

## **Episode 13. "The Infant Christian."**

**Tuesday, May 25, 2021. 52 Minutes Long.**

*This episode is an honest exposé of the unique Spiritual event that changes a person into an infant Christian. It describes how infant Christians are created, and what happens to them afterwards. The show reveals what motivates infant Christians, and reveals a decision that every infant Christian needs to make.*

### **John (00:00):**

John Shields opens the episode by saying:

### **John (00:13):**

Well, hello again, my friends! Welcome to Episode 13, in our bi-weekly series of "Saving Christianity" episodes. We're coming to you every-other-Tuesday from Christian Family Online. And I'm your host, John Shields. In this episode, we're going to continue our discussion of Spiritual growth – and what people call "The Deeper Spiritual Walk." In other words, we're going to continue discussing how you and your loved ones can have more peace, healing, and hope in your daily lives.

### **John (00:47):**

Now, the title of this episode is: "The Infant Christian." Yeah, you heard me right, "The Infant Christian." Of course, the title might make us a little uncomfortable. But stay with us. Most people don't like to think of themselves as "infants" in anything. Much less as being an "infant" Christian. I know that's true because I'm somewhat uncomfortable with it myself, especially the first time I heard that term. So this is going to be another challenging episode, just as many of the episodes have been so far. Also, as has been the case in many of our episodes, you're going to hear some facts that you may not have ever heard before. And *that's* why we're producing these episodes for you. We want you to have the facts about Christianity that few, if any, other books, videos, podcasts – you name it – can give you. But, before we continue, we turn now to our co-host, Owen Allen. Owen, are you ready for the show today?

### **Owen (01:57):**

Yo, John! I think I'm ready. And I also want to welcome our friends out in podcast land. At this point in our series, of course, we're now in Chapter 8 of the book *Saving Christianity*. So I hope all of our friends have read that chapter. But even if they haven't, I think they're going to be touched and inspired by what they're about to hear.

### **John (02:20):**

Wow, I totally agree with that. That's a big ditto. This is a very, very, and I emphasize *very* (chuckles) important and dramatic episode.

**Owen (02:30):**

Well, it really is, John. And by the way – just as a little insert here. Speaking of "reading," I want to say something that's really important. I was talking to one of our subscribers the other day and he surprised me. He told me that he had *never* visited our website to read a *transcript* of our episodes. And so frankly, I told him what I'm about to tell our friends now. And that's this: It's extremely helpful – not required – but helpful to read the transcripts of these shows. And here's why. Scientists say that 80% of our learning comes from our sense of *sight*. And only 10% (repeats) of our learning comes from the sense of *hearing*. So think about it. If our friends only *listen* to our shows ... and of course I know that's what a podcast is for ... but if our friends only *listen* to our shows, they're only using 10% of their ability to learn the facts and principles in these shows.

**Owen (03:38):**

But – but – if they happen to go to our website and *read* the transcripts of the episodes, they're using 80% of their ability to learn. And think about this. If for some reason they both listened to *and* read the episodes at the same time, they'd be using 90% of their ability to learn. And I know a lady who's doing that. But see, that's why teachers always use Pictures, Posters, and PowerPoints in classrooms. They're learning ... or adding, I should say ... Visual Learning to all of the different student's abilities for Audio Learning. So let's urge our friends to go to our website at: goSCpod.com (repeats) and read and listen to our shows ... even at the *same* time. I enjoy doing that myself. And if they do, these shows are going to mean much, much more to them.

**John (04:40):**

Yeah. They certainly will, Owen. I just agree with that completely. I know some subscribers who are trying this, and they'll tell you upfront that it makes a huge difference.

**Owen (04:50):**

Absolutely. Well, but John now let's go ahead and kick off our discussion of something that the Early Christians called "infant" Christians (repeats). And to lay the groundwork, it'll help our friends to remember some of the facts that we discussed in Episodes 09 and 10. Remember, those were the episodes that had the titles: "The natural person," and "The Spiritual Growth Charts." This episode is built on those earlier episodes because ... you know, we haven't mentioned this enough, I guess, John ... but our podcast is called by the technical people a "serial" (repeats) podcast. And that means that it's a *series* of connected shows that *build* on one another. So, if they want to get ready for this (episode), our friends can go back and review Episodes 09 and 10 on the website.

**John (05:49):**

Yeah, that's right, Owen. And those two earlier episodes – just as a reminder – told us that people start out in life as "natural" people. And then the first step in Spiritual growth is to become an "infant" Christian. Just as it is in the *natural* world, so it is in the *Spiritual* world. And that means all of us need to know what "infant" Christians are.

