your teaching on Revelation concerning angels mixing again with humans to create the "fourth beast" in Daniel, I believe (toes partly strong and partly weak). Wow, quite a diversion from the topic at hand. So on to evangelism. I guess, according to your definition we are not evangelists. I don't quite know how to describe what we do in biblical terms to people who ask. Since very few Christians go out and proclaim the Gospel in the "traffic lanes of life," I get confused looks on their faces when I tell people what we do. We are always asked if we are Mormons or Jehovah's Witnesses. Since I got tired of trying to explain to others what this entails, I sort of adopted the word "evangelist" since that term is more easily understood.

Anyway, as far as I know, I cannot remember any notable "signs, wonders, or healing miracles" accompanying our work. A 17-year-old boy accepted the Lord last week when we went to Niagara Falls to witness. I consider that a miracle, but not the ones you are talking about. My wife was the one who talked to him. I have specifically asked the Lord for those gifts because I do not want to be a simple messenger without the power of God to back up the message. In other words, I don't want to be just a "Mormon" arguing for a religious point of view. I want the Gospel message proclaimed with power so that God's Spirit and not just persuasive words and arguments convert people. So far, I have not had those "power gifts," if you will, operating in my ministry and neither has my wife for that matter. I keep asking the Lord if there is any sin in my life preventing these gifts from flowing, but I know of none so far. I do have the gift of prophecy, but I have not used it in witnessing to my recollection. I have had several people tell me that I am very compelling and persuasive, but again, that is not the "power gifts."

So I will continue to listen to the CDs. They are very informative by the way. You have a very "user friendly" teaching style, and yet you are bold and to the point. I'll get back to you for any further issues. By the way, I want to thank you for the teaching CDs.

Be blessed also in the name of Jesus,

D.

Greetings Brother D

Sorry about taking so long to answer you. I trust that you and yours are in high spirits. After reading your email, I can see that your confusion is related to a difference in how we connotate the word evangelism. As a teacher in the body of Christ I tend to be a stickler for accuracy in the word of God. True evangelism is that which is performed by the evangelist, and the evangelist is one of the fivefold ministry gifts that are appointed by the Holy Spirit. The essence of the ministry of the evangelist is to preach the Gospel with signs and wonders following. These two phenomena are inseparable. Preaching without the accompanying supernatural manifestations, such as healings, miracles, and casting out demons and the like, is not considered to be evangelism. My comments about women in ministry concerned themselves with the operation of the specific office, as indicated by the Holy Spirit. The activities that you described, while certainly potentially helpful to someone, are not considered to be evangelism *per se*. A good example of what the Bible considers true evangelism to be can be found in a study of the ministry of Phillip the evangelist.

Actually, I don't think that it is possible to describe the essence of the ministry of the evangelist any better than the way that you did in your last email. For you correctly point out that the Gospel message must be proclaimed in the midst of the demonstration of the power of the One who makes the promise. This is the persistent biblical model, from the prophets to the Lord Jesus, and subsequently to the apostles. I certainly understand your characterization of what you do as evangelism and, in a sense, it is ministering the Gospel to someone. My burden, on the other hand, is to teach the word of the Holy One with extreme precision, thus eliminating the opportunity for confusion because of differing understanding of the meanings of words. It has been my experience that the failure to be on the same page with regards to what a specific term means, has led to a lot of the doctrinal division that we see so prominently displayed within the body of Christ. This is the precise ministerial niche of the teacher: to bring clarity concerning the counsel of God, as revealed to him through His word. It is important to realize that language is the tool of the teacher, and that it is by this mechanism that he brings forth understanding of the word.

So then, I would encourage you to continue to seek after spiritual gifts since that is the command of the Lord, but remember that these gifts operate by faith, and faith without works is dead. As you continue to seek God on these matters, the day will come when boldness will rise up in your heart, and you will step out by faith and actually do the works that constitute the work of the evangelist. The premise is quite simple; God will confirm His word with signs and wonders following. If you are truly called to be an evangelist, then the day that you truly believe with all of your heart, and stretch out your hand without doubting, is the day that you will see the glory of the Lord.

Briefly speaking on the notion of hidden sin in your life, it is important to realize that faith triumphs over sin. Remember that the gifts and calling of God are without repentance; meaning that, once received, they cannot be rescinded by God, even if we become unworthy of them. Pretty strange, huh? But that is the power of His promise. Would that any of us would be worthy of His calling. By the way, you should not at all

be wondering about any sin in your life. If you are born again and, especially, if you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you would certainly know whether or not your life is in violation of the holy statutes. The presence of sin cannot be hidden from the heart that is alive to God. So take stock of yourself, if your conscience does not convict you, then neither will the Lord.

I trust that you will find this letter instructive. Please feel free to call or write me at your leisure. I remain at your disposal, and please accept the teaching CDs as my gift to you to instruct you in the way of righteousness.

Be blessed my brother

Pastor Ron

18:

Hi,

I was told the Bible states that if your father is white, and your mother is black, you are not mixed but indeed white. I was also told if your father is black and your mother is white you are not mixed but indeed black. I can't locate any data that pertains to this. Do you know a biblical statement that supports this and, if so, where can I find the data that would verify this?

Dear Sir,

Greetings to you. Your question is rather intriguing, and I will try to provide you with an answer. First of all, the Bible makes no such reference to “black” or “white” in the ethnic sense that we use these terms today. God does not distinguish amongst mankind in that way. He only recognizes three kinds of “groups:” Jews, (the seed of Abraham after the flesh) the Church, (the seed of Abraham after the Spirit) and all of others. (Also known as Gentiles or the nations – see Acts 2:26) So then, the notion of whiteness or blackness and all of the social and ethnic ramifications thereof is an invention of man.

Now to give you a specific answer to your question: Whether you are considered to be “white or black” depends on who is doing the asking, so to speak. Meaning, is it God or man? God reckons the lineage through the father. So then, whatever ethnicity your father is, you are considered by God to be that as well. For example, Hittite fathers gave rise to Hittite sons and daughters. And likewise, Levite fathers begot Levite sons and daughters. Whether you were white or black was an accident of your ethnicity. The important issue was, did your nation follow the laws of God? It was not what color your skin was. To put it simply, God recognized the Ethiopian or Cushite, and they just happened to be dark skinned. From God's perspective, their skin color was no more a factor than their height or their weight.

Man, on the other hand, has further subdivided humanity along skin hue lines. In so doing, the concept of whiteness or blackness has become tantamount to a race. These so-called racial distinctions are made on the basis of skin color without regard to ethnic origin. Therefore, man has succeeded in creating the illusion of races and species of mankind that do not actually exist, but are only inventions spawned by Satan. They are designed to divide us and keep us distracted from the diligent search for the true and living God, Who made from one blood, all nations of mankind that we may serve Him.

I trust that you will find this answer useful. If I can be of any further assistance, please don't hesitate to email me.

Thank you for your inquiry
Pastor Ron Crenshaw

19:

Hi Pastor Ron,

I am very unhappy at the church I attend because they do not teach the full word of God. Knowing this, I am torn between being the submissive wife and raising my children in the fullness of God's Word. I try to make the best of my situation by telling myself that this is where God wants my family to be and that I need to be submissive to my husband who chose to attend this church. Yet, I am convicted because I want my children to receive everything that God has given them. I do not even have the confidence in my pastor to discuss this matter with him. Am I wrong to feel this way, Pastor Ron?

