

Bringing
The
Kingdom

(Turning the World Upside Down)

By A. Jack Nester, Jr., D.Min.

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Introduction

America has degenerated to the point of: 1) rejecting God (at schools and public places), 2) replacing God's word with man's supposed "rights" (homosexual unions, legalized drugs, abortion on demand), and support by taxpayer dollars, and LAST, 3) openly opposing the Christian Faith and its ministry.

The church has both physical and spiritual assistance, if it will use resources it offers. To name a few, food, clothing, job assistance, support for medical needs, household items, back-to-school items for children and assistance in tutoring. Spiritually, the church offers Sunday School, church, nursery (with teaching), youth group, classes for spiritual growth, opportunities to minister, summer camp for youth, 1st responder materials for emergency and disasters, prayer group, and fellowship.

- Part of the problem is 1) what the church sees as its purpose. It takes both natural skills as well as spiritual gifts to function properly. 2) Its unwillingness and fear to stand publicly for the Lord Jesus. There seems to be a false understanding that the church only addresses either spiritual (which is morality and medicine for fear of offense. The scripture is naturally offensive, especially to those who hunt for excuses not to believe or obey. 3) It is lacking supernatural power that transforms both physically and spiritually. It will bring either revival or riot as seen in Acts 17:6!
- The other part of the problem is people who are self-identified Christians (intellectual agreement) who are well meaning but lack anointing and will not function biblically. What is needed is for Christians to be truly passionate and incite either revival or riot that cannot be contained or controlled because it is led by the Holy Spirit. All of this is done by radical believers who are equipped through study and supernatural anointing.

The purpose of this book is to show that the God of the Christian faith and supernatural ministry is available as it was in the early church. For this to happen, we must accept the fact that all Believers in Jesus Christ are ministers of the Gospel. When we realize this, we must accept the fact that all believers in Jesus Christ are ministers of the Gospel. Then, we can and should bring the Kingdom by applying spiritual principles and power to needs and set captives free.

Christianity is not a religion but a personal relationship. Further, it is the only faith in the Word that has the power to produce what it promises. I, personally, have seen and shared in supernatural ministry as listed in Matthew 10:7-8, conducted by a few pastors but mostly by Believers.

What hurts my heart is that most churches function on the natural level rather than the supernatural. It is not just signs and wonders, but the power of the resurrection applied to lives that result in life abundant as well as eternal. It seems that the church has all but lost its influence and transforming power of the Holy Spirit as well as faith and desire to be what God says is available and needed based on world situations.

In the 21st century, the church seems to be irrelevant to meet any needs except as a religions social service agency. In the following pages, I will share Biblical experiences that I have seen and in which I have participated. Also, I will share Biblical principles and promises that work today just as they did with the apostles. The intent is to encourage you, as a believer, to function in the fullness God intends and bring the kingdom.

Chapter 1

The Church and Its' Influence

Early Church

The presence of the early church and the presentation of the Gospel were so powerful that they produced either revival or riot! In Acts 2, there is the record of Pentecost that produced revival beginning with 3000 converts who began the journey to discipleship and supernatural ministry. In Acts 4, Peter and John were arrested for speaking of His death, burial, and resurrection. Scripture says that many who heard believed numbered about 5000 men!

In Acts 17, there is the record of Paul and Silas preaching with multitudes of devout Greeks believing including a great number of women. In Acts 17, there is also a record of a riot because of the effects of the Gospel and fear of further expansion. When some jealous Jews could not find Paul and Silas, they stirred up the people in the market place and got the entire city in an uproar. Then, they dragged Jason (whose home the Apostles were staying) outside crying to the city leaders that these are the men who turned the world upside down, and now they have come here.

Wow, what a reputation! These rabble rousers couldn't refute the miracles, nor the power, so they did the only thing left to do: 1) threaten them with retribution if they spoke or taught in the name of Jesus; 2) tell lies about them; and 3) required security; (posted bond and promised trouble would cease on his property).

Revival or Riot

This same power and reputation should be true of the church today. It should produce either revival or riot, but there should be no middle ground whether presenting Christ or addressing values and issues of faith.

As early as the second century, the church began to change and move from anointing to academics where the church is viewed as a business, rather than a Body of Christ, who is biblically predestined to be conformed to His image and minister in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Christianity in America

In the Mayflower Compact, the immigrants made a covenant with God, and dedicated the land to Him, and committed themselves to live by faith. We are the only nation in the world that covenanted with God to establish a nation.

All of the people who came to America and settled it were not necessarily Christian, but they followed the Constitution which was founded on Christian principles. God has blessed our nation, but will not continue to do so if

America continues to turn its back on God, reject God, and increase in heathen practices (some of these will be addressed later).

God has been at the heart of America since the beginning. This can be seen on the capstone of the Washington monument where there is the inscription “Praise be to God”. On the Southern entrance to the U.S. capital “In God We Trust” is clear. There are others, also, such as the bronze engraving of the Ten Commandments on the floor of the National Archives where the Declaration of Independence and Constitution are kept. The evidence of God’s role and dependence on Him is on almost every monument, memorial, and building.

Thomas Jefferson (material from David Barton)

He reminded the people that our “liberties” are God given, **NOT** from the government. Further, he said “I tremble for my country, when I reflect that God is just; and that His justice cannot sleep forever”. There is indeed judgment and justice coming for removing God from public prayer and having judges rule against the constitution and the Christian faith. Where does the church stand in living for Christ and calling for accountability?

Separation of Church and State Issue (material from David Barton)

Most often heard is that there is a “wall of separation between church and state” and the church can’t address anything political, even on moral issues or public prayer. This was addressed in a letter from Danbury Baptists Association in the state of Connecticut, October 7, 1801 to President Thomas Jefferson. President Jefferson’s reply of January 1802 was clear that the government would not interfere with an individual’s personal faith and expression of it. In short, “the government would not respect the establishment of religion (i.e. a state church), nor would it prohibit the free exercise thereof” (i.e. restricting public prayer, especially in the name of Jesus, or use of religious symbols). The fact that religion is a matter which lies solely between man and his God is acknowledged in that the government cannot dictate nor limit expression. Since America was founded on the Christian faith and its values, personal expression is a part of our national fabric. The “wall of separation” is this: The government cannot restrict, nor support one given religion over another, neither can it dictate moral stands even if laws are passed with that intent. Christianity has the responsibility to question issues that go against the faith and call people to account.

**Separation of Church and State (material from David Barton)
Letters Between the Danbury Baptists and Thomas Jefferson
10/07/1801**

Letter from Danbury Baptists:

*The address of the Danbury Baptist Association of Connecticut assembled
October 7, 1801.*

To Thomas Jefferson, Esq., President of the United States of America

Sir:

Among the many millions in America and Europe who rejoice in your election to office, we embrace the first opportunity which we have enjoyed in our collective capacity, since your inauguration, to express our great satisfaction in your appointment to the Chief Magistracy in the United States. And though the mode of expression may be less courtly and pompous than what many others clothe their addresses with, we beg you, sir, to believe, that none is more sincere.

Our sentiments are uniformly on the side of religious liberty: that Religion is at all times and places a matter between God and individuals, that no man ought to suffer in name, person, or effects on account of his religious opinions, (and) that the legitimate power of civil government extends no further than to punish the man who works ill to his neighbor. But sir, our constitution of government is not specific. Our ancient charter, together with the laws made coincident therewith, were adapted as basis of our government at the time of our revolution. And such has been our laws and usages, and such still are, (so) that Religion is considered as the first object of Legislation, and therefore what religious privileges we enjoy (as a minor part of the State) we enjoy as favors granted, and not as inalienable rights. And these favors we receive at the expense of such degrading acknowledgments, as are inconsistent with the rights of freemen. It is not to be wondered at therefore, if those who seek after power and gain, under the pretense of government and Religion, should reproach their fellow men, (or) should reproach their Chief Magistrate, as an enemy of religion, law, and good order, because he will not, dares not, assume the prerogative of Jehovah and make laws to govern the Kingdom of Christ.

Sir, we are sensible that the President of the United States is not the National Legislator and also sensible that the national government cannot destroy the laws of each State, but our hopes are strong that the sentiment of our beloved President, which have had such genial effect already, like the radiant beams of the sun, will shine and prevail through all these States—and all the world—until hierarchy and tyranny be destroyed from the earth. Sir, when we reflect on your past services, and see a glow of philanthropy and goodwill shining forth in

a course of more than thirty years, we have reason to believe that America's God has raised you up to fill the Chair of State out of that goodwill which he bears to the millions which you preside over. May God strengthen you for the arduous task which providence and the voice of the people have called you—to sustain and support you and your Administration against all the predetermined opposition of those who wish to rise to wealth and importance on the poverty and subjection of the people.

And may the Lord preserve you safe from every evil and bring you at last to his Heavenly Kingdom through Jesus Christ our Glorious Mediator.

Signed in behalf of the Association,

Neh, Dodge }
Eph'm Robbins } The Committee
Stephen S. Nelson }

President Jefferson's Reply: (material from David Barton)

**Messrs. Nehemiah Dodge, Ephraim Robbing, and Stephen S. Nelson
A Committee of the Danbury Baptist Association, in the State of
Connecticut.**

Washington, January 1, 1802

Gentlemen—The affectionate sentiment of esteem and approbation which you are so good as to express towards me, on behalf of the Danbury Baptist Association, give me the highest satisfaction. My duties dictate a faithful and zealous pursuit of the interests of my constituents, and in proportion as they are persuaded of my fidelity to those duties, the discharge of them becomes more and more pleasing.

Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between man and his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legislative powers of government reach actions only, and not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature would “make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof,” thus building a wall of separation between Church and State. Adhering to this expression of the supreme will of the nation in behalf of the rights of conscience, I shall see with sincere satisfaction the progress of those sentiments which tend to restore to man all his natural rights, convinced he has no natural right in opposition to his social duties.

I reciprocate your kind prayers for the protection and blessing of the common Father and Creator of man, and tender you for yourselves and your religious association, assurances of my high respect and esteem.

Thomas Jefferson
Jan. 1, 1802

Chapter 2

The church has lost its' influence

America has degenerated.

America has degenerated to the point of 1) rejecting God in almost every area of society such as schools (at all levels), 2) government by making laws that challenge moral issues that reject God's Word, 3) openly opposing the Christian faith and it's ministry, 4) by supporting religious freedom for almost every religion (i.e. Islam through sensitivity training and indoctrination) except Christianity, 5) by replacing God's Word with man's alleged "rights", such as homosexuality, same sex marriage, legalizing some drugs, or abortion on demand with taxpayers paying for someone's irresponsibility and false idea of "entitlements".

Where is the church in all of this?

Unfortunately, even the organized church, in some cases including Evangelical leaders, have not spoken up. Part of the problem is that the church has bought into the world's under-standing of what the church is and is called to do. It's easier to be politically correct than fulfill your purpose!

Another problem is that the church doesn't seem to realize that the Christian faith will be offensive and controversial if you truly follow Jesus...and they would rather be comfortable. The true church has the supernatural power to address and minister to identified needs that plague our society, nation, and world.

To "Bring the Kingdom" is to bring the supernatural transforming power and presence of God into lives of others so their needs will be met, and they will be set free from bondage to experience life abundant as well as life eternal.

This begins with a personal supernatural transformation with Jesus because Christianity is a relationship not a religion.

Pastors

Bringing the Kingdom starts with pastors because scripture tells us that judgment begins in the house of the Lord, and pastors are the leaders! The pastors, based on most seminary material, do not accept scripture as the final authority and standard by which all things are judged. What is produced are people who are organizers, administrators, staff people, or theologians...not believers who live and function in the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit.

Education is good and essential, but it doesn't replace the anointing. Acts 4:13 tells us that the Sanhedrin recognized the boldness of Peter and John and perceived they were uneducated and untrained men, but had been with Jesus. In

Acts 17:6 people were jealous and feared believers as evidenced by the statement “those men who turned the world upside down have now come here”. Wow! What a reputation of not only being a people of faith but of supernatural action. The church seems to be reluctant or unable to meet any need, except as a religious social service agency...some talk about salvation, but few. What is needed is Jesus crucified and risen with emphasis on repentance, forgiveness, obedience, holiness, and the indwelling and transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

America has Lost the Focus of Her Roots

President Barak Obama said that America was no longer a Christian nation...almost in a gloating fashion. The Founding Fathers believed that the Bible was the Word of God and the foundation of life and decisions. Further, they believed that Jesus Christ was Lord, and that people needed a personal relationship to Him. That is why education was so important...to be able to read the Bible!

Make no mistake about it...America was founded on Christian principles taken directly from the Bible and applied to all of life situations. The Bible was the blueprint for relationships and decisions in all areas.

- Isaiah 32:33-----three branches of government
- Ezra 7:24-----tax exempt
- Jeremiah 17:19-----separation of powers
- Leviticus 19:34-----immigration laws
- Deuteronomy 17:6-----capital punishment
- Exodus 18:21-----republican (voting)
- Judges 21:2-----Hell

In 1882 the U.S. Supreme Court declared that America was a Christian Nation. America was founded on Christian principles and values with the consent of the governed to be governed. The reason that our form of government has lasted so long is that it is based on the Word of God...God granted Divine favor...and that Christian values were the basis of government. Our form of government was not meant for nonbelievers...because they would change it rather than follow it with God as the final authority.

The Founding Fathers wanted freedom to worship Jesus as they pleased and knew that Christianity could stand by itself because it is true. There is free inquiry of faith. Other faiths are here because of Christianity.

Article 4, Section 4...States have the republican form of government (Biblical) as compared to the democratic form (people). One form follows the Biblical

authority, and the other what people want. The Bible even talks about capital gains tax and minimum wage. We may no longer be a Christian nation by personal individual profession in Jesus as Lord but principles... even if we do not follow them. It's time to regain our focus and vote and live Biblically. That's something to think about!

Why try to replace what has worked well for over 200 plus years? The foundation of America on Christian principles is what has made her blessed, free, and great. No person, even if you are not a Christian can say they are worse off for following the Christian principles set forth by Jesus.

Fellowship of the Unashamed (An excerpt from Dr. Bob Morehead's book, "Words Aptly Spoken")

There are two similar backstories: #1: In 1980 a young man from Rwanda was forced by his tribe to either renounce Christ or face certain death. He refused to renounce Christ, and he was killed on the spot. The night before, he had written a commitment which was found in his room.

#2: A man in Africa who was murdered for his faith had a copy of a prayer on him when he was martyred.

There are a few versions of that commitment which vary slightly, but the following is the one we play in church:

Fellowship of the Unashamed

I am part of the Fellowship of the Unashamed.

I have Holy Spirit power.

The dye has been cast.

I have stepped over the line.

The decision has been made

I am a disciple of His.

I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still.

My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, and my future is secure.

I am finished with low living, sight walking, small planning, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tame visions, worldly talking, cheap giving, and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudity, or popularity.

I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded.

I now live by faith, lean on His presence, walk by patience, am uplifted by prayer, and labor by power.

My pace is set, my gait is fast, my goal is Heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions are few, my guide is reliable, and my mission is clear.

I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, diluted, or delayed.

I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of the adversary, negotiate at the table of the enemy, pander at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity.

I won't give up, shut up, or let up until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, and preached up for the cause of Christ.

I am a disciple of Jesus.

I must, for till He comes, give till I drop, preach till all know, work till He stops me; and when He comes down for His own, He will have no problem recognizing me.

My banner will be clear.

Romans 1:16 (New King James Version)

‘For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.’

Chapter 3

Are you hurting?

The God-shaped Vacuum

People are hurting and don't know why. In every life there is what I call "the God shaped vacuum" which is the spiritual part of men that only a personal relationship with Jesus can fill and satisfy.

People try about every worldly thing to fill this void. There is money, power, control, possessions, relationships, food, sex, and religion to name a few.

