

May 2026

Dear Brethren:

Pentecost pictures God's special work with a group of *early initiates*. The majority of human beings will not be offered a chance to qualify for eternal salvation until after Jesus Christ returns and becomes King over this earth. Those pictured by Pentecost are compared to that smaller, spring grain harvest, in contrast with a larger, fall harvest to follow later. The physical commands (as in Leviticus 23) concerning firstfruits relate directly to God's work today with those called into His true Church:

Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be *a kind of firstfruits of his creatures* (James 1:18) [emphasis mine throughout].

But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; *afterward they that are Christ's at his coming* (1 Corinthians 15:23).

... These were redeemed from among men, being *the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb* (Revelation 14:4).

Scope of God's Work With Man

How large is the *total potential harvest* that God has planned for the human family? Secondly, how small is that specific group—called the firstfruits—as a percentage of the whole?

Another way to phrase this initial question is: what is the sum total of all human beings who ever will be offered a place in God's Eternal Family? There is no way at all to know this for certain, but we can make some speculative assumptions that might prompt a thought-provoking understanding.

Including all peoples who have ever lived during the past (nearly) six thousand years, there have been probably *well over one hundred billion* humans to date. (This includes an estimate of all of those *conceived in the womb but never born*.) It might actually be many multiples of that figure, but we will use one hundred billion as a very conservative benchmark.

Then, after Jesus Christ returns and presides as King over a paradise for one thousand years—and assuming the restoration of man's original lifespan and increased fertility rates within an ideal environment during that entire time—all of those who will be born during the Millennium could possibly total from between five hundred billion and one trillion. This assumes that Christ's reign will begin with only one hundred million people on earth—compared to over eight billion right now—which is likewise a *very low estimate*.

Even with these *very conservative assumptions*, the total number of human beings who ever will be conceived during God's entire Master Plan on this earth—those who likewise are provided an opportunity to qualify for eternal salvation in His Kingdom—might be as few as six hundred billion, but just as likely might be *one trillion or more*. For sake of discussion, let us presume an initial figure of only five hundred billion people in total.

Then next, of those one hundred billion people that we assume have already lived to this date, how many of them has God called since the true Church of God was originally formed just after Christ's resurrection in the First Century, on Pentecost in 31 A.D.? We are not referring to how many human beings embraced "Christianity" in name. Most of the "Christian churches" have never truly contained God's begotten children, because early-onset apostasy forced those *very few faithful ones* into exile within the first fifty years. The total number of children that God has chosen to call during the last two thousand years has been very small indeed. Has it even been as many as one million? Probably not. But, again, to be conservative, let us assume that there have been *as many as one million called by God*.

Next, what percentage of the total potential family of man (past and future) will have been part of God's firstfruits Work, which is pictured by Pentecost? If the total number of human beings on earth will wind up being only five hundred billion, and if the total number of children *called by God* up until now is one million, that represents a ratio of only one out of every five hundred thousand people. And remember, it is very possible that this ratio is actually *one out of a million total people* (if the total final Family size is as much as a trillion people).

Whether you are one in a million, or only one in a half a million, the point is, *being called by God to be part of His true Church in this era of time is an exceptional gift!* You truly might be one in a million!

One million seconds is about 11.5 days. One in a million is like guessing the exact second when a specific event happens within those 11.5 days of continuous time. Likewise, some say that the odds of being struck by lightning in any given year is about one in a million. Therefore, your being called by God today is like being the one person in a city of one million inhabitants who gets singled out in a lightning strike. One chance in a million is truly exceptional.

You're Special—So What?

If you are called right now to be part of God's firstfruits Work—pictured by the Feast of Pentecost—you have indeed been given a special gift. But, so what? That gift has value only if it is used for a productive purpose!

First, being singled out by God as, perhaps, one in a million, has nothing to do with being more worthy. If you are called by Him today, it is likely that you are actually *the least worthy*, by human standards:

For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and *God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised*, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence (1 Corinthians 1:26–29).

The called ones of God today were selected so that, when they achieve success in bearing spiritual fruits, God is the One who will get the credit, not the individual. No one expects great things from the lowliest of human society. So, you, being lowly, have an opportunity to *shock the world* by accomplishing things that normally would be impossible. That is how God will get the credit for your accomplishments! And He deserves it.

At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight (Matthew 11:25–26).

This fits perfectly with God's purpose in calling ancient Israel to become His chosen people out of all nations on earth:

The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the LORD brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt (Deuteronomy 7:7–8).

When God performed miracles to save the Israelites—to bring them out of Egyptian slavery with a high hand and to make of them a great nation—the nations of the world recognized that *it was a powerful God at work* to make this happen, not anything exceptional about the Israelites themselves:

And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians, And took off their chariot wheels, that they drave them heavily: so that *the Egyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel; for the LORD fighteth for them against the Egyptians* (Exodus 14:24–25).

Rahab expressed this very same sentiment on behalf of all of the Canaanites:

And she said unto the men, I know that *the LORD hath given you the land*, and that your terror is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. For we have heard how *the LORD dried up the water of the Red sea for you*, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were on the other side Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom ye utterly destroyed. And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: *for the LORD your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath* (Joshua 2:9–11).

This describes exactly the strategy God is still using in forming spiritual Israel—the Church—today! Being called to have a part in that Church has nothing to do with your greater worthiness. Quite the contrary, God is the One glorified when "the weak and the base" wind up doing great works.

Therefore, being one in a million today—by your initial calling—is nothing to gloat about. The question is: what are you doing with that incredible gift?

