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**WERE THE DISCIPLES BORN AGAIN BEFORE PENTECOST?**  
**By Arthur L. Vess**

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**INTRODUCTION**

The answer to the question stated in the title of this discussion, "Were the Disciples Born Again Before Pentecost?", gives the answer to a number of other vital questions. If we say that they were not born again until Pentecost, we agree with those who believe in only one work of grace. If we say that they were sanctified after Pentecost, we not only contradict the Scriptures, but leave room for the three works of grace theory. On the answer to the great question hangs the answer as to whether there are one, two or three works of grace in this life; whether the Birth of the Spirit is the same as the Baptism of the Spirit.

The writer has studied in some of the leading holiness schools of America, taught in a number of such schools, preached on the platforms with some of the leading holiness preachers of this nation, and to this day, he has never heard one of these great men but who believe that the Disciples were born of the Spirit before Pentecost, and were sanctified, as a second definite work of Grace, at Pentecost.

On whatever other points that the Second Blessing Holiness Movement may disagree, they all agree that the Disciples were wholly sanctified, or Baptized with the Holy Ghost, as a second work of grace, on the Day of Pentecost.

There are many sincere people among those who believe in only one work of grace in this life, who could be led into this blessed "second rest" if they were convinced that the disciples were born of the Spirit before Pentecost. We hope to lead many such into their inheritance among those who are "sanctified by faith."

In order to avoid confusion, and give a simple, plain, clear, definite, Scriptural Proof and explanation of our subject, let us go directly to the Bible and see what it teaches on the subject. We are dividing this discussion into three main divisions, namely:

1. INDIRECT PROOF:-- Others Forgiven Or Born Again Before Pentecost.

2.SPECIFIC PROOF -- That The Disciples Were Born Again Before Pentecost.

3. OTHER EXPLANATIONS.

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01 -- INDIRECT PROOF -- Others Forgiven Or Born Again Before Pentecost

1. THE PALSIED MAN HEALED AND FORGIVEN.

Did Jesus Christ have power to forgive sins before Pentecost? Turn to Matt. 9:2, 6. "Jesus seeing their faith, said unto the sick of the palsy, "Be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee." After the scribes objected to his claim to the power to forgive sins, Jesus informed them that the same supernatural power that enabled him to heal the sick, also enabled him to forgive sins; then he said, "But that ye may know that the Son of man (now) hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then said He unto the sick of palsy) "Arise, take up thy bed and go unto thine House." He immediately arose and obeyed, and was forgiven and healed. He thus proved his power to forgive the sins of

the man by enabling him to arise and walk. Yes, he was able to heal both soul and body, and demonstrated it by forgiving, then healing the palsied man. And this was before Pentecost.

## 2. SONS OF GOD BEFORE PENTECOST

Did Jesus Christ have power to impart the New Birth, the Birth of the Spirit, before Pentecost? Turn to John 1:11-13: "He came unto his own and his own received him not. But to as many (individuals) as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born (again), not of blood (natural descent), nor of the will (product) of flesh, nor of the will of man, but (were born) of God", then and there, before Pentecost.

Three things stand out in this passage as to the time it was spoken, namely:

1. That He gave power to become the sons of God to all who received Him at that time. 2. That this power was appropriated by faith, or believing on His name, then as now. 3. That He did not refer to the fleshy birth, but to the birth of the Spirit wrought by and of God. This is a plain statement, "that as many as believe on Him" were born of the Spirit of God before Pentecost. If any believed on Him and were forgiven and born again, it certainly included His own disciples who were to proclaim this truth to others.

John the Baptist said, "The Father hath loved the Son, and hath given all things into His hands. He that (now) believeth on the Son hath everlasting life. He that believeth not on the Son shall not see life: but the wrath of God abideth on him." John 3:35, 36. Salvation through faith in Jesus Christ began with the preaching of John the Baptist who said, "Behold the lamb of God that (now) taketh away the sins of the world."

## 3. A SINFUL WOMAN FORGIVEN AND SAVED:

In Luke 7:47-50, we have a marvelous incident of where Jesus forgave and saved a sinful woman by faith, at the house of Simon, a Pharisee. While Jesus sat at Simon's table, this sinful woman came and anointed His feet in tears of repentance and love, while Simon showed no such love, but was suspicious of Jesus because He allowed this sinful woman to worship Him in humiliation. After rebuking Simon, Jesus said, "Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which were many are all (now), forgiven." And He said unto her, "Thy sins are forgiven." (Oh how well I remember when He said the same to me, and healed my poor, sin sick soul.) And they that sat at meat with Him began to say in themselves, "Who is this that forgiveth sin also" And He said unto the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace." She was forgiven of all her sins, and saved by faith, and went in peace. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." What more marvelous conversion has been recorded since? She was forgiven all, saved by faith, and went away in peace. She got a real and complete experience of justification, and this was before Calvary or Pentecost.

## 4. AN ADULTERESS FORGIVEN:

We also remember that the "Woman caught in adultery", exposed by those hypocrites, went away from Jesus forgiven. "Hath any man condemned thee?", said Jesus. She said, "No man, Lord." Then he replied, "Neither do I condemn thee; go and sin no more." If He did not condemn her, He forgave her. He did not excuse her great sin, but he did forgive her. With the command He gave her the power to go and sin no more. He broke the power of canceled sin and set the captive free. And this, too, was before Pentecost. If He did all this for this poor sinful woman, surely He thus forgave and saved His own disciples, who were to preach it to others. He associated with, and forgave sinners so much that He was dubbed and snubbed "The friend of sinners."