**Owen (06:19):**

Well, that's true, that's true. And so actually this episode is going to help our friends – think about this a second – find out where they *are* in the Spiritual growth process. And to do that, we're going to answer five questions in this episode. And here are those five questions:

- Number one: "What is a non-Christian?"
- Two: "What is a Christian?"
- Three: "How does a non-Christian become a Christian?"
- Four: "How is a Christian different from a non-Christian?"
- And five: "What is an infant Christian?"

**John (07:04):**

These are *extremely* important questions. And I don't think that a lot of people have clear answers to them. At least, I don't think a lot of people have the same kind of clear answers to them that the Early Christians had. And Owen, I can't tell you ... I just love talking about this, bringing clarity to this subject. There is just no need for there to be confusion and misunderstanding. And so this is an exciting episode.

**Owen (07:37):**

Well, I think so. I get excited (chuckles) about it. But see John, look, here's a big, big problem. *We* are answering these (questions) the way the Early Christians answered them. Because, as we say, *nobody's* doing that today. Listen, we're answering these five very deep questions the way that Peter ... and John ... and Paul ... and Luke ... and Jesus's two half-brothers, James and Jude ... and Jesus Himself ... answered them. That's the key: The way that *they* answered them.

**John (08:16):**

In other words, we're going to define – something we've talked about previously – the Fuzzy Words in these questions with Early Christian definitions. And that's so important. And

then we're going to use those definitions as models – a template if you will – as it relates to our daily behavior, the way we agreed to with those Three Ground Rules back in Episode 08.

**Owen (08:43):**

Yeah. Way back in Episode 08. We're still building on that. See John, that's why we are a "serial" podcast. But look, here we go. Let's answer the first question. And that question was: "What is a non-Christian?" (Repeats.)

**John (09:02):**

Well, I think many people, *many* people, would say a "non-Christian" is a person – this is probably the default answer – is someone who doesn't go to church. In other words, a person who doesn't go to a certain place at a certain time. Or maybe, a person who wasn't christened as a baby. Or maybe a person who has never answered a – quote – "altar call" – end of quote at the end of a worship service, and had been prayed for by a pastor or priest. And of course, that's just a few of probably maybe the top five answers. There are many, many, many more.

**Owen (09:44):**

That's right. Maybe there are *too* many answers.

**John (09:46):**

Yeah, for sure. Yeah.

**Owen (09:47):**

And those are totally some of the answers that people would probably give. But look at this, John. Here's the mistake. Those answers that people could give were not *possible* for the Early Christians. None of those answers that you just gave would have been given by the Early Christians. Why not? Because, as we know from all our previous episodes, churches, church services, pastors, and priests, *didn't* exist in Early Christianity.

**John (10:21):**

Yeah, that's right. And you know *none* of these things – wow, think about that – existed in the First Century. And those are traditions that were started by today's denominations. But to the Early Christians, listen to this: *A "non-Christian" was a person who had not yet had a certain experience.*

**Owen (10:44):**

Exactly. And we're going to talk about that "*experience*." You know John, back in Episode 09, we laid down sort of a principle. We said that non-Christians are "natural" (repeats) peo-

ple. And we discussed that at length and the Greek meanings of that word. But the Early Christians called them that because non-Christians are – quotes – "naturally" motivated. Non-Christians are motivated by their human "nature." And that's why they called them "natural" people.

**John (11:23):**

Yeah. That's right. Here's another point, Owen, I think that's so important we can't emphasize it enough. It's this: Non-Christians – and this is such a significant statement – non-Christians *only have one inner motivator*. And, as we've discussed over our different episodes, that may be a new or maybe even an unusual way of thinking about it in terms of a "motivator." But they (non-Christians) are *only* motivated by their Selfish Human Natures. And that's a huge problem for them.

**Owen (12:04):**

That *is* a huge problem. You know ... remember John, back in Episode 09 we talked about the 2,400 psychiatrists in San Francisco who met there for this big meeting. And they announced to the world that – check this out – our Selfish Human Nature is the *cause* – our natures are the *cause* – of all the trouble in the world. Look at that. And so, what does that fact mean to non-Christians? It reminds me of a mother I once knew who always said that her children, "Couldn't stay out of trouble." Well, that's what happens to non-Christians. I'm sorry to report, "They can't stay out of trouble."

