



Ministry For Today

The ministry is not defined by membership numbers or the size of its facility. Its true purpose lies in how we honor God and care for His sheep as faithful shepherds. We are called to proclaim the Gospel, demonstrate love, and unite our spiritual gifts so that we may function together as one body, just as Christ was among us.

It is not the physical structure of the church that invites the presence of God. Our Father is with us whenever two or three gather in His name. The fulfillment of the Great Commission and the Greatest Commandment must remain at the forefront of every ministry. Spiritual truths should be taught with clarity by those gifted to interpret and communicate them, following the example set by Jesus in His use of parables. Parables taught to us by those spiritually gifted to teach scripture are often understood more clearly than Scripture read by us independently.

As a minister do not develop marketing tactics to increase attendance or support for your

facility. For example, guest speakers will offer a free book during their preaching visit, with the expectation that others will later purchase additional copies at retail price, should not be the motivation for funding a ministry.

Success is better measured by remaining humble and focused rather than expanding unnecessarily. Encourage multiple small services in homes keeping expenses minimal and priorities aligned with God's will.

The Beginning Stages Of The Church

We are called to glorify God alone, never accepting credit for the light we shine as His servants. The Book of Acts shows us the model of the Church as the Lord intended it to be. The Holy Spirit empowered believers to spread the Gospel throughout the world with boldness and unity. In today's time, however, we have fallen behind. Though many congregations may boast large attendance, the Church as a whole is not keeping pace with the growth of the world's population. We are not reaching nonbelievers with the urgency and dedication demonstrated by the early Church. In this regard, we are failing in the mission Christ entrusted to us.

When false prophets rise and lead others astray, they undermine the authenticity of Scripture and distort the ministry that belongs to Jesus alone. Our foundation must remain in the teachings of Christ, especially those proclaimed in the Sermon on the Mount. Pastors and leaders today must align themselves fully with the ministry of Jesus, or their work stands apart from what God established. Jesus must be the sole authority for determining the authenticity of Scripture. When we attend sermons what do you really walk away with and use day to day? I choose to focus solely on the one and main sermon given by our savior Jesus. Why would you follow anyone else's advice first?

"Once Jesus rose from the dead, the Kingdom of God began to overlap with the earth." Luke 17:20-21, Now having been questioned by the Pharisees as to when the kingdom of God was coming, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed; nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or, 'There it is!' For behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst." We are invited to live within that divine intersection and experience the life of the Kingdom even now, not waiting until death. Only the Holy Spirit can guide, empower, and sustain this mission. Human

effort alone is insufficient. Therefore, we all must baptize and equip believers to be instruments of the Holy Spirit's gifts, so the Gospel may once again advance with the same power that transformed the world in the Book of Acts.

Living In The Hope Of His Return

Before you go into the world to spread the gospel, you must have and possess the Holy Spirit's gifts to do so. The main message Jesus imposed was that the kingdom is going to establish itself on earth. It is not for us to know, but to live in anticipation, for Jesus to return for the kingdom to fully be established.

Now ask yourself: Did your actions so far today bring more glory to our Father or to Your personal life?

The worldly desires and materialistic things will always pull you away in your spiritual journey. Remember you cannot take those things with you.

Rather invest into the real value of a spiritual eternal life that awaits. It's the Holy Spirit that convicts you of your sin that brings you to Jesus Christ to want to be saved.

After being baptized you will be filled with the Spirit of God in your entire body. Then there is baptism of the Holy Spirit's Gifts. Once blessed with said gifts they will flow outward from your soul touching others souls. This builds each other up bringing new life to non believers through the power of Jesus as one body.

His Witnesses

We demonstrate our faith through the light that shines from the lives we live that others witness. When the actions of a believer or ministry fail to reflect God's desires, others may become discouraged and turn away from God.

By listening to the Holy Spirit rather than relying on ourselves, we provide a guiding light for others to follow, leading by example. All glory must always be given to our Heavenly Father, and any praise directed toward God's servants or ministry should be redirected towards God alone.

After accepting Jesus, Agape love becomes the key to entering through the narrow gate. Our spiritual progress toward eternity can be evaluated by the thirteenth chapter of First

Corinthians. If we replace the word "love" with the name "Jesus," the passage reads perfectly, for He is the embodiment of love. But when we place our own names in those verses, how far can we go before it becomes clear that we fall short? This is a healthy spiritual examination, helping us remain aligned with God's desires.

I believe the Sermon on the Mount is the most essential teaching we should study, for it unifies all Scripture.

Our Father and Lord clearly explains how we are to live and how we may enter eternal life. Why would we seek instruction elsewhere until His words from the sermon are fully understood and lived out? Only then can we truly become His witnesses.

The apostles received three years of personal training from Jesus, and it cost them nothing. This is why we must never charge for anything related to the Gospel. Jesus would not approve of such a practice, for it conflicts with His Greatest Commandments and His Great Commission. If something stands in opposition to God's will, then its origin must not be from Him. At that point it's an evil den of thieves. This is why we must look to the teachings of the Sermon on the Mount as our foundation to

witness and illuminate the path to eternal life for our brothers and sisters to follow.

Determining The Will Of The Lord

Jews would celebrate three major feast days from the Old Testament back in the day. People from many nations would gather to observe these holy occasions.

By Jesus being crucified during Pentecost, the multitude of people gathered in Jerusalem had the opportunity to witness and then spread the Gospel sharing what had taken place. By drawing the world to Jerusalem, God enabled the rapid spread of the Gospel. The evidence of this divine work was the Holy Spirit coming upon the Church.

Now Pentecost was a celebration of the first fruits of the harvest. On that day, approximately 3,500 people accepted Christ, marking the first great harvest of souls.

The Holy Spirit imparted spiritual gifts that day, particularly the gift of speaking in tongues. Remember we should not be speaking in tongues unless there are gifted interpreters present, the purpose of speaking in tongues remains a language that is only directed

toward God and God alone. We would not speak to one another in tongues. As an illustration, consider that even simple groans or sighs can carry deep meaning beyond human language.

To discern God's will, we must listen to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which are given to certain believers in Jesus Christ. As one body, using our gifts together, we are able to journey along the path leading to our works of faith within God's desires.

The Heart Of The Message

When ministering, we should seek to understand the questions presented in a person's mind that are not being asked and then address their primary concerns with care.

Every aspect of ministry must be grounded in spiritual integrity. The Word of God should always remain the foundation by which we justify our walk with the Lord. We follow Scripture, best by parables, because they shape and unite God's truth with our hearts.

Ultimately, only the Holy Spirit knows God's true message. Scripture is not meant to be a blueprint of life. You're not going to sit in a den with lions overnight. The Spirit always

surpasses biblical instruction or intention. We must learn to recognize the Spirit's direction and yield to His guidance at all times.

Our central focus to every ministry must be the heart of the Gospel: that Jesus is the Messiah, and that He rose from the dead. I truly believe we should be targeting non-believers with such good news as back in the day with bloody feet and no shoes. Without the resurrection, there is no point of scripture. To sit in a room with believers every week telling them Jesus is alive is nuts, most already know this. We need to go outside to non-believers.

When Jesus fulfilled the will of our Father, and it was the Father's divine plan and determination that His Son would be crucified. The Responsibility for Christ's sacrificial death lies not with a particular group of people, but within the purpose of God's will, foretold and ordained long beforehand.

When conveying biblical concerns or teachings while ministering to others, we should always support our message with at least two or three Scripture references that confirm and reinforce what we are saying. Humanity is given the choice to believe this truth or reject it.

The Apostles mission was to plant the Word of God into the hearts of God's sheep. Like the gathering in front of the Water Gate in the book of Nehemiah, Peter, a gifted minister, read the Scriptures and then provided understanding through explanations and parables.

When Jesus ascended to the Father, we are now called to repent and to accept Him as our Savior. Jesus declared that when He departed, the Holy Spirit would come and dwell within believers. Convicting us of our sins drawing us to Christ. With the need to cleanse our souls. To be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, and in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

In water baptism, we are filled inwardly with the Spirit at the moment of our conversion. This is what it means to be born again: to go forth, convert others by our testimony, and serve as witnesses of Christ.

As described earlier we are then called to be baptized as believers not only in water, but also to encourage and pray for the baptism of the Spirit's gifts. Baptism in the Holy Spirit's gifts empowers believers' works of faith to flow outward from us.

Overall, baptism in water fills us inside with the Spirit and the baptism of the Holy Spirit's gifts flows outward onto others.

As we become one with Christ, we also become one with one another embodied with one another as "ONE". In the biblical culture during the time of Jesus, sharing bread and dipping it into the same dish symbolized unity and fellowship among those participating in a meal. Likewise, when we partake of the bread and wine in Communion, we express and affirm our unity with Jesus and, indeed, with the rest of His flock. The true fellowship comes when we exercise our spiritual gifts together to shine our light as one. Jesus showed us true fellowship by the team of apostles he chose to fellowship with.

