

What can we learn from the history of God's church?



Did God have a church at all times? What does church actually mean?
How did God confront the falling away from biblical beliefs each time?

*Dear Andrew**

Do you like history? Many find this subject too dry. And yet we need to take a real look at the past so that we can correctly assess the present. And especially so that we can prepare ourselves for the future!

The Church will Remain until the Second Coming

God has had a church at all times – from paradise until now. The church will remain until the second coming because Jesus said: “... *I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.*” (Matthew 16:18 NKJV)

In every age there were people who trusted God and thus listened to Him and did what He told them.

Seven Movements throughout History from Paradise up to the Second Coming

We can differentiate between about 7 different religious movements in the history of the church. Within these 7 periods we can observe the following:

- › The church was initially always a small, inconspicuous group.
- › It grew and became larger.
- › As it grew, the dangers increased; in small steps they moved away from God's will.
- › Unbelief crept almost imperceptibly into the church.
- › As a rule, apostasy came from within.
- › Finally, after a longer period of time God's church became an institutional church, which had departed very far from biblical teachings and the will of God.

* Andrew according to the biblical Andrew in John 1:41-42.

What did God do, when His church strayed from the right path?

He called those who trusted and obeyed Him out – the Bible calls them the remnant – and reestablished His church in a small, inconspicuous group.

How did the fallen church act towards the newly established church?

The old church despised and persecuted the new church and always claimed to be the true church, which it originally was.

What did the faith look like in this errant and fallen church?

They believed a mixture of human teachings and a remnant of divine revelation.

What were the proportions of the old and new church? The fallen church was large and the newly founded church was small and inconspicuous. This was always the order of events. The study of these developments helps us better understand the history of the church and our own situation in the end times.

God's church or an institution?

What does church mean? The Greek word for church means: those called out or belonging to the Lord. The believers were not only called out of the world, but at certain times were also called out of an apostate church, which had

originally been God's church. The apostate churches often became institutions.

What is the mission of the church of Jesus?

Its task is to proclaim the eternal gospel (Revelation 14:6) and to live accordingly. By carrying out this mission, the church retains or loses its right to exist before God.

When was God's church founded?

It was founded about 4000 years before Christ with Adam. In Genesis 3:15 we can find the so-called original gospel. I suggest that we call this period of God's church:

God's Church – The Period of Adam

This was a pure church. Adam and Eve worshipped God on His holy day of rest and rested from their work. Then came the fall of man. What was the fundamental problem of the fall of man? They trusted their intellect more than God's Word.

This can also be our fundamental problem. Do I trust my understanding as the supreme authority? Or is God's Word my supreme authority? We have wonderful examples in the Bible of what it is like when we submit our understanding to God's Word. The best examples are Daniel and Joseph. Their intelligence multiplied greatly by doing this.

After their disobedience Adam and Eve were banished from paradise. They believed the tempter more than God's Word. Then the first murder happened. Cain killed his brother Abel. Abel had sacrificed an animal to God because he trusted Him and was obedient. Cain thought that he didn't need to follow God's instructions closely. You shouldn't think so narrow-mindedly – God was love after all. Hence, he built an altar and profusely decorated it with fruit. However, God didn't accept Cain's sacrifice.

God's Word says clearly:

"... to obey is better than sacrifice ... (1 Samuel 15:22 NKJV)

Whoever thinks that he doesn't need to take what God says so seriously, needs to ask themselves: "Do I really love God? Do I respect His commands?" Loving God and trusting and respecting Him always leads to obedience! Naturally, this is only possible in God's strength, which we may ask for at any time.

Adam's church sunk deeper and deeper into unbelief. After 1,650 years – about 2350 B.C. – it had almost completely disappeared. In Genesis 6:11 it says: *"The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence."* (NKJV) God could no longer acknowledge the church of Adam.

Genesis 6:8: *"But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD."* (NKJV) God reestablished His church with Noah and his family – according to the Bible around 2350 B.C.