When the Church follows Jesus, she goes out after the sinners. But later she builds walls around herself and establishes institutions for her own grandeur and forgets God and sinners. She is crowded with and led by administrators rather than evangelists and pastors.

Yes, our revivals begin among the down-and-outs, and end among the ups-and-ins. Has the time not come when Jesus needs to be presented anew as "the friend of sinners." Oh how we need some Luthers, Wesleys, Foxes, Knoxes, Finneys, and others who fear not men, but love God and souls enough to break ranks and go out after the lost? "The Son of man still has power on earth to forgive sins."

#### 5. THE GREAT INVITATION TO SALVATION:

Jesus was constantly proclaiming himself as Saviour, and offering salvation at the moment, to individuals and groups. In Matt. 11:28-30, He gives the great invitation: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." He means those laden down with sin. Then he states the condition on our part: "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me (get acquainted with me); for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest to your souls," When we are willing to turn aside from all others and yoke up with Jesus Christ He will meekly get down and yoke up with us. What was the result of this new union? "Soul Rest," Ye shall find rest to your souls, no rebel sinner has soul rest. And they did not have to wait till Pentecost or any other future time. It was present soul rest.

#### 6. SALVATION TO THIRSTY SOULS:

"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, 'If any man thirst, let him (now) come unto me and drink.'" He was moved by the thirsty multitude, seeking the water of life through the ceremonies of the priesthood, and broke out with the great offer of direct, living water right that moment. They were invited to come and drink of the living water and live.

Then he offers that great "double portion" to be given later on the Day of Pentecost to those who would believe on Him then and there. "He that believeth on me (now and here) as the scripture hath said, 'Out of his belly (heart) shall flow rivers of living waters.'"

They were to have the "bubbling-up" water of life flow into them, then, if they believed on Him; later they were to have rivers of living waters flowing out of their lives to the hungry multitudes. (But this He spake of the Spirit, which they believe on Him should (later) receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.) "But ye shall receive

power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and shall be witnesses unto me, both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth." Acts 2:4 "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak (witness) with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." The multitudes gathered from all nations heard them speak in their own languages the wonderful works of God. No unknown tongues here.

Everyone who accepts Christ as his Saviour through repentance and, faith, at once becomes an heir to this future endowment with power from on High, the Blessed Holy Ghost. Christ comes in in regeneration, and the Holy Ghost comes in in sanctification.

## 7. THE WOMAN AT THE WELL:

The woman at the well is another striking example of when Jesus offered the living water of salvation right on the spot. He asked her for natural water. Startled at the kindly approach of Jesus, the woman at the well replied, "The Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans." Jesus answered and said unto her, "If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith unto thee, 'Give me to drink;' thou wouldst have asked of Him and He would have given thee living water." He asked her for natural water that she might ask Him for "living water." The woman was shocked because she did not perceive that Jesus was speaking of spiritual water. Then Jesus broke in and said unto her, "I am not talking about the water in Jacob's well, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whoso drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him, a well of water springing up unto everlasting life." He then and there offered to install an artesian well of the water of life in her heart. I would have already given it if you had asked for it, said Jesus. Then He revealed what hindered her receiving this water, her five husbands; and then he told her about spiritual contact and worship direct with God; and that He was that Christ for whom she had been longing and looking. Something happened, and she forgot all about her water pots and Jacob's well, and rushed back into town, and giving her burning, shining testimony, a great revival broke out.

The Holy Ghost was not given until Pentecost, but Jesus Christ was present and ready to forgive and pour in living water any time, all the time. The woman got it; His own disciples surely had it.

## 8. ZACHAEUS FOUND SALVATION: Luke 19:1-10

Zachaeus was another pre-pentecost convert. He was so hungry and anxious to see and know Jesus that he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus. Jesus always sees those who are looking for him. It does not take a seeking soul and seeking Saviour long to find each other. Jesus saw Zachaeus and called him down: "Zachaeus, come down; for today I must abide at thy house." Some complained, saying, "He has gone to be guest with a sinner." Zachaeus came down in a hurry. (Sam Jones said he was converted somewhere between the last limb and the ground.) He did show his purpose and deep need by confessing his sins and offering to make restitution. He said, "Behold the half of my goods I give to feed the poor, and if I have taken anything from any man, by false accusation, I will restore unto him fourfold." Jesus replied, "This day, (now and here) is salvation come to thy house." -- "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." If you do not believe that Zachaeus got it then and there that day, you try

straightening up your crooked life and see what happens when the job is complete. Jesus said nothing about the O. T. Priesthood to him, or any others, as a condition to salvation. He got it before Pentecost.

#### 9. NICODEMUS SAVED: John 3:1-18

Nicodemus was a rare example of a high churchman seeking Christ. Jesus cut short the conversation and told Nicodemus right away that to be born again, born from heaven, born of the Spirit, was what he needed, and must have to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Nicodemus was confused over the difference in the birth of the flesh and the Birth of the Spirit. Then Jesus told him that as he had been born of the flesh, that he would now have to be born of the Spirit if he wanted to enter the Kingdom of God. "Jesus answered (Nicodemus), Verily, verily I say unto you thee, Except a man be born of the water (flesh) and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God: That which is born of the flesh is flesh (natural birth) ; and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit." John 3:5, 6.