Prayer

Having a dedicated prayer team continuously offering prayers is foundational to a successful ministry. It brings praise to God and demonstrates that we are true servants who rely on our Heavenly Father's attributes and the gifts of the Holy Spirit to guide us in our spiritual journey. May fasting, prayer, and the Holy Spirit shine through us as servants,

empowering others to draw near to Jesus and, in turn, lead others to Him as well.

Our prayers often reflect requests for what God can do for us. Instead, we should seek God's will to be accomplished as we are his servants to serve others. We are instruments in His hands, partners working together with God. Jesus said that we would receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within us. Therefore, prayer remains the most powerful tool God has given us to communicate the Trinity. We should be using such power for non-believers to overall find Jesus.

Another example; we should listen to the Spirit when giving to others. The Spirit knows when we should give. We are not meant to give unless it's Spirit driven. This is how we truly give all the glory to God's desires and not to our own. We should not provoke or feel obligated. It should be in a child-like manner of joy, as we place our treasures in heaven.

Our actions and communication is a light for others to see our true faith shine. If our light is dim others will not see the Gospel within us. Therefore we could actually turn people away from Jesus. Having their blood on our hands as they commit spiritual adultery. The only Sin

from no return. If you're wondering will you be held responsible? The short answer is yes, you most likely will.

Keeping It Simple

I believe the early church was positioned for difficulty from the beginning, for it deviated from God's Word. Scripture makes it clear that Jesus declared the temple would be destroyed and raised again in three days, signifying the establishment of God's Kingdom upon the earth. This indicates that God's Kingdom began to overlap with the world. We should help others discover this overlap by directing them to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Nowhere in the New Testament does Jesus command the construction of church buildings or the growth of congregational institutions. Instead, He emphasizes that the Church exists among His sheep. This understanding better aligns with the Great Commission and the Great Commandment.

The Apostles and early believers expected Christ's return to be imminent, yet this proved to be a misunderstanding. This raises a sobering question: In what other areas might their assumptions have been incorrect? I would not presume to answer such questions

carelessly, as doing so risks approaching blasphemy unless thoroughly supported by Scripture.

Nevertheless, physical church structures were built, and over time the church's focus gradually shifted toward intellectual study rather than prioritizing the proclamation of the gospel to non-believers.

This may have been the turning point at which human reasoning overshadowed spiritual obedience, creating distance between the church and the Holy Spirit. The mission was always simple: to spread the gospel and follow the example of Jesus Christ and His ministry, rather than developing our own frameworks, regardless of their apostolic intent. Christ must always remain the ultimate model for His church.

Throughout history, traditions have emerged within the church as easily as someone clapping during a service today. One person begins, others follow, and soon it becomes a norm, even if it lacks biblical foundation. Many long-standing church traditions originated simply because people adopted what others were doing, rather than because Scripture endorsed those practices.

For example, Christmas is widely celebrated as the birthday of Jesus Christ; however, its origins are rooted in pre-Christian pagan festivals. It was incorporated into Christian practice as a means of making the faith more accessible to new converts. Yet we continue to celebrate this tradition as if its connection to Christ's birth is unquestionable. This exemplifies how traditions can become firmly established regardless of their biblical basis.

This is one reason smaller congregations that gather in homes may reflect a more authentically biblical model, similar to how the early church functioned during Jesus' earthly ministry. Such settings allow for more meaningful engagement with Scripture when guided by someone gifted to explain the Word accurately. Jesus' teachings were never meant to be complicated. His instructions are clear and spiritually discerned, yet we often complicate faith by seeking God solely through intellect instead of nurturing true spiritual connection. Jesus taught in parables. This is the only way we should be taught by gifted interpreters of scripture. Throughout church history, it has been the simple, Spirit-led expressions of faith that have drawn countless people to Jesus Christ.

Jesus told Peter that He would build His own church, not man. Considering the vast resources invested in constructing and maintaining physical church facilities, one must wonder how much greater the impact on Christianity might have been if those funds had been directed toward smaller, home-based ministries. As Scripture frequently illustrates, such an approach may ultimately yield greater spiritual results with shared blessing going towards the sick and weak.

The Man & Women God Uses

Knowing how to follow our Master's divinely pre-planned spiritual path for His faithful servants is discerned through fasting and prayer. We are constantly confronted with worldly desires; therefore, prayer becomes the binding force that restrains satan's distractions.

Prayer is our communication with God, and faith is the action that flows from that communication. When guided by the Holy Spirit, faith enables us to pursue God's desires rather than our own, producing works that become true treasures in Heaven—bringing glory to God alone, and not to ourselves. Therefore, we must undergo a co-crucifixion with Christ, allowing our old selves to die so that our new selves may rise as disciples of

Jesus Christ, filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit to do God's desires. These are the qualifications of the men that God used.

Filled With The Holy Spirit

If you could go back in time with all the knowledge you possess today and teach people of the past how to improve their lives, what area of knowledge would be most beneficial in transforming their community and society? If we went far enough back in history, even something as simple as introducing fire for practical use would have been remarkable to our neighbors. Likewise, in Jesus' time, demonstrating how to boil water to make it safe for drinking would have brought significant improvements to daily life.

Jesus could have instructed humanity in countless practical innovations that would have dramatically improved living conditions. Yet, there is no scripture that suggests he did. Were these matters truly unimportant—or have they only become important because mankind has ignored what is most vital to the Spirit? If your answer to what knowledge would be most beneficial is anything other than Jesus, then it becomes evident that the motivation is not fully guided by the Holy

Spirit. This is where worldly desires begin to overshadow eternal truth.

Spreading the Gospel with Spirit-led love and devotion, brings all glory to our Father in heaven, this is the true calling of every believer. When our works are guided by the Holy Spirit, our faith becomes active and yields lasting fruit. This is the greatest knowledge we possess—powerful enough to transform hearts, communities, and nations for the glory of God.

What Does God Want Today

I believe that Scripture supports what God desires from us today, regardless of the timeline in which we live. Though circumstances may change around us as new material needs arise, our spiritual needs should eternally remain the same.

Unfortunately, these spiritual needs have often turned into a “monkey see, monkey do” effect. The majority of our time as Christians is spent within man-made structures called churches, when in truth, our focus should be directed more toward God’s true church, His people. Many look to Scripture for insight on how to live in order to find a path to heaven. Yet, this pursuit often becomes rooted in selfishness and greed, which continues to hold Christianity

back. Regardless of the era or the material indulgences that surround us, one truth must always remain constant: God's Word is never outdated, and we must always pray to listen to His desires.

We do not need to merely know Scripture when we truly know Jesus. Once we establish genuine communication with our Heavenly Father, we, as Christians, recognize when God is guiding and providing. These divine experiences and moments of fulfillment are what we should emphasize most when spreading the Gospel. It is through our personal relationship with our Heavenly Father that we can testify, without doubt, to His truth and faithfulness.

This is why our testimonies, when shared in fellowship and evangelism, are vital—perhaps even more so than Scripture itself. Scripture confirms that Jesus is the Messiah; once we believe this truth, God has already revealed what we are to do through the Great Commission and the Great Commandment.

Therefore, by sharing our testimonies and witnessing the presence and fulfilled promises of our Heavenly Father in our lives can be very emotional. Sharing these emotions speaks

more words than you can imagine. We are truly impacted by emotions, more so than words.

Problems From Within The Church

When churches pursue worldly desires instead of following spiritual guidance, evil inevitably ensues. If something does not originate from God, it is from Satan—it is that simple. Many of the problems that arise within the church occur because Satan targets it, seeking to inflict the greatest harm.

Ministers should diligently study the Word and, through prayer, deliver Spirit-led parable messages to believers when called upon. The congregation should rely primarily on Scripture to ensure that their actions align with God's will.

Scripture is not meant to be read sitting idle within a building; it is intended to guide active faith. Our ministry should prioritize spiritual depth rather than program-driven efforts or the pursuit of large congregational numbers.

One-on-one ministry remains the cornerstone of our belief to maintain lifelong disciples vs church facilities. The more churches create activities to attract and retain believers, the

more they must continually surpass previous efforts to maintain interest. Only Spirit-led devotion to serving our Heavenly Father, allowing Him to build His Church, will achieve lasting success.

All other methods are man-made programs destined to fail. The term “megachurches” is stupid; there is only one Church, and that is God’s Church, which He defines as His people, not a building or structure.

All funds used to maintain church facilities could instead be directed toward serving the needy, as Jesus did. Operating a megachurch often incurs expenses exceeding one million dollars annually, with roughly 50% allocated to employee salaries.

Yet our mission calls us to provide words of truth freely to believers and non-believers, as instructed by Christ. Are these resources being used to proclaim to believers what we already know within ourselves—that Jesus is real, and that He paid the one and only debt for our sins with His life, not with money?

Shouldn’t it be non-believers that Mega knows this about Jesus versus the faithful believers?

