

RELIGION • CHRISTIANITY • FACT • TRUTH • FAITH • BELIEVING • FORMED • MADE  
CREATED • BODY • SOUL • SPIRIT • RELIGION • CHRISTIANITY • FACT • TRUTH • FAITH  
BELIEVING • FORMED • MADE • CREATED • BODY • SOUL • SPIRIT • RELIGION • CHRISTIAN-  
ITY • FACT • TRUTH • FAITH • BELIEVING • FORMED • MADE • CREATED • BODY • SOUL  
SPIRIT • RELIGION • CHRISTIANITY • FACT • TRUTH • FAITH • BELIEVING • FORMED • MADE  
CREATED • BODY • SOUL • SPIRIT • RELIGION • CHRISTIANITY • FACT • TRUTH • FAITH  
BELIEVING • FORMED • MADE • CREATED • BODY • SOUL • SPIRIT • RELIGION • CHRISTIAN-  
ITY • FACT • TRUTH • FAITH • BELIEVING • FORMED • MADE • CREATED • BODY • SOUL  
SPIRIT • RELIGION • CHRISTIANITY • FACT • TRUTH • FAITH • BELIEVING • FORMED • MADE  
CREATED • BODY • SOUL • SPIRIT • RELIGION • CHRISTIANITY • FACT • TRUTH • FAITH  
BELIEVING • FORMED • MADE • CREATED • BODY • SOUL • SPIRIT • RELIGION • CHRISTIAN-  
ITY • FACT • TRUTH • FAITH • BELIEVING • FORMED • MADE • CREATED • BODY • SOUL  
SPIRIT • RELIGION • CHRISTIANITY • FACT • TRUTH • FAITH • BELIEVING • FORMED • MADE  
CREATED • BODY • SOUL • SPIRIT • RELIGION • CHRISTIANITY • FACT • TRUTH • FAITH  
BELIEVING • FORMED • MADE • CREATED • BODY • SOUL • SPIRIT • RELIGION • CHRISTIAN-  
ITY • FACT • TRUTH • FAITH • BELIEVING • FORMED • MADE • CREATED • BODY • SOUL  
SPIRIT • RELIGION • CHRISTIANITY • FACT • TRUTH • FAITH • BELIEVING • FORMED • MADE  
CREATED • BODY • SOUL • SPIRIT • RELIGION • CHRISTIANITY • FACT • TRUTH • FAITH  
BELIEVING • FORMED • MADE • CREATED • BODY • SOUL • SPIRIT • RELIGION • CHRISTIAN-  
ITY • FACT • TRUTH • FAITH • BELIEVING • FORMED • MADE • CREATED • BODY • SOUL

# THE IMPORTANCE OF WORDS IN GOD'S WORD

VICTOR PAUL WIERWILLE

*Founding President of The Way International*

The breakdown in communication between a husband and wife is a challenge families must face. The breakdown in communication between individuals in corporations is one of the great challenges with which corporations are faced. Communication is very important in every aspect of life.

What is the most basic form of communication? Words. Yet words themselves can become unclear when people use them differently. People get all types of different concepts in their minds regarding the specific meaning of a word. So the definition of a word is very, very important.

The Way Ministry believes that the Word of God means what it says and says what it means. Therefore, we are very adept at working the integrity of God's Word in light of the words that are utilized in that Word. How can two people talk about God or the things of God if there is no definition of or agreement on the usage of words or terms? There is so much confusion in communication in the religious world in which we live. This confusion is due to two problems: people do not know with any precision what the Word of God says, or they are not willing to accept what the Word says. For people not willing to accept what the Word says, it has to be axiomatically true that they do not

believe that the Word of God is the will of God, that the Word means what it says and says what it means.

## RELIGION • CHRISTIANITY

There are some basic words in life that you have to be so absolutely sure of; otherwise you're going to be in confusion all the days of your life. Two of these key words are the word "religion" and the word "Christianity." Religion is man-made. Religion is contrary to the integrity and accuracy of the written, revealed Word. Religion may not always be totally in error. In fact, many times religion may agree on certain points in the Word, but soon variations, disagreements with parts of God's Word, become apparent. Because of the variations between religion and Christianity, religion—no matter how sincere it looks, no matter how pure the world says it is—cannot be Christianity.

In Acts 17 this truth on the definition of religion is stated accurately.

*Acts 17:22:*

*Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.*

I do not know how the translators got the words "too superstitious" in the King James Version. The bare essence of the usage of the word here is "too religious."

