

June 2022

Dear Brethren:

As time marches on toward the end of this age, the called people of God accept that the world is getting darker and darker spiritually, and the threats to those seeking to honor God are getting ever more intense. We all acknowledge the Bible warnings about an invisible enemy, Satan the Devil, who is intent upon our destruction (1 Peter 5:8). We accept the assertion by God through the Apostle Paul that this enemy is incredibly adept at deception (2 Corinthians 11:14). But to what extent do we actually recognize that enemy's deceptive attacks upon our very own minds?

It is easier to recognize certain spiritual attacks when they are manifested in others, like with severe paranoia, loss of rational expression and/or normal ability to function, or perhaps in the use of aggressively hateful words, accusations, or other antisocial behaviors. But many of these kinds of attacks are anything but subtle. God says that Satan is the most subtle enemy of all (Genesis 3:1)! Subtlety implies that it is *hard to recognize*. And it is especially difficult to recognize when it is *the self* that is under attack.

One of the most clever ploys of all used by that enemy is an attempt to make us doubt the legitimacy of our original calling by God, or else to doubt our ability to carry forward to make that calling and election sure (2 Peter 1:10). Many of us may be much more attuned to the kind of attacks that seek to dissuade us from holding to the real Truth. You hear our warnings often about avoiding being seduced into false doctrine. Many of our beloved brethren over the years have lost faith in God's original revelation of doctrine and have given in to those very seducing spirits. But how many of us can also recognize *a very different kind of seduction* that attempts to get us to *doubt ourselves* in God's Plan, or simply to give up? Very often, expressions of self-doubt masquerade as *humility*. Well, humility is good, right? Humility is a fruit of God's Holy Spirit, so questioning "my worthiness" to be in God's Church—or my ability to actually succeed in being counted worthy for salvation—is not really a bad thing, is it?

But it is absolutely a bad thing! Doubt is just another subtle tool that Satan uses to try to destroy us. *Doctrinal deception* or *compromising out of fear* may get a lot more attention, but *doubt* is just as much a threat, and attacks that *instill doubt* in our minds seem to be escalating for *many* of God's sincere people today. That assessment comes from witnessing the number of devoted brethren who are actually dealing with this kind of spiritual attack. It is real!

A very common manifestation of this *doubt-response* comes from worry that one may have blasphemed the Holy Spirit, according to a particular warning of Jesus Christ. As we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost—the very Holy Day that symbolizes the gift of God's Spirit to His Church—it is very appropriate that we understand the *real work* of that Spirit in our lives, and what it really means to be in danger of quenching that Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19).

### **Blasphemy of the Spirit Is Deadly**

It was Jesus Christ Himself who warned against blasphemy of His Spirit:

Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy [Spirit] shall not be forgiven unto men (Matthew 12:31).

Mark's account provides even more detail:

Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy [Spirit] hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation (Mark 3:28–29).

The question is, what does this actually involve, and what action might any one of us take that would cause us to fall into this category? Have any of us already perhaps blasphemed the Holy Spirit and thereby eliminated ourselves from eligibility to be in God's Kingdom? Is it possible that some of us are just kidding ourselves, thinking that we still have a chance when in reality God has already cut us off completely because of some previous misspoken word?

The simple answer that applies to every single one of you is an emphatic, "No!" If you are reading this *Letter*, you *in no way* have taken any past action or uttered any word that makes your future salvation impossible. Your enemy would love for you to conclude otherwise and to simply choose to give up now, but *a true understanding* of this blasphemy of God's Spirit is open and available to you, and *you need to comprehend it*.

Whatever Jesus Christ considers to be blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, it is synonymous with the unpardonable sin, because Jesus said that anyone who commits this particular sin will never be forgiven and is subject to eternal damnation. Unless we are forgiven, we have no hope of being born into God's eternal Family. Therefore, this kind of

blasphemy is absolutely deadly, and we need to understand what is required truly to avoid falling into this category.

The word translated as *blasphemy* in the English comes from the Greek word that means *vilification, evil speaking, or railing*. But that still does not clarify what *vilifying the Holy Spirit* actually entails.

