



GRAN ALACANT TABERNACLE NEWS

April 2016
Issue 6

Greetings to all from the church at Gran Alacant Tabernacle

Once again we come to the time of the year that brings the promise of refreshing and renewal, a time that we can partake of the immense beauty that Our LORD God Almighty has created and witness the new life as it unfolds in front of our very eyes, “spring time”.

Genesis 1:11–12 Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth”; and it was so. ¹² And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

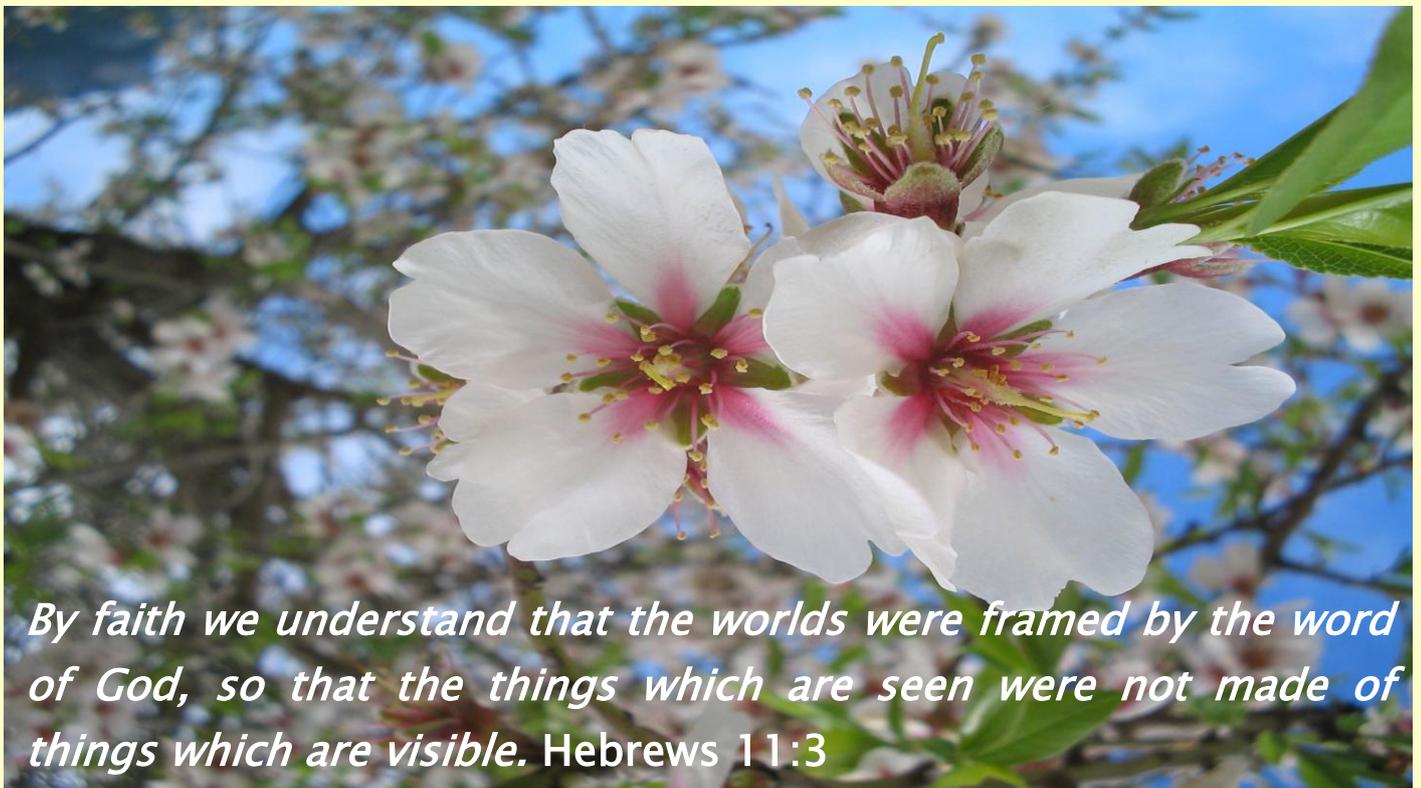
Year after year, Our LORD reminds us, how He creates, sustains and provides new life continually for us. The LORD has created all things perfectly for a reason and for a purpose, for His glory Honor and Praise; Then *God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years;*

Winter can be a still and quiet time, with short and cold days, nature seems to stop and hibernate although it is still working in an unseen way. In Mark 4: 26–29 Jesus said; *“The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷ and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. ²⁸ For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. ²⁹ But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”*

This is the working of our LORD, a sister has reminded us that even if at times here at the Tabernacle we have been few during the winter season, The word of God, the seed of life, has continued to be sown and will not return void and empty, for the LORD gives growth although at times we do not see the results.

