

# MARK JENKINS MINISTRIES

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Flat Earth Mentality

Dear Friend,

Our beliefs are at the core of who we are and they define us. Beliefs aren't to be trifled with or taken lightly. A person's beliefs will mean the difference between enjoying eternity with Jesus or in torment in the lake of fire. For this reason we should aim to believe truth and only truth, settling for nothing less.

The tendency of people is to form their beliefs around what they can see in this natural world. In that case, a person's beliefs are based on the natural evidence presented to their mind and intellect. They intellectually weigh the evidence and make their decision based on the preponderance of that evidence. For example, if a person drops a rock about a thousand times eventually even the most cynical mind will be convinced that all things being equal, the rock will always fall to the ground. How about when what we believe is proven to be quite the opposite? How do people generally respond? Are they friendly and kind and ready to change their long held beliefs at the drop of a hat? (grin) Don't kid yourself. People have died for presenting opposing ideas, regardless of the fact that they had physical evidence supporting their claims. Why? The soul of man, particularly the mind, desperately hates not being right to the point that it would do anything, even die, rather than admit it's wrong. Consequently, once it believes something, changing that belief requires presenting it with a mountain of evidence to the contrary. Since the fall of man, the governing part of a man has become his soul (mind, will, emotions and intellect). God never intended for man to be dominated by their soul, but rather the spirit. Following man's fall came the shift of man's soul to the place of dominance over his spirit, positioning man's mind at the forefront as the gatekeeper. This change altered the way man's beliefs would be determined. Here is an example to better understand the power of our mind.

Imagine when mankind finally discovered they lived on a spherical planet that rotated around the sun. There is some controversy today as to who believed what and when, regarding the earth being flat verses being a sphere. We can

conclude that there was apparently some uncertainty about the actual shape of the earth. Then, the idea of the earth being a sphere rotating around the sun began to spread. Thank God for the people who were willing to press on, regardless of the opposition, and stand believing that the earth was indeed spherical. Finally, astronauts orbiting the earth took photos of a spherical planet providing us with evidence beyond a shadow of a doubt that the earth's shape is spherical. But, as crazy as this may sound, there are still those who believe the earth is flat; "flat earthers". Somehow these people, albeit few in number, reject all natural evidence presented to them proving the earth is a sphere, choosing instead to believe in something that is absolutely not true; that the earth is flat. Imagine living a lifetime in such deception.

The same can be said of spiritual matters. Our belief about the spiritual world, of which we are very much a part, are just as much a choice for us as is what we believe about the natural world. The difference between the spiritual and the natural is the source by which we obtain our evidence. Instead of gathering our evidence from the natural world around us, utilizing only mental intellect, we must go to the one and only source of spiritual evidence, God's Word. All too often, people try to define and understand the spiritual by applying evidence taken from the natural still relying on mental intellect as the guide. In other words, they are attempting to understand the "physics" of an unseen world by relying on the "physics" of a totally different natural world. This natural world is an ever changing world whereas God's Word never changes. Once God says something, it is that way forever. Consequently, we cannot look to this ever-changing natural world using only our mind to comprehend the things of the spirit. We must go to God and His Word alone and utilize the tools He has provided us to understand truth.

It's very easy for people to claim God's Word was the source they used to form the foundation of their beliefs and yet a simple look at the "church section" of any phone book, paying close attention to all the obvious differences, might leave some believing otherwise. Haven't we all heard the same indictment? "How can all these denominations be correct?" The truth is, any of them who don't present Jesus Christ as the Son of God who was crucified in our place and raised from the dead, have removed the "Cornerstone" from the foundation and aren't Christians at all. For the rest who have managed to keep the "Cornerstone" in place, the reason they're one of a seemingly endless list of denominations is that over the years groups claiming to have the only true interpretation of the scriptures began forming around what they could collectively agree upon. Imagine how that must have sounded. "Salvation by the blood of Jesus. All in favor say 'Aye'. The 'Aye's have it. How about baptism in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues? All in favor say 'Aye' and all opposed say