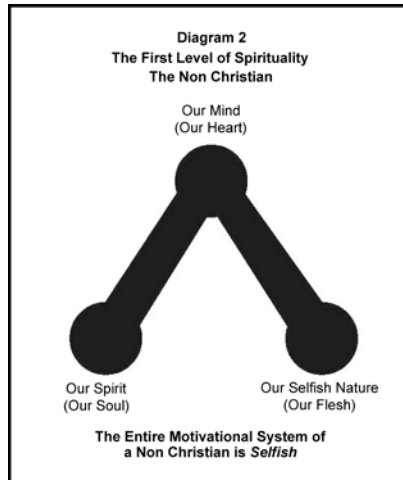
**John (12:51):**

Yeah, that's right. You know back in Episode 10 we had a ... actually a *Spiritual Growth Chart* for our friends that showed a "picture" of a non-Christian's motivation. And that chart, if you recall, was totally *black*. And so let's ... Owen, remind our friends about that chart. You ... that chart is your idea.

**Owen (13:14):**

Yeah (chuckles), yeah. Great, great. John, thinking it ... to be deathbed honest, it's the Holy Spirit's idea. But that's another story. We did discuss that *Black Chart*, if you want to call it that, at the end of Episode 10. And remember, it's also on page 89 of the book, *Saving Christianity*. So right here in this script – let's see, we're actually about 13 or 14 minutes into the script – we're going to put it right here again in the transcript. So when they pull it up on the website, they can look at it.

( See chart on next page. )



**Owen (13:51):**

But John, as we said, the tragic thing about this particular chart is that it's completely *black*. And I'm looking at a picture of it here in the transcript now. It's completely *black*. Why is it completely black? It's completely *black* because non-Christian motivation starts at the bottom-right of the chart with the Selfish Human Nature – moves up the chart through people's Minds at the top – moves back down the other side to the bottom-left into the Human Spirit. And so what that means is – why it's *black* – is because non-Christians ... with them, the Selfish Human Nature dominates their *entire* (repeats) motivational system.

**John (14:43):**

Owen, just briefly – I can remember teaching this concept one time in a classroom setting, and with some less than flattering words, describing our Selfish Human Nature. And one of my students, an adult, was so offended by that they (*sic*) literally turned their back to me. They continued to listen. But they would not ... it was their (chuckles) pushback on that. They just could not bring themselves to believe that. But you say, "How do you guys really know that?" Well, we start by looking in the mirror every morning. (Laughter.) And so we understand that completely. The only thing motivating a non-Christian is Our Selfish Nature. Non-Christians – and here's the punch line – non-Christians only *have one inner motivator*. One. And what is that? Well, it's all *black*. And that's scary for all of us.

**Owen (15:48):**

You know, I had to laugh, John. I had a lady in a class one time who got up and walked out and never came back. She said because her grandchildren were so sweet (laughter) as babies, and so cute, and sweet, and gentle, that there's no possible way that they were totally *negative* in their behavior. And she dropped out of the class. So it *is* scary to people. But our friends are stronger than that out in Podcast Land. They're hanging on. Because we said that selfish motivator is the *cause* of all the world's trouble. That's what we need to deal with. It's

the *cause* of all the crime ... drug abuse ... divorce ... child abuse ... suicides ... and all the other trouble in the world. And that's important.

**John (16:40):**

Yes, it *is* important. And the bad news is that non-Christians can't – that's right, we *can't* – control this selfish motivation. At least, for not a very long period of time, no matter how hard we try. We are as human beings *naturally* selfish. And Owen, back to your comment a moment ago about the babies. You know, isn't it interesting that we never had to teach our children to do *wrong*? Never. We had to teach them as early as they can understand to do *right*! Because it came *naturally* to them to do wrong – to be selfish. And again, that's why the Early Christians called them "natural" people. It just makes sense.

**Owen (17:34):**

And you know, John, that's so true. Anybody that's raised children, or lived any life at all, knows that's true. Yeah, I say in my book, children – as you say – "naturally" steal one another's toys, lie about whether not they've eaten their spinach, and all those types of things. (Chuckles.) And that just comes "natural" to them. So, John, the most important thing that you've said so far is that *non-Christians cannot control their selfishness*. At least not for long. They think they control it. And they say they control it. But in real life, they can't.

**John (18:14):**

Yeah. It always comes creeping back. And let's prove that, Owen, with a story of Jesus's original 12 disciples. You remember, Jesus taught them for three years. They lived with Him, and He showed them miracles. They heard all of His teaching for three years – up close and personal. But, was His intense training able to help them *control* their selfishness?