P

Dear P

Your situation is all too typical in the church today. It is certainly unfortunate that in many cases the sheep of the Lord Jesus do not have the confidence in their shepherds that they should. However, we do have the sure witness of the word of God, which can be applied in your life, whether it is being reinforced in your local church or not. Remember, my sister, that family unity is more important to God than being in the best church. I know of many situations where there are families that have been instructed in the most exquisite pearls of heavenly wisdom, and yet have made a royal mess of their lives, which of course makes the word of no effect unto them. What you must realize is that, on your part, the best way you can have a hand in raising your children in the fullness of the word, is for you to be obedient to it with all of your heart. You see the things of God will not be any more real to your children than they are to you. When we say one thing, but live another, then our children become disillusioned by our hypocrisy.

As a Christian wife and mother, you have but one duty: to be the best helpmate to your husband that you can, being submissive to him in all things, even to the attending of the “wrong” church.

Pray for him that the Lord will open his eyes to see, and stir up in him a zeal that will lead him to seek the deep things of God. In the meantime, comfort yourself with the words of 1st Peter 3:1-7.

I hope that you find these words useful to you. If you have any further questions, please don’t hesitate to write me, for I am in the earth realm to serve.

Yours in Christ Jesus,
Pastor Ron Crenshaw

20:

Greetings Pastor Ron,

I’m sorry to admit that, although I am a frequent listener of your program on KHIS, at times, I can’t stop what I’m doing and give my undivided attention. As a former Oneness Pentecostal, I want to say that I appreciate your current teaching on the Godhead, and I was especially impressed with the patience you showed to the Oneness woman who called in today. However, I do have a question that I hope you will answer, and forgive me if you already addressed it in times past. Now my question is: how much of an understanding of the nature of the Godhead does one need to know in order for it to be sufficient for true saving faith?

It has been my understanding that when I held to the Oneness view of God, I had “another Jesus” (2 Cor. 11:4) and therefore a Jesus who cannot save. The reason I ask is I’ve heard you acknowledge Oneness callers as “brothers” or “sisters,” yet, at the same time, you’re lambasting them on their view of God.

I look forward to your response and Lord bless you,

E S

Greetings to you my brother in Christ Jesus.

First off, I want to thank you for your interest in the program, and I rejoice in the fact that it has been of benefit to you. It encourages me to know that my efforts to edify the body of Christ are not completely in vain.

Now to answer your question: Saving faith is that which is applied to a belief in the name of Jesus, which itself is simply accepting as true, everything that those who bore

witness to Him, have proclaimed about Him. That is, namely, His witness concerning Himself, His Father in Heaven, the Holy Spirit, (both in Heaven and on earth) and finally, those who were eye witnesses to both His earthly ministry, as well as His resurrection. Now what was their witness? That Christ Jesus, the only begotten of the Father, has come in the image and eternal glory of God. He came first to declare the Father to us, and then, to redeem us back to the Father, by the sacrifice of Himself, by the shedding of His blood for the remission of our sins. Having accomplished this redemption, by virtue of His having been raised from the dead, He returned to the glory that He had with the Father in the beginning, and this so that He might be the firstborn of many brethren. Now those of us who have received this witness also by that same faith receive the gift of eternal life, which was promised to us by the One, Christ Jesus, of whom all of the witnesses speak, and confirm that His testimony is true. With this knowledge, those of us who have been sanctified, also purify ourselves by obedience to the doctrines of the Lord Jesus, who served as our example, when He walked amongst us. This we do, lest we be disqualified by being weak in faith, and falling short of the glory of God, into which He came to bring us.

This is the “essence” of the salvation message from above, and it is valid for us even if we do not completely understand the message of the One through whom we obtain that salvation. Believe it or not, when it comes to the Lord Jesus, the message is far more important than the messenger. This is why we are given so few clues as to His identity or appearance, because the Father is looking for those who will worship Him in Spirit, and in truth. These will be counted amongst those who are the most blessed of men: namely, those who have believed and yet have not seen. You see there is a day coming when all will be revealed, and we will all see the Son of Man as He really is. But for now we all see through the glass darkly, not completely apprehending the fullness of the divine nature. However, there is one thing that we may know for sure, and that is those who know Him after the Spirit, will always be counted worthy of eternal life, no matter how ill conceived their understanding of Him is after the flesh.

With what I know of the Oneness Pentecostal doctrine, they would certainly meet the aforementioned requirements for salvation, despite their extremely shortsighted view of the Godhead. It is quite sad that they have allowed themselves to become deceived in denying the very declaration of the Father that the Lord Jesus came to show us and, as such, they are robbed of a great deal of the Gospel message, and the incredible sense of joy and peace that comes from the knowledge of our communion with Him as “Abba.” In much the same way, denominations, such as the Baptists, are severely impaired by denying the true indwelling of the Holy Spirit, with the accompanying evidence of speaking in other tongues. It is clear to me that the fullest expression of our relationship with God can only come from being fully enveloped by all of the divine nature into which the Lord Jesus has come to bring us. Notice that having the Holy Spirit does not take anything away from Jesus, nor is He diminished by the existence of the Father.

Since I perceive that the Oneness people do indeed have the real Jesus, (the Holy Spirit bearing witness to this fact by His indwelling of them despite their obvious doctrinal errors) I do not consider it fallacious to call them brethren. Moreover, it is my most sincere desire to edify, even them, more accurately in the ways of the Lord, if at all possible.

In conclusion, my brother, I hope that you have found this communication enlightening. Please do not hesitate to write me again if you have any further questions. I exist to serve the body of Christ.

Yours in Christ Jesus

Pastor Ron Crenshaw

21:

Dear Pastor Ron,

I would be grateful if you could help me here in answering my question with reference to the Scripture verse John 3:16. It intrigues me to know that God says that, “He gave His only begotten Son.”

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16

The reason why I am asking this is that our Lord Jesus Christ came to this world as both, the Son of man, and the Son of God. He did the work that our Father had planned. He was put on the cross, was pronounced dead, and resurrected on the third day, and finally ascended back to our Father. The question which I find difficult to answer is why the verse, “He gave His only begotten Son,” (emphasis on the word GAVE) when Jesus Christ ascended back to our Father in Heaven? My second question is why the inclusion of the word ONLY in the verse above?

Your kind answer and explanation would be appreciated.

Your Brother in Christ

Greetings my Brother,

Your questions are very intriguing and thought provoking. I will now attempt to answer them for you:

#1. Implicit in the verb “to give” is the fact that the one doing the giving on the one hand, actually has possession or control of the object given and is doing so of their own free will. For example, when one works for an employer and payday comes around, that employer does not “give” you your paycheck, but he is paying a debt. When you apply this logic to the gift of God, the magnitude of it becomes so much more profound when

you consider that He was under no obligation to help us, having no indebtedness to us. Motivated purely by love, He paid the ransom for our souls, which were being held hostage by sin. Since blood guiltiness demands payment in like kind, it was necessary for blood to be shed for the remission of said sin. However, the blood, which was to be shed for remission, could not itself be tainted with the guilt of those whose sins were to be remitted through this blood. Since all who dwelt on earth were of Adam and, as such, were tainted by his sin nature, it was not possible to find remitting blood among the seed of man. Therefore, it became necessary for the Father to look to His Son to provide the blood to accomplish the task. Jesus' response was to ask the Father to prepare for Him a body. When this was done, the Father "gave" Jesus to us, not out of obligation or in payment of a debt, but only because of great love.

