

How to Heal the Division in God's Scattered Church

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Gary Stowers, one of your faithful brothers in Christ, to all of our scattered brethren in this Laodicean age of the Church of God. Brethren, there are definite reasons why there is so much division in God's Church; and we can do something about it if we truly do love the truth as much as we claim to. Here in this letter I plan to show you the real reason why we are scattered into so many different organizations, and some are not in an organization at all. I also plan to help us all to see the necessary steps that we need to take, so that we may be united in one with each other. Brethren this may seem to be a bitter pill to swallow, but it is the only medicine that will actually cure our spiritual sickness; and bring about unity among God's saints. I hope and pray for all of God's people, that we will have enough love for the truth to take this spiritual medicine.

Jesus Christ said; "I will build my church...," he didn't say I will build several churches, but one church which would consist of seven different organizations, or Horns that would continue successively through history until Christ comes back to earth to redeem his faithful bride, the church. That does not mean that we will always be able to assemble with each other, but if it is possible, then we should. The Church of God is not the physical organization, but a spiritual organism, consisting of the people whom God specially called to repent and come

out of this world's ways, and to surrender to Christ, to let him dwell in us by the Holy Spirit, and his words and lead us into Holy Righteous Character development. However he did call certain messengers to organize each horn and age of Christians into a physical organization, so that they can all be taught and trained in the knowledge and way of life that God wants for us. He set leadership offices in the organization for the edifying and instruction of the church, for the perfecting of the saints, until we all come in the unity of faith unto the perfect stature of Christ. Some of these messengers did fairly well, but others did not do so well. The Laodicean messenger has been miserably failing in his conduct toward God and toward his brethren, and many of his teachings. This has caused those saints who do want the truth to be unable to walk with him. Some others simply don't want the truth that he does still teach, so they also can't walk with him. How can we assemble with each other if we are hearing men teaching things that are contrary to what we believe to be the truth? We can't, in a good conscience toward God. So what is the answer? Obviously we can't all be right, if we have such differences of opinion. What we need is one head that can make known to us what the real truth is on these different beliefs. Who could that be? It must be one who truly understands all things in the Bible; and who loves each one of us enough to patiently teach us so thoroughly that we can understand in our own individual minds, that he is teaching the plain truth; and help us as individuals see the error of our thinking. Do you know any man like that? There is such a one, and I plan to re-introduce you to him in this letter. Please patiently bear with me here; for I have a lot to say, that I hope will help all of us.

As well as you all know, Satan has been cast down, and he came right in the midst of God's own church, The Philadelphian organization of the Church of God, which was called the World Wide Church of God. Mr. Tkach allowed Satan to overcome him, and he began persecuting the faithful saints of God by teaching false doctrines; and threatening, and casting out those who loved the true doctrines of God. Some of us were more spiritually awake than others; and when we began trying to let our brethren know what was going on; we had made our selves a target to be cast out. At first the changes were so deceitful, and cleverly designed, that many of the brethren who were asleep, and just trusting in the leader of the church to always teach them what is right; were unable to see the wolf that was trying to slaughter the sheep.

Most of the ministers who didn't like these false teachings thought that God would fix the problem, and they deceived themselves into thinking that they would be better off not to "rock the boat", but to just go along with these false teachings, until God did something about it. They were being tested by God to see if they truly loved the truth, and whether they loved the brethren enough to stand up for the truth and warn the brethren not to accept these false teachings. Most didn't! The longer these ministers waited, the stronger the false teachings became, and the harder it would be to take a right stand against it. They were grieving God's Holy Spirit to the point that many lost it altogether. The ministry became paralyzed with fear of being cast out for continuing to teach the truth, so they gave in to these false doctrines, and cast many of us out of that organization. We were not cast out of the spiritual body of Christ, but simply cast out of the organization, which had been corrupted by Satan and his ministers. Satan had turned that physical organization into a "synagogue of

Satan.” Those ministers were afraid of losing their pay check, their church owned cars, and having their reputation slandered. They proved that they loved what they had in this world more than God’s truth and the brethren. God was not surprised; he knows our hearts better than we know our own selves. God used Satan to reveal to the ministry as well as to the brethren their lacking in love for Christ and his faithful children. Jesus says that if we deny him before men, he will deny us before the Father. This is serious business!