Faithfulness, What God Has Called To Do

A minister is called to serve the congregation, not to play lord over the flock. We are servants, never masters. Just as our Lord Jesus humbled Himself to wash the feet of others, so too must we, as His servants, follow His example of humility and service.

Ministers are not above the congregation—they are beneath it, as servants to God's servants. In all things, our actions should bring glory to our Heavenly Father. Furthermore, as ministers, we must guard our spiritual journey, never allow others to inflate our egos.

All Things Work Together For Good

In the early days of the Church, many martyrs may have questioned why God allowed certain events to occur. One possible perspective is that persecution and death relentlessly pursued Christians during that time.

Such suffering demonstrated to others that if believers were willing to die in the name of Jesus, then there must indeed be something worth accepting Him as Savior. As a result, many were moved to receive Christ and be baptized.

Ultimately, the shedding of blood helped propelled the Gospel's spread throughout the world as believers fled for their lives. It is truly remarkable how God can use even the most difficult circumstances to fulfill His divine purposes. Perhaps we would be far better off simply listening to Jesus' teachings in His Sermon on the Mount, rather than being motivated—or humbled—by learning spiritual lessons through hardship.

Once called upon, the Holy Spirit guides us by bestowing upon the true disciples of Jesus special gifts to accomplish their works of faith. When we are engaged in doing God's will, these gifts become essential instruments of love, touching the hearts of Christ's flock. It is through the power of faith and prayer, combined with Spirit-led gifts, that miracles—whether great or small—are performed.

When both professing believers and nonbelievers witness even the smallest miracle empowered by the Spirit, many are stirred to seek salvation through Jesus Christ. In that very moment, hearts are opened, and faith is awakened. Our actions should always align with God's desires.

It's all a matter of perspective. Our faith should rejoice when a loved one departs from this world as a follower of Christ, for it is a time of celebration—their soul has returned to the presence of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We must not grieve as the world does, but to focus on salvation and eternal life.

Otherwise, before we realize it, we may find ourselves not a part of all things working toward God's divine purpose, but apart from it—and such separation may lead to judgment by fire.

Following God's Leading

When you measure success by your own standards and accomplishments, those achievements may not align with your eternal path. God may lead us in directions that make no sense until the final hour. We may often ask, "Why am I being asked to do this? Why would God want me to do this?" The answer is faith.

We always desire a roadmap filled with details and a GPS to guide us. Yet the Holy Spirit is our true GPS to heaven, leading us step-by-step according to God's will. God guides us gradually, and it is our faith that

follows—trusting without knowing the final destination. We must practice and exercise obedience through fasting & prayer.

Step two will only be revealed once step one is complete, and so on. At times, we may be sent far away just to bring salvation to a single soul. One person's salvation can make a world of difference, for we cannot comprehend the unlimited potential of one's act of faithful service.

Listen to the call of Spirit ringing in your heart. That is the calling that empowers our works of faith. Through the way of obedience, we follow our spiritual journey toward our eternal destination—life with Jesus.

Scripture testifies of Jesus Christ; it is not our salvation but His story. It is not to be treated as our personal journal. Jesus said that the Jews searched the Scriptures thinking they would find life, but they refused to come to Him to receive eternal life. If we truly believe that Jesus is our Lord, then we must obey Him. Many people act as though they are God, deciding what is or is not acceptable. Yet we are servants and should serve—not plan our own way or follow our own beliefs per scriptures.

When you resist the Spirit within, anger begins to overflow. We become miserable and unsettled. I have experienced this myself and continue to do so. However, I am personally working on exercising prayer and attuning the ear of my heart to follow the Spirit's guidance.

Everything else—including your children—can become a distraction. When you put them first, it draws you back into a worldly way of thinking. If we truly love our children, we will teach them to obey our Heavenly Father so that they, in turn, may do the same.

Few listen to words anymore; people follow actions. As a believer, whose actions do you want to follow? Whose actions are you truly following now?

So far today has your actions brought more glory to God or to yourself? Be truthful.

Apostle Paul consistently shared his testimony before councils, the Jews, and kings. He did so to lead others to Jesus Christ, just as he himself had been blessed.

His testimony was a deeply personal encounter with the Lord, spoken with heartfelt conviction that moved those who heard him.

Sharing one's own testimony is often more sincere and impactful than merely reciting Scripture. Once a person truly knows that Jesus is the Messiah, one must then consider how much time and dedication should be devoted to studying Scripture, converting others, and making disciples of Jesus Christ.

I believe Jesus' answer might be to follow the Spirit to full-fill the Great Commandment and Great Commission.

Step By Step

In the early Church, God's literal voice was heard by the ears of believers more often than it is today. Why is that? Are there no longer apostles or disciples like Ananias who can hear God's voice to serve and bring healing, as he did to restore Saul's sight?

Has the development of technology, catering to our self-indulgence, distanced us from hearing the true voice of God? Have worldly distractions consumed our lives so completely that we can no longer discern His literal voice?

Would we even believe someone today who claimed that God spoke to them audibly? Would they be locked up? Or perhaps God knows that we are too busy to stop and listen. In the early Church, there were far fewer distractions—no technology or materialistic abundance competing for attention. Believers could dwell in the Spirit, awaiting their next step in fulfilling God's will. Having a purpose of serving God, with minimal interference from the world around them. Perhaps it was the way of life we were meant to preserve. The Holy Spirit still guides us, but we must remain ready to listen.

God revealed to the apostles the cost to follow Him. Many would die simply for confessing that Jesus is their Savior. This reality should cause us to reflect on the strength of our own faith.

Would we stand firm for Jesus, even to the point of being executed or punished for our belief? Such reflection measures our true commitment and should awaken us to devote ourselves more fully to God's work rather than our own. We should always ask Jesus. What is my next step father, so that I may serve you?

The Value Of Waiting On The Lord

Do you realize that between certain verses in Scripture, there are often years separating one from another? For example, in Acts 9:21–22, it is believed that verse 22 takes place approximately three years after verse 21. We, as humans, are often impatient and feel that God should fulfill His promises according to our own schedules. However, this is far from the truth.

Scripture reveals that if we can live comfortably within the world, then we are not truly serving Jesus Christ. As Christians, we will not be popular with the world. At times, God may set us aside for a season, and we may not understand the purpose of that period of waiting. Yet, it may be during this time of stillness that we develop a deeper relationship with Him and learn to hear His voice. I believe we must free ourselves from the distractions of modern life and strive to live with the mindset of those who walked with Jesus.

When we wait for God's timing, the outcome will be perfect; when we force things according to our own timeline, the results are often wasteful.

Often, because of our imperfections, we assume that God cannot use us. However, it is precisely such people whom God chooses for His purposes. When others witness the accomplishments of someone imperfect, all the glory naturally goes to our Heavenly Father.

Consider this: God could easily send angels to carry out His work, and surely they would perform it flawlessly. Yet, He chooses to use us—imperfect human beings—as instruments of His will. I believe this is because He delights in working through our humanity to display His divine power.

God works on both ends of the candlestick to accomplish His will, connecting people through the Holy Spirit. When someone speaks words that resonate deeply with what is already in your heart, that may be the confirmation you need to know you are walking on your path that God has set before you.

How extraordinary it would be to hear God's voice audibly. Do you think that is still possible today? If God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, then whatever He has done in the past, He can do now and in the future. Perhaps it is our immersion in worldly desires that creates the interference, tuning the voice of

our Heavenly Father into silence. Our lives have become too fast-paced; we must learn to slow down, meditate, and spend time in fasting & prayer. Imagine if we had no cars and were required to walk twenty miles along the beach to the next town to gather essentials. Think of the time we would have to dwell in God's creation—watching the waves crash, feeling the sand beneath our feet, and reflecting on His presence. Perhaps the way we freely live today makes it nearly impossible to truly hear the voice of God.

Remember Your Still Just A Man

Do not allow others to think of you as someone special because you are a minister. We are merely servants—nothing more. God is no respecter of persons; no individual holds greater value than another. The Jews once believed they were more blessed than the Gentiles, yet Jesus healed all without discrimination. Perhaps the more we devote ourselves to becoming true servants of God, the more we will be freed from our self-indulgent desires.

As Christians, we should focus on discerning which gifts of the Holy Spirit we have been

gifted with to fulfill God's will to lead our brothers and sisters back to Jesus.

When the Holy Spirit moves outward, all that is required is a faithful instrument of God. We do not need to rely on man-made methods to bring others to Christ. In the early Church, when the Gentiles spoke in other tongues, they did not know how to do so on their own—it was the gift of the Spirit that ignited a divine conversation among thousands. Many gave their lives to Jesus that day.

We must simply walk in faith, as the apostles did, if we are to witness and perform the gifts and miracles of the Spirit. If every believer truly operated in their spiritual gifts as one body in Christ, it would shift the very axis of the world.

