

# CHURCH OF CHAMPIONS



**JESUS SAID...**  
Marvel not that I say unto you,  
Ye must be born again." John 3:7

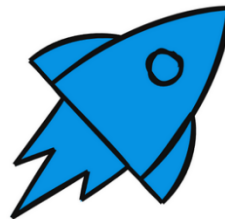
**BORN AGAIN**

**Water Baptism**  
"When they heard this they  
were baptized in the name of  
the Lord Jesus." Acts 19:2-7

**WATER**

**SPRIT**

**Holy Spirit Baptism**  
"And when Paul laid his hands upon  
them, the Holy Ghost came upon them;  
and they spake with tongues, and  
prophecied." Acts 19:2-7



## New Testament Theology

HOLY SPIRIT - A COMMANDMENT

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# The Forge Church of Champions

# HOLY SPIRIT — A COMMANDMENT


**Course Text:** “Marvel not that I say unto thee, Ye must be born again.” John 3:7


**Course Practicum:** To be born of water and Spirit is a commandment; to refuse this is to say “yes” to eternal damnation.

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## Course Texts:


 Romans 8:9... **“Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.”**


 I Corinthians 2:14. **“But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”**

 Ephesians 4:18. **“Having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:”**

 I Corinthians 15:50... **“flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God...”**

 Galatians 5:17. **“For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”**

 II Corinthians 4:3-4. **“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”**

 Ephesians 2:1-3, 8. **“1 And you hath He quickened (made alive), who were dead in trespasses and sins: 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling**

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*the desire of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (for by grace are ye saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come He might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Jesus Christ. 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: (the gift of the Holy Spirit).*

**Course Posit:** The Lord Jesus has commanded that we be “**born-again**” of water and of the Spirit.

## Course Introduction:

A *commandment* is a composition of that which the Lord deemed necessary. It contains necessities that could never be overlooked in the foreknowledge of God. There were reasons in the mind of the Infinite Omniscient God who placed various requisites in the category of a *commandment*. If it is *commanded*, there is no alternative; it is an **ultimatum!**

So, here are some logical questions to consider:

-  What is our reason for withstanding a commandment?
-  Why would we contend with God?
-  Why would we not want to obey what the Lord has instructed us to do?
-  Does anyone seek a quarrel with the Lord?
-  Will our contention be overruled, or will it be sustained?
-  Who is to overrule, or to sustain?
-  What Judge will read the verdict?
-  What jury will pass on our argument's rightness or wrongness?
-  From what law book will they acquire their authority?
-  Are they using a true rule of measure?
-  Will men be allowed to argue with God?
-  From what source does this deep-seated resistance flow?
-  Can the geologist locate it with his seismograph by a certain longitudinal or latitudinal measurement?

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From what source does disobedience in a man's heart arise?



Why, if man is the creation of God, would not man want to obey his Maker?



When did man accumulate this debris?



What barrier was broken when this rebellion came hurling down upon creation like lightning?



The revolt in the human heart is caused by an anti-God spirit that has allied itself to man somewhere in the pattern of living.



If this be true, how will God correct such a malady in the human race?

All of these existing evils that prey upon the spirit of man are the Lord's reasons for commanding certain things. These various *commandments* have, in their orbits, certain **absolute truths** adequate to defeat this deep-seated conspiracy that seeks to overthrow the human race and defeat God's purpose in redemption.

It is important to note that *commandments* are probationary measures. Certain requirements bring man to various degrees of **obedience**.

Consider this: whirling in orbit of various *commandments*, at the velocity of light, are powers ample to bring man into right relationship with his *Redeemer, Christ the Lord*. However, if we (mankind) disobey *God's commandments* (in any age), we continue to be enslaved by sin's evil because the powers of evil are allowed to mature to the full. When this happens God's mercy becomes exhausted, and man receives the full measure of God's justice.

God, in His foreknowledge, fully comprehended that if man was not brought to certain requirements and demands, the devil's powers in sin would never be broken. So God, in His loving mercy, brings man to *certain commandments* to allow him the privilege of being completely delivered from all sin.

When God's righteous demands are met, light breaks through like ten thousand suns — the *glory of the Lord* with full ecstasy falls as softly as the midnight dew on the barren and thirsty mortal. At this point, man becomes a "**PARTAKER OF HIS DIVINE NATURE,**" having *obeyed* God's demands of the age. When this takes place in the human heart, we stand approved by this faith before God. (Romans 5:5-8) This, and many more reasons, is why God has **COMMANDMENTS!** God is testing mankind's obedience when He sets forth a *commandment*.

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There is no deliverance in God's redemptive program for the person who fails to obey any fundamental principle of His Word.

Therefore, a commandment is a challenge to an honest soul. The Lord knows that in such measures lie our *deliverance*. The honest and humble always seek to obey God, but the disobedient and willful refuse.

