

**Speaking the Same Thing:
Purpose and Function of the Manuscript Review Team
Presented by J. Michael Feazell**

Overview

"The mission of the Church is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ around the world and to help members grow spiritually (Matthew 28:19-20). As a Spirit-led body of believers, the Church is exhorted, 'Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ' (II Peter 3:18). The Spirit of God leads the Church into all truth (John 16:13). Accordingly...the Church constantly renews its commitment to truth and deeper understanding and responds to God's guidance in its beliefs and practices."

Statement of Beliefs of the Worldwide Church of God

"God has led us to some vital changes over the past few years. Let us not underestimate the importance of such growth, and let's realize that God has called us to serve him--to do his will and to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, which he reveals in his word."

Pastor General's Report, April 24, 1991

"Peter said: 'Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen' (II Peter 3:18). As Mr. Armstrong well understood, this means that the Church must never stand still. It must never stop growing, either in grace or in knowledge. Mr. Armstrong's own example amply demonstrates that he would never have expected the Church to come to a standstill and no longer grow after his death. As he often said, this is the Church of God, not of Herbert W. Armstrong."

Pastor General's Report, June 18, 1991

"Out of the Church's deeply held commitment to be responsive to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and faithful to the word of God, it has, over the past nearly 60 years, made numerous doctrinal clarifications, adjustments and changes. The Church has been analyzing its teachings in light of the Bible and changing when necessary."

Pastor General's Report, January 28, 1992

1. Why the *Statement of Beliefs*?
2. God's Family
3. Kingdom of God
4. Prophecy
5. Spiritual Growth and Development

1. Why the *Statement of Beliefs*?

"This new booklet captures the core beliefs of God's Church and constitutes our official statement on most of our major doctrines such as God, baptism, repentance, salvation, the kingdom of God and other vital teachings. It is most certainly for members, and is for nonmembers as well! It's part of the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ to all nations."

Pastor General's Report, March 10, 1992

"The Statement of Beliefs gives the official teaching of the Church on the subjects it contains. However, it is important to note that the Church must always be prepared to grow in understanding. As stated in the introduction, 'Accordingly, the Statement of Beliefs does not constitute a closed creed. The Church constantly renews its commitment to truth and deeper understanding and responds to God's guidance in its beliefs and practices.' "

Pastor General's Report, December 17, 1991

"For the record, let it be clear that the Worldwide Church of God is not concerned about any other church's or organization's evaluation of our doctrines and practices (except, of course, in the sense of Jesus' instruction that his people should be the 'light of the world'). There is only one evaluation we are concerned about, and that is God's."

Pastor General's Report, January 28, 1992

2. God's Family - Moving from "begotten of God" to "born from above" or "born again."

Past/Present Illustrations	
Instead Of:	Use:
"We will be God as God is God" "Begotten sons of God" "Begotten as God's own children" "We will be born of God" "God is reproducing Himself" "We will be made members of God's spiritual family"	"God has a family" "We are part of God's family" "The righteous will inherit eternal life" "Christ is the <u>unique</u> Son of God" "Christ is the Son of God by nature" "We are the sons of God by grace" "Children of God" "We are now born from above" "We have been made partakers of the divine nature"

Examples:

Incomplete/Incorrect	Preferred
"God is REPRODUCING HIMSELF through us... By a resurrection, we become BORN God personages—personages just as are God the Father and Christ the Son! We shall have the entire UNIVERSE put under our feet (Heb. 2:8)." <i>Never Before Understood...</i>	"It is a correct biblical analogy to refer to the Christian as having been born again. But we must understand that this reference says nothing about a spirit being. It is referring to conversion...a new way of life <i>in Jesus Christ</i> as his disciples who love him and keep his commands (John 14:15, 23)." <i>Pastor General's Report, January 22, 1991</i>
"...humans changed into spirit, humans made God...." <i>Who Was Jesus?</i>	"This new beginning is a birth into the kingdom and family of God. When we are born from above, each of us becomes a child of God (John 1:12-13; 3:5)." <i>The Plain Truth, May/June 1992</i>