**Owen (18:41):**

That's a great question, John. Because when I was growing up as a boy in Sunday school and all those types of things, I naturally thought that Peter ... and John ... and Andrew ... and Philip ... and all of those original 12 apostles that walked with Jesus were *Spiritual* people. Well, let's find out. And I think the quickest way to do that ... again we're in Chapter 8 today, I want to read a couple of things from pages 95 and 96 in the book. Because it says:

"Let's look back at the *behavior* of the 12 original disciples that traveled with Jesus. Number one: The whole time Jesus was teaching them, they argued among themselves about which one of them was the greatest disciple. And then toward the end of their training period, one of the disciples made a secret deal with Jesus's enemies (repeats) to betray him, and then actually led an armed mob to Jesus's hiding place to arrest Him."

**Owen (19:48):**



"Of course, Jesus knew that He was about to be betrayed. So He asked three (repeats) of His most trusted disciples to come and pray with Him for the strength and courage to face the ordeal. But instead of praying with Him, the three disciples went to sleep. And then (chuckles), when the mob arrived to arrest Jesus and they dragged Him to the chief priest's home to be interrogated, one of Jesus's disciples followed at a distance and lingered in the courtyard to see what was going to happen. Of course, that was Peter. But when some of the priest's disciples recognized him and accused him of being a disciple, what did he do? He swore, cursed, and said he'd never even met Jesus. Finally, John. Horrible, horrible. After Jesus was tried, and executed, and buried, the disciples hid behind locked doors and wouldn't even go outside. Why? Because they were afraid they'd be recognized as Jesus's former disciples."

**Owen (21:00):**

So I think let's stop here. We could keep reading. There are other examples in the book. But here's our surprise from documented history, John. Think about this now. There were *no* Spiritual people on planet earth when Jesus walked here. *Not even His own disciples*. Why? Because there were no *Christians* at that time. Everybody on earth was a non-Christian. That meant everybody was selfish. There were no *Spiritual* people until after (repeats) Jesus rose from the dead and returned to heaven.

**John (21:43):**

So, we've actually answered our *first* question. We've defined a "non-Christian" as a person who can't control his or her selfishness.

**Owen (21:56):**

Right, that's actually true. So we have answered the question, "What is a non Christian?" partially. (But) let's flesh it out slightly:

Non-Christians are people who have only *one* inner motivator. That one inner motivator is their Selfish Human Nature. *They don't have a motivator for Spiritual growth.*

**John (22:20):**

Right. You can't access something that's not there.

**Owen (22:23):**



"You can't sell out of an empty wagon." So they don't have ... listen, they do not have *supernatural* – there's the key word – they do not have *supernatural* peace, healing, and hope, in their lives.

**John (22:39):**

And that is a terrible problem for millions and millions of people the world over: Bad habits, addictions, conflict, in their lives. In fact it's everywhere. And despite our best intentions, we can't do anything about it to bring ... really bring change. As you say, Owen, so much: "Change isn't change until there *is* change." So they're like Jesus's 12 original disciples. They're living *selfish* lives. They may not want to. They may wish it weren't true. But they can't stop themselves from doing it.

**Owen (23:21):**

That's the thing about it, John. You know, *selfishness* is sort of like an addiction. You know, "You can't eat just one." (Chuckles.) But exactly right, John. And that fact ... and the fact is that Jesus's most highly trained disciples could *not* be Spiritual. And so that proves that no non-Christian anywhere can be Christian (error) ... uh ... can be *Spiritual*. They don't have the equipment within themselves to be *Spiritual*.

**John (23:51):**

Yeah. And Owen, I know when we say that, it seems hopeless for millions of people. And in many ways it is. But, as we've said from the beginning broadcast here, that the Good News is that there *is* a solution. Right! We're not just talking about the *problem*. But there is a *solution*. Non-Christians have the *same* solution that Jesus's disciples had after He returned to heaven. Man ... that is some powerful Good News. Because that's when the disciples became the *Spiritual* people on earth.

**Owen (24:32):**

Hot dog! Yeah! That's exactly right, John. And so, here we are. We're answering now the *second* big question on our list: "What is a Christian?" (Repeats.) Number two question, "What is a Christian?" And I think maybe the best way to answer that John, properly, would be to tell our friends what happened at the very last meal that Jesus had with His disciples. Because, obviously, He knew they *couldn't* control their selfishness. He frequently lost His temper about it and chastised them about it. But all the time He had a plan, a plan to *solve* their problem.

