

# STRANGE (UNBIBLICAL) THINGS



*Hebrews 13:9 -- Do not be carried away by varied and strange teachings; for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace...*

## Introduction

1. Among the churches of today you will find all sorts of strange things that were never heard of in Jesus' time. Modern religion is made up of all sorts of terms that have become an everyday part of people's lives, and they are used commonly as if it is normal to do so, yet they are not part of any concept one would find in the Bible. [Note also Colossians 2:8-23]
2. What is even stranger is that people will ask the Christian questions that one can only return blank stares to because it is not known what these people are talking about, for they are using lingo privy only to certain religious circles.
3. What we will endeavor to do in this lesson is introduce to you some of this "religious speak" and try to give you some idea of what they are talking about, while also giving what is God's truth, which you will find is very strange to them.

## A. "Witnessing"

1. One of the expressions used today for "sharing Jesus" with others is the use of the term "witnessing." There has even grown up a religion with the use of term called "Jehovah's Witnesses."
2. When people speak of "witnessing" they are usually talking about sharing the "experience" that turned their life around and "brought them to Jesus." Often this will include near death experiences, voices in their head, visions they have seen, laying their hand on the TV, reading some fluff religious book about someone else's life, ad infinitum. This is easier than knowing the Scriptures.
3. For the present, although the term "witness" is found in the Bible, it's meaning is totally different from how it is used now. As used in the Scriptures it pertains to what one has seen and can give a personal account of. Primarily it is used of qualifications of apostles, yet even in such contexts, it has nothing to do with the process of their salvation, but more of providing evidence.  
*Acts 1:22 -- ...One of these should be a witness of His resurrection. (Acts 4:33; 10:43).  
Acts 22:15 -- For you will be a witness for Him to all men. (Acts 26:16)  
1 John 1:1-2 -- ...what we have heard... seen... handled, concerning the Word of Life.*
4. Eventually, the term referred to those who gave their lives to give such evidence, and the Greek word was transliterated into "martyr."

## B. "Getting the Call"

1. It is true that the people of the Old Testament, like Samuel, and some specially picked individuals in the New, like Paul, have heard voices in the middle of the night, and seen visions at various times, yet again, this had nothing to do with saving them. On the contrary, the experience almost killed them.
2. However, under the new covenant it is very specific as to how one is "called" to salvation, and one's responsibility to such a "calling."  
*2 Thessalonians 2:14 -- And it was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
2 Peter 1:10 -- Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble.*
3. In the book that deals with our being called (1 Peter 1:15; 2:9; 2:21; 3:9; & 5:10) notice what makes you born again and purifies your souls (1 Peter 1:22-25).

### C. "Feeling Saved"

1. Many people, supposedly living in an enlightened world where all things are subject to the cold, hard light of scientific logic, still go by that nebulous wisp of illogic called their "feeling" or intuition.
2. It works well for them in picking marriage partners, lottery numbers, choosing the right answers on school exams and driving across country without a map. Realistically, nobody relies on their feelings for anything serious if they have any sort of intelligence, so why on them for something as important as the saving of their soul?
3. The Bible is totally against doing what "feels right," "letting your conscience be your guide," or "wishful thinking."

*Jeremiah 10:23* -- ...a man's way is not in himself, nor... to direct his own steps.

*John 8:32* -- You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

*Ephesians 5:17* -- ... do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

*Acts 23:1* -- ...I have lived my life with a perfectly good conscience... [Paul a murderer]

### D. "Being Moved By The Spirit"

1. Usually the passages of Scripture most referred to for authority that the Spirit talks to people today are John 14:26 and 16:13. However, the context clearly indicates that Jesus is talking about this experience happening to apostles only.
2. If the Spirit is still in the world talking to people, then so must other spirits be out in the world and active. John specifically tells Christians to test these spirits to see if they are from God (1 John 4:1-6).
3. How one tests spirits is by God's Spirit as He made known the will of God in the writings of the Scriptures. As Paul clearly states, the Spirit is the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17). If a spirit says anything other than the gospel, it is false (Galatians 1:8-9). If it says exactly what the gospel says, why does one need that spirit anyway. It is the word of Christ that will judge us, according to John (John 12:48).

### E. "Non-denominational Community Centers"

1. Springing up everywhere are all sorts of religious gatherings on Sunday (and more and more on Saturday night) that purport to be serving God.
2. However, the word "community" implies that they really serve men and not God. Further, where in the Bible do you find the word "Center"? Whatever it is, it is not the "Church" that Christ died for (Ephesians 5:25; Acts 20:28).
3. The Church of Christ has always persisted in declaring that it is not a denomination (one of many) because God said there is only one body [church] and one faith (Ephesians 4:4-5). "Non-denomination" is a term used to say that the group accepts any faith as valid. It does not matter what you believe even if it contradicts the Scriptures and denies that Jesus is God. [Fails test of 1 John 4]

### F. "Receiving Jesus Into Your Heart"

1. It is not quite clear what this expression means or specifically how it is done. The expression appears nowhere in the Scriptures. By usage it would seem to mean the same as "believing" in God/Jesus, although the word "believing" need also be clearly defined for those in this pseudo-religious realm. Devils believe.
2. One context used for explanation is Romans 10:9-13 where words like "believe in your heart" and "calling upon name of the Lord" are also used ambiguously.
3. We say ambiguously because a lot of what Paul says before and after is studiously ignored: Romans 2:6-10 concerning deeds we are judged by. Romans 3:27 concerns the "Law of Faith." Romans 6 involves baptism into Christ and presenting our bodies as instruments of righteousness, opposed to Romans 10:3 about establishing our own righteousness and Romans 10:2 concerning zeal not according to knowledge. See also Romans 12:1-2 & Galatians 4:19\*.