Incomplete/Incorrect	Preferred
<p>"The great GOD...is reproducing HIMSELF INTO MULTIPLIED <i>millions</i> of others JUST LIKE HIMSELF—Divine, supreme in power...."</p> <p><i>Your Awesome Future</i></p>	<p>"We need to be careful to use <i>biblical</i> terms and teaching when speaking about the destiny of humanity. One of our old catch-phrases (which we have not used for many years), 'we are to become God as God is God,' is an example of a statement that went beyond the biblical revelation."</p> <p><i>Pastor General's Report, July 16, 1991</i></p>
<p>"Our potential is to be born into the God Family, receiving total power! We are to be given jurisdiction over the entire universe!"</p> <p><i>The Incredible Human Potential</i></p>	
<p>"So, again, God is a family composed now of two persons—a Father and a Son. But the most startling truth is that God made you and me to become His children in that same God Family! This means we can be on the same level of life with God, and so we can be a God being! God is reproducing Himself through us!"</p> <p><i>Youth 86, March</i></p>	<p>"Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ <i>lives</i> in us...through the Spirit we are <i>transformed</i>, we are converted, that we might conform to the image of Christ. We are born anew as children of God and have become citizens of the kingdom of God."</p> <p><i>Pastor General's Report, May 7, 1991</i></p>
<p>"The purpose for human life is this: God is literally reproducing Himself through man. He made man to be His sons in His own Family—the God Family—and hence to someday be Gods themselves."</p> <p><i>The Good News, February 1986</i></p>	<p>"We teach that God is 'bringing many children to glory' (Hebrews 2:10-17), that we are his 'offspring' (Acts 17:29), that we are to be 'like him, for we shall see him as he is' (I John 3:2) and that we are 'partakers of the divine nature' (II Peter 1:4). From these passages and others, we see that, by his Spirit, God is bringing children into his own family and sharing with them his own nature and glory."</p> <p><i>Pastor General's Report, July 30, 1991</i></p>

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<p>"Many equate being born again with the experience of conversion. They believe, therefore, that being born again occurs at baptism or at the receipt of the Holy Spirit or at the time of a certain religious experience, such as when they professed Christ either publicly or privately. Thus they feel they are born again <i>now</i>, and believe the phrase to denote their inner change to a new person committed to Christ. But it takes little effort to refute this misconception, and to refute it with the very verses such believers would most likely turn to first to support their well-intentioned but erroneous ideas—John 3:1-10."</p> <p><i>The Good News</i>, February 1987</p>	<p>"The person who undergoes this internal change is so drastically changed that he could be described a new being. Since the new being would see things from a higher perspective—God's—he is described as born from above."</p> <p><i>Reviews You Can Use</i>, October/November 1991</p> <p>"The Bible calls this new life in Christ a new spiritual birth from above (John 3:3-8)."</p> <p><i>The Plain Truth</i>, April 1992</p> <p>"You are born again, from above, by the Holy Spirit and enter into a new family relationship with God as your Father, and Jesus Christ as your elder brother."</p> <p>"You become a new person, saved from the enslavement of sin."</p> <p><i>The Plain Truth</i>, May/June 1992</p>
<p>"...spirit-begotten children of God."</p> <p><i>The Good News</i>, May/June 1988</p>	<p>"...analogy of the wind. One knows the results of the activity of the wind—leaves blown about, trees bending, etc.—but the origin, the cause, the 'where from' and the 'where to' of the wind are not disclosed in the physical results. Lives are changing and miracles are taking place, but the source and destination of what is evidenced are not understood."</p> <p><i>Reviews You Can Use</i>, October/November 1991</p>
<p>"There are only two members in the God Family or Kingdom at the present time—God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son. But God is going to increase His Family!"</p> <p><i>Old Correspondence Course</i>, Lesson 8</p>	<p>"How glorious and wonderful is our calling and salvation in Jesus Christ! Through the unsearchable mercies of God, we have been made partakers of his perfect gifts and participants in the new life of the glorious age to come (I Peter 1:3-5)."</p> <p><i>Pastor General's Report</i>, February 25, 1992</p>

