

Question Night, June 2011

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**Introduction:** Questions can be a path to the truth of God.

- A. How many good men have found God's truth through a good question?
  - 1. The Ethiopian Eunuch had a question for Phillip. (**Acts 8:34**)
  - 2. The Corinthians had many questions for Paul! (**1 Cor 7:1, 11:2**)
- B. It is important that you have the right motive and go to the right source.
  - 1. The Pharisees asked many questions with the motive of trapping Jesus. (**Mt 22:15-18**)
  - 2. Jesus used questions as a means of exposing hearts. (**Mk 11:29-33**)
- C. The entire question night will be in response to an e-mail I received this week.

***I. My question is this. Historically I cannot find record of this pattern practiced past the time of the Apostles until Alexander and Thomas Campbell 'restored' it. The implications scripturally and spiritually are simply mind blowing if we are to contend that people in only these two generations are saved.***

- A. A study of church history is profitable, but it has its limits.
  - 1. Never forget the power of the inspired word of God. (**2 Tim 3:16-17**)
  - 2. It has become common to see men hide behind their interpretation of history or some other field of advanced study.
  - 3. There are many additional things God could have given us in the scriptures, but He chose that which man needed to know. (**Jn 20:30-31; 21:25**)
- B. There are good sources in libraries and on the internet to examine church history. Here is a brief quotes to consider.
  - 1. . . . that water of ours in which the sins of our original blindness are washed away and we are set at liberty unto life eternal . . . Well, then, is it not a marvel that by bathing death is washed away? [1-2] . . . [in baptism] we are immersed in water, but a spiritual effect, that we are set free from sins [7] . . . Now there is a standing rule that without baptism no man can obtain salvation. – **Tertullian**
  - 2. You can prove almost both sides to every issue with the “church fathers.”
  - 3. Use this website (Baptism and the Early Church) for addition information:

<http://kashow.wordpress.com/2010/03/04/baptism-and-the-early-church-part-1/>

***II. There seems to be no historical record of Christians saved in the 'biblical' pattern as we understand it for almost 2000 years (200 AD through to the 1800s). If this is the case then we are forced to admit that our songs for worship were constructed by the unsaved, our cannon of scripture was agree upon and given to us by the unsaved, and unsaved men and women died to preserve the way of life and freedom to worship we now enjoy, including the founding fathers of Canada and America. In light of this we are forced to admit that there is a great chasm or void our historical records to validate the continuation of 'true Christianity' through out the years. I would***

**like to know is we somehow have missed the truth in our rendering of passages and events in Acts and through out scripture.**

A. How do we know who was saved in Church history?

1. While we should always strive to apply and stand on God's word, we are not the final judge on where any man will stand before God. **(1 Cor 4:3-6)**
2. Sometime people ask about the eternal destiny of those who die without ever hearing the gospel. God has a basis of judging them. **(Rom 2:12-16)**
3. Our recorded history is but a tiny bit of history. Consider this article (A Few Make History) on our website:

[http://www.aubeacon.com/Articles2009/Article\\_AFewMakeHistory.htm](http://www.aubeacon.com/Articles2009/Article_AFewMakeHistory.htm)

B. All I need to know in church history was that the word of God was available.

**(Mt 24:35)**

1. If they had the seed, then the results of the planted seed would surely come. **(Lk 8:11)**
2. What about good actions of "unsaved" people throughout history? **(Acts 10:1-2; 11:13-14)**
3. We need to stand upon God's word and teach those living to obey it! We also should be humble and always be teachable.

**III. I will not argue with what is written that would be wrong, however in the face of our interpretation of this compared to Jesus promise (gates of hell will not stand against it), it makes me wonder if we properly understood the context of what is occurring in each event to conclude that this is the only way one is saved.**

A. Jesus promise about the gates of hell are true. (Mt 16:18)

1. ᾗδης, ου, ὁ Hades (literally *unseen place*); (1) the place of the dead *underworld* (AC 2.27); (2) usually in the NT as the temporary underworld prison where the souls of the ungodly await the judgment (LU 16.23);... - Freiberg Lexicon
2. This passage refers to the gates of Hades being unable to keep the souls within in. Jesus went through the gates of Hades and took the keys with Him! **(Heb 2:14-15)**