As we spend time in God’s word, it is seeds in the soil of our hearts , those seeds take root through the Holy Spirit and helps us to grow and to bear fruits.

(Song of S: 2:10–11) For lo, the winter is past, The rain is over and gone. ¹² The flowers appear on the earth; The time of singing has come, And the voice of the turtledove Is heard in our land.



By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. Hebrews 11:3

We have been blessed with a visit from a brother and sister from OM (operation mobilization) that have stayed in Gran Alacant for around 6 weeks and have been attending the Tabernacle meetings; they have been distributing tracts and literature, sowing the seed of life, The Gospel of salvation in the local and surrounding towns. We thank God for them and for their ministry; here is a letter they have shared with other believers they are in contact with:

Dear Praying Friends,

With the Lord's help, I think we are beginning to size up the situation around Alicante, where we are on a two month short-term mission with an old, OM friend.

There is a very small church, (6-10 people present at the Spanish, and another 6-10 at the English service on Sundays), but very good, right in the suburb where Youssef lives. ("Gran Alacant")

A taxi driver is the (very capable) pastor, and a policeman who works at the nearby airport is an elder. Everybody is taught to use his gift (which helps if the pastor and/or elder have to work on a Sunday), and these Spanish people are very serious about reading and interpreting the Bible correctly in a country where millions give cultural recognition to Catholicism.

A converted, Chinese (PRC) student is being disciplined. There are many Chinese running restaurants and shops all over this area of Spain, and we have discovered there is a Chinese Church (but not in Youssef's town).

There must also be hundreds of thousands of shivering, northern Europeans who have secondary residences or are here in retirement! Estate Agents even print advertisements in Russian, presumably for the "Nouveaux-Riches".

All this is a fantastic challenge, and the ground is sometimes hard and the laborers few, but, during our two month stay here, we are seeking to soften it up by the distribution of literature, and by encouraging local believers, who are doing splendid work already, and who we hope will (find additional workers ??) to follow up the contacts we will leave when we go.

In particular, we are praying for

- the Chinese people who work in Youssef's suburb (or small town by the beach, as you could call it) - a mature, retired, resident, English, Christian couple, that knows some Spanish to be found to help pastor Pino with his English and Spanish personal witnessing, - local Christians to regularly (say twice a year in each locality) distribute literature to the sizeable, Arab population in the wider area, and - one or two believers from a muslim background to go deeper with the interested persons whom the Europeans, in their literature distribution, will ferret out.

Please pray fervently for this.

I believe that their analysis of the situation here in Gran Alacant and surrounding area is correct it is a mission and a great challenge and the laborers are few , please join us in prayer that the Lord of the Harvest will send workers.

But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. ³⁷ Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. ³⁸ Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." Matthew 9:36–38

Blessings in Jesus Precious name. Pastor Pino Cinquemani

The resurrection of Jesus the Messiah

The Resurrection of Jesus is the historical event that brings the greatest News to all of mankind it has fundamental soul saving implications for all those who have believed in Him and are in Him and for all those that will believe in Him and follow Him in the future.

Jesus told the disciples, many times, that He would rise from the dead on the third day. In Matthew 16:21; *From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day.* Also in Mark 8:31, 9:31, 10:34 Matthew 17:23, 20:19 John 2:19;

(John 20: 9–10 Jesus also told the scribes and Pharisees, those who asked Him to perform a sign to prove Himself, that this would be the only sign they would see; *But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah.* (Matt. 12:38–40). As in Jonah's three days inside the great fish.