Your Spiritual condition

You are responsible for your spiritual condition which is the foundation for life abundant and life eternal. In today's world, it is popular to blame someone else for your problems, whether it is health conditions, finances, business contracts, school, or even church. "Most want a user friendly church"...where their ears are tickled, and they are insulated and comfortable. Fellowship of Believers should unashamedly belong to the Lord and not be user friendly. When people come here to the Fellowship of Believers, they ought to meet authentic Christians, not plastic or imitation ones with only intellectual agreement, Self-Identified Christians (SIC).

When people come, they should have a life transforming encounter in the power of the Holy Spirit . . . they should experience the love and manifest presence of the living God . . . the Creator and King of the Universe. People are hunting for love (Jesus just loves the puddin' out of you . . . most never know it in their spirit), acceptance, forgiveness, and meaning . . . all available here! This is the bakery, and you should have fresh bread to fill the soul . . . no half-baked theological trash, or perversion, such as the contemporary prosperity message, like the name it and claim it group.

Unfortunately, most pastors do not want to address anything controversial (homosexuality, support of Israel, Islamophobia, tithing, commitment, being a servant, accountability, integrity) . . . church is so much like the world, it is difficult to tell them apart!

Christianity is not a religion, but a living relationship with a supernatural Lord . . . it is the only faith in the world that has the power to produce the promises.

God is calling Christians to wake-up, grow-up, and come-up higher because God's people are living below their potential and His expectations. It is time to be what we say we are . . . Christians are not merely people who believe in God (so does Satan but he does not follow God). Christians are not merely people who believe Jesus' teachings, or even try to follow them . . .

Christians are disciples who continue the ministry of Jesus with the heart and power Jesus had and get the results He got (John 5:19)! People of the Holy Ghost . . . bold people, passionate people, radical and dynamic people that turn the world upside down (Acts 17:6).

Often people treat God's presence and the church as common;
not so with Moses . . . Exodus 33:18 . . . please show me your glory! Now is the time to pay attention . . . I do have a word from the Lord for you, and it may be the last time you get to hear it . . . because I could die, or you could . . . so pay attention and apply what you hear . . . bring the Kingdom; set captives free; fellowship with God; experience His fullness!

Let's look at Matthew 25:1-13 . . . Kingdom (church), ten virgins (Christians) . . . oil (Holy Spirit), bridegroom (Jesus), the ten virgins slumbered/slept (unprepared) . . . were not awake, did not use what God gave, did not serve (except self) . . . Matthew 7:21-23 . . . not everyone who says, 'Lord, Lord will inherit the Kingdom, but only he who does the will of the Father who is in Heaven.'

You are responsible for your spiritual condition. Now is the fullness of time, and it is the time to wake up and walk in His manifest presence! It makes no difference about world conditions, politics, hate crimes, Islam, the ACLU, or even the IRS . . . you can overcome pressure with Christ!

He is in charge and Bible prophecy is being fulfilled . . . everyone needs a life-transforming encounter with Jesus, not rhetoric, religion (it will kill you), ritual, or relaxation. It is time to pay attention and get prepared for what is coming next. There must be a response at this level if we are to go up higher . . . we are responsible for our spiritual condition, salvation, baptism with Holy Spirit, and anointing with Glory!

REVIVAL is not coming; it is here for those who are willing to risk . . . REVIVAL is NOW . . . HERE. Let the wind of the Holy Spirit and fire move us along with Him . . . follow as the Israelites did . . . fire/cloud. Move with the Holy Spirit like Obed-Edom with the Ark.

One. You Need His Vision (Matthew 10:7-8) NIV *As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of Heaven is near,' heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.*

-God gives His vision for you and this church to your pastor . . . what is it? Do you support it? Are you an Aaron or Hur, and hold up your pastors' hands?

-My vision the other day . . . *I was standing on a hillside at a gate entrance with gates open . . . looking down over the valley. The wind began to blow very hard from behind me, down the hill and across the valley. God said,*

“I am releasing My Holy Spirit to operate in fullness. GO through the gate, flow in the anointing, and prepare people for My Son’s Second Coming.”

-Most people are not ready . . . in fact, most do not believe. The world says 85% of the average church attendants live the same as before meeting Jesus . . . no difference, no power, and no victory! Approximately, the same percentage of pastors does not accept scripture as authority.

. . . Less than 47% of American adults attend church in a typical weekend.

. . . Most do not believe in absolutes . . . including the Bible.

. . . World Council of Churches, the Vatican, and the World Evangelical Alliance joined to form a “code of conduct”, for evangelizing, to lessen tensions with Muslims (their goal is world domination obtained by using fear, control, violence, and the Koran) and other religions.

. . . Hate crime bills are attempting to silence the Christian.

. . . The issue is not just about what you are against . . . but what you are for . . . Jesus Christ has risen and is returning!

-What is your vision? *Mine was a wounded soldier returning to the front of the battle.*

- I was on a hillside of a valley with a road running down the center. I looked as a figure came walking over the hill and on the road coming toward me. He walked right past me and over a small rise in the road. He was a wounded soldier.

-A short time later, he came walking back down the road from where he had come. As he walked bandages began to fall off, and he walked faster and with more strength. I could hear the sounds of battle coming from over the hill the soldier was headed for.

-I asked the Lord what it was, and He said the wounded soldier was me (and other Christians). He represented the believers wounded spiritually in “Bringing the Kingdom”.

He has been healed, restored, and ready to return to the battle and victory.

-The key is to be obedient, and know there is no defeat in Jesus. You and Jesus make a majority of two. The battle is heated but, the end is in sight. What are you doing about your part of the vision?

What are you doing about it? Without a vision . . . you perish . . .

Two. God wants your full attention.

-God is trying to get our attention with signs.

-Signs that match scripture get your attention. For many it is a leap of faith, they cannot make, and reason will not work, even though backed by science in some instances.

-Signs:

- . . Give direction
- . . Give warning
- . . Help if we pay attention

-Recognize signs . . . Matthew 10:3

- . . Of times
- . . Of ready harvest
- . . Of judgment

-Accountability for how we handle ministry . . . all wood, hay, and stubble will be burned up . . . I Corinthians 3:12

-God is calling for holiness, purity, separation and service

*-Signs follow believers . . . believers do not follow signs!

Three. God wants you to come up higher . . . Hebrew 5:12-6:8 (NIV) *In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food. But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.*

-Mature . . . come out of comfort zone; example, go out ministering with the pastor.

-Grow . . . can't or won't digest what you have learned (wrong image of God and His abilities.)

-Serve . . . should be teaching not merely listening.

-Don't live on a superficial level . . . don't reject Jesus in heart (having heart hardness) or actions (become people pleasers)

-Don't act like the world . . . for example, road rage. A policeman apologized for arresting an older lady who was exhibiting road rage who had a bumper sticker saying, 'Go to church. Follow Jesus.' I did not believe she was a Christian because her actions indicated she was not one.

Four. God wants you whole in Christ.

-You are a chosen generation . . . I Peter 2:9

. . Royal priesthood

. . Called forth (just like Lazerus!)

-Nothing is lacking (He trusts you with His Word . . . do you trust Him completely?)

-You have Freedom from bondage, if you act on it. You, also, have freedom from soul ties. Generational curses are no problem. You can be free from the bondage, including yourself –if you choose to obey, and give Him control.

-You can see from God's perspective.

- You can choose to believe God.
 - . He should be reflected in your heart, mind, mouth, and actions.
- Most people never experience living in the supernatural because:
 - . they lack vision as to where they are going,
 - . they lack hope because they look at abilities, circumstances, and what is available in the world.
 - . they lack history because they do not realize where they have been, and how God has worked in and through them . . . and how He wants to work now.

He is calling you now to come up higher . . . salvation, Baptism of Holy Spirit, anointing like Moses and Jesus, healing, and receiving imparting of fresh anointing.

Come up higher and function/minister in the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit. See Matthew 10:2-8. You must receive His anointing to minister in power as God intended. I know God would provide and manifest Himself if I was obedient. So I made a choice to live in the supernatural power of His resurrection, and you can also. Jesus never Monday morning quarterbacked . . . he said what was going to happen and it did. Just speak the Word of God into people and situations. It will happen. He will confirm the Word with signs that follow.

Americans preferred religion...practical Atheism, 10 to 1

Practical Atheism is saying that you believe in God but living as if it doesn't matter. This is practiced by many self-professed Christians. Simply put it means that people are more concerned with comfort, being politically correct and self, than the word of God.

The Word of God is meant to be applied to all areas of life regardless of the situation. There is not an area of life that the Bible does not address. In our sex-crazed society a majority are ignorant of the fact that sex is addressed in the Bible in the context of marriage, between one man and one woman (Look in Song of Solomon, Leviticus 18, and Proverbs).

If others, such as Muslims, want to live their lives by pressing the issue of special prayer times and concessions . . . may be accepted by law in USA, but not for Christians of Faith. The Christian faith is portrayed as demanding and offensive. There has never been a country or community that has not been better off by following the teachings of Jesus . . . even if the people have not accepted Jesus personally. It is because of this Christian faith that other faiths can worship in America.

Unfortunately, even among many Evangelical church leadership is challenging the Lordship of Jesus and the necessity for Him in their lives. He is viewed as offensive, demanding and irrelevant. This is because the people have not had a Divine encounter with the Living Lord Jesus in His supernatural power. Matthew 7:21-27 and Luke 6:46 say, “Why do you call me Lord if you don’t do what I say?” It is because people want to be in control and do not want to be under authority and obey God’s Word.

The church has been dumbed down over the last two decades and infiltrated with humanism, socialism, alleged “rights”, perversion, idolatry, and political correctness . . . all striving to please man not God! Many have the official Christian-ese language but live as if it doesn’t matter . . . and if they are truthful . . . it doesn’t, or they would obey God’s Word.

It is time for Christians to be obedient to the Word of God and transform the world in supernatural power of the Holy Spirit . . . in every area of life . . . political, social, financial, religious, and relational. To do anything less is to be dishonest and a follower of practical atheism . . . that’s something to think about!

Some Facts concerning USA religion, Jesus, Spirit (from Charisma magazine and Rev. Charles Trombley)

Some facts . . . The numbers vary depending on when surveys are taken and by whom, but the fact is the church in America is in trouble.

Very few adults have a Biblical world view.

- 64% believe moral truth depends on the situation . . . no moral absolutes!

- 60% believe male/female co-habitation outside of marriage is acceptable.

- 55% believe a good person can earn his/her salvation.

- 70% of self-professing Christian parents did not bring their children to salvation through Jesus Christ as one of their parental goals.

- 44 % believe Jesus committed sin while on the earth

On the college compass the beliefs are just as critical.

- 67% of college professors approve of homosexuality

- the majority of professors approve of abortion.

- over 60% embrace socialist and communist ideals.

- 91% of the students from “evangelical homes” do not believe in absolute moral truth.

- denominational leaders indicate that between 69%-94% of their church youth are leaving the traditional church after high school . . . and not returning.

- One strong Orthodox Christian denomination found that 88% of its’ young people deny their faith before graduating from college.

And it's time to get priorities straight by having a life transforming encounter with Jesus. Only then will there be true change and the Kingdom come on earth as in heaven. What are you doing . . . praying for Revival? How about acting in obedience to the Word?

Chapter 4

The Church

True Revival

God will move as we align ourselves with His Word and there will be true revival where God is indeed in charge. The following is a “Top Ten” . . . ways to know you’re in revival from Bud Williams Ministries’ book, “Fire in the Wax Museum.”

#10-The service does not start until deacons crawl out of the prayer room.

#9-When the preacher yells, “Fire”, you stop, drop, and roll.

#8-Formerly a one-hour service was boring; currently three-hours seems too short.

#7-You visit a traditional church and think the opening hymn is hilarious.

#6-After church you often ask people if they have seen your car.

#5-Instead of a favorite pew, you have a cherished patch of carpet.

#4-The town drunk is a member of your ministry team.

#3-Unsaved folks come; saved folks leave.

#2-People think your first name is “Phil”, and your last name is “Moore”.

#1-and the number one way to tell you’re in revival is . . .

Personal Earthquakes.

Do you truly want a Sovereign Move of God? What do you purpose in your heart? Are you specific and committed in what you do? Have you examined and adjusted your priorities according to the Word? If the answers to these are “yes”, you are on the right road to a move of God in your life, and this will contribute to a move of God in the church.

Our Church

Submitted by Neal Nester

Our church is not a building,

Even though, we use this structure.

Our church is not a denomination,

Even though, we have a set of beliefs.

Our church is not about Sundays,

Even though, we do not forsake meeting together.

Our church is not about size or growth,

Even though, every church is called to make disciples.

Don't think of our church as an address or location;
Think of it as a mobile and on the move.
Don't think of our church as something built or planted;
Think of it as something deployed.
Don't think of our church as where you are several hours each week;
Think of it as WHAT YOU ARE every day of the week.
Our church is the hands and feet of Jesus Christ.
Feet shouldn't sit still.
Hands shouldn't be idle.
Feet Go.
Hands Do.
The church isn't what you were sitting in or through this morning.
YOU ARE THE CHURCH.
Now Go...Be The Church This Week.

Why does the church exist?

Submitted by Neal Nester

We are not an organization, an obligation, or a building.
We are the church; you are the church.
People flawed, imperfect, broken, and bruised...people are the church.
We are united, relentless, and on a mission.
On a mission to go: "Go and make disciples of all nations."
On a mission to love everyone.
On a mission to grow into the people God wants us to be.
On a mission to reach beyond these walls.
Our church doesn't exist just for us.
It exists for this community and for the world.
It exists to change this community and the world.
That's why we are here.
We are the church.
Remember to carry out your mission this week.

Invite Somebody

Submitted by Neal Nester

Invite Somebody
...to a Sunday morning service
...to a Sunday evening gathering
...to a Wednesday study
...to a Friday lunch
...to a special church event

If they say “Yes” (*yay!*)

... You tell them when and where,--*or*—

...you meet them and bring them with you

If they say “No” (*awww*)

...don’t end the conversation

...find out what they like to do and join them there

...maybe someday they’ll meet you here

and even if they don’t, you’ll still be there for them

and they’ll know you genuinely care

So go ahead, give it a shot:

There’s nothing to lose and everything to gain

Besides:

Maybe the only thing that’s keeping them from coming,

Is what’s keeping you from asking.

So:

Invite Somebody

The following article was given to me, and I think it speaks to Christians and calls us to apply it to life.

A New Beginning

Why we need the church

By Greg Laurie (senior pastor at Harvest Christian Fellowship in Riverside, Ca.)

To me, a lack of fellowship with other believers is a sure sign of someone who is starting to lose ground spiritually. In the Christian life, we are either moving forward or moving backward. It is either progression or regression. There is no standing still. So if someone is suddenly withdrawing from church, asking off from reading the Bible, and has an almost nonexistent prayer life, they are regressing, whether they want to admit or not.

Backsliding always begins with relaxing your grip on that which you need before taking hold of that which will destroy you. So when someone says, “I am just too busy for church,” or “I don’t have time,” or “There are other things I need to do,” that to me is an indication that something is wrong spiritually.

And it trickles down to the next generation. A study revealed that when parents attend church regularly, 72 percent of their children will remain faithful in their church attendance . . .

So be a part of the church. Stop critiquing it. Stop maligning it. Don’t be a church connoisseur. Be a church family member. And then watch how things will change for you.

The body of Christ is what we call the Church, so let's take a closer look at the Church.

Believers need the Church

By Jack Nester

What is the Church?

It is the people who have a personal relationship with Jesus and are doing their best to serve Him in the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit.

The Church is the body of Christ, and the believers need the church. We are told that we should not forsake the assembly . . . in other words, go to church, or fellowship with both God and man. (Matthews 22:36-40)

The church is meant to be powerful and productive. The church has two basic functions: to declare the Word in supernatural power, and to demonstrate the Word in supernatural power to bring the kingdom.

