

Opinion



1 Kings 18:21 And Elijah came to all the people, and said, “How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD *is* God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” But the people answered him not a word.

The thing about opinions is you can move easily from one to another. Also we can be persuaded by others (popular opinion) as to which opinions we should be holding.

Job 32:6 So Elihu, the son of Barachel the Buzite, answered and said: “*I am* young in years, and you *are* very old; Therefore I was afraid, and dared not declare my opinion to you. I said, ‘Age should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom.’ But *there is* a spirit in man, and the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding. Great men are not *always* wise, nor do the aged *always* understand justice. Therefore I say, ‘Listen to me, I also will declare my opinion.’ Indeed I waited for your words, I listened to your reasonings, while you searched out what to say. I paid close attention to you; and surely not one of you convinced Job, or answered his words— lest you say, ‘We have found wisdom’; God will vanquish him, not man. Now he has not directed *his* words against me; So I will not answer him with your words. They are dismayed and answer no more; Words escape them. And I have waited, because they did not speak, Because they stood still *and* answered no more. I also will answer my part, I too will declare my opinion.

Everyone has their own opinion. And they are not always beneficial when we voice them. But generally younger folks respect and heed the opinions of their elders, not guaranteed to always be helpful.

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

The Lord does not hold opinions like we do. His word is truth, no ifs, buts or maybes. Also thankfully, if we will trust in Him with all our heart (leaving no room for men’s advice and opinions) neither in our own concepts, He will direct our paths by His word when we listen to Him.

Isaiah 55:6 Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; And to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD. “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. “For you shall go out with joy, and be led out with peace; The mountains and the hills shall break forth into singing before you, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree; And it shall be to the LORD for a name, For an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

How generous is our God. We just have to seek Him, leave our ways, thoughts, opinions, and He will speak to us His word from His own mouth. With wonderful results.

Matthew 15:1 Then the scribes and Pharisees who were from Jerusalem came to Jesus, saying, “Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.” He answered and said to them, “Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition? For God commanded, saying, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘He who curses

father or mother, let him be put to death.’ But you say, ‘Whoever says to his father or mother, “Whatever profit you might have received from me is a gift to God” — ‘then he need not honor his father or mother.’ Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition. Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: ‘These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.’” When He had called the multitude to Himself, He said to them, “Hear and understand: Not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man.” Then His disciples came and said to Him, “Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?” But He answered and said, “Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.”

Traditions easily become the spring of popular convention and opinion. Especially in religious matters. When anyone challenges these deeply held opinions (beliefs) folk get terribly offended.

Jesus describes those who dispense opinions as if they were God’s opinions as blind guides. Not to be followed as if they had vision. Rather we should follow Him who alone is the Light of the world, Jesus whom God has made both the Lord and the anointed king.

Matthew 16:13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.

Jesus here is asking His disciples for the opinions of men about Himself. As is usual, there were many varying opinions held by men, including that He had a devil. Then He asks the disciples for their opinion.

Peter gives what may appear to be just another opinion but it is not just an opinion. It is the truth, revealed by God to him. The thing about revelation is that it is made personally to individuals by the Father, it cannot be passed on as a mere opinion. For this reason the disciples were told not to pass this revelation on amongst the general public. The last thing Jesus wanted was for multitudes of false disciples whose opinions could be easily moved from one school of thought to another. Revelation is the rock on which Jesus builds His assembly, not opinion.

Matthew 22:41 While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?” They said to Him, “The Son of David.” He said to them, “How then does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying: ‘The LORD said to my Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool’”? If David then calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his Son?”

The Pharisees were a particular religious sect with particular views and opinions on all sorts of religious matters. Including the identity of the messiah, the anointed king of Israel. There wasn’t much room for individuals to come to their own conclusions.

While ‘Son of David’ was a title for the messiah, it was not a technical description. Neither was ‘Son of Man’. Even today people still hold various opinions on these matters. But the truth is only by revelation from the mouth of God to those laying aside their own thoughts and ways.

Luke 10:21 In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, “I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and *the one* to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*.” Then He turned to *His* disciples and said privately, “Blessed *are* the eyes which see the

things you see; for I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen *it*, and to hear what you hear, and have not heard *it*.”

I also rejoice!! Amazing grace. Amazing revelation.

Luke 24:13 Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. And they talked together of all these things which had happened. So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him. And He said to them, “What kind of conversation *is* this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?” Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, “Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?” And He said to them, “What things?” So they said to Him, “The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. And certain of those *who were* with us went to the tomb and found *it* just as the women had said; but Him they did not see.” Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?” And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. But they constrained Him, saying, “Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.” And He went in to stay with them. Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. And they said to one another, “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?”

These two disciples of Jesus had spent much time with Him, seen the miracles, heard His voice, and as a consequence hoped that He was the messiah. Not the same as the faith that comes from hearing the word of God. Jesus graciously met with them and gave them this opportunity to hear direct from His mouth.