After further explanation, Jesus pressed the truth home by proclaiming to him, "Marvel not that I say unto thee, ye must be born again." Jesus did not say ye must wait till Pentecost to be born again. Then Jesus went on with his message to Nicodemus, and climaxed with "For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but (now) have everlasting life." Did Nicodemus get it? Did he get saved that day? He got something, for he later defended Jesus before a church council met to crucify Him. Not many will risk their position and prestige to defend an unpopular Jesus or his friend before a Sanhedrin or before a church board. One who will stand for Jesus before a Sanhedrin, will stand for him any where, in life or death. But later Nicodemus stood by and with Him after He had been crucified, and was disgracefully dead. He must have got something not many get today. Nothing was said about his getting in under the priesthood and sacrifices of the past, nor waiting to get it at Pentecost. I would not at all be surprised that Nicodemus got filled with the Holy Ghost at Pentecost, for he was the last man at the cross. He took the "death route."

#### 10. THE MAN BORN BLIND:

In John nine we have the record of the healing of the eyes of the man born blind. After his marvelous healing, he was cast out of the Church by the Pharisees because he would not denounce the Jesus who had healed him. After he was cast out, Jesus found him and told him that He, the one who had healed him, was the Christ for whom the Jews had been looking for many centuries. When the young man heard this, he fell down and worshipped Him. He doubtless was saved then and there because sinners cannot worship God. If this man, why not the disciples of Jesus?

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#### 02 -- SPECIFIC PROOF -- That The Disciples Were Born Again Before Pentecost

We have given you much general proof, showing that God's provided salvation was available and experienced by many who lived in the days of Jesus Christ and before His crucifixion, and before the day of Pentecost when the Holy Ghost came in His fiery, cleansing,

sanctifying power. Now let us give you a number of specific, personal proofs that the disciples themselves were born of the Spirit before Pentecost.

## 1. THEIR NAMES WERE WRITTEN IN HEAVEN:

"Rejoice not that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice because your names are (now) written in heaven." Luke 10:20. They were rejoicing over their great power in healing the sick and casting out devils. It is dangerous to rejoice over our accomplishments, especially in the name of Jesus, lest we rob Him of His glory. But how wonderful to rejoice that our names are written in heaven. They had to be conscious that it was so in order to sincerely rejoice. When Jesus tells us it is so, we have great grounds for rejoicing. No sinner has such heavenly joy and assurance. (I remember when he told me.)

Again, "We are come to the general assembly and the Church of the first born, which are written in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect." We see here that the church of the first born (again) had their names written in heaven," and those who had their names written in heaven were born again. No wonder Jesus said to Nicodemus: Marvel not that I say unto thee, ye must be born again," and to his own disciples, Rejoice because your names are (now) written in heaven."

In Rev. 20:15, we read, "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Our names being written in heaven, in the Lamb's book of life, saves us from hell, and for heaven. The disciples certainly had great reason to rejoice, that their names were then written in the book of life, in heaven.

Rev. 21:27, "And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination; but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." We see here that no defiled nor abominable names were written in the Lamb's book of life. The disciples were saved from sin because their names were written in heaven. This is enough proof that they were Christians before Pentecost, but here are a number of other sure reasons.

## 2. THEY HAD FORSAKEN ALL AND FOLLOWED JESUS:

"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me." "If any man come to me and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple." You, my reader, have you met these conditions? Or did you just sign a card, or join a church and then go on after the things of this world? If so, you will not enter that everlasting kingdom. Or, you once might have hated all sin, but have returned to the things of this world, still professing to be a Christian. Better check up! But did the disciples meet the above conditions? And He (Jesus) said, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men..... And they left their nets and followed Him, " This was Peter and Andrew. Then He saw James and John, mending their nets; and he called them, "And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed Him." Have you left as much? All?

"And after these things He went forth, and saw a publican, named Levi (Matthew), sitting at the receipt of custom: and He said unto him, "Follow me." "And he left all, rose up and followed

him." Matthew made a great feast for Jesus, and many publicans and others attended. This offended the scribes and Pharisees, who said, "Why do ye eat and drink with publicans and sinners?" Jesus replied, "They that are whole need not a physician; but they that are sick. I came not to call the (self) righteous, but (honest) - sinners to repentance." He had just called one, Matthew, and he had left all and followed him. He became the writer of the first book of the New Testament. Think you that he was a Christian before Pentecost? And all the apostles?

Again in Mark 10:28-30, "Then Peter began to say unto Him (Jesus) Lo, we (disciples) have left all and have followed thee." And Jesus answered and said, "Verily I say unto you, there is no man that hath left house or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake and the gospels, but that he shall receive an hundred-fold now in this time, houses, brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecution and in the world to come, everlasting life."

We note that Jesus did not deny the claim of Peter and the other disciples, but oh, what wealth and riches, here and hereafter, He held out before them. When we leave our dearest friend or nearest treasures for Jesus, we give Him first place, and He in turn gives us life and salvation. What a wonderful investment, "everlasting life." And the disciples had it before Pentecost.

### 3. THEY HAD A DIVINE REVELATION OF SONSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST:

When others were inquiring who he was, He said unto his disciples, "But whom do ye say that I am?" Peter replying for all said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of God." Jesus replied, "Blessed art thou Simon, Barjona, for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven."