Early on in this evil work of the devil; in 1989 there was only one minister, that I am aware of and his assistant that were willing to take a stand against these false doctrines. This man was Gerald Flurry. He wrote a message to the Church leadership trying to persuade them to repent and turn back to the truth. They refused to acknowledge any wrong doing and fired him and his assistant. They also tried to poison the rest of the brethrens minds about this man by falsely accusing him with lies. The devil wanted to hold on to the brethren, so that he could destroy them spiritually. Satan hates God’s faithful saints, and will do all he can to deceive, and turn them away from the true Word of God; and he also tries to turn us against one another. Satan hates brotherly love and those who live that way.

Joseph Tkach under Satan’s influence, had a long term plan to destroy all of the truth out of the World Wide Church of God, and turn it into just another one of this worlds false counterfeit Christian Churches, a “Synagogue of Satan.” He wanted to be able to get the church college, Ambassador College, accredited by this world’s standard. They wanted to fit in with this world, instead of being sanctified by the truth, as being different than this world. Mr. Flurry, as one of God’s called children and as a minister of God saw no option but

to form under Christ's leadership another organization of the church, so that he could continue to warn the brethren to wake up and hold on to the true doctrines, and give them an alternative church to come to that would continue in the true doctrines of God and Christ. Mr. Flurry was wrong in some of his own thinking also, but at first I think that it was honest mistakes that he taught. I don't think that he intentionally taught something wrong to try and deceive the brethren. One of his mistaken teachings at first was his Idea, about who the 144000 are, that is spoken about in Revelation Chapters 7, and 14. Another of his wrong teachings was that the World Wide Church of God had been turned into the Laodicean Church. Another of his wrong teachings was that the organization that Christ had used him to raise up was the Philadelphian Church of God remnant.

Many of us who were "awake" came into that new church organization, because at that time the truth was certainly being taught better in that organization, concerning the basic doctrines of Christ than it was in the World Wide Church. For a while we also believed that this was a small remnant of the Philadelphia Church of God; instead of the next Church Era or Horn of Christ. God did in this transition as he has done in other church Eras, to begin a new organization, government, and Horn of Christ. Christ used the faithful remnant of the Philadelphian Horn to begin the Laodicean Horn. That organization and government appeared to start out much better than it came to be later on. If you would like to have a better understanding of the Church Eras or "Horns" of Christ; then you should read my booklet: "Just what do You Mean Church Eras". This will explain how and when a Church Era or Horn begins, or ends. When you understand that; it will become obvious that Mr. Flurry was used to raise up the next Horn of

Christ, which is Laodicea. Also it makes it obvious that all of these other splinter church organizations were not raised up by Christ, but by men who sought to build their selves an empire out of God's saints who finally woke up and realized that things were only getting worse, and farther away from the truth in the WCG; and desired to return to the true doctrines of God and Christ.

Christ has only seven horns. The book of Revelation chapter 3 verse 14 is addressed to the angel (*or Messenger*) to the Church of the Laodiceans; not to Angels, but to one man. All these other church organizations were not raised up by Christ, but by men; though some of them may still have had a little of God's spirit, and some knowledge of the bible, even if they were not truly close to God; but they were vainly seeking their own glory, power, and wealth. Their governments were according to their own human reasoning instead of God's form of government. Some of them may have even been well intentioned, but they were wrong. That is why many of them have split apart several times. The evangelist, Mr. Roderick Meredith who formed the Global Church in 1993 didn't even believe in God's form of government, and he was later fired by his democratic organization. However many of the people who came into these organizations were brethren who had finally woke up and wanted to turn back to the true doctrines of Christ, at least in part. So why didn't they go to the Laodicean Church, which is one of Christ's Horns?