'Nay'. The 'Nays' have it so no speaking in tongues". When did God say we had a vote on anything? Never! The Kingdom of God is not a democracy it is a Theocracy and Jesus is the King. Oh, the audacity of man, to believe that he is the one who establishes truth. Truth stands alone without any need for mankind's stamp of approval. God never intended truth to be voted on, but rather accepted and believed and acted upon. So, if two people have two completely different understandings of a scripture one or possibly both may not yet have received the true revelation since truth isn't interpreted multiple ways. Although, truth has fathomless depths to be explored and because everyone's understanding is at different levels what might be clear to one won't always be clear to the other. But, the essence of the revelation won't change from one level of understanding to the next. In other words, if the essence of a particular passage is revealing the image of our sonship, as the depth of understanding increases within us we won't come to a point where the revelation changes to something completely different. The more our understanding develops regarding a particular revelation the clearer we become regarding what is being revealed. Consequently, our discovery of truth revealed in a particular passage won't suddenly change to something else as the revelation clarifies in our spirit. Quite the contrary, the more we meditate the more the details of the image will emerge enhancing our understanding to the point that we will begin seeing how this revelation fits together within the overall picture being presented in the entire chapter, as well as the entire book. This is the correct process for receiving true revelation and voting has no part in this process.

Without exception, no matter which sign hangs in front of a church building, the starting point must always be the acceptance of the Lordship of Jesus Christ and believing that He was raised from the dead by His Father, God. No other starting point is acceptable. As long as a person will confess with their mouth the Lordship of Jesus Christ and believe that God, His Father, raised him from the dead, they are saved. (Romans 10:9-10)

***(9) "That if thou shalt 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. (10) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."***

A person can live their entire life never knowing any more of the scriptures than this and it will be enough for them to spend eternity with Jesus. For someone such as this, the assurance of knowing that they are born again is enough. Their decision to walk in the light of that revelation without progressing any further into the things God has made available to them has no bearing on the love the Father has for them. In other words, **a person is free to stop at whatever level they wish in their spiritual development, so long as they have made Jesus the**

## **Lord of their life and so long as they don't disqualify themselves by straying too far back into sin.**

Unfortunately, too many believers simply stop and hang a banner out front proclaiming, "This is all there is! No need going any further." Anyone doubting this has only to look again at the pages of churches in the phone book. They may preach a wonderful message about making Jesus Lord of their life, managing to lead millions to the saving knowledge of Jesus. Sadly, their refusal to advance beyond the message of salvation, often discouraging others from further pursuit, keeps them and anyone listening to them frozen at that particular level and unable to benefit from all the Father has provided. As wonderful as it is that the message of salvation is being preached it's equally as disappointing that the revelation of the mystery of all the benefits provided by way of salvation are being so totally ignored.

Anyone who has stopped at the message of salvation, refusing to progress any further into the depths of the understanding of the new birth, even going so far as to proclaim there is nothing more, isn't any different than those today who identify themselves as "flat earthers". Imagine, having the ability to see a satellite image of the earth and choosing to believe instead that the earth is flat. How different is that in comparison to a person reading Acts 2 and saying the baptism in the Holy Ghost isn't for today? We must refuse to become like the "flat earthers", meaning we must never allow ourselves to think that our current level of understanding is all that there is, or that every thing we currently believe is 100% correct. When we mistakenly believe our doctrine is totally correct, we imprison ourselves to whatever wrong belief we have and it becomes very difficult to root it out. We must remain teachable and realize however much understanding we currently walk in, it is only a portion of everything that's available. With more revealed to our understanding of who we have become should also come more of His abiding presence in us, upon us and around us. Always remember; we will never get to the end of the revelation in God's Word since then we would be at the end of God, who has no end.

Here's an analogy to help us better understand how **not** to become a "flat earther" in our believing. In this analogy we will consider what a person, such as a diver, might experience looking down into a body of water like the ocean. When looking into water with a depth of 1000 feet, initially we might only be able to see clearly to a depth of 100 feet where we observe fish swimming. It would be silly to think that there was nothing else between the fish and the 900 foot bottom simply because we couldn't discern beyond the 100 foot depth. Once the water clears down to the 200 foot depth we discover a whale heading towards the little school of fish with a hungry look in his eye. Even though we couldn't see clearly to that depth the first time doesn't mean the whale wasn't always there, we just

couldn't detect him due to the murky water. Once that water cleared so too improved our view to a greater depth.