It was not a natural, but a spiritual revelation, because "the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." While others were confused and arguing over who Jesus was, His own born-again disciples had a direct revelation from God that He was the Son of God. This was a proof that they had a spiritual birth, nature and understanding, and were the sons of God. Oh, I never shall forget that great personal revelation of God Himself to my soul, and how his Word stood out as His own divine Word that night when I was "born again." From that hour the Bible became a new Book because I became a new creature. No man really knows that there is a God until he meets, greets, and knows Him personally. The disciples could not have had this great spiritual revelation without spiritual life and understanding. Read Rom. 12:1, 2.

### 4. THEY HAD GREAT, SUPERHUMAN POWER:

They had power to heal the sick, cast out devils, and to do many mighty wonders. This alone would not be sufficient evidence, but all the other evidence proves conclusively that this great power was given them of God alone. Did God ever give a sinner such power?

### 5. JESUS CHRIST WAS GLORIFIED IN THEM:



"I am glorified in them." God is never glorified by the nature or life of a sinner. He is only glorified in the life of a Christian. Do you know any sinners whose life glorifies Jesus Christ ?

#### 6. THEY WERE GRAFTED INTO THE TRUE VINE:

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman." "I am the vine ye are the branches: He that abideth in me and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

We thus bear the same relation to Christ that a branch does to the vine. We must be in Him before we can abide in Him. He says plainly to His disciples, "I am the vine, ye are (now) the branches."

Later He says, vs. 9, "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love." How could they continue in his love if they were not in his love? Jude commands, "Keep yourselves in the love of God." The branch is part of the vine, and connected to it.

#### 7. THEY HAD ETERNAL LIFE:

"As thou hast given Him power over all flesh that He should give eternal life unto as many as thou hast given Him. And this is life eternal that they might know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent." We see that He had power over all flesh to give eternal life to as many as the Father had given to Him. Then we see in verse six, "I have manifested thy name unto them which thou hast given me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me." Thus He had given eternal life to those the Father had given Him, "The men" the disciples that He had given to Him. Is this plain enough? Thus they, the disciples, were transferred from O. T. religion to Jesus Christ, and received eternal life, by the new birth, not O. T. sacrifices.

#### 8. THEY WERE BIBLE CHRISTIANS:

"They have kept thy word." "If ye love me, keep my commandments, and I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever." All of us who are truly saved know how we tried to keep His commandments before we were saved, but just could not do it. They had power to keep His word because they had His love and power within them. No sinner can keep His commandments. They were saved, then, before Pentecost. "I have given them thy word which thou hast given me, and they have received it." They had to have the word "engrafted into their hearts" before they could live it out in their lives. "Hereby we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments," I John 2:3.

#### 9. THEY WERE NOT LOST:

"Those thou gavest me, I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition, Judas." If they were not lost, they were saved. If Jesus had kept them, and they were not lost, were they not in safe hands and in a good condition? Wonderful to be conscious of God's keeping grace through Christ Jesus, our Saviour.

#### 10. THEY (THE DISCIPLES) BELONGED TO GOD:

"I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. All mine are thine, and thine are mine." Great to belong to God the Father and His blessed Son, Jesus Christ.

#### 11. THE WORLD HATED THEM:

"If ye were of the world, the world would love its own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore (for that reason) the world hateth you." "If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you." They were so much like Jesus until those who hated Him, hated them. The world always loved me when I belonged to their crowd and talked and acted like they did; but Jesus saved me out of the world, and I took my stand against their sins, and for Jesus Christ, then they hated me, abused me, and mocked me. "Blessed are ye when men shall persecute you." "The disciple is not greater than his Lord." After all, it is a wonderful thing to be hated by the world, for you are no longer bothered with their company while Jesus smiles on you and blesses you. Does the world hate you and your religion? If not, you belong to the world, not to Christ. But if the world hates you, you are a true Christian. So were the early disciples.

#### 12. THEY WERE NOT OF THE WORLD: Stop and read John 15:19, 20.

"They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." This was why the world hated them. "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." They did not enjoy what the world enjoyed. They loathed the things of the world which they once loved. When we get saved from the world, we know it, and they knew it. We no longer say, "Why can't I have the things of the world, or look and dress like them?" We are sick of every thing sinful in nature or appearance. In early Methodism, when asked how to find the Methodist Chapels, they would reply, "Follow the Methodist women." If we were to follow them today, where would they lead us? I got sick of the world, the flesh, and the devil before I even got saved. This was old-fashioned, Holy Ghost conviction. Yes, they got saved from the world before Pentecost, and so do you. You just do not want it any more. But they were not to be taken out of the world, but the world out of them. "I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil," take the world out of them.

To what extent were they not of the world? "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." You never found Jesus snooping around or hanging around the questionable things of the world. But, you say. "I see no sense in being so particular about little things." I did not until Jesus gave me a living, tender conscious. I no longer ask what is sensible to me, but what does He approve or disapprove? A lot depends on what kind of sense you have. The world has one kind and God another. Do you enjoy the kind that crucifies self, and separates you from the world? If so, you are not of the world even as He is not of the world.

#### 13. THEY HAD GREAT AND CONTINUOUS JOY BEFORE PENTECOST:

"And while He was blessing them, He was separated from them and carried into heaven. And they worshipped Him and returned to Jerusalem with GREAT JOY, and were continually in the Temple, praising and blessing God." Their rejoicing was certainly heavenly and supernatural, for their Lord being taken away from them which would have caused great human sorrow and weeping, instead of joy and praise to God. Did you ever hear tell of a group of sinners being in a church, with great joy, praising and blessing God for ten days? How many church members and professed followers of Christ have such great joy? How many ever "Praise God?" The disciples had something that dead, formal church people know nothing about in our day. Most church people do not even believe in "praising and blessing God." If the disciples were not converted at that time, before Pentecost, who is today?

