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CLEANSING THE TEMPLE

January 31, 2026

Jesus was angry when he went into the temple and turned tables over as the religious leaders had turned it into a place for monetary gain instead of a house of prayer. One can imagine what he would do today when many so called 'anointed' leaders are using God for the sake of prestige, power and profit. No doubt there are persons who are anointed with certain spiritual manifestations such as prophesy and healing, but these are not a sign of maturity but of availability. (see our message: [The Expression of King Jesus @ the Life in the Spirit section](#) on our website: jesusreigns.net)

What we do or have is not as important as who we become. Do we exhibit the fruit of the Spirit and the Jesus' character of humility, meekness, integrity. Those with spiritual gifts should see them as tools to advance the Kingdom of God, not toys to play with. Those who gain a large following from their legitimate gifts from God, sometimes turn it into a desire to perform and to profit. Two examples have surfaced recently. Both Shaun Bolz and Chris Reed have taken information off of Facebook and other internet sources and pretended that these were detailed 'words of knowledge' from God. Both have been exposed as being engaged in rampant sexual immorality. Instead of repenting, they have become even more arrogant and stubborn.

I believe in personal prophecy but I get suspicious when someone has a word from God every day to deliver to their massive podcast audience. We would all do well to first of all listen to the prophets in the Bible. Much of what they say still applies to us! They were watchmen who gave warnings. Recently I read Paul's letter of 2 Corinthians where he exposed the 'super apostles'. There are too many leaders running around today and insist on calling themselves apostles and prophets who have become self appointed elitists who think we should all submit to them. The Catholics have their Pope and now some Protestants have decided we need something similar.

I do believe that people have gone to heaven and come back to tell some truthful realities, but when it becomes regular and casual excursions and they profit from it....beware.

God wants to use us for His glory, but He does not want to be used for our glory.

While in Russia in the summer of 1993, God gave me a message from Jude that I have never written about, but at this season of corruption, silence and cover up culture, it seems like the time to do so in a future blog. Stay tuned. What is the message?

THE MOST DANGEROUS JOB IN THE WORLD.

Recently I ran across a message on Facebook from Nicki Pfeifer. It coincides with my sentiments and assessment of what is going on in some areas of the church. It is listed below and I have highlighted certain words with **boldness**.

FACEBOOK.....Nicki Pfeifer

Over the last year and a half, the headlines have started to blur together. One leader after another is being exposed with disqualifying sins that are too shocking for average conversation. It reminds me of the words of Paul to the Corinthians, "It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles (I Corinthians 5:1)." And again, Paul said, "For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret (Ephesians 5:12)."

Almost daily, there's another exposure; another trail of wreckage; another set of victims; another disgraced minister. What we refused to examine in private is being exposed in public. And the same questions hang in the air every time...

- ➡ When will this end?
- ➡ Who's next?
- ➡ Why didn't we see it?

We're seeing the cost of silence up close. We've watched warning signs get ignored, concerns spiritualized away, and trust shattered when leaders were protected by systems that value the performance of leaders on a stage over their conduct in private.

HARD QUESTIONS WE MUST ASK

Here is the question everyone must ask themselves...

Have I contributed to the **celebrity culture** in the church that has **protected abusive leaders and elevated institutions over individuals**?

When we purchase tickets for worship concerts, support ministries with questionable reputations, travel great distances just to catch a glimpse of our favorite celebrity preachers, give offerings in support of people whose character is unknown to us, all for no other reason than to **get a personal spiritual buzz**, are we supporting and participating in a system fashioned more in the image of the world than from scripture?

Is this our golden calf?

As leaders, when we emulate celebrities in our conduct, dress, and treatment of others, clamoring to build our own following of fans so we can become famous, are we contributing to a system that justifies and protects abusers behind the appearances of success?

Are we Aaron fashioning the golden calf?

After decades in ministry, I've watched these moments unfold not as headlines, but as heartbreak. I've sat in counseling rooms, coffee shops, and quiet corners with broken people asking the same question over and over...

Can I still trust the Church? That question should haunt us.

► **A FAILURE of DISCERNMENT**

At the core of this crisis is a failure of discernment. **In a system that values entertainers over servants, talent over character, and stages over altars, we confuse anointing with charisma.** If a leader could command a stage, deliver a powerful message, and build a following of fans, we assumed their gifting told the whole story. It often didn't.

We had a hard time believing that someone with such gifts from God could be living in sin. That belief didn't protect the flock; it blinded the shepherds who are responsible for protecting them. Red flags were ignored. Concerns were wrapped in spiritual language and dismissed. Even when the Holy Spirit unsettled our hearts, we muted discernment in the name of unity.