That's the most accurate way to understand it. An expanded translation of this verse would read: "I perceive that in all things you are religiously disposed, reverencing the gods in spiritually divine things." That is totally accurate from every usage of every text. Religion is always man-made. Christianity is God-made. Christianity is what God wrought in Christ Jesus.

II Corinthians 5 helps demonstrate the difference between religion and Christianity.

*II Corinthians 5:19:*

*To wit [or, namely], that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself [unto God Himself]. . . .*

Where was God? In Christ. God was not Christ. There's no small difference between God, the Creator of the heavens and earth, who is Spirit and the man, Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son. God was *in* Christ reconciling (bringing back together that which had been separated) the world unto Himself through Jesus Christ. I want to show you how this relates to Christianity. Go to Romans 10.

*Romans 10:9 and 10:*

*That if thou [you] shalt [absolute tense] confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

*For with the heart man believeth unto [is entrusted with] righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Now if a person believes and confesses, he is saved and he is entrusted with righteousness. When you are entrusted with something, you are responsible for what you have. Now look at Colossians to see the greatness of this thing you've been entrusted with.

*Colossians 1:27:*

*. . . the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*

God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself. And when you confessed with your mouth that Jesus is lord, believing that God raised him from the dead, you were saved; from that point on, it is Christ in you. Christ where? In you; Christ in you, the hope of glory. So Christianity is God in Christ in you, the hope of glory. God was where? In Christ. And Christ is where? In you. That's Christianity. Now go back to II Corinthians 5.

*II Corinthians 5:17:*

*Therefore if any man [anyone] be in Christ, he is a new creature [creation]: old things are passed away [over with]; behold, all things are become new.*

When you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe God raised him, then you're a new creation. Something new is created within. You are a new creation: God in Christ in you.

*Verse 18:*

*And all things [that are new] are of God, who hath [past tense] reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation.*

Ladies and gentlemen, then who today has the ministry of reconciliation? The believers. You and I. Jesus Christ is seated in the heavenlies at the right hand of God. He is not physically present upon earth as he was for some thirty years. But Jesus Christ still is present here upon earth in every born-again believer. He is multi-

plied as many times as there are believers with God in Christ in them. Those people in whom he dwells have been entrusted with the ministry of reconciliation.

*Verse 19:*

*To wit [or, namely], that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses [sins] unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.*

You couldn't have the ministry of reconciliation without having the Word. So we who have God in Christ in us have the Word of reconciliation which gives us the responsibility of the ministry of reconciliation.

**THE WORD OF GOD MEANS WHAT IT SAYS AND SAYS WHAT IT MEANS. THEREFORE, WE MUST BE VERY ADEPT AT WORKING THE INTEGRITY OF GOD'S WORD IN LIGHT OF THE WORDS THAT ARE UTILIZED IN THE WORD.**

Can you see how Christianity is God-made? Christianity is what God wrought in Christ—not what man wrought. Today many religious people call themselves Christians, but the term is meaningless for the most part because so many of these people are ignorant of God's Word. Christianity is what a Father wrought with His Child—God and His Son Jesus Christ. It's a Father and His family. Religion is what man thinks up.

When you look at God's Word as to what Christianity is, you finally end up with the great truth that you as a born-again believer are responsible to God for taking the place of His Son Jesus Christ here upon earth. Now God has limited Himself to this truth just as He limited Himself to having one only begotten Son. He said He would have only one begotten Son, and He said He would only have the believers with Christ in them, the hope of glory, to be entrusted with the Word and the ministry of reconciliation. That's the Word of God, and the Word of God is the will of God.

You as a believer have to take the place of Jesus Christ here upon earth. Who would ever dare to think that if God hadn't said so? In light of this truth, I want to read a scripture from John 14. Jesus Christ himself, God's only begotten Son who always did the will of the Father, who always spoke truth, is speaking here.

*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.*

Are we living below Jesus Christ's expectations? When you understand the ministry of reconciliation and the Word of reconciliation and that it's Christ in you, the hope of glory, why not do the works of Jesus Christ and the "greater works"?! The greater works that we can do today is leading people into the new birth, something Jesus Christ could not do because the new birth was not available then. He came to make it available, but it was not possible to be born again until Pentecost, ten days after Jesus Christ ascended to sit at God's right hand.

