



David C. Pack: Pastor General of The Restored Church of God; voice of *The World to Come* program; publisher/editor-in-chief of *The Real Truth*, *Pillar* and *Ambassador Youth* magazines; author of scores of books and booklets.



After years of changing or omitting doctrine, in November 1992, the WCG headquarters published the booklet *God Is...* In effect, it disfel-lowshipped the true God from the Church. Also, instead of teaching the biblically proven truth that God is a Family, into which human beings can be born, the booklet falsely taught that God “has” a family—veiling the ultimate purpose that God intends for mankind. Mr. Pack thoroughly examined the *God Is...* booklet against the truth of the Bible (as seen in the notes he wrote within the publication’s pages). This was the change that signaled for Mr. Pack that he had to leave the Worldwide Church of God.

Major United Methodist Beliefs

g and develop—with the summons to start sharing in a great life of God and man—may be awakened now.

For many people life is a fruitless effort to deal with their evil habits one at a time. But they forget something. They forget that it is easier to change a whole person than it is to reshape his degrading habits. They forget that a transformed person acquires unbroken habits. For when the Savior gives new life to a human being, new habits are set in motion.

There comes a time when we have to make up our minds about the kind of people we are going to be. And if such a time needs to be repeated, let it be repeated. For our commitments must be sealed. We cannot serve God and ourselves. (Matt. 6:24)

II. Assurance

We believe in assurance. Holy Spirit of God. The New Testament affirms it. The sheep within the fold leave their shepherd. (John 10:14) The Holy Spirit guides the faithful. (John 16:13) And he assures those that they belong to God. This is the witness of the Spirit. (Rom. 8:16)

We believe in assurance also because Christian experience confirms it. Whatever keeps returning to us in the ongoing of life is the sure test here. And as life goes on, we know, with an ever-deepening sense of assurance, that God is with us. Just as a child increasingly knows that he belongs to his earthly parent, so every Christian knows that he belongs to God. Now and then he may have doubts. But the confidence sure of his soul is that of an undying assurance.

He knows that in his spirit, will

him to join the

knows that he is

of death. When

knows that God

promise of his

side of a firm:

is real and true.

And we find

the joy of this

June 7, 1992

ASSURANCE

Mr. [REDACTED]

Well there are a number of topics we could explore on the Day of Pentecost. As we well know, we've seen some of them yesterday on look at the Church and talk about it's importance for our spiritual development...how the Church nurtures us and how we nurture others in the power of the Spirit. We could look at the Holy Spirit, itself. Which was given on the Day of Pentecost... how the Spirit works...what the Spirit is.

Another important topic we could consider, and the one we ASSURANCE, not insurance, but ASSURANCE. That is how we could know that we indeed have the Holy Spirit. Or state it in another way...how we can know that our sins are forgiven, how we can know that we are indeed saved, how we can know that God indeed loves us, us after this life is over.

When you really get down to it, that's what we really want to know, isn't it? We want to be sure. We don't want maybe's, and we really crave ASSURANCE...real down to earth, concrete ASSURANCE that we're not going to be left out, and we're not headed for the Lake of Fire. Or to put it another way, that when the Saints go searching in, we're going to be in that number.

Well today I hope to show you that you can have ASSURANCE, that God has given you a magnificent gift that can lift you up, fears and your forebodings, and sweep away your apprehensions, and your doorstep. And when you really think about it, it's no wonder that you like we can have doubts about our standing with God, is it! Because, when you, uh, are really honest with yourself, you know we what we're like. We know how we think and we know how we behave. And His people. And if there is any one thing that we really are sure of, it is that we're not Holy. I'm not Holy and you're not Holy. Because I know what my thoughts are like. You know what your thoughts are like. You know what you do when no one's around and that your mind has been on. And you know that God is not like that. God is Holy.

If we're honest with ourselves, we know that we constantly fall short, that we don't measure up. And with that realization, along comes that fear and that apprehension that drowns out the

We Believe in Conversion, Assurance, and Christian Perfection

III. Christian Perfection

We believe in Christian perfection. As we have seen, conversion is the doorway through which we enter the Christian life. And, once in the house of God, we begin to grow. We are to move from the Father. But in the nature of the spiritual life we are to move from room to room and story to story. The new birth starts us off in the crib where, as newborn babes, we partake of the milk of God's Word and grow thereby. (1 Pet. 2:2) We are ordained to the maturity for a time. Gradually, however, we become stronger and learn to walk into the larger rooms of God's house. And it is the Father's good pleasure to see his children grow in grace.