### **Beware Occult Superstition**

The first thing that many do when they read Matthew 12:31 (and Mark 3:28–29) is to interpret according to a false—pagan—ideology about an unpardonable sin. The superstitious religions of primitive human beings put great stock in the utterance of "magic words" to conjure up powers from the spirit world. They believe that there are words and combinations of words—mantras or chants—that when repeated in a precise way will awaken spirit powers to do their bidding. This is exactly the kind of *occultic dalliance* that God commands His people to avoid at all cost:

And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have *familiar spirits*, and unto wizards that peep, *and that mutter*: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them (Isaiah 8:19–20) [emphasis mine throughout].

Yes, they "mutter" according to some mystical formula to try to harness invisible powers. Notice that this whole occultic endeavor involves *familiar spirits*. Yes, there is a spirit involved alright, but it is not God's Spirit! The spirits that they are cozying up to are none other than *demon spirits*. This use of mantras and muttering—employing selected words of power—is their means of soliciting demons to help them to either attain a blessing or else to pronounce a curse upon an enemy. But what does that have to do with blasphemy of God's Spirit?

Many do not realize that when they attribute to God the idea of uttering specific words or phrases that carry power *in and of themselves* to call down permanent curses, they are actually ascribing to God and to Jesus Christ this false, occultic superstition! God never works that way! There is no such thing as a "power word" that can be uttered by a human being to unleash a spiritual result, either good or bad. And that includes the idea that any of us might happen to say the wrong thing at the wrong time and wind up *zapping ourselves out of an eternal reward*. That whole notion is ungodly! It is simply another aspect of Satan's deception. Do not fall for it!

## What About Willful Sin?

But what about Hebrews 10:26?

For if we *sin wilfully* after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries (Hebrews 10:26–27).

Does this not mean that if I know what God requires of me, but I give in to temptation and sin anyway, I am doomed, having committed an unpardonable sin? Is that not a *willful sin*?

The answer, once again, is an emphatic, "No!" The entire premise of such an interpretation is that God is evaluating us like an unscrupulous lawyer, seeking any justification legally to snatch salvation away from us. That very presumption is likewise part of our enemy's *subtle insinuation* to instill doubt in ourselves and about our futures. The unspoken assumption is that God is a hard, unloving taskmaster, not really wanting us in His eternal Kingdom, and therefore nitpicking our failings to find a way to "keep us out." But that is a lie! God is not playing a "Gotcha!" game with us.

Our Creator God made each one of us in His very image, and for the purpose of offering to us eternal life in His glorious Family. He truly wants us to be there! That is why He writes the names of His called children into His Book of Life prospectively (Revelation 3:5). This loving Heavenly Father is ever willing to forgive the sins of His children:

The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For *as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.* As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust (Psalm 103:8–14).

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, *not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance* (2 Peter 3:9).

These statements about the character and purposes of God are true. And being true, it is absolutely contradictory to believe that He has set up a "Gotcha program" with special traps along the way which can end our hope by some specific vile action of the flesh.

Have you taken God's name in vain? Have you been guilty of idolatry? Have you lied or committed adultery? Have you committed unspeakable acts of disrespect toward God, even after coming to know that His Commandments are holy? So have we all! We are all guilty of showing "hatred" to God in some way by violating His Law, even though we knew better. Violation of any one of His Laws makes us guilty of all (James 2:10). And if that means that we have committed the unpardonable sin already, then God's assurance of being *ever willing to forgive* is a lie. Will you call God a liar? He is not a liar. But even if you have thought in the past that He is a liar, *He will even forgive that*, if you are willing to admit the truth now and turn around and begin to walk in the right direction. God is not looking for an excuse to keep you out of His Kingdom, but is offering *every advantage* so that you can be there. If you doubt that this is true, *it is the doubt that is your true enemy!*

### **What Does It Actually Mean?**

Rather than to jump to a wrong conclusion about Christ's description of an unpardonable sin, the basis of our understanding must involve *the context of Christ's words*. When speaking about this kind of blasphemy that will never be forgiven, what is the proper context?

Well, who was contending with Jesus at the very time of His pronouncement about an unpardonable sin? What were they actually doing that prompted Christ's assertion about blasphemy? Here is the entire passage:

Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David? But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils. And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges. But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong

man? and then he will spoil his house. He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad. Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy [Spirit] shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy [Spirit], it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come. Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit (Matthew 12:22–33).

