

September 2026

Greetings Brethren:

The world today is filled with chaos, uncertainty, and misery. Many people are looking for ways to create sustained peace and happiness in their lives, but cannot find them. All attempts continually fail because they are trying to fix problems the wrong way. Mankind is in the process of learning that peace, happiness, and resolution to problems will never exist if they are separated from the True God and do not follow His Ways. As those called by God at this time, who know Him and are attempting to live by His Ways, we are truly blessed to be shielded from many of the problems and difficulties encountered by those who do not know Him.

Even though our lives contain many positive aspects and blessings, we still face abundant challenges and difficulties. Some are the result of our own weaknesses and sins; others are the result of the weaknesses and sins of others. Would you like to change that and live in paradise? Would you like to live forever as a member of God's Family and spend eternity experiencing complete peace, joy and love? Would you like your problems and difficulties to go away?

The great news is that all of this can happen because God has offered us the opportunity to live in eternal joy and peace! But, we are not expected to wait until the Kingdom before we experience these blessings. God expects us to begin experiencing them now through the power and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. For those of us who have been baptized and have had the laying on of hands by an authorized servant, we have received a down payment of the Holy Spirit. That means God resides in us through the Holy Spirit and expects our hearts and minds to increasingly resemble its attributes as we embark on our journey of conversion.

God has revealed His foundational expectations for true Christian conversion—the process of reducing our carnal minds and continually increasing in the mind of God. And the more our minds change and resemble God's mind, the more we will receive the blessings of God, increase our peace of mind, joy and meekness, and experience many other wonderful things. Do we know what God's expectations of us are, and have we truly accepted them? Are we willing to declare that we are in one hundred percent agreement with His requirements and commit to following His ways? Let us read the following *Declaration of True Christian Conversion* to find out.



Declaration of True Christian Conversion

The Purpose of My Life

The primary purpose and goal for my life is to be added to God's Family upon successful spiritual conversion.

Commitment to Personal Mastery and Overcoming

To achieve this goal of conversion, I must constantly work on personal mastery and overcoming, which means adding a spiritual mind (the mind of Christ), reducing my carnal mind, and increasing in character.

I am committed to:

- Building godly character, which means knowing right from wrong and always choosing what is right.
- Applying all the spiritual principles which I have been taught.
- Striving to live according to the traits of the Holy Spirit.

Accountability and Responsibility

I will take full accountability for, and ownership of, my mistakes, and for any negative situations that I have created, contributed to, or prolonged.

This includes:

- Acknowledging my role in any problems.
- Making sincere efforts to correct the behaviors, attitudes, or weaknesses that caused or contributed to any problem; this is my God-given responsibility.

Giving the Benefit of the Doubt to Others

I will constantly give the benefit of the doubt to each brother and sister in the Faith and assume that we all share the same spiritual objectives.

Because I do not know everything about the private struggles, challenges, or weaknesses that others face, their prayers for God's help, nor the timing and methods God is using to purge their weaknesses, I must:

- Assume that their conversion is sincere and be patient while God works with them—especially when it affects me.
- Apply godly principles in how I think about, respond to, and interact with them.

Principles of Conversion and Character Development

These are underlying spiritual principles for conversion and personal mastery—character development—that I must understand and follow if I am to live by The Faith Once Delivered, properly add Christ's mind, and reduce my carnal mind. If I am not successful with these, as God determines, I may face the second death.

- **Personal responsibility:** Regardless of circumstances—who caused them or why—I am responsible for my own actions, reactions, and thoughts.
- **Emotional and mental ownership:** My happiness, peace of mind, and positive emotional state is my responsibility alone because they are fruits of the Holy Spirit. No one can take nor keep them from me. I cannot blame others for my lack of these things, my reactions, thoughts, or emotions. Others may influence circumstances, making it easier or more difficult for me, but I am accountable to God for my mind.
- **Character is developed under pressure:** God observes how I control my mind and respond in difficult situations. This is the essence of character development.
- **Avoiding blame:** Blaming others shifts the focus away from the self and personal accountability, limiting spiritual growth and proper perspective.
- **Understanding God's purpose for trials:** As stated in the following section from the *Meekness #3* sermon transcript by Mr. Raymond Cole, God allows challenging situations to exist as opportunities for character development. Trials are the tools God uses to correct my personal weaknesses and character deficiencies and to provide me with the opportunity to build the godly character required for salvation.

