The pool of Bethesda

### **The Healing at Bethesda**

John 5:1 Then Jesus returned to Jerusalem to observe one of the Jewish holy days.<sup>2</sup> Inside the city near the Sheep Gate there is a pool called in Aramaic, The House of Loving Kindness. And this pool is surrounded by five covered porches.<sup>3</sup> Hundreds of sick people were lying there on the porches—the paralysed, the blind, and the crippled, all of them waiting for their healing. <sup>4</sup> For an angel of God would periodically descend into the pool to stir the waters, and the first one who stepped into the pool after the waters swirled would instantly be healed.

<sup>5</sup> Now there was a man who had been disabled for thirty-eight years lying among the multitude of the sick.
<sup>6</sup> When Jesus saw him lying there, he knew that the man had been crippled for a long time. So Jesus said to him, "Do you truly long to be healed?"

<sup>7</sup> The sick man answered him, "Sir, there's no way I can get healed, for I have no one who will lower me into the water when the angel comes. As soon as I try to crawl to the edge of the pool, someone else jumps in ahead of me." <sup>8</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Stand up! Pick up your sleeping

**mat and you will walk!"** <sup>9</sup> Immediately he stood up—he was healed! So he rolled up his mat and walked again! Now this miracle took place on the Jewish Sabbath.

### Where was their hope?

When the angel stirred the water

- Early mss do not contain the remainder of v 3, nor v 4
- Gospel example of moving of the spirit
- One man healed of the many sick there.

#### Pool of Bethesda A Jewish superstition .. Temple of Asclepios Greek god of healing.

- What superstitions or false beliefs do we hold on to?
  - Salvation is tenuous insecurity.
  - Confession of sin 1 Jn 1:9 progressive sanctification.
  - Two nature old sinful and new creation
  - Forgiven as we forgive Conditional on our actions.
  - Foot washing religion and rituals
  - God is angry with us unrealistic fear of God
  - Any other WORKS based beliefs.

## Hebrews 6:1

- Therefore, having put away once for all the beginning word of the Messiah [the first testament in animal blood, i.e., the Mosaic economy], let us be carried along to that which is complete [the new testament in Jesus' blood], not again laying down a foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, ....
- WUESTNT

# Isaiah 54

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<sup>9</sup> "This is like the days of Noah to me: as I swore that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you, and will not rebuke you.

<sup>10</sup> For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed,"

says the Lord, who has compassion on you.

 Jesus, the Lamb, took away our sins, and the Holy Spirit, the Dove, brings to man the life of God.

 Jesus didn't come to start a movement but to bring the fullness of life to us.

# The Holy Spirit

• This "Dove" points to the dove that Noah released from the ark. It found no place to rest in a fallen world. The last time Noah released the dove it flew and never returned. It flew throughout history over Abraham and the patriarchs, over the prophets and kings with no place to rest, until at last, there was a heavenly man who carried the life of heaven—upon him the dove (Holy Spirit) rested and remained. There was nothing that could offend heaven in the life of our Lord Jesus.

## The Living Expression

1 In the very beginning the Living Expression was already there.

And the Living Expression was with God, yet fully God.

<sup>2</sup> They were together—face-to-face, in the very beginning.

<sup>3</sup> And through his creative inspiration this Living Expression made all things, for nothing has existence apart from him!
<sup>4</sup> Life came into being because of him, for his life is light for all humanity.
<sup>5</sup> And this Living Expression is the Light that bursts through gloom the Light that darkness could not diminish! Why was the New Testament written in Greek?

- Alexander the Great
- Hellenised much of the world
- Established the Greek language in the regions he conquered

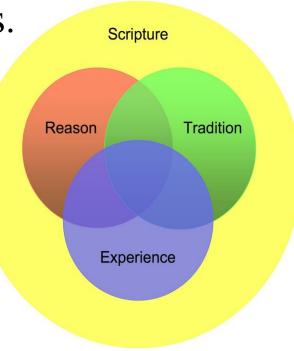
# Keep it grounded!

- Dogma Foundations, Essentials, Non negotiables
- Doctrine Denominational distinctives, Interpretations, Cultural
- Tradition Church history, historical interpretation
- Popular theology TV preachers, Internet, YouTube, Facebook, etc.