***“If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: but if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it”*** (Isaiah 1:19-20). This is the irrefutable law or justice that runs throughout the universe. Again, David declares under inspiration: ***“For ever, O Lord, they word is settled in heaven”*** (Psalms 119:89).

*Commandments* are God's demands for mortal men. They are mandatory!

**Dictionary: “COMMANDMENT”** – The word *commandment*, in the sense in which we are using it in this study, comes from a Hebrew word – **“Mitsvah”** – meaning precept; in the Greek we have the word **“entole”** – meaning thing given in charge. Another word in the Greek is: **“epitage”** – meaning *command, arrangement*. It simply means divine arrangement, *command*, precept, or charge given.

The word in English means: A *command, a mandate; an order or injunction* given by authority; a *charge* or a *precept*. A precept of the Decalogue (Law) delivered to Moses on Mount Sinai; one of the laws given by God to the Israelites.

## I. WHY IS THE HOLY SPIRIT COMMANDED?

- A. “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God”** (John 3:5).
- B.** The first and foremost reason why a man must obey the above – Jesus Christ commands it!
  - 1.** This alone is reason enough! But the philosophic reason can be found if we will search the Scriptures. And this we shall do now!
- C.** The Apostles' message to the multitude is found in **Acts 2**, verses **14-41**.
- D.** In the Acts 2 account, we see God demanding three things of man, and these

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requirements comprehensively include the two elements of John 3:5, water and Spirit.

E. The Apostle Peter's message to the multitude stressed their need for repentance.

1. (Repentance is man's acknowledgment of sin to God. Upon confession, he is seeking forgiveness from God.)
2. Secondly, the apostles instruct the people to be *baptized in Jesus' name*.
3. Thirdly, if the previous instructions are obeyed, the candidate will receive the Holy Spirit as God's promised gift to them.
  - a. Incorporated in the above instructions are contained the two requirements of the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is the first example of man being born again of water and the Spirit.

F. We see John when referring to that outpouring on the Day of Pentecost in his writings, he declares: ***"But as many as received Him,*** (when did they receive *Him*? When they received the *Holy Spirit – Acts 1:8*), ***to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name: which were born, not of blood, nor the will of man, but were born of God."*** (John 1:12-13)

1. When they received the ***Holy Spirit***, they received the ***power***. When this happened, they ***were born***, not of flesh, not of blood, nor the will of man, but ***were born of God***. After this ***birth*** they ***became sons of God***.
2. Just as a child cannot be born without a birth; without birth, there is no life. ***"...Ye must be born again"*** (John 3:7).

## II. THE GOSPEL ENABLES MAN TO BE A CANDIDATE FOR IMMORTALITY.

A. ***"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind...Who hath saved us, and called us with a holy calling...according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, but is now made manifest by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel"*** (II Timothy 1:7, 9-10).

B. The Bible specifically declares that ***God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love and of a sound mind***. The Holy Spirit does not bring confusion, frustration, or anxiety, for *Jesus Christ* plainly states: ***"Peace I leave***

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*with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27).*

- C. With the **new birth** one experiences that sweet harmonious feeling of having sins forgiven, sins **remitted**, and sins **washed away** by the **blood of our Christ**, through the atonement He appropriated at Calvary.
- D. *Jesus Christ* is the only religious leader who explained immortality and gave us a complete eschatology.
1. The Apostle Paul boldly stated that Jesus Christ had abolished death and brought immortality through the gospel.
    - a. People are continuing to die and immortality is still unseen by the human eye; but God, in due time, will reveal this great miraculous way of life.
    - b. Why? Jesus Christ is the only one who has immortality. **“Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honor and power everlasting” (I Timothy 6:16).**
  2. Mankind has never invented a machine that can detect the immortal dimension. It is not a mechanical skill! It is a divine way of life.
  3. The Russian cosmonaut, **Titov**, made the statement while he was in orbital flight he “did not find nor see God.”
    - a. No, neither cosmonaut nor astronaut will ever see God or the angels. The Bible, which Mr. Titov does not believe, has already decreed that *immortality* dwells in the light which no man can see, or approach. It is certainly not approached by an orbital capsule traveling 17,500 miles per hour.
    - b. It cannot be located with a radio beam, laser, microwave, or any other known frequency. It cannot be seen through the lens of our most powerful telescopes.
    - c. It is the immortal dimension which no man has seen, nor can see.
  4. You see, *God*, with *His Word*, has drawn His invisible curtain around life. It is only the rebellious person who, in love with their wickedness, would willingly choose to wander about and die on the hot burning sands of mechanical skill and mortal achievement.