Now, the cost of remission was the shedding of blood. When this was accomplished, death, which had been empowered by sin, no longer had dominion over us, and He, and we, were free to reign in life. Therefore, His task being completed, He was free to return from whence He came: namely, to the right hand of power. So then, you can see that God, having "given" Jesus for a specific purpose, and that purpose having been completed, there was no need for Jesus to remain amongst men at that time. Nevertheless, He did not leave us without two very important pieces of Himself: one was His Spirit in the form of the Holy Spirit, and the other was His body in the form of the Church.

#2. The word "only" in the context of the verse in question does not exist in a vacuum, but it is intimately connected to the following word "begotten." So then, the key to understanding the use of the word "only" is to also understand the use of the word "begotten." The concept of begotten is related to a direct lineage, a commonality of bloodlines, a bringing forth directly from within oneself. From this, it is clear that the only entity to be brought forth directly from the Father in a manner analogous to the traditional meaning of the word "begotten" is Christ Jesus. He is distinguished from the angels by two important facts: 1) He was in the beginning with God but did not precede God (part of the mystery of the Godhead), and 2) He was not the result of a creative effort of God. Jesus is the only one in creation to enjoy this unique relationship with the Father. All other "children" of God are the result of either creation (angels) or grafting in to the family via the redemptive work of Christ Jesus (the Church).

In conclusion then, my brother, I hope that I have succeeded in increasing your understanding of these deep spiritual matters. I am deeply blessed by the opportunity to minister words of truth to my brethren in other parts of the world. Please feel free to contact me anytime. It has been my pleasure to serve you.

Grace to you in the name of Christ Jesus!

Pastor Ron Crenshaw

22:

Dear Pastor Ron,

I hope you are doing well. I have a very important question for you. I have been saved for almost 13 years now and, since then, over the years a lot of anger has risen within me. I don't understand why it's there, but I can't seem to get rid of it. I received the baptism of the Holy Spirit back in 1991. God began to use me with the gift of tongues and with the interpretation of tongues. Since then, I have gotten married. I married a woman who was married (not when we got married) for 14 years. We met at church in California. We fell in love (or should I say lust?), and we slept together (while she was still married to her husband). I don't know if it matters any, but her husband is in prison (15-life). Ex-husband I should say. They got married at a young age; both were about 16. He cheated on her numerous times, but she always forgave him and stayed with him.

She and I were both saved at the time we committed fornication (and she was still married). She told her husband (who, at the time, was not saved), and he told her to either leave me alone, or he was divorcing her. She admitted to him that she was in love with me. They got divorced, and we got married. ARE WE LIVING IN ADULTERY? WHY? OR WHY NOT? AND, IS THIS WHERE THE ANGER STEMS FROM? PLEASE HELP ME!!!!!!! IF WE ARE IN ADULTERY, DO WE NEED TO DIVORCE? CAN WE STILL MAKE HEAVEN BEING THIS WAY?

Dear Brother,

I want to thank you for the opportunity to advise you on these important spiritual matters. You are indeed right. These are important questions. I trust the Holy Spirit to give me the wisdom to answer them for your benefit.

With regards to your question on your marriage situation, it would not be possible for me to answer with specificity concerning your circumstances since that would require a lot more information on your particular histories. However, I can answer in general terms, based on the word of God. I don't think that you need me to tell you of the error in committing adultery and fornication, so I won't belabor those issues. Suffice it to say; those sins are under the blood of Jesus. The real issue under discussion is this. Is your present marriage valid in the eyes of God? We know that Jesus taught in Matthew chapter 19 about divorce and those who re-marry. But how do we balance that with His power to forgive transgression? The answer is actually quite simple and has to do with a principle that I call the "mystery of marriage." Basically put, whether God holds you to a marriage or not will depend on the status of your enlightenment when you got divorced. In other words, when you got divorced, (speaking in general terms, not to you

specifically) did you know and understand the relationship between an earthly marriage and the model represented by Jesus and His bride (see Ephesians 5:25-30)? God will not excuse any Christian that gets divorced in spite of a complete understanding of the symbolism of their marriage in relationship to the “great” marriage. Their only remedy would be to be reconciled with their spouse. I strongly suspect that you were ignorant of these issues when you got married and, as such, the Lord would be inclined to wink at the sin. I have some tapes on this that will explain the process a little more completely than I’m able to go into here, and you are welcome to them. Just give me your address, and I will have them sent to you.

Now on to your question about anger. Basically, anger is a manifestation of the flesh and results from poor self-control, which is, of course, a fruit of the Spirit. What you have to realize is that being Spirit-filled does not automatically result in acceptable behavior. One must also yield to the Spirit in order for Him to effect any positive changes in our lives. When we become spiritually mature, we realize that there is very little profit in unjustified anger. Moreover, it will lead to opening doors for the devil to afflict us. These are brief answers to your questions. I would suggest that if you have a good pastoral covering, these are definite issues that you and your wife should discuss with him. If not, then I would be willing to talk to both of you about these things. Thanks again for your interest in the things of God that I teach.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Ron Crenshaw

The Epistles of Pastor Ron

Ms. T C

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus. My name is Pastor Ron Crenshaw, and I am writing on behalf of our mutual brother, Mr. CW. He asked me to write to you and I agreed. In his letter to me, he expressed that you had written to him, and in the letter, you had expressed some sadness because of some problems that you were going through. Well, obviously, without knowing any of the details of your situation, I would not be able to get specific, but I will trust that the Holy Spirit will guide me in what to tell you. I am assuming that you are born again and, as such, you are entitled to the comfort of the Lord Jesus. My first advice is for you to avail yourself of the support of your local pastor if you indeed are part of a local congregation. And if you are not, then why not? Many people fail to take full advantage of their covenant with the Lord by not utilizing the gifts that He has put into the body of Christ for this very purpose. If you have a pastor, then I would encourage you to go to him and discuss with him the issues that are grieving you. As a pastor myself, I'm quite sure that he would be very amenable to hearing your plight, and to be given the opportunity to help you with wise counsel from the word. In addition to this, I assure you that no matter what your circumstances, the Bible has an answer for you. There is no situation that we find ourselves in for which the word has not given us a defense, so that we may walk in victory in all things. So then, whatever your situation, find the relevant Scriptures in the Bible and then simply be obedient to whatever they say to do. Trust that God loves you and cares for you and will not see you come to shame, but you must trust Him for He cannot move in the absence of faith. Consider this a trial of your faith and, believe it or not, rejoice in this opportunity for the Lord to show Himself mighty on your behalf. When He brings you through this, (and He will bring you through this) then you will know that He cares for you, longs to make His abode in you, and to manifest Himself to you. This is the very reason that He sent Jesus in the first place. To make for Himself a people, that He could be their God, and they could be His people.

So be encouraged, my sister, and know that He is Lord. Stand still, and see His salvation unto you. May the grace of God continue to grow in you to fill you with peace. Thank you for this opportunity to share words of truth with you.

Yours in Christ
Pastor Ron Crenshaw

To: EB
From: Pastor Ron Crenshaw
Re: Response to your letter of 3/7/00

Greetings to you, my Brother in Christ Jesus

I trust that this letter finds you in good health and spirits. I am most pleased that you find my "Straight Talk" radio program a blessing to you and your brethren. I had great hopes that the program would be a channel of edification to the body of Christ in this area, and this feedback from you and others confirms to me that this is indeed so. It is the good fruit that is being born out in the lives of the people that enables me to endure the "toughness" of this business.

