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JANUARY 2024 | Vol. 58 | No. 1

FEATURES

| What Manner Of Man | | |
|--------------------|--|--|
| Is This? Part I4 | | |
| By Jimmy Swaggart | | |

This Song Unto The Lord10 By Frances Swaggart

Who Is The Holy Spirit? Part IV.....16 By Donnie Swaggart

A Study Of Christian Character, Part I.....20 By Gabriel Swaggart

Israel's Affliction40 By John Rosenstern

He Will Direct Your Path......42 By Mike Muzzerall

| Job Or Jonah?44 | |
|-----------------|--|
| By Shaun Murphy | |

From Me To You46 By Jimmy Swaggart



DEPARTMENTS

| SonLife Radio Stations9 |
|--|
| SonLife Radio & SBN Network Programming & TV Stations |
| Letters From The Audience |
| JSM Ministers' Schedule 50 |

"We must allow the words of our Lord to penetrate our hearts so that we may be like Him..." ARTICLE ON PAGE 20

BY JIMMY SWAGGART

"BUT THE MEN MARVELED, saying, What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!" - MATTHEW 8:27

THE SHORT PHRASE, "*But the men marvelled*," proclaims the disciples' reaction as one of astonishment. They had never seen such power exhibited that could calm a storm, especially a storm of this ferocity, and in a moment's time.

Their exclamation, "What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him!" proclaims this display of power, as greater than any yet seen. He just merely spoke the word, and the storm instantly hushed, with the Bible saying, "there was a great calm." They had never seen anything like that. In fact, no one else in the history of humanity had ever seen anything like that.

In Matthew 8:27, the two words, *obey Him*, sum up the entirety of the matter. In effect, it was Satan who obeyed Him, because the storm was caused by Satan but with the permission of God.

Not only did the disciples marvel over the calming of the storm but also at how rapid it took place—in a moment's time. Such portrays what the Lord can do in a human heart, irrespective of the severity of the situation.

Man using humanistic psychology can do nothing, and if it looks like something is being done, it takes many months and sometimes years. Even that is bogus.

Therefore, the question "What manner of man is this?" can never be fully answered because such vocabulary does not exist. While He is a man, still, He is God, and He has the power to do anything that is needed to save humanity. He actually did that two thousand years ago at Cavalry's cross, and it was ratified, one might say, by His resurrection.

As a consequence, Satan will obey Him, and Him alone will he obey.

DEMON SPIRITS "And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way" (Matt. 8:28).

Jesus coming into the country of the Gergesenes establishes the purpose of

His journey. There was a mission to perform, and it would typify the entirety of His mission from heaven to earth.

Man was in a desperate terrible plight, as evidenced by these two maniacs. The only solution was the coming of Christ. There was no way they could be delivered otherwise. The intellectuals and the moralists may disagree with the extremity of this statement and claim that man is not nearly as bad as the two maniacs represented here. But man has always underestimated his true spiritual condition, even though he knows something is wrong, by thinking it is only a slight maladjustment that can be properly handled, or so he thinks, with education, money, psychological counseling, etc.

However, it is not a slight maladjustment. Instead, it is a total spiritual wreckage that adversely affects every part of being and life. To be without God—and man is without God—is to be without proper life. Consequently, Christ came to rectify this horrid situation, which only He could do.

The phrase, "there met Him two possessed with devils," proclaims the reason

"THE PROBLEM IS NOT IGNORANCE BUT THE RULE OF SATAN IN THE HEARTS OF MEN, WHICH STEALS, KILLS, AND DESTROYS." -JOHN 10:10

for His coming to this deserted area on the other side of the Sea of Galilee.

Matthew mentions two while Mark and Luke only speak of one, just as they only speak of one blind man at Jericho and one colt at the entry to Jerusalem. This shows design, not discrepancy. It could be explained in one of two ways—a principal figure or prophecies.

Even though there were two maniacs in Matthew 8:28, it could have been only one who figured as the principal in the scenario, as mentioned by Mark and Luke (Mark 5:2, Luke 8:27).

Mark and Luke also mention only one blind man at Jericho, while Matthew records two blind men healed there by Christ, still, Bartimaeus stood out, highlighted by the Holy Spirit (Mark 10:46, Luke 18:35, Matt. 20:29).

Some have claimed that these were entirely different incidents altogether, but that seems unlikely.

The prophecies immediately preceding Matthew predicted the advent of Christ as King of Israel and Prince of Judah.

In this first Gospel, the Holy Spirit records the historic facts that there were two demoniacs, and two blind men, and two animals, for these represented Israel and Judah. No such duality was needed in the other Gospels.

If the Holy Spirit was intending that the two in each case serve as a type of Israel and Judah, and as Matthew presented Christ as King, then perhaps this was the reason for the two, while the others, who presented Christ differently, mentioned only one.

These two individuals were demon possessed, as the Scripture relates, which spoke of insanity.

I think the possibility exists that demon possession, along with its other debilitation, always speaks of insanity in one form or another.

There were other cases of Jesus casting out or expelling demon spirits from individuals, which had caused physical deformities, but I don't think it could be said that these particular individuals were demon possessed (Luke 13:16; Matt. 15:22).

Peter spoke of Jesus "healing all that were oppressed of the devil" (Acts 10:38). These individuals would need the spirits rebuked, or even cast out, which were causing the physical difficulties, but it would not mean they were demon possessed.

I believe that the Scripture will bear out that demon possession expresses insanity, at least in one form or another. It may not be total insanity, as here represented by the maniacs, but at least will express itself in that direction.

The phrase, "coming out of the tombs," proclaims these demon-possessed maniacs as living in these places. Their presence there signified their kindred spirit with death, hence their occupying these tombs.

In those days, they seldom buried anyone after death, but rather placed them in a tomb with a stone rolled over the door of the tomb.

Death is the effect of sin, and we are speaking of original sin, and it characterizes all that Satan touches. Therefore, those who would be totally possessed by demon spirits, as these were, would seek such association.

Death also signified spiritual uncleanliness. These tombs would have been the epitome of such and therefore desired greatly by these demon spirits.

The Bible does not inform us as to exactly where demon spirits originated. Some have claimed that they are fallen angels, but this is unscriptural as the Bible never refers to angels, fallen or otherwise, inhabiting anyone.

Angels have spirit bodies whereas demon spirits are disembodied. Consequently, demon spirits seek a body to inhabit, whether human or animal. In other words, evil spirits have no body of any nature-physical, spirit, or otherwise.

Some Bible scholars feel that these may be the spirits of a pre-Adamic creation on earth. In other words, that there was a creation on earth that was possibly ruled by Lucifer before his fall, and these fell with him in his revolution against God. While I am not a scholar, I am an avid Bible student, and I personally feel that the pre-Adamic creation con-

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We have set aside this corner of *The Evangelist* to show God's plan of salvation. If you are unsure where you will go when you die, please listen to what God has said in His Word:

1. GOD LOVES YOU!

"For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

2. MAN IS A SINNER, AND SIN HAS SEPARATED HIM FROM GOD

"For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not" (Eccl. 7:20).

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).

3. JESUS CHRIST IS THE ONLY REMEDY FOR SIN

"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God ..." (I Peter 3:18). "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

4. YOU MUST RECEIVE JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR PERSONAL LORD AND SAVIOR

Jesus calls this experience the new birth. He told Nicodemus: "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

We invite you now to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. "But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name" (John 1:12).

WE BELIEVE:

• The Bible is the inspired and only infallible and authoritative written Word of God (Ps. 119; Matt. 4:4; Luke 24:27).

• There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (I John 5:7).

In the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, in His personal future return to this earth in power and glory to rule a thousand years (Jn. 1:1-4; Eph. 2:13-18; Rev. 19-20).
In the blessed hope — the rapture of the church at Christ's coming (I Thess. 4:13-18).

• The only means of being cleansed from sin is through Repentance and faith in the precious blood of Christ (Rom. 5:1; Eph. 2:8-9, 13-18).

• Regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for personal salvation (John 3:5-8; Titus 3:5).

• The redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing of the human body in answer to believing prayer (Ex. 15:25-26; James 5:14-15; I Peter 2:24).