Excerpt from the *Meekness #3* Sermon Transcript (Mr. Cole, Psalm 37):

Beginning in verse 8, and reading through verse 15. Here it says: "Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil." So God is asking us to rid ourselves of one of the most significant, in one respect, traits or characteristics of the human mind—that is, of anger. We become deeply embroiled in affairs, especially when they involve us particularly, and wrath is the consequence. The primary reason is that we fret ourselves over a course of action, or the behavior of other people, or their comments, or whatever it may be, concerning ourselves. And yet, God says that those who are employing the Spirit of God, and doing the right thing, are not going to let these circumstances distress or upset them. They're not going to fret themselves in any wise to do evil—that is, to speak wrongly or to think wrongly. *They are to have control of the mind and to have control of the tongue.* "For evildoers shall be cut off." Then, obviously, what He is saying here is that we are being tested by these circumstances; for, if we behave acceptably only when circumstances are right, we're no different than Gentiles, or those who are following the natural behavior of human beings. That isn't what God wants. So He has allowed these circumstances to prevail and exist to see if we can affect the right kind of control under all circumstances. *When we see ourselves becoming embroiled, when we see ourselves mentally frustrated and ready to strike out, or to say something, can we bring the power of God's Holy Spirit into play and bring ourselves under control? Then, and then only, do we prove that we are employing God's Holy Spirit, and indeed do have the mind of Christ* [emphasis mine].

Extending Mercy, Patience, and Forbearance

As I work on personal mastery, I must also extend patience, forbearance, longsuffering, mercy, and forgiveness to others as they work through their personal difficulties and weaknesses.

Christ extends mercy and forgiveness to me, and I, in like manner, am required to extend them to others. This does not remove others' responsibility to correct their wrongs or sins, but it does define how I must treat them, think about them, and respond to them. God

knows each one of us is broken, weak, and struggling to improve. I am required to remember that others are no different. For who has already developed perfect character?

Communicating in a God-approved Manner

It is appropriate to praise God, speak positively, mention facts, express perceptions, or discuss my opinions on needed change. Blaming, criticizing, or speaking negatively toward others, assigning motives, judging intent, or making accusations are not helpful and do not reflect godly conduct. Speech that exposes someone's sins and weaknesses to others, and which creates a negative or false impression of them, is anti-Christ.

Do I Declare Allegiance to God or the Carnal Mind

God has given each of us the option to choose how we will live our lives. If I choose to orient my heart and mind according to every one of these principles, I will receive more of God's blessings. I will be declaring that I choose life by loving the Eternal God.

I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: That thou mayest love the Lord thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days: that thou mayest dwell in the land which the Lord swear unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them (Deuteronomy 30:19–20).



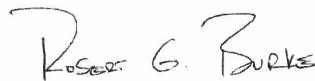
If we choose not to live by every one of these principles, or to live by them grudgingly rather than from the heart, or simply do not fully agree with each principle, then we will be declaring that we do not love all of the Eternal God's ways and are choosing to selectively turn away from Him to follow our carnal ways. We will be choosing the false path of the carnal mind, which eventually leads to destruction.

Ye shall observe to do therefore as the Lord your God hath commanded you: ye shall not turn aside to the right hand or to the left. Ye shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess (Deuteronomy 5:32–33).

But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee. . . The Lord shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings [choosing not to follow all of His ways in heart and mind], whereby thou hast forsaken [turned away from] me (Deuteronomy 28:15, 20).

God has prepared blessings for us beyond our comprehension. To receive them, we are required to become like Him through our conversion by living in accordance with His instructions. Will each of us declare our acceptance of all of these principles and, by doing so, know that we are on the path of true Christian conversion?

Your brother and servant in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert G. Burke".

Robert G. Burke

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jon W. Brisby".

Jon W. Brisby