What is it composed of?

It is composed of all people who are believers in Jesus from all over the world. It is called the 'body of Christ' because He is our common bond, and we are in covenant with Him through His passion, shed blood, and resurrection.

The church is like a pie that is cut in pieces and served. Often when people get a piece of pie, they act as if they have the whole pie when they do not. The pie represents the Body of Christ—the piece represents the individual denominations or groups. Even though, the pieces of pie are separate, they are still part of the whole. He had told me that the reason denominations have no true unity is because they teach personal preferences as scripture instead of the basic scriptural truths.

What is its' authority?

II Timothy 3:16

Scripture is the standard and final authority by which all things are judged. This includes civil law such as the Supreme Court of the United States of America. When civil law goes against scripture, then believers are called to civil disobedience . . . knowing the cost.

What is its' purpose?

The church's purposes are to fellowship with God, to believe, to bring the kingdom, to set captives free, and to bring Jesus to people in supernatural power.

What brings unity?

Obedience to Jesus brings unity to the church. Basic Spiritual Truths is not a respecter of persons.

What the church is meant to do?

When asked what the church is meant to do, you receive a variety of answers, such as: 1) give hope, 2) help people, 3) teach religion, 4) use spiritual gifts, 5) teach morality, and 6) get people 'saved' to name a few. These are partially correct, but not what separates the church from the world, nor, what gives it authority for supernatural living.

In most cases 'any church USA' functions by worldly standards, expectations, and organizations . . . more like a 'religious social service agency'. Organizations vary: 1) Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Episcopal, United Methodist have Bishops, like a republic, 2) Presbyterian, Church of God, Non-denominational have Elders, 3) Baptist, Assembly, etc, are democratic with a vote, 4) Charismatic have pastoral authority with support of Board. **GOD IS NOT DEMOCRATIC . . .** He does not require, nor does He desire, your vote of appreciation, support, or agreement. He expects your discipleship and obedience.

The expectations of the church and its goals vary as widely as there are churches . . . most are vague, and things that people can do with co-operation, but nothing from God that requires the supernatural. If the church is to truly fulfill its function and help people by bringing the Kingdom on Earth and setting captives free . . . there must be a basic understanding and commitment without reservation. The days in which we are living are evil and anti-Christian (Barna's Survey verifies this fact on Church attendance, anti-abortion cost and life and death decisions verify this evil). Also, government interference with attempts to control is becoming more open. True Christians have had a life transforming experience and reflect it in life and ministry.

II Timothy 3:1-7, 12 is clear . . . also government interference and attempts at control is becoming more open. Even believers choose commitment over comfort. 1) Society has 'religious' attitudes . . . not a relationship to Jesus. 2) Self-identified Christians (agree with concept but have no Holy Spirit or Power), and 3) True Christians have a transformed life.

Let's look at the text and see what the two major tasks of the church should be . . . Luke 9:1-6. . .sent disciples and sends us also . . . two tasks that have never changed, and they are at the foundation of the church ministry as Jesus intended. These tasks result in supernatural ministry as recorded in Matthew 10:7-8, 28:15-20, Mark 16:15-20, Luke 4:18, and Acts 4:18. Believers should be bold as in Acts 17:8.

The two tasks are: 1) Declaration of the Word, and 2) Demonstration of the Word. The Christian faith is the only faith in the world that has the power to produce the promise recorded in the Bible. (Elijah and prophets of Baal are examples. What happened with Elijah . . . still happens in the 21st century.) God is not a man that He should lie (Numbers 23:19), so let's see what He says to do in preparation to Him confirming His word supernaturally.

One: Declaration of the Word.

-Declaration defined: 1) an explicit or formal announcement, 2) a formal statement specifying the facts and circumstances of the cause of action (ex. Scriptural authority)

-speak with conviction/authority

. .Know that the living Word is Jesus.

. .Know that the written Word is the Bible.

. .Know that the spoken Word is the Holy Spirit.

-Speak the Word into people and situations.

-John 6:63

-Acts 2:41

. .doctrine

. .fellowship

. .communion

. .prayer

Two: Demonstrate the Word

-Demonstrate defined: 1) to prove by evidences, 2) practical application

-Apply the Word to life resulting in life abundant and life eternal.

-Pattern/process of demonstration

. .speak Biblical truth

. .contact by meeting person at point of need

. .activate by speaking Word direction to the need

. .applied power is released

Mark 16:20 is clear that we are to 1) preach and 2) cooperate and that God will confirm with signs. It is time for believers to be about our Father's business by 1) knowing the Word is true and worthy of acceptance and application, 2) believe the Word will happen. God rewards those who diligently seek Him. 3) Hebrews 11:1, 6, and 4) Acts 1:8.

Most have never seen a Sovereign move of God, revival or the manifest presence.

I implore you to be an active part of God's army by declaring and demonstrating . . . to be a true Church!

The Normal Christian Church

I shared the parts to a normal Christian life emphasizing:

- knowing the Word
- having an intimate relationship with Jesus daily
- having powerful and intense prayer
- knowing there will be persecution
- being equipped with supernatural power
- and having a definite purpose

Look at the current spiritual condition of the church (Body of Christ). We will see what any church claiming to be Christian ought to be doing. There are four areas:

- First, the current spiritual condition;
- Second, what the church is called to do;
- Third, what is needed to accomplish the task;
- And fourth, how to fulfill the calling.

The normal life in most churches is more one of entertainment than discipleship. Often, activity is mistaken for accomplishment. Faith and expectation are 'watered down', and in some cases missing even if they are desired. Part of this is due to our consumer culture (i.e. what the world says you are entitled to, and what the Bible says).

Another problem is a poor and incorrect understanding of:

- what it means to be a Christian.
- what it means to be part of the church.
- what it means to live effectively as a person of faith in a fallen world.

Many people have good intentions but are overcome by the world. Others deceive themselves and lie to God as Ananias and Sapphira did to the Holy Ghost (Acts 5:1-11). Their judgment reflected the need for purity and obedience in the church. Would Jesus recognize the church if He were to walk in the front door today? I think not, because He is focused on the heart while others are focused on activities.

First, let's look at the spiritual condition of the church . . . According to the latest survey by a Pew Research Center; Christianity is on the decline in America even though seven in ten claim affiliation with the faith. Those saying they have no particular religion are rapidly growing to 56 million. Some believe America is going Secular based on three things: 1) lack of a Biblical stand taken by leaders today on issues that cause nations to fall (i.e. same-sex

marriage, homosexuality, and abortion), 2) the continued effort to remove God from our nation and Constitution, and 3) government support of other religions such as Islam by giving in to specific demands to recognize and enforce religious practices (i.e. provide prayer location, wearing of religious apparel, and teaching of customs in schools).

Second, what is the church called to do Biblically?

- A. Bring the Kingdom (God's manifest presence to meet needs of the world).
- B. Set captives free (Matthew 10:7-8, 28:18-20, Mark 16:15-20, and Luke 4:18).
- C. Fellowship with God (John 5:19, Mark 1:35).
- D. Turn the world upside down (Acts 17:6).
- E. Add to the church daily (Acts 2:47).

Third, what is needed to accomplish this task or calling?

- A. Spiritual hunger, desire, and motivation.
- B. Release of the Holy Spirit from within, so He will flow. This means dying to self and acting on the Word.
- C. Intentional, daily fellowship with God by prayer and listening.
- D. Have a heart for Jesus above all. You will have power over sin so as to not continually repeat it. Your faith will increase, and you will be a giver in the spiritual realm as well as financial.
- E. Recognize the role of the Priesthood of Believers (I Peter 2:9, which includes two major areas: declare the Word and demonstrate the Word so there can be reconciliation).

Fourth, know how to fulfill your calling.

- A. Don't insult and disobey God by lying (Acts 5:1-11 and Matthew 21:28-31), by not believing His Word, by not living it, and by breaking your covenant.
- B. Honor the anointing He has given you by not treating it as common. Recognize it in leaders and work together. Trust your hearing and obey.
- C. Expect God to manifest and work on your behalf. Seek His presence, speak His Word, believe His Word, and apply His Word.
- D. Yield to God by making His agenda yours. Then ask Him about timing and instantly obey whatever He says. And finally, live under His covering and direction in all areas.

In conclusion: the church as we know it today functions more under organization than it does anointing. It has not influenced the world greatly (at least in our times). The Good News is that it can and will, if it wakes up!

When it wakes up, it should not deceive itself, but live according to what God ordained it to do. **BRING HIS KINGDOM!**

Be the Church, God called us to be . . . supernatural is normal for God, and should be for us. Will you commit to being the normal Christian Church? There is a price. Are you willing? God is waiting. What is your reply?

Authentic Christianity

To be authentic is to have the correct size, shape, and material, and to be effective for the use intended (i.e. a sword). If it is not trustworthy and effective, then it is an imitation or in this case a 'replica' . . . which would not work in battle. Today a great many professed Christians are 'replicas', and will not be able to stand when the battle comes. In many parts of the world, the battle has already come, and people are fighting not merely spiritual battles but literally dying for the faith . . . these are authentic Christians!

With this in mind, what does authentic Christian faith look like? What is it made of? Where does it come from? What motivates it? What is it intended to achieve? What does it do or produce? Lay aside all pre-conceived notions, stereotypes and personal preferences . . . how do you know when what you see and experience is authentic? **In many instances, what passes for authentic Christianity is nothing more than legalism, religious rhetoric and excuses.** The reason is that most people do not know: 1) what makes a person Christian, 2) what is expected Biblically in relationship with God and in relation to people, 3) what God expects from His people, and 4) what the world should expect from Christians.

There is a price in the blood of saints for the Christian faith to be where it is today . . . it is free but not for long if true believers are not willing to pay the cost and take action in the natural and supernatural. If you know what is expected then you will know what to do . . . live by faith. Now let's take a look at where and what He wants us to be when we carry His name. Before we look we need to first go to our foundation-the cross, upright and cross piece . . . form a cross and gives a message from God . . . which is desperately needed today! **Authentic Christians are those who have had a life-transforming encounter with Jesus, and who have given Christ control of their lives!** These people believe the Word not the World. These people totally depend on Him and act on decisions of total trust in Christ . . . these people live through the eyes of faith! Just as Dr. Sandra Kennedy said in her tapes on healing . . . healing (all types: spiritual, physical, and emotional) is part of salvation and belongs to you . . . further, what the eye of faith can see, the hand of faith can and does activate.

In the church today there needs to be: 1) more serious study, 2) an attitude of awe and holiness, 3) a commitment to service, and 4) the realization that suffering is inescapable if you are a true disciple. The church also needs to know and take to heart that some leaders are part of the **five-fold ministry to equip believers** to minister in supernatural power. **All others (Royal Priesthood-I Peter 2:9) are to be in active, daily ministry with the goal of bringing the kingdom and setting captives free.** This means: 1) using your gifts (both Spiritual and natural), 2) using your desires for ministry for ministry He put in you, 3) use what you have (Moses had a stick), and 4) use it NOW where you are.

- 1) Authentic Christianity is focused on Jesus not self or religious activities.
- 2) Authentic Christianity is Biblical . . .about relationship, life-style, and expectations/
- 3) Authentic Christianity has His peace . . . spirit, soul, and body.
- 4) Authentic Christianity is loving . . . life-giving, genuinely cares about people not things.
- 5) Authentic Christianity is obedient in attitude, motive of heart, and desire to please God above all.
- 6) Authentic Christianity is totally committed . . .trusting Christ above all, vulnerable evident in relationship to God, church, fellowship, and ministry.
- 7) Authentic Christianity is powerful . . . spiritually, relationally, and in ministry.
- 8) Authentic Christianity is living by faith . . . in action.

Christians Talk Funny . . . from an article I was given

Christians talk funny. The world doesn't know what they are talking about, and on closer investigation, I've discovered they don't know what they're talking about either. We were born into the Kingdom with a vernacular we picked up. No one looked into what it meant so just continued repeating it. An example follows:

Have you been saved?

A rather wide-eyed young fellow startled me with this question as we walked toward the bus. "Have you ever been saved?" he asked me, as he handed me a brochure with a big 'L' on the front.

"Sure," I responded. "When I was about nine I nearly drowned off Long Island, and they pulled me from the under tow."

“No, no” he replied. “Redeemed. Have you ever been redeemed? You know, washed in the blood?”

“What in the world are you talking about?”

“Convicted. Have you ever felt convicted?”

“Of course not. I’ve never been in trouble with the law.” He looked me square in the eye and said, “I think you need to be delivered.”

“Delivered? I’m just waiting for the bus home. I think I’ll stick to that, but thank you very much.”

He stared at me as though I spoke another language. “Could we have lunch together sometime?” He inquired. He looked harmless enough so I agreed. I must admit he was a difficult fellow to understand.

That Wednesday, I had lunch with Ed. He was a little late, but he explained that he was having his quiet time.

I said, “Quiet time? What do you mean?”

“Well, every day in my prayer closet I have my quiet time.”

“You have a closet at work?”

“No, it’s in my car.” He said.

“You have a closet in your car?”

He changed the subject, but like the first day he left me rather confused. He’s quite a unique fellow I thought. As we parted, he gave a little booklet that explained how someone could come into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. I read it and knew it was exactly what I needed. That night I really gave my life to Jesus Christ, and was born again. Two days later I told Ed, and he was overjoyed.

The following week, we got together, and Ed strongly urged me to find a good body. I was a little surprised at his suggestion but it sounded good to me, so I took his advice and proceeded to comb the local health clubs for an attractive woman. I met Denise and knew she was the one.

We began to date, and soon Denise became a believer, too. Ed rejoiced and told us it was crucial that we get planted so we could grow together. I confided to Denise, “Sometimes this guy is hard to understand.”

I told Ed I wasn’t quite sure what he meant by planted. He said, “Committed. You both need to be committed.”

“Now wait a minute. Just because I didn’t know what planted meant doesn’t mean I’m nuts.”

Anyway, my trusting Jesus was the sanest thing I’ve ever done in my life, but it was obvious Ed’s patience was growing thin.

“Bob and Denise, you have to get plugged in. Do you understand get plugged in?”

Frankly, I didn't understand, but I did wonder if getting 'plugged in' had any connection with 'going out in the Spirit'. 'Going out under the power.' Something I'd heard Ed mention, but hoped never happened to me.

Regretfully, I missed worship the next Sunday, but Ed picked me up on Monday morning for breakfast and filled me in on what happened. "Oh Bob, God moved! He really moved yesterday."

"Well, where did He go?" I asked. "I was just getting acquainted with Him. Is He gone?"

"No, no Bob. God hasn't gone anywhere." I was relieved.

"It was just that so many people were stepping out and moving in the gifts."

"You mean people were leaving during the meeting?"

"No, the Holy Ghost was strong. The gifts were really flowing."

He changed the subject and said Denise was there and "Boy, was she on fire."

"Fire? Denise got burned? Is she OK?"

Denise is alright. I really believe she's called, and God wants to use her."

"She's getting too many phone calls, and what's this about God wanting to take advantage of her?"

Ed sighed and said, "Can I walk in the light with you?"

"Sure, where do you want to go? We can walk in the light. It's still daylight."

He shook his head. I don't know what it is, but sometimes Ed and I have a tough time communicating.

Well, it's been two years since I was 'saved and delivered.' Now, I'm 'plugged in', 'planted', and 'committed to a good body.' 'God's been moving' and I'm 'stepping out in the gifts.' I can hardly believe how God has 'used me.' I have, however, developed one problem. It seems like my old friends don't understand me anymore.

When I share about my redemption, how I've been washed in the blood as white as snow, and I desire to follow the Lamb, they just kind of tune me out. I guess they just get convicted when they see me on fire. The point is, do not speak Christian-ese. Speak clearly to be understood.

Chapter 5

Pastors-Some Personal Preparation

Accepting Yourself

Pastors, you must be confident in your relationship with Jesus, and accept yourself to effectively use your spiritual gifts in ministry.