After the resurrection Jesus reminds His disciples that He had already told them that this would happen. In Luke 24:44–49 *He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."* ⁴⁵ *And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.*⁴⁶ *Then He said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ And you are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."*

The whole account of the resurrection can be read in the Gospel of John chapter 20, Mary Magdalene was the first to see the empty tomb, and Peter and John were first to hear the news. But Mary presumed that someone had moved the body. The disciples at this time did not understand the biblical promise of the resurrection; *For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.*

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Mary stayed on and had an encounter with the Lord; *But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. ¹³ Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." ¹⁴ Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" She, supposing Him to be the gardener,*

said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher).¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her. (John 20:11-18)

Mary did not understand that the Messiah Jesus had risen from the dead, she was in grief and sorrow but that was about to change to joy. She looked into the tomb, she saw two angels, sitting where Jesus' body had been laid and they asked why she was weeping, and then she heard something behind her, and saw Jesus. The message that Jesus gave to Mary, the disciples and to all the nations was: ***"I am alive again, and I ascend to the Father!"***

In Verses 19 - 21; *Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you."* ²⁰ *When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.* ²¹ *So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."*

The disciples were with their doors locked because they were afraid of persecution by the Jews , but Jesus, did not come into the room through the doors, with His resurrected body He just appears in their midst and says **"Shalom Aleichem!"** (Peace be with you.) The very first command after the resurrection, to the disciples was, ***"As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."***

What a great message, we are to be His ambassadors just as the father sent Him, Jesus sends us we are to represent Him to tell people how they can have eternal life through Him.

In Verses 30-31 the apostle John tells us; *And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;* ³¹ *but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*

This scripture confirms that what the Apostle John has written is sufficient to believe: that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing we may have life in His name.

The apostle Paul tells us, *"And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!"* ¹⁸ *Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.* ¹⁹ *If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable.* (1 Corinthians 15:17-18).

Jesus did indeed rise from the dead, which is a manifestation God's Seal of Approval. This means that His sacrifices were sufficient, for the forgiveness of our sins. That is the Good News, the resurrection is God's approval that the wrath that mankind deserves to pay has been paid by Jesus and those that believe in Him have been redeemed. *"Jesus Christ our Lord , was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead:* (Romans 1:4

The Resurrection is God's assurance that we too will rise from the dead, Jesus being the first to be raised from the dead, as the first fruits, because God accepted His sacrifice, He raised Him and is a guarantee that those who believe in Him, will also be raised and be given eternal life with Him.

"But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ *For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.* ²² *For as in*

Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming". (1 Cor. 15:20–23).

Later in (1 Cor. 15:51–54); *Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.⁵⁴ So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."*

The Resurrection is God's assurance that Satan, sin and death are defeated, and that we are no longer slaves to sin. *"I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades."* (Rev. 1:18)

Because Jesus Christ has conquered death and the grave, it means that all those who repent and confess Him and believe in Him as Lord and savior and follow Him, share in His victory.

For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,⁶ knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.⁷ For he who has died has been freed from sin.⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,⁹ knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.¹⁰ For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.¹¹ Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 6:5–11)

The Resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of our faith, that is why scriptures tells us : *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received; that Messiah died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures* (1 Cor. 15:3–4).

The death and resurrection of Jesus is "The Good News", Scriptures makes it clear that Jesus is the true and only Passover Lamb of God whose sacrificial death and shed blood causes the wrath of God to "pass over" (pasach) to all those who are trusting in Him.

While the sacrifice of Jesus gives us atonement with God, the resurrection (justifies His work of salvation on behalf of the repentant sinner and sets him free in the righteousness of God.

The resurrection reveals that God accepted the sin offering of Jesus on our behalf and also confirms what Jesus said on the cross: *"It is finished"* (John 19:30; Matt. 27:50).

We receive eternal life through the resurrected life of Jesus from the living LORD of Glory not from a dead Savior! But from a living God, Jesus *"the first and the last."*

He is Emanuel God come in the flesh, The Word of God The creator of all things, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS, Eternal Savior.

Holy Holy Holy is our LORD God Almighty to Him be the praise and the Glory forever and ever Amen

Handling false teaching in an age of massive apostasy 1

During last several months, we have been studying the seven letters to seven churches in the book of Revelation. We studied the meaning of letters in its historical context and its prophetic meaning. The seventh church—the church of Laodicea prophesies the church age we are living in. In the beginning of this letter, Jesus revealed him as “the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation”. This self-description of Christ prophesies the features of this church age.

In this church age, God’s glory of creation and The Truth have been severely challenged. The first is challenged by the myth of evolution, while the second is challenge by biblical criticism. This movement began in the end of the 19th century and brought the arrival of biblical criticism , It began in Germany with the teaching that Scripture was not the inerrant word of God but flawed human works. They questioned authorship of the books of Bible, the dates of authorship and other details of Scripture. These new thoughts soon spread to the United States and all over the world; the seminaries began to interpret the Bible in light of human ideology and reason, pulpits were soon filled with pastors trained at these so-called “progressive” seminaries, leading to the deviation of orthodox Biblical teaching in churches.