Now, to answer your specific questions. Although I am aware of brother Kenneth Hagin's wonderful teaching ministry, I have not been affiliated with them, or any other group for that matter. Everything that I know was given to me by inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It is by the teaching anointing that I am able to tap into unlimited knowledge and understanding from the very throne room of God. I know that this may sound presumptuous to you, however I cannot deny what manner of good things in the way of ministry gifts that the Lord has provided to His children. I am simply one of those things and, for that, I give all glory and honor to the Lord Jesus Christ. Now there is one very great advantage to this approach of letting the Holy Spirit be my teacher. I am totally free from denominational limitations and thus, I can go anywhere doctrinally that the Spirit leads.

Moving on to your second issue, your prayer request is somewhat complicated seeing as we are ignorant of the reasons that you are incarcerated. It is not likely that you are confined solely because of your testimony for the Lord Jesus, and I have no way of knowing if your confinement is unjust. (That is whether or not you have been falsely convicted) These would be the only circumstances in which it would be lawful to pray for your release. In other words, if you are suffering as a wrongdoer, then it would be fallacious for us to pray to God in a manner contrary to the ordinances that He Himself established to punish those who transgress.

Finally, I would be honored to send you our tape catalogue and, in addition, I will immediately forward to you our tapes on both Spiritual gifts and the administration of the Holy Spirit. Thank you again for your interest in our ministry, and I hope that you will continue to be blessed by it in the future.

May our Heavenly Father pour the measure of His grace upon you to strengthen you through this ordeal.

Yours in Christ Jesus
Pastor Ron Crenshaw

Dear Brother W

Grace and the peace of God be unto you. I am pleased to hear from you. Yes, I certainly remember who you are and, to the extent that I was able to help to enlighten you, I am blessed at having had the opportunity. With regards to the two points that you raised in your letter, I will now attempt to address them for you. When you stated that you are a believer in the New Testament canon that “we” use today, I am assuming that you are talking about the Catholic Bible, so my response will be based on that assumption. It is my understanding that the Catholic Bible is essentially the same as the Authorized Version with the addition of several books, known to the non-Catholic world as the apocryphal writings. I am firmly convinced that I have answered your questions on this matter as completely as humanly possible. So I’m afraid that whatever else I add at this time will be of no further value to you than what you have already rejected. Nevertheless, the answer remains as simple as it has always been. The correct “map“ is the one that gets you to where you wish to be. Moreover, that destination can be reached, and it can be verified as the correct one now in this life, so we will not have to wait until we die to find out if we have chosen correctly. You see, my friend, our own lives bear witness to the truth of whatever map we are following, as evidenced by the fruit thereof. The real map shows us the way to overcome through obedience, as well as the consequences for rebellion. So then, whether by the peaceable fruit of obedience, or by the sacrifice that comes through rebellion, we will all demonstrate the truthfulness of my gospel as it is clearly spelled out in the authorized Bible.

It is most unfortunate that you waste so much of your zeal for the things of God in useless pursuits, especially when the truth is so close to you. You have allowed pride to grip your heart, and it will keep you blinded to that truth: a slave to the carnal mind, and to the flesh, until you are consumed. This is most unfortunate indeed. My final advice to you is to stop making yourself an enemy to the faith, and allow the Holy Spirit to fill your heart with the truth of the glorious Gospel of peace. You see, my friend, the way that it works is this. If you were really seeking the truth, the Lord would have been able to deliver it to you long before now. For it is written, he who seeks, knocks, and asks, will surely receive from the Lord God. Moreover, I am utterly convinced that He is not a liar. So, when you are ready to really seek His face, and not merely use the things of God as an outlet for the expression of your pride, then the glorious word will flood your heart with the truth, and then you will have eyes to see and ears to hear.

May the Spirit bear witness to the truth of the words that I have spoken to you today.

Go in peace my friend

Pastor Ron

Dear Brother J

Peace be unto you. I trust that this letter finds you in good health and great spirits. With regards to the question that you asked about the propriety of inmates being elders or called to preach, I will now attempt to answer it for you. The Bible speaks clearly about the qualifications for the man who would be shepherd or an elder. These are found in 1st Timothy chapter 3: 1-14. One of the key things mentioned is that such a man must have a good testimony, meaning he must be well known for obedience to the word of God. You see God is not given to hypocrisy. In other words, we must practice what we preach. Otherwise, we do despite to the word of God. Now certainly, someone who is incarcerated has already demonstrated a failure to show himself faithful, and, would in ordinary circumstances be disqualified. Remember the Lord only gives praise to the one who is suffering because of his identification with Christ Jesus, not to the one who is rightfully suffering as a wrongdoer.

Nevertheless, the prison environment is certainly one that lends itself to repentance and a desire to serve the Lord. In this context someone may demonstrate aptitude in understanding the things of God, and thus, may be useful, in being a blessing to their fellow inmates, by sharing what they know of the word. It would not at all be wrong to defer to the wisdom of the chaplain in selecting who might be suitable to serve in this capacity. As always, you all have the word of God to serve as a means of judging what is taught. In this way, no one can be rightly deceived. I trust that this answer is helpful to you.

I will pass on your message of greeting to the brethren, and we are expecting to visit sometime in May.

May the Lord keep you always in perfect peace.

Writing in love

Pastor Ron Crenshaw

Greetings Brother H

I have recently received your letter, and I wanted to take this time to get back to you. I am very pleased to see that you are taking such a keen interest in the word of God. This is the best possible move that you could have made. For His word is rich with blessings, and profitable for instruction in the ways of righteousness. I am particularly blessed by the fact that you have been edified by my teachings. I have dedicated my life to this very thing, so it is quite gratifying when my ministry helps someone. I would encourage you to continue to seek God with your whole heart, for the Lord Jesus has said that if you seek, you will surely find. It is in Christ Jesus that your hope lays. You would do well to never forget this.

As I told you in our conversation last month, I am honored to do my best to answer any questions that you may have concerning the word of God. If you would write them down and send them to me, I will be dutiful to do them justice. Based upon our conversation and the content of your letter, I can see that you have an interest in things doctrinal and translational. I would recommend caution in judging the faithfulness of the translations, as well as other people's assessments of so-called "errors" in the Bible. Remember that sometimes people have hidden agendas or are just plain wrong in their assessments. In order for you to successfully judge these matters, you must first be complete in the word, meaning having knowledge of the deep things of God. Then you will be prepared to compare with understanding. Perhaps you could give me some examples of so-called doctrinal errors, and then I could judge them. Also, I have never heard of the Peshitta. Perhaps you could enlighten me further on this matter.

With regards to your mother, it is certainly understandable that you are concerned about her. It is not clear from your letter, however, whether or not she can be considered to be born again. As you are well aware, healing is the children's bread. I find frequently when people are sick or infirmed, especially chronically, they will pretty much mentally ascent to anything that is offered in the way of relief. This, however, does not constitute true saving faith. Moreover, the Lord is not moved by need or desire, but by faith alone. This explains why so many people fail to receive from God, because they don't really believe, although they may say they do. That proclamation is usually due to fear, distress, or desperation. Nor can someone be ministered to by the Lord merely as a result of someone else's desire, without any active participation of their own, if they are indeed able to. These things also apply to your brother. What I will do is to send them a note expressing your desire for their souls, as well as some teaching tapes on salvation and healing. Thus, they will have their opportunity to receive of the kingdom of God for themselves.