God's Church – the Period of Noah

God said to Noah in Genesis 6:18: *"But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark ... "* (NKJV) What kind of a person was Noah? Genesis 6:22: *"Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did."* (NKJV) Could the same be said about you and me?

We can read what God expected of Noah in Genesis 6:14: *"Make yourself an ark of gopherwood ... "* (NKJV) Noah preached God's message for 120 years and built the ark. God had a mission for Noah. God has the same mission for each of us. Are we involved in this mission?

The time of Noah is very important for us, because Jesus said that the time before the second coming would be very similar to this time. According to Matthew 24:37-39 they were preoccupied with eating and drinking and marrying and **didn't know** until the flood came and swept them all away. They were BUSY and didn't know! Isn't it the same way today?

Only 8 people were saved in the ark! 1 Peter 3:20-21 tells us something amazing about this: that salvation by means of the ark is an example of our salvation today through baptism. According to this word of God, baptism is the way we enter the saving "ark of God". Back then, before the Flood, many postponed their decision until it was too late. Many do the same today.

What happened to the church of God in the Noah period? The same thing happened. They slowly separated themselves from the will of God from within until the flood of unbelief took over. Do you know what happened to the church of Noah? BABYLON!

The descendants of Noah founded Babel; they thought Babel was “the gate of God”. God, however, referred to Babel as confusion. How did God react to his unfaithful church?

God's Church – the Period of Abraham

He called a family out of Noah's church, which had become distorted into an idolatrous religion, and founded His church anew with Abraham around 2000 B.C., i.e. after 350 years. The account of this can be found in Genesis 12:1-4. With Abraham, too, we clearly see that discipleship is about more than the general will of God. Abraham also had a mission.

What did God expect from Abraham? He expected him to leave his homeland, his fatherland, his relatives. How old was he then? He was 75 years old when God called him out of his father's apostate church.

Just think: 75 years-old! God placed great trust in Abraham. God had really high expectations of a 75-year-old. God still expects a lot from older people today, just as He does from the young ...

What happened to the church of God during Abraham's time, which was founded around 2000 B.C.? Abraham's descendants went to Egypt and gradually adopted the pagan customs and culture there. Again, the same thing happened: gradual and slow apostasy from within! They learned from the idolatry of the Egyptians. (We see it clearly in the tragedy when they formed a golden calf sculpture and worshipped this idol). The tide of unbelief rose again. After 500 years, God called his people out of his apostate “Church of Abraham”.

God's Church – the Period of Moses

God founded His church anew with Moses.

We are acquainted with the life of Moses. God also had a specific mission for Moses, just like for each of us. He had to decide whether he wanted to remain crown prince and possibly become Pharaoh or whether he would accept God's call (Hebrews 11:24-27).

“By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt ... for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.” (NKJV)

Because Moses preferred the “reproach of Christ” – i.e. belonging to a despised group – to the riches of Egypt, he has already been resurrected and is in heaven. If not, we would probably be able to see him as a mummy in an Egyptian museum in Cairo ...

When the people of Israel were ready to leave Egypt, the Egyptians tried to prevent them from doing so by force. Only after God intervened with 10 plagues did they allow the people to leave. God miraculously parted the Red Sea for His people, but the Egyptian soldiers drowned in it.

What can we learn from this? God can overrule the laws of nature if it is necessary for the good of His children and His church. Also, those who leave Egypt today (in Revelation Egypt is a symbol for sin, for disobedience) can count on the fact that God is prepared to perform miracles in their lives.

What happened next? We know the history of the people of Israel. The ups and downs of the Church of God during the period of Moses went from around 1500 B.C. to the time of Jesus and the apostles. The church of Moses was a large, respected and recognized church at that time. But it had one major flaw. Jesus says clearly in Mark 7:6-7:

*“... This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And **in vain** they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”* (NKJV)

Today, commandments of men have the respected name of commandments of the church or traditions.