In light of overwhelming evidence, we told ourselves that love believes all things and hopes all things according to I Corinthians 13:7. We said this while refusing to see what was right in front of us.

This is especially true in our form of Charismatic Christianity that puts such an emphasis on supernatural occurrences. Without keen discernment, we are creating a recipe for

deception and the rise of the charlatan class. True anointing from God breaks yokes, frees captives, heals the brokenhearted, and restores dignity. **The anointing is not meant for spiritual theatics or emotional hype.** It is power entrusted to leaders for the sake of others. It protects and serves the flock of God. But when it wounds instead of heals, something is profoundly wrong and must be confronted.

True spiritual authority is not forged in performance or applause, but in **obedience and character formation in the hidden places.** What looks powerful in public but lacks integrity in private will eventually collapse under its own weight. This is what God is revealing right now. One of the most important issues we must face is how anointing is defined, recognized, stewarded, and governed. God is not withdrawing His anointing from His people, but He is recalibrating it.

- ➊ Anointing must be paired with accountability.
- ➋ Gifting must be anchored in character.
- ➌ Power must submit to holiness.

The Church didn't fail people because it honored anointing. It failed because it **idolized it.**

► THE CULTURE OUTPACED THE CHURCH?

In many ways, yes! But not because the world suddenly discovered righteousness. It's that **the church has failed to govern itself properly.** In many ways we have surrendered the moral high ground, allowing culture to outflank us. Social media is doing what leadership would not; bringing abuse into the light because the Church lacked the fortitude to deal with its own sins.

The [#MeToo](#) Movement gave women a voice to expose long-buried secrets, stories soaked in shame, fear, and years of enforced silence. And for a moment, the world shifted. Those who had suffered abuse began to speak up, no longer willing to bear the weight alone.

That same courage is now surfacing inside the church. And it's rocking us to the core. People harmed by spiritual leaders, trusted voices, and shepherds are finding their voice not because they want to destroy the church, but because silence has already cost them too much.

The church added to the damage through hesitation, confusion, and an unwillingness to confront abuse head-on. Survivors deserve to be heard and believed. Social media has named power imbalances, amplified silenced voices, and exposed broken systems. But while public exposure can reveal truth, it cannot carry the full weight of Biblical justice.

Biblical due process is a vital part of the solution. It must be sober, discerning, protective of the vulnerable, unafraid of truth, and committed to accountability that leads to healing. Public reckoning without process can wound as much as it reveals. Outrage may get attention, but it does not bring restoration.

The Church must do better, not by dismissing the voices of the innocent, but by creating environments where truth can be discerned in righteousness and wisdom so that healing for everyone involved can actually happen.

► WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Let's not become complicit in our efforts to move on too quickly. We must move at a pace that ensures true change. We can start where the Bible starts in making sure that we honestly confess and own our sin.

Let's not deny our sin and minimize aberrant behavior and its impact on victims.

🔥 An eight-year extramarital affair is perversion!

🔥 Manipulating prophetic words to build a platform is witchcraft!

🔥 Having sex with anyone besides your spouse is sin!

By minimizing sin, we became complicit in what we refused to confront.

This isn't meant to tear the church down or dishonor leaders. God uses broken people. But should we remain broken? Scripture is clear that sustained compromise corrodes both the vessel and the work. Being a leader in the Body of Christ means we have increased responsibility and accountability, not increased privileges. **Authority increases responsibility, not immunity.**

We must tell the truth so the Church can heal. Trust has been broken, and denial won't save us. Only truth, accountability, repentance, humility, honesty, and true reform will reestablish the trust that is necessary to lead.

Christ is returning for a Bride without spot or wrinkle; not perfect but purified. That is not a call to perfectionism, but to holiness, integrity, accountability, and truth.

God is calling His Church higher, not louder, not larger, but holier.

This isn't the end of the church's witness; it's a reckoning. And if we're willing to tell the truth without flinching, God is faithful to heal what we finally bring into the light.

The church cannot keep replacing activity for authority or results for righteousness.

The anointing was never meant to cover sin; it was meant to confront it and break its power.

If we recover that understanding, the anointing will once again do what it was always meant to do:

- ✓ Break yokes.
- ✓ Heal the wounded.
- ✓ Purify the Bride.

This is a moment for reformation. **We do not reform the Church by protecting image or power.** We reform it by confronting misuse of authority, refusing coerced silence, and **choosing repentance over reputation.** God does not heal what we excuse or hide. He heals what is exposed, confronted, and surrendered in the light.

And I believe the church will emerge stronger, safer, and more Christlike than ever before in my lifetime!

Nicki Pfeifer