Three Remaining Truths

Beth Bucheit

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Feast of Tabernacles Sermon

As we approach the Feast of Tabernacles, we start to look forward to it with great excitement. It is at this time I am sure most of us, if not all, reflect on our calling. It is the times of God's Holy Days, especially the Feast time, we understand that we know something the rest of the world does not: God's plan of salvation for mankind. The world is in a state of confusion, and we are not. We know exactly why we are here, and we need to be thankful for that.

As God's people, it is good to have reflection. We have this opportunity every Sabbath, and we are able to think about it and what it means to us, and how few know the truth about God's weekly Sabbath. Each week, God gives us spiritual nourishment through the sermons He has inspired through His apostle, a time to reflect on what we need to change in our lives to continually refine ourselves so that we can make sure we are prepared and ready for the return of Joshua.

We also are able to annually reflect on God's Holy Days. As we keep each one every year, God wants us to remember what they represent in His plan of salvation for mankind. We are able to receive even more spiritual food at these assigned times that God has set since the beginning. We start with the Passover all the way through to where we are now, Feast time. This is a very special time for God's people because this is a time when we can gather with others of like mind. This can be a time we reflect back on past Feasts and all that we have received.

In my own personal reflection, I think back to my first Feast, and I was very young. I was five or six years old on Jekyll Island, Georgia. I know of at least one other person who is with us that was there too, young, like I was. It is crazy to think of how God has blessed us that we have been able to move forward and be here in the end-time.

One of the things that sticks out in my memory during that Feast was my mom gathering up my brother and sister and taking us to the beach very early so we could watch the sun rise over the ocean. At this young age, it was a very physical thing, but now, reflecting back on that memory, it is not just physical. Now, with this memory, I can take a pause and see the Great God's hand in that sunrise, and that I remember clearly, and I can reflect on what King David had to say: "What is man that you are mindful of him?"

I was a little girl on that beach, and God knew I was there. There was another young individual there on Jekyll Island, and God knew that too. At some point in our lives, and we don't know when, God is aware of all. We are not capable of knowing this to the depth I wish we could because we are human.

To understand that the Great God looks down on us, sees us, knows us, is spiritual. We must grow in this understanding. God is very aware of what is going on, and we do not know when or how God starts to work with us.

We do not know why, nor should we question it; we should just give thanks for it. Things like reflection give us the opportunity to stop and thank God again for our calling. It allows us to tell God we love Him and we are thankful for all He has given us.

During the Feast of Tabernacles, we are gathered together for eight days, and we are able to be with those of like mind, not having to worry about the world interrupting us. Eight days of sermons to learn from and be taught what God has for us, to help us to grow stronger in God's way of life and to be able to fellowship with so many that we normally do not get to.

This is a time that we are to be thankful, and we have so much to be thankful for. Sometimes when I think about all we have and all we know it can be very overwhelming. No matter how much we appreciate it, we really cannot grasp like we should because we are human beings with a human spirit that is naturally selfish. Because of this we need to always remember and meditate on what God has given us.

Constant reflection in one's life is good. It helps us to stay in a state of humility, a state of mind that understands that we would have nothing if we did not have God in our lives. We know what we know because Joshua gave himself to be our perfect Passover, opening the way for God to give truth to us through the holy spirit. This was not possible until Christ made the way through His death. Christ was foreordained for this purpose before the foundation of the world.

God does not give us everything all at once because we could not handle it. God is the master potter and builder and creator of all things. God did not bring all into being all at once; He built upon a foundation.

This is something we all have in common once called by God. He gives us a foundation to build upon, and part of that is the three basic truths that remained at the end of the Sardis era.

God asked Job the question, "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?" The earth is where God laid His physical and spiritual foundation. We know that all of God's truths are spiritual. God's law is spiritual. We start off seeing things physically, and then once we receive the gift of the holy spirit, we can then start to discern the spiritual things of God.

So, let's ask the question: what is a foundation? It is the underlying support or groundwork of anything. It can be the natural or prepared ground or base on which some structure rests. It is the act of operating, setting up, or establishing something. It is the support system for a physical structure, concept, or organization.

We understand there is a spiritual foundation or support system that we need. It must come first. Once you have a foundation, then you can move something forward or build upon it. It must be something solid and reliable.

In God's Church, we have three basic truths that are foundational to us. They are an essential starting point for anyone called. They are part of a support system that goes along with 54 additional Truths.