Jesus called His people out of this 1,500-year-old venerable church of the fathers. Anyone who wanted to be and remain faithful to God had to leave the church of the fathers. Jesus challenged his contemporaries:

“... Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand ... Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” (Matthew 4:17,19 NKJV)

This call: Come, follow me, was addressed to the believers of the venerable church of Moses, which had been God's church.

What was the attitude of the venerable Church of Moses towards Jesus?

“... we are Moses' disciples. We know that God spoke to Moses; as for this fellow, we do not know where He is from.” (John 9:28-29 NKJV)

They proudly said: We are Moses' disciples; at the same time, they labeled Jesus as an obscure deceiver.

Many loved money more than God, many gladly took donations and money from the faithful, but they failed to proclaim the truth. The theologians of the Church of Moses became enemies of Jesus. They demanded his crucifixion.

Jesus called out the remnant. What would have happened if Peter, James, John, Paul and all the other apostles had refused to leave the church of their parents and grandparents? While the Church of Moses had been the right church for their parents and grandparents and where they also found salvation, from this time on if they sincerely wanted to obey God, it was no longer the right church when Jesus called out the true believers. At that time many refused to leave the Church of the Fathers.

Ultimately, these people put Jesus on the cross. When we refuse to follow Jesus, then according to Hebrews 10:26-29 we are doing exactly the same thing: crucifying him again.

How many were ready at that time? Have we listened to Jesus' call in Matthew 7:13-14 and do we understand it?

“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” (NKJV)

Is the small path being widened today? I can find no reference to this in the Bible. Are there possibly path wideners amongst us?

What was the attitude of the venerable Church of Moses towards the young Christian church?

Let's look at an example:

The high priest at that time, an elder and a lawyer accused the apostle Paul before the Roman governor as follows:

“For we have found this man a plague, a creator of dissension among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.” (Acts 24:5 NKJV)

A plague, creator of dissension and sect leader – these aren't exactly polite names. The leaders of the church that had strayed from God's ways caused great difficulties for the young Christian church.

They called the church founded by Christ and the apostles a sect. Of course, it was not. It was the true church of God. What was Paul's response to this accusation according to Acts 24:14?

“But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect [but isn't one], so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets.” (NKJV)

Paul made it clear: “believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets.” Today, we would say “what is in the Bible” – such a person is not a sectarian, but rather a member of God's church.

I also believe everything that is written in the Bible, and I have also experienced my church being called a sect, even though it is not. Isn't it interesting: people who have accumulated a mountain of human customs and traditions call those who, like Paul, trust God's Word in everything “plague, rebel and sects”.

The church founded by Moses around 1500 B.C. still exists today: it is the Jewish religious community. This makes it the oldest church in the world and about twice as old as the Roman Catholic Church.

What caused this aberration in the Christian church?

We can already see in the time of the early church that false teachings were infiltrating the churches in Galatia. Negligence and immorality grew in Corinth, the Ephesians lost their first love and the church of Laodicea became lukewarm and indifferent.

Apostle Paul prophesied in Acts 20:29-30:

“For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves.” (NKJV)

Ellen G. White said to us in the church of the last days: *“We have far more to fear from within than from without.”* (*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 122.3)

Do we take God's warning seriously that apostasy comes from within? 1 Thessalonians 2:1-3: First comes apostasy, then Jesus. Apostasy is a sign of the end times.

What happened to the period of the church that was founded by Jesus and the apostles, the early church?

We now come to the parts of church history that also have to do with the churches that exist today. Painful realizations can arise.

I would therefore like to assure you that I do not wish to offend anyone with the following statements. I have Catholic and Protestant friends, including those in other free churches. I hold them in high esteem and am grateful for the blessings I have received from them in my life. **Every person who sincerely lives out their faith is pleasing to God.** The following texts are not intended to criticize people, but the teachings of the apostate churches. When we recognize a new truth, it can be very painful at first.