#### 14. THEY PRAYED WITH ONE ACCORD:

"And they all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication." This followed the return to Jerusalem with great joy. Do you know of any group of sinners continuing at Church with one accord in prayer and supplication? This beats most church people today who continue in discord without prayer and supplication. Certainly these praying disciples were born again Christians. And they remained in one accord until the day of Pentecost, when they were "all filled with the Holy Ghost and spoke in fiery tongues that every one present understood." There was nothing "unknown" about it.

#### 15. THEY WERE CALLED AND COMMISSIONED TO PREACH THE GOSPEL:

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit." "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel unto every creature, and Lo I am with you always." Do you think that Jesus Christ, the Holy Son of God, would have chosen twelve sinners to go and preach the gospel of salvation to a sinful world? How could they recommend salvation to others, if they had not received it themselves? If they had not, would others accept their message? They do not today. By transgression Judas fell from this divine relationship and apostleship. (see "The Case of Judas," later).

#### 16. THEY WERE THE SALT OF THE EARTH:

Matt. 5:13. "Ye are the salt of the earth," and had not lost their savor, or life. Is the sinner the salt of the earth? No, he needs to be salted, saved.

#### 17. THEY WERE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD:

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world," and "Ye are the light of the world." "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." The same light of life which was in Jesus, was in his disciples. No sinner is the light of the world, for "men love darkness (sin) rather than light because their deeds are evil." "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His son cleanseth us from all sin." 1 John. 1:7

We have here given 17 reasons why the disciples were born again before Pentecost.

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## 03 -- OTHER EXPLANATIONS

### 1. PETER'S DENIAL:

If Peter was converted before Pentecost, when he became a disciple and apostle of Christ, what happened after he denied Jesus at his trial? Jesus had warned Peter that "Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail thee not: but when thou art converted, (from backsliding), strengthen the brethren." And he (Peter) said unto him, "Lord I am willing to go with thee, both into prison and unto death." Then Jesus warned him that he would deny him three times before the cock would crow.

The fact that "Satan desired to have him" proves that he did not now have him, and that he still belonged to Jesus Christ. Satan desired to sift him as wheat. (Satan's sifter sifts out the wheat and leaves the chaff, while God's sifter sifts out the chaff and leaves the wheat). Jesus had prayed that Peter's faith fail him not in the hour of great trial. If he lost his faith, this would cut him off from Jesus. Then Jesus gives a promise with His warning, that he would be converted from his denial and backslidings, "But when thou art converted, strengthen the brethren." He told him that his faith would fail him, and that he would deny him, but that he would be converted from his loss of faith or backslidings, and restored to Him and his "brethren." Judas was not restored.

After Peter's denial, and His own death and resurrection, Jesus does not own Peter as one of His disciples when he said, "Go and tell my disciples and Peter" who was not then a disciple. Peter's attitude was shown, when after his denial, Jesus looked on him, and "he (Peter) went out and wept bitterly:" but he did not commit suicide as did Judas; but repented and again became one of Jesus' most dependable and devoted disciples. When Peter was being crucified, he requested that he be crucified with his head downward, not being worthy to be crucified as his Lord. Peter was the speaker on the day of Pentecost, and was filled with the Holy Ghost, along with the other disciples present. Here is a plain case of a backslider restored, and later sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost.

### 2. THE CASE OF JUDAS:

Judas is an example of a backslidden apostate who was never reclaimed, but ended it all by a suicidal death. "Ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." He murdered himself. What about the statement of Jesus that, "Have I not chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?"

The tenses are significant here. "Have I not chosen you?" Have is in a past tense, while "is" is in the present tense. Judas was not a devil when the Lord chose him as one of His apostles, but later he sold his Lord and became a servant of the devil instead of Jesus Christ. Jesus warned Judas of his awful sin and its terrible penalty, just like he warned Peter; but Judas committed the sin of betraying Jesus unto death, but he never repented afterward, as did Peter.

In Acts 1:16-25, we have a full description of Judas' fall from his ministry and apostleship and bishopric. "For he was numbered with us, and obtained part of this ministry," but later purchased the "Field of blood" and lost his relationship to Jesus Christ and his ministry: "That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which, Judas by transgression fell." He fell as a result of his own sin or terrible "transgression." He fell from his ministry, bishopric, and apostleship. Would Jesus Christ have chosen and ordained a devil to be His own apostle, to be one of the founders of his church? No, for it was to be the Kingdom of God, and not the kingdom of Satan. He "fell" from grace and thus was not fit for an apostle any longer. Judas was one of the twelve whose name was written in the Lamb's Book of Life, "who by transgression fell."

How many have fallen from the sacred ministry since that hour? One of the greatest ministers of the past generation fell into awful sin but never repented. On his death bed, he sat up and called for his foul pipe, took a whiff and fell back dead. Let us all be careful lest we sell our Lord, lose our sacred relationship, influence and our souls. The case of the Treasurer of the Apostolic Band sold his Lord, his apostleship, and his soul. Let us all go on to perfection, and holy living, lest we fall away, until it is "impossible to renew us again to repentance." Many murder their own souls who do not murder their own bodies.