As I mentioned above, Mr. Flurry was wrong about some of his own teachings, even when he first began the PCG, but he did seem humble at first, and I believe his errors were honest mistakes; but as time went along and he gained more and more people into that organization; he began to become proud and lifted up in his heart. Satan had destroyed

much of the truth out of the WCG, so now he also came after the leader of the Laodicean Church organization. Through pride and vanity Satan influenced Mr. Flurry into exalting his self, and trusting in his own “understanding”; and he began teaching more and more wrong twisting of the scripture, especially about prophecy concerning the church and this betrayal of the ministry in the WCG, which was now a Synagogue of Satan. He had developed a style of taking scripture that was talking about something completely different, and many of us could see that he was wrong, but he would say; “it all revolves around...ect... and would try to make us think that it was saying something totally different than what the scripture actually said. It was very deceptive though, for he would use wrongly twisted scripture to try and make it out to be speaking about some evil that actually was taking place in the WCG. He wrote many booklets with titles after the books of the Holy Bible, and changed the scriptures intended meaning to be according to his own imagination. I suppose that in his own mind Satan had deceived him into actually believing what he taught. He seemed to think that since God had used him to raise up what he called The Philadelphia Church, that he also would always be able to trust his own imagination as to how to interpret the scriptures; he even began claiming himself to be a prophet.

As you well know, to get the real truth; one must let the scriptures interpret its own self by gathering all of the scriptures on any given subject, and understand them in their own context, and view them all in light of each other; then the truth will stand out clear. Mr. Flurry wasn't doing that; he was interpreting many of the scriptures out of his own imagination. This caused him to get so far off track that it was obvious to many of those who were finally leaving the World Wide

Church, that he was wrong on many of his teachings; even though he still tried to hold on to the basic doctrines that we all learned through Mr. Armstrong's leadership. As a result they followed Mr. Meredith which they thought would be faithful to the truth. I believe that many of those brethren still had God's Spirit in them, but that organization was not a horn of Christ.

Meanwhile some of us in the PCG organization were in disagreement with much of the Flurry teachings, but we tried to just keep it to our self, lest we be cast out of that organization also. There was no other true organization of God's church to go to. Different ones of the brethren had gone to Mr. Flurry or one of his ministers to explain how they didn't think that he was right on some of his teachings. Instead of Mr. Flurry honestly examining his own self to see if he could be wrong, and admit his error and change his teachings to be in agreement with the plain word of God; he had his ministers to disfellowship those brethren, who were only conscientious about what they accepted as the word of God. What may have started out as "honest" mistakes, were now, no longer honest mistakes, but self-willed rebellion against the truth. I don't doubt that he may have also disfellowshipped some who truly were in disagreement with the truth that he still taught.

Now the above situation reveals the real reason why God's church is still scattered into many organizations, and groups, and isolated individuals in this Laodicean Church age. The messenger to the Laodicean Church and other former ministers of the WCG, as well as some individuals have believed and taught things that they have based more on their own imagination, rather than the true word of God. Some of these false teachings may have been made because of carelessness, in interpreting the scriptures; some may have been

honest mistakes in trying to understand the truth. When other brethren hear of these teachings and point out how they are wrong, based on the word of God; then these ministers show that they are too proud and lifted up in their hearts to admit that they are wrong and change to get in agreement with the True Word of God. These men are more in love with their own opinion, and self glory, than they are with the Word of God. They also feared losing members and tithes if they changed their teachings. It is very humbling to have to admit that you are wrong; and especially if you hold a high and lofty office in the church, or have exalted themselves up on a pedestal before their brethren. But brethren, by loving and desiring the real bible truth on any subject more than your own self, and your own opinion is the only way that we can truly grow in the knowledge of God and grace of God. Otherwise all we would have is our own, or some other mans religion, and not the truth. Were we converted to men's ideas, or to the Word of God? Even Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong had to admit that he was wrong on several occasions, and change the teachings of God's Church to be in agreement with God and Christ. What if Mr. Armstrong was too proud to admit his errors and change? God could not have used him as he did in teaching us the truth. It is painful to our pride and vanity to have to admit that we were wrong; but that is the only way that we will ever get right. God can teach humble men the truth and they will accept it, and love it; but it is the proud who will refuse to be corrected by the true Word of God.

