

THE
TIME
IS NOW !

Many years ago, in the early eighties -
if you can still recall –
there was this well funded campaign
with a screaming headline,
“I FOUND IT!”

Do you remember this particular advertising campaign which blew over all major media networks?

The Ad was almost everywhere, from print ad to television, to posters and car stickers. For the duration of the teaser campaign, no product, services or entity was endorsed.

The high profile teaser campaign generated huge and massive awareness, yet it was mysterious to say the least – from what it was supposed to promote and from those who owned it.

Advertisers took free ride from
the publicity.

That was a cheap shot,
nevertheless, no one claimed
ownership!

It was rumored to be
a CIA funded group masquerading
as a religious organization.
Soon the campaign fizzled out.

CATCHY PHRASE

We have to admit that the slogan
“I Found It” is a catchy phrase -
sort of a Christian experience
captured in three short words;
“I Found It.”

What did they find,
or better yet,
what was it that they were
looking for?

Were they looking for the truth,
and the truth was what they were
supposed to find?

Over the years,
we encountered people who come in
contact with us - supposedly
searching for the truth and of the true
church.

These “searchers of the truth,”
if we may call them that, have visited
many churches, fellowship groups
and congregations - deciphering,
studying and analyzing our teachings
in search for the truth.

Hopefully, at the end of their search
they will find the true church and
claimed with all sincerity that
“I FOUND IT.”

Have you encountered a person who
climbed every mountain, ford every
stream, fellowshiped with all the
known churches, diligently searched
the scriptures, then finally settled in
the true Church of God?

Seldom if any among us in this room would qualify to say that we searched far and wide for the truth.

Neither did any of the Apostles,
the first century Christians and
definitely not Paul. None of the
disciples chose Christ, rather it was
Jesus who chose each one of them.

They did not go far and wide to
search for the truth.

The **truth** found them.

John 15:16

¹⁶ You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

SEARCHING THE TRUTH

Let's say, you want to search for the truth. How would you do it?

Where will you start?

How would you search for the truth?

Your premise would be that truth is knowable and you will immediately know the truth when you find it, right?

Wrong,

most people won't know the truth
even if the truth stared them in the
face.

What is the basis or measurement
of truth?

Is the truth based on knowledge,
reason, logic or empirical science?

If truth is based on intellect and wisdom, reason and logic then all the learned, the scholars and the wise of this world would easily recognize the truth. But Paul tells us the opposite in 1 Corinthians 1:26-31.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

²⁶ Brothers, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

²⁸ He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

³¹ Therefore, as it is written: "Let him who boasts boast in the Lord."

If you were a searcher of the truth,
what kind of truth will you be
looking for?

Very often when people search for something, they already have a preconceived idea of what they are looking for.

They have their own doctrine or idea
of the truth of God.

These people are not looking for the spiritual truth but their version of the truth. They look for a god that fits their imagination.

And, they go around churches to find
a church that conforms to their own
thinking.

Thus, anything that doesn't match
their idea or preconceived concept of
truth or God is not the truth.

Therefore, if a person claims to be searching for the truth, it is usually his version of truth that he is searching for and not the real Truth.

A person can come to understand and comprehend God's truth only through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

When God calls a person, He gives
him a spark of understanding
through His spirit.

Consider Paul's discussion in
1 Corinthians 2.

There is an interesting discourse
Jesus had with the Pharisees.
The discussion is recorded in
John 5:36-40.

John 5:36-40

³⁶ "I have testimony weightier than that of John. For the very work that the Father has given me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent me. ³⁷ And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form,

John 5:36-40

³⁸ nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent.

³⁹ You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me,
⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

The intriguing portion of this account
is the unbelief of the Pharisees.

The Pharisees, with their knowledge
of the Scriptures should know the
Truth.

They searched the Scriptures
constantly yet when the Messiah
came, they rejected Him and His
teachings.

If you were to search for the truth,
where would you begin?

How would you know if you have
found it?

In our last Bible study we ask the
question: What Is Truth?

The answer is:

The Word of God is Truth.

Jesus said: “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

John 8:31-32

And again Jesus declares in
John 17:17: “Sanctify them by your
truth. Your word is truth.”

Therefore, the word of God the Father
is the source of truth.

Further, the Psalmist wrote:
“The entirety of Your word *is* truth,
And every one of Your righteous
judgments endures forever.”

Psalms 119:160

TRUTH FOUND US

So, how does one come to know
the truth?

I think coming to the truth is a form
of a miracle.

Some say it is a bigger miracle than
the parting of the Red Sea.

The opening of our mind to the truth is indeed a miracle because it will go against all what you have believed in from your youth, and from what you have subsequently learned from the world.

On our own, we do not have the
capacity to find the truth.

In reality,
it is the TRUTH that FINDS US!

Examine your personal calling for a moment, did you go up to the mountains or go down to the deep to search the truth?

Jump from one congregation to another, one religion to another, or debate with all the preachers in all fellowship groups to find the truth?

In fact, many did not know what the truth is until they stumbled into this church.

The truth my friends is the
WORD of God.