Purpose In Your Heart And Stick With It
Jesus said that the Holy Spirit moved like the wind—though unseen, it could be heard. Humanity cannot reproduce the movement of the Spirit. Yet, we often attempt to formalize it, imposing standards, structures, and our own timelines on how and when to fulfill God's desires. Perhaps this is why our results often fall short. The Holy Spirit moves and bestows gifts according to His will, not ours.

We must listen to the purposes placed within our hearts. Fasting and Prayer is the means of communication that ignites and strengthens our relationship with our Heavenly Father. The gifts of the Spirit are given for action; once the plan is revealed, it is time to move forward with faith. Our goal should be for the world to recognize us as Christlike—not for us to proclaim it of ourselves. This ensures that we truly walk as Christ, rather than merely appearing to do so outwardly while knowing inwardly that it is not true.

When we receive a purpose to fulfill, our desire is often to act immediately. Yet I believe we are called to wait and learn before taking action. Just as one must learn to crawl before walking.

I believe the early church was never meant to be formed as it was; it may have become apostle-driven rather than Spirit-led. This is why much of it faltered. When everyone sold their possessions for the sake of the church, it became, in essence, the first pyramid scheme in history.

We must discern whether the Holy Spirit is truly placing a purpose within our hearts or if it stems from our own impulses. When a work is

inspired by faith and guided by Christ, it will succeed effortlessly; when it is driven by human ambition, it will ultimately fail. If an effort cannot sustain itself and requires constant support to survive, it is safe to say that it was created by man. When a purpose is driven by the Holy Spirit, failure is impossible. Allow only your living purposes—those that can breathe on their own—to continue. Do not invest in efforts that were meant to die from the beginning.

How many programs within today's churches are merely surviving on life support, kept alive through the tithes of the congregation? Remember, every purpose is driven either by God's desires or by satan's influence—there is no in-between.

The Success Of the Early Church

When God has a purpose for your life, you can feel indestructible. That may indeed be absolutely true, for when our Creator is behind us, He can accomplish all that He spiritually desires through us. Our only task is to have faith in the Holy Spirit to guide our steps. As we reflect on this, we may agree with it in thought, yet we are rarely willing to surrender fully. I believe the greatest success lies in

living without our life's rigid plans and to own only what is necessary. We should be able to rise and go wherever we are called at any moment. Yet we have bound ourselves to the earth, gripping to stability and structure as our most valued possessions.

Our true possessions should be faith's power, the gifts of the Spirit, and the divine empowerment to fulfill God's desires as His vessels. Our reward is simply to witness and experience the love that connects us with others. Faith belongs to what is unseen; no matter how much intellectual understanding of Scripture one attains, faith cannot be contained within knowledge.

Faith is an intimate relationship with our Heavenly Father—something that cannot be reproduced by human effort or made tangible. Perhaps this is why we cling so tightly to our Bibles, and tragically, at times the Scriptures themselves may become an idol when they supersede God's living desires.

When Peter was freed from prison, he believed it to be a vision, unaware that it was reality. It was as though he were in a dreamlike state. Perhaps when we are deeply aligned with God's will and led by the Holy Spirit, we too walk in a

similar state—where faith and prayer allow us to accomplish miracles, often without realizing we are doing so. Our greatest downfall in spiritual growth may be remaining idle—content to read Scripture without walking in its living power.

The true treasures of Heaven are revealed not through mere study, but through active obedience and listening to the Spirit rather than ourselves. The success of the early Church was due to the Holy Spirit moving powerfully across nations—not just through the Apostles or humans, but by God Himself. Yet as the Church grew, people began to build their own facilities, no longer led by the Spirit but by their own will, causing division and defeat among believers.

In those days, angels would visit to guide humanity back to God's path. Why does that no longer seem to happen today? Perhaps our spiritual journey has drifted so far from God's desires that all we now see are the physical creations around us—even the Bible itself. We should look to where true miracles still take place within everyday life.

The only true success of the early Church was the birth and outpouring of the Holy Spirit flowing throughout the nations. It was not man who achieved this, for humanity once again proved unsuccessful in its own strength. Yet even today, we continue to repeat the same patterns—believing ourselves to be successful while walking in the very errors that hinder the Spirit's work within today's church structures.

Smaller congregations often allow for deeper communication and unity, enabling the formation of a stronger body of Christ. If the Pastor does not know all the names in the congregation then it is too big. Ultimately, the more unified bodies of Christ that exist, the stronger the Church becomes as a whole.

In today's age of vast media outlets, we must exercise great caution in how we share the Gospel. It is easy to rely on intellectual interpretations of Scripture rather than the spiritual guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit alone can teach us how to ascend spiritually and build a deeper relationship with our Heavenly Father over scripture. All we truly need is the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to spread the Gospel faithfully and to be guided individually

toward fulfilling God's divine purpose for our lives.

In the early Church, the Jews were chosen to convert first since they were already well-versed in Scripture and only needed to be convinced that Jesus was the promised Messiah. The Gentiles, on the other hand, knew nothing of the Scriptures and were essentially starting from the beginning in their understanding of Christ. For this reason, the apostles often went first to the synagogues—to persuade the Jews of the truth of the Gospel. Maybe Jesus just wanted the Gospel spread with discrimination or scripture would state otherwise.

Even today, the Church continues in much the same way. The Jews, in this sense, represent those within established religious groups, including many Christians, while the Gentiles represent those with little to no knowledge of Jesus. If we focus only on those who already know Scripture—those sitting in our churches and Bible studies—then we are merely ministering to the “Jews” of our time, knowing Jesus is the Messiah. Should we not, instead, be more concerned with reaching the “Gentiles” of today? I believe we should.

Interestingly the Gentiles, opposite of most Jews, were eagerly begging Paul to continue preaching the Word of God; they were ready to receive the truth. As Scripture says, “as many as were ordained” believed. More gentiles wanted to accept Jesus than Jews. Which suggests, was Paul following his desires more so than God's?

As followers of Jesus today, our role is to bear witness and testify of our personal experiences with Jesus as Paul did. Once we have done our part, the rest is between the Holy Spirit and the heart of the one who hears—to decide whether to accept Jesus as their Savior.

Bearing Witness Of God's Truth

How do we know that we are declaring the truth of God as we preach and teach His Word? Jesus stated that the signs and gifts of the Holy Spirit would follow those who believe, confirming that what we proclaim is indeed the truth.

Today, however, the signs that follow are far fewer compared to those witnessed in the early church. Could it be that we are, in some way, preventing such manifestations? If so, what

can be done to restore them? The answer must lie in fasting and prayer.

In the early church, the Apostle Paul commanded a crippled man to stand and walk—based on the man's faith. The man not only stood but leaped with joy. If we were ministering to a crowd today and saw someone crippled, could we demonstrate that same act of faith? Paul possessed enough faith to command healing through the Holy Spirit, and the man had enough faith to receive it. This reveals a divine communication between the Spirit and those being blessed.

A ministry can easily fall into danger when God begins to use an individual as His instrument. We must never allow others to glorify the ministry or ourselves—all glory belongs to God. It is God and the Holy Spirit who perform miraculous works in our lives, not we ourselves. Even when we verbally deflect praise, we must guard our hearts against secretly accepting the glory. To do so is to steal honor from God.

We should continually ask, What does God think of our ministry?—not what others or even we ourselves think. It is God's ministry. We are to be nothing more than faithful servants. As

we build His ministry, He will provide everything needed for its growth. When believers unite in performing God's work, they realize that spiritual gifts cannot be ordained by man. Only God can ordain the ones to serve in His purposes to lead His flock.

Ultimately, it is through fasting and prayer that we discern whether our works of faith align with God's will for our ministry. Knowing that He alone guides and sustains our work means everything. Through this, we come to understand the mind of God and prepare ourselves to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Seeking the wisdom of God ensures that we are not led by our own instincts, but are instead guided by the Holy Spirit.

After we have fasted and prayed, we must patiently wait for God's response. How do we know when and how God will respond? I believe it is through the manifestation of signs and the connection of the Holy Spirit working through the faith of believers. I will be revealed to you when God deems it so.

Choosing Church Elders

Man should not decide who represents God, for we are all equal servants in His kingdom. Only

our Heavenly Father ordains those who will shepherd His sheep. We must learn to recognize the signs of how God is using someone and observe the fruit of their ministry. It will become evident whom God has chosen, for the Holy Spirit will draw us together in unity outside the walls of a church.

Tradition, when elevated above Scripture, can overtake a congregation and cause the Word of God to lose its rightful place. The “monkey-see, monkey-do” patterns of traditionalism can become spiritual hazards. We must beware of traditions not rooted in Scripture, for they can easily lead us away from God if we mistakenly attribute them to the Spirit. As ministers, being gifted in Scripture is essential. The true interpretation of Scripture should guide us more than any tradition that diverts us from eternal salvation.

Consider the celebration of Christmas. Jesus was most likely born around October, not December. Yet imagine suggesting that the Church cease celebrating Christmas—it is too deeply rooted in tradition for many to let go.