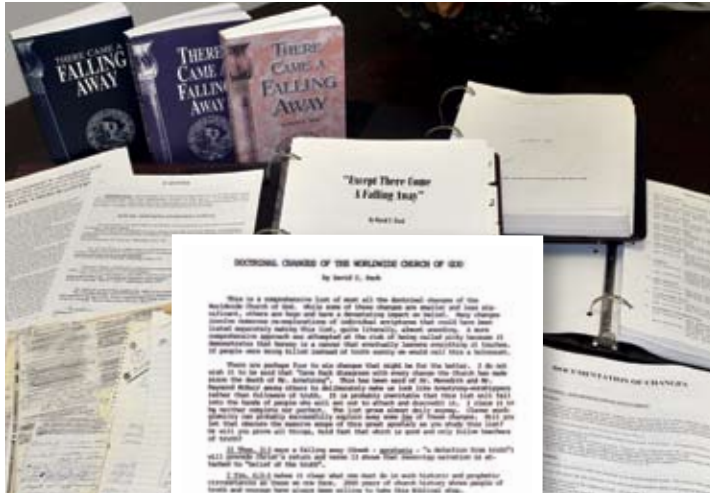
Some tell us that just as the new birth comes as the first work of grace, Christian perfection, or perfectionism, comes as the second work of grace. But others say that we should not limit the house of God to these two stories. Conversion on this topic have gone far into many a night. And much remains to be said. John Wesley has been rightly claimed as a witness on both sides. He believed in Christian perfection as a second work of grace because of the moment of glory. And in his opinion, he knew the experience in his own heart, as far as I can tell, for every cleric and non-antiquarian preacher is.

This difference of opinion has become one of the most controversial topics in evangelical Christianity, and in many circles it continues to be just that. But we need, above all, to see that there are at least six basic points on which we can all agree.

Upon detailed investigation in December 1992, Mr. Pack discovered that the "Assurance" doctrine, which false leaders had presented to the Church membership in the middle of 1992, was not new—rather, it was a well-known teaching that came directly from John Wesley and Methodist doctrine! The document at the top was picked up by Mr. Pack at a Methodist church.



Top, a copy of the “Truth” sermon delivered on February 27, 1993, Mr. Pack’s last sermon in the WCG. Left, his notes, which show the many scriptures included in this unusual sermon. Mr. Armstrong had a unique note system for his sermons, involving unfolding paper at almost every point. These notes exemplify Mr. Pack’s personal system. Coupled with his unusual use of memory, using colors as triggers, he has delivered many hundreds of sermons. (Each color carries broad or narrow meaning, as does thicker or thinner printing.) It should be noted that this particular sermon required many more scriptures than usual.



Top, the initial list of doctrinal changes in WCG (foreground) that became the book *There Came a Falling Away*. Bottom, the “90 Reasons” sermon series. These sermons helped thousands leave the apostasy in WCG.





In 1996, Mr. and Mrs. Pack, along with their daughter, Jennifer, traveled “down under” and observed the Day of Atonement in New Zealand and the Feast of Tabernacles at two sites on the east and west coasts of Australia.



Top, Frank and Mary Crowl. Bottom, while still in Chicago, the couple attends Mr. Crowl's retirement party from Encyclopaedia Britannica in 1991.



When Mr. Pack moved into his second house in Wadsworth, he continued his love of tending for trees and shrubs. Top, Mr. Pack and his brother in September 2004 just before felling “a mighty oak” in his backyard. He also enjoyed this personal pas-time with brethren.





Above, Jane Pack and her sister-in-law, Mr. Pack's Aunt Mary Crowl, vacationed together in Europe. Below, with his Uncle Frank sharing one of many moments together, this one dining in late 2007 overlooking the Pacific Ocean.





In August 1992—just six months before terrorists first attacked (1993) before later destroying the twin towers of the World Trade Center (in 2001)—leading Akron parents and teenagers on a tour of New York City. They are on the escalator up to the ticket counter on the way to the top of one of the towers. His daughter, Jennifer, is immediately behind him. The view at top is from a ferry crossing New York Harbor from Staten Island.