• The baptism with the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4 is given to believers who ask for it (Acts 2:4; 10:44-46; 19:1-7).

In the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit by Whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a holy life (Rom. 6:3-14; 8:1-2, 11).
In the resurrection of both the saved and the lost: the one to everlasting life and the other to everlasting damnation (Rev. 20:5-6, 11-15).

PRAY THIS PRAYER AND MEAN IT WITH ALL OF YOUR HEART: "Dear God in heaven, I now realize that I am a sinner. I accept the fact that You died for me on the rugged cross of Calvary. I now open my heart's door and receive You as Savior and Lord of my life. Please take full control of me and help me to be the kind of Christian You want me to be. Amen."

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stitutes these spirits of darkness.

This we do know, the earth was not originally created *"without form, and void,"* as expressed in Genesis 1:2. It became that way after some type of chaotic upheaval, which could have been the fall of Lucifer, which introduced sin into God's creation.

At any rate, we do know that God did not create these demon spirits in this fashion, as He did not create man in the manner he now is. They became that way after some type of disruption, just as man became the way he is after the fall (Gen. 1:31; 3:17–19).

In Matthew 8:28, the phrase, *"exceeding fierce,"* expresses not only these demon-possessed maniacs, but also the spirit of the entire unconverted world.

The word *fierceness* describes man's attitude toward his fellowman and toward God.

There is far more animosity toward the Lord Jesus Christ in America (especially among the powers that be) than there is toward Islam, despite the fact that Muslims murdered nearly three thousand Americans on September 11, 2001.

WHY? HOW COULD THIS BE? It is because the whole human race is serving either Satan or the Lord Jesus Christ. To serve the Lord Jesus, one has to be born again. If individuals are not serving Christ, then there is a built-in animosity in their hearts toward the Lord. It is because Christ of the Bible is real and genuine. He really is the Son of God, He died on the cross of Calvary, and He rose from the dead.

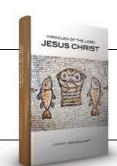
Every other religion in the world is just a figment of men's imaginations and promoted by demon spirits.

Men are perplexed at man's inhumanity to man; they think that proper education will assuage these problems, but such is not the case. Many of the men and women inside our prisons are highly educated. If education were the answer, then they wouldn't be in prison. But education is not the answer. The only answer is Jesus Christ.

The problem is not ignorance but the rule of Satan in the hearts of men, which steals, kills, and destroys (John 10:10).

The phrase, *"so that no man might pass by that way,*" spoke of this locality and the danger represented by these two maniacs. But it also speaks of the entirety of the world.

In most cities of the world, there are places where men cannot pass through quietly or safely because of fierceness, as described in this verse. This will not be ameliorated until the coming of Christ, when all that causes fear will be done away with (Rev. 20:1–3). \bigstar

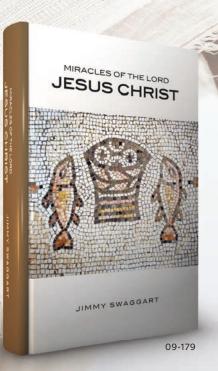


This article is reprinted from the book, *Miracles Of The Lord Jesus Christ,* by Jimmy Swaggart. Available now at www.shopjsm.org (09-179)

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Music anointed by the Holy Spirit serves as perhaps the greatest encouragement given to believers by the Lord. Surely you can recall certain times when the Lord used an anointed song to encourage you, inspire you, or tender your faith.

This Song Unto The Lord

MANY TIMES AT Family Worship Center, the singers will begin to sing a particular song, and the Spirit of God will fall like rain. Hundreds of people will begin worshipping the Lord to such a degree that the preacher is unable to preach. When this happens, we always have somebody who will say that there was no preaching in the service, but that's not exactly correct. In this kind of situation, a message has been given in the words of the song, and that message ministers to believers, just as the Holy Spirit intended.

Christians tell us constantly how the music and songs they hear over SonLife Broadcasting minister to them. One viewer posted, "I have been a recipient of feeling the Holy Spirit in the message of a song many times. Through your music I'm comforted, feel calmness, peace, and encouragement. You are richly blessed with musical talent at FWC, but the anointing of the Holy Spirit is what makes it so effective in people's lives."

For me, when beautiful music is playing, I can enter into the presence of God and worship the Lord easier than at any other time. There is nothing like music anointed by the Holy Spirit, which is why my husband and I are so thankful for the way the Lord has used music in this ministry.

Those who have watched since the 1980s remind us all the time how much it meant to them to hear on Sunday mornings those opening chords of "Sometimes Alleluia," signaling that it was time for The Jimmy Swaggart Telecast—a program that always opened with music, singing, and worship of the Lord

Jesus Christ. My husband and I believe that the Lord gave him the gifts of piano playing and singing for the purpose of anointed music, which complements, so beautifully, his evangelistic call and the ministry of God's Word.

We've had people ask, "So what's the difference between a regular song and an anointed song?" To answer that, let's first define anointing. The anointing of the Holy Spirit is simply the presence of God on a person to enable him or her to preach, teach, sing, pray, witness, and so on. We believe that any bornagain believer can be anointed by the Holy Spirit. One viewer described this very thing, saying, "When the anointing of God is on the singer and the song, it moves you, it touches your heart and truly speaks to you, and then you know you've been in the presence of God."

Second, music, originated by the Lord, is made up of three parts—melody, rhythm, and harmony. If any of these three are perverted, then the Holy Spirit simply will not function.

Third, for music and singing to be truly Christian, it must glorify God, and it must do so in both the lyrics of the song and in composition with the melody, rhythm, and harmony. A singer anointed and led by the Spirit, combined with music and a song that glorifies God results in true worship of the Lord. And such worship is not limited to churches.

I'm reminded of a time years back when my husband went with a group from Family Worship Center to minister at the Louisiana State Penitentiary, commonly known as Angola. I'm

"...for music and singing to be truly Christian, it must glorify God..."



"There is nothing like music anointed by the Holy Spirit."

talking about the largest maximum-security prison in the United States, once known as "America's bloodiest prison."¹ He said there must have been a hundred or so inmates gathered for the service that night, but the only musical accompaniment they had was one drum and a keyboard played by one of our church ladies. What I remember most was him saying how, as the Spirit of God fell in that room, those men lifted up their voices and began to worship the Lord in song, and it was some of the most wonderful singing he had ever heard; no choir sounded better, no congregation worshipped more. Those inmates were worshipping in spirit and in truth, he said, and you could tell, instantly, that it was true worship of the Lord. Music and singing comprise one of the greatest forms of worship found in the Word of God. We know this because the longest book in the Bible—Psalms, which actually means "songs"—is given over to worship. That's how much the Holy Spirit thinks of this type of worship.

Many of the psalms, prophetic in nature, deal with things in the future. To point toward these great truths, the Holy Spirit would use songs to imprint them upon the heart. Back then, music and singing were used to point toward what was to come; now they are used to point to what has already happened. That's why all songs, for them to be of any use, must be perfectly scriptural.

And here's something that shocks most believers: Music under God is not meant to draw the unsaved. It may do it, but it's not meant to do it. Missionary Roger Mattox told of a man he worked with in the 1970s at a furniture upholstery shop here in the States. Brother Mattox had brought one of my husband's music cassettes from home and played it while he worked. With the volume at its highest setting, an unsaved

coworker walked toward the sound and stood there, just staring at that cassette player. Brother Mattox said, "That's good music, isn't it?" His coworker nodded slowly and asked, "Preacher, what is this that I'm feeling?" Again, anointed music can draw the unsaved, and we thank God for it, but its purpose is for something far greater.

The first record we have in the Bible of music and singing as it regards the worship of the Lord, is that which took place immediately after the deliverance of the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage. The Bible says, "Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the LORD, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea" (Ex. 15:1). As believers, let's always remember that music to God is to worship God, to glorify God, to revere God, and to praise God. Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised!