We live in a world where many people do not even like themselves. It seems they are always trying to live up to someone else's values, goals, or image rather than be themselves. The reason is that they listen to the world too much and actually believe the carnal junk espoused by supposed experts. To even listen to television commercials, you would think we have a very sick society with all of the medicines, problems, and fears imposed on people. Healing begins with a personal relationship to Jesus Christ and then accepting yourself. Recently, I saw a devotion that described not only the need but the solution clearly and accurately.

Only by loving yourself in a healthy way can you love others the way God intended. When you don't love yourself, you live with insecurity, and you keep looking to others for approval. When you don't get it, your self worth shrivels. As a result, you live far beneath your potential. **You are the only person you can't get away from, so unless you learn to accept yourself, you'll be miserable.** Stop and think about the last time you were around somebody you didn't enjoy being with. How did it feel?

Whether good or bad, you project onto others the thoughts and feelings you have about yourself. So if you want people to think well of you, have a good opinion of yourself-one that is based on the Word of God and nurtured by right relationships. The Bible tells us not to have an over inflated opinion of ourselves, but like wise, we should not live with continual self-rejection because it opens the door to satanic attack and destruction (I Peter 5:8). The good qualities that you possess are evidence that God is at work in your life. Be sure to acknowledge them. The Bible says, "We have this treasure in earthen vessels that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us." (I Corinthians 4:7) Instead of focusing on your flaws and feeling bad about yourself, recognize the treasure of God's presence, power, and potential that lives within you and build on it.

Your value lies not in abilities, but in relationship to God through Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. Make a decision to see yourself as God sees you . . . beginning with accepting yourself . . . because He just loves the puddin' out of you. That's something to think about!

The Call to be Radical-for Pastors

The idea of being radical means complete commitment to a cause, person, group, or idea. It can be social, political, or religious. With the idea of ‘freedom and rights’ in America, most choose to be ‘tolerant’ --regardless of cost—‘middle-of the roaders’ with limited commitment and little passion about anything except self. Yes, there are exceptions but for the most part, anything most do not want is to be excessive. Jesus was both radical and revolutionary in His day--but not violent—as He presented His Father’s Kingdom in love and power. In Luke 22:38 Jesus acknowledges, He needed to be prepared. They would be facing hatred and persecution and needed to be prepared. When He said to have a moneybag, knapsack, and he who has no sword . . . sell his garment and buy one. Christians are called to be radical in that we abandon all for Him—forsake selfish ambitions, take up cross daily, reject selfish ambitions, deny self interest, and put the Kingdom first. Deny ourselves, take up cross daily, and follow Him. Serve Him daily, even if it means death. Charisma magazine article by David Platt caused me to re-examine being radical. We must be more loyal to Jesus than to anything or anyone.

Most are too comfortable to be radical.

A radical is a person . . .

- who knows Jesus personally and He is the root cause of passion and commitment.
- who is extreme by being the farthest from the center—politically correct and tolerance no matter what.
- who is intense by exerting extreme effort--spiritually, emotionally, and physically.
- who is severe in that response may seem harsh—limited
- who is drastic by revolutionary ideas to bring change—but not necessarily violent.

Radicals are certain of what they believe—

- they want others to believe also (i.e. Christianity by love and Islam by violent force)
- followers of truth can be radical (i.e. disciples... Stephen/Peter/Paul)
- followers of error are usually violently radical (in destruction not defense . . .i.e. Islam) Radicals
- don’t always want everyone to be like them, but they do want change to be accepted.
- to become—like Islam—want to force everyone to follow, accept them and their ideas.
- make people uneasy (usually the cause here is confrontation and conflict when opposition arises).

-make people uneasy so rather than deal with problems and situations, they try to avoid...which will not work.

Islam is a political system covered by religion. It is radically wrong as described below.

“Islam is not a Religion. By Reverend Austin Miles January 1, 2017 NewsWithViews.com

The followers of Islam are taught, not to become better people with integrity, but to lie in order to further their ideology. They are taught in their ‘holy book’, The Koran, to kill innocent people in cold blood, plus, they are taught that raping children, including toddlers, is perfectly OK. Indeed they can sexually abuse anyone without consequences. That brutal ideology does not consider these violent sexual assaults illegal or sinful, but indeed permissible. The founder of Islam, Muhammad, married a 7 year old girl.

The most disturbing fact of the followers of that false religion is that they are all pedophiles and are justified by their own (Sharia) laws, the same as NAMBLA, the North American Man/Boy Love Association to make acceptable the rape of boy children, while most of the Muslims are after little girls.”

Will you truly be radical for Christ as the early day Christians?
Illustration. Suicide bombers express hopelessness instead of a true soldier who is radical in Jesus because of hope—be a true soldier for Christ by defeating the enemy and declaring freedom in the faith.

Are you radical? Are you willing to be? The choice is yours.

Illustration: (Voice of the Martyrs) Pastor in an underground church in Asia, worshipped even though he knew it was against governmental laws for Christians to gather, worship, and pray. There was a cult in the area that kidnapped, tortured, and killed Christians. The question is “How to lead the church when it costs everything.”-Be Biblical and radical at the same time.

1) What is radical about the Christian faith:

- total loyalty above all else
- God, scripture, power, love and availability
- focus on dying to self and living supernaturally in Christ.

2) Are you radical about your faith?

- Luke 9:57-62 tells of three men who wanted to follow Jesus and the hindrances they encountered.
- they chose a home or worldly security over Jesus.
- their priorities were convenience not Jesus.

-by looking back they were not fit for the Kingdom.

3) Are you radical about your priorities?

-superficial worldly concerns

-needs vs. wants

-there is a cost for discipleship and a cost for not being a disciple.

-in many instances, the church is making the wrong choice by “soft-selling” the faith and not taking Jesus seriously

4) Who is worth losing everything for?

-who is worth being radical about?

-what is your motive for following?

-Where have we gone wrong? Theologian Dietrick Bonhoeffer said when Christ calls a person, they are called to come and die to self and to the world, then live for Christ.

-Have you abandoned attachments to the world?

-Do you follow the risen Lord Jesus?

-Or do you follow the Jesus you have molded into your image?

-Or one who accepts comfort, materialism, nominal devotion, and one who wants us to avoid extremes and dangers and offenses?

Will you truly be radical for Christ as the early day Christians? Are you radical? Are you willing to be? The choice is yours, and you have been invited!

Revival or Riot-Pastors

The presence of the early church and the presentation of the Gospel were so powerful that it produced either revival or riot. In Acts 2 there is the record of Pentecost that produced revival and there are other records of revival. In Acts 17 there is a record of riot because of the effects of the Gospel and fear of a recurrence. The same should be true of the church today. **It should produce either revival or riot, but there should be no middle ground** whether presenting Christ or addressing values and issues of the faith.

Believers need to know there are two types of ministers and what they are called to do. The first type is recorded in Ephesians 4 where individual believers are ordained to equip others for ministry as prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. With each of these ministers, they have supernatural gifts for the work of ministry.

The second type is recorded in I Peter 2, where every believer is a minister. These believers are described as a Chosen Generation, a Royal Priesthood, a Holy nation, and His Own special people who are called to praise Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. **These same believers, as part of the Royal Priesthood have the privilege and**

responsibility to minister. See Matthew 10:7-8, Matthew 28, and Mark 16 for commissioning authority.

People often base their self concept on their accomplishment but our relationship with Christ is more important than our jobs, successes, wealth, or knowledge. We have been chosen by God as His very own, and we have been called to represent Him to others. Remember that your value comes from being one of God's children not what you can achieve. You have worth because of what God does, not what you do. **You are called to do the work of ministry, even if not ordained—to produce either revival or riot!**

The church is meant to do two things. It is meant to DECLARE the Gospel. This is done by verbally speaking the uncompromised Word whether introducing Jesus or addressing His values. This is done boldly and in supernatural power. It is meant to DEMONSTRATE the Word that was presented. This is done through spiritual gifts. As a general rule this is not done because most churches function on academics, natural events, and secular tools not Holy Spirit.

When Jesus is introduced in the power of the Holy Spirit to meet a given need or confirm the Word, it can be frightening and will either produce revival or riot. Jesus performed miracles not just out of compassion but to confirm His Father's Word that people might believe in Him. Just as Jesus empowered His disciples, so He does the same for us through the Holy Spirit and expects us to minister according to His Word. The church is called to function according to heavenly/supernatural standards and not be limited to the natural. See scripture Matthew 10:7-8, 28:15-20, Mark 16:15-20, Luke 4:18, Acts 2, and Acts 17:5-6.

The year 2015 was the year of the Lord. He promised to increase by His favor, His ministry, and His presence. **He is waiting for us to move in faith and obedience, to move from resolution (world) to solution (Jesus), and to move from mental ascent to spiritual fullness.**

Believers need to be totally committed disciples in ministry. This happens by releasing the passion in our heart by the Holy Spirit, by being prepared for His coming, and by being active in ministry. By reaching out in anointing of the Holy Spirit, we bring the Kingdom—see the need and do the deed! **We meet people at their point of spiritual need and share Jesus with them.**

Some harsh realities are that work/ministry can cause riot—or jealousy. Believers are in the world and not of it, and must deal with it as Jesus did. Jesus prayed and promised to help us through the world, not take us out of it! In the months of November and December people are more compassionate, but in January through March we need to grow. **The church can and should help, and also, call for accountability. It is essential to provide practical assistance, but to bring the supernatural presence brings hope.** This means that

as ministers, we need to depend more on Jesus ourselves! **To increase our dependency will either cause revival or riot.**

We need to be more like the early church. For instance, learn to apply the Word to life by focusing on the answer not the problem and step out in faith knowing God will answer. **We need to expect revival or riot as you apply faith to life.**

I challenge you to live in revival or riot, but not be mediocre!

Be Ready for Trouble-Pastors

If you have truly had a life-transforming encounter with Jesus, you will be at odds with the world like He was, and you need to be prepared for whatever you encounter.

The text, Matthews 24, tells of trouble to come. It tells of confrontation of the world and the Spirit. It tells of the need for preparation. **The basic problem is that Scripture is authority, and the world doesn't like it.** The result is that the world attempts to get God's Word to conform to the world (e.g., abortion with tax-payer support, harvesting body parts of unborn children and selling them, and same--sex marriage when there is no such thing Biblically). There are no 'rights' or 'entitlements' concerning these topics.

Usually, the government threatens or intimidates people with their finances or jail time. This is because the political leaders want to please man, not God, and are attempting to force Christians to compromise their faith.

With the world situation as it is, Scripture is coming to pass. We are living between the end of the Church age and the Rapture which is coming soon. Christians need to be able to present the Gospel in word, in deed, and in life-style in a compelling, compassionate manner. Christians will have their faith challenged, and you need to be able to witness why you believe the way you do without the challenge being a treat to you or causing you to become argumentative. Meet people in love and in the power of the Word.

For many, a 'just because' is not sufficient and neither is a 'because I believe.' **Present the Living Lord in power.** The battle is coming into the open with ridicule, rejection, and hostility from the government, religious leaders, and non-believers. **There is an effort to pressure Christians to accept and support anti-Christian stands on issues that go against faith.** The church in America has moved from an active, powerful foundation of our nation to rejection of the faith. **The effort to eradicate the faith has not succeeded in the past, and it will not succeed now, but Christians must be ready for trouble. The USA is going to experience what Christians in other countries have faced for years now...hate, persecution, and trouble in every area of life.**

Make preparations like Jesus told the disciples to do. Whatever is prepared will not be shaken. Use every resource available.

- mentally...stay in His attitude and expectations.
- emotionally...do not be turned by feelings.
- financially...freely giving without tax credit.
- spiritually...make this the foundation of your life.

Prepare for some possibilities.

- faith application will challenge your life.
- loss of friends.
- loss of business and/or job.
- authority of ministry challenged.
- opposition by finances, civil court issues, and anti-Christian practices in daily life supported by the world.
- rejection of and attack on the faith.
- destruction of property.
- physical attack.

Times have changed, and life will get more difficult. Jesus is showing us how to be overcomers and conquerors.

- Examine your life and be prepared for persecution/trouble.
- Use all resources at hand, both physical and spiritual.

-Be constantly/perpetually vigilant/alert. A boy sharing the Word was chased and beaten. When he was asked about how rough it was, he was very upbeat for he was caught less than fifty percent of the time). Disciples sent the first time had no money, knapsack, or sandals; relied totally on Jesus; people eager to hear the message; disciples had power over evil spirits. The disciples sent the second time took money, knapsack, and sword; **be prepared** because you will be in trouble. The disciples sent today must be prepared to continue Jesus' ministry (Luke 9:3); **be prepared** to heal the sick (Matthew 10:1-15); **be prepared** to work together (Mark 6:7-13). Believers are still persecuted today. It tests their character of faith.

We must rely on Jesus and do our part.

Know that God may not always protect you (Luke 21:18). Trouble often provides special opportunities to bring the Kingdom (Mark 13:9-11). Are you willing to suffer for Christ? (Acts 5:40-42)

Fire in Your Bones-For Pastors

God had a message for pastors and His people but they would not listen when Jeremiah spoke. It is much the same today. God has a message for believers, His people, but they are still not listening.

In the past, as in the present, ***there doesn't seem to be any fire of God in our bones. This fire comes from obedience, the Word, the Holy Spirit, and desire.*** In many instances it seems that the light is on, ***but no one is home.*** I heard someone say that wherever you are, be there! We know more than we obey.

Without the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, the individual is spiritually dead. There is no fire in the bones as with Jeremiah now is there fire flowing forth from the inside like the Apostles after Pentecost. To live in the fullness and abundance you need to have that all-consuming fire inside and release it by applying it to life.

Other than just living in selfishness and worldliness, one of the devotionals described many Christians today. ***Psychologists have come up with the term FTT (failure to thrive) to describe how many people live or maybe I should say, exist. There is no fire. It means that you are still able to function, but you have lost your sense of hope, meaning, and purpose.*** It is a lack of spiritual life and vitality. People today who have FTT especially need Jesus.

In an ancient list of deadly sins, instead of FTT it was called 'acedia' which means 'weariness of soul and inability to delight in life.' This is why Jesus looked at a crowd of people with dead marriages, dead-end jobs, and a feeling of inner deadness and told them He had come so they could have life and have it to the full (abundance). Today's world needs it also.

In a vision, Ezekiel saw a valley of dry bones. It was FTT in the final form, and God asked him if the bones could live. Ezekiel said that only God knows. **GOD KNOWS AND HE MADE THEM COME ALIVE AGAIN. GOD CAN CAUSE YOU TO LIVE AGAIN AND TO THRIVE.** He will put fire in your bones, your speech and your actions confirmed in the supernatural—after repentance and total commitment!

God wants you to flourish so others will flourish with fire in life and ministry. ***God designed you, desires the best for you, and has determined what you will become if you let Him! Let's look at some of the people with fire in their lives, and how God used them.***

Jeremiah was the 'weeping Prophet' who had a message from God inside. It was a message of judgment, but also one of hope. (Jeremiah 6:10-11) The message was a warning to God's people.

Judgment has come on the USA because of our stand on abortion and same-sex marriages. In Jeremiah, as today, the people had forsaken God and served other gods. The people have closed their ears. They didn't think serving God was exciting. Jeremiah's warning was rejected. He was disappointed.

Today people are warned but are not listening. People don't like a disciplined life. Even if God's people don't respond, we must keep sharing His word. We must not let what people want determine what we say.