We know the history that, through the centuries, God allowed specific events that led to religious confusion and deception that opposed God and God's teachings. That is why there were only three truths that remained at the end of the Sardis era.

Mr. Armstrong, called by God as one of His end-time apostles, was part of the Sardis era, and God led him to see these truths clearly. It was God's purpose for Mr. Armstrong to see and understand the importance of them. From here, Mr. Armstrong was able to move forward, and the Philadelphia era began.

The three truths that remained and brought forward are the basic truths of God's Church. They are a starting point for all called or drawn by God. Those called must obey them because this is the starting point of our journey once we receive our calling. Here is where we begin to build our foundation in the Church. The keeping of these three truths are what launch us on our spiritual life to the final outcome we seek, that of being born into Elohim. To be born into Elohim is not owed to any of us. It is a gift.

Without growing in the understanding of these truths, we will fail. Our foundation will crumble before we can even start to build. A foundation without walls is not complete. We will start to see God's truths physically, and then as we move forward we will start to understand them spiritually, after the begettal of God's holy spirit.

It is through the help of God's spirit a mind can begin to change, to be transformed. It can be changed from our natural carnal way of thinking to one that embraces God's way of life. We are transformed from the way of get to the way of give.

The three truths that the Church had at the end of the Sardis era are:

- The seventh day Sabbath - One of the most basic truths to the Church teaches that God's people obey the seventh day Sabbath, which we know is Saturday.
- The name of God's Church - the Church of God - God's Church will bear His name. During Philadelphia and until Laodicea ended, it was known as the Worldwide Church of God. The Church now is known as the Church of God—Preparing for the Kingdom of God (our commission).
- First tithe belongs to God - The first tithe is used for God's work within His Church as God guides and directs His apostle through His son, Joshua the Christ, our Passover.

The truths of God are what we call our “life line,” and we have to believe all of them to succeed. We refer to them as the “trunk of the tree” that we hold on to for survival. We must start here to be made strong so we can move forward. Once we move forward, God will then begin to reveal His way of life, and this includes the additional 54 Truths.

The three basic truths at the end of the Sardis era are what we need to do to be brought to the point of baptism and receive the help of God’s holy spirit. It is God’s holy spirit that helps us see through the fog of deception and learn to live a life that honors God.

The title of today's sermon is *Three Remaining Truths.*

We are all familiar with John 6:44, but I want to read it. **John 6:44—No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day**. This is one of the restored truths to the Church, God’s Church, during the Philadelphia era. It is Truth #12. God revealed to Mr. Armstrong, and restored to the Church, that only those He (God) chooses and calls can come into the Church to become a part of the Body of Christ. God is who decides who will receive a calling.

The statement, “No man can come to me,” is referring to those called coming to Joshua the Christ. We are drawn into the Church by the power of God’s holy spirit and given to Christ to work with us. We do not choose this; only God can. However, once called and drawn it is up to us to respond to it.

Joshua goes on to explain that this is the only way we can be called or drawn. He states “…unless the Father,” who we know is Yahweh Elohim. God Almighty is the only one who can call us. God is who is in charge, and He calls who He wants to be given an opportunity to a calling. It is God who is molding and fashioning us for this moment in time.

It was God who sent Joshua the Christ, our Passover. It is God who chooses us, molds, and fashions us with circumstances of life. Then, when the time is right, He will then draw us to Christ. There is only one way you can come to the presence of God, and it starts with God drawing – or as we are familiar with, pull or drag. A synonym for “draw” being used this way is “withdraw.” I like to think of this as we are withdrawn by God from a world of deception.

We do not know exactly when God starts working with us, but He does. After God has molded and fashioned us, we are coming into a state of mind that can be worked with, a contrite spirit, which is what God seeks from us. We must then continue to yield to the process once learned.

Satan has deceived the world of mainstream Christianity that anyone can come to God or be in God’s presence by their own doing. They believe in a “Come as you are” mentality, but that is not the case. We come to understand because of our own calling, there is a process, and we are required to do something. It is easier for mankind to think they can come as they are, making no changes, steeped in human nature and easily giving in to the temptations influenced by Satan. Human nature is not only selfish, but lazy. It is much easier to stay the way we are than to make an effort to change.

Most of mankind wants to come into the presence of God without making any effort on their own. They want it their way. That is part of the deception that Satan has broadcast to the world. They think they can do it on their own without God.