Nowhere in the New Testament are we commanded to celebrate the birthday of Christ or to observe Christmas. So why do we? Are

we not, in some way, misleading our children while teaching them not to lie to us? Do we justify “small lies” under the pretense of good intentions? Where in Scripture is this permitted?

In Acts 15, there were many disputes about whether Christianity should become its own religion or remain a sect of Judaism. But who is man to decide such matters when Jesus has already established His Church? From the Garden of Eden onward, man has continually erred—even the apostles were not without fault.

Only Jesus was perfect, and therefore, we are to be His followers and disciples—nothing more, and certainly nothing less. We must fast, pray, and wait patiently for the signs that lead us along the spiritual journey predetermined by our Heavenly Father.

When we attend church every Sunday listening to pastors, fellowshiping, and singing songs of worship—both the congregation and the ministers are in jeopardy if these acts replace true obedience. What could be more important than what Jesus Himself emphasized? Ministers and congregations alike must not become idle. We must press forward in understanding the

Sermon on the Mount, practice fasting and prayer daily, and seek the signs that reveal our spiritual path. God has already predetermined our lives; it is a humbling mystery that often confuses us because we do not always know His intentions. Yet, in His perfect timing—often in the final hour—He brings all things full circle, granting us understanding of His divine purpose and desires.

Applying Wisdom And Flexibility

Paul's flexibility was evident in his mission to bring others to Christ. He became "all things to all men" so that he might win more souls. We too must adopt this mindset if we are to reach unbelievers in difficult circumstances—those who are lost in their thoughts, recently released from prison, homeless, or struggling with addiction, or just sick. Many of these individuals see no light to follow.

Our ministry focuses on the weak, the sick, and those whom society has forgotten. This work is far from easy; it is profoundly challenging. One of my personal goals is to pray for the strength to befriend those who disturb my inner peace. That is one area in which I am seeking spiritual growth. When the Jews confronted Peter for eating with the

Gentiles, he withdrew from them. By doing so, he acknowledged the Gentiles as separate people from the Jews. In that time, sharing a meal symbolized unity and acceptance—something the Jews would never consider with Gentiles. Even casual contact required ritual cleansing afterward. Yet this was Peter, an apostle of Jesus, a man of great respect and authority, and still he erred. Why was that?

Perhaps the Spirit corrects us more often when we are in error, affirming our works of faith. The Lord leads us in ways we do not always recognize—through the supernatural woven within the natural.

We often look for visions or signs to know His will, yet in many cases, it is through ordinary circumstances that He guides us. When we act in love, it feels natural in the moment, but when we look back, we can often see the supernatural hand of God that was present all along.

Consider Pastor Chuck Smith. He loved surfing at Huntington Beach. Normally, when he ran out of sermons, he would move on to another church. But this time, the Holy Spirit worked through something as natural as his passion

for surfing. Chuck desired to stay and surf longer, so he changed the way he preached to do so—teaching through the Bible verse by verse, chapter by chapter.

This simple shift sparked the Jesus Movement of our time, bringing thousands upon thousands to Christ. Time magazine, which had once declared “God is dead,” later retracted the statement, proclaiming instead that “God is alive.”

Surfing, of all things, helped revive Christianity. Some might have viewed Chuck’s decision as selfish, yet it was a divine orchestration. This was not born from Scripture or within church walls—it was the Holy Spirit moving in the ordinary moments of life. That is what we must pay the closest attention to which may be the hardest to see. We must devote ourselves to fasting and prayer, then wait patiently as the natural course of life leads us to live as instruments of the Holy Spirit.

How The Spirit Directs

In the early church there were visions or dreams that the Spirit provided for guidance. The difference between a vision and a dream is that when you’re awake, visions are possible

when you're sleeping we would then have dreams.

Do visions occur today? They could, God can do anything. It would be such a blessing to have a vision. How would one be judged by others if they indeed had a vision and shared it?

With all the technologies invented over the course of time, we have put many frequencies into the air surrounding the world land surface. We have a frequency to communicate with just about everything. Imagine how many things are connected to just Bluetooth. And that's just one technology advancement. What if we clouded our minds with frequencies that we can no longer tune into the frequency of the Holy Spirit? If we were to listen to that station, what more might we be blessed with to accomplish our heavenly father's desires?

"I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ". Do we exercise this command within our lives to help others? Do we have what it takes to be like the apostles when spreading the word of the gospel? Could undergo the beatings with bloody backs, or to be mortars? Imagine having your head chopped off for being Christian. I'm not sure if I could do that.

However, I do believe when our faith lies completely within Jesus we may have the blessing to be used for the greater good of God's desires. No matter the hardship Jesus will be with us. Maybe the mortars felt no pain within. Where others could see the pain outwardly.

We just may be able to command through the Holy Spirit miracles small and large. It could be possible to do it now without even knowing. I feel it's our free will and works of faith to climb our spiritual journey to have the deepest relationship with the Holy Spirit.

I have found that fasting and prayer is possibly the only thing our heavenly father may require to advance us as instruments to fulfill His desires. Not our intellectual knowledge in Scripture.

Our Response In The Face Of Opposition
During our darkest moments, we often wonder if God is still with us—fearing that we may have done something wrong because we are facing difficult times. Yet, we cannot judge our situation until we see the final outcome. Jesus is always with His flock.

Consider Joseph, who was sold into slavery in Egypt. Despite being misunderstood and mistreated, he remained loyal to God. Everything seemed to be against him, but in truth, all things were working together for his good according to God's divine plan. Likewise, Paul endured severe beatings and many hardships, yet he continued to worship and praise God no matter the battle he faced.

Look at it this way you will always be someone's fool—so why not be a fool for Jesus? Go all in; be a fearless, devoted fool for Christ. You have only one life, and it will soon pass, but what you do for Jesus will last forever. What could be more important than someone's eternal salvation? The simple answer is nothing. To be blessed as part of God's purpose—to help others find Jesus and witness their salvation—is the truest blessing and a treasure that we can store in heaven.

Establishing Solid Believers

Jesus rose from the dead, and through His resurrection our sins were forgiven. We are no longer bound to the 613 laws of the Old Testament. However, through preaching and teaching, many have made it seem as though we must still live according to portions of

Scripture that are selectively applied to us. Sermons often tell us to “do this” or “do that,” imitating certain biblical figures or events. In doing so, we unknowingly create and live by a modern version of the 613 laws—constructed by man rather than ordained by God. To be steadfast believers, we must first look to the Sermon on the Mount and ask ourselves: Are we truly fulfilling what Jesus has commanded? Regardless of our answer, we should always strive to improve through fasting and prayer.

Jesus gave us the two greatest commandments—spread the Gospel, love God above all, and to love one another as ourselves—the foundation of all obedience to our Heavenly Father. I believe we must reconsider what it means to be Christlike in today’s world, holding fast to the direction and values of Jesus Christ as we follow in His footsteps as true disciples.

Once we understand what we are commanded to do, we must also recognize the tools given to us to fulfill that calling. The first step is repentance, followed by establishing a basic foundation in Scripture—taught by those gifted in interpretation and understanding of parables. Our focus should be on teachings

that equip us as instruments for discovering our eternal purpose.

Once you are ready to leave your old life behind, it is time to be baptized and begin a new life in Jesus. This is the beginning of true discipleship. As instruments of Christ, what must we obey? The command to spread the gospel: that Jesus died for our sins, rose again, and through Him we have forgiveness and the opportunity to dwell eternally with our Heavenly Father.

We must strive for spiritual perfection by maintaining continual communication with God. Without that connection, we are spiritually lifeless. Fasting and prayer—offered with a faithful heart and mind—align us with God's desires. This is the foundation of walking in the Holy Spirit, recognizing His direction, and using the gifts He gives us to perform great and small works according to God's will. You do not need to bury yourself in Scripture to achieve this; rather, it is the living communication between you and God through the Holy Spirit that secures your salvation.

Once equipped, how should we share the gospel? The answer is simple: through the honesty, truth, faith, and love from your

personal experiences with Jesus. Nothing penetrates the heart more deeply than sharing the grace and blessings He has given you. Your testimony, combined with the witness of the Holy Spirit, draws others to Christ far more effectively than intellectual debates about Scripture with those who neither understand nor care to listen. It is like speaking a foreign language—only God can open their ears to hear.

As you continue your spiritual walk, your next step is to discern whether you are truly following the Holy Spirit and aligning with God's desires, as demonstrated by the life of Jesus. There is no formula for this—it is unique to each individual, like spiritual DNA. This is why fasting and prayer are essential. They establish the connection that allows you to discern your divine path and help guide others toward theirs. Above all, never place anything before God—not your spouse, children, career, home, possessions, or sinful desires. Our Heavenly Father is the Creator of all things; therefore, everything belongs to Him. Nothing is truly ours.

We should continually ask ourselves: What would God desire for me? The answer lies within the teachings of the Sermon on the

Mount. If you want your loved ones to join you in Heaven, lead them by example. Reciting Scripture alone will only go so far; without action, words are empty. Those who attend church on Sunday yet live without spiritual growth Monday through Saturday are in grave danger. They are deceived into thinking they are believers when their works of faith do not match their profession of faith in Christ.