This trend continues today and has worsened in the past decades. Humanistic principles, self-help, “feeling-good” and pop psychology are preached in place of God’s word. As is expected, this trend is prophesied in Paul’s letter to Timothy: 2Ti 4:2-4 “*preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching* ³*For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions;* ⁴*and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths*”.

We pray that God gives us wisdom that could help us “*Save yourselves from this crooked generation.*” (Acts 2:40).

We find that the book of Jude has profound wisdom on how to deal with false teaching. Therefore, we begin a series of studies on the book of Jude. There are several features of this book that are worth mentioning beforehand. First, the structure of this book is poetic. There are 14 triads in only 25 verses, which feature its stylish writing style. Second, this letter quoted Peter’s letter frequently. It cites Peter’s letter 13 times. The reason that Jude quoted Peter so frequently was not that he lacked the confidence of authorities, but because he wanted to remind the readers what Peter had already told them, but the congregants just forgot Peter’s teaching. Third, Jude is the only author in the Scriptures that quoted from the apocryphal literature, which are ancient books of wisdom often portrayed as inspired texts but they are not. Jude quotes from a book called the Assumption of Moses and another called the Book of Enoch. Jude’s quotes generate a lot of controversies, since the apocryphal writings are, in fact, not scriptures. These extra-biblical quotes give some traditions an excuse to falsely consider the apocryphal literatures as scriptures. We will address this issue in the later studies.

Now let’s move to the text. Jud 1:1 *Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, to those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:* Like James, the author Jude is half-brother of Jesus. But according to the record of Gospels (John 7:5), they did not recognize Jesus as Messiah until Jesus’s resurrection. But their delayed recognition just added the credibility of the Gospel among the body of Christ. Here, Jude did not mention his earthly relationship with Christ, but called himself a servant of Jesus Christ. When we become followers of Jesus Christ, we

are born again spiritually. Just as our physical birth gained us relationships with our parents and siblings, so does our spiritual rebirth. Moreover, the relationships we gain through our spiritual birth takes precedence over any earthly relationships. Even Jesus Himself, when asked to give preference to his earthly mother and unbelieving brothers who had joined the crowds, said this;

“My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it.” (Luke 8:12)

In the second half of verse 1, Jude showed the relationship of our identity with three persons of Godhead. *“to those who are called”* , we know that it is the Holy spirit that called us to faith.

We were called by the Holy Spirit in the past; we are loved by God the father now; and we are kept for Jesus Christ as His bride in His future coming. In the second half of the verse, Jude confirmed the doctrine of the Trinity and showed our relationship with God in three persons.

Jud 1:2 *May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.* In verse 2, Jude’s benediction listed the three spiritual gifts we are endowed once we come to faith. First among them is mercy. This is always the first thing we think about as we consider the benefits of membership in God’s family. Mercy from God’s wrath, judgment and eternal punishment in hell. This is one of the most appearing things in the Gospel. Following mercy, we have hope. The hope is not wishful things. It is the assurance that is grounded on the faith that Jesus Christ died on the cross, and his blood has washed our sins. He resurrected on the third day according to the scripture. (1 Cor. 15:4) He has overcome death. By believing him, we have eternal life.

Although there are still many struggles in this world, we have peace with God. This is true peace in eternal perspective. We are granted the capacity to love in the way God loves: sacrificial and unconditional love. The love of God becomes a part of who we are, and the love of God multiplies in us as we devote ourselves to a greater knowledge of Him in His word and as we devote ourselves to applying what we learn by the Spirit. We receive spiritual mercy, and it yields in us greater capacity for kindness and mercy toward other sinners. We received a spiritual peace that passes all understanding, but it enables us to walk without fear in the face of persecution and trial. We received the spiritual gift of God’s love, but it manifests within us as the fruits of the Spirit, so that we will show God’s love to others.

Then Jude demonstrated his purpose of writing this letter. Jud 1:3 *Beloved, although I was very eager to write to you about our common salvation, I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.* In verse 3, Jude said that his initial intention is to write a letter talking about the common salvation, but the Spirit led him to urge the congregants to fight for faith. Here we can clearly see how the Holy Spirit leads him to write what God wants him to say rather than what he himself wants to say.