Holy Spirit Is Key

The Holy Spirit—as an indwelling source of power—was given for the first time to those who obeyed Jesus' command to assemble at a specific place for the keeping of the Feast of Pentecost:

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing

mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And *they were all filled with the Holy [Spirit]*, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:1–4).

That very power—never before having been given to men as a *spiritual begettal*—created the New Testament Church, made up of begotten children who were now part of the Body of Christ, spiritual Israel:

For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, *in the spirit*, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God (Romans 2:28–29).

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but *a new creature*. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon *the Israel of God* (Galatians 6:15–16).

But *Jerusalem which is above* is free, which is *the mother of us all* (Galatians 4:26).

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God (Romans 8:14).

That Spirit Is a Tool

Being called by God, and then accepting that call by being baptized and thereby receiving the Holy Spirit as a spiritual begettal, is not the end of the story, but only the beginning.

If you are *one in a million* who has been separated to become part of the firstfruits of God's Work, you have work to do! You were not called to wear a badge of honor as being a spiritual Israelite. You have not yet arrived! Your work is just beginning. You were commissioned to do the true work of a Christian, using God's Spirit to produce spiritual fruits:

That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, *being fruitful in every good work*, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Strengthened with all

might, *according to his glorious power*, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness (Colossians 1:10–11).

What are these "fruits" that God is looking for in us?

But the *fruit of the Spirit* is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also *walk in the Spirit* (Galatians 5:22–25).

If you are one who has been begotten of God's Spirit, then God wants to see evidence that His Spirit is alive and active in your life. Being able to manifest the same kind of behaviors that Christ showed us by example is the proof that the Holy Spirit is present.

Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them (Matthew 7:16–20).

What about those who claim to love God and to be good Christians, but do not actually prove it by their fruits?

Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and *I will shew thee my faith by my works* (James 2:17–18).

Unlike what many in this world believe, Christ wants to see real results from us. That is why He gave warnings against squandering the gifts that He has given. The gift of the Holy Spirit is not an end in itself. It is a tool to be used to produce something of value!

The Parable of the Talents makes this requirement very clear. Notice that Jesus will require an accounting from every one of us. Merely "sitting on" that valuable asset which He has given to us will never suffice:

Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, *there thou hast that is thine* [have back exactly what you gave me

originally]. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that *I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed*: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own *with usury* [a return on investment]. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath [shown profitability] shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not [shown profitability] shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 25:24–30).

In this parable, the master is unapologetic about requiring a return on His investment. These "talents" are directly comparable to that measure of the Holy Spirit granted to us at baptism. That Spirit is the power to do *real work* and to produce a spiritual profit for God. In the end, God requires that we *do something!*

But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but *a doer of the work*, this man shall be blessed in his deed (James 1:22–25).

Same Requirements for All

Many members of God's true Church have lamented that they were called as part of the firstfruits, because they erroneously believe that it will be "easier" to make it into the Kingdom during the Millennium or White Throne Judgment periods. Not so!

Never forget that God is auditioning *every human being*—whether now or in the future—for an office in His very Family Government. John 14:2 says, "In my Father's house are many mansions [offices]: if it were not so, I would have told you. *I go to prepare a place for you.*" Anyone accepted into that eternal Family will become a Royal heir, a King and Priest:

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; *heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ*; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together (Romans 8:16–17).

Those added to the God Family first will certainly fill the highest levels of that expanded hierarchy, but even the very last ones who become glorified will likewise become *God beings, as God is God*. Being a member of the God Family entails having *every power and attribute as do the Father and Jesus Christ*. This includes omnipotence (all power), omniscience (all knowledge), and omnipresence (being ever-present). No one who will ever be admitted into that Family will be judged on *a lesser scale*, because the least in that Family in authority will still be God! God powers will never be granted to any human being who has not proved true love for God by bearing spiritual fruit. Regardless of which harvest a human being is made a part of in God's Plan, the requirement to become a willing overcomer will be exactly the same for all. There is no "easy path" into the God Kingdom.

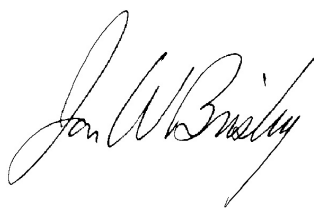
Therefore, never allow yourself to lament that you are called as part of the firstfruits of God's Work on earth—that Work pictured by the Feast of Pentecost. God will call each one at the very best time, the time that he has the most likelihood of succeeding. If you cannot use the power of the Holy Spirit to produce real spiritual fruit today, you would do no better if you were called as a part of that later, great harvest. Never allow yourself to think otherwise.

Therefore, if you are one who has been singled out by God today, and called by the miracle of an open mind to His Truth, you are indeed very unusual. Numerically, you may actually be *one in a million* out of the entire tally of human beings who will ever have lived, past, present, or future.

But if that is true, it only means that this is your *one and only time to qualify to be in God's Kingdom*. We each get one chance, and one chance only. Your "chance" is the entire time of your physical life in this flesh existence. Even if you squander a lot of that time by running from God, or perhaps just sleepwalking as a church member, as long as you have breath, it is still not too late. Take hold of your calling and act upon it, and God will grant you grace—unmerited pardon—to be saved.

In the day that God opens the minds of the majority of humanity—that *great Fall Harvest* in the Millennium and White Throne Judgment periods—they will all still have to meet *the very same standards* that are required of us today. God is looking for overcomers in every case. May God grant that you relish your calling now, as one in a million.

Your brother and servant in Jesus Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jon W. Brisby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and "B".

Jon W. Brisby