

# Resolutions for Truth Research in the World Delegates Conference of the Year 2013

## 1. Does the sacrament of Foot-washing have a cleansing effect? (Hong-Hsiung Ko) 2003

**Resolution: We are cleansed by the blood of Christ. Thus the Foot-washing  
Sacrament does not have a cleansing effect.**

**Agree: 29 votes      Disagree: 0 vote      (Passed)**

**WDC Resolution: Passed with no objection.**

## 2. Briefing on “Theo-democracy”

2013 Truth Research Committee, Proposal 4: Each to do its part to establish the body of Christ.

Last meeting resolution: According to the 5<sup>th</sup> resolution, the Truth Research Committee members are to come up with a definition for the term “Theo-democracy.”

The combined view of the Truth Research Committee:

### (1) Briefing on the constitution of Theo-democracy –

“Theo-democracy” proposes that Christ is the head of the church (Eph. 1:22), who also manages the household of God (Heb. 3:6). God has established different ministries in the church (choosing His servants) to perfect the believers (equipping believers). He enables them with different ministries, to establish the body of Christ – His church (Eph. 4:11-12). The principles for pastoral works are as follows:

The church is the house of God (Eph. 2:19, 1 Tim. 3:15), which He purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28). Ordained workers who have been entrusted must manage and shepherd the church faithfully (Acts 20:28). With regards to carrying out the affairs of the church, divine workers are to discuss, collaborate and solicit vast ideas (Acts 15:6, Prov. 15:22, 24:6). Each is to have a heart of reverence, submit to one another (Eph. 5:21), and reach consensus in accordance with the truth (Eph. 5:21, Rom. 12:17). For matters of great importance, divine workers must follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the principles of the Bible in discussing and reaching resolutions in meetings (Acts 15:1ff).

### (2) In view of the concern over the term “democracy” in its interpretation, it is proposed to amend the 5<sup>th</sup> item of the previous resolution by deleting the term “Theo-democracy.”

The above two proposals will be passed onto the committee for resolution.

**Resolution 1: For proposal 2, should the term “Theo-democracy” be deleted?**

**Agree: 24 votes      Disagree: 0 vote      (Passed)**

**WDC Resolution: Passed with no objection.**

**Resolution 2:**

**Amend the 5<sup>th</sup> point of the original resolution. The organization of a GA or IA-directed Coordination Board must not surpass the teachings of the Holy Bible. As entrusted servants of God, each organization is to minister to the house of God with the truth and to adopt the spirit that Christ is the head of the household as the guiding principle in managing the church organization (Matt. 20:25-28, Mk. 10:42-45). It must be done out of willingness and eagerness, not with dominancy but as examples to the flock (1 Pet. 5:1-4, Acts 20:28-30).**

**Agree: 30 votes      Disagree: 0 vote      (Passed)**

**WDC Resolution: Passed with no objection.**

- 3. In the New Testament, one must first receive the Holy Spirit before one can pursue being filled by the Holy Spirit. (USGA 2012)**

**To clarify the various views on “receiving the Holy Spirit and being filled by the Holy Spirit”**

- (1) Do water baptism and the receiving of the Holy Spirit happen at the same time? The verses below require accurate interpretations:**
- a. John 3:5-6**
  - b. 1 Corinthians 12:13**
  - c. 1 Corinthians 6:18-19**
  - d. Ephesians 1:23**
  - e. Romans 8:9**

**Resolution:**

- 1. We have received the remission of sins and have become the children of God after baptism. We must also receive the Holy Spirit of promise as the guarantee of the heavenly inheritance. Speaking in tongues is the sign used to determine the receiving of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4, Eph. 1:13-14).**
- 2. ‘Receiving the Holy Spirit’ means that the Holy Spirit is poured down onto one and that one is able to utter in tongues. This is called ‘the Holy Spirit of promise’ (Acts 2:4).**

3. Before one receives the Holy Spirit, one can receive ‘the promise of the Holy Spirit’ through faith and will one day receive ‘the Holy Spirit of promise’ in a manner that can be seen and heard (Acts 2:33). This promise of the Holy Spirit is given to those who come to the Lord (John 7:37-38). They are those whom He has chosen (Acts 2:39). Thus Peter called upon those who were cut to the heart by what they heard to repent and be baptized, so that they would receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). It can be seen that those who have yet to receive the Holy Spirit will, upon baptism, receive the promise of the Holy Spirit, which is the promise of receiving the Holy Spirit in the future.
4. Speaking in tongues demarcates the Holy Spirit of promise from the promise of the Holy Spirit.
5. We can therefore see that receiving water baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit are two separate matters. The Spirit can be received before baptism, during baptism, or after baptism.