Once again I am glad to have this time to fellowship with you and I look forward to receiving your questions. Continue to grow in grace and love.

Yours in Christ Jesus
Pastor Ron Crenshaw

Greetings to You, Highly Beloved One

I trust that this letter finds you fighting the good fight. I have received your letter of 6/3/05. I spoke to Brother J last week, and he informed me that you all finally got the CDs with the answers to the questions that you wrote me about. I hope that you find them instructive. We had a lot of fun blessing you all in this manner. I am looking forward to another opportunity to do likewise. I understand that you all have a can up for questions. I am greatly looking forward to receiving them.

Now, with regards to your specific points in your letter, first I would have to say that, unfortunately, you don't fully comprehend me as a man of God. It is certainly not my way to "evade" any question from anyone. Answering questions is a vital part of my ministry as a teacher. For me, answering a question is the simplest thing in the world. Either I know the answer, in which case I would tell you, or I don't know the answer, and then the answer is "I don't know." The only questions that I remember you asking me had something to do with Jesus' real name, messianic ministries, and the manner of worship that would be considered appropriate. I spoke to these issues in one of the letters that you say I never wrote. In that letter, I told you that until I could understand exactly where you placed the Lord Jesus in your belief structure, it would not be possible to fully advise you. You had also mentioned something about the so-called "European origin" of the traditional Gospel. I informed you that God gave the Gospel to all men everywhere, and that its origin is the Holy Spirit, and not the reasoning's of men. At any rate, don't let your heart be troubled; if you can ask it, I will endeavor to answer it with wisdom from above.

Now on to other matters: concerning the question CDs you can, of course, offer rebuttal if you want. However, that would no doubt be superfluous since, unless I have answered the question with "I don't know," I am fully confident that I will have told you the truth of the matter. All the rebuttal in the world will not change that. Also you may ask as many questions as you would like.

Now to answer your two questions.

I do not share your assertion that the majority of churches teach that Christianity has replaced Israel. This has not been my experience. The thrust of the Churches' argument has been that Israel has been representative of the old covenant and as such has become displaced in the economy of God. On the contrary, after God has chastised them for their disobedience, they will become partakers of the new and glorious covenant. (For after all, they are the natural olive branches) Should they not also partake of the oil that flows from it?

Your second question is rather confusing. Again, I'm not aware of any reasonable Christian who rejects the books of the Old Testament as being non-scriptural. I think that perhaps it would help me if you told me exactly who you think the Messiah is.

Well, chew on these things and then write me back.

May the Lord Jesus be gracious unto you, and give you peace and understanding in His word.

Pastor Ron

Greetings to you Brother H

I am in receipt of your letter of 7/10/04. I trust that everything is well with you. I must say that I, too, am a little confused. I responded to your correspondence from February when you inquired about messianic ministries. I wonder if maybe you did not receive my letter. In any case, I will enclose another copy of it with this letter.

Again, I will say that I am unfamiliar with the doctrine that you mention in your letter. One thing does trouble me though. I am not sure what you mean when you say that you are “messianic” and not a believer. What messiah are you believing in? Are you as the Jews, still waiting for the revealing of the Redeemer, or do you believe that there is yet another one coming? Do you believe that Jesus the Christ is the Messiah, or do you seek another? This is vitally important for me to know since your stance on this will determine how I am able to minister to you. In other words, if you do not believe that Jesus is the Messiah, then nothing that I would teach you of Him would be of any profit to you.

In your letter, you made mention of a new covenant assembly. Do you not know that the new covenant is the testimony of Christ Jesus, and it is not possible to have a relationship with the Godhead without that new covenant? In addition to this, I need to point out to you that the gospel is not European in origin, although they have every bit as much right to it as anyone else. Do not allow yourself to become deceived by bigotry. God is not a respecter of persons, and He receives all who come to Him. I think that the best advice that I can give you at this time is to trust in your King James Bible. Everything that you will ever need to know can be found within its pages. Moreover, it will never lead you astray or teach you falsely. Once you have become thoroughly proficient in the word of faith, you will be well able to judge any other doctrine.

I hope that you find this helpful. So, please write me with a more clear explanation of just what exactly it is that you believe. Only then will I be able to properly advise you.

Keep the faith and continue to diligently seek the true and living God, and He will direct your path.

Grace to you

Pastor Ron Crenshaw

My Kingdom for a Cigar

12/3/06

Greetings to my Beloved People

I know that this letter finds you all with heavy hearts, but not with dampened spirits. It has now been twenty-four hours since the momentous events of yesterday, and I wanted to take this time to address you all, and to share with you the insight that God has given me on what happened yesterday. I am quite sure that many of you have questions, as evidenced by our discussions after communion yesterday. We will dedicate next Sunday to discussions of, and debriefing on these matters. Let me start off by saying that, without a doubt, what happened yesterday was the most dramatic occurrence in the history of Shekinah Ministries. It certainly was the most painful event that we have endured. But, after I share with you what the Lord has shown me, I am convinced that you all will be blessed.

I have always told you that we live the Bible at Shekinah, and nowhere has this been more profoundly demonstrated than by what happened yesterday. I think that the one emotion that we all shared was a sense that what transpired was unfair. That charge would only be valid if I had initiated the action that seemed inequitable. For I can be unfair, but God cannot. I will not rehearse the events of yesterday, for they are still very fresh in our minds, but I will share with you the heart of our God on this matter, and you will see that all that happened was for the glory of God.

Now as to what happened yesterday: at the conclusion of the deliberations, I was left with one inescapable fact: one of those brothers was lying. The congregation cried out for a second witness, but none was found. Therefore, I called upon the One, who sees all and testifies truthfully. This account is His testimony.

It is evident that we, as a ministry, have received a great many things from God, and it is these things that have shaped us as a family. But, we also know that to whom much is given, from him, much will be required. What we experienced yesterday can be considered to be a quality control check. If a company is building something, every so often they pull one off of the assembly line and subject it to stress to see if it measures up to design specifications. If it passes, then it continues on down the line. If a flaw is found, the device is pulled from the line to undergo repairs, if possible. If it is not possible to fix the defect, then the device is disassembled, and its components are scattered throughout the factory to be used in other devices. Without this testing, there is no way to confirm that the device will function as promised. Yesterday was our quality control check, and a flaw was found. We had defective parts that, if allowed to become part of the finished product, would have rendered it ineffective at the task for which it was built. We had been exposed to a vile toxin, which if left unchecked, would have destroyed much, if not all of the fruit that has been credited to us. That toxin was hypocrisy. I will define hypocrisy for you in the following simple way. Hypocrisy is the act of speaking the truth while living the lie.

Recall that as recently as last Sunday, in our teaching on the book of Ephesians, we discussed at length the concepts of lying, as well as the abomination of bearing false witness. Like everything that we study from the word, God gave us a thorough understanding of all aspects of these principles. So why then, should we be found in violation of these very things? For, in our midst, dwelt the spirit of disobedience, which kindled a firestorm of tag along rebellion. The liar was revealed, as well as his vile sibling: the bearer of false witness. These are the most malignant of the flaws found, but there were also present several less virulent defects that, although relatively minor, nevertheless, have the ability to grow into a substantial threat to our spiritual survival.

During this quality control check, every one of us who were present was tested, from myself on down to the children. I will discuss the details of this shortly.

Part 2: The Command

Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. (1st Cor. 6:19-20)

And again it is written.