We are called on to release the shut-up (contained) fire and apply it to life. Jeremiah had a pity party wishing he hadn't been born. He proclaimed the Word and received nothing but persecution and sorrow. ***Yet, when Jeremiah withheld the Word for awhile, it became a fire in his bones until he could no longer hold it back.***

God's message makes a difference—keep telling it! When god's message of forgiveness and love become fire in your bones you will take action. Do you truly care? You will be compelled to share with others regardless of the result. You can find hope in despair—God's in control. Regardless of how you feel about yourself, God remains unchanged and will use you. ***Is God's vision for you your vision?***

Responsibility of the Pulpit

The pulpit is responsible to bring the Truth of the Word in power, to give hope, direction, and freedom. This means leadership that is founded in Jesus and applied to all areas of life—regardless of the cost. Modern day clergy would do well to follow the example of our predecessors. The pulpit is responsible to bring the Word in supernatural power and lead the people to true freedom in Jesus that transforms the world.

Remember that you and Jesus make a majority of two, that you cannot fail and that no weapon formed against you will prosper. Now, take a look at the Black Robe Regiment.

What is the Black Robe Regiment?-For Pastors

(The following material on the Black Robe Regiment is an excerpt from a brief history by David Barton.)

The Black Robed Regiment was the name that British placed on the courageous and patriotic American clergy during the Founding Era (a backhanded reference to the black robes they wore). Significantly, the British blamed the Black Regiment for American Independence, and rightfully so, for modern historians have documented that: There is not a right asserted in the Declaration of Independence which had not been discussed by the New England clergy before 1763. It is strange to today's generation to think that the rights listed in the Declaration of Independence were nothing more than a listing of sermon topics that had been preached from the pulpit in the two decades leading up to the American Revolution, but such was the case.

Across subsequent generations, the great and positive influence of the Revolutionary clergy was faithfully reported. For example: As a body of men,

the clergy were pre-eminent in their attachment to liberty. The pulpits of the land rang with the notes of freedom. (**The American Quarterly Register** [Magazine], 1833)

If Christian ministers had not preached and prayed, there might have been no revolution as yet –or had it broken out, it might have been crushed.

Bibliotheca Sacra [British Periodical], 1856

The American clergy were faithful exponents of the fullness of God's Word, applying its principles to every aspect of life, thus shaping America's institutes and culture. They were also at the forefront of proclaiming liberty, resisting tyranny, and opposing any encroachments of God-given rights and freedoms. In 1898, Methodist bishop and church historian, Charles Galloway, rightly observed of these ministers: Mighty men they were, of iron nerve and strong hand, and unblanched cheek and heart of flame. God needed not reeds shaken by the wind, not men clothed in soft raiment [Matthew 11:7-8], but heroes of hardihood and lofty courage . . . And such were the sons of the mighty who responded to the Divine call.

But the ministers during the Revolutionary period were not necessary unique; they were simply continuing what ministers had been doing to shape American government and culture in the century and a half preceding the Revolution.

In 1636, the Rev. Roger Williams established the Rhode Island Colony and its representative form of government, explaining that "the sovereign, original, and foundation of civil power lie in the people."

When Paul Revere set off on his famous ride, it was to the home of the Rev. Clark in Lexington that he rode. Patriot leaders John Hancock and Samuel Adams were lodging (as they often did) with the Rev. Clark. After learning of the approaching British forces, Hancock and Adams turned to Pastor Clark and inquired of him whether the people were ready to fight. Clark unhesitatingly replied, "I have trained them for this very hour!" When the original alarm sounded in Lexington to warn of the oncoming British menace, citizens gathered at the town green, and according to early historian Joel Headley.

There they found their pastor, the Rev. Clark, who had arrived before them. The roll was called and a hundred and fifty answered to their names . . . The church, the pastor, and he congregation thus standing together in the dim light [awaiting the Redcoats], while the stars looked tranquilly down from the sky above them.

The British did not appear at that first alarm, and the people returned home. At the subsequent alarm, they reassembled, and once the sound of the battle subsided, some eighteen Americans lay on Lexington Green; seven were dead—all from the Rev. Clark's church. Headley therefore concluded, "The teachings of the pulpit of Lexington caused the first blow to be struck for

American Independence,” and historian James Adams added that “the patriotic preaching of the Reverend Jonas Clark primed those guns.”

Weeks later when the Americans fought the British at Bunker Hill, American ministers again delved headlong into the fray. For example, when the Rev. David Grosvenow heard that the battle had commenced, he left from his pulpit—rifle in hand—and promptly marched to the scene of action, as did the Rev. Jonathan French.

In short, history demonstrated that America’s elective governments, her educational system, and many other positive aspects of American life and culture were the product of Biblical-thinking Christian clergy and leaders. Today, however, as the influence of the clergy has waned, many of these institutions have come under unprecedented attack and many of our traditional freedoms have been significantly eroded. It is time for America’s clergy to understand and reclaim the important position of influence they have been given. As the Rev. Charles Finney—a leader of the Second Great Awakening—reminded ministers in his day.

According to the Bible, there is a time for war

Bill Federer remembers ‘fighting parson’ John Peter Muhlenburg

He preached a message on Ecclesiastes 3:1: “For everything there a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” He closed his message by saying: “In the language of the Holy Writ, there is a time for all things. There is a time to preach, and a time to fight. And now is the time to fight.”

This was John Peter Gabriel Muhlenburg, a 30 year-old member of the Virginia House of Burgesses . . . and a pastor.

At the end of his sermon, January 21, 1776, John Peter Muhlenburg threw off his clerical robes to reveal the uniform of an officer in the Continental Army. Drums began to roll, men kissed their wives, and they walked down the aisle to enlist. The next day, Pastor Muhlenberg led 300 men of his church to join General Washington’s Continental Army as the 8th Virginia Regiment.

John Peter Muhlenberg was born October 1, 1746, and he died the same day sixty-one years later, October 1, 1807.

Brethren, our preaching will bear its legitimate fruits. If immorality prevails in the land, the fault is ours in a great degree. If there is a decay of conscience, the pulpit is responsible for it. If the public press lacks moral discrimination, the pulpit is responsible for it. If the church is degenerate and worldly, the pulpit is responsible for it. If the world loses its interest in religion, the pulpit is responsible for it. If Satan rules in our halls of legislation, the pulpit is responsible for it. If our politics become so corrupt that the very foundations of our government are read to fall away, the pulpit is responsible

for it. Let us not ignore this fact, my dear brethren; but let us lay it to hear, and be thoroughly awake to our responsibility in respect to the morals of this nation.

Remember what the church is called to do.

The church needs pastors to lead. Pastors need to be self supported by the people. They need to be anointed by God.

Two tasks of the church:

- 1) Declare the word in supernatural power.
- 2) Demonstrate the word in supernatural power.

Six goals of the church:

- 1) Bring the Kingdom (God's manifest presence to meet the needs of the world.
- 2) Set captives free (Matthews 10:7-8, Matthews 28:28-20, Mark 16:15-20, and Luke 4:18)
- 3) Fellowship with God (John 5:19, Mark 1:35)
- 4) Turn the world upside down (Acts 17:16)
- 5) Add to the church daily (Acts 2:47)
- 6) Live in manifest power of the resurrection.

Chapter 6

Our Christian Calling

People can be most aggravating and sometimes pleasant, but they are the most important thing in the world . . . Jesus thought so. He died for them and now lives for them. Each has an opinion and a right to it . . . just as each has a bellybutton that is unique to them. No two people are the same, not even twins . . . But every person has some basic qualities and/or needs that are common such as the need for love, acceptance, and hope. All of these are fulfilled in and through Jesus. Unfortunately, the Christian faith is rejected by the way many, in the past, and also in the present, approach presenting it. John 6:63 is clear that Scripture is Spirit and Life.

Far more people, who claim to be Christian, use the ‘caveman approach’ (trying to pound it into someone), rather than the ‘Courting approach’ (trying to woo them because you truly care). Know this that no person, past or present, is worse off in this life for following the teachings of Jesus, even if they never accept Him as Lord and Savior.

The calling of the Christian is to bring God’s Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven (which sets captives free and heals) . . . By sharing Jesus in love and supernatural power with other people, especially at a point of need, thus allowing God to work on their behalf.

A true (authentic) Christian is not ‘threatened’ by difference of opinion or faith and does not feel the need to ‘convert’ nor ‘condemn’ . . . only share what is available through a personal relationship with Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit. If you are serious about loving people and want them to experience the fullness, God will enable you to meet them . . . at a point of need, and share His love and power. The only thing I have is a passionate desire for people to have an intimate fellowship with Him and declare the peace and victory that is available.

I have experienced the blind seeing, the deaf hearing, the lame walking, demons screaming and leaving, tornados turning at His command; and authority over witch doctors, voodoo priests, and medicine men, as well as an out of body experience with Him when He spoke directly to me. He did and does it for me, and He will do this for you . . . but He is a gentleman and will not act unless you invite Him.

I want you, as a reader, to experience, at a minimum, what I have in a relationship with Jesus. **I want your desire for Him to be like fire in your bones and trust Him implicitly in all things, instead of trusting the world.** Don’t just use the five physical senses . . . use the five spiritual senses of prayer, faith, praise, revelation, and Word of God.

People are not something to be counted as a number or statistic, nor are they to be manipulated. I want them to be truly free and at peace and live in the power of the resurrection of Jesus, by accepting what is available to them. People will receive and follow Jesus when they experience Him through you. The Holy Spirit convicts of the truth of Scripture; Jesus saves and delivers and Christians disciple.

**How to Equip and Enable Laypersons to become more involved in ministry.
(By Jack Nester as part of the D.Min project)**

Elmer Towns, in the forward to Larry Gilbert's book, states:

I find growing churches cannot be disassociated from growing Christians. Therefore, when a person has found his gifts, knows the significance of his gifts and properly exercises his gifts, he will grow. As he grows (internal growth) then his church will grow (external growth). (Larry Gilbert, Team Ministry: A Guide to Spiritual Gifts and Lay Involvement, (Lynchburg: Church Growth Institute, 1987), Forward)

If your church is to grow and mature to the point of bringing the Kingdom of God as commanded by the Lord Jesus, then it must function on a solid biblical outreach of lay ministry empowered by the Holy Spirit. This is identified biblically as the priesthood of believers (I Peter 2:5, Revelations 1:6).

Research Hypothesis

The program was developed to increase participation of laypersons of your church. The research hypothesis was: If laypersons understand the nature and function of the Church (Body of Christ), then they will respond to identifying and using spiritual gifts to become more involved in ministry.

Background and Significance

In Matthew 28:18-20, Jesus gives a commission to go and make disciples of all nations which is accepted, at least in theory or verbally, by most churches as the basis for ministry and reason for existence. The commission to 'go and make disciples of all nations' appeared to be accepted at Ketchum United Methodist Church with the traditional understanding rather than biblical understanding that the pastor was a person primarily responsible for disciple making.

If the pastor equipped the laypersons, increased numbers of them would become involved in ministry by allowing the Holy Spirit to work through them in daily life. A willingness to allow the Holy Spirit to work would come from

more dependence on the person of the Holy Spirit as the Source and less on programming or techniques. “The desire of most Christians and of most churches is that God would equip them for the task of carrying out the Great Commission” (Gilbert). This equipping does not happen by osmosis, descent like lightening from heaven or come merely based on dedicated scholarship or even biblical endeavors. It comes by the Holy Spirit working in and through the lives of believers, most of whom are laypersons.

The focal point of training to increase lay participation has normally been on new and improved methods and programs rather than on the movement of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. ‘Spiritual gifts are God’s tools and are created by God to fulfill the task. Methods and programs are man’s tools, created buy man, to fulfill the task’ (Gilbert). Both are needed but, tragically, the approach is tipped in favor of methods rather than people, and people are God’s method.

The future of the growing church is in the hands of the Pastor who becomes ‘gift oriented,’ helping his people to recognize their spiritual gifts, thus utilizing the ‘Equipping of the Saints’ rather than programs of the church to do the job (Gilbert).

To accomplish this, the pastor needs to acknowledge the role of the Holy Spirit in ministry of both laity and clergy. Further, he needs to recognize the inter-relationship of the Holy Spirit, the clergy, and laity in ministry and act upon it for maximum effectiveness. Specifically, this involves realizing that the Holy Spirit works supernaturally through laity as well as clergy, to identify the working of the Holy Spirit in their lives, trust in them with specific ministries and actively assisting them in doing those ministries.

Spiritual Anointing

Anointing is the glory (self-manifestation) of God being applied in life situations. Instead of oil being applied, God anoints (gives, grants, places, or imparts) believers with His Manifest Presence for ministry.

This anointing is 1) power through His Presence, 2) authority, and 3) presence to bring the Kingdom. Glory is God’s direct self-manifestation to you, like Moses received, while anointing is God’s Glory passing through you to others in ministry. While Baptism with the Holy Spirit is the release of the Holy Spirit within you to minister in supernatural power; infilling is the daily replenishing of the Holy Spirit living in His Manifest Presence and spending intimate time with Him.

Just as God anointed Jesus for ministry, so He anoints you, if you are willing and obedient. It begins with salvation ad the indwelling of the Holy Spirit which is the **well** of anointing according to scripture. Then, a deeper walk is the

river anointing identified in Mark 16:20 as the Lord working with them and confirming the Word THROUGH SIGNS. This anointing can be transferred or imparted to other believers by 1) faith, 2) laying on of hands, 3) instant obedience, 4) breathe, and 5) anointing cloths.

The anointing is not seen but felt (spiritually then made manifest) see Mark 5:25. Anointing can be hindered or increased. (For more specific information see *Equipping the Saint*, the third addition, by Jack Nester, Jr. DMIN)

Basically, to flow in the anointing is to minister to people in the supernatural power and love of God according to John 5:19. **First**, you must have a personal intimate relationship to Jesus (salvation). **Second**, you need to release the Holy Spirit that is in you to work on your behalf for God (Baptism with the Holy Spirit). **Third**, you must apply this anointing you have requested and received. **Fourth**, you maintain this anointing by daily infilling as Jesus did. Again, specific steps are provided (by topic or area of interest) in **Equipping the Saints**.

A note of interest: Christians are called to minister at the supernatural level not merely the natural. Only then, can we be like Jesus and help set captives free and truly bring His Kingdom. Anointing is essential to recognize, desire, accept, and apply, if we are to be the most effective possible.

Chapter 7

The Normal Christian Life

What has been taught in the last fifty years about the Christian faith has emphasized more comfort, prosperity, and blessings. Demythologizing (Word considered myth . . . expose truth through academics) and universal acceptance based on conduct and faith regardless of whether you accept Christ.

What should be emphasized is repentance, faith, holiness, obedience, service, giving, authority of the Word, prayer, ministry, and persecution for righteousness (beatitudes). Note that the Christians (especially other countries) have the right priorities of Morning Prayer, mid-day prayer, and evening prayer . . . the result is phenomenal growth! Book of Acts is the pattern. It is time for the pastors to equip the saints. The church is not prepared for the return of Christ or the persecution that is knocking at the door. Current examples: atheists, hostile, accept homo sexuality, abortion, restriction of prayer, and Christian values.

Early Christians--and some today—have learned to live the **Normal Christian Life** and be conquerors in spite of world conditions and heathen-istic ways. II Corinthians 4:8-9 shows what happens to true believers . . . so let's take a look at the components that bring victory.

1) **Hard pressed** (continuous force) **on every side . . . yet not crushed**. Many Christians think they are at the end of their rope, but they are never without hope . . . realizing this, and acting accordingly. You may be persecuted and feel defeated only because you are working out of your strength and knowledge, not of Jesus leading. As an Illustration: Look at Ananias and Sapphira, who pretended to be something they were not and lied to the Holy Ghost. Not everyone wants to follow God. By dealing with sin in church, power is achieved.

2) **They were perplexed** (bewildered/confused) **but not in despair** (overcome with futility), because they believed God not man . . . because they stepped out in faith and overcame with the Blood of the Lamb. Today many need to take a look at the Word, the promises and presence of Jesus, and apply faith to life. **Know** the Word, **obey** the Word, and **activate** the Word, and **get serious** about ministry in the supernatural.