That is the way it is with the Word of God. We begin at the starting point of Jesus Christ and Him crucified where we discover that Jesus died for us, and was raised from the dead. That's about all we know and yet that's enough for a person to be saved. From here, we are able to go as far into the understanding of all that Jesus has done for us as we choose. Some are content to splash around on top while others dive down as far as possible into truth. But, keep in mind, we are free to stop at any level and go no further. Jesus will not be mad at us for stopping. He loves us beyond words. But, this will limit how much of the victory He bought and paid for that we will be able to enjoy. It's right here where God gets blamed for a lot of things for which He is not responsible. God gets blamed for not responding to people's prayers in distress, when in fact the real problem is that they haven't given Him anything with which to work. They have not utilized the tools provided to them for progressing on to greater depths of revelation and understanding of what He has made available to them, either by outright rejection or deception. In desperation they beg God for things that He has already provided them but to which they are simply oblivious. God will use every means possible to help His children, going as far as He can legally go without violating His own Word, to help them out of their circumstances. What He would much rather see is His children taking full advantage of everything He has already made available to them and walking themselves out of the mess. **This requires us doing our part to utilize all the tools He has made available in order to produce the change necessary to give Him, the Holy Ghost, legal means to deliver us.** Hopefully, we all know by now that the Holy Ghost isn't able to do very much with begging or wishing or thinking or hoping. The only thing the Holy Ghost can work with is faith; faith that has been produced by the Word of God being planted inside until the seed produces an image, which can also be described as the revelation of the mystery within that Word. Once that image is resident within us, faith is present enabling the Holy Ghost to "anoint" that image with Himself resulting in the manifestation of that Word in our lives. This is the process and it will not change. This is what Jesus taught, (Mark 4:28)

***"For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear."***

As a teacher, my desire is to teach others to do the same thing I do, which is to present myself to the Holy Ghost by praying in tongues and meditating the Word of God. In so doing, I am empowering the Holy Ghost to reveal to me the hidden mysteries in the Word. Once that revelation is revealed to my understanding, I then share that with others. Please pay very close attention to my next

comments so that you don't miss this point. When anyone shares a true revelation from the Word of God, the Holy Ghost is the one who anoints the image inside the speaker and ministers the understanding of that mystery to those who are listening. Even though they are hearing revelation knowledge it does not become revelation to them until they go through the process necessary for that revelation to be birthed in them. Their mind may think they have it, but it is only mental assent or mentally understood and not revelation birthed in their spirit. You may have heard it said, "It is impossible to walk in another man's revelation", which is so true since the faith produced by that revelation is not alive in them, having only just heard it. What should happen is that the listener should take the things they have heard and apply the principles for receiving revelation until eventually the revelation they heard has become a living revelation in them.

That's why we listen to ministers like Pastor Dave Roberson repeatedly going over the same verses due to the fact that hearing it once is simply not enough. Besides that, very often the unrenewed part of our mind, the gatekeeper, rejects any revelation that is contrary to its currently held beliefs. This is where things can become a little difficult, in other words, what do we do when a long-term belief comes face to face with truth, and they don't match? **Let's say the understanding the listener has of that particular scripture is contrary to the true image contained within that Word. Their minds will try to fight that revelation and may reject it even before the Word has an opportunity to produce the true image inside them.** In that case, the listener could very easily become like a "flat earther" (*as referred to earlier*) rejecting the true revelation and holding onto the false. This is where the unjust judge of Luke 18, which is the soul, specifically the mind, must be presented enough evidence to make the decision to side with the image the Holy Ghost is trying to reveal to them. The mind is an unjust judge and simply rules on the preponderance of the evidence which it is given. In other words, if we present our soul with mountains of facts that state that the physical attack that has come against our body always results in death, then the unjust judge will rule in favor of that evidence, even though the truth is that we were healed when Jesus took those stripes in our place on His back. What has to happen is that instead of presenting to our soul all that evidence claiming we are going to die we need to present the truth of the Word of God non-stop until our unjust judge says, "Enough already! I judge in favor of the Word of God. You are healed." Paul identifies the believing of something that is false as "filthiness of flesh and spirit". (II Corinthians 7:1)