Now then, what were these Pharisees actually saying that prompted Christ to warn them about committing blasphemy of the Holy Spirit? It was not a single word or combination of words uttered that was at issue. They were accusing Christ of performing miracles through the power of Satan! It started with Christ healing a man who had been demon possessed. An incredible miracle had been performed to free this tormented soul from the clutches of a demon. Yet the Pharisees—rather than to acknowledge that it was *God and His power* that had performed the miracle—*attributed the Work of God to Satan the Devil!* This was the act that Christ considered to be so egregious!

### **What Is the Holy Spirit, Really?**

We were always taught in God's true Church that the Holy Spirit is the power through which God performs all of His work. The Holy Spirit is not a "third person" of a "Trinity." That is nonsense. There are only two Beings revealed to us as being God, and that includes God the Father and God the Son, Jesus Christ. The Spirit of God is merely *the power* that these God-Family members wield in performing all of their mighty works (this can be verified in our article, *The Trinity and the Nature of God*). This foundational explanation is vital for understanding the real warning of Jesus Christ about blasphemy of the Spirit.

If the Spirit of God is the power by which God performs His Work, and if Jesus was warning the Pharisees against attributing to Beelzebub the miraculous act of God in healing one who was plagued by a demon spirit, what is the takeaway? The essence of the unpardonable sin is to come to *believe without relenting* that the true work of God is not the work of God at all! It is an adamant denial of God's work. Is this not exactly what took place to prompt Christ's warning? Christ performed a miracle through the Holy Spirit. The Pharisees said it was not God, but Satan, who performed that miracle. Christ warned against blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. That is because the most egregious act of disrespect that anyone can ever commit is to take one of God's great acts (miracles) and besmirch that Work by attributing it to the enemy.

## The Real Work of the Spirit

Is God's Spirit only used for performing great outward miracles in the sight of men, like the casting out of demons? Hardly. It is far more expansive than that. Notice the number of Bible texts that define a very key attribute of God's Spirit:

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that [it] may abide with you for ever; Even *the Spirit of truth*; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you (John 14:16–17).

Howbeit when [it], *the Spirit of truth*, is come, [it] will guide you into all truth: for [it] shall not speak of [it]self; but whatsoever [it] shall hear, that shall [it] speak: and [it] will show you things to come (John 16:13).

Jesus called the Holy Spirit the *Spirit of Truth*! It was this very Spirit that was given as *an indwelling power* for the very first time to members of God's Church on Pentecost, when the faithful were assembled in the right place and at the right time (Acts 2:1–4). The Work of God in the minds of men through His Spirit is the work that provides the opportunity for real salvation. That work operates to facilitate the miracle of true conversion. And that conversion in us transpires when we embrace that *Spirit of Truth* and make it operational in our lives.

That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ [the firstfruits]. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard *the word of truth*, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that *holy Spirit of promise*, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory (Ephesians 1:12–14).

To have been sealed—sanctified—of that Spirit, we had to have believed *the Truth*:

But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through *sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth* (2 Thessalonians 2:13).

There is no way to separate the concepts of sanctification of God's Holy Spirit and belief of the revealed Truth! That is because it is a Spirit of Truth. Anyone who is being led by God's Holy Spirit will show—to one degree or another—evidence of a regard for the Truth.

The world rejects as preposterous the idea of absolute truth and mocks anyone who purports to possess it. But when the Holy Spirit takes root as an indwelling element within the human mind—and when it is real, and not a counterfeit—then a regard for Truth is a guaranteed byproduct. The Holy Spirit of God and the concept of Truth cannot be separated!

The miraculous work of God's Spirit in you provides the means to distinguish between God's inspired Truth and the many falsehoods being generated by that subtle enemy:

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for *they know his voice*. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for *they know not the voice of strangers* (John 10:1–5).