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are. (1st Cor. 3:16-17).

Sister S, a visitor on Sunday, intimated that she understood everything that was going on except that she didn't see the big deal that was being made about smoking. Well, if we look at the aforementioned Scriptures, we can clearly see that our bodies become the property of another when we become born again, not to mention the fact that we also share them with the glorious Holy Spirit. It is evident, that we have a responsibility to care for those bodies, so that they may remain useful for service to the Lord. There is something else very much evident, and that is, smoking does a thorough job of destroying those very same bodies, thus rendering them uninhabitable by both you and the Holy Spirit. Moreover, inasmuch as smoking has no otherwise redeemable value, it is a behavior that can be entirely dispensed with. Therefore, I have made an edict that Shekinah shall be a no-smoking ministry. Anyone who refuses to comply with this is free to attend any other church of his or her choice.

Part 3: The Transgression

For the sake of sparing our feelings I will not belabor the details of yesterday's events here. Suffice it to say that Brother E, on three previous occasions, had violated my ban on smoking. He was spared the terminal judgment after the third transgression, by the intervention of the Holy Spirit. It was then reported by Brother RR, that he had witnessed Brother E smoking a cigar while driving, a charge that Brother E subsequently denied.

Prior to service, I had told Brother RR that if Brother E was to deny the charge that I was going to have to go a different route, and that route was probably going to be rough on him and his family. I also told him that the Spirit of Truth was present, and He would discern all things so that he should not lose heart. Brother RR was unwavering in his testimony, and refused to stipulate to the possibility that he might be mistaken.

During the investigation Brother E was discovered in several lies.

1. He initially denied being on highway 99 on the day in question. He later admitted to being there.
2. He denied being on the phone while in his car on highway 99, a claim subsequently retracted.
3. When questioned as to whether or not he was smoking, he said that he had not smoked since the last time I had rebuked him for it (the third incident). He later admitted to two instances of smoking between the third and the fourth incidences.

At the conclusion of my investigation, I was left with only one conclusion to consider: one of these brothers was lying and, worse than that, they were willing to see the other family suffer the irrevocable loss of fellowship with the ministry in order to keep the lie. This I call bearing false witness against your brother. This is a transgression that will not be forgiven in Shekinah, and there is no guarantee of respite from the Godhead either. Woe unto the brother who has done this deed.

Part 4: On the Question of Justice

Hear now the voice of the Spirit of God. For you have said, "This judgment seems unfair! For why should the innocent suffer with the guilty?" Would you stand in judgment over the Almighty to question His ways, as though you had understanding? Are not His ways and His thoughts, far above yours? If so, is not His justice also unfathomable? Nevertheless, consider this base thing that you may gain insight into the ways of the Almighty. In the battle for the souls of men, many sons must fall so that all of those who are appointed unto righteousness may rise. So then, whether they fall or whether they rise, are they not both warriors in the cause to establish His kingdom? And, if faithful in the falling or diligent in the rising, do they not both share in the glory of the victory?

Did the Almighty consider the fairness of sending His only begotten, the only truly innocent One ever born of woman? Or did He stay the hand of the tormentor, so that the flesh of the innocent would not be torn asunder that the bodies of the unworthy might be made whole? Are these inconsequential matters? If so, you can readily see how He can ask so little of One who gave so much. Why then, should He ask so much of you who could give so little? But, if His gift was of immeasurable value, and we have freely received it, are we not obligated to present ourselves, a living sacrifice that we may be spent to purchase a victory in the spirit that we would never have known in the flesh? Consider carefully all these things before you judge the motives of the Almighty. For though the road to justice, may take many detours, there are none who will fail to reach the destination. Selah.

Part 5: But Why That Family

Contrary to what you may be thinking, the involvement of the RR family in this affair is not a matter of a serendipitous meeting on the freeway, but they did have a divine appointment. They are God's chosen instruments to bring forth judgment so that His house can be free from the weight of sinfulness, which poses a hindrance to those who are in the race for the prize. It fell to their lot to walk point in front of us, so that they may draw the fire of the enemy, and in so doing, reveal his location that we may destroy him from our midst. So, in essence, they became our sacrificial lamb. But it is necessary that the lamb be perfect and without spot or blemish. Such is the RR family. In the thirteen years that they have been in the midst of Shekinah, they have never transgressed the commands of their shepherd, nor treated the word of God as a common thing. They have not once endured the chastening of the whip, or the lashing with the tongue. Their testimony has been without reproach and utterly unassailable. They are the only family under the crook of this shepherd, that has not once failed to exhibit the fruits of salvation, or to cast a shadow over the glory in which we have been bathed. They have demonstrated complete obedience in all things, in which they have been instructed. But this obedience has now become a snare to them.

For in being so completely obedient, they have left no fuel with which to kindle a fire, by which their faith may be tested, to see of what sort it is. For it is the fire of adversity that will reveal any impurities in our hearts that might adulterate our faith, thus rendering it unreliable, when we might need it most. Every Christian must endure the trial of their faith, which is more precious than gold. Not one of us escapes this test, not even the Lord Jesus, who was tried and tested at every opportunity, in an effort to derail Him, and keep Him from fulfilling His destiny to be our Savior. So, in similar manner to Jesus, the RR family became subject to the testing of their faith, to see if it was strong or weak. For if there are hidden weaknesses, they will only show themselves during times of extreme duress, when they will weigh us down and allow us to be overtaken by our enemies, and returned to captivity. Their faith has never undergone the trial by fire; so consequently, they remain unproven for the battles that are ahead.

Lastly, since they have been so obedient, there was found no intrinsic error by which they might be tested. Therefore, it was necessary to provide the stumbling blocks from an outside source. These circumstances provided the perfect tools for the Lord to use to both: expose the wicked that were *in* the church, but were not *of* the church, as well as, the means to test and see if the RRs' would stand, or fall.

Part 6: Who Will Pass and Who Will Fail

We have already discussed the role of the RRs' in the testing of Shekinah, but as previously mentioned, there were other fortresses probed. Firstly, I myself was tested to see if my love for the Gospel exceeded my love for my brethren. These might seem to be non-competing issues, but there are times when a shepherd must choose between the doctrine and the brother and, of course, he will choose the one that he loves the most. My test must have been conceived from a conversation between the Lord and the Adversary.

Somewhere in this discourse, this question was uttered. “ We know that he loves his sheep, but can he hate them too?”

It was clear that there was the vilest of evil in our midst and, if left to fester, it would have destroyed the testimony of our ministry, and rendered us ineffective in being used by God in any substantive way. My test was to see if I would indeed pull the trigger and sacrifice a favored son for the sake of the doctrine. For it would no longer be acceptable for me to leave such a grievous matter as this unresolved. Especially since God has given me wisdom in dealing with such things. Sometimes the path that wisdom dictates you follow is difficult and filled with sorrow. But even though the birth pangs of her guidance may be painful, she is, nevertheless, known by her children. It was wisdom that said the life of the innocent should not withstand the necessity of exposing and rooting out the evil that was hiding in our midst. Inasmuch as we have subscribed to celestial things in this ministry, we must then, of necessity, subject ourselves to celestial justice. It was celestial justice that constrained the Lord Jesus to offer Himself as a sacrifice, so that evil in the natural could be defeated. But we rejoice, for since we know that judgment could not claim Him, and death could not hold Him, we also know they cannot lay claim to us either.