In the Old Testament it is
“**The Lord Said**” and in the New
Testament “**Jesus said.**”

The truth is not what your minister
or priest said, rather it is the very
Word of God. God's word is the only
basis and criteria of truth!

THE WORKING OF THE SPIRIT

The reality is, the truth found you.

Jesus Christ said in John 6:44,
“No one can come to me unless the
Father who sent me draws him.”

So, do not think that
you have found the truth.
Jesus said again in John 6:65.
The truth found you because God
draws you to His truth.

John 6:65

⁶⁵ He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him."

Paul explains it this way in
1 Corinthians 1:18-2:16.

1 Corinthians 1:18

¹⁸ For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

1 Corinthians 2:16

¹⁶ "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him?"
But we have the mind of Christ.

Consider for a moment
how you came in contact
with this church?

Maybe someone handed you a copy of
the Armor of God magazine.

Or on a lazy Sunday morning you were surfing the internet and you accidentally came to the CGI website.

Or you were in a dentist's room
waiting for your tooth extraction and
found an article to read.

Or you were intrigued by a print advertisement inviting you to a bible study.

Or you got an invitation that came
through your mail.

Or you have a friend, associate, co-employee or cousin who irritates you every time he/she talks about the Sabbath and God's annual holy days.

To most of God's people, including the
disciples, the **TRUTH FOUND** them!
And, they were convicted by the truth
that they read and heard.

TIME IS NOW

What happens now when you come
face-to-face with the truth?

There are only two (2) possible
outcomes.

Either you accept the truth or you
shrink back and retreat.

This is what Apostle Paul said this in
Hebrews 3:12-19 and 4:1-13.

Hebrews 3:12-19

¹² See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.

¹³ But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Hebrews 3:12-19

14 We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence we had at first.

15 As has just been said: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion."

Hebrews 3:12-19

¹⁶ Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? ¹⁷ And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the desert?

Hebrews 3:12-19

¹⁸ And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? ¹⁹ So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.

Hebrews 4:1-13

¹ Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. ² For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith.

Hebrews 4:1-13

³ Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, "So I declared on oath in my anger, "They shall never enter my rest.'" And yet his work has been finished since the creation of the world. ⁴ For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: "And on the seventh day God rested from all his work."

Hebrews 4:1-13

⁵ And again in the passage above he says, "They shall never enter my rest."

⁶ It still remains that some will enter that rest, and those who formerly had the gospel preached to them did not go in, because of their disobedience.

Hebrews 4:1-13

⁷ Therefore God again set a certain day, calling it Today, when a long time later he spoke through David, as was said before: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts." ⁸ For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day.

Hebrews 4:1-13

⁹ There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; ¹⁰ for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his.

¹¹ Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.

Hebrews 4:1-13

¹² For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. ¹³ Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

The time to believe and make a
commitment to God is now.

Yes, **the time is now!**

Some of you here have been
fellowshipping with us for the Bible
Study for quite sometime already.

I believe that God draws you to be here. And, now you know the truth versus the falsehood in the world.

Now you have a decision to make.

The **t**ime to make the life
changing decision is **n**OW.

Jesus said: many are called but few are chosen. Chosen refers to those who truly believe and have made a commitment to follow Christ.

Acts 2 records an incident wherein 3,000 people were convicted to the truth and were baptized in one single day.

The people who heard the truth were
cut to the heart by the powerful
preaching of the Holy Spirit through
Peter.

They asked: what shall we do to be saved? Peter replied in Acts 2:38: “... repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

There are three requisites to salvation, they are: repentance, baptism and the receiving of the gift of the Holy Spirit.

REPENTANCE

The word ‘repent’ comes from the Greek word “*Metanoeo*”, meaning to change one’s mind, purpose and life on account of acknowledgment of sin.

Repentance is beyond being sorry,
regret or even remorse for doing
wrong, but a sincere and genuine
change of mind, heart and way of life.

True repentance is a complete reversal of one's attitude and values, i.e. a sincere turning away from sin and living a life towards God.

True repentance consists of the
following stages:

1. Acknowledgment of God's Sovereignty. It means that we recognized the existence of God. That He is our Creator, Ruler and Father.

2. Recognition of God's moral laws. It means we recognize and believe that God has given us a set of moral laws that governs right and wrong; and that violation of these laws is sin against Him.

3. Admission of wrong. A true sense of personal guilt and sinfulness for having violated God's moral laws. We have to admit we are sinners, and in need of redemption.

4. Acceptance of Christ and an appreciation of God's mercy.

This means a recognition and acceptance of Jesus Christ as our redeemer and savior.

5. An actual hatred of sin and turning away from it completely - hate evil.

True repentance is to HATE EVIL AND DO GOOD. If one does not hate evil and sin, he/she will return to it again and again. But, once you learn to hate evil as God does, you will never return to it.

6. A persistent endeavor to seek righteousness and to be holy as God is holy; then you are on your way to develop godly and righteous character. That is true and lasting repentance – a sincere and genuine change of character.

The scripture says that the law
is truth.

Psalm 119:151

Yet you are near, O LORD, and all
your commands are true.