If you are one of the few legitimately called out of this world by God today—part of the firstfruits Work here on earth—then you have been given the means to recognize the True Shepherd, a miracle that has not yet been offered to the world in general (those who will be part of His later and larger harvest Work). That miracle of recognizing the voice of Jesus Christ—as opposed to every other imposter in this world today—is made possible by the work of *the Spirit of Truth* within you. That Spirit gives you the power to discern God's Spirit from Satan's spirit:

Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh [here now doing a Work through men] is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. *Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error* (1 John 4:2–6).

Using God's Spirit to recognize *the spirit of antichrist* and to avoid its deceptive trap is the very same power used to recognize the true Work of God and to refuse to attribute that holy Work to Satan the Devil!

## The Real Essence of Unpardonable Blasphemy

Had the Pharisees been able to discern the true operation of the Holy Spirit, they never would have consigned Christ's miracles to Beelzebub. But they either did not have the means *or the willingness* to admit that God was actually working in their midst. They had too much to lose. They therefore slandered God's Work—vilified, spoke evil of, railed against—the ministry of Jesus Christ. What made them guilty of blasphemy was not a single outburst of disrespectful utterance, but the embrace of *a conscious campaign* to deny the work of the true God in their midst and to seek to besmirch and to denigrate the messenger sent by the Father. This is the kind of sin that will lead to eternal damnation.

But even if one has blasphemed in this very way in the past, *that too can be forgiven if the sin is acknowledged and real forgiveness is sought*. The example of Saul—who became Paul—is the very best example of all. Saul became the absolute enemy of Jesus Christ and His Work:

I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against them. And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted them even unto strange cities (Acts 26:9–11).

What Saul did absolutely was blasphemy against the Holy Spirit—God's holy Work. Nevertheless, Paul repented, and God offered redemption to him. At the end of his life, he had every expectation of being in God's Kingdom:

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing (2 Timothy 4:7–8).

Some might say, "But wait, Saul was God's enemy only before he was called. Once called by God, he responded well. He did not blaspheme after his call." That is true, but there is no blasphemy, even after our calling, that will not be forgiven by God if we are sincere. Jesus Christ said so!

But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, *Son, go work to day in my vineyard*. He answered and said, *I will not*:

but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you (Matthew 21:28–31).

The first son in this parable was called by God, but *defiantly rebelled!* One who rebels like that and *refuses to relent* will absolutely be guilty of an unpardonable sin, because forgiveness is offered only to those who seek it sincerely. If he had gone to his grave in that same defiant state, he would have had no reward. But this rebellious son did repent! He turned around and did fulfill God's commission for him. And Jesus showed by that example that He is *ever willing to forgive*, even the one *who knows better* when he rebels. It is all about repentance.

If even the worst enemy of Christ and His Work can be forgiven, what then makes any sin that we might commit truly unpardonable?

According to the perfect plan that God has laid out upon this earth for mankind, *the only sin that will never be forgiven is the one that we refuse to acknowledge and the one for which we refuse to repent!* Therefore, there is no sin that cannot be and will not be forgiven, if we truly repent. Likewise, there is no sin that cannot become an unpardonable one to us *if we refuse to admit it and to change.*

This simple understanding helps to confirm how God's thinking is so different from the deceived peoples of this world. They tend to look for *singular acts* to either bless or to condemn forever. But God is seeking the development of *true, righteous character* in His children. Even if it takes a lot of "hard knocks" to learn the lesson, if we will finally overcome our rebellion and actually do that spiritual work of overcoming, God will surely honor it.

### **Those in the Greatest Danger**

Who then is in the greatest danger of committing this unpardonable sin—the sin that Christ said equates to blasphemy of the Holy Spirit? It is the one who is called by God to be part of His firstfruits harvest—pictured by the true Pentecost—but who is refusing to accept the Truth revealed in our very day by *this same Jesus Christ*. Christ confirmed that He did indeed do a Work in our day—these last days:

Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets; Behold, *ye despisers*, and wonder, *and perish: for I work a work in your days*, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you (Acts 13:40–41).

Christ said by this that His divine Work is present someplace right now. But many of His called children are claiming otherwise. Because of the misbehavior of many Church of God ministers of the past, they have become jaded and resentful against any organized group today. They believe that they can worship God just fine on their own. But Jesus Christ said otherwise:

Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, *he shall know of the doctrine*, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself. He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but *he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true*, and no unrighteousness is in him (John 7:16–18).

