

CIRCUMCISED HEARTS

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Circumcision dates back to the days of Abraham. We often forget that the Israelites were all Gentiles before they became Israelites. The Old Testament Israelites, became Israelites once God change the name of Jacob (Ya'akov) to Israel. Abraham (Avraham) came from a Gentile family and he was the first Gentile to be saved. Abraham had several children but only one, Isaac (Yitz-chak) received the covenant from God that his descendants will be God's children. Isaac's son Jacob (Israel) became the Israelites – God's nation. God kept the promise He made to Abraham that through him many nations will be blessed, including the twelve tribes of Ishmael. In the old covenant it was however only one nation, the nation of Israel, that was chosen to be God's nation. In the new Covenant God choose people, individuals from each nation of the world, to be His children. Scripture tells us that many were called but few were chosen.

The Bible does not tell us about Abraham's life before God called him to leave his fathers house and go to Canaan. What we do know is that Noah was still alive when Abraham was young and Abraham visited Noah and it must have been Noah that told Abraham about God and what God had done before, during, and after the flood. It was tradition in those days that the grandparents would teach the children about the past. We know that Abraham's father worshipped idols and when God called Abraham to leave his father, Abraham obeyed God. Abraham therefore knew who God was and the Holy Spirit must have been in Abraham for him to obey God. Scripture tells us that the spirit that is in a person directs that person and the person bears the fruit of the Spirit that is in the person. Good fruits come from the Holy Spirit and bad fruits come from evil spirits. We read of may people in the Old Testament that God has put the Spirit of Wisdom or the Holy Spirit into a person. God did it so that, that person would believe in God and obey God.

When God made a Covenant with Abraham, God told Abraham that all the male members of the family must be circumcised. All Abraham's children and all their children were circumcised. All of them not just Isaac and his children. Ishmael was circumcised before Isaac. The children of Ishmael and his sons and their descendants as well as Abraham's other sons and their sons and descendants were also circumcised. Physical circumcision was therefore not the prerequisite to be children of God. It did however indicate that all circumcised men were under the covenant God made with Abraham.

God made a separate covenant with Isaac. *“And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.”* This covenant is a covenant with all people that believe in God and that are obedient to God. People from all nations of the world. Not all the people from all the nations, only those people from each nation that believe in God and obey God. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This covenant was not dependant on physical circumcision but on circumcision of the heart – spiritual circumcision.

It was only after Jacobs name was changed to Israel, that the descendants of Jacob became the Israelites and the Israelites became the nation that God chose as a nation to be God's nation. Isaac's son Esau was excluded from the covenant God made with Jacob. Esau was circumcised as was Jacob, but only Jacob was chosen to become the father of the Israelites. In Isaac all the nations were allowed to become children of God and in Jacob the Israelites became the nation of God. God chose a nation to show the world who God is and God chose individuals to show the world who God is. That is why God require obedience and separation from the rest of the world so that His children can stand out as God's children.

From the beginning circumcision of the heart was the actual prerequisite to be a child of God. It is written that Abraham was made righteous because he believed not because he was circumcised and this applied to everybody from Abraham until today. The covenant with Isaac was also because he believed and obeyed God.

Ishmael had twelve sons and Jacob (Israel) had twelve sons. These twenty four tribes eventually inhabited the entire middle east, north Africa as well as Europe but only Israel was the children of God. They were the nation of Israel (descendants of Jacob). Not all modern day people of Israel (country) can be seen to be Israelites. Many modern day Jews are not descendants of Jacob. This does not exclude any of them or anybody else from being children of God. All along anybody who believed in God could become a child of God. The prerequisite was to believe in and to obey God.

The descendants of Abraham have been blessed throughout history as was promised to Abraham. Few people know that the twelve tribes of Ishmael plus the tribe of Judah, 13 tribes, gain control of the world's economy when they decided to move from Israel to Europe after the invasion of Israel by Nebuchadnezzar. These thirteen tribes are still controlling most of the world's economy, most of the governments as well as most of the traditional churches of the world today.

