

## 02.10.08 (Building the Altar and Receiving the Spirit's Fire 2)

### **Rebuild “the System of True Faith”**

- Gen 12:1-3; Ex 3:1-12; Jos 1:1-9; Act 1:1-11, 2:37-47 -

**\*\* Beginning Remarks**

**\*\* Scripture Reading: Gen 12:1-3; Ex 3:1-12; Jos 1:1-9; Act 1:1-11, 2:37-47**

#### ***1. Models for System of True Faith***

##### **1) Index of “True Faith”**

① Am I following God? ② Do I love to communicate and connect with God? ③ Do I love people God loves more and more?

\* the most perfect picture => grasping on to the eternally glorious goal, pressing on toward the eternal direction, enjoying all the gifts and rewards from above, joining up well with the body of Christ who has been restored to “one Father, one Lord, one Spirit, one baptism, one vision, and one inheritance”, seeing the guidance of God Emmanuel by the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire, and laying out the field of “the four evangelizations each of the body of Christ has

##### **2) The most typical models from the Bible**

**① O.T.: Exodus from Egypt → Crossing the Red Sea → Building the Tabernacle → Crossing the wilderness → Gaining the inheritance, the land of Canaan**

**② N.T.: Christ's promises after his death and resurrection and before his ascension <Act 1:1-11>→ 120 disciples joining together in prayer <1:13-14>→ receiving the power of the H.S. <Act 2:1-4>→ witnessing to Christ <2:5-36>→ gaining 3000 disciples <2:37-41> → disciples gathering together daily to learn, pray and witness to Christ <2:42-47>→ to the ends of the earth <徒 3:1-28:31>**

**3) In each age and generation the purpose of every reform movement is to return to the system of true faith as revealed in these two models.**

- Each of the movements initiated by Samuel, David, Ezekiel, Ezra and Nehemiah was designed for the restoration of the blessed life to the individual, his family and the nation of Israel within the system of true faith as revealed in the Pentateuch.

- In the 2000 year history of the Church all true reform movements are designed for the restoration of the blessed life to the individual, his family, his region (that he lives in) and the worldwide church community within the system of true faith as revealed by the Apostles.

= holding on to the promises of four evangelizations and Emmanuel → disciples gathering together to learn, pray and witness to God → restoration of the individual to Emmanuel/ blessings of husband, wife and their children as well as their extended family → disciples

God is raising up everywhere → doors continuing to open up for regional and world evangelization

## **2. The most important elements <Num 9:15-23; Act 2:37-47>**

*“When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’ Peter replied, ‘**Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ** for the forgiveness of your sins. And **you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**. **The promise** is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.... and about three thousand were added to their number that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles... Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved...”*

### **1) Repent = Exodus on the night of Passover**

\* What is the “repentance” God is talking about? = longing to be restored to “God’s motives, goals, contents and methods”

= We have seen clearly that in our past we were completely blind, lived in the flesh and were dead in the spirit; all we did was sin; and we lived a life of neither freedom and nor hope. We have also seen through the darkness of the world, its impending destruction and emptiness; we long for God’s mercy and forgiveness; and we desire to turn from darkness to light, from the flesh to the H.S., from the world to the kingdom of heaven, and from Satan to God and His love, glory, power, abundance and rewards.

### **2) Be baptized (in the name of Jesus Christ)= crossing the Red Sea / receiving the Ten Commandments, the laws and the decrees / building the Tabernacle according to God’s instructions**

= We need to totally dismantle and deconstruct my old “identity, motives, goals, contents and methods” and rebuild them in Christ → baptism means the beginning of “deconstruction and rebuilding”; complete restoration is achieved gradually by learning from Christ.

=> ***We need to build our system of life and thinking***

### **3) Receive the H.S. = After the Tabernacle had been built, the pillar of cloud and the pillar of fire came upon it (restoration of Emmanuel).**

= There is the H.S. seal and its indwelling in those who are willing to repent and have been baptized.