The greatest sin we can commit is spiritual adultery—placing anything before God. It is the one offense from which we cannot recover unless we repent. Examine your life: are there people, possessions, or desires that come before God? If so, you are walking the path of destruction rather than salvation.

Communicating And Teaching God's Attributes

God created us with an empty space in our hearts so that we would seek Him to fill it. Yet too often, we attempt to fill that space with people, addictions, and worldly possessions, or at worst false God's. No matter how much we pour into it, we will always remain empty until God Himself fills that void. Psychiatrists may describe this as frustration—a constant feeling

that something is missing in life, regardless of one's worldly growth or success.

We are God's offspring, created in His image. We are all His children in the truest sense. Often, He entrusts us with the responsibility of raising some of His children within our own households—those we call our sons and daughters. We love them, correct them, and hope they learn and grow in healthy, righteous ways. Even when they do not deserve it, we show them mercy; and when they do deserve it, we bless them with even greater rewards.

When they are being tested at school, the teacher mostly remains silent during a test. Or we are Disciplined through divine correction meant to humble us, guiding us to learn from our mistakes so that we may become true disciples of Jesus as we carry out our daily duties in the world.

God will test us while remaining silent. He will discipline us to humble our hearts and align our spirits with His divine will. When we lead ourselves into sin or must be taught a lesson, such times of testing will arise. Yet we must remember that our Heavenly Father is always with us, leading us on a path of love for our ultimate good. This truth is what we must hold

onto faithfully to overcome every challenge.
Good or Bad.

It is like a flip flop cycle: when we walk in sin and allow evil to dominate our desire to please God, He will humble us and draw us back to the spiritual path that leads to eternal life. Once we have learned from these lessons and resumed our spiritual climb, it is often then that satan will attack. His goal is to test, tempt, and corrupt our souls—this is what we know as spiritual warfare. The question we must ask ourselves is: Which side are we fighting for? The answer lies within our actions. If you are not in a spiritual battle and everything in life seems to go effortlessly, you may be receiving worldly rewards—so far removed from God that His voice can no longer be heard. You have risked becoming a spiritual orphan. Therefore, as ministers and disciples of Jesus, we must reach out to these unbelievers and spiritually adopt them—raising them in faith through the power of the Holy Spirit, according to God's divine desire.

God's Direction For Your Ministry

How much more would we hear from God if we had more time to ourselves to establish our communication through fasting and prayer?

With Paul's ministry, he had to walk several miles from town to town. There was no transportation. If our lives were to slow down and we had to walk to our destinations, would we have more time to meditate with God establishing our communication. Would we see visions?

Do we have too many distractions that man has invented, inspired by satan to take us away from our eternal path?

As we development ministries be aware they can change from planting the seed of God to watering the seed of God. In which it can reverse or even change completely. The Holy Spirit will guide us. It's up to us to show others how to do so as well. The best we can do is share testimonials and our witnessing sharing the love Jesus had for us.

Since there's no mathematical formula, they will have to find their own spiritual way through fasting and prayer.

Presenting And Teaching The Kingdom Of God

The Sermon on the Mount. Within it, Jesus delivers His only main sermon that unites scripture. He reveals the principles of life and

how to maintain a righteous one. Through this sermon, He provides the only key capable of opening the narrow gate to Heaven here on Earth.

Do you possess a copy of that key? We all do. Whether we choose to accept it—or to use it—is entirely up to us. By exercising the free will given to us, we must take that leap of faith and choose the “Jesus way.”

Why, then, do we listen more to sermons created by other teachers? What keys have been given to us as Christians by doing so? What doors do they open?

I choose Jesus, and He will teach us how to live and experience Heaven on Earth. In doing so, we are both living within and being taught how to enter God’s Kingdom—here and now.

This may sound unbelievable, yet when you slow down and pause, you gain the opportunity to truly absorb what Jesus is teaching. Through prayer, you begin to recognize what He means by “Heaven on Earth.” When Jesus declares that the Kingdom has arrived, pay close attention, for He is saying that Heaven is present in this very moment—and indeed, Jesus has come. We can live within this divine overlap, experiencing Heaven on Earth. When

Jesus resurrected, He initiated the intersection between Heaven and Earth. Jesus is the Kingdom that has come.

Riots That Spring Up Because Of Ministry

In the early church, Paul's ministry often ended in either a riot or a revival. Wherever he went, he stirred great commotion as he entered the synagogues proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ.

When crowds gathered, Rome strictly forbade any form of uprising. If an uproar appeared imminent, the people were quickly reminded that such matters must be handled through legal means rather than through riotous behavior. Out of fear of what Roman soldiers might do, the disturbances would usually subside.

These riots commonly erupted once Jesus Christ was proven to be the Messiah. Another source of contention arose when the gospel was preached to the Gentiles, uniting both Jews and Gentiles into one church. The Jewish leaders could not accept this, and as a result, riots broke out shortly after Old Testament scriptures were presented to confirm that Jesus was indeed the promised Messiah.

It is likely that much of this was predetermined through Paul's own conversion, when God told him that he would suffer for His name's sake. Paul chose to follow the direct will of God rather than the permissive will—which many believers today prefer, as it allows comfort and compromise rather than challenge and sacrifice.

We too should strive to walk in the path of God's direct will, for otherwise we may miss the greater blessings He has prepared for us. The Holy Spirit will guide and warn us when we reach the fork in the road of life. When that moment comes, whose desires will you choose to follow—your own, or God's?

Even when unity began to take shape, new disagreements emerged—most notably regarding which day should be set apart to celebrate Sabbath: Saturday or Sunday. Scripture does not establish an exact day to rest, worship, and praise of our Heavenly Father; therefore, every day should be a day of thanksgiving and devotion to God.

Commendable Suffering

The Holy Spirit continually warned Paul of the suffering that awaited him. Yet Paul never turned away. Instead, he pressed forward with

unwavering faith, preaching the gospel and bringing unbelievers to Jesus Christ. Traveling from city to city, he was repeatedly imprisoned and beaten for the sake of the Word. Who among us would truly be willing to follow in those footsteps?

Paul never shied away from his calling. He declared that what awaits us in Heaven far outweighs any suffering we endure from opposing dark forces here on earth. When Paul knew that his time was drawing near, he faced it without fear, confident that he was pure from the blood of all men—for he had faithfully declared the full counsel of God.

In the book of Ezekiel, it is written that if we fail to warn unbelievers to accept and they perish, their blood will be on our hands. That truth should compel every ministry to ensure the gospel is preached with the pure intentions led by the Holy Spirit. Likewise, if a righteous person turns from righteousness and we remain silent, their blood is also on our hands. We must speak truthfully, correcting others in love, to fulfill God's desires.

There is no gray area. Unless one repents, they will perish and face eternal separation from God. There is no gentle way to describe the

reality of hell—a place of eternal suffering and damnation.

This is why we rely on resources such as Chuck Smith's verse-by-verse, chapter-by-chapter explanations of Scripture, both Old and New Testaments. Through such teaching, we strive to present the full counsel of God, often explained through parables. Our goal is to provide believers with every opportunity to choose their own correct spiritual path—always guided by fasting and prayer.

It is Jesus' flock that we are called to feed. As ministers, we must remember that it is not our flock, but His. Jesus' desires that we help our brothers and sisters overcome spiritual warfare, feeding them not with spiritual junk food, but with nourishing truth.

Some say Peter was not fully filled with the Spirit until later in his ministry. Early on, he often acted contrary to the Spirit's guidance, bringing correction upon himself. At times, he even brought God down to his own level rather than rising to God's agape love. Yet over time, he learned to truly feed the flock of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Once believers learn how to be spiritually nourished, they will naturally teach others to

do the same. That is what it means to bear good fruit. Allowing people to believe they are saved simply by attending church endangers both their souls and the ministry itself. When we attend church we should aim to bring an unbeliever along, that is an example of fulfilling Scripture under the Spirit's guidance.

Unfortunately, many pastors today do not teach believers how to walk in the Spirit or how to hear the Spirit's voice. Perhaps it is because they themselves have not learned how. In our ministry, we aim to change that—to teach people how to live by the Spirit, creating a spiritual movement that resists the traditions and influences satan has woven into the modern church, a deception that may have begun even in the early church of Christianity.

In most churches today, believers are taught mainly to be saved, repent, and be baptized. While essential, this alone can create spiritual frustration. What does that look like? It looks like a congregation gathered within a building, professing belief in Jesus to each other rather than to unbelievers lacking the spiritual depth of the Spirit.

I believe that everything in life undergoes a kind of "flip-flop." The very past that was once sinful—the life you gave yourself fully to, even

risking your eternal soul—becomes transformed once you repent and are born again. At that moment, the flip-flop begins. For example, consider Paul, who once murdered, beat, and jailed believers of Jesus.