Over the years we have all shared stories or heard stories of how people have been drawn to God. I can remember people during the Philadelphia era, those who were a part of Worldwide Church of God, would share stories of how they came across *The Plain Truth* magazine, a tool God used during this era. I specifically remember somebody telling the story of how they found it on the floor of a bus, and they picked it up and read it.

We have similar stories from some who are with us today, but it was not *The Plain Truth* magazine, but an article or book written by the end-time apostle. Some had a book sent to them by friends or family, or they saw an advertisement for one of the books written by the end-time apostle. There are some who are blessed to be born into the church, and in these situations God works differently, but make no mistake, there is still a calling, a drawing, and you still have to accept or reject.

The point is that when God is ready, we don't have to worry; He will draw whomever He wants to draw and in His timing and in His way, all according to His plan because all is done in God's perfect timing.

Once drawn and changes start to happen, and you are faced with the reality that you have been lied to or that you know you must choose a different way of life, we must be true to what we come to understand. This is part of the drawing by God to Christ, which is the result of being withdrawn from a world of deceit that Satan has so calculatingly set up. Remember, he is the prince of the power of the air.

Let's turn over to John 17. **John 17:17—Sanctify them by your truth. Your word is truth.** Those drawn by God that yield to His calling are sanctified, or set apart, for God's use.

God's truth is spiritual. This is what sets God's Church apart from the churches of this world. Only God can reveal His truth to the mind by the power of His holy spirit, and only then can we come to truly understand God and spiritual things.

Once someone is exposed to God's way of life, what is expected of us, choices must be made. The choice to do what is right is up to each individual being called because God created man as a free moral agent to choose right from wrong. If truth is embraced, changes must start. When we are called or drawn by God, the Sabbath day is the one thing that really stands out to most of us, especially if you're being called out of the world, because other religious groups observe Sunday, the first day of the week.

As we are called, we learn the seventh-day Sabbath is observed from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday and is one of God's ten commandments given to Moses and Israel on the Day of Pentecost after they were freed from Egypt, where Israel had been enslaved for 430 years. God's people are to obey the Sabbath, and it is a sign that we belong to Him.

Let's turn over to **Exodus 20:8—Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy**. God tells us to remember the Sabbath day. In other words, do not forget this day. God was reminding Israel, after being in slavery for 430 years, that they were to keep the Sabbath. We too are to remember the Sabbath day.

We have very busy lives, and those of us in the Church have come to appreciate the Sabbath in many ways, but it takes effort to truly remember this day as we should. We appreciate the not working, but it is so much more.

The second part of that sentence says we are to keep it holy. We know that we cannot make anything holy. I want to quote something Mr. Armstrong stated in the booklet, *The Ten Commandments*: "You cannot "keep" cold water hot! And mortal MEN cannot make anything holy. Therefore, to fully grasp the significance of this divine command, we need to learn WHO made the Sabbath day holy and WHEN!"

We know that only God can make something holy, and that is because His presence is in it. God created the Sabbath day. In Genesis we can read of how God restored the Earth from its state of tohu and bohu, or confusion, chaos, being void of anything, in six days. Then, on the seventh day, after God had finished, He rested from all His work and blessed the seventh day and sanctified it. He set it aside for holy use.

The only reason this day is holy is because God and Joshua are in it. We are the only ones who can decide to set the Sabbath aside for holy use as God intended.

Starting in **verse 9—Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Eternal your God. In it you shall do no work: nor you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. For in six days the Eternal made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day. Therefore the Eternal blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it**.

We are to work the other six days, but on the seventh day we are to stop working just as God recreated the earth for six days and then rested on the seventh. The Sabbath day is not ours; it was created by God and belongs to God, and it is set aside and made holy by God for us.

God knew that man would need a day of rest, a time period where we could regroup and think of God and God's plan and way of life. He knew we would need to recharge after being in the world the other six days of the week. We can become consumed with the daily cares that drag us down.

The Sabbath is to be different from the other days of the week. We are to rest from our jobs, and it is a time period to spend more time with family. It is the one day that we can devote our time to honoring God and reflecting on our calling. It is a day that we can dedicate to God in learning more of His word, meditating on His way of life, and praying to God, asking for His forgiveness, guidance, and mercy. The Sabbath can be the greatest blessing we receive on a weekly basis.