### 3. THE DISCIPLES NOT UNDER O. T. PRIESTHOOD:

Were the disciples saved under, and dependent on the Old Testament priesthood and sacrifices, as some teach? Let us see: Acts 11:12-13, "And from the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John," and no longer. Is it not plainly stated here that the dispensation of the law and the prophets ended with the appearance and ministry of John, whose mission was to herald the coming of Jesus Christ, and not the law or prophets? His message was, "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world," not by the Old Testament priests and sacrifices, which never did take away sins.

From the days of John the Baptist until now, every one ignored the priesthood and went directly to God through Jesus Christ. "From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of Heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force," personally, without intervention of the O. T. Priesthood. The ministry of John The Baptist heralded the end of the Priesthood, and the beginning of a new day, "Repent ye (not offer sacrifices) for the kingdom of heaven is at hand," and the King was ready to accept all who came to Him. "John verily baptized with baptism of water unto repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on Him who should come after Him, that is, on Jesus Christ." "All the prophets and the law prophesied until John," then Jesus Christ took over in his own new day. "For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." "I am the way, the truth, and the life," said Jesus Christ. "No man cometh unto the Father but by me," not O. T. Priests and sacrifices, only types of Christ.

One recently said, "If the disciples had died before Pentecost, they would have been saved by and under the Old Testament priesthood and sacrifices." This contradicts the Scripture, by ignoring the preaching and teachings of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ. "Thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins." John the Baptist pointed forward to Christ; never back to the old testament sacrifices and priesthood.

After John introduced Jesus, he stepped aside, and Jesus took over. "He must increase but I must decrease." John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins" through Christ. Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel," (not the priests) and he saved.

John never referred back to the Old Testament at any time, except to do away with it for Jesus Christ. He said, "Bring forth therefore fruits unto repentance; And think not to say within yourselves, we have Abraham to (for our religious) our father," Their Abrahamic origin and Israelitish connections were no longer availing, but Jesus Christ only. John heralded the New Day and Jesus Christ; and from the beginning of his ministry, the Old Testament priesthood and sacrifices were out and no more.

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#### 04 -- SUMMARY

Here is a condensed statement for the fact that the early disciples of Jesus Christ were born again before Pentecost:

INDIRECT PROOF: Others were forgiven, saved born again before Pentecost, why not Jesus Christ's own, first Disciples?

1. The Palsied Man was forgiven and healed. Matt. 9:2-6.
2. Others were Born Again and became Sons of God before Pentecost. John 1:11-13.
3. The Sinful Woman was forgiven and saved. Luke 7:47-50.
4. An Adulteress Woman was forgiven and empowered to sin no more. John 8:1-11.
5. The Great Invitation included present Salvation. Matt. 11:28-30.
6. Present Salvation provided for Thirsty Souls. John 7:37.
7. The Woman at the Well was Saved, and many in her town. John 4.
8. Zachaeus Found Salvation. Luke 19:1-10.
9. Nicodemus, A Ruler of the Jews, was Saved. John 3:1-18.
10. The Man Born Blind was Saved. John 9.

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## SPECIFIC PROOF -- That The Early Disciples Themselves Were Personally Saved

1. Their Names were written in Heaven. Luke 10:20.
2. They had forsaken all and followed Jesus.
3. They had a Divine Revelation that Jesus was the Son of God.
4. They possessed great and Super-human Power.
5. Jesus Christ was Glorified in them. John 17.
6. They were grafted into the True Vine, Jesus Christ. John 15.
7. They had Eternal Life. John 17.
8. They Were Bible Christians, Kept His Word. John 17.
9. They were saved because they "Were not Lost." John 17.
10. They Belonged to the Son and The Father. John 17.
11. The World Hated Them. John 15 & 17.
12. They were not of the world. John 17.
13. They had great and continuous Joy before Pentecost. Acts 1.
14. They Prayed with one Accord and Supplication. Acts 1.
15. They were called and commissioned to Preach the Gospel.
16. They were "The Salt of the Earth." Matt. 5.
17. They were "The Light of the World." Matt. 5.

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## OTHER EXPLANATIONS

1. Peter's Fall and Restoration.
2. Judas Iscariot's Fall and Final Apostasy.
3. The Disciples not Saved under the Old Testament Priesthood and Sacrifices.

We have just completed our Scriptural argument that the Early Disciples were saved, Born Again Christians, before the Day of Pentecost. We have given twenty eight or more separate and specific arguments or Proofs, any of which should convince any honest, thinking person that our proposition has been established beyond all doubt or question. Not because of our own wisdom or ability, but on the basis of God's eternal, unchangeable word, we challenge any and all men every where to disprove the spiritual facts presented.

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## 05 -- CONCLUSION

We trust that we have proven to you that the disciples were saved, born again, before Pentecost. Since the Disciples were born again before Pentecost, what happened at Pentecost?

May this treatise open every heart, and lead every truly born again Christian on to their Pentecost, when they may "all be filled with the Holy Ghost", and receive their "inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith." "Behold I send the promise of my father upon you, but tarry ye in the City of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high."

Just before Pentecost he said. "John indeed baptized with water, but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence." Acts 2:4,5. Then, "Ye shall receive power, the Holy Ghost Coming upon you, and shall be witnesses unto me; both in Jerusalem, in Judea, Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth." Acts 1:8 "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all of one accord and in one place (These born again Disciples.) And suddenly there was a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and filled all the house where they were sitting, and there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:1-4. This marvelous gift of language was given to them that the multitudes from the ends of earth gathered there, might hear and understand the message of salvation. The marvel was not that no one understood it, but that everybody understood, "Every man heard them speak in his own language wherein he was born."

