

An artistic illustration of Jesus Christ with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a white robe under a brown cloak. He is standing on a sandy beach at sunset, looking down and drawing a line in the sand with his right hand. The background shows the ocean with gentle waves and a bright sun low on the horizon, casting a warm golden glow over the scene.

DRAWING A LINE IN THE SAND

*STANDING FIRM
IN APOSTOLIC
PENTECOSTAL
TRUTH*

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DRAWING A LINE IN THE SAND

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Below is an expanded section that incorporates the historical context of early Apostolic Pentecostals, their experiences of ridicule and persecution, and the distinction between their beliefs and those of Trinitarians. This section highlights key figures and the challenges they faced for their commitment to the name of Jesus and the doctrine of oneness.

The Early Apostolic Pentecostal Movement: *A Legacy of Faith and Perseverance*

In the early 20th century, the Apostolic Pentecostal movement emerged as a powerful expression of faith rooted in the teachings of the New Testament, particularly the doctrine of oneness and the necessity of baptism in Jesus' name as outlined in Acts 2:38. However, this movement faced significant opposition, particularly from Trinitarian groups that adhered to the doctrine of the Trinity, which posits the existence of three distinct divine persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Ridicule and Ostracism

Early Apostolic Pentecostals, often referred to as “Jesus Name” believers, were frequently ridiculed, ostracized, and labeled as cults by those who subscribed to Trinitarian beliefs. This persecution stemmed from their unwavering commitment to the oneness of God and their insistence on baptism in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission

of sins.

- **Trinitarian Doctrine:** The Trinitarian view, which emerged from the early Catholic Church, was formalized in the Nicene Creed in 325 AD. This doctrine introduced the idea of three distinct persons in the Godhead and led to significant changes in Christian practice, including the baptismal formula. The original Apostolic practice of baptizing in the name of Jesus was altered to the titles “Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,” which, according to Apostolic believers, lack the power, authority, and the blood of Jesus necessary for salvation.
- **Historical Confessions:** Many Trinitarian theologians have acknowledged in their writings that the baptismal formula was changed and that the early church, including the original apostles, baptized in the name of Jesus. This admission underscores the Apostolic Pentecostal claim that their practices are a return to the original teachings of Christ and the apostles.

Key Figures in the Apostolic Movement

Several prominent leaders in the early Apostolic Pentecostal movement faced persecution for their beliefs and practices. These individuals played a pivotal role in establishing the oneness doctrine and advocating for the name of Jesus in baptism:

1. G.T. Haywood:

- A prominent early Pentecostal leader and pastor in the early 1900s, Haywood was a staunch advocate for the oneness of God and the necessity of baptism in Jesus' name. He faced significant opposition and was often ridiculed by those outside the movement.

2. Andrew Urshan:

- Urshan was instrumental in spreading the Apostolic message and played a significant role in the establishment of the United Pentecostal Church International (UPCI). His commitment to the name of Jesus in baptism led to persecution from Trinitarian groups.

3. Glen Cook:

- As a key figure in the early Apostolic movement, Cook faced ostracism for his beliefs and was a vocal proponent of the oneness doctrine.

4. Frank Bartleman:

- A prominent revivalist and writer, Bartleman was involved in the Azusa Street Revival and advocated for the Apostolic message. He faced criticism and mockery for his beliefs in the name of Jesus.

5. Bishops of the PAW (Pentecostal Assemblies of the World):

- Many bishops within the PAW faced persecution for their commitment to the name of Jesus. Figures such as Bishop C.P. Jones and Bishop J. H. McCoy were instrumental in promoting the oneness message despite facing significant

backlash.

The Formation of Oneness Pentecostalism

In 1916, the Assemblies of God (AG) formally adopted a Trinitarian stance, leading to the expulsion of many early Apostolic leaders who adhered to the oneness doctrine. This pivotal moment marked the beginning of a distinct movement within Pentecostalism that emphasized the name of Jesus and the necessity of baptism according to Acts 2:38.