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<p>"The same will be true when we are someday born into the Family of God. We will not be the Father or Christ, but we will be on Their level of existence and a part of Their Family.... And we will therefore be Gods—since <i>God</i> is a family name or title."</p> <p><i>Youth 86, March</i></p>	<p>"We have always known that I John 3:2 says '<i>now</i> we are children of God.' This verse, along with other verses that describe <i>mortal</i> human beings as children of God (Philippians 2:15, Romans 8:14), shows us that God can call us his children without our being equal with God. Yet, as even this verse (I John 3:2) shows, it is still in the future (at Jesus' appearing) that we are to be completely or finally conformed to the likeness of Christ. We will appear with him in glory (Colossians 3:4). Our lowly bodies will be transformed so that they will be like his glorious body (Philippians 3:21)."</p> <p><i>Pastor General's Report, July 16, 1991</i></p>

3. **Kingdom of God** - From an entirely futuristic view of the kingdom of God, to the fact that the kingdom of God is here now in the lives of Christians, and we are waiting for the full reality (or fullness) of the kingdom of God at Christ's return.

"The kingdom of God in the broadest sense is God's supreme sovereignty. God reigns in the Church and in the life of each believer who is submissive to his will. The kingdom of God will be established over the whole world after the return of Jesus Christ and will increase to encompass all things. (Luke 17:20-21, Daniel 2:44, Mark 1:14-15, I Corinthians 15:24-28, Revelation 11:15, 21:3, 22-27, 22:1-5)"

Statement of Beliefs of the Worldwide Church of God

Kingdom of God	
"Already..."	"...but not yet"
<p>The parables of the kingdom, showing the kingdom starts now on this earth in a small way and grows to its ultimate state (Matt. 13).</p> <p>"Jesus came,...saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel' " (Mark 1:14-15).</p> <p>Jesus sent out seventy, telling them to "heal the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you' " (Luke 10:9, 11).</p> <p>Jesus said, "But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you" (Luke 11:20).</p> <p>"The kingdom of God does not come with observation; nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:20-21).</p> <p>"He has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of the Son of His love" (Col. 1:13).</p>	<p>"Your kingdom come. Your will be done" (Matt. 6:10).</p> <p>"Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world' " (Matt. 25:34).</p> <p>"I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God" (Mark 14:25).</p> <p>"...because they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately. Therefore He said, 'A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return' " (Luke 19:11-12).</p> <p>"My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight...but now My kingdom is not from here" (John 18:36).</p> <p>"Jesus Christ...will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom" (II Tim. 4:1).</p>

Past/Present Illustrations	
Instead Of:	Use:
<p>"Coming or future kingdom of God"</p> <p>"Soon coming kingdom of God"</p>	<p>"Fullness of the kingdom of God"</p> <p>"Full reality of the kingdom of God"</p> <p>"The righteous will inherit eternal life"</p> <p>"The eagerly anticipated kingdom of God"</p> <p>"The longed for kingdom of God"</p>

Examples:

Incomplete/Incorrect	Preferred
<p>"When actually born, immortal, by resurrection or instantaneous change to immortality at Christ's coming, this Church of God will become the Kingdom of God!"</p> <p><i>Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?</i></p>	<p>"Christ preached the gospel—the 'good news'—of the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God is both a present and future reality for Christians. The gospel is the good news of the forgiveness of sin and our redemption by our Savior. That is a present reality. The future reality of the kingdom of God is the good news that Jesus will return to govern the earth—the same earth that has been promised to Abraham and his heirs for an eternal inheritance."</p> <p><i>Interim Correspondence Course, Lesson 5</i></p>
<p>"They make plain the fact the Kingdom of God is the WORLD GOVERNMENT soon, now, to be set up by Christ...."</p> <p><i>Just What Do You Mean...Conversion?</i></p>	<p>"Let's remember that God has <i>not only</i> called all his people to personal salvation, but also to do a <i>job</i>—to preach and teach the good news of repentance, forgiveness of sins and salvation through Jesus Christ, the gospel of his kingdom—which is here now in part <i>in</i> the Church, but yet to come in <i>fullness</i> at Christ's return! (See Luke 24:45-47, Acts 8:12, 28:30-31.)"</p> <p><i>Pastor General's Report, April 9, 1991</i></p>

Incomplete/Incorrect	Preferred
	<p>"The fullness of the kingdom will not be here until the second coming of Jesus Christ. We must not think that the kingdom of God is something that is <i>only</i> in the future. That will lead us not to take seriously our <i>present</i> citizenship in heaven (Philippians 3:20), as children of God, as members of the household of God, as brethren of Jesus Christ, and our obligation to live godly lives in obedience. We are even now inducted into and ruled by the kingdom of God through the Holy Spirit as Christ lives in us. Yet the Church is, in a special sense, even <i>now</i> the kingdom of God. But the Church is certainly <i>not</i> now the fullness of the kingdom, and certainly <i>not</i> all that the kingdom will yet become in the future, when Jesus Christ returns."</p> <p><i>Pastor General's Report, May 7, 1991</i></p>
<p>"We see it in process of rising, now. Therefore we are close to the coming of Christ. We are now very near the end of this world."</p> <p><i>The Incredible Human Potential</i></p> <p>"Jesus was speaking of the smashing climax at the close of this age of Satan's rule—actually misrule—over the earth! He was speaking of the crisis facing this very generation."</p> <p><i>The Good News, March 1986</i></p>	<p>"Exactly when Jesus will return to restore the kingdom of God we cannot know with certainty."</p> <p><i>Youth 91, July/August</i></p>

Incomplete/Incorrect	Preferred
<p>"In today's professing Christian Western world, we find a variety of 'gospels' being preached. Some designate their gospel as 'The Gospel of Jesus Christ.' Others call their gospel 'The Gospel of Salvation.' Still others profess 'The Gospel of Grace.' There is also a modern 'Social Gospel,' while some call their gospel 'The Israel Message,' None of these are the gospel Jesus proclaimed! Why doesn't professing Christianity preach the only true gospel that God sent by Jesus Christ?"</p> <p><i>Old Correspondence Course, Lesson 18</i></p>	<p>Mark 1:1 "the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ"</p> <p>Rom. 1:16 "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ"</p> <p>II Cor. 4:4 "the gospel of the glory of Christ"</p> <p>Eph. 1:13 "the gospel of your salvation"</p> <p>Acts 20:24 "the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God"</p> <p>Rom. 1:1 "the gospel of God"</p>

4. **Prophecy:** What should be our approach to prophecy?

Examples:

Incomplete/Incorrect	Preferred
<p>"We are living in the prophesied generation immediately preceding the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Notice that Jesus did not tell His disciples 'your generation.' He spoke of 'this generation'—the generation He had just described."</p> <p><i>The Good News</i>, March 1986</p>	<p>"In their understandable enthusiasm (and <i>The Plain Truth</i> was no exception) those who eagerly have anticipated Jesus' return to earth have tended to jump the gun."</p> <p><i>The Plain Truth</i>, February 1991</p>