***"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all the filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."***

“Filthiness of spirit” cannot produce results since it is void of the true image necessary for the Holy Ghost to anoint. Remember, no one has the full revelation and to some degree we are all walking in some level of wrong believing. As Paul said, we are all looking through a glass darkly. (I Corinthians 13:12)

***“For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: Now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.”***

Everything must pass through the filter of our minds first, where it is subjected to our current level of understanding. We need to be on guard when our unjust judge hears something taught that’s contrary to a current belief that we have accepted as truth. Our first inclination might be to reject it based on the fact that it is different. In a split second, like the hard drive of a computer, the unjust judge scans all it believes looking for how the things it has just heard compares. When truth that is contrary to a belief we hold dear is delivered the question becomes whether or not we will be willing to take that Word and apply the principles until the revelation manifests. If all else fails but we refuse to stop praying in other tongues the Holy Ghost will still be able to bring that revelation back around to us again. Out of the blue we might find ourselves looking at those same scriptures that we heard preached, even though we had forgotten where they were located. The Holy Ghost didn’t forget and He isn’t going to let you forget. You may find yourself lying awake at night doing your best to get those scriptures off your mind. You wake up in the morning and there they are again. So, you look at them and pray in tongues and look at them some more. Finally while you are going about your business one day and praying in tongues, the understanding of those scriptures rises up inside of you like a big flashing neon sign and the understanding of the true image of the Word has been revealed to your heart. The revelation that was in that preacher is now a living revelation in you. Your unjust judge will then say, “Okay, we accept this as truth!” and what you accept as truth is the Word of God that has been revealed inside of you. The image that was in the Word of God has been revealed to your spirit and the Holy Ghost can now anoint that image with Himself, which is the power of God. We speak in line with that image, releasing faith that empowers the Holy Ghost to bring to pass what we are believing.

To illustrate another example showing the power of the mind and its impact on us, particularly when the things we believe are not correct, let’s return to the diving analogy. Consider a diver who, while at a depth of 100 feet, gets a quick glimpse of something swirling around in murky water at 200 feet. All he can make out is a large grey body with a dorsal fin. His mind immediately concludes, SHARK!! His heart begins to race uncontrollably as he gasps for oxygen. Fear begins to take hold of him and he reaches for his spear gun and takes aim on the

approaching grey object. With his finger on the trigger he counts down; 3, 2, 1... and at the last possible second out of the swirling depths emerges a playful dolphin who has been stirring up the water with all its frolicking. How convincing is our mind? Oh it can be very convincing, especially when it thinks it is right. So, how much of the things we are holding on to, believing them to be truth, are nothing more than traditions of men? A great indicator is to watch how our soul responds when someone presents the true revelation of a scripture, which we have believed to be quite different. What happens in our soul? Possibly a little **anger** begins to rise up even at times getting to the point of wanting to fight someone for challenging a widely accepted, long time belief. Haven't you ever heard of pastors getting into fistfights with board members over doctrine? Keep in mind that anger is an emotion which belongs to the soul which, by the way, was not born again. The soul, particularly the mind, will fight to the death to be right and is more than willing to sacrifice any relationship in the process. It should be easy to see that the anger has nothing to do with God. God never expects us to fight over His Word. That's how we ended up with the long list of denominations in the phone book and church splits that have permanently divided families. The Word of God doesn't need anyone fighting over it. It stands alone as truth. The real issue isn't to try and mentally figure it out, but rather to cultivate the unveiling of truth first as a revelation in our spirit, which in turn reveals the understanding to our mind. We must teach others how to cultivate the unveiling of truth on an individual level, courtesy of the Holy Ghost, so that no one has to solely depend on anyone else as their source for truth.