A true Christian convert realizes that he has violated God's laws – the Ten Commandments – and takes steps to change his life. This process is described as **repentance**.

BAPTISM

Repentance is the first step towards
salvation.

The next important step is baptism.

What is the essence of baptism?

Baptism symbolizes three (3) things:

1. Spiritual cleansing.

Baptism is a cleansing ritual. Our sins are ritually purified and washed clean by the water of baptism. A sinner is reconciled to God after he has been cleansed from his sins.

2. Symbol of death and resurrection. Baptism is also a symbol of death and resurrection into a new glorious life. The immersion signifies death of the sinful man by burial. The arising from the water signifies resurrection to life. Romans 6:4.

Romans 6:4

⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

3. Sign of the New Covenant.

Most significantly, at baptism we are making a covenant with God the Father through Jesus Christ. The covenant is to accept God as our Father and in turn God accepts us as a son and a daughter. It is the most solemn of ceremonies – the adoption to sonship. God spiritually adopts us as His very own children.

GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

After rising from the waters of baptism and upon the laying on of hand, God will give to you the promised Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit will dwell with you
forever.

The Holy Spirit does primarily three
(3) things, they are:

1. Spirit of Truth

To the disciples He spoke concerning the Holy Spirit saying: John 14:15-26. Here Jesus described the Holy Spirit as:

❑ A counselor (comforter in other translations) which means a helper from the idea of advising, exhorting, strengthening, encouraging and teaching.

□ He further said that this helper is to be with you forever and is to dwell within you.

□ It is the source of truth, of understanding and unity.

□ The Holy Spirit is the spirit of truth - the source of revealed knowledge.

□ The Holy Spirit proceeds or comes from the Father as a gift.

Consider further Jesus' explanation in
John 16:7-15.

John 16:7-15

⁷ But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

⁸ When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me;

John 16:7-15

¹⁰ in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer ¹¹ and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. ¹² "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear.

John 16:7-15

¹³ But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴ He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.

John 16:7-15

¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine.
That is why I said the Spirit will take
from what is mine and make it
known to you.

To convict simply means to set forth
the truth or to proclaim the true
Gospel.

Therefore, the Holy Spirit is a gift of God that dwells within a Christian.

It becomes his/her counselor to guide,
to teach, to convict and to reveal the
deeper things of God.

2. Spirit of Sonship/Adoption

It is a Seal of Ownership. The Scripture says (Romans 8:14): all those led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. Therefore, the Holy Spirit becomes the mark of ownership. That is what Paul confidently wrote in Ephesians 1:11-15.

Ephesians 1:11-15

11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,
12 in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:11-15

¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.

Ephesians 1:11-15

15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,

The Holy Spirit is the mark, the seal signifying possession. 2 Corinthians 1:22. It is the mark of ownership – that we belong to Him – that we are His children and His heir.

The Holy Spirit in us is a deposit that
guarantees our inheritance.

A deposit is a down payment, a guarantee that we will receive our full reward and inheritance in the future.

What is this inheritance?

The inheritance is to become a member of the Divine Family as a son. Romans 8:14-16.

Romans 8:14-16

¹⁴ because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "*Abba*, Father." ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

The mark of sonship and the deposit of our inheritance dwells within the believers through and by the Holy Spirit - the same Spirit that was in Christ Jesus. Galatians 4:6.

Galatians 4:6

⁶ Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "*Abba*, Father."

3. Spirit of Resurrection

The Holy Spirit is the agent of resurrection. Now, the most important verses on the role of the Holy Spirit is the hope of the resurrection. Romans 8:9-11.

Romans 8:9-11

⁹ You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

Romans 8:9-11

¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. ¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. .

□ The Spirit of God lives and dwells
in us.

□ The Holy Spirit is the Spirit that
was in Christ Jesus

☐ Christ is with us through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit

❑ If Christ is in us, even if our body is dead we will live in the spirit — talking about the hope of resurrection.

❑ The resurrection is through and by
the Holy Spirit that is in us!

Therefore, if one has the Holy Spirit
of God dwells in Him he will be
resurrected at the last days – upon
the return of our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ.

SUMMATION

For salvation's sake,
we need to find the true church.

The true church teaches
the truth of God.

The truth of God
is the Word of God.

If you have found a church that teaches the Word of God as written in the Holy Bible, the chances are you have found the true church.

And you only found it because God the Father leads you to it.

When you find the truth never let go
of it.

Hebrews 4:7

“Today, when you hear His voice, do
not harden your heart.”

The time for you to fellowship with
the true church is now!

We fellowship at 3 sites in Metro Manila:

1. 6/F, Peaksun Building along Shaw Blvd near Sun Plaza at 10am.
2. 4/F, Metropolis Star Mall at Alabang Muntlupa at 2:30pm.
3. Hiyas Convention Center in Malolos City, Bulacan at 2:30pm

In Naga City,
we fellowship at:

Villa Caceres, Magsaysay Road,
Naga City
10AM-12NN, Saturdays

We love to see you regularly
at the worship service
every Sabbath day.