After his conversion, the flip-flop within his ministry was evident—he himself was beaten, imprisoned, and faced death for the sake of the gospel. He endured many hardships after being transformed by Christ. I believe this truth is supported both by Scripture and by personal experience. A person's sinful past is reversed and transformed into spiritual awakening, where former weaknesses become tools for ministry.

We are falling short of what God commands. Traditional practices often keep believers trapped in complacency. But we cannot risk the salvation of our brothers, sisters, or ourselves by following traditions that lead away from God's truth.

Remember, If something is not from God, it is from satan—there is no in-between. Paul warned that after his departure, wolves would enter the flock, deceiving many.

If the establishment of the early church by the apostles was successful, why then does the

first church of Ephesus no longer stand today? None of us are perfect, and perhaps satan's greatest deception was trapping Christians within buildings—keeping them from spreading the gospel to unbelievers. It is tragic how much energy and dedication is spent simply gathering with fellow believers instead of reaching the lost.

That is a traditional value—not a spiritual one. God's desire is far greater. Jesus gave us the Great Commandment and the Great Commission and His clearest expression of what He wants us to do. Once we receive and walk in the gifts of the Spirit, we can fulfill God's purposes, not being deceived by the wolves that Paul warns us about.

I truly believe the church was never meant to grow beyond a certain number of believers. When one body of Christ becomes complete, it may be time for another congregation to form—a new body made up of disciples with diverse gifts, uniting to strengthen as a whole. Keeping the church in very small numbers.

That way, when a wolf enters a church today, they cannot control an entire congregation or lead them astray through deceit. As well perhaps look at church gatherings to be in our homes versus an expensive facility to maintain.

So I ask you—how will you choose to suffer? Will you suffer in a commendable way, following Christ and the Spirit's leading, or will you suffer in deception, bound for the pit of fire? You will not be alone in either path. The choice rests upon whether we, as disciples, ministers, preachers, and teachers, will correct the errors that have crept in over time through satan's influence on the church.

Declare The Whole Counsel Of God

Chuck Smith's pastoral beliefs compel him to preach and teach on subjects that may be uncomfortable or that he might not have chosen due to personal unease. By declaring the whole counsel of God, he avoids singling out individuals or making them feel personally targeted by selective teachings. A congregation is more likely to receive with humility and grace the comprehensive teaching of Scripture rather than sermons that seem to attack specific sins or individuals.

The wolves that have infiltrated Christ-like churches today are deeply rooted; they are nearly two thousand years ahead of us in deception. Unless we return to the lifestyle taught in the Sermon on the Mount, we risk falling into the eternal pit of fire.

We must show others how to walk at the intersection of Heaven and Earth—experiencing God’s Kingdom here and now. Living this way is radical. To be truly Christ-like requires a radical spiritual transformation that can ignite a genuine Jesus Movement capable of correcting satan’s deceptions within mainstream Christianity. Through the gift of free will, God may elevate us through grace if we are willing to accept. As our faith grows, so too should our desire to fulfill God’s spiritual and predetermined purpose for our individual walk of faith. It is we who place limitations on what God can or cannot do, yet He will never forsake us.

As previously mentioned, Chuck Smith’s Jesus Movement was, in part, inspired by his love for surfing in Huntington Beach. Perhaps what began as a personal desire to stay near the ocean became the means through which God worked mightily. God used Chuck’s passion, his free will, and his obedience to bless his ministry—bringing thousands to Christ and sparking a true Jesus Movement that began with a congregation of just twenty-five people.

Ironically, his journey began through the hardship of his mother’s battle with cancer which caused him to relocate to Hunting

Beach, closer to his mom. This situation illustrates how even good Christians may suffer. Yet through this, God positioned him to accept the pastoral role next to Huntington Beach in Costa Mesa, California—where Calvary Chapel was born.

The Direct And Permissive Will

We hinder God's direct will by exercising our free will. God has granted us the freedom to choose, which consequently limits the full expression of His divine plan for our lives.

Paul was warned by several individuals not to go to Jerusalem. Nevertheless, Paul did not ignore the warnings. As a prophet also foretold that he would be bound. Paul replied that he was ready to die for Jesus.

It is impossible to stop a person who genuinely believes in the direct will of God. Paul understood that life here on earth is insignificant compared to the glory of Heaven. The pain and suffering we may endure in hell should motivate us to serve God faithfully. If I lit a match under your bare foot, you would cry like a baby? Will it feel better in Hell?

Paul's unwavering commitment to his ministry should serve as a model for contemporary

believers. Spreading the Gospel today is undoubtedly easier. So, why do we often choose to follow God's permissive will—risking our salvation—rather than listening to Him and adhering to His direct plan?

Perhaps it is because we have not been properly taught how to hear God's voice. Why are there not more sermons focused on learning to recognize His voice? Shouldn't a spiritually blessed pastor be capable of guiding others to hear God's voice and demonstrating how to look for the Spirit's guidance? We are at risk when tricked by satan's spiritual warfare.

One might ask: if Pastors are not gifted in this way, then how are they gifted—perhaps merely in tending to spiritual "milk"? We need genuine pastors who teach us how to listen to God's voice and help us understand that the only will worth pursuing is God's direct will, which surely leads us through the Gate into eternity.

Live Peacefully With All Men

We must become all things to various people so that we can win more souls, as long as it does not lead us away from our own spiritual path.

Lead with peace and love. Address issues before division takes root, and always remember that our goal is to win people over for Jesus through our light, not through conflict. Take Jesus' advice to not cast your pearls before rude pigs and dogs.

In this context, unbelievers or misled believers who think they are saved may become angry if they hear otherwise. Invest your time in brothers and sisters who are convicted by the Spirit to seek the truth, so they can start to better serve God.

We can easily become lost if we attempt to give the best advice without first immersing ourselves in fasting and prayer. Without listening to God's Word, we may be ineffective because we are not truly hearing Him.

The Sermon on the Mount is Jesus' primary sermon. It teaches us how to enter heaven and how to remain Christlike in all situations, in accordance with our Heavenly Father's desires. This is the key to everything that we should focus on as a believer wanting to enter into Heaven.

Don't Be Foolhardy

The only thing that truly ensures our safety is the Holy Spirit. It is not our accomplishments or our strength that sustain us, but our reliance on divine guidance.

To avoid being confidently on the wrong path, the essential action is to listen attentively to God's voice. When we begin to say "I," it indicates a problem.

In Jesus, there is only "US." We are in a partnership with Him, and therefore, we must remain connected to the Spirit at all times. Separation from the Spirit endangers this partnership. One can become estranged from God's desires and find themselves in exile. When we alert others to their misguidance, we have fulfilled our duty, unless we are being called to do more.

The Best Witnessing Tool-Your Personal Testimony

Witnessing for Jesus is one of the most important responsibilities we have as believers. If we fail to stand and give testimony to what our Heavenly Father has done in our lives, we

place ourselves in great spiritual danger. We are called and commanded to do exactly this.

When speaking to an unbeliever, our testimony should flow from the heart, be clear in our minds, and come forth naturally from our lips. It should highlight the transformation of our new life and shine a light for others to follow, leaving the darkness behind. Your testimony is powerful because it reflects your personal experience of God's attributes—His love, grace, and mercy. When you share these experiences with others and express both the pain and the gain of accepting Jesus, they too may be moved by the Holy Spirit, convicted of their sin, and drawn to fill the emptiness in their hearts through Christ.

Many say, "I do not know how to evangelize," or, "I am embarrassed, shy, or not knowledgeable enough in Scripture." But you do not need to worry about these things. Evangelism is not about a secret formula; it is about sharing your genuine experience with the Lord and showing love that leads others to our Heavenly Father.

Remember, you do not want Jesus to say, "I never knew you," when you stand before your second judgment. If you desire for Jesus to

know you, then you must acknowledge Him before others—especially unbelievers.

Everyone seeks truth; no one truly desires to live a lie. The Holy Spirit works in ways beyond our understanding. Therefore, we must trust the Spirit's guidance and strengthen our faith through fasting and prayer—so that not only may we enter heaven ourselves, but also lead others to join us there.

The Lord Directs The Storm

Our Heavenly Father calls us to have faith and to believe in Him. The Creator has the power to control all things. On our predestined spiritual path, storms will arise along the way. This does not mean that God has stopped loving us, abandoned us, or allowed unnecessary hardship. Every trial we face is meant for our spiritual growth.

When we lay everything at Jesus' feet, we begin to experience His power through the storms. When we can look directly into the storm without fear or resentment, we break the chains of worldly bondage that hold us down instead of lifting us up in our spiritual climb.

One of the greatest examples of faith in the midst of a storm that I know comes from the life of Pastor Chuck Smith's family. Two weeks before Chuck was born, his sister became severely ill. At that time, medical knowledge was limited, and her condition grew critical until she stopped breathing—medically dead. In panic and desperation, Chuck's mother faced a decision that would define her faith. Most people would have called 911 for help or rushed her to the nearest hospital. But instead, she picked up her lifeless daughter and ran to the nearest church.