It must also be emphasised that to understand all the hidden secrets of the Bible a person must reach the point where Jesus tears the Vail between the earthly realm and the spiritual realm for each individual person by baptising that person in the Holy Spirit. Only Jesus can do this and He will only do it for those, who like Abraham, became righteous because of their faith in God and their obedience to God unto death. Abraham was prepared to sacrifice his only son out of obedience to God. Abraham was prepared to sacrifice everything to be obedient to God. Scripture tells us that those that are children of God "did not love their lives unto death." This is spiritual death. It can also be explained as: "And they did not worship Satan while they were on earth, so that they will not end up in Hell when they depart from earth."

Why is this important? Because a person can only understand the Bible if that person is lead by the Holy Spirit. As with Noah, Abraham, Moses, and many others, all God's people were and still are being lead by the Holy Spirit. The human mind cannot comprehend the spiritual realm.

Even the Bible has been written in such a way that no human is able to fully understand it without the Holy Spirit explaining it to that person, so that no human can boast in him/herself. The Bible is clear by saying we know only in part and only one day we will know in full. It is all by the grace of God. It is the Holy Spirit that works in a person that changes the mind of that person as well as the thoughts of that person. There is no such thing as free will. No human being has any free will. However humans have a free choice. A person chooses, like Adam and Eve, to follow God or to follow Belial (Satan). Once that choice has been made the person follows the instructions of the spirit that controls that person. The thoughts we get in our minds come from three sources. The first source is God – all good thoughts come from God. The second source is Belial – most bad thoughts come from Belial. The third source is our own – our own thoughts come when we consciously think about a specific subject. Any thought that jumps into our mind comes from either God or from Belial. During this thinking process we might get thoughts from the spirit that controls our minds because scripture tells us that the spirit that is in a man knows the thoughts of that man. Scripture also tells us that a person choose his/her course but God directs a persons steps. The course we choose is to either follow God or follow Belial (Satan). If a person chooses God, God will direct that persons life but if a person choose Satan, Satan will direct (control) that persons life. Once we have made our choice we follow the instructions we receive from the spirit that controls us. Even wisdom comes from God. No person should boast and think that he/she is wise, they should know that it is by the grace of God. Some people do receive "bad wisdom: from Belial. Examples -How to make something that will kill and destroy.

God told Moses that He will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that The Egyptians will see the power of the God of Israel. God parted the Red sea, lead the Israel through on dry land, and killed the Egyptians for the same reason. To show the Israelites and the Egyptians the power of God. God did it so that the Israelites could believe and have faith in God. God could have led them along the short route to Canaan, bypassing the Red Sea but He took them on the long route because He did it for a good reason. In the same way each person steps are directed for a specific reason.

The Israelites believed that God parted the waters for them to pass through safely. All who crossed the Red Sea believed in God. The fact that they believed and obeyed God made them Children of God. God then said that all who believed should be circumcised as a token of the covenant God made with Abraham. God could have chosen something else like cutting of any other body part that was more visible. But only they knew and God knew whether they were circumcised or not. The same applies to the circumcision of our hearts – God knows whether a persons heart has been circumcised or not. The mark of God in the book of Revelation.

For a moment consider what they had to do. The point where they had crossed the Red Sea is more than 500m deep. Can you imagine having to walk into the Ocean with water being that deep and nothing but your faith in God to keep the water away from you, to allow you to cross on dry land to the other side. That is the magnitude of faith in God that is required from us to allow us to cross from our fallen and evil past and enable us to walk in the spirit on our way to the promised land (Heaven). (We must must have faith in God, not faith in ourselves. We cannot do it, but He who is in us can. Stronger is He who is in us than he who is in the world- Belial).