B. Paul often warned of a falling away and history confirms it took place!

**(Acts 20:29-31; 2 Thess 2:3-5)**

1. When a large number of Christians fall away and only a remnant is left, the promises of God has not failed!
2. What did Paul urge Christians to hold on to, church history or the word of God? **(Acts 20:32)**

**IV. Acts 10& 11 give the account of Cornelius and his conversion which in design is an operation in direct opposition to the manner we see event take place concerning salvation. He was baptized in the Holy Spirit then water baptized. The discomfort in viewing this passage comes from the notion that one can be filled with Gods spirit speak in tongues and 'not' be saved especially when Acts 5:32 specifically states that the Holy Spirit is given to those who 'obey' the Lord. ...**

***However the obvious question remains, can one be immersed in the Holy Spirit and filled up if they are 'not' saved?***

- A. The baptism of the Holy Spirit on Cornelius was to show that the Gentiles should be taught the gospel.
  - 1. The baptism of the Holy Spirit was a rare but powerful sign. There was only one other example of it in the scriptures. **(Acts 2:3-4; 11:16-17)**
  - 2. This gift always had signs and the speaking in tongues to accompany it. **(Acts 2:1-6; 10:44-46)**
  - 3. How does one receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit? How do you know if you have? In Bible times there was no doubt!
- B. The spoken word of God was given to Cornelius so that he might be saved.
  - 1. The order here is important to remember. **(Acts 10:44; 11:4, 14-16)**
  - 2. The sign came first and then the message of salvation!
  - 3. The Jews present at Caesarea through this sign learned the lesson they needed! **(Acts 10:34-35; 45-48)**
  - 4. Through Peter and these witnesses the church then learned! **(Acts 11:1-2, 17-21)**
- C. Are people being baptized with the Holy Spirit today?
  - 1. There are no commands or conditions for Holy Spirit baptism.
    - a. If there is no instruction from God then how are we to receive it?
    - b. Some have confused passages that speak of water baptism with Spirit baptism.
    - c. On Pentecost there were two baptisms.
    - d. There were two baptisms when Peter taught Cornelius. **(Acts 10:46-48)**
  - 2. Holy Spirit Baptism is always accompanied by powerful signs that include tongues.
    - a. Paul said there would come a time when tongues would cease! **(1 Cor 13:8-13)**
    - b. We now have that which is perfect! **(Jas 1:25)**
  - 3. The scriptures demand that we only have one baptism today! Which will it be Holy Spirit baptism or water baptism? **(Eph 4:4-6)**
    - 1. Which baptism is found in the great commission? How long will it last? **(Mt 28:19-20)**
    - 2. Which baptism is promised to future generations? **(Acts 2:38-39)**

***A Few Make History***  
***Robert Turner***

Some brethren assume the continuity of a faithful, visible, functioning church, from the first Pentecost after Christ's resurrection until now. It must be "assumed" — it can not be proven — nor do I believe either is essential. But on that assumption, there is a "necessary inference" that should shake us up a bit.

If there has always been a "faithful few" it is because there has always been a few who acted independently of the majority — who thought for themselves — who refused to go along with the elders or the preacher "for the sake of peace." History is filled with proof of continual change which constituted apostasy from the divinely ordained standard. Such changes (we do not refer to changes of no scriptural consequences) had to be resisted — by people who knew the difference in essentials and non-essentials, and who refused to accept as a matter of faith or standard for fellowship anything for which there was no divine authority.

In every generation there had to be a few who endured the name "Anti" or its equivalent, and went about the business of maintaining a small (minority) scriptural church regardless of how this affected their secular business and social relations.

The key was, of course, independent Bible study, which directed dedication to Christ rather than to the "party" or popular opinion. The faithful few knew both who and what they believed (**2 Tim. 1:12-14**), and on this basis they both spoke and acted (**2 Cor. 4:13**). They had convictions — vital, personal, motivating convictions.

But the folk today who rest their hope upon party affiliation, and seem most anxious to assume the historic continuity of such a party; are often the least informed, and less likely to have strong convictions based upon independent Bible study.

Had you lived in the "dark ages," would you have been among the "faithful few"? We all like to think that we would have been; but the truth can be read in our present day record. Do we stand with the "faithful few" today, regardless of consequences?