Incomplete/Incorrect	Preferred
<p>"Still, God's <i>own people</i> ARE BEING LULLED TO SLEEP BY GETTING THEIR MINDS OFF BIBLE PROPHECY! They are being told it will be 30-40 years before these prophecies will be fulfilled. And they are tragically wrong! The book of Ezekiel will illustrate that truth as we go along."</p> <p><i>The Philadelphia Trumpet</i>, April 1992</p>	<p>"First and foremost, Bible prophecy leads us to God.... Bible prophecy reminds us God is Judge, the final arbitrator of all things.... Prophecy also reminds us of God's love and faithfulness.... We are not told when. But we are told what to do while we wait: Have faith. Have hope. Live godly lives as faithful children. Shine as lights in this world's darkness (Matt. 5:16).... Prophecy assures us of that hope, and moves us to make our 'calling and election sure' (II Pet. 1:10)."</p>
	<p><i>Interim Correspondence Course</i>, Lesson 2</p> <p>"God has called us to a <i>new way of life</i>, a way that is to endure for all eternity. It really should not take a disaster, a crisis or an emergency to get us <i>excited</i> about drawing close to God, about overcoming personal sins, about earnest prayer, about studying the Bible."</p> <p><i>Pastor General's Report</i>, August 13, 1991</p>
	<p>"We do not—cannot—know the day or the hour of Christ's return. But he is coming, and when he does, you need to be ready!"</p> <p><i>The Plain Truth</i>, February 1991</p>
	<p>"Peter focused on the central theme of all biblical prophecy—that the faithful should remain so, because judgment is surely coming on those who continually reject God's way of life."</p> <p><i>Youth 91</i>, July/August</p>

Incomplete/Incorrect	Preferred
<p>"When God closed off the tree of life, he closed off the redemption and salvation of mankind for 6,000 years, until the second Adam, Jesus Christ, after 6,000 years should return to earth in supreme power and glory to unseat Satan from his throne and to rule all nations of mankind."</p> <p><i>Did God Create a Devil?</i></p>	<p>"Some tend to see Bible prophecy as a sort of jigsaw puzzle or secret code God left the Church. They believe that if Church members study prophecy carefully enough, they will be able to figure out the answers to such curiosity-arousing questions as when Jesus will return, the personal identity of the beast of Revelation, or which modern nation will attack another. However, to think of Bible prophecy in this way is to think of it...from the faulty premise that it is somehow important for Christians to know the answers to such questions. Consequently, a person can unknowingly <i>miss the point</i> of prophecy and put his or her spiritual priorities in the wrong place."</p> <p><i>Pastor General's Report, December 3, 1991</i></p>
<p>"God has, FOR A GREAT PURPOSE, made humans free moral agents, and allotted 6,000 years for mankind to make a choice—whether to accept God's government over him, to be ruled by God's law of LOVE, or whether to set up his own ideas of man-made government, following what comes naturally—HUMAN NATURE. That 6,000 years is about up. When it is—a very few more years, perhaps less than 10—God Almighty is going to step in, intervene supernaturally and in divine POWER abolish governments and ways of society—rule all nations with GOD'S laws—and BRING PEACE AND HAPPINESS TO HUMANITY!"</p> <p><i>The Good News, March 1986</i></p>	
<p>"God has set aside a period of 7,000 years to fulfill His plan for mankind. And God's little-understood plan for man began nearly 6,000 years ago."</p> <p><i>Old Correspondence Course, Lesson 1</i></p>	
<p>"Jesus unmistakably pinpointed our time in a lengthy prophecy recorded in Matthew 24."</p> <p><i>The Good News, January 1986</i></p>	<p>"What is the will of God for us? That we love one another. That we preach the gospel. That we make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. That we teach them to obey everything Jesus has commanded us. That we be his witnesses. If we are doing these things, we have assurance that Jesus is with us always, to the very end of the age."</p> <p><i>Pastor General's Report, February 5, 1991</i></p>