**FACT • TRUTH**

Two more words that need to be clarified are the word “fact” and the word “truth.” For most people these two words are interchangeable. However, they are not identical. The word “fact” is fact; the word “truth” is truth. The word “fact” is derived from the Latin word *factum*, which means “that which man does” or “that which man makes.” A fact is man-made. A fact is something that man does. Facts will vary; facts may change. Truth is that which is eternally the same yesterday, today, and forever. That’s the difference between “fact” and “truth.” Truth is unchangeable; facts are changeable.

Now there are certain truths in all of God’s creation. For instance, H<sub>2</sub>O is a truth in God’s creation. If any individual—whether he’s a Christian or the rankst unbeliever, the prayingest Christian or the cursingest unbeliever—chemically puts together two parts of hydrogen and one part of oxygen, he is going to get water. Is he going to get it on Sunday after he prays? Is he going to get it on Monday when he doesn’t pray? Yes—water every time.

**TODAY MANY RELIGIOUS PEOPLE CALL THEMSELVES CHRISTIANS, BUT THE TERM IS MEANINGLESS FOR THE MOST PART BECAUSE SO MANY OF THESE PEOPLE ARE IGNORANT OF GOD’S WORD.**

Let’s look at a fact or, rather, somebody who had facts in his mind. In John 18 a man was confronted with God’s only begotten Son. Jesus Christ’s presence stirred him up, just like the presence of Christ within shocks people when they find out what they have as believers. In John 18:37 it is recorded that Pilate asked Jesus that great question, “Are you the king?” And Jesus answered, “Everyone that is of the truth hears my voice.” Then Pilate said unto him, “Who are you kidding? What is truth?” Pilate was a sense-knowledge man who was endeavoring to deal with Jesus Christ on a sense-knowledge, factual basis. Pilate, on an intellectual search, asked the big question: “What is truth?” Basically, truth is not a “what”; it’s a “who.” When you get your “who” correct, the “whats” clarify themselves.

Now in Deuteronomy 32 we find the first usage in God’s Word of “truth.”

*Deuteronomy 32:4:*

He is the Rock, his work [God’s work] is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

So who is truth? God is Truth. He is without iniquity, He is just, and He is right. God is the Rock. God is perfect. His ways in judgment are perfect. That’s quite a declaration. When Pilate asked, “What is truth?” Jesus Christ could have responded by saying, “God is Truth.” In John 14:6, Jesus said to Thomas, “I am the way, the truth. . . .” God is the Truth and His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, is also that truth. Now Jesus said in John 17:17, “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” First of all, God is Truth.

Secondly, His Son Jesus Christ is truth. And thirdly, His Word is truth.

Any person who does not have an accurate knowledge of God’s Word or does not rightly divide it does not have truth. He may believe in one God and one Son, Jesus Christ, but if he misunderstands the Word in another instance he has broken truth, because truth is eternal—the same yesterday, today, and forever. The Word is truth; Jesus Christ is truth; God is Truth. That’s the difference between those two words—“fact” and “truth.”

**FAITH • BELIEVING**

Now let’s go to two more English words that have to be properly understood in the light of the accuracy of God’s Word. In the Greek text there’s only one word that is used for both of them, and that is the word *pistis*. *Pistis* can be translated into English as “faith” or as “believing.” From seeing the word *pistis* you wouldn’t know whether it should be translated “faith” or whether it should be translated “believing”; but the Word of God can tell you. The Word is truth, remember? So you go to the Word and let the Word tell you how words are to be understood and utilized. You can always know from the context how a word is to be used.

*Romans 4:3:*

For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

The word “believed” is *pistis*. Abraham did what? He believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. God is in the accounting field. It’s like going into the bank and making a deposit to your account—that’s its meaning here. Abraham believed God and God set it to his account. All of the Old Testament accounts were redeemable in Christ Jesus. Today we’re depositing in our accounts, waiting to collect at the return of Christ and throughout all eternity.

Now look at chapter 9 of Romans. There are many scriptures with the word *pistis*. I have selected just a few to let you see the accuracy with which God uses *pistis*.

*Romans 9:30:*

What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith [*pistis*].

“Faith” is the Greek word *pistis*. Gentiles have attained to this righteousness, even the righteousness which is of *pistis*. Now how can you tell whether *pistis* should be translated “faith” or “believing”? Galatians gives you the unequivocal answer.

*Galatians 3:22:*

But the scripture hath concluded all [Judean and Gentile] under sin, that the promise by faith [*pistis*] of Jesus Christ might be given to them that [who do one thing] believe [*pistis*].

In this one verse the translators translated *pistis* as both “faith” and “believe.”

