

THE MAN OF GOD

By Jeff Rath 12-2017

Moses, Elisha, Samuel, and others in the Old Testament are referred to as the man of God. This is a title of authority, and a recognition that they speak for God. But in the New Testament this phrase, “The man of God”, is used only once.

II Timothy 3:16 All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

It is interesting that Jesus Christ is not referred to in the Bible as “The man of God”. For surely if anyone ever had the right to be called “The man of God” it was Jesus Christ . . . Well it’s really very simple God gave him a title that goes way beyond “The man of God”; he is **the Son of God**.

Philippians 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;

The name of Jesus Christ, and the title the Son of God put Jesus Christ in a unique position of power and prestige that are second only to God Himself.

1 John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

God has given us the title of sons of God. We can do what Jesus Christ did because we are sons like he was.

Ephesians 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

1:19 And what *is* the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

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1:20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*,

1:21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

1:22 And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church,

1:23 Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.

In this day and time Jesus Christ is the head we are members of his church, which is the body of Christ. The head means that he was our example of how to walk with God. We follow the Example of Christ.

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels [God *eloheim*] for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

2:10 For it became him, for whom *are* all things, and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

2:11 For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified *are* all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

Jesus Christ is not ashamed to call us brothers because we are also sons of God.

Romans 1:1 Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

1:2 (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)

1:3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

1:4 And declared *to be* the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

1:5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

1:6 Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:

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The apostle Paul is never given the title of “The man of God”, and neither is Peter or anyone else directly given that title in the New Testament. An apostle is a Son of God who takes on additional responsibility to serve the church. God refers to each one of us as sons, believers, ambassadors, and He says we have the ministry of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5:16 Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we *him* no more.

5:17 Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

5:18 And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

5:19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

5:21 For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Many Christian organizations are based on a hierarchical structure, and they have a two tiered system where the leaders are more spiritual than the average Christian. There are no first class and second class Christians. For instance the Bible calls believers saints, but the Roman Catholic Church says that there are only a few that are good enough to be saints.

The Gospel According to Rome 1995 James G. McCarthy

“Catholics choose which saint to pray to based upon need, occupation, or country . . . The Bible on the other hand, refers to all true believers as saints by virtue of their position in Christ. Ephesians 1:1, 1 Corinthians 1:2.”

In the Old Testament holy spirit was measured out upon each believer, and some got more than others, but the average believer did not usually have holy spirit upon them. Thus God set up a hierarchical system where the man of God had holy spirit upon him and he exercised this spiritual ability to watch over God’s people.

Psalm 103:7 He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.

II Kings 2:9 And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.

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John 3:34 For he [Jesus Christ] whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure *unto him*.

God did not measure out a portion of holy spirit to put upon Jesus Christ; God gave him the full load, everything that was available. Jesus Christ was the first one in history to get the full amount, and he made it available for us to get just as much.

Colossians 1:27 To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

1:28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

John 14:12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater *works* than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

14:13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

It is God in Christ in us: we have the same spiritual ability and power that Jesus Christ had when he walked the face of the earth. In the New Testament it is God's will that we all rise up and become men of God. Actually we Christians already are ambassadors and we already have the ministry of reconciliation, so it's really not a matter of who we are, that is already set in Christ, it's a matter of how well we respond to our calling as sons of God. The way to present every man perfect in Christ Jesus is to teach them what God's Word says about them and to lovingly encourage them to rise up to the calling.

"The man of God" title can also be used to set up a Christian organization with one "all powerful" leader who is called "The Man of God" or "Pope" or some similar title. Then sometimes these men are followed instead of Jesus Christ and the Word of God. The Word of God and Jesus Christ always take precedence over any man of God. The way it should work is that the man of God should help believers get to know God better through his Word and Jesus Christ.

In the Old Testament you can find instances where there is one man of God in charge of all of God's people for a time, but never in the New Testament do we see this happen. You see leaders in the Church, you see apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers, and you see elders, bishops, disciples and deacons, but no one single all-powerful "The Man of God."

Luke 7:19 And John calling *unto him* two of his disciples sent *them* to Jesus, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?

7:20 When the men were come unto him, they said, John Baptist hath sent us unto thee, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?

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7:21 And in that same hour he cured many of *their* infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many *that were* blind he gave sight.

7:22 Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached.

Luke 7:28 For I say unto you, Among those that are born of women there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist: but he that is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.

Even in Jesus Christ's day there was more than one man of God with a genuine ministry from God. But there are those today that set themselves up as "The Man of God" and say that those outside of their Christian organization are either not saved, or second rate Christians, or spiritualists, or possessed, or not of God's household, or some other junk.

Acts 1:15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)

1:16 Men *and* brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.

Acts 1:21 Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

1:22 Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.

1:23 And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.

1:24 And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all *men*, show whether of these two thou hast chosen,

1:25 That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.

1:26 And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Here in the early church there was an important decision to be made so "The Man of God" told everyone what to do . . . NO . . . The apostles voted on who should succeed Judas. In Acts 2:14ff Peter stood up with the eleven and spoke the Word. The structure of the Church of the body of Christ is such that different believers and leaders can rise up to but there is no all-powerful man at the top directing everyone's movements. In Acts 11 Peter had to explain what he was doing when he violated the Old

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Testament law by going into a gentile's home to teach the Word. If he were the first Pope, as some claim, then all he would have to say is "Hey I'm infallible so I can do whatever I want."