Let's turn over now to **Leviticus 23:1—And the Eternal spoke to Moses, saying, Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: These are my appointed times of the Eternal, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations; these are My appointed times. Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work on it; it is the Sabbath of the Eternal in all your dwellings**.

We are not to labor or work on our job, and that can be through an employer or a personal business. We are not to be doing our own thing, such as work around the house or personal tasks which may include things like going to the grocery store. We don't watch movies or go to sporting events. A lot of this is covered underneath "Our Beliefs" on the church website.

It was mentioned once in a sermon that we need to have our minds stop working too. That has always stayed with me. It is not to just stop physical work. You just tell yourself no. But trying to shut your brain off from thinking about things that should be left to the other six days of the week is very hard. To be at complete peace requires our minds not to work too.

We are to be a part of a holy convocation or gather together and be taught by God's ministry. And this is one of the primary reasons why God created the Sabbath. It is so we can be taught by God and be in fellowship with Him and Joshua. We can pray about what we are to receive on this day and ask God to open our minds to what He has prepared for us. It is an opportunity for us to meet with those of like mind, if possible, and learn from each other. If there is a group near us, it is a perfect opportunity to do this. Some members of the Church do not have the opportunity to gather with others due to location or age, but we still are with God and Joshua; we are not alone.

We know that God inspired Mr. Armstrong to understand the plan of God, and that is represented by God's Holy Days. This is also one of the restored truths to the Philadelphia era. There are seven additional Sabbaths besides the weekly Sabbath. Once the foundation of the weekly Sabbath is laid, we are then able to build upon it and come to see and understand the plan of God through the Holy Days.

We just read Leviticus 23 verses 1-3. The reference to "these are my appointed times" was not just about the seventh day Sabbath. Verses 4 through 44 go on to list the Holy Days, and they are Sabbath Days just like the weekly Sabbath.

Once we learn of the seventh day Sabbath, we then are led to find God's Church. As mentioned at the beginning of the sermon, this is one of the three truths that remained at the end of the Sardis era, and we learned that God's Church will always bear His name. As mentioned earlier, during Philadelphia and until Laodicea ended, it was known as the Worldwide Church of God. The Church now is known as the Church of God—Preparing for the Kingdom of God.

As God reveals the seventh-day Sabbath and we learn we are to gather together with others of like mind, others who have been called out of the world that is deceived by Satan. The purpose for this is so we can be taught more of God's way of life. In order to do this, we must seek out and find God's Church.

Let's turn over to **Acts 20:28—Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the holy spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the Church of God which He purchased with His own blood.** God's Church was established on the Day of Pentecost in 31 AD. From the beginning God's Church was established it has been known as the Church of God. God's Church is the first and oldest Church that calls itself Christian. God's Church was possible because Joshua died as our Passover Lamb making way for those whom God called could receive the blessing of the holy spirit and become a part of the Body of Christ.

Reflecting on John 6:44, only God can reveal the true Church of God. God calls us to Joshua and reveals where the Church is. This is done spiritually to our mind as we respond to a calling. Once we find God's Church that we are drawn to, we learn that we need help to continue our journey. We need the help of God's spirit, and that happens at baptism. We are baptized into the Body of Christ, which is the Church of God. This is the process of how we receive the gift of the holy spirit. Through God's holy spirit, God will reveal to us all the truths. This is part of molding and fashioning us as we respond to the calling.

Let's turn over to **1 Corinthians 12:12—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**. God calls us individually, and we are then collectively members of one body. We are all one in the Body of Christ. The Church bears God's name, but it belongs to Christ because God the Father gave it to Him. Through Joshua's sacrifice as our Passover, He became the head of God's Church.

God gives all things to Christ and gives to Christ what He is to give to the Church. We are subject to Christ and follow all that He gives to us from the Father. This is part of the process that we are to yield to so that we can build upon our foundation.

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. For in fact the body is not one member but many. Once we are drawn to God's Church and understand that we are to repent of our sins, of our ways that are not in alignment with God, we are then baptized, put under the water, so that we can come up as a new man or woman and receive God's holy spirit.

We are baptized into the Body of Christ. Once baptized, we become a part of the Body of Christ; we are then an embryo that can become part of the Kingdom of God if we continue to do our part. It does not matter who we are; once forgiven of our sins and we receive the gift of the holy spirit by the laying on of hands of God's ministry, we are all equal in the body.