Nevertheless, we are grateful for the knowledge of the truth, because we do not want to live in error. So, I am sorry for anyone who may be affected by what follows. But I assume that we are all open and grateful when God gives us new insights. Now let's move on to the period of the church that was founded by Jesus and the apostles.

In later years, the large Christian churches fought for the largest sphere of influence. The Bishop of Rome emerged victorious from the conflict. When the Roman Emperor Constantine turned outwardly to the Christian faith, the floodgates of unbelief opened wide. The leaders of the church felt very flattered that the great emperor had become a Christian. But he had a political goal: he wanted to unite **pagans and Christians** in one church so that the Roman Empire would become even more stable and solid. They made it easy for the pagans to become Christians. This unification policy of Emperor Constantine brought great danger to the churches. The recognition of the church by the world, which had now apparently become Christian, led the church into apostasy on a grand scale.

Church Customs

The origins of some church customs that come from paganism lie in this period. The pagans brought their images, holy water, supplicatory processions and other customs into the Christian church.

Doctrines such as sprinkling, purgatory or confession of sin to a person (priest) are clearly of pagan origin. No wonder that even biblical baptism by immersion as a personal confession of faith gradually fell into oblivion. Pagan teachings that were widespread throughout the world were incorporated into Christianity: the immortality of the soul, the veneration of the dead, the worship of relics and saints, the doctrine of an eternally burning hell and many other things.

It also adopted the pagan holidays. The pagans worshipped the sun as the giver of light and life. Sun worship was very widespread in the Roman Empire. Mithras, the sun god, was worshipped on the first day of the week and this day was consequently called Sun-day. The observance of Sunday came gradually into the Christian church because Christians wanted to set themselves apart from the persecuted Jews. Sunday was officially established as a public holiday in the Roman Empire by a decree of the Emperor Constantine in 321 A.D. The Church then adopted this and decreed in the Council of Laodicea (343 to 381 A.D.) that people should work on the Sabbath. The Church itself confirmed this, as we will see later.

The apostasy happened gradually at first and then spread in an alarming manner. A tsunami of unbelief also flooded the fifth period of the church of Jesus and the apostles.

Faithful Witnesses of God: The Waldenses

However, in no period of the church was the truth of God completely lost. There were always people who were faithful to God's truth. I would like to remind you of the Waldenses, who lived in the Italian Alps. They led a life according to the will of God and continually spread the pure gospel in all parts of Europe. They were book evangelists. They sold textiles and trinkets, among which they hid Christian literature.

Turning Point in the Middle Ages

How did God meet the flood of unbelief in the Middle Ages? God found men within the Catholic Church, priests and doctors of theology, people like Wycliffe, Hus, Zwingli, Calvin, Knox and many other honest seekers of truth. In studying the Scriptures, these men realized how far the Church had strayed from the teachings of Jesus. The invention of movable type and printing enabled their findings to spread throughout Europe. I would like to mention Martin Luther in particular.

God called this man to be the leader of the sixth period of faith. He was to bring people back to the pure gospel.

Reformation – Sixth Period of the Church

The Reformation Church began in 1517, when the 95 theses were posted. Prior to this, God had already raised up men in various countries who called the remnant to the gospel of Jesus and the apostles.

The word reformation means that they wanted to return to the original. They wanted to lead the existing church back to the biblical faith of Jesus and the apostles.

That was the aim of the Reformation Church. Those who wanted to return to the biblical faith were severely persecuted by the apostate church in the Middle Ages. Tens of millions lost their lives, it is estimated that around 50 million "heretics" were killed and tortured and countless people were displaced and fled.

Martin Luther showed great courage and thus made "history". What would have happened if he had said, my father, my mother, my grandparents were completely satisfied with the teachings of this church, therefore it is also right for me? No, he accepted the call of Jesus: Come, follow me!

If he had said, I believe the same things that my father and mother and all my ancestors believed, then Jesus would have had to say to him: I don't know you. Luther put the main point of the gospel back on the lampstand. However, the reformation was not fully completed at that time.