3) **They were persecuted** (harassed/oppressed) **but not forsaken**. Love and the Holy Spirit overcame persecution. Not all persecution is physical . . . threats against families. In some countries the government takes and kills the children.

4) **Struck down** (temporarily stopped) **but not destroyed** (ruined). Some examples are where Christians' homes are destroyed; they are imprisoned; laws

against Christianity; they are spoken against; and actually they are attacked physically.

5) **Always carrying about in the body** the dying of the Lord Jesus . . . **manifest** (visible) in the body . . . **all persecution and trials are opportunities to demonstrate His power and presence. Focus on the Holy Spirit in you.** Your responsibility is to bring Jesus and His power to bear on people and their needs . . . so they can be free.

Chapter 8

Be Doers of the Word

We have looked at the Spirit of Elijah being on the church and working through believers just as it did through Jesus. God wants the same thing today . . . but that means that believers must be doers of the Word not merely learners or hearer only! It seems overly simplistic to me and a given that Believers, by their very nature and calling, are people of action in applying the Word to life. Yet, most believers . . . but that means that believers must be doers of the Word not merely learners or hearers only! It seems overly simplistic to me and a given that Believers, by their very nature and calling, are people of action in applying the Word to life. Yet, most believers . . . seem to be like the world and want to do what is comfortable . . . and in many instances seem to trust the world and it's solutions more than the Word of God!

Christians, true Believers, are people of the Book (Bible). They are people of the Word (obedient) James 1:19-20 gives direction for over-coming trials (which are part of life). James 1:21-27 is a call to action, application, of the Word of God. For as simple as it sounds, most know more that they are obedient to . . . When Believers apply the Word to daily life situations, and people can see victory, then they have hope for themselves. Illustration: to hear but not do is like reading a menu but never ordering . . . it is like reading directions for cooking on a box but never following them. The result is not automatic. It takes obedience to the Word that is professed. To be a doer means preparing yourself first . . . then helping others.

To be a doer of the Word involves: 1) a sense of urgency, 2) being salt and light, 3) bringing the kingdom, 4) setting captives free, and 5) occupying until He comes . . . so let's take a closer look to see whether we, as professed believers, are doers of the Word.

One. Do you have a sense of urgency? (Look at Matthew 24 and events today)

-Matthew 24:5-8 has seven woes or sorrows but says these are not the end but the beginning. The verses 9-14 tell what is going to happen to believers, and when the end will come . . . which involves the church being doers of the Word.

-One sorrow is increased earthquakes, which we are experiencing (on the Richter scale – 0-4.9 = minor/ 5-7.9 = major/8.0 and up is great!) Luke 21:11 identifies 'great' such as Chili with 8.8 (Haiti was a 7.0).

Indonesia in 2004 was a 9.1. These 'great' earthquakes have begun the process of moving the earth (Israel 13:13 and Matthews 24:29). The Sumatra quake moved the N/S axis 2.76 inches, and the Chilean quake

moved the 'Figure Axis' located in the mid latitudes 3 inches. This change can shorten days by 9 micro-seconds . . . not much, except there were thirty days to the month at creation, or 360 days to the year, and now we have 365 but are going backward. Get ready for His coming . . . be a doer!

Two. Be Salt and Light

-See Matthew 5:13-14, 16

-Prepare yourself first . . . take the Word seriously and apply it to your own life in all areas (spiritual, physical, relational, emotionally)

-Salt flavors, spices, preserves, causes thirst, and affects whatever it contacts.

-Light reveals, attracts and allows sight (spiritual)

-Both salt and light cause action to occur . . . nothing is the same after the encounter. Are you a doer that causes action, stirs people up, and turns the world upside down? Do you rock the boat or try to still the waves?

Three. Do you bring the Kingdom?

-Believers are called to bring the Kingdom in supernatural power

-Most people are trying to bring their state or condition to a higher, more comfortable level. The result is that they are trying to reach an earthly goal not a spiritual one. They have separated the spiritual from the physical . . . either not knowing or believing that the Word of God changes current physical matters! In short, the people have a secular world-view not a Biblical one . . . so they cannot bring the Kingdom of which they have no part!

-Hebrews 11:6 is clear is a correct view of God (exists/rewarder). God is good, and Satan is bad . . . very simple and very basic. 55% of Americans don't believe Satan exists . . . even less believe in heaven and hell and 75% of evangelical (Bible believing Christians . . . are there any other kind?) . . . believe there is more than one way to get to heaven! WOW! This lack of belief opens the door for disobedience and defeat.

-Obedience is more important than knowledge.

-Effectiveness of Bible study is directly related to behavior and actions.

-Do you put into action the things you have studied (Matthews 10:7-8)?

Four. Do you help set captives free?

-With the understanding, that not all people want to be 'free' or that they already consider themselves to be 'free' . . . do you share the Word that will help them transform their lives whether they are lost or saved?

-Look at Luke 4:18

-Our society with many humanists (people who believe man can and should solve all things and have no need for God) have pushed our nation and culture toward spiritual death by rejection and removal of God from life (like many communist countries, they [political and in many instances spiritual leaders] have an outward form of Godliness but deny the power thereof!)

-Not only national political leaders of the past openly declared faith in Jesus and a need for our country to follow God . . . but medical people, like Karl and William Menninger who turned their Kansas mental health facility from a 20% cure rate to an 80% cure rate by creating and implementing a Christian faith base.

-Even though Godless government programs and self-help programs only have a 20% success/cure rate, they continue to pound away at the people to trust the government because the masses are not seen as having enough sense to take care of themselves. What is worse is that it is being allowed by Christians, for example pure gospel versus social gospel.

-The taking away of constitutional rights and replacement with government control of people and businesses, leads to communism and socialism. Are you a doer of the Word that affects all areas of life?

Five. Are you going to occupy until He comes?

-Luke 19:13

-Occupy means to 1) to seize, 2) to take possession, 3) to hold, 4) to fill up, and 5) to control by force.

-This means that Christians ought to occupy (spiritually and physically) until He comes (returns), example taking ground versus holding ground . . . cost.

-Where there is wide-spread influence and practice of Christianity, there is internal, spiritual self-regulation that produces what Jesus taught . . . thus resulting in a free-enterprise society with people's wellbeing taken care of. Where there is a solid Christian foundation people can be 'free' because they have internal self-restraint and spiritual conviction to apply the teachings of Jesus with boldness and power!

-See Matthews 21:28-31 and John 14:15 and Matthews 25:1-12
I challenge you to be a doer of the Word by boldly applying scripture!

Activating your Faith

An old couple went to the doctor and both had the beginning of Alzheimer's and were told to write things down. At home the wife asked her husband to get her some ice cream – add chocolate, nuts, whipped cream, and a cherry on top. You need to write it down? No! Thirty minutes later he came with bacon and eggs, and she told him he should have written it down because he forgot the toast! It is interesting how we think we have it all together, but missed it- especially spiritually. Life is like sitting by a fire feeling the warmth – getting closer as it dies out but never adding wood or stirring it up!

In these last days it is crucial every believer activate the fire of the Holy Spirit by intentionally releasing Him to act and stirring up the gifts. Don't let your fire go out by neglect – activate your faith, and the fire will spread – bringing the Kingdom and setting captives free! A fire never maintains – it either increases and consumes or dies. In Acts 3 Peter and John activate their faith when they spoke to the lame man . . . In II Timothy 1:6 Paul encourages Timothy to stir up the gifts!

In the final days before Christ returns, there will be spiritual drop-outs, people with itching ears, heretics, false teachers, and people who are self-deceived because of following public opinion, politics, religion, or personal rights. What is needed is a solid foundation in Jesus to flow in the anointing as you activate (manifest) your faith. The first thing you have to do is to decide whether you are going to function in the natural or in the supernatural. God wants us to act in the supernatural. His words are life and transform people and the world when activated.

You must release the Holy Spirit and His gifts that are in you so God can work on your behalf. John 14:10-14 is the key . . . God dwells (lives) in you . . . you will do greater things than I. In Acts 3 Peter and John . . . what did he know that he had? He had the presence and authority of God to bring the Kingdom. Greater is He who is in you than He that is in the world.

Don't limit God! God is a gentleman, and He will not go against what you are willing to receive. Jesus in his hometown (Mark 6:4) was limited by the people. It is the same today. Familiarity, disbelief, fear, quenching the Spirit, and public opinion are just a few things that limit what God can do.

Believers must have an active, on-going connection with God to activate faith. The woman with the issue of blood (Matthews 9:20-22) knew that just by touching the hem of Jesus' garment she would be healed. Jairus wanted Jesus to touch his daughter. He knew she would be healed (Matthew 9:23-26).

The Centurion's servant just wanted Jesus to speak healing, and knew his master would be healed (Matthew 8:8).

Peter and John with the man at the gate had faith present, spoke with authority (Acts 3:1-9) and the man was healed.

Paul did many miracles, including through handkerchiefs (Luke 19:11-12).

Peter's shadow healed (Acts 5:15).

Even though, most churches are not connected spiritually, power is available. However, your power remains inactive until released by faith. You must participate to get results. Where the Word is taught or preached, power is present. Power is waiting for your connection. Power is wasted and ineffective if not applied or released.

If you truly want His Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven then it is imperative that Believers function in the Spirit by activating their faith. Choose to believe. Choose to meet or connect. Choose to know what you have. Choose to act in obedience according to the Word.

Are you willing to meet, connect with God to activate you faith? Where? He will meet you where you say and do what you ask.

Living in the Supernatural

As each of you know, we are experiencing turmoil and uncertainty in America as well as around the world, and this means that the church is facing trouble also. The Good News is that the church (Body of Christ) will never suffer loss or be defeated! When you see all of these things coming to pass, look up because your salvation draws close (is at hand). God has not fallen off of His Throne, nor will He! God's supply is not limited to this economy. His promise is true, that He will not forget you. He will supply all of your needs through His riches in glory (literally when you fulfill your part). Remember, if one brook or supply stream dries up that God will provide another! Elijah in I Kings 17:1-14 is an example of this. Believers are in this world but not of it and are not subject to its limitations. We do not have the spirit of fear because we have a personal relationship and know the outcome already.

The body of Christ has listened to the lies of the world and allowed them to pervert the Word of God! Believe the Word not the world! God wants you free in Him to do what He says and not be in bondage to society. He wants you out of debt and will supply the supernatural means. He wants you to receive Divine Health. He wants you to walk with Him and live in the supernatural just as Jesus did. The Church must make a CHOICE: Either to continue to live by the natural or to live in the supernatural.

Sometime ago, in the Wall Street Journal in an editorial, there was a sobering question for Christians. If there are over 60 million adult 'born again' Christians in the United States, why are there so many moral and spiritual problems?" We are plagued with epidemics of crime, sexually transmitted diseases, murder of infants by abortion, drug addiction, alcoholism, divorce, infidelity, and homosexuality, perversion of all types, greed, humanism, and socialism. If Christians are the salt and light of society, then, why is America rotting?

Simply put, because Christians have been lulled to sleep, are comfortable, and choose to live in the natural not the supernatural as we are called to do. Resulting in true revival which changes people, lives, communities, and

Chapter 9

These . . . Have Come Here Too. Acts 17:5-9

One World Ministry Fellowship member said that the meeting was a ‘heavenly’ feast because it had food, fellowship, and the Presence of God; it fed physically, emotionally, and spiritually. During this time we heard from everyone about what God was doing in their lives. The signs, wonders and miracles described were very encouraging and caused increased expectancy in ministries! This was a reminder that the church is to be active in the world—not an enclosed unit -to bring the kingdom and set captives free! This means shaking, breaking, and transforming.

In the text today, we see Paul and Silas were in jail in Philippi and upon release went to Thessalonica and stirred things here also. New are called to do the same things today. The gathering of saints at church is to equip and encourage so they will do a powerful supernatural ministry in the world. Everywhere you go is a field for harvest and discipleship . . . you have one of the most difficult areas to work in the world . . . America! This is because most view the church as a non-essential add-on and want it to be like the world . . . which it shouldn’t . . . but unfortunately does!

So, let’s look at some essentials if the church is to truly be effective and added to daily . . . which comes from individual effort not organized programs and activities. If you want to be known as the early Christians, it is essential that you have a heart for God and a consuming desire to bring His Kingdom . . . with fearless abandon!

Recently, I read two articles with opposing views about the place of the church in our society. One was prophetic, and the other was existing, but not speaking or acting. As a Christian you are called to shake false beliefs, vs 5 and 8; by doing this through preaching the Word, Paul was run out of town. He encountered mobs, was convicted without a trial, beaten and jailed. His actions caused religious leaders to be jealous, and they had the wrong motives. But Paul explained and demonstrated that Jesus was the Christ. The Word still ‘shakes’ lives today, if it is declared and demonstrated!

Jason was a local host for Paul and Silas. He took heat for problems and put himself on the line for them. He is an unsung hero . . . like many today . . . or the Word would not be spread.

You may not receive much attention (maybe only grief), but you are important to God in conducting His ministry. God wants to use you. He has given you fruits of the Spirit and gifts for use. Lives will be changed because you shake false beliefs and declare Jesus. Paul met the people in two places. One was in the synagogue where the law was read. The prophets were read of,

and there was exhortation and explanation. Paul began with the Old Testament covenant and declared Jesus to them, the everyday world where people live, work, and play. Then he met people at their faith level and understanding level and declared Jesus . . . we should do the same.

As a Christian you are called to break hearts for Jesus, vs6. The love and power of God breaks hearts so they can be reshaped. When hearts are broken—people truly believe—social barriers come down—prison doors are opened spiritually. People are caused to truly care deeply about others. People are stirred to worship. People are stirred to obey, so God can act on their behalf, Matthew 7:21 and Luke 6:46.

As a Christian you are called to transform the world, wherever you are, vs 6. You are an image of Christ. You are recognized as a believer by action and commitment. In Acts there are many accounts of healing just like Jesus did. There are examples of supernatural power in deliverance. For instance, in Acts 16, Paul cast the spirit out of the girl who was a fortune teller. Also, judgment on deception Acts 5:1-11, as with Ananias and Sapphira. People respected the Apostles but were afraid to join them. People respond to: honesty, unity, power at work, generosity, love, freedom, and acceptance because you value them.

God wants believers and disciples not just programs and buildings or even changing conduct, but dramatically transforming lives—God is looking for a few true converts who will shake, break, and transform . . . are you one? God wants intentional supernatural outreach and discipling. Are you available?

Walking Through Difficult Times

I have heard it said that fruit grows in the valley, not on the mountain top. In short, we like the benefits of faith but not the work. Yet, we learn more from failures and difficulties than from successes. Part of life is growing and overcoming. There are difficult times due to circumstances beyond our control.

It is certain that we will encounter difficult times, and there are truths we need spiritually if we are to be conquerors. Always remember, Jesus is your Lord, and you are His Child with all benefits. You are in the world, not of it. As long as you are in this world, you will have difficulties, but be of good cheer for He has overcome the world. God gives you peace. All of the worries lead to fear and distrust. He is in control of our circumstances . . . so please trust Him. Stop doubting. No weapon formed against us shall prosper. God wants you to live to the fullest, and this means trusting Him. If you try to live life to the fullest without an intimate relationship with Him, it is like trying to walk on water by yourself . . . it won't work . . . you will sink.

Peter walked through a difficult time when he walked on the water briefly. The boat was about five miles out in the Sea of Galilee when Jesus came walking on the water. He had been praying after feeding the 5000 and told the Disciples to go on ahead. The waves came up, and the Disciples were afraid, but He told them not to fear because He was there. Peter believed and wanted to walk with Him, which he did before he began to sink. Even though Peter had faith and acted on it, he still had trouble which he overcame in Jesus.

Some of you are going through difficult times, and your faith is being tried. Before faith is real, it must be tried. The way we handle problems will influence others. You can't fake it until you make it . . . you must believe first then speak. One pastor said, "In my experience I've discovered that many challenges fall into three basic categories: our relationships, our health, and our finances. You will be challenged in all three at some time."