- Having repented and been baptized I have to confirm “my regeneration and the changes of my heart” and know the spiritual secrets of “how the H.S. teaches me, its power works in my heart, and how I can tell what the fruits of the H.S. are”

**4) Disciples gathering together daily to learn, pray and witness to the Lord = living a life centered on the Tabernacle, the body of Christ and service / in order to gain the inheritance for the tribe, the family, and the individual (the land of Canaan), cross the wilderness, and to fight and conquer.**

= Saints, having been blessed and called, have to be restored to a life centered on the body of Christ and discipleship as shown in <Eph 4:1-16>; they each will bring what they need to pray for in terms of the four evangelizations, thereby gaining in holiness, power and witnessing while they, led by the H.S., march toward the eternal kingdom of heaven as well as “the unreached people that God has prepared to reach” in their regions and the world

- The kingdom of heaven is right within “the fellowship of Christ”. All those who attempt to learn, worship and serve in the practice of their faith away from the fellowship of Christ are wrong and cannot help but slide into the system of false faith (that of legalism, mysticism, prosperity gospel and humanism) which leads to death.

=> *We need to build a system of life and activities of daily living*

### **3. Evidence will follow**

**1) God will strengthen our system of faith by “the painful trial” <1Pe 4:12; 1Co 4:10-15>.**

*“Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you” <彼前 4:12>. “His work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man’s work” <1Co 3:13>.*

**① Those remaining in the system of false faith have no way to pass the “painful trial”.**

= The more than 600,000 Israelites out of Egypt fell in the wilderness. / Apostles and disciples of the apostolic church suffered trials and persecutions of every kind.

- They cannot see God’s presence and guidance, His love and grace, and His provision of power and strength to triumph; therefore they are not able to conquer the desires of their flesh and triumph in the warfare of the spirit. In face of persecutions and temptations they will often sin and fall, contradict themselves and struggle, even run away from the Lord and their fellowship as well as their commitment thereto, and die in the end.

**② Those remaining in the system of true faith are able not only to endure “the painful trial” but also to make use of sufferings by turning them into “power and strength”, thereby gaining “opportunities for witnessing”, “more fruits and rewards”.**

= the triumph and blessings of Joshua and Caleb / the triumph of Paul and the fruits of life and service

- The problems saints encounter are but opportunities for blessings (e.g., Joseph, David, Daniel and Paul).

**2) Having endured “the painful trial” we will gain more and more “answers and testimonies” as well as our system of faith in more completeness <Heb 5:12; 1Co 3:1-2; Phi 4:12-13>.**

- We will be able to gain “the absolute answer in Christ” to all the problems we may experience in terms of our heart, our physical body, our lives, our relationships, our spouses and children, our finances and our service in the kingdom.

- We will rejoice regardless of our circumstances if we live our lives focused on learning from Jesus Christ <Mat 11:28-29; Phi 3:7-14>.

**3) When disciples gather and pray for one another, they will gain more testimonies and opportunities for the spread of the gospel as well as the inheritance of their generation God has prepared for them.**

- Disciples of the system of true faith, regardless of their circumstances, will surely discern their positions of service, their schedules, their contributions and rewards in the great work of “the four evangelizations”.

**\*\* Concluding Remarks**

**\*\* Prayer Topics of the Week**

**1) The Bible has revealed to us the typical models of the system of true faith through Israel and the apostolic church:** *at present am I walking with God in this true faith, toward eternity and by the power from above? Am I joining up well with the body of Christ in order to pray for the fulfillment of the four evangelizations, serve well together and march on together? What evidence have I got?*

**2) The most fundamental elements are “repentance, baptism, receiving of the H.S. and gathering of the disciples.”:** *Is my system of faith built on those four elements? Use the essence of the “four fundamental elements” to examine my system of life and activities of daily living to gain the system which is more powerful and practical*

**3) Evidence shall follow.:** *Has my faith passed “the painful trial”? Will it endure? What benefits have I received after the trial?*