The great central truth of God, which Martin Luther made known again, is: Our salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus, i.e. righteousness by faith, not by works of the law (Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 3:20).

Unfortunately, the Roman Church did not allow itself to be reformed. This led to a split and the founding of the "Evangelical" or "Reformed" church.

But what happened to the Reformation Church in the sixth period? The same thing happened as before. The drift began insidiously and from within. The unbelief within it has now swollen to a flood. Well-known Protestant theologians want to adapt the Bible to the modern man. In doing so, they demythologize it. In other words: in reality, Jesus' miracles didn't happen at all. The climax of this attempt to adapt is the declaration that Jesus did not in fact rise from the dead; the flood of unbelief is celebrating new triumphs in the Reformation Church today.

The fact that the Protestant churches have adopted some of the unbiblical practices of the Catholic Church instead of clearly distancing themselves from them and preserving the biblical teachings is shown by the statements in the Catholic Catechism of:

The tide of unbelief is rising high. Today's Protestant churches have lost much of their spiritual character. The "Christian" can commit almost any misdeed, even crimes, and still remain a member of one of these churches. A general secularization has spread everywhere.

Many violations of the Ten Commandments or the law of loving God and your neighbor have become so natural that hardly anyone thinks anything of it or perceives it as wrong.

Seventh Period of God's Church

What did God do? He called faithful believers out of the sixth period. Around 1844, God called the seventh faith movement into being so that it would lead back to the pure gospel. In the Bible it is called the "church of the remnant". We want to read two texts about this last church of God before the Second Coming in Revelation 12:17:

"And the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ." (NKJV)
Revelation 19:10 says: "... For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." (NKJV)

Another notable passage is Revelation 14:12:

"Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." (NKJV)

Jesuit Priest J. J. Scheffmacher

"Is it true that Protestants follow the Bible exactly and in everything? No, because if they followed it exactly, they would have to do many things that they do not do and refrain from doing many things that they do. For example: What would they have to do? They should wash one another's feet. For the Savior says, "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet."

What else would they have to do? They would have to celebrate Saturday instead of Sunday. Because the Bible says: Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy - but not Sunday. They are not allowed to baptize children, because nowhere in the Scriptures does it speak of baptizing children, but only of baptizing adults. What do you conclude from all this? That Protestants are wrong to call themselves evangelical, because they do not act according to the Gospel; they believe and do things that are not contained in the Gospel, but do not do some things that are written in it."

The characteristics of the last church of God before the return of Christ are:

- › It adheres to all of God's commandments, including the divine day of rest, the Sabbath.
- › It keeps the faith of Jesus. It keeps the word of Jesus:

"Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you ... " (Matthew 28:20 NKJV)

The only church to which these characteristics apply is the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We are not saying that there are no true believers in other churches. Of course there are. But God will call them out.

We are also not saying that every Adventist is a born-again Christian. This is about the outwardly **visible characteristics** of the church.

In Revelation 18, the Word of God calls on everyone to leave Babylon. It is necessary to leave all mixtures of faith and doctrines of men and return to the full and pure gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus himself says in John 10:35:

“... the Scripture cannot be broken.” (NKJV)

This means that according to Jesus' will we should accept **all** of God's teachings in the entire Holy Scriptures and live them out in the power of God. If we do not fully accept God's will, then we are breaking the Scriptures.

A Catholic statement about Seventh-day Adventists

It is interesting that other churches also recognize this from time to time.

The answer appeared in the largest Catholic magazine in the USA at the time:

What will happen to the seventh period of the church of God - to the Advent movement at the end of time?

After some 180 years of existence, will it have similar difficulties with drifting from within? Will seduction spread within the church?

“... Satan, who deceives the whole world ...” (Revelation 12:9 NKJV) *“... having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.”* (Revelation 12:12 NKJV)

What is Satan's main target?