SOURCES ¹angolamuseum.org

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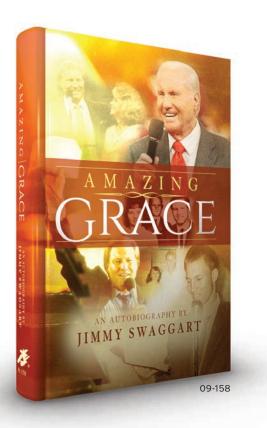
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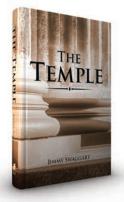
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When I See The Blood

In Exodus, we find Moses before Pharaoh with this message from God: Let My people go. Pharaoh heard the word and saw God's mighty miracles, but his hardened heart would not obey. Deliverance of the children of Israel came when they applied the shed blood of the lamb-a type of Christ-to their doorposts. When the Lord saw the blood, He passed over them. In this powerful book, Brother Swaggart takes his readers inside those houses where the blood was applied and where God's people—whether spiritually weak or spiritually strong-were all saved. The same is true today, when people place their faith in Christ and Him crucified, 09-132

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"For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert graffed contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be graffed into their own olive tree?" -ROMANS 11:24



The Sermon On The Mount

It is still the greatest sermon of all time. Imagine being there to hear the Lord Jesus Christ—the One who was with God in the beginning, who made the mountain where the multitudes gathered to listen to the Word made flesh. He opened His mouth and told them who was blessed and why, about salt and light, marriage and divorce. Instead of law, they heard grace, and love over hate. He warned against judging others, but encouraged them to ask, seek, and knock. In this revelatory book, Evangelist Jimmy Swaggart leads his readers back to mount where the Master laid the foundation of the new covenant. 09-153



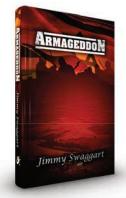
The World, The Flesh, And The Devil

The three greatest antagonists to the child of God are the world, the flesh, and the Devil. Sadly, Christians try to fight these enemies on their own, only to experience continual discouragement and failure. In this compelling book, Evangelist Jimmy Swaggart illustrates how the Holy Spirit works—within the parameters of the finished work of Christ—to help the Christian maintain faith in the cross where Satan was thoroughly defeated. Using Old Testament types and shadows, Brother Swaggart reveals God's plan to provide for and redeem mankind. The revelation offered in this book will help every believer who learns to say, "yet not I." 09-130



The Future Of Israel

Israel, the chosen people of God, is different than any other nation in the world, and the prosperity of all other nations hinges on these people. Spiritually speaking, she is far away from God, which is why Israel lives in constant peril. Despite that fact, God still has a plan for her, but what is that plan? In this revelatory book, Evangelist Jimmy Swaggart explores Israel's turbulent history with God, compares her to the modern church of today, and unfolds His plan to ultimately restore Israel, just as He promised, but not before she repents and accepts Christ as her Lord and Messiah. 09-138



Armageddon

Today, the word *armageddon* is commonly used to mean the final conflict between the forces of good and evil. The battle of Armageddon, however, is a very real event that is scheduled to occur at the conclusion of the great tribulation. According to the Word of God, this battle will be unlike any other warfare that has occurred on planet Earth. It will be a strategic fight orchestrated by Satan to annihilate the Jews forever. This battle cannot be avoided; it will happen. However, it will be interrupted by the most cataclysmic event in the history of the world-the second coming of Jesus Christ. Only this time He'll come as King of kings and Lord of lords. 09-116



ARTICLE BY **Donnie Swaggart**

"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant. Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will." –I CORINTHIANS 12:1-11



who is the holy spirit? The Gifts Of The Holy Spirit

THE TRUE BIBLE earmarks of a New Testament church are Bible doctrine and the operation of the Holy Spirit in worship and in the gifts of the Spirit operating to bring edification to the corporate body.

In his book, *Knowing the Doctrines of the Bible*, Myer Pearlman states, "The gifts of the Spirit must be distinguished from the gift of the Spirit. The former describes the supernatural abilities imparted by the Spirit for special ministries; the latter refers to the impartation of the Spirit to believers as ministered by the ascended Christ. Acts 2:33."¹

The main purpose of the gifts of the Spirit is for the building up of the church of God through the instruction of believers and the winning of converts (Eph. 4:7-13).

"The main purpose of the gifts of the Spirit is for the building up of the church of God..."

In I Corinthians 12, Paul tells us that there are nine gifts of the Spirit, broken into three parts:

• The revelation gifts—word of wisdom, word of knowledge, discerning of spirits

• The power gifts—faith, gifts of healing, the working of miracles

• The vocal gifts—prophecy, divers kinds of tongues, and interpretation of tongues

Pearlman classifies them this way:

1. Those [gifts] that impart power to know supernaturally: the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, discernment.

2. Those that impart power to act supernaturally: faith, miracles, healings.

3. Those that impart power to speak supernaturally: prophecy, tongues, interpretation.²

Pearlman then states, "These gifts are described as 'the manifestation of the Spirit,' given to every man to profit withal' (that is, for the benefit of the church). Here we have the Scriptural definition of a 'manifestation' of the Spirit—namely the operation of any of the nine gifts of the Spirit."³

Now, let's look at these gifts.

REVELATION GIFTS

Word of wisdom. The word of wisdom is not to be confused with the wisdom discussed in James 1:5—the wisdom that James spoke of is the wisdom we need in our day-to-day lives regarding decisions and actions. The gift of the word of wisdom is the mind of God pertaining to futuristic events. Only God can give this kind of knowledge because only God knows the future. Actually, many prophecies given in the Bible were actually words of wisdom. Notice that it is a word of wisdom, meaning that only a portion is given. An example of this is given in Acts 21:11.

Word of knowledge. The word of knowledge is a supernaturally inspired utterance of facts or things you don't know. Pearlman calls this, "the knowledge of God."4 Or, another way of saying it is, "the word of knowledge in the mind of God concerning people, places, things, or events pertaining to present or past events. Often, the gift of the word of knowledge will come to help us solve problems to tell us what to do in certain situations. This knowledge, which is from God for a specific purpose, is not to be confused with intellectual knowledge. The more we live and the more that we read and study, we will gain a level of intellectual knowledge. But that can never take the place of the knowledge of God.

Discerning of spirits. Hebrews 5:13-14 states, "For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." We live in a time of great counterfeit demonstration of the Holy Spirit and many false teachers. We need to be able to discern the motivating force behind a person or situation. Also, this gift helps us to discern when something is right and good.

POWER GIFTS

Faith. This faith is special faith different from saving faith or ordinary faith. This faith is like a sudden urge of faith regarding specific needs or circumstances. Acts 3:1-11 is an example of the gift of faith given at a specific time for a specific need.

Gifts of healings. The best way to describe this gift is "gift of healings for supernatural cures." Pearlman describes this gift as being "used of God in supernaturally ministering health to the sick, through prayer."⁵ He then states, "It seems to be a sign-gift…for attracting people's attention to the gospels."⁶ Now it must be understood that this doesn't mean that the person who possesses this gift has the power to heal everyone. Who is healed is always in God's purview and not ours.

The working of miracles. Actually one could say "works of power" (See Acts 5:12-16, 19:11-12). The gift of miracles is a gift that brings glory to God. There are two things you must never forget: first, God delights in performing miracles; second, God delights in using His children to work these miracles.

Continued on the following page

THE VOCAL GIFTS

The gift of prophecy. Prophecy is supernatural speech in a known language. Pearlman says, "Prophecy is distinguished from ordinary preaching in that while the latter is generally the product of the study of existing revelation, prophecy is the result of a spontaneous spiritual inspiration. It was not intended to supplant preaching or teaching but to supplement it with the inspirational touch."⁷

I Corinthians14:3 tells us that prophecy ministers to believers in edification (building up), exhortation (urging on) and comfort (consolation). The gift of prophecy operates only when there is a special unction placed upon an individual by the Holy Spirit. This gift can either be used in a corporate setting such as a church service or, at times, it may be person to person. One thing must be kept in mind about this gift the gift of prophecy does not make someone a prophet.