First, Jude calls us to contend for our faith. Christianity always give people an impression that we only talk about love, forgiveness and humbleness. But don’t forget, we are also called to fight with the false teaching, to be the warrior of truth. Toleration of lies is betraying of truth.

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” (Eph 6:10), so we are called to stand up for the truth and fight with false teaching.

The objects that Jude commands the congregants to contend for are *“the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints.* The phrase *“once for all”* tells us the first principle to identify all kinds of

false teaching. The faith has been handed down to believers in its entirety through Jesus Christ. Therefore, our salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, and in Christ alone. There is nothing needed to add to attain salvation except from belief in Jesus Christ. That is why in my emails to my Christian brethren, I always end with the final greeting “in Christ”, because the best news for every creature is that they are in Christ.

Through the history, various false teaching want to add something apart from Jesus’ crucifixion to the salvation plan. The normal pattern is a claim there is something missing in our understanding of Christianity. If we accept their claim, they will persuade us to add something other than believing Jesus Christ.

The Gnostics and Judaizers make that claim. The Catholic Church has made that claim over the centuries and continues to make it today. Mormons make that claim; Jehovah’s Witnesses make that claim; Christian Science makes that claim; many other have made that claim. But scripture says that all we need to understand comes through Jesus and His apostles once for all. The faith that saves, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, was delivered in its entirety “*once*”.

This moment was collectively the period of time when the Lord walked the Earth and in the time immediately following when the men He appointed as Apostles delivered the message He gave them. The word of God is the means by which the faith is kept pure, having been once delivered, that is why we should study God’s word diligently, and this is the first and most important defense against any false teaching. We are all called to engage in a “fight for the faith, but before we can “fight for it, we have to know what “it” is. As we move further through the letter over the next several weeks, we will come to understand who our enemies are and how we are to approach this “fight”. In Christ brother HiHan.

Discernment

In the times that we are living, Biblical discernment is lacking, as we see that many things that should be very obvious have become confusing to many people. And many things that God has told us that are bad are becoming normal and accepted even within the church. There are many reasons for this, but the root of much confusion is the loss of how to determine truth and error and the increasing rejection of the Bible as the infallible word of God. As people increasingly follow the vain philosophies and speculations of men, there is a reduction in biblical discernment.

To discern comes from a root which means “*to separate or to distinguish between.*” It is to “recognize and identify and separate” this applies to both the physical, as in discerning the identify of an object, its source and function, and with mental understanding, as in identifying good judgment in biblical principles and morals. The Hebrew word is, בִּיַן (bin) being able to distinguish between things. This knowledge is much greater than just having a lot of facts, because it can distinguish between those facts, and use them to make proper judgments. This is especially applied to distinguishing between right and wrong, good and evil, just and unjust.

As we grow in God’s word we develop the ability to distinguish, recognize and identify things then separate and place them in their proper place according to His standards. We are to develop discernment between that which comes from Him and that which comes from men, between that which is true and that which is false. In the book of Proverbs 1:2 we are told “*to know wisdom and instruction, to discern the sayings of understanding*”. One of the differences between the mature and immature is exercising their senses to discern good and evil” (Hebrews 5:14).

But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Proverbs 2: 1-9

My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you,
² So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding; ³ Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding,
⁴ If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures;
⁵ Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, And find the knowledge of God. ⁶ For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding; ⁷ He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly; ⁸ He guards the paths of justice, And preserves the way of His saints. ⁹ Then you will understand righteousness and justice, Equity and every good path.

Proverbs 15:21

Folly is joy to him who is destitute of discernment, But a man of understanding walks uprightly.

Ezekiel 44:23

“And they shall teach My people the difference between the holy and the unholy, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.

Malachi 3:18

Then you shall again discern Between the righteous and the wicked, Between one who serves God And one who does not serve Him.

Without the ability to discern, a person remains immature and subject to the false teaching that is increasing in the world.

How do we distinguish between what God actually wants and what many preach, teach and claim that God wants? In Deuteronomy verse 20 God tells us about false prophets, “*But the prophet who shall speak a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he shall speak in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.*’

He was to be put to death, many of those who make prophetic predictions in our time that have even been exposed as frauds, continue to do so because they do not take the warnings of scripture seriously, they have no fear of the LORD and lack discernment. We must carefully examine what people claim and preach if it does not line up with the word of god, we are not to heed their claims and we are not to be afraid of them. They need to be exposed as false prophets and people need to be warned about them.

