



Have you ever heard of human depravity?

Human depravity means that, despite the ability of humans to outwardly uphold the laws of God and to modify our behavior there remains an inward distortion in our hearts that makes all human actions displeasing to God and all human beings unacceptable to God, whether or not we are outwardly good or bad.

As Christians, we believe in human depravity because of scriptures like this one.

Romans 3:10-20

10 As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one;

11 There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.

12 They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."

13 "Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit"; "The poison of asps is under their lips";

14 "Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness."

15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood;

16 Destruction and misery are in their ways;

17 And the way of peace they have not known."

18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

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And this one....

Jeremiah 17:9-10

9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?

10 I, the Lord, search the heart, I test the mind, even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.

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Because God is love and He did not want to condemn us to an eternal life in hell, He chose to provide a way fix the human depravity problem.

That way is called the gospel of Jesus Christ!

Jesus Christ provides a way for us to receive...

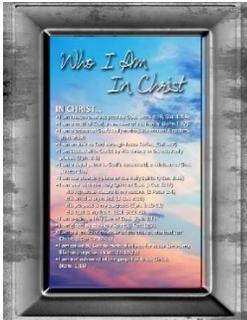
Forgiveness of sin-Judicial

Sonship-Positional

The Holy Spirit of God-Experiential



Because of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the followers of Jesus became the temples of the Holy Spirit. God united His Spirit with the spirit of men and women, and they were no longer depraved.



- They received God's heart.
- They received the mind of Jesus Christ.
- They received power to perform extraordinary acts of God.

They were new creations in Christ.

This is the gospel of Jesus Christ! Paul called it a mystery. Mystery means secret. It was a secret before Jesus revealed the secret. Even the angels of God did not know what God was going to do.

[Colossians 1:27-29](#)

[27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.](#)

[28 Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.](#)

[29 To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.](#)

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Accepting by faith this mystery of the gospel is the key to triumphant living as a Christian; the key to living a spirit filled life; the key to experiencing the saving life of Christ.

There mystery is very difficult to believe because of our human experience. We must receive it by faith. When we do the power of the mystery is revealed in us and through us.

[The power of the Holy Spirit to be a messenger of this mystery is in everyone who receives Jesus!](#)

In the Old Covenant God made with the Jews, God sent the Holy Spirit to enable specific people to be His messengers to the Jews. It was said of those messengers that the Holy Spirit was upon them. (Numbers 11:1-30)

Numbers 11:25

25 Then the Lord came down in the cloud, and spoke to him, and took of the Spirit that was upon him, and placed the same upon the seventy elders; and it happened, when the Spirit rested upon them, that they prophesied, although they never did so again.

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In this story it was Moses and 70 elders.

But God promised the Jews that He was going to make a new covenant with them that would include gentiles. In the New Covenant every member of this covenant would be enabled by the Holy Spirit to be a messenger of God.

Joel 2:28-29

28 "And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.

29 And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

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Jesus told His disciples that He was going to begin this new covenant between God and mankind and that they would be the first to receive this promise.

Acts 1:8

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

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When Pentecost came, the promise of the Holy Spirit was fulfilled, and the number of anointed messengers included men and women of all ages and from all walks of life. Peter said to the crowd what you are witnessing is a fulfillment of what was promised by Joel.

Acts 2:16-18

16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams.

18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.

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The word prophesy means to speak under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

There are those believers that have a gift of prophesy. They can foretell events. They can see the hearts of people.

But the gospel of Jesus Christ is that everyone who believes in Him receives the Holy Spirit and receives the ability to prophesy, to speak under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

It was something that the early church expected to happen in their meetings.

1 Corinthians 14:26-33

26 How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, *each of you* has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification.

27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and let one interpret.

28 But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in church, and let him speak to himself and to God.

29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others judge.

30 But if anything is revealed to another who sits by, let the first keep silent.

31 For you can all prophesy one by one, that all may learn and all may be encouraged.

32 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.

33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

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Our failure to believe the gospel of Jesus Christ in the church in the United States has created this problem:

Christianity in America is in decline!

How has our failure to believe the gospel caused this decline?

1. If you don't believe that you can prophesy and speak under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, you will never personally win anyone to Christ during your lifetime.

The church has created an organization that promotes the false idea that only Apostles, prophets, Pastors, Teachers, and Evangelists have this ability. Our unbelief in the gospel of Jesus Christ has severely limited the number of believers that are fishing for men. 90% of church members surveyed said they have never tried to personally share the gospel with anyone.

2. If you don't believe that you can prophesy and speak under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, you will never consider yourself to be a significant contributor to the church of Jesus Christ.

You will not see your role as vital to the spiritual growth of other believers. Whether or not you attend a meeting of Christians will not be very important to you. The average church member only attends meetings twice a month.

3. If you don't believe that every believer can prophesy and speak under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to you, you will never consider your brothers and sisters in Christ to be a significant contributor to your spiritual growth.

Whether or not your brother or sister in Christ attends a meeting with you will not be very important to you.

The truth that every believer can prophesy and speak under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit is the reason Jesus said...

Matthew 18:20

20 For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

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The truth that every believer can prophesy and speak under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit is the reason Paul said...

1 Corinthians 3:16

16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
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The truth that every believer can prophesy and speak under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit is the reason Paul said...

1 Corinthians 12:12-22

12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.

13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free — and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

14 For in fact the body is not one member but many.

15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?

16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body?

17 If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?

18 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.

19 And if they were all one member, where would the body be?

20 But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.

21 And the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you"; nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you."

22 No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.
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The truth that every believer can prophesy and speak under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit is the reason Peter said...

1 Peter 2:5

5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

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As result of our unbelief in the gospel of Jesus Christ, most churches do not have a place for every believer to use and develop their ability to prophesy and speak under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. There is no place to play the game!

We have these huge edifices we call churches filled with people that are all sitting in the stands watching a few people play!

Church was never meant to be a place or service we attend.

If you understand and believe the gospel of Jesus Christ that every disciple of Jesus is the temple of the Holy Spirit that can prophesy and can speak under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, then you

see yourself as a prophet of God that has a significant contribution to make to the spiritual growth of your church family and you see every member of your church family as a significant contributor to your spiritual growth.

As a new creation in Christ, you are created to do this! It is a part of your new DNA.

You are the temple of the Holy Spirit on wheels!

You are a member of the temple of the Holy Spirit on wheels!

Because of our faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ, at Western Hills our leadership is about creating places for everyone to play! We are about creating small groups where believers can connect within the group and outside the group to help one another grow spiritually.

We believe church is a team sport that should not be played alone!

We believe the gospel of Jesus Christ! Will you join us?

Have you received Jesus? To miss heaven for hell is the greatest human tragedy a person will ever experience. Let Jesus save you and then let His Spirit use you to save others.

What is your current purpose in life?

Matthew 4:19

**19 Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."
NKJV**

Jesus has a much greater plan for you than what you have considered. He wants you to partner with His Spirit and begin to speak for Him under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. There is no purpose as important as His purpose. The souls of men and women are eternal. Jesus is inviting you to join Him. Will you join Him?