So for the sake of the doctrine, I had to sacrifice the innocent along with the guilty, so that this glorious work of God would not perish from the Earth. But what I did, I did in hope that even as the shadow of death passed from Jesus, it too would pass from the RR family. For in this, I was sure. The very same wisdom that compelled me to sacrifice this family would also provide me with the means to resurrect them. As we shall see, this was indeed the case.

This episode was revelatory in other areas as well. Brother JR found out that he needed some attention to his flesh, for he was discovered to be fighting this battle in the flesh, and not the Spirit. He allowed his zeal for his brother to cloud his judgment, and rather than consider what manner of wonder was being performed by the Holy Spirit, he resorted to violence. This is never helpful, and only made things worse. As a matter of fact, it may have made things really worse. For his outburst occurred at the most inopportune time, which was right after I had dismissed both families. This would have been the time that Brother E would have recanted if it were in him to do so, but he was distracted by Brother JR’s rantings so that the opportunity was lost. This may have eternal consequences for brother E, since any godly sorrow that may have welled up, was dissipated by his having to fend off brother JR’s wrath.

Then there was Brother JC, who was so angry that he was considering gathering his family and going home. His anger was kindled because he thought that a great injustice had been done to the RR family. Much to my surprise, he was mad at God and not me, although it would have been better for him if it were the latter. The word that he used was that he felt that it was so “unfair.” I think that he should refer back to part four, and carefully consider what is spoken there. If this is not sufficient to show him that God does not subvert judgment, nor pervert justice, then he can walk the way of Job, and I’m sure that will be sufficient for him.

Part 7: Here Lieth the Truth

In the course of this investigation, I was called upon to discern the truth of this matter, so that what was wrong may be put right. The challenge was to figure out which brother was lying, since it was clear that one of them was. While not an expert in reading body language, or measuring stress levels, I nevertheless have a pretty good idea when I am being lied to. As I questioned Brother E, he put out a heavy obfuscation vibe. His answers to my questions were vague and lacked conviction, as though he were searching for ways to piece together a story rather than simply relaying factual events. This should have been easily accomplished, especially since those events had only occurred twenty-four hours earlier.

There was a degree of hesitancy in most of his answers. This is usually lacking in those who are merely recounting factual information. In addition to this, his answers lacked the passion that is usually present when someone is defending their testimony. It became clear that, in all likelihood, Brother E was the one lying. However, a strong inkling was not sufficient for the resolution of this matter. It was not possible that the one who could perpetrate such a crime in our midst should go undiscovered, but I could not move with certainty without a confession. The stakes had been raised once both men held fast to their stories. The only conclusion to be drawn was that one of them had to be lying, as well as bearing false witness against his brother. This is a sin that God considers to be abominable.

I gave Brother RR one final opportunity to amend his story, to leave room for the possibility that he may have been mistaken, but he remained steadfast in his resolve. Brother E also refused to change his story, so it was at that time that I separated both families from the midst of the ministry. Even though I knew that it was probably Brother E who was the one lying, it was necessary to subject the RR family to judgment, so that we could plumb the depths of Brother E's iniquity. In this way, when he is judged for this great sin, his empty words will be drowned out by the wailings of the tears of all of the brethren of the RR family that cry out for justice.

Hear now my judgment on this matter. There are two things that are abundantly clear. One is that Brother RR would not stipulate to being in any doubt whatsoever concerning his testimony. This was despite the fact that I was hoping to get an admission of even 0.1% of doubt, but he held fast to his story. The other thing that is clear is that I am 99.9% sure that Brother E is guilty. This leaves only 0.1% doubt of his guilt. I could not get this 0.1% loop-hole from brother RR, since his integrity would not let him stipulate to something that he knew to be false. So I will take the 0.1% doubt concerning brother E's guilt, and I will credit it to Brother RR. For why should the guilty profit from the doubt, and even though the innocent may suffer for the sake of the greater good, did not the Father restore them and glorify them in due season? So then I, even I, will attribute to Brother RR that infinitesimal doubt, which he was too noble to accept, thus bringing him back from the brink. And, inasmuch as I, having shifted the doubt to Brother RR, have removed all doubt from Brother E's lie. Thus his guilt is clearly evident, and it is prudent that he not share it with the RR family.

Part 8: The Conclusion

The Lord Jesus has said, “It must needs be that offenses come, but woe to those by whom they come.” It is now abundantly clear that there was great evil in our midst, and if left unchallenged, it would have done terminal harm to the ministry. We also know that the devil walks about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. Becoming a delicacy on his menu is made so much easier if you give him something to sink his teeth into through disobedience. It is now clear that there was a liar, and false witness, in our fold, and that was the nidus that the devil exploited in order to attempt to devour Shekinah. But praise God! All who were tested prevailed, therefore giving the enemy a serious case of indigestion.

Let all of the glorious brethren of the Church of Shekinah hear the voice of your shepherd today. Many times I have warned you to guard against complacency, but many of you do not heed my voice. There is always another of you who can be separated out from this magnificent work if you are not vigilant. Your enemy, the devil, is still lurking in the shadows, seeking to devour you. If you are not faithful to the things that you have been taught, then you are subject to suffering shipwreck, or worse.

This I have against you, Shekinah. You do not value what you have, and you treat it as a common thing. Do you not know that there are brethren who long to hear what you have heard, and to see what you have seen? In Ghana, as we speak, there are 45,000 brethren fighting over the box of CDs that we sent to them recently, even to the point of inciting jealousy. You are without peer in your ability to access the secrets of the kingdom of God. Every tool that is necessary to win in the affairs of life is at your disposal, yet you do not avail yourselves of them. Therefore, the brethren in Ghana will be your judges.

If the total of your exposure to the teaching anointing is measured in the time that you hear me on Sundays, then you are getting only about 10% of what I have taught that day. How many of you have even read the Essays on the Word, and studied it using your Bibles? I promise you that there is nothing that the Adversary can throw at you on which, I have not already taught you, and given you a perfect defense for. Take heed to yourselves, for you don’t know if you will be the next one to be cut off of the vine, having been consumed by sin. I fear that the door out of Shekinah, no longer readily opens to the street, but it seems as though it has become the portal to a much darker place where despair rules, and hope is extinguished.

Let us walk together toward the prize, and share in the glory that is to be revealed in us through the upward call of the Lord Jesus. Know that I, as your shepherd, have taken you all to the river of everlasting water, and the Lord has invited us to drink deeply and to be filled with His power. But let us not pour this holy beverage out on the ground, for if we do, we can never take it up again, and we will be doomed to endure everlasting thirst.

May your spirits bear witness that I, your pastor, have witnessed to you in truth this day, and may the Holy Spirit speak to your hearts so that you may be faithful in all things, and not falter. For we are close to the finish line, and it would be shameful indeed to be found faltering at the very time that we most need endurance.

Grace unto you all

Your pastor who loves you with fervent love

Epilogue: On Tuesday December 5th 2006, Brother E called to say that he had indeed lied, and born false witness against his brother. Perhaps, one day God will have mercy on his soul.