When it comes to relationships, and you do not want to trust or love again . . . remember Jesus. Faith begins to work, and you reach out again. When it comes to health, and we encounter the possibility of going to be with Jesus, be prepared to go, BUT remember your purpose is not fulfilled yet. Kick in the faith and make wiser choices. When it comes to finances, sometimes our dreams don't become reality in the time we want, even if our choices are correct. The need to do and have right now is lust, not faith.

When God gives you a dream it always involves your time, talent, treasure, and trials. God gives you the resources and wants the job done. Here are some things to do when you are in a time of trial or testing. Stay focused on Jesus and the vision He gave you. The trouble you face is not from Him. He is the beginner and finisher of our faith. Avoid placing blame on others for adverse circumstances you are feeling and encountering. Be humble and open to God's correction and direction. Stay in the attitude of thanksgiving and resist the luxury of complaining. In everything give thanks. Continually, receive your strength, guidance, and encouragement from the Lord. Spend time in prayer and praise. Discern and resist the lies of Satan . . . especially fear. Any guidance that leads away from Jesus is not from Him. Look to the Lord for deliverance. The Lord asked Peter why he doubted, and He asks us the same thing, I Peter 4:10-12.

The nature of faith is that it must be tested. It is total confidence in Jesus. It is not rational or logical. The trial of faith makes you victorious, but it is not easy or comfortable. You are born from above, and in God's will . . . depend totally on Jesus.

Start walking on the water with no shore in sight . . . only the roaring waves. He will sustain you. Those not grounded in Christ will sink, but you will not! Believe the Word and act on it. Are you ready to walk?

It's Time to Support Israel

As in Genesis 12:2-3, '*And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed,*' we, the Fellowship of Believers, regularly give to The Fellowship, International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, for food and freedom flights for Jews seeking refuge.

For years people have been saying that the end is at hand, and there has been false teaching and excesses. Today few people seriously consider the fact that the Biblical truth of the Second Coming of Jesus Christ is imminent. There is no reason to live in fear but rather in expectation and joy. The signs of Matthew 24 are all around us. Evil men will get worse in the last days (2 Timothy 3:13), and gross darkness will cover the earth (Isaiah 60:1-2).

It is time to support Israel. God is clear that He will bless those who support Israel and curse those who curse Israel. It is noted from history that God will do to a nation what it does to Israel. Look at Egypt for starters.

At the Fellowship of Believers, we pray for peace in Jerusalem according to Psalm 122, and we, also, support the program, On Wings of Eagles. It is a program that rescues Jews in Russia and Ethiopia so they can be returned to their homeland, Israel, at a cost of \$350 each. God told us that we were to support a minimum of one a month during 2006. That's a small price to relocate God's people!

Support Israel through encouraging political leaders. The battle for Jerusalem has begun. It is called Roadmap for Peace developed by America, Russia, Europe, and the United Nations. When they pressured Israel, who is desperate for peace, to give up land they went against Scripture . . . specifically Joel 3:2. Jerusalem is the City of God, 2 Chronicles 6:6 and 33:7. Israel should give up no more land because it as given to them by God 'forever'. In Genesis 15:18 and 17:2-8, the boundaries are clearly set forth in scripture!

People have opinions and often criticize America's involvement in the Middle East, but we need to be ready for what is coming and is at hand. The conflict of cultures as reflected in terrorist activities and the race to use nuclear weapons. John Hagee verified that there is something called **electromagnetic pulse (EMP)**. It is an electromagnetic blanket that does not kill people but kills electrons which stops all forms of electricity instantly and for long periods of time. In a short time delivery systems will be available to the terrorists.

It is time for the church to rise up out of spiritual fog and spiritual deception, focus on the absolute truth of the Word of God and support Israel. That's something to think about!

Chapter 10

My Miracles

On August 17, 2015 I was in a car wreck where several supernatural things took place.

I was sitting on the highway signaling to turn left into the church driveway when a pick-up was coming at a high rate of speed and hit me from the rear of my vehicle. It resulted in my being spun around and rolled over coming to a rest on the top.

Two tires were knocked loose from the rim, the hood was damaged and the camper shell was ripped off scattering Bible tracts and other materials all over the area.

The driver's seat was torn loose and I was in the back seat on the ceiling trying to get out. A five gallon gas can was split open and gas was running out. The first miracle was that there was no sparks or fire.

The second miracle was that the only injuries I sustained were a punctured lung and a cut on my head.

The third miracle was that the ambulance that picked me up took me to Tulsa, St. Frances Center rather than the nearest hospital.

The fourth miracle was the short response time and the MESTA team who were extremely efficient.

The fifth miracle was that there were not any worse injuries.

The sixth miracle was that there was a minimum of pain even when they put the needle in to make the lung work.

The seventh miracle was that my congregation prayed scripture, and the bleeding from my ear and head ceased. The clot came out later.

The eighth miracle was that an angel came by, told the people who I was, and left a medical compress to use.

The ninth miracle was that no one was riding with me.

The tenth miracle was that I was sedated after the medical procedure on Monday and slept until Wednesday when I began the process of recovery.

The eleventh miracle was God confirmed I was delivered for future ministry.

The twelfth miracle was that God gave me an excellent care-giver in my wife, Joyce.

God is waiting to work on your behalf . . .

This is to share some supernatural ministry with you and to encourage you to step out and let God be God. This means to not limit God but to expect Him to answer.

Pray the Word into the people like Peter and John did and watch this work through you to bring the Kingdom.

Some signs, wonders, and miracles over forty two years of ministry (and they are still coming).

A woman was prayed for kidney stones to dissolve. After the prayer—the room lit up with the healing light and within two hours a doctor verified they were totally gone.

A woman in a nursing home had not walked for a year and after prayer got out of her wheel chair and walked.

A clerk in a hardware store had a badly injured ankle and after receiving prayer literally ran down the aisle.

An artist had a medical problem, and the hand was drawn up and would not work. After prayer the hand opened up and functioned properly.

A tornado was headed for our church so we went outside and spoke to the tornado and it turned away. This happened on more than one occasion.

Someone brought a friend who had a stroke and the arm and hand would not work . . . after prayer it did and continued to function properly.

On another occasion two people came into the closing (prayer ministry) and asked for prayer . . . afterward the individual got out of the wheelchair and worked out side.

Once there was a man who came in as we were closing services and asked for prayers. His ankle was healed as he walked out almost skipping!

A man came forward for prayer because he was deaf in one ear. God healed the man, and a doctor verified the healing.

A man came into service and had a demon try to act out. God lifted him up and took him back through the air. He ran into the wall. Then he ran outside and climbed up on a bulletin board hanging on the cross on top screaming to be saved. He was both saved and delivered!

There have been numerous miracles and healings such as legs lengthened, backs aligned, allergies healed, and other things confirmed by doctors and witnessed by believers and non-believers.

On one occasion a man who was in the band that was playing, fell off of the platform. He was assisted in getting up only to fall again. This time he turned white, his eyes rolled back, and he was not breathing. This was verified by witnesses. An ambulance was called. The congregation laid hands on him and prayed, and two nurses present verified the situation. As the prayer was given, they could feel the heart start. He was verified as okay by ambulance personnel. The man ate lunch then went back to playing, worshipping the Lord.

God wants to ‘Bring the Kingdom’—through you as a believer . . . be obedient. Miracles, signs, wonders, and healing are normal . . . see Hebrews 13:8. Don’t miss out because of fear . . . step out and watch Him work . . . be obedient.

Remember: **BE BOLD, BE EXPECTANT; SIGNS FOLLOW CHRISTENS, CHRISTIANS DON’T FOLLOW SIGNS.**

On more than one occasion, we have had food literally multiply at fellowship dinner with enough left over to take home!

Chapter 11

Controversial Issues Pastors Need to Address

Believers cannot separate their faith from life. Your Christian faith will determine your choices and rightly so.

Addressing controversial issues can be very uncomfortable but necessary if we are true to the faith.

Most pastors avoid controversial issues to keep financial giving up and people attending. The following are some controversial issues that need to be addressed by pastors providing a Biblical basis to play it safe. From the world's perspective, pastors recognize but ignore controversy. This is compromise of the Word of God! Controversial issues that need to be addressed include: same sex marriage, LGBT . . . not a matter of recognition but acceptance, supporter on alternative sexual lifestyle other than Biblical; abortion; politics in church, keeping tithes up; Islam; Christlam; guns in church; speaking the name of Jesus in public; scripture as authority; and supporting Israel.

One news source reported George Barnes as saying 90% of the pastors recognize the issues but less than 10% are willing to address them (WND-Jennifer LeClaire-8/03/14). Could it be that pastors surveyed did not accept scripture as the ultimate authority, and the ultimate authority by which all things are judged?!

It seems the pastors are judged by worldly standards of success being attendance, buildings, and cash, instead of Jesus as King and Lord. It seems that pastors are not taught to engage and apply scripture to culture and life.

Abortion and Truth about Margaret Sanger

Abortion is to cease the life-giving process for whatever the reason and terminate a pregnancy.

The founder of Planned Parenthood (Sanger's America's birth control exposed) was Margaret Sanger who championed the cause for women's rights to choose . . .

This was based on her experiences as a member of a family of eleven. Sanger said, "I associate poverty, taxes, unemployment, drunkenness, cruelty, quarreling, fighting, debts, and jail with large families." (Citizenship magazine, 1-20-92)

The solution was "Eugenics"—population control by abortion. Birth control was presented as both an economic betterment vehicle and as a health measure that could lower incidence of infant mortality.

The purpose of promoting birth control was "to create a race of 'thoroughbreds'." (Birth control review 11/21-p.2) This is similar to Hitler's

master race directed to eliminating the poor and the undesirables. In Margaret's own words, "the most merciful thing that a large family does to one of its infant members is to kill it." (Eugenics Publ. Co., 1920. 1923) On blacks, immigrants, and indigents: "... human weeds,' 'reckless breeders,' 'spawning... human beings who never should have been born.'" (Margaret Sanger, Pivot of Civilization, referring to immigrants and poor people) On sterilization and racial purification: Sanger believed that, for the purpose of racial "purification," couples should be rewarded who chose sterilization. (Birth Control in America, The Career of Margaret Sanger, by David Kennedy, P. 117, quoting a 1923 Sanger speech)

On December 10, 1939, Sanger wrote: "We do not want the word to go out that we want to exterminate the Negro population, and the minister is the man who can straighten that idea out if it ever occurs to any of their more rebellious members." In 1940, money for two "Negro Project" demonstration programs in southern states was donated by advertising magnate Albert D. Lasker and his wife, Mary.

Babies are not the only victims of abortion. Lakisha Wilson traveled to the Preterm Abortion Clinic in Cleveland on March 21, 2014, to end her unborn child's life. But she ended up losing far more than the unwanted baby. Wilson's abortion provider did not properly monitor the 22-year-old after the procedure, and Wilson eventually stopped breathing. She was rushed to a nearby hospital, where she was put on life support and pronounced dead seven days later.

Wilson was just one of many African-American women who have been victimized by abortions that went horribly wrong. African-American women may comprise only 13.2 percent of the total U.S. population, but black women receive 29.7 percent of all abortions in the country.

"When abortions go wrong, it is more likely that women of color are the ones who end up on slabs in the morgue," wrote Cheryl Sullenger, a senior policy analyst at Operation Rescue. "In the past five years, four out of five abortion-related maternal deaths documented by Operation Rescue have involved Black or Hispanic women,"

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Cheryl Sullenger implored Americans to realize that abortion disproportionately affects the African-American community. She said African-Americans have a whopping 459 abortions per 1,000 births. By comparison, this "abortion ratio" is 132 per 1,000 for whites and 208 per 1,000 for Hispanics.

"Certainly, in order to realize Dr. King's dream for children to be 'judged not by the color of their skin but by the content of their character,' they must first be allowed to be born," Sullenger wrote.

The Bible says “NO” to killing children. Don’t sacrifice your children to Molech (god of pleasure and this world).

Lives are precious and sacred to God, and there will be a penalty for abortion.

True, the Bible says your body is on loan from God whether male or female, and we will give account for it, and for its use and abuse.

Personal experiences as a Pastor has revealed torment, guilt, depression, and unworthiness, all from the experience of submitting to abortion. All are unnecessary in light of God’s forgiveness. Yes, women have a right to birth control, but not by murdering the unborn.

Speak to the issue, Pastors!

Politics in Church

You, as a believer, have a responsibility to bring Christian values into politics. This is done by the stand you take based on the Word. As material from an earlier chapter documents there is not a separation between church and state. The government is not to interfere with the church but has the freedom and right to call leaders to follow the Christian faith since our nation was established on these principles. See earlier material on “Black Robes.”

Tithing—Keeping it Up.

Tithing is to give a minimum of ten percent of your income to the church, according to scriptures. If you do you will be blessed. Your giving is based on obedience to the Word not how you feel. If you do not tithe God will curse your efforts (Malachi 3:10). Don’t cheat God. If you truly love God you will give financially as well as in time, energy, and prayers. If people quit coming to church because of tithing, God will give you better givers. He always meets the needs of His people. To not tithe is an excuse to be selfish and disobedient.

Guns in Church

Recently I saw an article about a man in South Africa who stopped a terrorist’s attack by ‘shooting back’ and saved many lives. Eventually, he wrote a book called ‘Shooting Back’ about his experiences and the Biblical support not to be an easy or ‘soft’ target.

Defending yourself is not a lack of faith. It is a matter of prevention. Some large churches have trained, approved individuals prepared to protect worshippers.

Culture versus Lifestyle

In the Tulsa World February 12, 2006, there was an article entitled Cultural Shock that addressed political problems from a cultural perspective. It seems that a cartoon, published in Denmark, of the prophet Mohammed with a bomb for a turban has set off a reaction by thousands of Muslims who launched protests that led to threats, destruction and even deaths. The result is that there is quite a stir about how people should respond (it translates to being politically correct) by being sensitive. You, as an individual, should respect a person's right to worship, but you do not have to respect their religion or change your lifestyle because of it. In our schools and mosques in the United States that teach their followers to hate Americans and any other religion than Islam. Some even raise funds for terrorist organizations overseas—yet they are afforded the right to worship as they please with no interference.

A few years ago, there was an artistic assault on the Christian faith (a crucifix was submerged upside down in a bottle of urine and called a work of art)! There were protests, boycotts, and withholding of funds but not threats, violence, and death. The offenses continue against Christianity daily in government, school, and work force, which most accept as apparently normal by reference book. Jerusalem Countdown says, "Some westerners have argued that the west does not have problems with Islam, but only with violent Islam extremists. Fourteen hundred years of history demonstrate otherwise." Indonesian jihad leader Abu Bakar Bashir said, "Islam can't be ruled by others. Allah's laws must stand above human law. There is not an example of Islam and infidels, the right and wrong living together in peace. If they want peace they have to accept being governed by Islam." Islam means submission, not peace, and Muslims believe that it is Allah's will for Islam to rule the world.

So, it is time to wake up and not to be naïve. You can convert to Christianity without changing culture, but you can't be Muslim without their culture.

Despite containing only a small minority of the jihadist content, the Koran, writes Turkish journalist, Uzay Bulut, contains "at least 109 verses calling on Muslims to wage war with nonbelievers for the sake of Islam." She elaborates: Such teachings in Islam sanction slaughter against three groups: 1) Muslims who refuse to "fight in the way of Allah" are hypocrites and they are to be massacred (3:167), 2) People with 'diseased hearts' –including Jews and Christians (5:51-52; 33:61-62), and 3) 'Alarmists,' those who speak out against Islam should also be slain (33:62).