*Verse 23:*

But before faith [*pistis*] came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

This verse refers to the time before *pistis* came. Then there must have been a time when there was no faith. There has never been a time when there was no believ-

ing. I'll show you why. When a person is physically born, he has a body and a soul. The mind is a part of a physical being. So if a person were told, "Go wash the dishes," he could believe to carry it out. Therefore believing has always been here since the days of Adam and Eve. Do you remember when Eve believed the adversary? She had the Word of God, so she could have believed God; but she chose to believe the adversary. Believing was there in the Garden of Eden. One thing was not there—faith. There was no faith until this period of time which Paul was writing about in Galatians 3: "unto the faith which should afterwards [after the law] be revealed."

Verse 24:

*Wherefore [therefore, because of this] the law was our schoolmaster to bring us [delete "to bring us"] unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.*

The law was our schoolmaster until Christ. The text reads "until," not "unto." The law didn't bring us unto or to Christ. It simply brought people along until Christ came.

Verse 25:

*But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.*

There it is. God defines "faith" so simply and so beautifully. With the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and his accomplishments, he made it possible for us to be justified by faith. Then let me ask you, could Jesus Christ have had faith? No. Was Jesus Christ born again? No. He came to make the new birth available, but it was not available until it was fully, completely fulfilled. That didn't occur while he was here upon earth. It was only fully complete on the day of Pentecost when God "shed forth this, which ye now see and hear" (Acts 2:33)—the gift of holy spirit. Faith was not available until the day of Pentecost, for faith is a spiritual quality. God in Christ in you, the hope of glory, means that you have the faith of Jesus Christ in you.

**THE WORD IS TRUTH. SO YOU GO TO THE WORD AND LET THE WORD TELL YOU HOW WORDS ARE TO BE UNDERSTOOD AND UTILIZED.**

It's quite a shocking revelation when you learn that Jesus Christ did not have faith. Quite a shocking revelation when you learn he wasn't born again. But, you see, the laws of truth are involved. If any one person could have been born again before it was available, then everyone could have been born again before it was available. Then Jesus Christ would have lived, died, arisen, and ascended in vain. Nothing's available until it's available; and faith became available when all the necessary requirements were fulfilled in Christ Jesus.

Faith came with Jesus Christ and it was not available until the day of Pentecost. So before the day of Pentecost, if somebody had *pistis*, it was "believing." Jesus Christ could have used the word "faith" when instructing his followers about something that would come

in the future, but individuals could not have *had* faith because it was not yet available.

Now since the day of Pentecost, people who are born again have the faith of Jesus Christ; but they also have believing. So whenever you read the word *pistis* in God's Word and it is referring to the time after the day of Pentecost, you have to watch the context carefully. Is it talking about that which was available before or after the day of Pentecost? If it's before, it should always be the word "believing." If it's after the day of Pentecost, the context will tell you whether it's "believing" or whether it's "faith." That's the accuracy with which the words "believing" and "faith" are used in God's Word.

### FORMED • MADE • CREATED • BODY • SOUL • SPIRIT

I want to cover one more subject in our study of communication. There are three more words which have caused no end of confusion. I want you to understand "formed," "made," and "created."

First of all, go to the Book of Isaiah.

Isaiah 43:7:

*Even every one that is called by my [God's] name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.*

All three words are used in this verse: "created," "formed," and "made." They cannot be identical or it would say, "created," "created," "created" or "formed," "formed," "formed" or "made," "made," "made." There is a difference. The words cannot be identical.

Now look at I Thessalonians 5.

I Thessalonians 5:23:

*And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Spirit and soul and body—three different things. So we really have to deal with six words: "formed," "made," "created"; "body," "soul," "spirit."

To do this we start in Genesis 2. This first scripture goes with the words "formed" and "body."

Genesis 2:7:

*And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground. . . .*

So whatever is "the dust of the ground" is what God formed, or shaped, man out of. What part of you has a form? The body. Your body was formed.

Now look at Genesis 3:19, which also pertains to the word "formed":

*In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.*

What happens to the human body after it dies? It goes back to the elements. So the body of man was formed. The Hebrew word for "formed" is *yatsar*.

If you're going to form something, you have to have something to start out with. If you are going to make a clay pigeon, you've got to have clay. The Lord God formed the body out of something He already had, "the dust of the ground."

