**Principle #2**

Israel is the name that represents Spiritual son ship to God

**Scriptures for Reading**

Exodus 4:22

Psalms 83:4

Isaiah 44:5

Genesis 32:28

Romans 9:4

**Principle Explanation**

The name **Israel** is the God-given name that the God of Israel has chosen for all of his children to spiritually surname themselves by (Isaiah 44:5). This name, Israel, represents true son ship to the God of Israel. Israel is the spirit that causes us to do the will of the God of Israel. Israel is the spirit that dwells on the inside of all children of the God of Israel. It is not a man-made name but a name given to us from the God of Israel. We must also remember that this name represents a change in character for all who accept this name. It is not merely good enough for us to subscribe with our hand and accept the name Israel; we must strive each and every day to become a true Israel of God.

Christianity teaches that Jesus is the son of God and this is true in the sense that physically speaking, Jesus was a son of God. We must also remember that Abraham, Moses, David and all of the prophets in biblical times were sons of God. I John 3:1 read “What manner of love has been bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God” Romans 8:14 reads “As many as are led of the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” These scriptures enlighten us to understand that all who obey God are sons of God.

Spiritually speaking, the spirit that causes us to be sons of God, regardless of our natural birth-given name is Israel, which was chosen by God. This spirit of Israel is what transforms us so we can be obedient to the Spirit of God within us. When we truly become Israel, our character will represent the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22).

The reason we did not know that we were Israel is because we were cut-off from this knowledge. Psalms 83:4 reads, “They have said, come and let us cut them off from being a nation that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance.” Many people were never introduce to the name Israel and the spirit within them that Israel represents but instead were taught about an idol figure that was misrepresented as the image of God.

We are Israel collectively, as a people serving the God of Israel and we are Israel individually as we learn to develop our relationship with the God of Israel The name Israel is very important. The God of Israel throughout biblical history has made many promises to his people Israel and those who become a true Israel of God will inherit these promises.

Israel is not just another religious doctrine; it is a way of life. This way of life as being Israel is reflected in all that we do. Our life should reflect what we believe and if we obey the God of Israel it will be easy for others to see the light of Israel in our everyday life. The name **Israel** represents what is on the inside of us. We do not change our naturally given birth name. The change to Israel is to change on the inside, in our hearts and minds. Then we can truly be sons of God.

**Questions**

1. Why do we surname ourselves Israel?

2. Is subscribing with our hand sufficient to become a true Israel of God?

3. Was Jesus the only son of God?

4. In what two ways are we Israel?

5. When we become Israel, what will our character be like?

6. Why did we not know that we were Israel?

7. Is Israel a religion or a way of life?

**Practical Points**

1. Israel is the God-given name of all the children of God

2. We must do the will of the God of Israel in order to become a true Israel of God. Just accepting the name Israel is not enough.

3. Jesus was not the only son of God. All who obey the Spirit of God are sons of God.

4. We do not change our natural birth-given name when we become Israel. In order to become a true Israel of God, we must change our character on the inside.

**Research and Discussion**

1. Do all people, regardless of race or natural origin have a chance to become Israel?

2. What are some of the promises in biblical history the God of Israel made to his people Israel and are those promises still in effect today?