Tongues and interpretation. The gift of tongues is the power of speaking supernaturally in a language never learned by the speaker. It must be understood that one's personal prayer language is not the same as the gift of tongues. All who are Spirit-filled speak in tongues, but not all have the gift of tongues—they are two different things altogether. One is our prayer language, and the other is a supernatural gift given by God to be used as He moves upon a person's spirit to give a message from God to His people. Interpretation of tongues is the gift then used by God to translate a heavenly message to God's people-a message that is always confirmed by the Word of God. If the supposed message is contrary to the Word of God, then it is false

and should be rejected. Donald Gee said, "The purpose of the gift of interpretation is to render the ecstatic and inspired utterances by the Spirit which have gone forth in a tongue unknown to the vast majority present, available to the general understanding of all, by repeating them distinctly in the ordinary language of the people assembled."⁸

Who can have one or more of the gifts of the Spirit? All who are filled with the Spirit can be used in the gifts. First Corinthians 12:31 says, "But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet show I unto you a more excellent way."

Seek the Lord for the gifts that He wants you to have. **#**

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¹Myer Pearlman. Knowing the Doctrines of the Bible. Springfield, Missouri: Gospel Publishing House, 1981. ²⁸Ibid.

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ARTICLE BY Gabriel Swaggart

"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." -MATTHEW 5:3



A STUDY OF Christian Character

FEW WORDS IN history carry as much weight as those spoken by Christ in the Sermon on the Mount, yet they are often the least understood or obeyed. We live in an age of superficiality within the church, which always breeds shallowness and a lack of depth, and the reason is quite simple: much of Christianity fails to take the Word of God seriously. The Bible is our roadmap, guide, textbook, and sole authority, and it's time to rekindle our love for God's Word, open the Book of Life, and apply its contents to our lives.

As a direct result of the modern church's lack of adhering to God's Word, the church has become so intertwined with the world that distinguishing between the two has become somewhat difficult. However, as believers, we must remember that we are a part of a new community that should mirror Christ.

THE MESSAGE OF THE CROSS COMMUNITY

As we have stated many times, the message of the cross deals not only with our sin problem but also our character. It is vital to understand that if we have a genuine understanding of the cross regarding our everyday life and living, then we should realize that our character matters. How we treat people matters.

I believe there is a problem within our message of the cross community that hasn't quite figured that part out yet, and if we do not allow the Spirit to work on our character, then we will descend into arrogance. I'm afraid that there are too many arrogant Christians who need to realize the damage they are causing to the body of Christ. Once again, we must allow the words of our Lord to penetrate our hearts so that we may be like Him, and we know that He was never arrogant in message or in character.

THE CHRISTIAN COUNTERCULTURE

There was a quote given by John Stott that I would like to share: "The Sermon on the Mount is the most complete delineation anywhere in the New Testament of the Christian counterculture. Here is a Christian value system, ethical standard, religious devotion, attitude to money, ambition, lifestyle, and network of relationships—all of which are totally at variance with those of the non-Christian world. And this Christian counterculture is the life of the kingdom of God, a fully human life indeed but lived out under divine rule"¹

Before delving into the Beatitudes, some fundamental principles must be clarified. To begin, all Christians are to embody these characteristics. These characteristics are not reserved for an elite few, but every single child of God is to exhibit these traits all at once, which is impossible when we rely upon our strength. To display these attributes, a person must place his faith in what Christ has done for him at Calvary's cross.

The moment we look to the finished work of Christ, the Holy Spirit will work within our lives so that we might live these traits. None of these characteristics come

"None of these characteristics come naturally; they are the product of God's grace and the work of the Holy Spirit within us."

naturally; they are the product of God's grace and the work of the Holy Spirit within us. In other words, the Holy Spirit, acting within the framework of the cross, is required for us to exhibit these characteristics.

BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT

Let us now turn our attention to the first Beatitude: "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:3).

There are some misconceptions about what it means to be poor in spirit. First, it does not refer to being poverty-stricken or lacking tangible wealth or financial resources. Poverty does not equate to spirituality, nor does it suggest that living in poverty is a means to please God. I personally do not believe that poverty pleases God or that poverty is intrinsically good. The Bible states the opposite. Take a look at Deuteronomy 28, and you will see that God's ultimate desire is to bless you in every way imaginable. The Scriptures instruct us that blessing will pursue us and overtake us; He shall command the

blessings to come upon us and will make us plentiful in goods while opening unto us His good treasure and will make us the head and not the tail. There is nothing that speaks of being in abject poverty. In fact, the Word of God informs us that our God will *"supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus"* (Phil 4:19). So the Bible does not teach that being poor in spirit refers to being bereft of financial resources.

So what does it mean to be poor in spirit? It denotes a total lack of pride, self-assurance, and self-reliance. It entails admitting that we are nothing in the presence of God and having a profound realization of our absolute insignificance when confronted with the Almighty. It is an admittance that we are spiritually and morally bankrupt. We are all sinners who deserve His judgment and have nothing to offer or contribute to earn His approval. Whatever we offer regarding our self-confidence and self-assurance is useless in God's eyes; they are as filthy rags (Isa. 64:6).

PRIDE AND SALVATION

The first Beatitude addresses humanity's fundamental issue: pride. Pride refuses to acknowledge our whole reliance on God and insists that we can save ourselves, which always leads to humiliation, death, and eternal separation from God.

Salvation, however, is reserved for those who understand their complete helplessness and place their faith in God's mercy and grace. It requires accepting the greatest gift in the world, the giving of God's only Son as a sacrifice for lost humanity. It is completely free and undeserved. Salvation cannot be earned or acquired but simply received and accepted by faith. That might be hard for some to wrap their heads around, but it shows the love of God toward us. He gave His Son as a ransom for many, and if anyone comes humbly and recognizes his or her need for a Savior, then He will gladly accept them into His family. As C. H. Spurgeon posited, we must sink in ourselves before we can rise to the kingdom.²

> SOURCES ¹John Stott, The Message of the Sermon on the Mount (IVP Academic, 1985). ²Spurgeon, Charles Haddon. Matthew: The Gospel of the Kingdom, 1974.

























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|-------------|--|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|------------|
| 12:00:00 AM | Jimmy Swaggart Crusade Classics | Jimmy Swaggart Crusade Classics | Gabriel Swaggart Broadcast | Jimmy Swaggart Crusade Classics | Do |
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| 2:00:00 AM | FWC Music | FWC Music | FWC Music | FWC Music | EV |
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| 6:00:00 AM | Family Worship Center - Associate | A Study In The Word | A Study In The Word | A Study In The Word | AS |
| 6:30:00 AM | Pastor Broadcast | FWC Music | FWC Music | FWC Music | EW |
| 7:00:00 AM | The Message of the Cross (Re-Air) | The Message of the Cross (Live) | The Message of the Cross (Live) | The Message of the Cross (Live) | Th |
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| 9:00:00 AM | A Study In The Word | Frances & Friends (Live) | Frances & Friends (Live) | Frances & Friends (Live) | Fra |
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| 1:00:00 PM | Generation of The Cross E/I | | FWC Music | | EVA |
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| | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | Hour (ET) |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| | Donnie Swaggart Broadcast | Jimmy Swaggart Crusade Classics | Jimmy Swaggart Crusade Classics | 1:00:00 AM |
| | | | | 1:30:00 AM |
| | | | | 2:00:00 AM |
| | | | | 2:30:00 AM |
| | FWC Music | FWC Music | FWC Music | 3:00:00 AM |
| | | | | 3:30:00 AM |
| _ | Family Worship Center - Associate | Jimmy Swaggart Broadcast | Jimmy Swaggart Broadcast | 4:00:00 AM |
| | Pastor Broadcast | | | 4:30:00 AM |
| | FWC Music | | | 5:00:00 AM |
| | | | | 5:30:00 AM |
| | | FWC Music | FWC Music | 6:00:00 AM |
| | | | | 6:30:00 AM |
| | A Study In The Word | A Study In The Word | Family Worship Center - Associate | 7:00:00 AM |
| | FWC Music | FWC Music | Pastor Broadcast | 7:30:00 AM |
| | The Message of the Cross (Live) | The Message of the Cross (Live) | The Message of the Cross (Re-Air) | 8:00:00 AM |
| | | | | 8:30:00 AM |
| | FWC Music | FWC Music | FWC Music | 9:00:00 AM |
| | Insight (Live) | Insight (Live) | The Story Behind The Song | 9:30:00 AM |
| | Frances & Friends (Live) | Frances & Friends (Live) | Frances & Friends (Re-Air) | 10:00:00 AM |
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| | | | | 11:00:00 AM |
| | | | | 11:30:00 AM |
| _ | FWC Music | FWC Music | Generation of The Cross E/I | 12:00:00 PM |
| | A Study In The Word | A Study In The Word | | 12:30:00 PM |
| | Family Worship Center - Associate | Jimmy Swaggart Crusade Classics | Donnie Swaggart Broadcast | 1:00:00 PM |
| | Pastor Broadcast | | | 1:30:00 PM |
| | FWC Music | | | 2:00:00 PM |
| | | | | 2:30:00 PM |
| | | Crossfire Service E/I | FWC Music | 3:00:00 PM |
| _ | | | | 3:30:00 PM |
| _ | Donnie Swaggart Broadcast | Jimmy Swaggart Broadcast | Gabriel Swaggart Broadcast | 4:00:00 PM |
| | | | | 4:30:00 PM |
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| _ | Insight (Re-Air) | Insight (Re-Air) | The Message of the Cross (Re-Air) | 6:00:00 PM |
| | A Study In The Word | A Study In The Word | | 6:30:00 PM |
| | Frances & Friends (Re-Air) | Frances & Friends (Re-Air) | Jimmy Swaggart Crusade Classics | 7:00:00 PM |
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| _ | | | | 8:00:00 PM |
| | | | | 8:30:00 PM |
| | The Message of the Cross (Re-Air) | The Message of the Cross (Re-Air) | Preachers, Patriots & Providence | 9:00:00 PM |
| | | | | 9:30:00 PM |
| | Crossfire Service E/I | Gabriel Swaggart Broadcast | Family Worship Center Wednesday | 10:00:00 PM |
| | | | Night Service (repeat) | 10:30:00 PM |
| | FWC Music | | FWC Music | 11:00:00 PM |
| | | | | 11:30:00 PM |
| | | FWC Music | Crossfire Service E/I | 12:00:00 AM |
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| Cable One | |
| ARKANSAS | |
| Ft. Smith, Fayetteville | |
| Springdale, Rogers | |
| OTA | |
| Little Rock | |
| Comcast | 1070 |
| OTA1 | 4.2 / 49.3 |
| • | |
| C | Channel |