Here's a case in point to help us better understand the process. A person, often a preacher not baptized in the Holy Ghost or maybe he is but never prays in tongues, spouts great theological exhortations about how the Holy Ghost is their teacher. Their mental understanding of what they think they see in the scriptures, regarding the Holy Ghost being their Teacher, and the reality of how to truly empower Him to be their Teacher, are two very different things. Much like our diver thinking and believing he saw a shark when all the time it wasn't a shark at all. People who see the scriptures describing the Holy Ghost being sent to teach us and assume He is automatically teaching them have a misconception of the real meaning of these scriptures and have based their understanding of the scriptures on mental intellect instead of true spirit born revelation.

Here's what happened, they mentally determined when it said the Holy Ghost would be our Teacher that this was to be automatic instead of needing to first be baptized in the Holy Ghost followed by establishing a life-style of praying in tongues. It is the difference between true revelation verses mental understanding. The danger is that their mental understanding becomes their "**form of truth**" and they refuse to turn loose of it when the real truth is



presented to them. Anyone who holds onto their “**form of truth**” when the Holy Ghost is trying to deliver the real truth becomes like a “flat earther”. The reason this happens is somewhere along the way people accept an intellectualized interpretation of the Word of God instead of patiently praying in tongues and reading and meditating the Word until the Holy Ghost is able to deliver the true image to them. We **all** must be careful not to fall into this trap because when a person is in it, it becomes very difficult for the real truth to be delivered to them.

Referring once again to our diving analogy, think about when something is taught that runs contrary to a long held belief? Imagine a person believing the water has cleared at a particular depth and that they are seeing correctly, when in fact their vision is actually distorted. When what a person believes to be truth is really not truth at all they can easily become like the “flat earthers”. The only way to combat this is to continue praying in tongues until the Holy Ghost is able to deliver the truth of the Word over to us. Always remember that no matter the depth of our understanding, to a degree there is still some distortion because again, none of us has the full revelation yet. With that in mind, stay teachable, no matter who you are or no matter how deep your understanding. I like how Pastor Dave Roberson always said it, “I don’t care if it is a 5 year old on a tricycle prophesying, as long as it is God I’m going to listen.”

Also, we must be on guard for those sudden spikes of anger in our emotions when we hear something that is contrary to what we currently believe to be truth. That anger is not coming out of our spirit. That anger is an emotion and it’s our soul that is ready to fight and prove it is right. Is it right or has it just come face to face with real truth? When that happens, pride can rear its ugly head and the hunt is on for any possible scripture to disprove what has been taught. Our soul is so clever that it will even begin to evaluate the person delivering the revelation in an effort to discredit them and devalue the revelation. “Just look at that so-and-so, they have only been doing this such and such a time. They don’t have the slightest idea what they are saying so consequently there’s no need listening to them.” That is all “soul” talking. Although, we do have a choice; are we going to let our soul talk us out of receiving or are we going to tell our soul to shut up and take a seat. It’s our choice. Let’s refuse to become like the “flat earthers” in our thinking.

Let’s pray right now, me included, that if there is anything that we believe that is not truth it will be exposed to us by the Holy Ghost so that He can reveal truth to us. Let’s pray that we will always remain teachable and never become like the “flat earthers”. The earth isn’t flat and never was. Anyone who ever spent even a single minute believing the earth was flat spent that much of their life believing a lie. Let’s purpose in our hearts to believe truth and only truth.

Please pray this with me and lend the Holy Spirit your authority to bring this to pass in your life.

“Heavenly Father, I ask for your grace to help me and every person reading this to be willing to turn loose of everything inside of us that is not truth and be open to receive the true revelation from your Word. Holy Ghost, please help us to be conscience of anything in our soul that might block us and keep us from walking in the fullness of everything that has been provided for us. Please forgive me for times that I have allowed my soul to convince me to not be receptive to anyone speaking truth. In Jesus Name. Amen.”

Grace be with you,

*Mark Jenkins*