Incomplete/Incorrect	Preferred
<p>"Daniel was told that his prophecies would be sealed until the end of the age, but then God would reveal the meaning to His servants. We are now very near the time when the prophecies will be fulfilled and God is now revealing what they mean.</p> <p>These time periods refer to events that will happen to the people of God in this very generation, within the next few years."</p> <p><i>The Good News, August 1987</i></p>	<p>"Through Bible prophecy, then, we are comforted and encouraged. We are assured that the course of history is being controlled by God, the God of love, peace and mercy. We are guaranteed that our labor of love in Jesus Christ is not in vain. We are given confidence that all wrong will be righted, that all crooked places will be made straight, that there is life beyond death--happy, peaceful, fulfilled life, <i>forever</i>. And, knowing all these things, we are motivated to live godly lives in Jesus Christ (verse 14)."</p> <p><i>Pastor General's Report, December 3, 1991</i></p>
<p>"Who, today, are the descendents of Ephraim and Manasseh? Somewhere, Ephraim must be a group, or Commonwealth of nations, while Manasseh must be the greatest single nation on earth! Either it is so, or the Bible is not true!"</p> <p><i>United States and Britain in Prophecy</i></p>	<p>"As I have often said, our spiritual citizenship is in heaven. We have been called, in a sense, to give up our own identities and take on a new identity, that of children of God, citizens of his spiritual nation. As members of the Body of Christ, with brothers and sisters from every nationality and human citizenship, our ultimate allegiance is to God."</p> <p><i>Pastor General's Report, January 22, 1991</i></p>
<p>"When Christ returns to earth to sit on the throne, he shall take over a live, existing throne, not a nonexistent one... has the sceptre departed from Judah? Has the throne ceased? Or does it, as God so bindingly promised, exist today, so that Christ can take over and sit upon a living, going, continuous throne when he comes? The infallibility of the Bible is at stake! God's word is at stake!"</p> <p><i>United States and Britain in Prophecy</i></p>	<p>"The necessary ingredient to enable a human, whatever his physical heritage may be, to enter the kingdom of God is the Holy Spirit."</p> <p><i>Pastor General's Report, January 22, 1991</i></p>

Incomplete/Incorrect	Preferred
<p>"But the all-important master key has been found!</p> <p>"That key is knowledge of the astonishing identity of the American and British peoples—as well as the German—in biblical prophecies. This very eye-opening, astounding identity is the strongest proof of the inspiration and authority of the Holy Bible! It is, at the same time, the strongest proof of the very active existence of the living God!</p> <p><i>United States and Britain in Prophecy</i></p>	

5. **Spiritual Growth and Development** - "Building holy, righteous character" or "bearing fruit" and "growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?" Are we bearing fruit, or is **Christ** in us bearing fruit?

Past/Present Illustrations	
Instead Of:	Use:
<p>"Development of holy, righteous character"</p> <p>"Building holy, righteous character"</p> <p>"Striving to overcome sin"</p> <p>"Striving to overcome ourselves, our weaknesses and faults"</p> <p>"Conquering sin"</p> <p>"Keeping ourselves right with God so we may qualify"</p> <p>"Through a long life of Christian living, of overcoming self and building character, we finally qualify for the kingdom of God"</p> <p>"Qualifying for the kingdom of God"</p> <p>"Qualifying to rule with Christ"</p>	<p>"Growing in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"</p> <p>"Through repentance, God imputes his own righteousness to those who respond to his calling. Thus, his spiritual children, born from above, grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ and bear the spiritual fruit of the Holy Spirit"</p> <p>"Become complete"</p> <p>"We are not saved by good works, but for good works"</p> <p>"We are God's workmanship"</p> <p>"For it is God who works in us, both to will and to do for his good pleasure"</p> <p>"Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light" (Colossians 1:12-13)</p>

Examples:

Incomplete/Incorrect	Preferred
<p>"Then, and only then, can we prove to God that we should be part of His Kingdom."</p>	<p>"Eternal life, which makes entrance into the kingdom of God possible, is a <i>gift</i>—and as a gift it is free. You do not and cannot earn it. You <i>cannot</i> qualify for it."</p> <p><i>The Plain Truth</i>, August 1991</p>
<p><i>The Good News</i>, January 1987</p>	<p>"In no way do we qualify for it! <i>God Himself</i> does it in and through us as we submit to Him. But even our submission to him does not earn it. It is His free gift to us."</p> <p><i>The Good News</i>, March 1987</p>