Rome

Savannah

Statewide

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HAWAII

Statewide

*Comcast 1070

Comcast......1070

OTA.....34.5

Spectrum 157 / 782

Spectrum 406 / 1406 HD

CALIFORNIA

| DeleaseGeld |
|---|
| Bakersfield |
| Spectrum 499 / 1499 HD |
| OTA 34.6 |
| Beaumont |
| Spectrum 470 |
| Burlington |
| VoIPTV 115 |
| Fresno |
| OTA7.2 / 35.3 |
| Los Angeles |
| Cox |
| Spectrum 470 |
| OTA20.1 |
| Verizon |
| Palm Desert, San Diego |
| Spectrum 470 |
| Redding/Chico |
| OTA |
| Sacramento |
| OTA9.1 / 49.6 |
| Salinas |
| OTA 27.4 |
| San Rafael |
| |
| Lucas Valley Cable 487 |
| Lucas Valley Cable 487 |
| San Francisco/San Jose |
| San Francisco/San Jose Comcast 103 / 1099 |
| San Francisco/San Jose Comcast 103 / 1099 Wave Division 15 |
| San Francisco/San Jose Comcast 103 / 1099 Wave Division 15 San Bruno Cable 23 |
| San Francisco/San Jose Comcast 103 / 1099 Wave Division 15 San Bruno Cable 23 Google Fiber 42 |
| San Francisco/San Jose Comcast 103 / 1099 Wave Division 15 San Bruno Cable 23 Google Fiber 42 Charter Communications 23 |
| San Francisco/San JoseComcast103 / 1099Wave Division15San Bruno Cable23Google Fiber42Charter Communications23OTA38.3 |
| San Francisco/San Jose Comcast 103 / 1099 Wave Division 15 San Bruno Cable 23 Google Fiber 42 Charter Communications 23 OTA 38.3 DirecTV/DISH/AT&T Inc. 42 |
| San Francisco/San Jose Comcast 103 / 1099 Wave Division 15 San Bruno Cable 23 Google Fiber 42 Charter Communications 23 OTA 38.3 DirecTV/DISH/AT&T Inc. 42 Santa Maria, San Luis Obispo, |
| San Francisco/San JoseComcast103 / 1099Wave Division15San Bruno Cable23Google Fiber42Charter Communications23OTA38.3DirecTV/DISH/AT&T Inc.42Santa Maria, San Luis Obispo,Santa Barbara |
| San Francisco/San Jose Comcast 103 / 1099 Wave Division 15 San Bruno Cable 23 Google Fiber 42 Charter Communications 23 OTA 38.3 DirecTV/DISH/AT&T Inc. 42 Santa Maria, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara OTA 40.2 |
| San Francisco/San Jose Comcast 103 / 1099 Wave Division 15 San Bruno Cable 23 Google Fiber 42 Charter Communications 23 OTA 38.3 DirecTV/DISH/AT&T Inc. 42 Santa Maria, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara OTA 40.2 COLORADO ColorADO |
| San Francisco/San Jose Comcast 103 / 1099 Wave Division 15 San Bruno Cable 23 Google Fiber 42 Charter Communications 23 OTA 38.3 DirecTV/DISH/AT&T Inc. 42 Santa Maria, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara OTA 40.2 COLORADO Denver |
| San Francisco/San Jose Comcast 103 / 1099 Wave Division 15 San Bruno Cable 23 Google Fiber 42 Charter Communications 23 OTA 38.3 DirecTV/DISH/AT&T Inc. 42 Santa Maria, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara OTA 40.2 COLORADO Denver Comcast 91 |
| San Francisco/San Jose Comcast 103 / 1099 Wave Division 15 San Bruno Cable 23 Google Fiber 42 Charter Communications 23 OTA 38.3 DirecTV/DISH/AT&T Inc. 42 Santa Maria, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara OTA 40.2 COLORADO Denver Comcast 91 OTA 5.1 / 16.3 |
| San Francisco/San Jose Comcast 103 / 1099 Wave Division 15 San Bruno Cable 23 Google Fiber 42 Charter Communications 23 OTA 38.3 DirecTV/DISH/AT&T Inc. 42 Santa Maria, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara OTA 40.2 COLORADO Denver Comcast 91 OTA 5.1 / 16.3 CONNECTICUT 40.2 |
| San Francisco/San Jose Comcast 103 / 1099 Wave Division 15 San Bruno Cable 23 Google Fiber 42 Charter Communications 23 OTA 38.3 DirecTV/DISH/AT&T Inc. 42 Santa Maria, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara OTA 40.2 COLORADO Denver Comcast 91 OTA 5.1 / 16.3 CONNECTICUT Hartford, New Haven, Manchester |
| San Francisco/San Jose Comcast 103 / 1099 Wave Division 15 San Bruno Cable 23 Google Fiber 42 Charter Communications 23 OTA 38.3 DirecTV/DISH/AT&T Inc. 42 Santa Maria, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara OTA 40.2 COLORADO Denver Comcast 91 OTA 5.1 / 16.3 CONNECTICUT Hartford, New Haven, Manchester Spectrum 129 / 854 |
| San Francisco/San Jose Comcast 103 / 1099 Wave Division 15 San Bruno Cable 23 Google Fiber 42 Charter Communications 23 OTA 38.3 DirecTV/DISH/AT&T Inc. 42 Santa Maria, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara OTA 40.2 COLORADO Denver Comcast 91 OTA 5.1 / 16.3 CONNECTICUT Hartford, New Haven, Manchester Spectrum 129 / 854 Comcast 1096 |
| San Francisco/San Jose Comcast 103 / 1099 Wave Division 15 San Bruno Cable 23 Google Fiber 42 Charter Communications 23 OTA 38.3 DirecTV/DISH/AT&T Inc. 42 Santa Maria, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara OTA 40.2 COLORADO Denver Comcast 91 OTA 5.1 / 16.3 CONNECTICUT Hartford, New Haven, Manchester Spectrum 129 / 854 |