Brethren those of us who truly were called by God our Father, and surrendered to give up self-will, and self-reliance, and to let Jesus Christ be our Lord and Master; we were converted to the truth, not men's ideas, or speculation. It is the bottom line truth that we should desire,

not our own opinion, nor any other man's opinion. Jesus Christ is the real author of the original writings of the Holy Bible. That is why we call it the Word of God. Jesus Christ is the one head of the true and faithful saints of God which make up the body of Christ, the Church of God. Jesus is the one and only head that we should be submitted to above all. God placed men in positions of leadership in his church to lovingly, and humbly and accurately teach the Word of God to the people, and to protect the brethren from false doctrine; but as you can see from the seven Church messengers of Revelation, that they have not always been completely faithful with the Word of God and His way of conducting and leading the church. Brethren you who are spiritual minded, and have applied your selves to learning and living by the truth for many years should be able to try them, and see who the false apostles are, as well as recognize when we are being taught false teaching by those men whom God did appoint to their office. Some of these ministers are vainly exalting their selves up as Lords over God's saints; and seem to expect us to believe that their words are infallible. When in reality, the only words that they speak that are Infallible are when they speak in true agreement with the Word of God. God will test his people and ministers in this area also. Sometimes God will allow us to believe and teach something that is wrong, and latter show us that we are wrong just to prove us, whether we love the truth, or our own opinion and vain pride.

As I said earlier in this letter, there is one and only one who truly does know perfectly the Holy Bible, and that same one is the only one that can unify all of the body of Christ to be completely in agreement with each other. If we are following men, or our own self opinions; then we can't be in total agreement with each other. God does not

want us to be in agreement with each other, if we have to compromise on his Word to agree with each other. We should all be following the Lamb in all knowledge, character, and brotherly love. He is that one head that can unify his church in spirit. He will do that also. If we want to be a part of it, is up to each of us as individuals. We will prove to Christ what we truly desire; by the way we labor against our own carnal human nature for it; or whether we would rather maintain our own self will. We cannot, and God does not expect us to try control other brethren, to make them follow our understanding, or misunderstanding as is often the case. What God does expect of us; is to draw near to God and humble our selves before our Lord, and carefully examine our own behavior, character, and our beliefs, as to whether we as individuals are truly in agreement with our Head, Jesus Christ. When we as individuals are truly in agreement with our Lord, the head of the body of Christ; then we can also be in agreement with the other brethren who are honest and willing to be corrected by God's Word. Brethren I perceive that most are not truly doing this. We may have to go into great tribulation to humble us enough to completely surrender to the Word of God, and to truly learn to love one another as our own self.

Brethren I am confident that since we have been scattered by Satan and vain ministers, that God has given some of us some true knowledge of God's word that most brethren have not yet had the opportunity to understand, because of how we don't have an honest minister to keep us all updated on all new knowledge and understanding. But if any man thinks that he understands something new that Mr. Armstrong didn't understand; then he should humbly and carefully research it in such a comprehensive way as to make the rest of us able to see his

proof from the Holy Bible. Then if he is still sure that it is true, he should write it up in a teaching manner, giving all biblical proof, and put it on the internet so that God's saints can examine it as to whether it really is the truth. (*There is safety in a multitude of council; especially if it comes from people who love the real honest truth more than their own lives and opinions.*) Such an individual should also be willing to be corrected by the Word of God when any brother who more perfectly understands that matter, shows him his error. It doesn't matter who brings us the truth, if it is the truth, then if we really are converted to love the truth, we will prove it, admit our error, and accept the proven truth. God doesn't just work through the "high and mighty" that have a lofty sounding title; but through him that is humble and trembles at God's word. Isaiah chapter 66 tells us what kind of a person (*temple*) that our Lord Jesus Christ will dwell in. God used lowly men at times to humbly help correct Mr. Armstrong, so that we may all have the real truth. God doesn't want his servants to think so highly of their selves that they think they can't be instructed by some lowly person. That was the kind of attitude that the Pharisees had.