“And the dragon was enraged with the woman (the church of the last days), and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.” (Revelation 12:17 NKJV)

The remnant are his main target: Seventh-day Adventists who have fully accepted the word of God. Is everything still all right with us? Are we also noticing creeping changes from within?

We now seem to be entering the time in which the mighty final crisis becomes evident. The very personal question for us is: do we want to bear the reproach of Christ and place our lives entirely on God's side? Do we want to have childlike trust in the Word of God or rely on our own understanding like Eve?

By gradually conforming to the spirit of the world, some will leave the eternal gospel and ultimately the church. Revelation 12:11 says about the others:

“And they overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.” (NKJV)

On May 22, 1934, Mr. J. L. Day from Thomaston, Georgia, USA wrote the following to Pope Pius XI: “Is the accusation true, that Protestants accuse of? They say you changed the Seventh Day Sabbath to the, so-called, Christian-Sunday: identical with the First-Day of the Week. If so when did you make the change, and by what authority?”

The Catholic Extension Magazine

"Dear Sir,

Regarding the change from the observance of the Jewish Sabbath to the Christian Sunday, I wish to draw your attention to the facts:

- 1 That Protestants, who accept the Bible as the only rule of faith and religion, should by all means go back to the observance of the Sabbath. The fact that they do not, but on the contrary observe the Sunday, stultifies them in the eyes of every thinking man.
- 2 We Catholics do not accept the Bible as the only rule of faith. Besides the Bible we have the living Church, the authority of the Church, as a rule to guide us. We say this Church, instituted by Christ, to teach and guide men through life, has the right to change the Ceremonial laws of the Old Testament and hence, we accept her change of the Sabbath to the Sunday. We frankly say, "Yes, the Church made this change, made this law, as she made many other laws, for instance, the Friday Abstinence, the unmarried priesthood, the laws concerning mixed marriages, the regulation of Catholic marriages, and a thousand other laws."
- 3 We also say that of all Protestants, the Seventh-day Adventist are the only group that reason correctly and

are consistent with their teachings. It is always somewhat laughable to see the Protestant Churches, in pulpit and legislature, demand the observance of Sunday, of which there is nothing in the Bible.

With best wishes,

Peter R. Tramer, Editor"

(Quoted from the magazine "*Aller Diener*" (Bern 1983, AD II/III 83 p.217)

How did they overcome?

1. Through the blood of the lamb, i.e. they trusted fully in the sacrifice of Jesus.
2. By the word of their testimony, i.e. they confessed Jesus Christ by their words and their lives.
3. They did not love their lives to the death, i.e. they lived in full surrender to Jesus Christ and His Word. Christ lives in them through the Holy Spirit.

Many more will be added to this group from the world and from Babylon.

Now the big final question!

Will God also call people out of the last period of His church, out of the Advent movement, and reestablish His church? Should we leave the church in the final crisis? The answer is a clear and decisive NO!

Where should we go? We are to stay! Revelation 14:12 says:

“Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.” (NKJV)

Verses 14-16 then describe the return of Jesus and that He brings in the harvest of the earth with the sickle – an image of the grain harvest.

The believers are compared here to grain. While the bringing in of others is compared with the image of the grape harvest, with the great winepress of God's wrath (Revelation 14:19).

Ellen G. White speaks 194 times about the shaking and sifting of the church. It is clear: the chaff will be blown away, the wheat remains. Jesus also says in the parable of the tares among the wheat in Matthew 13:30:

“Let both grow together until the harvest, and at the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, ‘First gather together the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them, but gather the wheat into my barn.’” (NKJV)

“Let opposition arise, let bigotry and intolerance again bear sway, let persecution be kindled, and the halfhearted and hypocritical will waver and yield the faith; but the true Christian will stand firm as a rock, his faith stronger, his hope brighter, than in days of prosperity.” (Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 602.1)

How will the church be shaken/sifted?