In Mat.7:15–23. “*Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.*” ¹⁶“*You will know them by their fruits.* Without discernment we will not be able to identify the false prophets? These responsibilities belong to every Christian, we must mature and be able to exercise and develop discernment.

The first requirement is to be a true Christian and not just another number in the congregation not another convert but a born again by the Spirit child of God. 1Corinthians2:14 states, “*But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.*” As Paul explains, we have to have the Spirit of God in order to have the mind of Christ and that comes with becoming a true born again Christian.

The second requirement is to know the word of God for ourselves or we can easily fall into being a follower of men instead of God. Just as the Bereans in Acts 17:10–11, “*And the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea; and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. 11 Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, [to see] whether these things were so.*”

Man’s wisdom cannot bring about discernment, so the Scriptures by themselves are not enough otherwise the many doctorates from the various bible seminaries and schools would be the godliest discerning saints, but they certainly are not, Just as the Pharisees were not (They were a political party, a social movement, and a school of thought) They have the Scriptures, but have twisted them by man’s wisdom.

That is why the greatest requirement, is Walking in obedience to the Holy Spirit. The Christian is changed by the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit,

(Colossians 3:2). The Holy Spirit convicts of sin, righteousness and judgment enlightens our mind and teaches us, because He is the Spirit of truth. This enables the Word of God to come alive in us dividing even the thoughts and intentions of the heart. We are transformed as our mind is renewed so that we can live according to God's will.

If one claims to be a born again professing Christian and has not developed the ability to discern truth from error by knowing the Scriptures and walking in the Spirit they will end up following man instead of God. Knowing the Bible and walking in the Spirit are both required because knowing the Bible without walking in the Spirit results in arrogance and pride and also vice versa claiming to walk in the Spirit but not knowing and submitting to the word of God is self deception and leads to apostasy. This is the major problem with many modern Christian organizations and the emergent church movement.

We are to cry out for discernment, to know the truth and separate it with righteous judgment individually and for the whole body, local and universal church, to grow to maturity by every member using their gifts of the Spirit and to put on the full armour of Christ our Lord and to stand firm in Him. Each one must do their part to mature and protect the rest of the body from being tossed about by the winds of doctrine, the trickery of men and the craftiness of deceitful scheming that surrounds us.

Discernment is seriously lacking and in many "Christian churches of today", emotionalism, superficial love, religiosity, tolerance and the wisdom of men is replacing true knowledge and wisdom that comes from God. Having ones ears tickled because of false teachers is one thing but showing a desire for it is a personal responsibility that can be avoided. As children of God we must be a discerning people.

⁹And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, ¹¹being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. (Philippians 1:9-10)

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus by George Duffield, 1818-1888

Stand up, stand up for Jesus! ye soldiers of the cross;
Lift high His royal banner, it must not suffer loss:
From vict'ry unto vict'ry, His army shall He lead,
Till every foe is vanquished, and Christ is Lord indeed.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus! The trumpet call obey:
Forth to the mighty conflict, in this His glorious day;
Ye that are men now serve Him against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger, and strength to strength oppose.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus! Stand in His strength alone,
The arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your own;
Put on the gospel armor, and watching unto prayer,
Where calls the voice of duty, be never wanting there.

Stand up, stand up for Jesus! the strife will not be long;
This day the noise of battle, the next the victor's song;
To him that overcometh a crown of life shall be;
He with the King of glory shall reign eternally.

Blessings from Gran Alacant

Gran Alacant Evangelical
Tabernacle

Avenida D'Escandinavia 35
Gran Alacant, Santa Pola
Alicante, Spain

The Church at Gran Alacant, thanks God and all our brothers and sisters that have come to visit us during the past months, thank you for your time of worship together, and fellowship. We pray that you have been blessed during your visit and that soon in the near future God willing we may enjoy your company again

For more information contact us
via the website

www.granalacantchurch.org

Email

Pino@granalacantchurch.org

*May the Lord bless you and keep you.
May the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you.
May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.*

Please continue to pray for the church mission here in Gran Alacant for wisdom and guidance to fulfil His will and purpose for us.

Blessings in the name of Jesus the messiah .