Let's turn over now to **Ephesians 4:1—I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, one spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all**. The Body of Christ is one. The Church of God, again, is the Body of Christ. Because the Church bears God's name, those in the Body belong to God. We belong to God Almighty.

We have a Father that loves us and wants what is best for us. We have an older brother who died for us. We need to reflect on this and cherish this. It should be what drives us to do what is right in our lives.

Some members of the Church are called to be the firstfruits of God. Those called to be firstfruits are tried and tested, proving faithfulness to God. They are to be prepared and ready for the return of Joshua, to become a part of the 144,000 in the Millennium. They will help administer God's government under Joshua. That is exactly why we are here now – to learn of that part of God's plan of salvation. To know that those called to be a firstfruit will be a part of God's family, spiritual family Elohim.

We need to remember that we belong to God and our actions are a reflection on Him. The Feast is a great time to remember this. We need to treat each other with patience and kindness as God does us. We know that when we spend a lot of time with others, because of our selfish human nature, we can get on each other's nerves. This is a good time to stay alert and keep a smile on our faces.

This is also a time that we can be a shining light to those around us. The place where we meet knows that we are a church group, and they know our name. We want to make sure we are treating the staff well and doing our part to make sure we are setting a great example. If we reflect on this, there are lots of ways we can do that.

Today, the Church of God is found in only one place, and it is called the Church of God—PKG, Preparing for the Kingdom of God – and is the physical organization God is using. It is the remnant of those who were awakened after the Apostasy and the few God has called since.

The physical church is responsible for the collection of His tithe and making decisions for the business needs of the church. The spiritual needs of the Church are met by the ministry, predominantly God's apostle. The Church of God is to teach and nourish God's people of what God gives to Christ to give to the Church.

This brings us up to the third truth that remained at the end of the Sardis era – first tithe. The first tithe is used for God's work. The members of God's Church are to give a tithe, or ten percent of their income. Today, we give ten percent of our net income after taxes. God's first tithe is used for the administration of His work as He guides and directs.

Let's turn over to **Leviticus 27:30—A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Eternal; it is holy to the Eternal**.

Along with the first tithe being required, we are also required to give Holy Day Offerings.

Let's turn over to **Deuteronomy 16:16—Three times a year all your males shall appear before the Eternal your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the Eternal empty-handed. Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessings of the Eternal your God which He has given you**.

God's Holy Days are broken down into three specific times a year. The Feast of Unleavened Bread includes the first and last day, and are Holy Days. The Feast of Weeks is Pentecost. And the Feast of Tabernacles includes the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, and the Last Great Day.

Holy Day offerings are not a suggestion, but a requirement of God. But unlike a tithe, the amount is up to us. We are to reflect and determine the amount based on what we are able to do and in accordance with our blessings throughout the year. This is between us and God.

Tithing is something some struggle with, but the giving of first tithe and the giving of Holy Day offerings is valuable to being able to move forward and grow. God addresses those who do not tithe and give offerings.

Let's turn over to **Malachi 3:8—Will a man rob God? You have robbed me! But you say, In what way have we robbed you? In tithes and offerings**. To rob is to steal. When we do not faithfully tithe to God or give a Holy Day offering as we are able to, we steal from God. Tithes and offerings must be obeyed to be able to have the opportunity moving forward in our calling. First tithe and offerings belong to God; they were never ours to begin with. Once given to God through the Church, it is no longer our responsibility. We have done what was required of us.

Dropping down to **verse 10—Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. And try me now in this, says the Eternal of hosts, if I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it**.

God is promising us blessings that cannot be contained. The blessing of God's way of life and the knowledge of God's plan of salvation is worth so much more than any amount of money we might acquire. God's way of life is what brings true peace to our lives and the promise of being born into the God family, Elohim. Obeying God in tithes and offerings is why we are receiving riches beyond comparison to anything monetarily in the sermons we will receive from God's apostle during the Feast of Tabernacles.

Another one of the restored truths of God to the Philadelphia era dealt with two additional tithes. God led Mr. Armstrong to come to understand that along with the first tithe that is used for His work to be taken care of, there was a second and third tithe. We are to keep a second tithe of our net income and set these funds aside to observe God's Feast days, primarily the Feast of Tabernacles. It is through the faithful keeping of second tithe we are able to come to a Feast site God has set apart and be with each other.