This martial mentality helps explain the Muslims' rapid conquests, initiated by Mohammed. At the time of Islam's birth, 622 A.D., Christianity was the dominant religion in the Middle East and North Africa; in fact, the latter at the

sixth-century's turn had more Christians than Europe. This would soon change. In 630 already, the Muslim hordes began conquering the old Christian lands. And a little more than a century later, they were approximately 120 miles from Paris, having seized much of Iberia (present-day Spain and Portugal) and part of Gaul (now France), at which point they were roundly defeated by Charles Martel at the Battle of Tours in 732. But there would be other conquests, some of which would spark, in 1095, that great defense of Western civilization known as the Crusades. And the Muslims would twice, in 1529 and 1683, reach the *gates of Vienna*.

But perhaps the biggest impediment precluding moderns from as honest comparison of religions isn't a lack of historical or statistical information, but dogma. There is this idea, thoroughly ingrained, that we should view all religions as equally valid—or, as moderns are wont to say, equally invalid. What they don't realize is that if Islam is morally equal to Christianity, libertarianism is morally equal to communism. This doesn't mean what you think.

What makes ideologies morally different? It's that they espouse different values. Different religions, however, also espouse different values; therefore, not all religions can be morally equal unless all values are so. This is the notion known as 'moral relativism.' But if all values are equal, then ideologies' espousal of different values is not a moral difference at all. And then no ism can be better than any other ism, no matter what precedes it.

Applying this relativism consistently, we'd have to conclude that even the Islamic State (ISIL)—the eighth-century moral atavists now brutalizing and beheading their way through Iraq and Syria—can be neither better nor worse than we are. But, if we're not moral relativists and can judge moral atavist, then we might ask, was Barack Obama correct in saying, "ISIL is not Islamic"?

Or is ISIL correct in thinking it represents true Islam?

Cultural Takeover

People were so busy with getting re-election, the economy and majoring on minors in their own lives—mostly responding to fear rather than believing the Bible, that the October 3, 2008 warning by author Brigitte Gabriel on WND (World Net Daily) concerning Islamization of America was either overlooked, considered unimportant or still another phobia to be ignored. It is still true today in 2016.

Although the stated intent of Islam is to take over the world, it is not done by violence and terrorism alone. It includes much more subtle ways such as advancing Islamic culture through media, constitution, law, education, and politics.

Our nation seems to be living on fear of being politically incorrect and, therefore, do not speak against anything wrong, whether religious or secular. In our nation, built solidly on the person of Jesus Christ and the Bible . . . we now have many on the far left who want to remove God and the Christian faith from every area of life . . . and argue with a vengeance against any inclusion of Jesus and faith in public life, even though, it is definitely constitutional. On the other hand, our courts, governors, and other appointed and elected leaders approve and support teaching of Islam in schools.

This is done in the name of culture such as part of a curriculum in California using state adopted text-books teaching students in the seventh grade to memorize and recite Islamic prayers and verses from the Quran. They even adopt Islamic names and fast for a day to experience Ramadan, the holiest of Islamic holidays. Further, they are encouraged to include Arabic phrases such as Allahu Akbar in speeches to imagine they are disciples on a pilgrimage to Mecca . . . they conclude by writing about their experience as a Muslim.

Also, when universities change classes to meet Islamic cultural needs, provide foot washing bowls and prayer rooms . . . it seems that nothing needs to be done to conquer America except let her foolishly continue open borders and, out of fear, ignorance and misguided tolerance continue on this same self-destructive path. Islam wants to dominate the world and Christianity realizing Islam wants to convert the world.

In America's future there will be other violent, terrorist acts, but the major part of the battle is culturally which we are ignoring. A beginning would be to drop the pride realizing Islam wants to dominate the world and Christianity. We need to truly repent then obey God in restoring this nation. Wake up CHURCH! That's something to think about!

Islam-Christlam

Some misguided Christians believe they can somehow combine the two religions and still have something recognizable as the Christian faith. Sorry, but it can not happen, as posted on author Bill Muehlenberg's website Culture Watch. He sees no future for Christlam.

Muslims are happy to use such versions of religious syncretism to gain entry into Christian circles, but it just results in the creation of more Dhimmitude—Christians becoming second-class citizens.

Although Muslims accept most of the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Bible, the Psalms of David and the Gospel of Jesus in the New Testament), their interpretation and understanding is directly opposed to the Christian faith. The God of Christians is certainly not the same as Allah worshipped by Islam. Muslims believe that God had no son; Jesus was merely a prophet and did not

die on the cross for man's sin. "Not a single Muslim in the world can tell you boldly that his sins are forgiven, and that he has eternal life. True conviction of sin does not exist in Islam (Reza F. Safa, *Inside Islam*, Lake Mary, Florida, Charisma House, 1996, p. 81)." In Islam, man earns his salvation and pays for his own sins. The way he earns his place in paradise is through following the pillars of Islam and the ultimate is to die for Allah, which assures a place in Heaven.

Islam always wins in such attempts, while Christianity always loses. The truth is the two religions are fully incompatible. They may seem to be similar (both are world religions, both have Abrahamic origins, both are monotheistic, etc) but the differences are far greater. God is living; His only son is Jesus.

Yet some quite foolish Christians think they can blend their faith with that of Islam and still remain intact, effective, and biblical. Sorry, but it just does not—indeed, cannot—happen.

Islam rejects the Trinity and the God of the Bible, insisting instead that Allah alone is the one true deity. It denies that Jesus is God, that He died on the cross, and that He was raised from the dead. Instead, say Muslims, Jesus was but one of thousands of prophets sent by Allah, the greatest of them being Mohammed. In other words, Jesus was merely a man.

Islam rejects the salvation of forgiveness through Christ, teaching that only Muslims can be saved. According to the Koran, if a person follows Islam and does enough good deeds to outweigh the bad, Allah may allow him to enter paradise, but even then, he can't be certain. The only sure pathway to heaven is killing and being killed in jihad, a holy war.

Islam gives lip service to the Bible as a holy book, but it undermines and denies every fundamental doctrine about sin and salvation taught in the Bible. In fact, Islam today is the most powerful system on earth for the destruction of biblical truth Christianity—thousands of Christians are dying under Islamic persecution, especially in the Middle East, Africa, Indonesia, and other parts of Asia.

Clearly, Islam and Christianity are mutually exclusive. Both claim to be the only true way to God, but both cannot be right. There is no atonement in Islam, no forgiveness, no Savior, and no assurance of eternal life. The gospel of Jesus Christ is a message of hope; Islam is a religion of hopelessness.

Making these kinds of distinctions may not be politically correct, but it is critical if the purity of the gospel is to be protected. Put simply, there is no salvation outside of Christ. When this truth is compromised, the gospel is abandoned—and so is the only hope that we can offer to those who are not our enemies, but rather our mission field.

Speaking in the Name of Jesus Publicly.

This is approved by the first amendment and should be exercised. Our constitution was based on Christian principles. Further, no one is worse off for following Christian principles, even if they are not Christian.

America used to follow Christian principles. Now it seems America is Godless. Don't be silent about your rights and responsibility as a Believer in Jesus to show our love and power.

The 'Word' is convicting not condemning. Judge the fruit not the person. Many know they need to change but: they don't want to give Jesus control, they are afraid, their alleged rights do not agree with the Word, or they don't want the responsibility.

Pastors need to inform your people of the guidelines and responsibilities of becoming a member of your congregation. These should include Biblical beliefs, organization, and your responsibility to support the church with prayers, presence, giving, and service.

Every believer should know their natural skills and spiritual gifts, and use them in the church. The perspective member should know they are under spiritual authority of their pastors, and are accountable to actively participate and have unity in 'Bringing the Kingdom' and to make practical application of the Bible to life. This means obedience to the Word. The basic beliefs should be clear, concise, and Biblical. With accepted political rights, the moral and Biblical standards for relationships should be clear with obedience expected. A sample of marriage standards follows.

Marriage Standards

. Fellowship of Believers church will not perform same sex weddings for members or non-members, but will conduct wedding ceremonies for one man and one woman as biologically designed by birth (to protect against having to perform 'transgender weddings' between those identifying themselves as a man and a woman).

. If the Fellowship of Believers congregation is ever legally forced to perform same sex weddings, all clergy in our congregation will opt out of performing civil ceremonies. We will only perform biblically based 'covenant ceremonies' that bless the union between one man and one woman as biologically defined by their natural birth.

. We at the Fellowship of Believers Church do not discriminate or condemn the person; however, Biblically, the Fellowship of Believers cannot abide sinful behavior as a lifestyle.

Fellowship of Believers Church: Biblical Marriage Standards

. The Fellowship of Believers Church does not allow non-attendees or outsiders to rent or use any of the Fellowship of Believers real property held in fee simple or facilities for same-sex wedding, or any civil ceremonies related to marriage.

. If all else fails and the courts eventually override the church by-laws, the Fellowship of Believers know that 2Timothy 3:16 is the standard of first and final authority by which all things are judged.

. Realizing this, then know the only alternative left will be for Biblically based clergy to actively engage in civil disobedience. By doing so means, refusing to comply with the civil law—irrespective of penalties, consequences, and cultural stigma they will receive. Know that church members will follow scripture and civil disobedience, thus pleasing God and not man.

. Know that no supreme court has authority to intrude in marriage matters or change religious values . . . therefore, Fellowship of Believers Church in accordance with the Bible, and Christian faith will not acknowledge, or support same-sex marriage . . . nor give special privilege to LGBT.

. Furthermore, individuals of another faith or individuals hostile to the Christian faith will not be employed by the Fellowship of Believers Church.

. What we offer as a church is God's presence, God's power, God's freedom, Sunday School (for all ages), services and classes, prayer, faith, hope, love, acceptance, short missions, outreach projects, ministry opportunities, discipleship training, and equipping the Saints.

Fellowship of Believers Church Membership Signature

Date _____

Pastor Jack's—Help hints to turn the world upside down.

- 1) Know that the spiritual world is the real world, and that the supernatural is the order of the day because God is only a prayer away, and He brings good out of evil.
- 2) Don't worry about Satan—obey Jesus then you are a conqueror. No weapon formed against you will prosper. Impart His anointing everywhere and set captives free.
- 3) Stay Biblical.
- 4) Know Jesus personally.
- 5) Ask for empowering.
- 6) Stay balanced.
- 7) Be bold.
- 8) God's Word is true, absolute, and worthy of full trust for every situation.
- 9) You and Jesus make a majority of two, always, regardless of the circumstances or situations. Spend a lot of time with Him because He is your Savior and best friend.
- 10) God is never late and never fails, so ask and act in faith (faith is believing what God says which is revealed by whether you trust and obey).
- 11) Accept responsibility only for what you can control—which when you think about it is not much other than yourself.
- 12) Don't worry, when you're doing your best, God accepts no less, but He demands no more.
- 13) Everything is not a battle, so choose to fight only what God says because it is possible to win the battle and lose the war. Spend more time in worship and praise!
- 14) Lighten up and don't be harder on yourself than Jesus is on you. We live by faith, not by works, and He loves you!
- 15) Rest in the Lord (by trusting and not being anxious) and live life to the fullest spiritually, mentally, physically, and financially.
- 16) Look in the mirror and then laugh a lot about life because God is in control and nothing happens by accident. He will use even bad things to bring good.
- 17) When you are in God's will, doing things God's way, sensitive to His timing and willing to persevere, your problems are just a platform for Him to work on your behalf (See Romans 8:28).
- 18) Know that it is impossible to fail when you obey God. Even if it feels that way; He is about to act!

- 19) Put your treasure in God because you have never seen a U-Haul follow a hearse. God supplies all your needs.
- 20) "Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." (James 2-17 NKJV).
- 21) God meets you at your faith level.
- 22) You can have as much of God as you want.
- 23) Never lose confidence in Jesus!
- 24) Be willing to pay the price for true revival.
- 25) Know that scripture is the standard and final authority by which all things are judged.
- 26) Our allegiance is Jesus first and the world second.

Conclusion: Don't limit God by speech, lack of obedience, or action.

--don't limit God by lack of expectation (Hebrews 13:8)

--expect **supernatural** as order of the day.

--purpose of church is to **Bring the Kingdom** by speaking God's Word into situations and people according to their needs.

--two types of ministers which are Ephesians 4 equipping (ordained ministers) and 1Peter 2:9 who are non-ordained.

--the pastors' job is to equip every believer for both natural ministry and supernatural gifts in ministry that will transform the world.

--seek the giver not the gift.

--signs follow the believer to confirm God's Word in power, love and miracles.

--experience God's presence by:

Preaching Him down.

Praying Him down.

Calling Him down.

Singing Him down.

Making Him guest of honor.

Pastors, from the pulpit, are in a large part responsible for the condition of our nation. It is not enough to speak against or for something. It is time to take action as the Black Robe Regiment did in the Revolutionary War.

Our calling as pastors is to equip, lead, protect, and enable people to Bring the Kingdom. This means enabling people to experience the teachings of Jesus that are the foundation of our country. We should never be apologetic, but have our faith influence every area of our lives physically, politically, morally, and spiritually.

God has called you to be a voice for Him, and that will help transform individual lives, families, communities, and our nation. Anointed pastors have the power of persuasion and are gifted as true leaders that people will follow. All believers are non-ordained ministers according to I Peter 2:8-9, and are called to assist the pastor in ministry. The other type of minister is the ordained according to Ephesians 4:11...and are also called to help the pastors in ministry. All believers have influence but especially so the pastor. Don't neglect to use both the nature and spiritual gifts God has given you, and people need you and will follow.

Remember to:

-love the people—Matthew 22:36-40

-bring the kingdom.

-equip the saints.

-declare the Word as authority and obey it.

Summary: The presence of the early church and the presentation of the Gospel were so powerful that it produced either revival or riot. The same should be true of the church today. It should produce either revival or riot but there should be no middle ground whether presenting Christ or addressing values and issues of the faith.

Following are the steps to produce disciples.

These steps work to make disciples regardless of age (This includes children).

- 1) **Show** the student and let him watch the steps to take.
- 2) **Tell** this process and desired results.
- 3) **Demonstrate** the activity/project.
- 4) **Participate** by having the student do the ministry with you.
- 5) **Participate** by having the student do the ministry, as you watch.
- 6) Have student do the ministry as part of calling knowing it will work.

With the election of President Trump the opportunity to share the Christian faith will increase as will decisions made based on Christian values.

It is time to return to the values of our forefathers. Are you ready to 'Bring the Kingdom' with supernatural power?

God bless America!
God bless President Trump!
God bless the body of Christ!

Expect the supernatural.
It is time to 'turn the world upside down for Christ!

Are you ready?
Just do it!

Blessings,
Jack

A Bible-based book that challenges 21st Century Christians to take action to turn the world upside down and transform their part of it.

The Church has compromised the Word of God, and the world has not seen the Church operate in power. It is difficult to tell the Church from the world.

This book challenges Christians to live in power and anointing as Christians did in the 1st Century by the fire is imparted and applied to every area of life with super-natural results and a reputation as found in Acts 17:5-8! Are you ready to turn the world upside down?

Dr. Jack Nester, Jr. has served as pastor for 43 years. He was originally ordained as a United Methodist. He was baptized with the Holy Spirit in 1977, and this experience changed his vision about what God intended for the Church and Christians.

Jack has been privileged to minister God's love, deliverance and healing power in Africa, Haiti, Mexico, among Native American groups in the United States, mining communities, ethnic minority churches, and prison ministry.

Dr. Nester is ordained by the World Ministry Fellowship in Plano, Texas. He is pastor of the Fellowship of Believers, a non-denominational church in Langley, Oklahoma, which God called into existence in 1997. The church continues to experience the supernatural provision of God as well as His anointing which is available to all believers.

Pastor Jack holds a bachelor's degree from Missouri Valley College, a Master of Theology degree from Southern Methodist University and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Oral Roberts University. The most important credential he has for ministry is the anointing from God that is available to all believers-including you, if you want it. Do you?

ISBN