**John (25:16):**

Um. Thankfully, yeah. He understood them completely. He understands *us* completely. And we're talking about what is referenced in the Bible as, "The Last Supper." And it was at

that meal that Jesus brought forth a revelation that He had a *solution* for the problem of their selfishness.

**Owen (25:40):**

Imagine. Imagine what we're saying here. But sadly, even that ... obviously John, they didn't *understand*. Because as we've said so often, Spiritual matters are only *Spiritually* understood. And they weren't Spiritual at that time. So they didn't understand that this solution that He was talking about was that He was going – within the eight next weeks – He was going to establish a new *Spiritual movement* on earth. And that new Spiritual movement would eventually be known as "Christianity." But they didn't understand that. (Chuckles.) They didn't even understand this was their last meal with Him.

**John (26:23):**

That's right. But here we go. Jesus explained the *solution* to selfishness. Isn't that something? And that *solution* – this is what gets my motor running – is still available to all of us today. So Owen, let's go with the Good News. Let's tell our friends what that solution is.

**Owen (26:46):**

John, it happened as we said at "The Last Supper." And frankly it's such a ... Jesus made a statement that is so powerful that for me, at least, it's hard to read without getting emotional. But let's try. He said that after He had left earth and returned to heaven – think about it now – this is what He was going to *do* up in heaven. And this is what he said to them:

"I will ask the Father, and He will give you *another* Helper who will give you a deeper knowledge of the truth. Who will give you the supernatural strength you need for everyday life. And this other Helper, or Comforter, is the Holy Spirit. He will live *in* you. And He will teach you all things. And He will guide you into all truth."

**John (27:51):**

So let's think about it in the context and the verbiage we've been using along the way. In other words, He was going to send back to earth a second (repeats) *inner motivator for people*. Think about that. And that motivator would be the solution to the problem that humankind has controlling their selfish behavior.

**Owen (28:18):**

Absolutely. See, because once this new Motivator, who is supernatural and who is coming straight from the throne room of heaven, was *inside people*, they would then become known as "Christians." And that tells us that one of the purposes of Christianity is to give people the

ability to be *Spiritual*. And again – defining our terms – by being "Spiritual," we mean the ability to *overcome* pride, lust, bad habits, addictions, and every form of selfishness.

**John (28:58):**

That's amazing. I never get tired of telling this story. So let's continue. Let's tell our friends what Jesus did next. Let's tell them how He fulfilled ... how it actually came to be ... this incredible promise for all people.

**Owen (29:17):**

This is so important: To remember the sequence of events that occurred immediately after this last meal with the disciples. Later that same night, He (Jesus) was arrested. And within a few hours, He was sentenced to death ... was crucified ... and died ... and was buried. But -- three days later, He rose from the dead, appeared to the disciples at their hideout in their locked room, and He gave them their final instructions before He returned to heaven. And here's what He said to them:

"Don't leave Jerusalem. Wait here for the promise that you heard me tell about. In a few days, you'll be *baptized* in the Holy Spirit. And you'll receive supernatural power when He comes *in* you."

**John (30:16):**

Yes. Wow, amen, hallelujah, and on and on. Praise be to God. Jesus was telling them what was going to happen ten days later during a Jewish wheat-harvest festival that the people called the "Festival of Pentecost." But the most important word in Jesus's instructions was the word "baptized." And so, it's very important that we *define* that Fuzzy Word for our friends.

**Owen (30:53):**

Um, that's right, John. That's the key to Christianity. And it's probably one of the most *misunderstood* words in Christianity today. The word "baptized" in the First Century Greek sense is an extremely important word. In fact, it is the key to understanding Christianity. But see, when people hear the word "baptized" today, they think it's a *religious* word. They think it's referring to the *water-baptisms* that today's denominations perform: Christening babies, pouring water on adults, or immersing people in pools of water.

**John (31:32):**

But at The Last Supper, Jesus was using the word "baptize" with its *First Century* meaning. And that had nothing to do with putting water on people.

**Owen (31:45):**

(Chuckles.) No, it didn't. Check this out now. Let's be very careful here. To First Century people, the word "baptize" was not – was *not* – a religious word. It was an everyday word that all men, women and children used in everyday life. And here's what the word meant to First Century people:

It meant to *immerse* something in a substance, it could be water, oil, or other substances. And then let it *soak* in that substance until its makeup was permanently *changed*. For example, when First Century people made pickles (re-peats), they soaked cucumbers in vinegar until the cucumbers turned into pickles. And then guess what they said. They said they had now "baptized" the cucumbers.