Agree: 25 votes

Disagree: 0 vote

(Passed)

**WDC Resolution: Passed with no objection.**

- (2) **If after baptism a member exhibits love, joy, peace, and so forth, or is zealous in serving in the church but has yet to utter in tongues, has this member received the Holy Spirit?**

**Resolution:**

After conversion, one is to pursue the work of faith (James 2:22), love, joy, peace, and so forth. Jesus said, “I am the true vine... Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit” (John 15:1-2).

Cornelius had been a devout man even before he received the Holy Spirit. His entire family feared God, gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. His righteous deeds bear resemblance to the fruit of the Spirit and were remembered by God. He, however, did not have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit; he lacked the knowledge of the Lord and was not yet baptized for the remission of sins. So, with the guidance of God, Cornelius invited Peter. He heard the truth and then received the Holy Spirit. (Acts 10)

When the Samaritans believed in the word Philip preached to them, they received water baptism and had great joy. And yet, two apostles were sent from Jerusalem to help lay hands on them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 8).

It is illogical to claim that the receiving of the Spirit is based upon good behavior resembling the fruit of the Holy Spirit. For a baptized member who has yet to receive the Holy Spirit, showing good behavior is owing to the movement of the Holy Spirit.

**Vote Count: 33 (2/3 (22 votes) majority is required to pass)**

**Agree: 24 votes**

**Disagree: 0 vote**

**(Passed)**

**WDC Resolution: Passed with no objection.**

- (3) What is being filled by the Holy Spirit? What is the difference between being filled by the Holy Spirit in the New and Old Testaments?**

**Resolution:**

**One who is filled by the Holy Spirit (full of the Holy Spirit) is someone who has already received the Holy Spirit, speaks in tongues, relies on the Holy Spirit to live and conduct life, and bears the fruit of the Holy Spirit.**

**Examples include: the seven chosen to serve (Acts 6:5), and Barnabas (Acts 11:24). Stephen was also called one who was full of the Holy Spirit.**

**The reality of being filled by the Spirit has occurred in the Old Testament time, as well as that of the New Testament. In the Old Testament time, one was filled with the Holy Spirit to do what the Holy Spirit wanted one to do. For example, Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesized (Luke 1:67). After his prophecy, however, the Holy Spirit did not abide with him eternally.**

**In the New Testament time, Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit and stood before the Sanhedrin to testify of the salvation of the Lord Jesus (Acts 4:8). After Peter's testimony, the Holy Spirit continued to remain in him. This is the Holy Spirit that lived within him eternally. In sending out the 12 disciples, the Lord Jesus prophesized to them, "But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak" (Matt. 10:19).**

**"For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you" (Matt. 10:20). Since Peter had the indwelling of the Spirit, it was the Spirit who stirred him to speak from within. After then, the Holy Spirit continued to remain in him. For this is the Spirit promised by God to dwell in one forever.**

**The fullness of the Holy Spirit in this case is perpetual. It differs from the Old Testament accounts of those whom the Spirit had filled or descended upon to carry out an entrustment from God.**

**The Holy Spirit was yet to be given before Jesus' ascension, since Jesus was not yet glorified (John 7:39, 16:7). The Holy Spirit would come upon or**

**descend upon men. Examples include the cases of Balaam, Othniel, Gideon, Jephthah, Samson, Saul and David, Amasa, as well as Joseph (Gen. 41:38) or Daniel (Dan. 4:8-9). All these point to the temporary indwelling or movement of the Holy Spirit, but not eternal indwelling.**

**After one has believed in the Lord and received water baptism, though one has yet to receive the Holy Spirit, one may sometimes be moved by the Holy Spirit to do what the Holy Spirit wants to do. What is required of such a person is to pray for the indwelling of the Spirit and be one who is filled by the Holy Spirit.**

**Agree: 24 votes**

**Disagree: 0 vote**

**(Passed)**

**WDC Resolution: Passed with no objection.**

- 4. Please revise the topic related to the history of changing the Sabbath day in publications such as “Essential Doctrines in the Holy Bible” and “Q & A on Biblical Doctrines” (USGA 2012).**

**Resolution: No changes will be made to the two books: “Essential Doctrines in the Holy Bible” and “Q & A on Biblical Doctrines”. Please inform Deacon Jacob Chiang to organize all relevant materials to be handed over to Taiwan GA’s Department of Literary Ministry. These materials would be used as supplements when these two books are revised for future printing.**

**Agree: 26 votes**

**Disagree: 0 vote**

**(Passed)**

**WDC Resolution: Passed with no objection.**