The church is sifted by deception, false doctrine and persecution. This means:

Whatever happens, we should remain in the church. But we should also heed Jesus' urgent call to Laodicea: To open our heart's door fully to Jesus, to buy the gold of faith and love from Him, and to be clothed with His white robes of righteousness, and to ask for the eye salve of the Holy Spirit.

Dear Andrew,

I am grateful that the history of the Church of God shows us how to walk on the straight path and stay on it.

Warm regards,

Helmut



BOOK 1: STEPS TO PERSONAL REVIVAL

Being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Our lord himself has given the command:¹ Let yourselves be consistently and repeatedly filled anew with the spirit!²

1 Ellen G. White, *Mount of Blessing*, MB 20.3 (egwwritings.org)

2 Johannes Mager, *Auf den Spuren des Heiligen Geistes* (Lüneburg, 1999), p. 101

www.steps-to-personal-revival.info

FOREWORD FOR LEADERS AND FUTURE LEADERS MULTIPLYING THE RESULTS

CHAPTER 1: JESUS' MOST PRECIOUS GIFT

What did Jesus teach about the Holy Spirit?

Are you acquainted with Jesus' most powerful message?

CHAPTER 2: WHAT IS THE CENTER OF OUR PROBLEMS?

Is there a spiritual cause to our problems? Is the cause a lack of the Holy Spirit?

What is the main problem with being a carnal Christian?

CHAPTER 3: OUR PROBLEMS ARE SOLVABLE

What is God's solution for our problems? How can we grow to be happy and strong Christians? What is the relationship between baptism and the Holy Spirit?

CHAPTER 4: WHAT DIFFERENCES CAN WE EXPECT?

What advantage do we have with a life filled with the Holy Spirit

What do we lose when we don't pray for the Holy Spirit?

CHAPTER 5: THE KEY TO PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

How can I implement and experience God's solution for me?

How should I pray so that I am sure of being filled with the Holy Spirit?

CHAPTER 6: WHAT EXPERIENCES LIE AHEAD OF US?

Personal experiences, as well as experiences from churches, a conference and a union

CHAPTER 7: INTEREST AND SHARING

The Joy that we give returns to our own hearts. (German Proverb)

How can I help others to experience "Life in Abundance"?

How do we pass on the message? Which ways are there?

Read
more



BOOK 2: STEPS TO PERSONAL REVIVAL

ABIDE IN JESUS – HOW DO YOU DO THAT?

“Abide in Me, and I in you.” Abiding in Christ means a constant receiving of His Spirit, a life of unreserved surrender to His service.

Ellen G. White (*Desire of Ages, DA, p.676.2*)

www.steps-to-personal-revival.info

Abiding in Him is not a work that we have to do as a condition in order to enjoy His salvation. Rather it is our consent to let Him do everything for us, in us, and through us. It is a work He does for us – the result and the power of His redeeming love. Our part is simply to yield, to trust, and to wait for Him to accomplish what He has promised. (Andrew Murray)

CHAPTER 1: JESUS’ MOST PRECIOUS GIFT

Are you acquainted with Jesus’ most powerful message?

What functions does the Holy Spirit have?

How can our character be changed?

Jesus on the Holy Spirit in the Parable. About the Leaven

CHAPTER 2: SURRENDER TO JESUS

Do I lose my own will? Or will I become stronger? What can prevent us from surrendering?

Does surrender to God mean that we have to give up our own will?

CHAPTER 3: JESUS ABIDING IN YOU

What effects does “Christ in me” have on my life?

The ultimate achievement: being imbued with the fullness of God.

The Effects of “Christ in you”. How do we get deliverance from the power of sin?

Will we become “carnal” again by sinning?

CHAPTER 4: OBEDIENCE THROUGH JESUS?

How can I live in joyful obedience? What is joy? How does obedience through “Jesus in me” work?

God has designed: Collaboration between God and Man.

CHAPTER 5: ATTRACTIVE FAITH THROUGH JESUS

How can oneness be achieved among believers?

What makes our faith appealing to our family and the world?

What changes in us make us witnesses? How does revival generate mission?