We all know the history of the Israelites, most of the Israelites that left Egypt, including Moses, did not entered the promised land. They all died in the desert, walking aimlessly in circles until they were all dead. Only Joshua and those that believed in God. Those that believed God would be with them to ensure that they would be able to overcome their enemies, were allowed into the promised land. The prerequisite for entering the promised land was their faith in God. They had circumcised hearts. They had to cross the Jordan river, the same as those that crossed the Red Sea. In the same way we must cross the spiritual divide between us and the promised land. We must take ourselves out of the desert, out of Egypt, and go to the other side of the Vail. We must believe and trust and obey God unconditionally to enable us to cross the divide. Eternity starts here on earth. Eternal life and eternal death starts here on earth. We must prepare our souls here on earth to be ready to enter Heaven when we cross over. The mark of Jesus which is the blood of Jesus must be on our foreheads for the spirit of death (Belial) to pass over us when we cross over.

John the Baptist came to prepare the way of the Lord. How did John do it? He preached and administered the baptism of repentance. He knew why he was send by God, he knew Jesus was born, he knew Jesus while Jesus was still inside Mary. Without repentance no one can receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Without repentance, baptism can not enable us to cross the divide. Repentance means to turn around and walk away from our sinful past and walk in Spirit and in Truth. (The Holy Spirit and Jesus). Jesus and the Holy Spirit must manifest themselves in us for us to be able to reach the promised land. We must worship God in Spirit and in Truth.

The cords of faith in God and total obedience to God runs through the entire Bible. From Adam and Eve to the very end. Only those that have faith in God, and are obedient to God, can overcome evil/darkness/the world, and will enter the final promised land to be with God. Those who have circumcised hearts. How do you get a circumcised heart? By cutting off the world/evil and all things that are nor of God, and to be obedient to God onto death.

We must have total faith in God and cross from the earthly side of the Vail to the spiritual side of the Vail so that we can walk in the spirit and worship God in Spirit and in Truth. (Worship God in Jesus

Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit.) We must crucify the “old us” be delivered from all evil, and then we must allow God full control of our lives so that the Holy Spirit can be manifested in us and that we can then bear the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

It is by the grace of God and the grace of God alone that a person can be saved. Only God knew through His fore-knowledge, of how each persons life will turn out, which persons will believe in God unto death. These people that God knew would have faith in God unto death, were predestined to be children of God. Baptism in itself was, and should still be an act performed as a result of an inner conviction. Baptism was introduced by John the baptist as a baptism of repentance. Repentance is a crucial prerequisite for baptism. No person should be baptised unless that person has repented of all his sins, turned away from his sins and has given his life to God to be inhabited by the Holy Spirit. Baptism without repentance is a waste of water.

The New Covenant is very clear. Paul asked: Who has bewitched you? To think that the physical act of either circumcision or baptism can make you a child of God. Religion can not make a person righteous. Nobody can inherit righteousness by undergoing a ritual such as baptism – young or old. Anybody that believes that, rejects Jesus Christ and is under the law and we know that the law cannot make anybody righteous. The only circumcision that can benefit us is the circumcision of our hearts. Once our hearts have been circumcised, we will have the desire to be baptised in Jesus Christ. Once baptised in Jesus Christ we will be baptised in the Holy Spirit by Jesus Christ and we will by faith in God (Trinity) be able to overcome evil and enter the promised land. On our way to the promised land we will encounter many spiritual enemies (Satan and his demons) and we can only overcome them in the name of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. We must put on the armour of God and we must overcome and defeat Belial.

Belial (Satan) is extremely clever and he has bewitch the majority of the world. A very small remnant amongst the nations of the world will be able to overcome Belial and his evil. This remnant can be as small as one percent. Visions received by some of God’s children indicate that the sixth trumpet has blown in Heaven. A multitude of demons and fallen angels have been released to spiritually destroy a vast number of people that see themselves as Christians. Now is the time to hold fast to our faith in God and be obedient to God. We must not allow Belial and his demons to confuse us, Listen to the Holy Spirit and not to any other voice that might confuse us. Trust God and God alone. In the bible Paul said “I have been crucified with Christ, and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me”. - Jesus said: “I have told you these things so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take courage; I have overcome the world!" We must believe in God and be obedient unto death. We must not allow the powers of this world- the powers of darkness, to confuse us or influence us. In all things we must hold fast to our salvation. Jesus is the Way the Truth and the Life, the Holy Spirit is our guide and God is our end destination.