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- E. God in His great wisdom (of which the unconverted world knows nothing) has specifically placed vain *philosophic man* in a distinct category: **“The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God...”** (Psalms 14:1).
1. Again, the great apostle Paul declares: **“For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God...”** (I Corinthians 1:21).
  2. *Immortality* came through and by the *gospel*. No *gospel* of Jesus, no immortality of life. Immortality belongs to Christ our Lord alone (I Timothy 6:16).
    - a. Let’s be clear: Altos Labs, Juvenescence, Insilico Medicine, AgeX Therapeutics, Human Longevity, Inc, Unity Biotechnology, Elevian, Life Biosciences, Calico Life Sciences, BioSplice Therapeutics, and BlueRock Therapeutics will never find, see, or discover human immortality. To God and His Gospel belong immortality.
- F. Therefore, in the light of this great truth, Jesus *commanded* that all men **must be born again** to be candidates for immortality.
1. This **immortality** is made accessible to man by the **preaching of the gospel**.
  2. If it (*immortality*) comes through the *gospel*, we must asked then, **“what is the gospel?”**
  3. If we can comprehend and obey the **gospel** that is spoken of in Scripture, we will be able, by God’s grace and mercy, to find this everlasting dimension of life.

## III. WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?

- A. Paul declares, **“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek”** (Romans 1:16).
- B. The word **“salvation”** in this verse of Scripture denotes: deliverance, safety, preservation, healing, and soundness.
1. Salvation is that great inclusive word of the *gospel*, which includes all the redemptive acts and processes.
    - a. They are: **justification, redemption, grace, propitiation, imputation, forgiveness, sanctification, and glorification**.



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2. **Salvation** can be classified in *three* tenses:

- a. #1. The believer has been saved from the guilt and penalty of sin. (Acts 2:38; I Corinthians 1:18; II Corinthians 2:15; Ephesians 2:5-9; II Timothy 1:9)
- b. #2. The believer is being saved from the habit and dominion of sin. (Romans 6:14; Philippians 1:19, 2:12-13; I Thessalonians 2:13; Romans 8:2; II Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 2:19-20)
- c. #3. The believer is going to be physically redeemed or glorified. (Romans 13:11; Hebrews 10:36; I Peter 1:5; I John 3:2)

C. What did Paul preach as the gospel?

1. Answer: ***“He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John’s baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. And all the men were about twelve” (Acts 19:2-7).***
2. This is what Paul preached and demanded of the people in order to be saved from their sins. It is no wonder that he stated: ***“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation...” (Romans 1:16).***

D. Where did Paul receive his commission to preach such a gospel? ***“But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ” (Galatians 1:11-12).***

1. Paul further confesses that he persecuted the church of God and wasted it **(Galatians 1:13).**

E. What was that church? It was the ***Jerusalem*** church, of which Stephen was one of the seven deacons **(Acts 7:54-59).**

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F. Was Paul's apostleship valid? ***“But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was omitted unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter; (for he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentile)...they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision”*** (Galatians 2:7-9).

G. Some might ask, **“was Paul's gospel considered mandatory?”**

1. Listen to this commissioned Apostle as he warns his hearers. ***“I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert (change) the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed”*** (Galatians 1:6-8).
2. Think of it this way: **The gospel is God's ultimatum.** It is God's way of saving the nations from sin and idolatry.
  - a. If God has no other means of delivering people from sin, there is no other way. All else is *false*; all else is a farce; all else is *error*; all else is unrecognized by heaven.
  - b. It is a true saying, ***“If God is against us, who can be for us?”*** This (the Gospel) is **God's way of *salvation*** and the ***“...gates of hell shall not prevail against it”*** (Matthew 16:8).

## IV. SO, THEN, WE MUST ASK, “WE DO NOT BELONG TO CHRIST WITHOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT?”

A. ***“...Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his”*** (Rom. 8:9).

B. Without the ***Spirit of Christ, no ownership is revealed.***

1. There has been no submission on our part. There is nothing to stipulate that we have made any confession without the Holy Spirit. We must be born again.

C. Let's review ***why is the Holy Spirit a commandment?”***

1. It is God's *commandment* to be born again. (John 3:5)

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2. It is God's *seal*. (**Ephesians 1:13**)
3. It is the *earnest* of our inheritance. (**Ephesians 1:14**)
4. Without it we cannot be a *partaker* of immortality. (**II Timothy 1:10**)
5. It is *being* born of the Spirit. (**John 1:11-12**)
6. It is to be a *partaker* of His divine nature. (**II Peter 1:4**)
7. It is to be born of *incorruptible seed*. (**I Peter 1:23-25**)
8. It makes us a *candidate* for the first resurrection. (**Romans 6:5-10**)
9. It is *adoption*. (**Romans 8:15-16**)
10. It enables us to *receive redemption* of the body (**Romans 8:23**)
11. It *unites* us with the Body of Christ on earth. (**I Corinthians 12:13**)
12. The love of God is *shed in our hearts* by the Holy Spirit. (**Romans 5:5**)
13. It is to be *in possession of the righteousness* of God by faith. (**Romans 3:22**)