| D Channel | Channel |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| DELAWARE | IDAHO |
| Wilmington | Boise |
| Comcast 487 | OTA41.3 |
| DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA | Pocatello, Idaho Falls, Twin Falls |
| Washington DC | Cable One91 |
| RCN | ILLINOIS |
| Cox | Champaign |
| Comcast Check local listings | OTA46 |
| OTA | Chicago |
| | RCN |
| Channel | WOW (Wide Open West) 194 |
| | Comcast 115 / 365 |
| FLORIDA | OTA 35.2 |
| Astor, Astatuloa, Lakes of Mt. Dora, | Hamilton County, Dahlgren |
| Magnolia Point | Hamilton County |
| Florida Cable Inc 168 | Communications Inc 16 |
| Fort Myers-Naples | Highland |
| OTA 22.3 | Hamilton Communications |
| Pensacola. Fort Walton Beach | Services |
| OTA 48.2 | Metamora |
| Gainesville | MTCO 201 |
| OTA 2 | Peoria |
| Jacksonville | Comcast 74 |
| OTA 24 | Rockford |
| Miami | Comcast 103 |
| OTA 16.2 | INDIANA |
| Orlando | Indianapolis |
| Spectrum | Spectrum 257 / 1257 HD |
| OTA55.4 | OTA 30.5 |
| Tallahassee | Comcast 90 |
| ОТА4 | South Bend |
| Tampa (Hillsborough, Manatee, | Comcast 111 |
| St. Petersburg) | Terre Haute |
| Spectrum 199 / 1116 HD | Spectrum TBA |
| OTA43.1 | IOWA |
| West Palm Beach | Des Moines, Ames |
| OTA 57.3 | OTA 14 / 19.2 / 36.2 |
| _ | Sioux City |
| G Channel | Cable One91 |
| | |
| GEORGIA | K Channel |
| Atlanta | |
| Comcast 28 | KANSAS |
| OTA16.2 | Dodge City |
| Augusta | United Telecom 162 |
| Comcast 1070 | Emporia |
| Milledgeville | Cable One91 |
| Bulldog 112 | Wichita, Hutchinson Plus |

| Cable One 91 |
|--|
| ILLINOIS |
| Champaign |
| OTA46 |
| Chicago |
| RCN |
| WOW (Wide Open West) 194 |
| Comcast 115 / 365 |
| OTA 35.2 |
| Hamilton County, Dahlgren |
| Hamilton County |
| Communications Inc 16 |
| Highland |
| Hamilton Communications |
| Services |
| Metamora |
| MTCO 201 |
| Peoria |
| Comcast |
| Rockford |
| Comcast 103 |
| INDIANA |
| |
| Indianapolis Spectrum |
| OTA 30.5 |
| |
| Comcast |
| Souui Dellu |
| Comparet 111 |
| Comcast 111 |
| Terre Haute |
| <i>Terre Haute</i> Spectrum TBA |
| Terre Haute Spectrum TBA IOWA |
| Terre Haute Spectrum TBA IOWA Des Moines, Ames |
| Terre Haute Spectrum TBA IOWA Des Moines, Ames OTA 14 / 19.2 / 36.2 |
| Terre Haute Spectrum TBA IOWA Des Moines, Ames OTA 14 / 19.2 / 36.2 Sioux City Sioux City |
| Terre Haute Spectrum TBA IOWA Des Moines, Ames OTA 14 / 19.2 / 36.2 |
| Terre Haute Spectrum TBA IOWA Des Moines, Ames OTA 14 / 19.2 / 36.2 Sioux City 2 Cable One 91 |
| Terre Haute Spectrum TBA IOWA Des Moines, Ames OTA 14 / 19.2 / 36.2 Sioux City Sioux City |
| Terre Haute Spectrum TBA IOWA Des Moines, Ames OTA 14 / 19.2 / 36.2 Sioux City 2 Cable One 91 K Channel |
| Terre Haute Spectrum TBA IOWA Des Moines, Ames OTA 14 / 19.2 / 36.2 Sioux City Cable One |
| Terre Haute Spectrum |
| Kansas Kansas Kansas Dodge City United Telecom |
| Terre Haute Spectrum |
| Kansas Channel Kansas 162 Example 14 / 19.2 / 36.2 Sioux City 2 Cable One |
| Terre Haute Spectrum |
| Kansas Channel Kansas 162 Emporia 162 Cable One |
| Kansas Channel Kansas 162 Emporia 162 Cable One |
| Terre Haute Spectrum |
| Kansas Channel Kansas 162 Kansas 14 / 19.2 / 36.2 Sioux City 36.2 Cable One |
| Kansas Dodge City Channel Kansas Dodge City United Telecom Cable One 91 Kansas Dodge City United Telecom Cable One 91 KANSAS Dodge City United Telecom Cable One 91 Wichita, Hutchinson Plus OTA OTA 40.4 KENTUCKY Bowling Green OTA OTA 39.4 |
| Terre Haute Spectrum TBA IOWA Des Moines, Ames OTA 14 / 19.2 / 36.2 Sioux City Cable One Cable One 91 K Channel KANSAS Dodge City United Telecom 162 Emporia Cable One Cable One 91 Wichita, Hutchinson Plus 0TA OTA 40.4 KENTUCKY Bowling Green OTA 39.4 Independence Cincinnati Bell |
| Terre Haute Spectrum TBA IOWA Des Moines, Ames OTA 14 / 19.2 / 36.2 Sioux City 2 Cable One 91 K Channel KANSAS Dodge City United Telecom 162 Emporia 2able One Cable One 91 Wichita, Hutchinson Plus 0TA OTA 40.4 KENTUCKY Bowling Green OTA 39.4 Independence Cincinnati Bell Cincinnati Bell 265 |
| Terre Haute Spectrum TBA IOWA Des Moines, Ames OTA 14 / 19.2 / 36.2 Sioux City 2 Cable One 91 K Channel KANSAS Dodge City United Telecom 162 Emporia 2able One Cable One 91 Wichita, Hutchinson Plus 0TA OTA 40.4 KENTUCKY Bowling Green OTA 39.4 Independence 265 London, Owensboro Spectrum Spectrum TBA |
| Kansas Channel Kansas 91 Kansas 000000000000000000000000000000000000 |
| Terre Haute Spectrum TBA IOWA Des Moines, Ames OTA 14 / 19.2 / 36.2 Sioux City 2 Cable One 91 K Channel KANSAS Dodge City United Telecom 162 Emporia 2able One Cable One 91 Wichita, Hutchinson Plus 0TA OTA 40.4 KENTUCKY Bowling Green OTA 39.4 Independence 265 London, Owensboro Spectrum Spectrum TBA |

OTA.....**27.2**

Channel

| Preaching the | Cross–24 Hours | A Day, 7 | Days A Week |
|---------------|----------------|----------|-------------|
|---------------|----------------|----------|-------------|

| _ | Channel |
|---|---------|
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| LU | UIS | אוכ | 11.11 | н |

| LOUISIANA |
|---------------------------|
| Baton Rouge, New Orleans, |
| Lafayette |
| Cox Cable 117, 273 |
| Baton Rouge |
| OTA 30.1 |
| Houma |
| Comcast1070 |
| Monroe |
| OTA 39.4 |
| New Orleans |
| OTA 42.4 |
| Plaquemine |
| Clear Choice Cable 225 |
| Prairieville, Gonzales |
| Cox Cable 389 |
| Shreveport |
| Comcast1070 |
| OTA14 |
| |
| M Channel |