# Incarnational Bible

Since the Bible like Jesus is 100% Divine and 100% Human it is God's word through (first-century) humans' words. Conservative Christians usually employ the Wesleyan Quadrilateral

to determine positions and actions.



# Wesleyan Quadrilateral

- Scripture the New Testament and Old Testament
- **Reason** is essentially the Hard (Genetics, Chemistry etc.) and Soft (Psychology, Sociology etc.) Sciences.
- **Experience** for a Pentecostal is inclusive of Spirit encounters leading of, the 'anointing,' the gifts of etc.
- Modern Pentecostalism has little more than 100 years of Tradition, hence we usually include **Church Tradition** from a conservative perspective (e.g., Ecumenical Creeds such as Apostles, Nicaean').

# Sons of God are led by the Spirit of God

### Romans 8:14

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

### My people perish for lack of knowledge Hosea 4:6

**Hebrews 8:6-13** : This passage explains that Jesus is the mediator of a better covenant, established on better promises. It contrasts the New Covenant with the Old, emphasizing that the New Covenant involves God writing His laws on our hearts and minds, and remembering our sins no more.

**Hebrews 10:14-18** : This scripture highlights the once-for-all sacrifice of Jesus, which perfects believers and assures them of complete forgiveness. It reiterates that God will remember our sins no more, underscoring the total forgiveness found in the New Covenant.

**2 Corinthians 3:6** : Paul describes himself and others as ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit, for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. This emphasizes the life-giving nature of the New Covenant compared to the old.

**Romans 7:6** : This verse speaks of being released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, not in the old way of the written code. It highlights the freedom and newness of life in the Spirit under the New Covenant.

**Galatians 5:1** : Paul encourages believers to stand firm in the freedom Christ has given them and not be burdened again by a yoke of slavery, referring to the law. This underscores the freedom and grace found in the New Covenant.

These scriptures collectively illustrate the transformative and liberating nature of the New Covenant, emphasizing forgiveness, freedom, and a Spirit-led life. **Hebrews 8:6-13** But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, by as much as He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises.

A New Covenant

7 For if that first *covenant* had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second. 8 For finding fault with them, He says, "Behold, days are coming, says the Lord, When I will effect a new covenant With the house of Israel and with the house of Judah; 9 Not like the covenant which I made with their fathers On the day when I took them by the hand To lead them out of the land of Egypt; For they did not continue in My covenant, And I did not care for them, says the Lord. 10 "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel After those days, says the Lord:

I will put My laws into their minds, And I will write them on their hearts.

And I will be their God, And they shall be My people.

11 "And they shall not teach everyone his fellow citizen,

And everyone his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' For all will know Me, From the least to the greatest of them. 12 "For I will be merciful to their iniquities, And I will remember their sins no more." 13 When He said, "A new *covenant*," He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

**Hebrews 10:14-18 TPT** And by his one perfect sacrifice he made us perfectly holy and complete for all time! <sup>15</sup> The Holy Spirit confirms this to us by this Scripture, for the Lord says, <sup>16</sup> "Afterwards, I will give them this covenant: I will embed my laws into their hearts and fasten my Word to their thoughts." <sup>17</sup> And then he says, "I will not ever again remember their sins and lawless deeds!" <sup>18</sup> So if our sins have been forgiven and forgotten, why would we ever need to offer another sacrifice for sin?

### 2 Corinthians 3:6

He alone makes us adequate ministers who are focused on an entirely new covenant. Our ministry is not based on the letter of the law but through the *power of the* Spirit. The letter of the law kills, but the Spirit pours out life.

#### Romans 7:6

But now that we have been fully released from the power of the law, we are dead to what once controlled us. And our lives are no longer motivated by the obsolete way of following the written code, so that now we may serve God by living in the freshness of a new life in the power of the Holy Spirit.

### Galatians 5:1

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. KJV

Let me be clear, the Anointed One has set us free—not partially, but completely and wonderfully free! We must always cherish this truth and stubbornly refuse to go back into the bondage of our past. TPT