Incomplete/Incorrect	Preferred
<p>"Neither can the individual lay member develop and build within him God's holy, righteous and perfect CHARACTER without the operations of the apostle, evangelists, pastors and elders."</p> <p><i>Mystery of the Ages</i></p>	<p>"Though righteous fruit is borne in us, it is nonetheless not our fruit. This fruit is God's own fruit, the fruit of the Spirit. In other words, our righteousness is God's. It is not our own. It is God who works in us to bear righteous fruit, 'both to will and to do for His good pleasure' (Philippians 2:13)."</p> <p><i>The Plain Truth, May/June 1992</i></p>
<p>"It is the function of the CHURCH—as the spiritual MOTHER of Christians in it—to develop holy, righteous and perfect godly CHARACTER in those God has called—those God has added to the Church."</p> <p><i>Mystery of the Ages</i></p>	
<p>"Now the Son of God resisted and conquered Satan—had QUALIFIED to reestablish GOD'S GOVERNMENT and set up the KINGDOM OF GOD on earth! But now the CHURCH must also qualify to rule with him!"</p> <p><i>Mystery of the Ages</i></p> <p>"Nearly 2,000 years ago, Jesus <i>qualified</i> to become this world's ruler by conquering Satan the devil (Matt. 4:1-11)."</p> <p><i>Old Correspondence Course, Lesson 4</i></p> <p>"Jesus Christ has already qualified for the highest office under God the Father in the coming world tomorrow."</p> <p><i>Old Correspondence Course, Lesson 12</i></p>	<p>"Christ never needed to qualify to be man's Savior. He was, as God, fully able to save man, even from the foundation of the world, and he came to destroy the works of the devil."</p> <p><i>Reviews You Can Use, January/February 1991</i></p>
<p>"...you, too, can win and be worthy of His joyful and everlasting Kingdom...."</p> <p><i>The Good News, January 1987</i></p>	<p>"We must always remember that salvation is 'by grace...through faith.' It is 'the gift of God' (Eph. 2:8)."</p> <p><i>Interim Correspondence Course, Lesson 12</i></p>

Incomplete/Incorrect	Preferred
<p>"Yet, in general, I can tell you what position will be assigned you! It will be the position you are training for, qualifying for, RIGHT NOW—in this life!"</p> <p><i>Youth 85, February</i></p>	<p>"Absolutely no aspect of our salvation whatsoever can we <i>ever</i> attribute to ourselves."</p> <p><i>Pastor General's Report, February 25, 1992</i></p>
<p>"Are Christians to receive everlasting crowns—if they overcome? I Cor. 9:25. Will those who qualify in this life <i>rule</i> over the nations as KINGS with Christ? Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4; Dan. 7:22, 27."</p> <p><i>Old Correspondence Course, Lesson 4</i></p>	<p>"No human being is capable of perfection (as Christ is perfect). In his mercy and patience, God works with his elect in spite of our weaknesses. This should highlight the great truth that all glory is God's and that all the credit for every good thing we may accomplish goes only to him."</p> <p><i>Pastor General's Report, March 24, 1992</i></p>
	<p>"Christ in us is more than just acknowledgement and acceptance of what God has done for us. It involves a transformation of life, a new birth, a birth from above. True believers are children of God. Christ is in them, and they are in him. Their entire perspective of life has changed. Everything they do is now done in newness of life, led by the Spirit of God."</p> <p><i>Pastor General's Report, November 19, 1991</i></p>
	<p>"The Holy Spirit leads us to be so filled with the things of God that we never cease working hard to improve our marriages, to break sinful habits, to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ."</p> <p><i>Pastor General's Report, August 13, 1991</i></p>