Two facts are critical from this statement: First, the doctrine is everything. And secondly, recognizing the voice of God through chosen instruments *who are sent* is paramount. Christ promised that He would indeed preach that true doctrine through human instruments in our day:

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and *how shall they hear without a preacher?* And *how shall they preach, except they be sent?* as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! (Romans 10:14–15)

Yet many of God's truly called children today are kicking against this very fact. They have vowed to trust no man to teach them the Truth of God. They will get it all by themselves through their personal prayer and study alone. But that very philosophy is an absolute denial of the Work of God being done today through the Spirit of Truth. They do not realize it, but it is exactly the same thing that the Pharisees were doing when denying that Christ's healing miracles came from God. It is a vilification, an evil speaking, a railing, and yes, a blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. Because if Christ is truly working through a human ministry *someplace upon this earth*, and if some of His called children are refusing to acknowledge that Spirit of Truth in action, then they are not just rejecting "a man," but they are rejecting the very work of God's Spirit by Jesus Christ Himself:

Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me. If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloak for their sin. He that hateth me hateth my Father also. If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father. But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause. But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, [it] shall testify of me: And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning (John 15:20–27).

This was not just a prophecy that applied to the original Twelve Apostles, but a promise from Jesus Christ that His Work would be carried out in the very same manner in the last days, just before His Second Coming:

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy [Spirit]: Teaching them to observe all things *whatsoever I have commanded you*: and, lo, *I am with you always, even unto the end of the world* [consummation of the age]. Amen (Matthew 28:19–20).

How then can you avoid being guilty of blaspheming the Holy Spirit and committing the unpardonable sin? No matter how much and how aggressively you may have been resisting God's divine Work thus far, it is still not too late. But you need to acknowledge that Christ truly is still working to feed His sheep miraculously through an organized remnant body. He promised that the gates of hell would never prevail against that true Church (Matthew 16:18). So it is here someplace. Wherever it is, it is a work that respects the *original revelation of Truth* given by God in our age *through a chosen servant*. If you are still claiming that Herbert Armstrong was not that servant—and you have every reason to know better—you are in danger. If you are acknowledging the legitimate origin of that true Church but are still chafing today at the requirement to "become part of" a remnant fellowship—because you refuse to be taught "by any man"—you are likewise treading on very dangerous ground. But if you are willing to fight against that enemy spirit which is seeking to keep you divided from the Body of Christ, and if you will humble yourself and hear the True Shepherd, even though it is coming through the foolishness of preaching (1 Corinthians 1:21), then you can escape the road that leads to death—eternal damnation. All it takes is an acknowledgment, and then a sincere walk in the correct direction. He will hear you, and He will lead you by His Spirit to bear real spiritual fruit.

If you are one who has already done all of these things, but your problem lies in self-doubt, then you too are in mortal danger until you find a way finally to defeat that doubt—that false humility—and to take aggressive hold of your calling.

And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence [an aggressive pursuit of salvation by the called], and the violent [aggressive] take it by force (Matthew 11:12).

You need to stop second guessing whether you were really called, whether your baptism was legitimate, or worrying that you may have already quenched God's Spirit in your life, making you destined for failure. None of that needs to be true! Such doubt is evidence of *an express attack* upon your mind by the enemy. It is the work of *the very same enemy* that is attacking others by inciting their rebellion against God's authoritative Work. Whether Satan gets you to rebel, or whether he gets you to give up on yourself, either way, he will accomplish his aim, which is to destroy you. And if you permit self-doubt to defeat you—if you refuse to purge out that insidious doubt—then you will indeed create a self-fulfilling prophecy.

The twentieth-century founder of Ford Motors, Henry Ford, said: "Whether you believe you can do a thing or not, you are right." For the called children of God, this is absolutely true. It is not so because you can use the power of positive thinking to succeed. It is because God has offered to you the indwelling power of His Spirit of Truth, and the cultivation of that Truth in your life will open to you the forgiveness of God for every sin.

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free (John 8:31–32).

May God grant every one of you the confidence and the determination to go forward aggressively and grasp that reward through the power of the Spirit of Truth.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jon W. Brisby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J".

Jon W. Brisby