

# We Won't Lose Our Identity

**By Bishop Louis McDowell, D.D.**

Pastor & Founder of: Christ Temple Apostolic Family Worship Center  
Shelby, North Carolina

## **Introduction**

It is nothing unusual for the apostolic church to be under attack. This attack began at the birth of the church (A.D. 33) with the out-pouring of the Holy Ghost. Immediately Satan started his persecution of the Jesus name oneness, apostolic saints. This same attack continues until this day. However, Jesus said, *“Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”*  
*Matthew 16:18*

We must not waiver or compromise the truth. God will build His church. Let us Praise God!

## **The Defense of the Gospel**

*“...I am set for the defense of the gospel.”* *Philippians 1:17b*

Every apostolic minister must be willing to stand regardless of the consequences, for the defense of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Every believer must be prepared and willing to defend the gospel and to resist those who attempt to distort it.

## **Contending for the Faith**

*In Jude 1:3-9, we read “Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.”*

## **(Spirit-Filled Living Bible Translation)**

For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

The word contend: (Gk: epagonizomai) describes the battle that the faithful believer must fight in the defense of the faith. It literally means to struggle, to suffer, to be under stress, or to fight a fight. We must exert ourselves to the utmost in the defense of Gods' word and the New Testament Faith; even though it may be costly and painful. **TAKE A STAND!**

## **The Apostles Doctrine**

*“And they continued steadfastly in the Apostles Doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.” Acts 2:42*

*“And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.” Acts 2:43*

### **We Must Hold Fast To and Declare These Truths**

⇒**The Name of Jesus!**

⇒**Water Baptism!**

⇒**The Holy Ghost!**

#### **I. The Name of Jesus**

Read *Luke 24:46-49*, “*And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*” vs. 47

*“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” Acts 4:12*

#### **II. Water Baptism**

Then, Peter said unto them, “*Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*” *Acts 2:38*

### **Scripture References**

Acts 8:12-16 (Samaritans), Acts 8:38 (Eunuch), Acts 9:18 & 22:16 (Saul), Acts 10:44-48 (Cornelius), Acts 16:15 (Lydia), Acts 16:33 (Philippians jailer), Acts 18:8 (Corinthians), Acts 19:5 (see), Romans 6:4 (see), Colossians 2:12 (see), I Peter 3:21 (see).

### **III. The Holy Ghost**

*“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2:4*

#### **Scripture References**

Acts 8:14-20; 10:44-48; 19:1-6; Joel 2:28; and Isaiah 28:11-12.

#### **Oneness Doctrine The Godhead**

We fully believe in the mystery of the Godhead. We believe that God has been pleased to manifest Himself as the Father, the Source of all life (I Corinthians 8:6), as Son, the Channel and Redeemer of all life (Matthew 1:21-23), and as the Holy Ghost, the Revealer and energizer of all life (John 14:26; Acts 5:1-4). The Holy Ghost is the invisible God as Revealer, Sanctifier, and applying salvation to the heart of the believer. The Father is the God in creation, the Son is God in redemption, and the Holy Ghost is God in inspiration. When one manifestation of the Godhead is patent, (can be seen), the other two are latent, that is, they can only be seen through the one that is patent (John 14:6-12). Jesus was both human and divine; Mary's son and Mary's God; Creator and Creature (Colossians 1:15-19); God manifest in the flesh and Eternal Father made visible apart from whom there is no God. (I Timothy 3:16; Isaiah 9:6). We believe that at the final consummation of all things, the one visible God will be our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **God's Standard of Holiness**

Holiness is the standard of God's salvation. As God has said, *“Be ye Holy, for I am Holy.” Leviticus 20:7*

As God has chosen us that we should be Holy and without blame before Him in Love, thus admonished by the apostles that we should be perfect even as our Heavenly Father is perfect.

#### **Scripture References**

Ephesians 1:4; Colossians 1:22; I Peter 1:15-16; Hebrews 12:14.