Crossing over Jordan

3/14/06

To my Beloved Family of Shekinah,

Greetings to you, highly beloved of the Lord. I trust that this epistle finds all of you in excellent spirits. It is with profound pleasure that I write to you all today. Truly, this is a time of celebration for Shekinah. Our God and King has been faithful to His word, for we are about to “cross over Jordan.” We have been together for nearly 17 years, and we have experienced a great many things in that time. We have seen the glory of the Lord, and we have known His love to a degree that was not thought possible. We have also endured tragedy, loss, and grief, but never to despair. We have been, lost, but always found; bent, but never broken; saddened, but never hopeless; astray, but never too far; tested, but never to failure. In all of this, we have never lost sight of our first love, the Lord Jesus. We have accepted His high calling to be made one, so that the world would believe that He sent Him. I am fully persuaded that not in twenty centuries, has such a disparate group accomplished such a feat. Moreover, because of this, God has been able to trust us with the holy things.

This is certainly a watershed time for Shekinah Ministries, meaning that we will be able to point to this day as a demarcator of our walk with the Lord. We will look back on this day as the time when our lives and our commission from the Lord have changed. I tell you that this is a wonderful time to be part of this great work of God. I think that we have always known that what we have is too wonderful to be hidden for too long, and that the time must come for the unveiling of the children of glory, so that the rest of the Church may look upon what God has done and marvel; yea, even be provoked to godly jealousy. My beloved children, that day is upon us. May we be found worthy to carry such a sweet burden. Needless to say, this will be a time of great responsibility for all of us, and we will all be called upon to perform our part to fulfill this great commission. Fear not little ones, for you are not in any way deficient in spiritual education. You have all been excellently instructed in the way of righteousness, and you are fully capable of walking in victory. I tell you that it is no small thing that the Lord has asked of us, and I am fully persuaded that we are the people prepared for such a time as this. You have heard that it has been asked. “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Well, we say yes, it can. For behold and see what the Lord has done. I’m afraid that words fail me in attempting to explain to you just what it is God has prepared for us in this walk. Know this, we are up to the task, and it will be for the glory of the kingdom, that the name of Jesus be magnified on this earth.

Now you knew that there would be a caveat to all of this good pronouncement, didn’t you? The reason that I am writing to all of you is that I want all of you to be fully aware of what you are getting yourselves into. Behold, the time in the wilderness is over, the time of testing has been concluded, and the purging of the unworthy has been accomplished. Those of you who remain are those who have endured the chastening with patience, have had their hearts tried by fire, and have not been consumed. We stand at the very gates of Heaven and perceive the glory of God, and our spirits quicken in us in

anticipation of what is to come. Search your hearts, my people, and see if these things that I tell you are not true. Many years ago, when most of you joined the ministry, I promised you that your lives would never be the same again if you joined up with us. History has shown that I told you the truth. Well, we have arrived at another such time. For I am convinced that God is about to do a new thing in our midst, and it will exceed the former times in power and glory. Are you all ready for this? Now is the time to carefully consider your station, for where we are going now, whatever sight of land you held on to, and took comfort in for the return journey, has disappeared below the horizon. From this point on, we will be completely dependent on our faith in the word of God to guide us, and if that is not sufficient, then no recourse will be found for alternate destinations. We have all seen how high the stakes are, and what the price has been for failure in the past. This is the cost of admission to the highly exalted place that we occupy in the economy of God. That all, however, pales in comparison to where He is taking us now, meaning that the stakes are even higher, and the price for falling is commensurately greater. So then, it is imperative to listen to the Lord Jesus, when He said to count the cost before the journey. Yes, it has been costly so far, but look at what we have received in return, and yes it will be even more costly in this new season, but how much more will we gain. Is it worth it to you? Are you willing? Consider carefully! What I am sharing with you all is far more than the mere change of address that we enjoy, but it is a further penetration into the inner sanctum of the Most Holy, to pry more of His secrets loose from Him, to wrestle with Him until He blesses us, even greater in the latter, than He has in the former. I know and am convinced by the great Shepherd that there is none who can oppose us in this great quest, neither those under or upon the earth, nor any of those whose abode is in the heavenlies. What we have successfully shown the Lord, is that, we are trustworthy with His things, but He also knows that what He has thus far given, we find insufficient to complete the task that we have been charged with. Therefore, we desire to be trusted with that which is irrefutable, and cannot be withstood. Our great wisdom also tells us that those who are so trusted by God are expected to walk in a manner worthy of so great a calling. Remember, that to whom much is given, much the more will be required, and what we are about to be given is much indeed.

So I say to you, Shekinah, lay aside your petty hindrances and the things that so easily distract you. For these things have no place on the road upon which we are about to travel. In order to continue with this, you must be fully committed, for there is no more room found for slackness amongst you. Again I say, count the cost, and if you are not willing to pay it, now is the time to dissent, now is the time to get out, because the distance between us and the ground below just got a lot longer. Consequently, the fall just got a lot more deadly. I am certainly not trying to frighten you, but only to provoke you to think soberly, and to reexamine your commitment.

Many of you have been slack in the things that you have been taught. You have forsaken the assembling of yourselves together, as though your absence would not be costly to us all. Pursuing selfish and vain things, you have not given God His measure by showing up in church so that your spirit might rejoice with ours, and together we might declare the glory of His kingdom by our unity. You have robbed God in your material things, so that the burden for you and yours had to be carried by another, preferring instead to reap where you have not sown, and to gather where you have not scattered. You have neglected to be priests in your homes, commanding your families according to

my doctrine, so that the word of God might be portrayed before your children without hypocrisy. You have not kept your bodies under subjection, allowing your members to be used as instruments of evil to threaten you with destruction. You have scorned God's holy covenant of marriage through divorce, and adultery. Yet in all of this, the Lord has been gracious unto us, even though we were certainly not worthy. He forgave us our trespasses, and blessed us despite our shortcomings.

But my beloved children, where we are going now, and what we are trusted with at this time, does not allow for such failure. If we say that we are the elite of the Lord's army, He has leave to send us to places of battle that no others may go. However, if we bring along weakness and fleshly frailty, then we give our enemy weapons that he could not have otherwise wielded. So I say, take heed to yourselves. Are you ready for such a people as these, and for such a time as this, or are you satisfied with what you have thus far been given? Does your heart burn with fierce desire for the Lord, or have the flames become mere embers? Are you willing to commit to this ministry with all of your heart, or do you seek easier battles with lesser opponents, and smaller victories?

What I am saying my beloved is that from this day forward, it is no longer sufficient to be merely *in* Shekinah, but you must also be *of* Shekinah. If you are not willing to help us to gather for the Lord, do not invite wrath through indifference and rebellion, which plucks up and scatters. As God has given to every man the right to choose, I invite you to do so, having carefully considered my words. If you depart from us, we will rejoice with you in what you have helped to build thus far. But if you stay, we will stand with you and help you bear the burden of the bricks yet to be laid. Knowing this one thing, I will declare that the Lord has surely begun a good work in Shekinah, and He will see it through to its conclusion. Blessed is he who endures to the fulfillment of this commission.

I give these instructions: Let this epistle be read in every household of Shekinah, to every member of that household, male and female, young, and old. Let there be discussion, let the cries of the hearts be heard, and let the matter be considered, and then let the decision be made. I will be at the Church on Sunday at 11:00 to lead all of those who are willing to go across the Jordan and into the Promised Land, so that we may fulfill our destiny for the glory of the Lord.

May the Spirit of Truth rest upon each of you, and may you be strengthened in faith and love. May He testify that the words that I have written to you are true, and that He will bring to pass all that has been spoken in your hearing.

Grace and peace be unto you all who are highly beloved of the Lord Jesus, from he who has been called to watch out for your souls, and to instruct you in the manner of the kingdom, so that you may be found worthy to enter therein.

With all of my love

Pastor Ron Crenshaw