The word "soul" is also found in Genesis 2:7:

*And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*

“Breathed into his nostrils” is a figure of speech called *anthropopatheia* in Greek and *condescensio* in Latin. This figure gives God human characteristics and marks that which God wants to call your attention to. It was the Lord God who breathed into Adam’s nostrils the breath of life. At that moment when the body which had been formed was given the breath of life, the man became, or was made, a living soul. Is this what it says? This is what it means! Do you know what the breath of life is? It’s breathing.

The next scripture we’ll look at associated with “soul” is in I Peter.

*I Peter 3:20:*

*Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.*

Eight souls had breath life. What happened to the other people? They drowned, they quit breathing, they died. Eight souls were alive after the flood. A soul is what gives a person life; it’s your breath life. As long as you have a soul, you’re alive.

Acts 2:41 says that there “were added . . . about three thousand souls” to the new Church. “Three thousand souls” means three thousand alive people. Your soul is your breath life.

**IT’S QUITE A SHOCKING REVELATION  
WHEN YOU LEARN THAT JESUS CHRIST  
DID NOT HAVE FAITH.**

Let us look a little further at soul, breath life.

Genesis 1:21 says, “And God created great whales . . .” Here’s the word “created.” What did God create for the whales? He created soul life because no soul life was available until that time. Genesis 1:1 tells us that “in the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” He created everything at that time with the exception of soul life and spirit life. That’s why when God started to make the earth inhabitable for man, beginning with Genesis 1:2, He didn’t have to create anything; He simply spoke it into being: “Let there be light: and there was light.” He didn’t have to create anything because whatever it took to have light had already been created. But God had not created soul life until He got to animals. That’s why the word “created” is in verse 21 of Genesis 1. Now, once God created soul life, He never had to create it again.

In verse 24 God said, “Let the earth bring forth the living creature . . .” The word “creature” is the Hebrew word *nephesh* meaning “soul,” living soul, because it has breath life. Every place in the Bible when the breath is gone, the individual or the creature is referred to as a dead soul. In order to make something, you have to have something to make it out of. So when God got to man, since He already had created soul at the time He made it for animals, all He had to do was make soul within man. The way God did this was with breath life. How simple.

Now let’s look at the word “create” and start at Genesis 1:1: “In the beginning God created . . .” There’s our word “created.” In Hebrew it’s the word

*bara* which means “to bring into existence that which has never been before.” Only the true God can create. In the beginning God created, brought into existence that which had never been before. That’s the meaning of the word “create” throughout the entire Word.

We know that in Genesis 1:21 God created soul life with the great whales. Now look at Genesis 1:27. Here God is in the process of putting man together.

*Genesis 1:27:*

*So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

Now what did God create? He created man—male and female—in His image. What is God? John 4:24 says, “God is a Spirit . . .” So the image of God is Spirit. So what did He create within the male and female, Adam and Eve? Spirit. Why did He not have to create soul? Because it had already been created previously for animals.

We have seen how God, in the beginning, formed the body of man from the dust of the ground; He made the soul within man, breath life which had previously been created for animals. Since soul had already been created, God could make this soul within man. But then God had to create something in man which put man into God’s category. He created man in His own image, which is Spirit.

There you are. The scripture from I Thessalonians 5:23 and the scripture from Isaiah 43:7 fit perfectly.

God formed the body, He made the soul, and He created spirit for Adam and Eve.

But now when you are physically born, you have no spirit. Since the fall of Adam and Eve, man has been born a two-part being: body and soul. That’s why as believers we have two births: the first birth is physical and the second is spiritual.

There’s one more thing I want you to be knowledgeable of: All life is spirit; but not all life is eternal-life spirit. Soul life is spirit life, but it’s the spirit-of-man life, breath life. That’s why the man of body and soul is called a “natural man” until he is born again. When he is born again, then he’s a man of body, soul, and spirit. And with Christ in you, the hope of glory, you’re back to the first Adam, the first Eve. They had body, soul, and spirit; they had dominion over all of God’s creation. So now you can be more than a conqueror. With Christ in you, the hope of glory, you have dominion.

If you’ll watch the usage of these words we’ve just studied and really drill your mind to get the understanding of them, you will avoid many pitfalls through the years. You must be alert to recognize how accurately God uses specific words, and you must separate out truth from error with a very great quickness of mind and sharpness of your knowledge of the Word. Then you can use God’s Word that is sharper than any two-edged sword to cut out the devil from your life and the lives of others around you by doing the works that Jesus Christ did. God intends for you to live in dominion with body, soul, and spirit—all quickened by the God in Christ in you. Let us bring our thoughts captive to God’s will and aim at living life with the power and in the manner which He has so lovingly provided for us. **E**