**John (32:41):**

So when Jesus told the disciples that they were going to be "baptized in the Spirit," with *their* ears they understood the word, of course, in their context of the First Century. They understood that the Holy Spirit was going to come down from heaven and *immerse* a part of them until that part of them was permanently *changed*. Is that the way to understand it?

**Owen (33:10):**

Absolutely. Just think about that! But see, then I'm sure our friends in Podcast Land are thinking (chuckles), "Okay, well what *part* of them was the Holy Spirit going to immerse? How was that going to *change* the disciples? *When* was that going to happen? And what would the long-term *result* be?"

**John (33:29):**

Then these are history-changing questions, to be sure. In fact, they are watershed questions that point us back to the *flowchart* that we're using. We're talking about Circle #3 at the bottom-left of the chart. And that's the circle that represents the Human Spirit (or Soul). And remember, we said that in its original condition the Human Spirit is *Spiritually* "dead." In other words, it has no ability to *motivate* people toward *Spiritual* living.

**Owen (34:06):**

That's true, John. And there's so much to be said there. We covered all those points in an earlier episode. But as I'm just listening to you, and thinking about it, the internal spirit – or soul – in people is keeping them alive. That's the "life force" in humans. It came from heaven. (And) it returns to heaven.

**John (34:27):**

That invisible part of us!

**Owen (34:29):**

That invisible, immortal, part of us. *That's* the very part of people that the Holy Spirit indwells in them, and soaks in power to make them Christians. *That's* the part that the Holy Spirit – quote – "baptizes." That means immerses, and soaks in supernatural power, just as Jesus promised at The Last Supper. But let's slow down just a second, now. Because we really need to clearly understand what happened next. Because what happened next is one ... I believe *is* the most important day in human history. Yet it's a day that most people don't know anything about. It's a day that scientists and historians call, "The Day of Pentecost."

**John (35:23):**

Yeah. And just to remind us, this is a *real* calendar day in history. We need to talk about what happened on that morning. It was the annual "Feast of Pentecost." Now that feast wasn't unusual. But something (chuckles) *very* unusual was going to happen on that day. Because that day became the Birthday of Christianity. That's the morning that Christianity was founded.

**Owen (35:55):**

Exactly. A lot of people don't realize there has not *always* been a Christianity. (Chuckles.) It was founded that morning in the First Century. But here's what happened. Jesus had left earth and returned to heaven, just like He said. And the disciples obeyed His command and they stayed in Jerusalem, just like He told them. They moved into a house together to wait for whatever it was. Remember, they didn't fully *understand* whatever it was that was going to happen to them. You know, there were 120 packed in that house. That included the 12 original disciples, plus Jesus's mother and brothers and sisters. We don't know where His father (His step-father, Joseph) was at that point. We assume Joseph had died. And there were a 100 more of Jesus's most loyal disciples – all waiting patiently in that house.

**John (36:50):**

Right. And the days tick by. In other words, for 10 days, they did that. And nothing happened. Oh, but when it happened on the morning of the Feast of Pentecost, the *whole* world was changed in just a few minutes,

**Owen (37:08):**

That's right, John. The *whole* world changed in a few minutes. And a lot of people don't realize most Jewish feasts were at least a week long. The Feast of Pentecost was a *one-day* feast because the people had to get back to the fields and harvest. So here it was. This morning of this one-day feast called "Pentecost." It was nine o'clock, their time, in the morning. The date was May 30th, in the year 30 AD. And so there they were. On this one-day wheat harvest festival, waiting patiently. And by the way, Jerusalem – and this is important – was filled with thousands of visitors. Thousands of *pilgrims*. And the record states that they were representing

*every* known nation on earth. There were pilgrims from *every* known nation. And they had come to town for that one day to celebrate.

**John (38:05):**

Yeah. And then that day, *Christianity* was born.

**Owen (38:10):**

Amen. *Christianity* was born. Here's what happened. The disciples had finished breakfast. They were sitting in clusters talking and praying, as you said John, they had done for 10 days. And suddenly ... now this is 9:00 am in the morning. Clear sky. Mild day. Suddenly, they heard the sound of a roaring like an approaching *tornado*. And that sound came right to their house. And they started looking around in wonder. And then they saw what appeared to be *fire* filling the rooms of that house. They (the disciples) were all through the house, even on the upper roof. And the fire divided itself into smaller individual *flames*. And these little small flames – the Greek word says – "settled down *in*" each disciple. And their inner spirits were soaked ... *were immersed and soaked in supernatural power*.