Oh God, give us more fiery tongues that hungry hearts may understand the message, and be turned to God in these last days of time. "Oh Lord, send the power just now, and baptize everyone," especially those of our number who claim to have the power, but whose lives and testimonies are empty and powerless. If God could lead us all to Pentecost and fill us with the Holy Ghost, revivals would break out like streams in the desert, and multitudes would be saved and sanctified, who otherwise will weep in hell, while we hope to shout in heaven. You do not have to take anyone's word for this great "baptism of the Holy Ghost." You may have it for yourself. You can come and die to self and Yield up all to God, and trust Him this hour, and He will fill you with the Holy Ghost and power, and send you out as a flaming fire to win the lost to Christ, and lead believers unto this perfect rest; then we shall all meet in heaven and shout forever because we were first Born of the Spirit, and then Baptized with the Spirit, and led many others into this first and second rest.



In regeneration we are saved from the life and condemnation of sin; in sanctification we are saved from the nature and inner tendencies to sin; in glorification we are saved from the presence and the effects of sin in our mortal bodies. How can we let the world die without this great redemption. Oh God, fill us and thrill us, and send us out to the ends of the earth with this great message of hope and salvation.

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## 06 -- TESTIMONIES

In order that you may know that the great plan of complete salvation has been known, experienced and preached by the great saints of all denominations in past centuries may we quote a few of their testimonies in closing.

ARMINIUS, the "Father of Christian Theology": "Sanctification is a gracious act of God whereby he purifies man, who is a believer, from indwelling sin with its lust and desires, and endues him with the spirit of knowledge, righteousness, and holiness. It consists in the mortification or death of the old man, and in the quickening of the new man." Popes' Theology.

MADAME GUYON, The great and most famous saint of the Middle Ages; said: "After I had come out of the trying conditions, I found that it had purified my soul ... I possessed God after a manner pure and immense. In regards to thoughts or desires, all was so clean, so naked, so lost in God, that the soul had selfless movement, the powers of the mind and senses being wonderfully purified. Sometimes I was surprised to find that there appeared not one selfish thought. The imagination once restless, now no longer troubled me. I had no more perplexity or uneasy reflections. The will, perfectly dead to all its own appetites, void of every thing human, both natural and spiritual, only inclined to what God pleased. This vast largeness, not bounded by anything, increased every day. My prayer was in oneness and singleness inconceivable. As a sanctified heart is always in harmony with Divine providence. I had no will but the Divine will." ("This is the will of God, even your sanctification.")

MARTIN LUTHER, the great leader and founder of the Reformation: "I have had a second conversion." "They are called a Christian people who have the Holy Ghost, who daily sanctifies them, not only by the forgiveness of sins, but also by the laying aside, expelling and destroying of sin, and hence they are called a holy people."

JOHN WESLEY, the Founder of Methodism: "God raised up the people called Methodist, to scatter Scriptural Holiness over these lands." "Many years since, I saw that without Holiness, no man shall see the Lord." "We must be justified by faith, and then go on to sanctification. Insist on full salvation everywhere, received by faith. Press the instantaneous blessing." The early Methodist preachers throughout Europe and America possessed, preached and pressed sanctification as a second, definite work of grace. See Abel Stevens' History of Methodism.

JOHN FLETCHER, the great saint and writer of early Methodism: "I now declare unto you, in the presence of God, the Holy Trinity, that I am now dead indeed unto sin and alive unto God, through Jesus Christ who is my indwelling holiness, my all in all." "The same Spirit of Faith

which immediately purifies the heart when we believe the pardoning God, completely cleanses us when we fully believe his sanctifying love."

A. J. GORDON, the great Baptist Pastor of Boston, and world evangelist said: "It seems clear that it is still the duty and privilege of believers to receive the Holy Spirit, by a conscious, definite act of appropriating faith, just as they received Christ. It is as sinners that we accept Christ for our Justification; but it is as sons that we receive the Spirit for our Sanctification. The Scripture shows that we are to appropriate the Spirit as sons, in the same way that we appropriate Christ as sinners." He later testifies: "I had a fruitless ministry for twenty years. One Sunday night I went into my study, locked the door, prayed until the Holy Ghost came, and then from then on, had revivals continually."

JOHN INSKIP, that great Methodist Evangelist: "He so panted after sanctification that every breath became a prayer. For hours he would be on his face begging for the blessing. One Sunday night while standing in the pulpit, and while uttering the words, "O Lord, I am forever and wholly thine", the fire fell and his heart was purified, and he at once entered upon a work and ministry apostolic in its spirit, and world wide in its results." He said, "I apprehend in all cases where my success has been given in the teaching of this doctrine of sanctification, it has been where the instantaneous character of the work has been made prominent."

DWIGHT L. MOODY, The greatest evangelist of his day, testifies: "The blessing came upon me suddenly, like a flash of lightning. For months I had been hungering and thirsting for power in service. I had come to the point that I think that I had died if I had not got it. (That's the point where we all get it: when we die.) I remember that I was walking the streets of New York. I had no more heart in the business that I was about than if I had not belonged to the world at all. Right there on the street, the power of God seemed to come upon me so wonderfully that I had to ask God to stay His hand. I was filled with a sense of God's goodness, and felt as though I could take the whole world to my heart. I took the old sermons I had preached before without any power; it was the same old truth, but there was a new power. Many were impressed and converted. This happened years after I was converted myself."