MAINE

| Augusta, Bangor, Portland, |
|----------------------------|
| York, Saco |
| Spectrum 489 |
| MASSACHUSETTS |
| Boston |
| OTA62.2 |
| Comcast 1096 |
| Spectrum 129 / 854 |
| Beld Broadband 20 / 520 |
| Shrewsbury |
| Community 24 / 1231 |
| Worcester |
| Spectrum 129 / 854 |
| MICHIGAN |
| Detroit |
| Comcast 389 |
| Spectrum 158 |
| WOW (Wide Open West) 194 |
| OTA 14.5 / 19.2 / 47.3 |
| Flint, Saginaw, Bay City |
| OTA 49.2 |
| Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, |
| Battle Creek |
| OTA 54.2 |
| Oakland County, Livonia |
| Spectrum 179 / 379 |
| MINNESOTA |
| Duluth, Superior |
| OTA 27.2 |
| Minneapolis |
| Comcast 191 |
| Minneapolis, St. Paul |
| OTA 25.2 |
| Rochester |
| Spectrum 150 / 705 |
| Thief River Falls |
| Sjoberg's Inc 182 |
| MISSISSIPPI |
| Biloxi. Columbus. Grenada |

| MISSISSIPPI |
|---------------------------|
| Biloxi, Columbus, Grenada |
| Cable One91 |

| Greenville, Greenwood | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| OTA | . 15.3 |
| Hattiesburg | |
| Comcast | 1070 |
| Jackson | |
| Comcast | 1070 |
| ОТА | . 23.2 |
| Tupelo | |
| Comcast | 1070 |
| MISSOURI | |
| Cape Girardeau, Harrisburg | |
| ОТА | .27.2 |
| Higginsville | |
| Citizen's Cablevision | 122 |
| Joplin, Pittsburg | |
| ОТА | 49.3 |
| Kansas City | |
| Spectrum | 470 |
| ОТА | |
| Kirksville | . 21.0 |
| Cable One | 91 |
| St. Louis | |
| Spectrum 109 | / 775 |
| OTA | |
| Springfield | /.2 |
| KRFT-LD TV8 | 97 |
| Excelsior Springs | 0.7 |
| New Dawn Fiber | 15 |
| | 15 |
| Ν | |
| | Channel |

| NEBRASKA Auburn, Columbus, Fremont, Lincoln |
|---|
| Spectrum |
| Norfolk |
| Cable One |
| <i>Omaha</i> OTA 48.4 |
| NEVADA |
| Las Vegas |
| OTA 30.3 |
| Reno |
| Spectrum 139 / 890 |
| NEW ENGLAND |
| Region-wide |
| Spectrum470 |
| NEW JERSEY Audubon, Burlington, Central |
| Gloucester, Jersey City, |
| Meadowlands, Monmouth, |
| Ocean County, Plainfield, |
| Pleasantville, Princeton, |
| Somerset, Hillborough, Trenton, |
| Union, Vineland |
| Comcast 190 |
| Long Beach Island |
| Comcast 22 |
| Northwest Comcast |
| Toms River |
| Comcast 19 |
| NEW MEXICO |
| Albuquerque |
| Comcast 91 |

ΟΗΙΟ

Akron

Cincinnati

Cleveland

OTA......27.3 / 41.3

Spectrum 388 / 1388 HD

OTA.....25.9

WOW (Wide Open West)...... 193

Akron, Canton, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Dayton

| OTA 32.3 |
|---|
| |
| Rio Rancho |
| Cable One |
| NEW YORK |
| Albany, Binghamton (Montros, Bath, Jamestown), Buffalo, |
| Syracuse, New York |
| Spectrum |
| Buffalo |
| OTA |
| Spectrum 470 |
| Cobleskill |
| OTA 41.4 |
| Carmel |
| Comcast 191 |
| New York |
| Cablevision15 |
| Spectrum |
| Comcast 19 / 27 / 15 |
| Frontier |
| RCN |
| Rochester |
| Spectrum |
| NORTH CAROLINA |
| Asheboro, Denton, New London |
| Randolph Telephone |
| Charlotte |
| Comporium 124 / 1124 |
| Compas (Morganton) 14 & 805 |
| Dish & Direct (HD) 14 |
| Sandhills (Chesterfield County, SC) 14 |
| |
| Fibrant/Hotwire 14 /714 |
| Fibrant/Hotwire 14 /714 Skybest 14 / 1014 |
| Fibrant/Hotwire 14 /714 Skybest |
| Fibrant/Hotwire 14 /714 Skybest 14 / 1014 Spectrum Boone-Blowing Rock 14 / 714 |
| Fibrant/Hotwire |
| Fibrant/Hotwire |
| Fibrant/Hotwire 14 / 714 Skybest 14 / 1014 Spectrum Boone-Blowing Rock 14 / 714 Spectrum Charlotte 18 / 1231 Spectrum Hickory 7 / 714 TDS North Mecklaneburg 18 |
| Fibrant/Hotwire 14 / 714 Skybest 14 / 1014 Spectrum Boone-Blowing Rock 14 / 714 Spectrum Charlotte 18 / 1231 Spectrum Hickory 7 / 714 TDS North Mecklaneburg 18 OTA 14.1 |
| Fibrant/Hotwire 14 / 714 Skybest 14 / 1014 Spectrum Boone-Blowing Rock 14 / 714 Spectrum Charlotte 18 / 1231 Spectrum Hickory 7 / 714 TDS North Mecklaneburg 18 OTA 14.1 Fayetteville 14.1 |
| Fibrant/Hotwire 14 / 714 Skybest 14 / 1014 Spectrum Boone-Blowing Rock 14 / 714 Spectrum Charlotte 18 / 1231 Spectrum Hickory 7 / 714 TDS North Mecklaneburg 18 OTA 14.1 Fayetteville 0TA |
| Fibrant/Hotwire 14 / 714 Skybest 14 / 1014 Spectrum Boone-Blowing Rock 14 / 714 Spectrum Charlotte 18 / 1231 Spectrum Hickory 7 / 714 TDS North Mecklaneburg 18 OTA 14.1 Fayetteville 14.1 |
| Fibrant/Hotwire 14 / 714 Skybest 14 / 1014 Spectrum Boone-Blowing Rock 14 / 714 Spectrum Charlotte 18 / 1231 Spectrum Hickory 7 / 714 TDS North Mecklaneburg 18 OTA 14.1 Fayetteville 0TA OTA 15.3 Asheboro, Greensboro, Raleigh Spectrum 470 Raleigh-Durham |
| Fibrant/Hotwire 14 / 714 Skybest 14 / 1014 Spectrum Boone-Blowing Rock 14 / 714 Spectrum Charlotte 18 / 1231 Spectrum Hickory 7 / 714 TDS North Mecklaneburg 18 OTA 14.1 Fayetteville 0TA OTA 15.3 Asheboro, Greensboro, Raleigh Spectrum 470 Raleigh-Durham 0TA OTA 16.3 |
| Fibrant/Hotwire 14 / 714 Skybest 14 / 1014 Spectrum Boone-Blowing Rock 14 / 714 Spectrum Charlotte 18 / 1231 Spectrum Hickory 7 / 714 TDS North Mecklaneburg 18 OTA 14.1 Fayetteville 0TA OTA 15.3 Asheboro, Greensboro, Raleigh Spectrum 470 Raleigh-Durham 0TA OTA 16.3 Wilmington |
| Fibrant/Hotwire 14 / 714 Skybest 14 / 1014 Spectrum Boone-Blowing Rock 14 / 714 Spectrum Charlotte 18 / 1231 Spectrum Hickory 7 / 714 TDS North Mecklaneburg 18 OTA 14.1 Fayetteville 0TA OTA 470 Raleigh-Durham 16.3 Wilmington 0TA OTA 43.2 |
| Fibrant/Hotwire 14 / 714 Skybest 14 / 1014 Spectrum Boone-Blowing Rock 14 / 714 Spectrum Charlotte 18 / 1231 Spectrum Hickory 7 / 714 TDS North Mecklaneburg 18 OTA 14.1 Fayetteville 0TA OTA 15.3 Asheboro, Greensboro, Raleigh Spectrum 470 Raleigh-Durham 0TA OTA 16.3 Wilmington 43.2 NORTH DAKOTA 14.2 |
| Fibrant/Hotwire 14 / 714 Skybest 14 / 1014 Spectrum Boone-Blowing Rock 14 / 714 Spectrum Charlotte 18 / 1231 Spectrum Hickory 7 / 714 TDS North Mecklaneburg 18 OTA 14.1 Fayetteville 0TA OTA 470 Raleigh-Durham 0TA OTA 16.3 Wilmington 0TA OTA 43.2 NORTH DAKOTA Enderlin |
| Fibrant/Hotwire 14 / 714 Skybest 14 / 1014 Spectrum Boone-Blowing Rock 14 / 714 Spectrum Charlotte 18 / 1231 Spectrum Hickory 7 / 714 TDS North Mecklaneburg 18 OTA 14.1 Fayetteville 0TA OTA 15.3 Asheboro, Greensboro, Raleigh Spectrum 470 Raleigh-Durham 0TA OTA 16.3 Wilmington 43.2 NORTH DAKOTA 14.2 |
| Fibrant/Hotwire 14 / 714 Skybest 14 / 1014 Spectrum Boone-Blowing Rock 14 / 714 Spectrum Charlotte 18 / 1231 Spectrum Hickory 7 / 714 TDS North Mecklaneburg 18 OTA 14.1 Fayetteville 0TA OTA 470 Raleigh-Durham 0TA OTA 16.3 Wilmington 0TA OTA 43.2 NORTH DAKOTA Enderlin |