**John (39:15):**

And that is ... if you're driving, you may want to pull over on that one! (Chuckles) *that* is the "baptism." That is the immersion in Spiritual power that Jesus had promised them at The Last Supper. It was now fulfilled. And that's the "*certain experience*" we said earlier that makes a *Christian*. So this event was the Birthday of Christianity.

**Owen (39:44):**

That's right. And it's never *died* to this day. So this was the "baptism in the Holy Spirit" that Jesus had promised the disciples at that last meal, approximately eight weeks earlier. And now the promise had come true. But let's be clear on one point, John. The part of the disciples that the Holy Spirit indwelled and immersed with power that morning was their *human spirits*. A synonym for that in Christianity is their "soul." We talk about "soul saving." But *that's* what makes a Christian. That immersion, that indwelling, immersion, soaking with power, is what *makes* a Christian. The Holy Spirit indwells people – non-Christians – immerses their *souls* in power, awakens those souls to Spiritual life, and gives those souls the ability to do what? To resist natural selfishness.

**John (40:48):**

So now Owen, we've answered, I think very clearly and specifically, the question of how a non-Christian becomes a *Christian*. And we've used Early Christian definitions to do it, just as we promised early on.

**Owen (41:07):**

Exactly. And so we've actually *also* answered our *third* big question that we mentioned earlier: "How does a non-Christian become a Christian?" And we now know that non-Christians realize – they come to some awareness – that they *can't* control their own selfishness. They get sick and tired of all the *trouble* their own selfishness is causing them. So what do they simply have to do? They pray for the very same experience the 120 disciples had on Pentecost morning. They pray to commit their lives to Jesus – to Christ – and to be *indwelled* by the Spirit. Then guess what? They have a personal Pentecost. Always. They always have it. It never fails. And that's all there is, really, to becoming a *Christian*.

**John (42:02):**

Wow, and that's just incredible. And these facts – this is the truth – also answer *another* question. And it also tells us how Christians are "different" from non-Christians.

**Owen (42:19):**

That's very true, John. Because the fourth question on our list was: "How is a Christian *different* from a non-Christian?" (Repeats.) And John, let me just stick in a thought here. I don't want to get too lengthy. But in my book I tell the story – I believe the name of that little story is "The Friday (Night) Group." And I tell the story about a small group of Christian men that used to meet in my home every Friday night. And all of these were highly experienced Christians. Several were pastors. Several had been missionaries. And so one night I asked them *that* question. "How is a Christian *different* from a non-Christian?" And you know, they couldn't (chuckles) answer it. They could not answer it. That was in my learning period. I was stunned. That was years ago. But there is *one* specific Spiritual difference between a Christian and a non-Christian. And here it is ...

**John (43:21):**

Owen – before you give the definition – I want to jump in and just say this. I really do think that many people don't understand that this is this something that actually happens *in* you. And they associate Christianity (with the idea): "Oh, you guys are people who live and walk by *faith*." That there somehow isn't a *reality* to it. Right! And so this definition is so helpful.

**Owen (43:52):**

Huh. Well let's tell our friends, then. Here we go:

A Christian is a person who is *indwelled* by the Holy Spirit and has had his or her inner spirit *baptized* in supernatural power. So that he or she now has the ability to live a *Spiritual* life. But – but – a non-Christian is *not* indwelled by the Holy Spirit and does *not* have the ability to live a Spiritual life.



**John (44:29):**

And that *same* definition also answers our *final* question of the episode. You can see how they're linked together. And it also tells us what an "infant" Christian is.

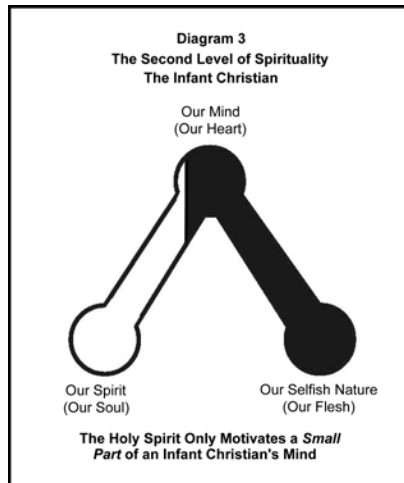
**Owen (44:41):**

Exactly, exactly. So we *have* answered the fifth and final question without actually *doing* it. Because the purpose of this episode was to tell our friends what an "infant" Christian is. That's our title of Episode 13. "The Infant Christian." So question number five ... last question. "What is an *infant* Christian?" And we know the answer. And here it is:

"Infant" Christians are new Christians who've been indwelled by the Holy Spirit, yes. They've had their inner spirits baptized in Spiritual power, yes. But as new Christians – hang on – they aren't allowing the indwelling Holy Spirit to *motivate* them. And that's why the Gallup polls we've talked about so much show that today's average Christian is *no more spiritual* than a non-Christian. It's simply because today's average Christian is an "infant" Christian (chuckles), and the Gallup polls are *surveying* "infant" Christians!