John 6:53 Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever.” These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum. Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this, said, “This is a hard saying; who can understand it?” When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, “Does this offend you? What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before? It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who would betray Him. And He said, “Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father.” From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, “Do you also want to go away?” But Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Holding flattering opinions about Jesus will save no-one. Hearing a million sermons about Him will save no-one. Only by eating His flesh and drinking His blood – becoming one with Him in His Spirit- gives eternal life.

Opinions will change. The word of the Lord endures forever and are spirit and life. Better get some from the mouth of Jesus.

John 10:27 “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

How to be a disciple. Listen to hear the voice of Jesus. Forget our own thoughts, tendencies and opinions. Do what He tells us personally.

John 18:37 Pilate therefore said to Him, “Are You a king then?” Jesus answered, “You say *rightly* that I am a king. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.” Pilate said to Him, “What is truth?”

The trouble with opinions is that everyone can have their own version of the truth. Eventually we may give up believing that anyone really knows and that it doesn't matter. Truth does matter. Opinions don't so much.

Acts 10:5 “Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter. He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do.”

Cornelius was not told to get Peter's opinion or version of the truth. He would be told definitively what he must do.

Acts 10:21 Then Peter went down to the men who had been sent to him from Cornelius, and said, “Yes, I am he whom you seek. For what reason have you come?” And they said, “Cornelius the centurion, a just man, one who fears God and has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house, and to hear words from you.” Then he invited them in and lodged them. On the next day Peter went away with them, and some brethren from Joppa accompanied him.

And the following day they entered Caesarea. Now Cornelius was waiting for them, and had called together his relatives and close friends. As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshiped him. But Peter lifted him up, saying, “Stand up; I myself am also a man.” And as he talked with him, he went in and found many who had come together. Then he said to them, “You know how unlawful it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean. “Therefore I came without objection as soon as I was sent for. I ask, then, for what reason have you sent for me?” So Cornelius said, “Four days ago I was fasting until this hour; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing, “and said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard, and your alms are remembered in the sight of God. ‘Send therefore to Joppa and call Simon here, whose surname is Peter. He is lodging in the house of Simon, a tanner, by the sea. When he comes, he will speak to you.’ So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by God.”

Then Peter opened his mouth and said: “In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him. The word (logos) which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all—that word (rima) you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead. And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.”

While Peter was still speaking these words (rimata), the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word (logos - message) . And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came

with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

Here Cornelius and his household have an expectation is to hear the word (message) of God, through the words of His appointed messenger. No opinions were expressed, only facts and commands of God Himself. With this expectation and attentive hearing to the word (message) of God came saving faith.

Acts 11:12 "Then the Spirit told me to go with them, doubting nothing. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. And he told us how he had seen an angel standing in his house, who said to him, 'Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon whose surname is Peter, who will tell you words (rimata) by which you and all your household will be saved.'

Opinions, even factually correct opinions, would not have produced the faith in the message that resulted in God granting repentance to eternal life, sins washed away in the name of Jesus and the pouring out of the gift of the Holy Spirit. The gospel that is not merely a presentation of beliefs and opinions is the power of God to salvation to all those that believe it.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to (by) the Spirit. For those who live according to (by) the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

Opinions do not grow out of putting to death the deeds of the flesh and living in the Spirit. They grow out of living in the flesh. Everyone has opinions, formed from our life experiences, peer group pressures, and exposure to a multitude of brainwashing messages from various sources. Hence the need to live in the power of the Spirit if we are to avoid being led by our own opinions.

Romans 10:8 But what does it say? "*The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart*" (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "*Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.*" For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. For "*whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.*"

How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "*How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!*" But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "*LORD, who has believed our report?*" So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. But I say,

have they not heard? Yes indeed: *“Their sound has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.”* But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says: *“I will provoke you to jealousy by those who are not a nation, I will move you to anger by a foolish nation.”* But Isaiah is very bold and says: *“I was found by those who did not seek Me; I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me.”* But to Israel he says: *“All day long I have stretched out My hands to a disobedient and contrary people.”*

When we hear the message of repentance and remission of sins through the name of Jesus Christ from someone sent by Jesus Christ, and recognise it's source – Jesus Christ – faith is produced in that message and in Jesus Christ. It is a miracle, not just persuasion. Those not sent by Jesus Christ may share the same message but the result may be an opinion of Christ, rather than repentance to eternal life, sins washed away in His name and receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 11:25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

As disciples of Jesus Christ it is well to be aware that our opinions are as likely to be wrong as anyone else's. Better to walk in the Spirit, in revelation.

2 Peter 3:14 Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; and consider *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation—as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given to him, has written to you, as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable *people* twist to their own destruction, as *they do* also the rest of the Scriptures. You therefore, beloved, since you know *this* beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.

Good, godly people are as likely to lead us into the errors of their opinions as anyone. Rather let us know our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Who always leads us in Truth.

Colin Thompson, Gateshead, England. <http://www.followingjesuschrist.co.uk/>
email colin@followingjesuschrist.co.uk

[Back to Following Jesus Christ Home Page.](#)