- **Persecution and Mockery:** Early Apostolic Pentecostals were often laughed at and mocked, labeled as a cult by their Trinitarian counterparts. However, these believers remained steadfast in their faith, continuing to preach the message of Jesus' name baptism and the oneness of God.
- **Legacy of Faith:** The early Apostolic movement laid the foundation for what would become a global Pentecostal revival. Despite facing ridicule, ostracism, and persecution, these believers remained committed to their convictions, establishing a legacy of faith that continues to inspire Apostolic Pentecostals

Introduction

In a world filled with confusion and compromise, the call to stand firm in the truth of God's Word is more urgent than ever. This booklet serves as a reminder of the importance

of drawing a line in the sand, choosing to stand on the side of holiness and truth. Throughout history, both in the Old Testament and the New Testament, there have been those who made a stand for righteousness, refusing to waver in their commitment to God. We will explore the lives of these faithful individuals and the legacy they left for us today.

Chapter 1: The Importance of Drawing the Line

1.1 The Call to Commitment

The Bible makes it clear that there is no middle ground when it comes to serving God. Jesus said, “No man can serve two masters” (Matthew 6:24). We cannot straddle the fence; we must choose whose side we are on. Are we on the Lord’s side, or are we siding with the world? The choice is ours, and it carries eternal consequences.

1.2 Scriptural Foundations

- Matthew 25:1-13: The parable of the ten virgins illustrates the importance of being prepared and filled with the Holy Spirit. The wise virgins had their lamps trimmed and full of oil, while the foolish ones were unprepared.
- 2 Corinthians 6:17-18: “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord.” This verse emphasizes the need for separation from the world and its

influences.

Chapter 2: Old Testament Examples of Faithfulness

2.1 Moses: The Line of Separation

Moses drew a line in the sand when he led the Israelites out of Egypt. He stood firm against Pharaoh, declaring, “Let my people go!” (Exodus 5:1). His unwavering faith and obedience to God’s command led to the liberation of the Israelites, marking a significant moment in history.

2.2 Elijah: The Prophet Who Stood Alone

Elijah faced the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, drawing a clear line between the worship of the true God and the false gods of the Canaanites. His challenge, “How long halt ye between two opinions?” (1 Kings 18:21), calls us to examine our own hearts and determine where we stand.

2.3 Daniel: Faithfulness in a Foreign Land

Daniel exemplified unwavering faith as he refused to bow to the king’s decree. He chose to pray to God, even when it meant facing the lion’s den. His commitment to God’s principles serves as a powerful reminder of standing firm in our beliefs, regardless of the consequences.

Chapter 3: New Testament Examples of Truth

3.1 The Apostles: Bold Witnesses for Christ

The apostles, filled with the Holy Spirit, boldly proclaimed the message of Jesus Christ, emphasizing the necessity of repentance and baptism in Jesus' name (Acts 2:38). They faced persecution and imprisonment but remained steadfast in their commitment to the Gospel.

3.2 Stephen: The First Martyr

Stephen stood for truth, preaching a powerful sermon that ultimately led to his martyrdom. His unwavering faith and willingness to sacrifice his life for the Gospel serve as an inspiration for us to stand firm in our beliefs.

3.3 Modern-Day Heroes of Faith

Throughout history, many individuals have stood for the truth of Acts 2:38 and the oneness of God, often at great personal cost. These “little people” in the Apostolic movement, whose names may not be widely known, have made significant contributions to the advancement of the Gospel.

Chapter 4: The Apostolic Pentecostal Movement

4.1 Early Pioneers of the Faith

- **G.T. Haywood:** A prominent figure in the early Apostolic Pentecostal movement, Haywood preached the oneness of God and the necessity of baptism in Jesus' Name. His writings and sermons continue to inspire believers today.
- **Howard Goss:** A key leader who helped to establish the United Pentecostal Church International (UPCI), Goss emphasized the importance of holiness and separation from the world.
- **Frank J. Ewart:** Known for his role in the formulation of the doctrine of the oneness of God, Ewart was instrumental in the early Pentecostal revival and contributed significantly to the understanding of Acts 2:38.

4.2 The Modern Challenge

Today, many in the Apostolic Pentecostal movement face the temptation to compromise their beliefs. The rise of charismatic movements and the blending of worldly practices into the church threaten the purity of the Apostolic message. We must remain vigilant and committed to the principles of holiness within and without.