There, she laid her daughter on the floor and cried out to Jesus with all her heart, asking the pastor to lay hands on her and pray. In that sacred moment, she called upon the true first responder—our Heavenly Father. When Chuck's father arrived from work and heard what had happened, he ran to the church, intending to take his daughter to the hospital in anger and fear. But upon seeing his lifeless child, he could do nothing but fall to his knees and join his wife in prayer.

In that moment of complete surrender, Chuck's mother made a vow to dedicate her life to Jesus if He would restore her daughter's life. By the power and resurrection of Jesus Christ,

her daughter was miraculously brought back to life right there in the church. Why would we not want to share this testimony with the world? This is the power of Jesus' love and grace.

Two weeks later, Chuck Smith was born. From that day forward, his mother faithfully honored her promise, dedicating both herself and her newborn son to the Lord. By the age of four, Chuck was reading Scripture aloud and reciting Bible verses daily. This act of faith marked the beginning of a man who would one day lead one of the greatest spiritual revivals of our time—called the Jesus Movement.

When we rely solely on the Lord, no matter what storm we face, we must see it as temporary—just bad weather that will soon pass. Build your foundation upon Jesus Christ, and your spiritual house will stand strong through every storm. Heaven should be our greatest joy—our true paradise—where we look forward to spending eternity with our Heavenly Father and with all those we helped lead to salvation. We should eagerly await that glorious day, letting go of worldly desires and focusing on what truly matters: eternity with God.

Do not treat your faith as routine. If your spiritual life only consists of attending church on Sundays, listening to the sermon, singing songs, and returning home unchanged, then you are only participating in the background noise of God's grand story. We are called to take action—to go out into the world, spread the gospel, give God all the glory, and treat others with the same love we desire for ourselves.

If your time and energy are not in some way devoted to fulfilling the will of your Heavenly Father, that should deeply concern you. Do not be spiritually lazy or procrastinate in your walk with God. If you leave this world without learning these vital truths for your salvation, you will have missed your greatest purpose.

Teaching your children and others to love as God loves, and to serve those in need. Jesus came not for the healthy but for the sick—those who are spiritually broken and searching for truth. And while many in the church today are spiritually healthy, our mission remains to go beyond the walls and reach those still lost in the darkness, guiding them toward the eternal light of Christ.

Interestingly, enough, Chuck Smith was unaware that his mom had dedicated him to

our heavenly father. It was not on her deathbed that she revealed this to him.

The Fickleness Of Man

In your walk with Christ, always be cautious of receiving praise from men that glorifies you instead of God. The praise of man can quickly turn from admiration to hatred. One moment they may see you as glorious—believing you to be an answer to prayer—and the next, they may despise you and turn against you. This is exactly what happened to the Apostle Paul in the early church.

After Paul healed a man who could not walk, the crowd praised him as though he were a god. Yet it was not Paul who healed the man—it was the man's faith in Jesus Christ that brought about the miracle. The crowd's misplaced worship quickly turned to violence when they realized Paul spoke of Jesus being the Messiah. Soon after, they stoned him to death. This event reminds us how quickly human praise fades and how dangerous it is to accept glory that belongs only to God.

Too often, people attempt to spiritualize Scripture—trying to extract hidden meanings or personal revelations beyond what is plainly

written. In doing so, they risk destroying the simplicity and truth of God's Word. Interpreting Scripture without the guidance of the Holy Spirit is spiritually dangerous and can lead to serious error. When a person seeks a self-directed interpretation, they give themselves too much liberty, opening the door to false doctrine and deception. This is why Jesus taught in parables—to reveal truth to those who are not spiritually gifted to read scripture.

When we twist Scripture to suit our desires or opinions, we place ourselves in God's position, pretending to be divine judges of truth. Statements such as, "Well, I think God would do this," or, "If I were God, I would do it this way," are forms of spiritual adultery—turning from the true God to worship one's self. Persisting in such thinking leads one down a path from which there is no return, a one-way descent into eternal separation from God.

From the very beginning, in the Garden of Eden, satan challenged God's Word by deceiving Eve. That same spirit of deception continues today, even within the church, where wolves disguise themselves as shepherds. We must constantly examine ourselves and ask: Am I being taught to challenge God's Word

through disobedience or neglect? Am I devoting my time to fulfilling the greatest commandment—to love God and love others—and to the Great Commission, which calls us to spread the gospel?

Anything less than full devotion to these commands places us in danger of drifting away from the truth. Remain steadfast in God's Word, guided by the Holy Spirit, and give all glory to the One who alone is worthy of all praise God.

Rebellion Against God Is Unreasonable

The rebellion against God is following in the footsteps of satan. Adam and Eve were exiled from the Garden of Eden because of their rebellion—choosing to eat the forbidden fruit and defy God's command.

When we stop praising and recognizing Jesus as our Messiah, we place our eternal salvation in jeopardy. Throughout Scripture, God demonstrated His anger toward rebellion, particularly among the Israelites. Time and again, He exiled them and punished their descendants because of their disobedience. We must ask ourselves: Is this how we want to lead our families and those entrusted to us by our Heavenly Father?

When God's judgment comes upon us, we should reflect on why we must suffer or be humbled. If we had not rebelled, would we have been rewarded rather than tested? Think back to the moments in your life when you turned away from God—how did it feel? Was the temporary pleasure worth the spiritual separation that followed?

When we enter into a partnership with Jesus, it is like a covenant—a shared journey on a spiritual path that He has already prepared for us. Through His grace and love, we are forgiven when we stray, and through fasting, prayer, and repentance, we are guided back to the right path. Our communication with the Heavenly Father is essential, but equally important is learning to recognize His communication with us—through Scripture, prayer, and the quiet guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Sharing these divine experiences with others, whether through conversation or modern means such as social media, allows us to bear witness to God's active presence in our lives. We must continually keep ourselves in the love of God. What does that mean?

It means remaining in a place where His love can freely bless and guide us. God expresses

His love through gifts—spiritual and tangible. However, when we rebel, we distance ourselves from His blessings. We accumulate spiritual “baggage” that weighs us down and prevents us from growing. Repentance is the act of unpacking that weight—of letting go of sin and returning to a state of spiritual renewal and freedom.

The Israelites rebelled because they doubted God’s promises. Likewise, our unbelief can prevent God from fulfilling the plans He desires for us. Even angels, who once stood in the presence of God, chose rebellion. Under satan’s leadership, their pride and desire to be like God led to their downfall and eternal chains. If even heavenly beings could fall through pride, how much more must we guard our hearts against it?

We cannot earn God’s blessings through works or merit. Our relationship with Him is what defines our standing as His children. When we trust Him as our loving Father and refuse to rebel, we remain safe under His protection. To rebel is to wander away like a lost child—vulnerable to being captured by evil and lost for eternity.

Therefore, we must stay in constant communication with our Heavenly Father.

When we are not speaking with Him, we are inevitably speaking with the world and its desires.

Keep your eyes fixed on eternal life and on the promised return of Jesus Christ. Only through steadfast faith, fasting, prayer, obedience, and repentance we can remain on the path that leads to everlasting life.

So long as our candle burns for God's desires, He will keep it alight. But the moment we separate from Him, the flame begins to fade. When we are doing God's work, He stands behind us, guiding and sustaining our flame. We remain in His school of refinement until His purpose in us is fulfilled—then, as faithful believers, we receive our eternal reward. For unbelievers, when their candle burns out without God's sustaining hand, they become like candles casted into the pit of fire.

Leave It To The Lord

A ministry does not succeed through human strength or effort; it is through the power of the Spirit alone that truth is revealed and made effective. When God provides direction, He also supplies the necessary provision. Remember, God is not lacking in resources—He

does not require our money to accomplish His work.

As Christ-like disciples, our responsibility is simply to listen and respond to His call. We are to lay everything at the feet of Jesus, trusting that He will handle whatever burdens we bring before Him.

We are servants who must continually report back to God, allowing Him to guide our steps. The kingdom we labor in is His, not ours. God equips each of us with what we need to work faithfully in His service. Every believer has unique tasks and responsibilities to help restore and strengthen others, so they too may begin their spiritual journey toward the call of Jesus Christ.

Take a personal inventory

We should take time to look inward and reflect on our personal, God-inspired spiritual goals.

Are we moving toward the accomplishments that God has already prepared for us, or are we drifting away from them?

Consider where your deepest interests lie—are they rooted in worldly desires or in the desires

of God? The answer can be found in your daily actions.

Reflect on today: through what you did, did you bring greater glory to God, or to yourself?

God cannot be found through worldly pursuits. He patiently waits for us to come to Him in prayer, eager to speak with us and to guide our steps. As we follow His direction, we are called to store up treasures in Heaven rather than in the fleeting riches of this material world.

Your Spiritual inventory should by far outweigh your materialistic inventory.