**John (45:53):**

Right. And Owen, we have a *chart* for that – *showing* that – here in the script. The chart shows us what that looks like.



**Owen (46:03):**

Right! Right here at about 45 minutes in, we've got that chart. And this time the chart is not completely *black*. The left side of it is *white*. And in that chart, the whole left arm up and down the side is *white*. That's the whole left side that includes Circle #3 at the bottom, the

spirit, and the mind (Circle #2) at the top – the human mind at the top – is linked. And so there's a little bit of *white* even flowing up into the mind. Not totally, but a little bit.

**John (46:36):**

Owen, I just think about this – just listening, talking about this – that Barna's survey or Gallop's polls and all of those things, and I think what saddens me so much is that one of the motivators for this entire podcast is that so many people don't even *know* this. Don't *understand* it. And their infancy is ... (it) literally comes from not even *understanding* this.

**Owen (47:06):**

That's right. That's right, no question about it. And so, the *trouble* that happens there is that these new Christians, these ... in the First Century they actually called them "children" regardless of their age. And that wasn't a put down. It was a fact. Their spirit was now alive, and now ready to motivate – flow up in the person's mind, *try* to motivate him or her to resist the flesh. But the operative word is "trying." Because – and here's the final point – this is where today's Christian "crisis" enters the picture. Because John, *why* aren't people being motivated? Why *aren't* Christians Spiritual? Because – here it is – they're not being *taught* how to be Spiritually motivated. They're not being *taught* what we're calling "The Early Christian Lifestyle" of Spiritual fruit and Spiritual gifts in their daily lives. Today's Institutional Denominations don't *teach* that.

**John (48:16):**

And that's so true. And so unfortunate. And we've said so many times in these episodes, that a lot of Christians think that as long as they are "saved," is the word. That apart from that, there's nothing else to be done. They've bought their "fire insurance." So when they die that will take effect. And they've built their "fire escape." And now all they need to do is just relax (chuckles) and enjoy life on their terms. And they believe that, "Well, everything's good for the next life."

**Owen (48:52):**

And that's *true*, John. I mean, they *are* safe. They *will* go to heaven. But – but – it's *not* true in this respect. Because as we've said in these episodes – and this is the biggest lesson that I've learned in my long life as a Christian – one of the *purposes* of Christianity is for Christians to live "a little bit of heaven" here on earth. We've been saying that since the first episode. One of the purposes is to experience the marvelous Fruit of the Spirit and the wonderful Gifts of the Spirit in *everyday* life. So John, I don't know. I think maybe we should close this episode the way we closed Episode 09 back earlier. I think we should close with a *prayer* for our friends. In Episode 09, we prayed for our friends to have the strength and courage to accept the teaching that human nature is selfish and that we can't control it. And so, to close this episode, maybe we should pray two things for our friends: First, if they're *not* indwelt by the Holy Spirit and made into Christians, let's pray that they'll pray for that experience imme-

diately. And second, if they *are* already indwelled and if they *are* already Christians, let's pray that they'll immediately start letting the Holy Spirit motivate more of their everyday behavior.

**John (50:34):**

Yeah. Let's pray for them – pray for them right now – that God would cut through all the misunderstanding and Fuzzy Words:

"And Lord, we ask you to help every person listening to this episode right now to *accept* Jesus as their Savior. Give them their own personal Pentecost right this minute. Then, help them to start to *grow* Spiritually, and be, and become, all that God created them to be, and to become."

**Owen (51:12):**

Uh, amen. Thank you, John. Well, would you believe it? The big clock on the wall is telling us that it's time to close. And this has been another incredible episode. But it's time to go.

**John (51:28):**

And I want to remind everyone that this is Episode 13. And that a script and recording is available on our website at: [goSCpod.com](http://goSCpod.com).

**Owen (51:42):**

And for now, this is Owen Allen ...

**John (51:44):**

... and this is John Shields, along with our producer, Shannon Wolf, saying ...

**Owen (51:48):**

... May the God of our fathers bless you, and keep you, and guide you, and protect you, until we meet again.

**Owen and John (51:59):**

Owen and John end the episode.