I remember when God was first calling me into the truth back in 1979; I was excited about this wonderful new purpose for our lives, the true Gospel; and I was talking to some men that I worked with about the truth. One of them wanted to resist the truth by condemning me. He told me that the bible says that a man should not wear long hair. (*At that time my hair was longer than a man should wear his hair.*) I realized that he was right, so instead of me defending or "justifying myself", I went out and got a haircut. When the truth is spoken, it is still the truth, no matter whom, or for what intentions that it is spoken. The truth was what I wanted, not my own way. The real truth was to

me, like as the birthright was to Jacob. I wasn't going to let anything stand between me and this precious blessing, not even my own self pride and vanity. Brethren we should all still be that way if we truly are converted. That kind of attitude is what Jesus meant when he said that we must become as a humble little child. This is true for ministers as well as us lowly brethren.

If Mr. Flurry, who is the messenger to the Laodiceans would humble his self, and take the bitter dose of medicine of admitting his pride and false teachings, as well as repent of not loving the brethren whom he has cast out for no good reason, and repent of having ruled the brethren with bully tactics, by threatening them with disfellowshipment if they talk with their families who were once in that church organization, and forbidding them from reading literature on the internet that might wake them up; if he can repent of false interpreting the scripture, and turn humbly back to the true loving, honest, and right way of God; then God could yet use him to lead many of the scattered brethren back into the fellowship of God's Church. We can only pray that this will happen; but if he don't humble himself and repent, then we can't walk with Christ and also walk with them.

Brethren these problems don't just exist in the Laodicean Church organization, but also among many who are in the scattered splinter groups of God's people. Let each of us examine our own heart, and repent of our own self-will and pride that divides our brethren in this age. Real love for our Lord and real love for our brethren would lead us to seek the real truth, and not just our opinions. Brethren if we won't judge our selves deep in our hearts and intents of heart; then we will be judged by our Lord in tribulation. When God judges us, he won't care about our wealth, extensive years in the church, or our flattering and

lofty sounding titles. He judges us by his word, as to our attitude, and character, and love for his word and brethren, or the lack of it.

Even if we must remain scattered in this world, Christ will gather all of his humble and faithful saints together in one soon, when he comes back to take to himself his bride, which will have made herself ready; and that don't mean that every one that was called to be a first fruit will be ready. Brethren we should fear not to make ourselves ready, even as we moved with fear to start obeying him when we were first called. We should move with fear, and obedience, lest we lose out on our real purpose for existing. When we are truly corrected, then we can do the will of God out of true love instead of fear. Remember brethren many are called but few will be chosen. Actually only 144000 of all ages will make up the first fruits to be born again at Christ's coming. I want to be in that number; I hope you do also. The way is straight and narrow, but our reward is worth whatever humbling experience that we must go through. Many of our faithful brethren had to give their lives for the truth; many more will. Escaping the tribulation should not be our main goal, but being made Holy as Christ is Holy. No one else, but each of us as an individual has the opportunity to let the word of God correct us in our hearts, so that we will be ready. Brethren I am nobody of any high reputation, I am simply one who tries real hard to let Christ lead me by his Word and Spirit, so that I can be a true and faithful witness of his word and truth, for my sake, as well as for my brethrens sake. My desire is to rightly represent Christ in my life.

God bless and guide each of us,

Your brother in Christ, Gary Stowers