Not keeping the second tithe faithfully is also robbing from God. Just like the first tithe, this is not ours but God's. But instead of giving it to the Church, God has us keep it, and it must be done faithfully.

A third tithe that was kept every third year was to be used for those in need but is no longer required for God's Church because the worldly governments have programs for this purpose.

Just as once the foundation for the weekly Sabbath was established and kept, then God restored the truth of the annual Sabbath's, the Holy Days, so was second and third tithe able to be reestablished to His Church, showing as each piece of the foundation is laid, more growth can begin.

We need to reflect on how important the three basic foundational truths brought forward from the Sardis era are. It cannot be stressed enough that without these three basic foundational truths, we cannot build. And Satan knows this. These three truths have been a stumbling block for many whom God has called. The scriptures say, "Many will be called, and few chosen." Far too many have stumbled with the three truths that remained. The keeping of the Sabbath Day and tithing have been the downfall of many. Both test if we are going to put God first.

We are familiar with the parable about the sower of the seed. It serves as a warning to us of how we must fight and be alert, and what can snatch God's truth from us.

Let's turn over to **Matthew 13:20—But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles**.

Observing God's Sabbath can be pressure for some and can be too much, especially when others of their family may not be called at this time. It is difficult for some to stand up to a mate or other family members who do not understand what God is revealing to those called. Having to tell an employer you will no longer work on the Sabbath can be difficult for some.

Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfaithful. When first called, it may be difficult for some to readjust budgets so that first and second tithe can be kept faithfully, and they just give up. It may be hard for some to give up what they want or desire and give to God what belongs to Him.

If someone stumbles with one of the three basic truths, we can see this as a crack in their foundation. Physically, we know that unaddressed cracks can worsen over time. It can lead to the cracks becoming larger, and eventually the foundation can no longer be corrected. Too much damage has been done.

It is the same spiritually. If our foundation starts to crack it can lead us to not only losing these three truths, but eventually we will find ourselves on the outside looking in, losing all the truths of God. If we have not been faithful, we need to repair the cracks, repent, before our foundation crumbles completely.

But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. We cannot let anything or anyone come between us and the word of God. If we have been faithful to the three remaining truths, then we have laid a very strong starting foundation that God can now build upon.

After the Philadelphia era came to an end with the death of Mr. Armstrong in January of 1986, the Laodicean era started. During the Laodicean era, the three basic truths along with the 18 reestablished truths came under attack, and Satan once again tried to stop the plan of God. During the Apostasy there was an attempt to destroy all God had given to us, and it started with the three basic truths.

Those of us who lived through the Apostasy remember all too well what two things that Satan inspired those who rebelled against God to remove was the keeping of the Sabbath Day and Holy Days and the stopping of tithing. Eventually, the Worldwide Church of God changed their name as well. It was no longer God's Church. God had to vomit us out of His mouth just as prophesied in Revelation.

Because God's Church no longer relied on God but on their own knowledge, the Church became lukewarm and stopped obeying God, no longer appreciating God's way of life. We went to sleep and remained that way until God started to wake a few up, a remnant. Once God awakened those who would become the remnant Church, and they repented of their sins, they were able again to see and embrace the knowledge of the three truths that remained after the Sardis era and the eighteen restored truths given to the Philadelphia era. The remnant again started to see the importance of God's truth.

Once God established His remnant Church, He was able to give the Church an additional thirty-six truths. This is to serve as a reminder God's Church will always be, and it will always grow. Satan can try as hard as he wants, but God's plan for mankind will prevail.

During the Feast of Tabernacles, we need to reflect and remember not all will remain faithful. We know there are some not with us this year that were here last year. They stopped believing the three truths that remained, the reestablished eighteen truths given to Mr. Armstrong, and the thirty-six truths given to our end-time apostle, Ron Weinland. We must remain faithful, or we too will suffer the same fated cracked foundation, and eventually our foundation will crumble.

During the Feast of Tabernacles, let us reflect and meditate on our foundational truths and thank God for them. Let us reflect and meditate on the thirty-six additional truths given to His Church and thank God for them. Let us reflect and meditate how we can continue to refine self and build upon what God gave to us. Thank God Almighty for His son Joshua, our Passover. Thank God for His never-ending mercy. Ask God to feed us during the Feast. Ask God to prepare us for the Kingdom of God and the soon-coming Millennium.