"There are two epochs in my life which stand out clear: One when I was between sixteen and seventeen, when I was born of the Spirit. There can never come a greater blessing to any man on earth than to be born of the Spirit. God has showered blessing after blessing upon me, but the greatest blessing -- next to being born of the Spirit came sixteen years later, when I was filled with the Spirit; and He has never left me to this day. He is for all -- women as well as for men. When Pentecost was fully come, the whole church was qualified for work in the redeemer's cause."

At Mr. Moody's Funeral, Dr. Schofield said, "The secret of Mr. Moody's power lay: First, in a definite experience of Christ's saving grace. He passed out of death into life, and knew it. Second, Mr. Moody believed in the Divine authority of the Scriptures. The Bible was to him the voice of God, and he made it resound as such in the consciences of men. Thirdly, He was baptized with the Holy Spirit, and he knew that he was. It was to him as definite an experience as his conversion. Fourthly, He was a man of Prayer. He believed in a living, unfettered God, etc." (Failure in this life of prayer accounts for the loss of this first and second work of grace in the hearts of many preachers and laymen, and blights and hinders God's work in saving the lost.)

"Farewell, for a little time, great heart; may a double portion of the Spirit be vouchsafed to us who remain." Amen, God grant it.

GENERAL BOOTH, Captain and founder of the Salvation Army said: "Thirty-seven years ago God sanctified my soul. He cleansed my heart. He baptized me with the Holy Spirit. He revealed his Son to me and the blessing and the Blessor abide with me still. Hallelujah."

CAUGHEY, Great Evangelist: His biographer said: "Wanted it (sanctification) so badly that day after day, saw him praying on his face in the lonely fields beyond Baltimore. It came and swept with cleansing power throughout his already regenerated soul; he leaped to his feet and now told God that he would go to England with the message of the gospel. He did, and thousands found Christ as a consequence."

DAVID BRAINERD, That great missionary to the American Indians, who lived the most sacrificial life, and lead thousands of the Indians to Christ, testified: "Think that I never felt more resigned to God, nor dead to the world, in every respect, than now. Am dead to all desire of reputation and greatness, either in life, or in death. All I long for is to be holy, humble, and crucified to the world."

The above quotations are from a book, "The Theme of the Ages," by Rev. H. T. Heironimus.

MY OWN EXPERIENCE: God had dealt with me from my infancy, revealing unto me my sinful and guilty condition before God, and creating a mighty hunger and longing for God's smile of approval. At the age of four, alone on a mountain hill in western North Carolina, it seemed like a cloud from heaven settled down all around me, and I was definitely called to preach the everlasting Gospel. God's presence followed me in all my younger years.

At the age of thirteen, in my own home, I was mightily convicted for my sins. I prayed and pled for mercy and salvation, in and out of bed, and around my home, looking up into heaven, begging Jesus to spare me and save me from my life of sin before His coming.

After loathing, confessing and forsaking all my sins, I looked up to God in heaven by faith in Jesus Christ and He suddenly and gloriously came into my heart, forgave my sins and made me his child. Immediately my heart was so full of joy and peace that my chest heaved with joy while I praised Him for saving a poor wretch like me. I had met the same Christ that Paul met on the road to Damascus, and he had transformed my life. I lived a very careful Christian life, with peace and joy, mingled with doubts and fears. I soon tired of these fears and doubts.

About three months later, in an old-fashioned Quaker meeting, I arose and said, "I promised God when he saved me that I would go all the way; but I have gone as far as I can go without getting sanctified." Mrs. A. G. Hadley, the Quaker minister in charge of the service, said, "Well, Arthur, Come on to the altar and get sanctified."

Immediately I bowed at the altar, praying earnestly and fervently for God to sanctify me. The saints prayed for me an hour or more. After prayer, I arose and left the altar, not yet satisfied.

On, my way walking home alone, the Spirit said, "Is your all on the altar a sacrifice made?" I replied, "Yes, Lord, the best I know how." Then God said, "Why don't you trust me to sanctify you?" That seemed a new revelation, that God would actually sanctify a poor unworthy soul like me. But immediately, as a trusting child, I looked up toward heaven and said, "I to trust thee now to sanctify me." That moment a great peace from heaven struck me and moved down through my whole being, purifying my heart by faith, and filling me with all the fullness of God. The work was complete, and there was no more room for fears and doubts, and they were all gone.

At once I began a life of constant peace and rest, free from all doubts and fears. The blessed Holy Ghost, in Person, had come to dwell in my heart and life. I joined the other old-fashioned holiness people in testifying that "Jesus so sweetly saves, and the Holy Ghost completely sanctifies."

To all who read these pages, may we say, that the great two-fold salvation will satisfy every longing of your heart. It is not a mere theory or doctrine alone, but may become a glorious reality in your own heart, the moment you meet the conditions.

THE APOSTLE PAUL said: "I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless, I live; yet not I (ego), but Christ liveth in me." "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which. I am crucified unto the world and the world to me." "Knowing this that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin (not sinful body) might be destroyed." "I am determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ and Him Crucified."

JESUS CHRIST said: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me." "If any man come to me and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren and sisters, yea and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me cannot be my disciple." We must put Christ before all else, friends, relatives and all earthly things, if we would become his disciples. Thus we enter into a divine and heavenly glory and relationship that is more wonderful than all human or earthly friends or relations.

Again we say, When we are born of the Spirit, we die, to the life of sin; when we are sanctified holy, we die to the nature of sin; when we are glorified we die to the effects of sin. Regeneration, sanctification and glorification complete our salvation.

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THE END