Halley's Bible Handbook 1965

"And so the Pope now claims Infallibility, because the Vatican Council, at his bidding, so voted."

Galations 2:11 But when Peter was come to Antioch, I [Paul] withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed.

2:12 For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.

2:13 And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation.

2:14 But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before *them* all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?

That's right Peter wasn't the first Pope and he wasn't infallible; here Paul withstood him to the face because he walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel. Well what did Peter do that was so terrible? He fell back into Old Testament thinking where the Judeans were God's chosen people and everyone else was second rate; or that the Judeans were God's chosen household and the gentiles were only family. Ephesians 4:4 says there is one body; we all have the same Christ in us.

Ephesians 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

If some "Man of God" tries to tell you that you are not in God's household because you are not a member or follower of his group or church . . . don't believe it . . . believe Ephesians instead.

1 Corinthians 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, *even* as unto babes in Christ.

3:2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able *to bear it*, neither yet now are ye able.

3:3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas *there is* among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

3:4 For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I *am* of Apollos; are ye not carnal?

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3:5 Who then is Paul, and who *is* Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?

3:6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

3:7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

We need to have leaders and workers in the Church, and they deserve loyalty and respect for the work that they do, but we can't ever let the man of God take precedence over the Son of God or the Word of God. In Acts 15 there was a great controversy about circumcision so "The Man of God" or "The Pope" made a proclamation as to what the truth was right? Of course not; the apostles and elders got together and came to a group decision.

Proverbs 11:14 Where no counsel *is*, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors *there is* safety.

Whenever we invest too much authority and power in one man then we are more susceptible to disaster because all the adversary has to do is get to the one man and corrupt him then he can corrupt us all. It took almost 600 years after the death of Jesus Christ for Christianity, under the name of Roman Catholicism, to unify under one Pope. The next thing you know is that you got the dark ages, feudalism, the inquisition, and so forth.

Halley's Bible Handbook 1965

"The Papacy is an Italian Institution. It arose on the ruins of the Roman Empire, in the name of Christ occupying the throne of the Ceasars; a Revival of the Image of the Roman Empire inheriting the Spirit thereof: "the Ghost of the Roman Empire come to life in the garb of Christianity." . . . Some of the Popes have been good men; some of them unspeakably vile; the most of them have been absorbed in the pursuit of Secular Power. . . these "Holy Fathers" claim that they are the "Vicars of Christ," Infallible," and that they "hold on this earth the place of Almighty God," and that obedience to Them is necessary to salvation. . . [Pope] Hildebrand ordered Bohemians not to read the Bible. Innocent III forbade the people reading the Bible in their own language. Gregory IX forbade laymen possessing the Bible, and suppressed translations. Translations among the Albigenses and Waldenses were burned, and people burned for having them. Paul IV prohibited the possession of translations without permission of the Inquisition. The Jesuits induced Clement XI to condemn the reading of the Bible by the laity. LeoXII, Pius VIII, Gregory XVI and Pius IX all condemned Bible societies."

Halley's Bible Handbook 1965

"At the close of the Apostolic age Churches were independent one of another, each being shepherded by a board of Pastors. The main leader came to be called a Bishop. The others, later were called Presbyters."

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That's not a bad way to run a church; it worked for the early Christians, maybe we should try a simple approach to Christianity. That's a whole lot better than forcing everyone under one man's leadership or saying that our group has cornered the market on truth and everyone else is wrong. Those solutions slap God in the face and insult Jesus Christ. It goes completely against the mystery. In I Corinthians 2:8 it says that the Devil would not have crucified Jesus Christ if he had known the mystery. This mystery is that the gentiles have been made fellowheirs and of the same body as the Judeans (Ephesians 3:6). We all have Christ in us; we all have the same eternal life, and the same holy spirit. We can never let The Man of God take the place of God in our lives. If we do then we will get into legalism and tradition and we will loose the power of God, the love of God, the mystery, and the Word of God. God's will is that each and every son of God rises up to believe to be a man of God . . . one who speaks for God. It is laziness and unbelief that get most Christians to relinquish their responsibility to someone else in the Church of the body of Christ so that they don't rise up to what God has called them to. Most Christians are content to be spoon-fed the milk of the Word.

1 Corinthians 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, *even* as unto babes in Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able *to bear it*, neither yet now are ye able.

Acts 17:11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

It is our responsibility to search the scriptures to see if we are being taught the real Word of God. We should not be just looking for error or wanting to prove someone wrong, but we should have a real genuine desire to see what does the word really say. We can't just take man's word we must look in God's word. The Church needs strong leadership, it needs people to rise up and be men and women of God. But we cannot let "The Man of God" take the place of our direct access to God our Father. We cannot become followers of man and begin to push God, and the Bible into a secondary position. We must avoid the mindset that our Christian group has cornered the market on truth.

We must go back to the standard of the Word.

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