Chapter 5: The Call to Separation

5.1 The Danger of Compromise

As Apostolic Pentecostals, we must be aware of the dangers of blending in with the world. The Bible warns us against having a form of godliness while denying its power (2 Timothy 3:5). We must strive for genuine holiness and authenticity in our faith.

5.2 The Importance of Fellowship

We need to foster genuine fellowship with like-minded believers who uphold the Apostolic doctrine. This fellowship strengthens our resolve and encourages us to stand firm in our commitment to truth.

Chapter 6: Drawing the Line in Today's Culture

6.1 A Call to Action

In a society that often promotes moral relativism and compromise, we must draw a clear line in the sand. Are we willing to stand for truth, even when it is unpopular? The call to holiness and separation is as relevant today as it was in the days of the apostles.

6.2 Conclusion: Whose Side Are You On?

Ultimately, the question remains: what side of the line are you on? Are you on the Lord's side, committed to living a life of holiness and truth? Or are you allowing the influences of the world to sway you? We must choose wisely, for the stakes are high.

Here's a list of notable figures from the Old Testament who drew a line in the sand, along with a brief description of their actions and significance. This will help illustrate the theme of standing firm for one's beliefs and the importance of choosing sides in the context of faith.

Figures in the Old Testament Who Drew a Line

1. Jehu:

- Context: Jehu was anointed by God to be king over Israel and tasked with destroying the house of Ahab and eliminating Baal worship.
- Action: In his confrontation with Jezebel, he drew a line by asking, "Who is on my side?" (2 Kings 9:32). He showed no mercy to her, ultimately throwing her out of a window, where she was trampled by horses and eaten by dogs (2 Kings 9:33-37). This act symbolizes the rejection of idolatry and wickedness.

2. Moses:

- Context: Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt and

confronted Pharaoh, demanding the release of God's people.

- Action: At Mount Sinai, after witnessing the Israelites worshipping a golden calf, Moses drew a line by asking, "Who is on the Lord's side?" (Exodus 32:26). The Levites rallied to him, demonstrating their commitment to God, while others faced judgment for their idolatry.

3. Elijah:

- Context: Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel during a time of widespread idolatry in Israel.

- Action: He challenged the people, asking, "How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him" (1 Kings 18:21). This confrontation resulted in God demonstrating His power through fire, leading the people to turn back to Him.

4. Joshua:

- Context: After leading the Israelites into the Promised Land, Joshua gathered the tribes to renew their covenant with God.

- Action: He famously declared, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15). This statement served as a clear line drawn for the Israelites to choose whom they would serve.

5. Gideon:

- Context: Gideon was called by God to deliver Israel from the Midianites.

- Action: He tore down the altar of Baal and built an altar to the Lord, demonstrating his commitment to God in a time when Israel was steeped in idolatry (Judges 6:25-26). His actions signified a clear rejection of false gods.

6. Samuel:

- Context: Samuel served as a prophet and judge in Israel during a time of moral decline.
- Action: He called the people to repentance and renewal of their covenant with God, emphasizing the need to put away foreign gods (1 Samuel 7:3). His leadership helped restore the nation's focus on serving the one true God.

The Apostolic Pentecostal Distinction

In contrast to the Trinitarian belief in three divine persons, Apostolic Pentecostals emphasize the oneness of God as revealed in Jesus Christ. This belief centers on:

- One God: The Apostolic faith affirms that there is one God who manifests Himself in various ways, primarily through Jesus Christ (John 14:9).
- Jesus as the Almighty: Apostolic Pentecostals worship Jesus as the Almighty God, recognizing His divinity and sovereignty over all creation (Revelation 1:8).
- Acts 2:38: The emphasis on the necessity of repentance, baptism in Jesus' name, and receiving the Holy Spirit as the foundation of salvation (Acts 2:38).

This distinction highlights the commitment to the truth of Scripture and the rejection of any teachings that dilute the oneness of God.

References

- The Holy Bible (KJV, NKJV, NIV)
- Historical accounts of Apostolic Pentecostal leaders
- Biographies of early Apostolic Pentecostal Pioneers

My Booklet serves as a Classic Apostolic Pentecostal booklet , encouraging believers to draw a line in the sand and stand firm in their Apostolic Pentecostal Acts 2.38 and Deut 6.4 Acts 2.40 Jesus Name Acts 2.38 .

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Read and Obey Acts 2:38