Spectrum 388 / 1388 HD Columbus Spectrum 388 / 1388 HD WOW (Wide Open West)...... 193 Toledo Buckeye 109 Wapakoneta Telephone Service Company, Inc..... 75 **OKLAHOMA** Altus Cable One..... 91 Clarksdale, Batesville Cable One..... 91 Duncan Cable One..... 91 Oklahoma City OTA.....22.2 Ponca City Cable One..... 91 Tulsa OTA......48.2 OREGON Medford Spectrum 173 / 802 Portland Comcast 99 / 1099 Ρ Channel PENNSYLVANIA

OTA......27.3 / 41.3

Philadelphia

| Comcast | . 193 / 1095 |
|-----------------|--------------|
| OTA | 25.2 / 51.3 |
| Blue Ridge Comm | |
| PUERTO RICO | |

Region-wide

| Nogion muo | |
|---------------|-----|
| Claro | 24 |
| Dish | 7 |
| Liberty Cable | 41 |
| Choice Cable | 41 |
| San Juan | |
| OTA | 2.1 |
| • | |

Channel

RHODE ISLAND Providence

R

| FIUVIUEIILE | |
|-------------|---------|
| Cox Cable | |
| S | Channel |

Channel

SOUTH CAROLINA Charleston

| Gilarieston |
|-----------------------------------|
| Comcast 1070 |
| Columbia, Statewide |
| Spectrum4 70 |
| Rock Hill, Fort Mill, Lancaster, |
| York, Chester, Clover, Lake Wylie |
| Comporium Cable 391 |
| SOUTH DAKOTA |
| Beresford |
| Beresford Cablevision 487 |
| |

SBN CHANNEL LISTINGS

| <i>Huron, Mitchell</i> OTA | 12.3 |
|--|--|
| Sioux Falls | |
| ОТА | 7.3 |
| Т | Channel |
| TENNESSEE | |
| Chattanooga | |
| Comcast | 1070 |
| Dyersburg Cable One | 01 |
| Jackson | |
| OTA <i>Knoxville</i> | 27.4 |
| Comcast | 1070 |
| Memphis | |
| Comcast OTA | |
| Nashville | . 20.3 / 44 |
| Comcast | 1070 |
| OTA | 31.3 |
| TEXAS | |
| Abilene Harris Broadband | 17 |
| Alma-Garret | 1/ |
| Spectrum | |
| Amarillo | |
| Cable One | |
| OTA Commune Charlestin D | |
| Austin, Corpus Christi, Da Fort Worth, San Antonio, | allas, |
| Waco, Killeen | |
| | |
| Spectrum | 470 |
| Spectrum | |
| Austin OTA | |
| Austin OTA Balch Springs | 17.3 |
| Austin OTA Balch Springs Suddenlink2 | 17.3 |
| Austin OTA Balch Springs | 17.3 0 / 107HD |
| Austin OTA Balch Springs Suddenlink2 Bryan OTA Carrollton | 17.3 0 / 107HD 34.6 |
| Austin OTA Balch Springs Suddenlink2 Bryan OTA Carrollton Spectrum | 17.3 0 / 107HD 34.6 |
| Austin OTA Balch Springs Suddenlink2 Bryan OTA Carrollton Spectrum Dallas | 17.3 0 / 107HD 34.6 14 |
| Austin OTA Balch Springs Suddenlink2 Bryan OTA Carroliton Spectrum Dallas OTA KODF | 17.3 0 / 107HD 34.6 14 14 26.5 |
| Austin OTA Balch Springs Suddenlink Bryan OTA Carroliton Spectrum Dallas OTA KODF KHPK | 17.3 0 / 107HD 34.6 14 47.5 26.5 28.1 |
| Austin OTA Balch Springs Suddenlink Bryan OTA Carroliton Spectrum Dallas OTA KODF | 17.3 0 / 107HD 34.6 14 47.5 26.5 28.1 47.5 |
| Austin OTA Balch Springs Suddenlink2 Bryan OTA Carroliton Spectrum Dallas OTA KODF KHPK KTXD Spectrum | 17.3 0 / 107HD 34.6 14 47.5 26.5 28.1 47.5 |
| Austin OTA Balch Springs Suddenlink Bryan OTA Carroliton Spectrum Dallas OTA KODF KHPK Spectrum Denton | 17.3 0 / 107HD 34.6 14 14 |
| Austin OTA | 17.3 0 / 107HD 34.6 14 47.5 26.5 28.1 47.5 47.5 47.0 6 / 749 HD |
| Austin OTA Balch Springs Suddenlink2 Bryan OTA Carroliton Spectrum Dallas OTA KODF KHPK Spectrum Denton Spectrum Denton Spectrum Denton Spectrum | 17.3 0 / 107HD 34.6 14 47.5 26.5 28.1 47.5 47.5 47.0 6 / 749 HD |
| Austin OTA | 17.3 0 / 107HD 34.6 14 47.5 28.1 47.5 47.5 47.0 6 / 749 HD 3 / 749 HD |
| Austin OTA Balch Springs Suddenlink Bryan OTA Carroliton Spectrum Dallas OTA Dallas OTA | 17.3 0 / 107HD 34.6 14 47.5 28.1 47.5 47.5 47.0 6 / 749 HD 3 / 749 HD |
| Austin OTA | 17.3 0 / 107HD 34.6 14 47.5 28.1 47.5 47.5 47.0 6 / 749 HD 3 / 749 HD 2 / 750 HD |
| Austin OTA | 17.3 0 / 107HD 34.6 14 47.5 28.1 47.5 47.0 6 / 749 HD 3 / 749 HD 2 / 750 HD 551 |
| Austin OTA | 17.3 0 / 107HD 34.6 14 47.5 28.1 47.5 47.0 6 / 749 HD 3 / 749 HD 2 / 750 HD 551 |
| Austin OTA | 17.3 0 / 107HD 34.6 14 47.5 26.5 28.1 47.5 47.0 6 / 749 HD 3 / 749 HD 2 / 750 HD 551 2 / 742 HD |
| Austin OTA | 17.3 0 / 107HD 34.6 14 47.5 28.1 47.5 47.5 47.0 6 / 749 HD 3 / 749 HD 2 / 750 HD 551 2 / 742 HD 76 |
| Austin OTA | 17.3 0 / 107HD 34.6 14 47.5 28.1 47.5 47.5 47.0 6 / 749 HD 3 / 749 HD 2 / 750 HD 551 2 / 742 HD 76 |
| Austin OTA | 17.3 0 / 107HD 34.6 14 47.5 28.1 47.5 47.5 47.0 6 / 749 HD 3 / 749 HD 2 / 750 HD 551 2 / 742 HD 76 10.2 |
| Austin OTA | 17.3 0 / 107HD 34.6 14 47.5 28.1 47.5 47.5 47.0 6 / 749 HD 3 / 749 HD 2 / 750 HD 551 2 / 742 HD 76 10.2 |

| Spectrum 3/7/9 LD |
|--|
| Spectrum 3 / 749 HD Pilot Point |
| Suddenlink |
| Port Lavaca, Aransas Pass, Texarkana |
| Cable One |
| <i>Rockwall</i> Spectrum 14 / 749 нD |
| <i>Sherman</i> Suddenlink |
| <i>Temple</i> OTA 34.6 |
| Throckmorton, Lake Graham, |
| Newcastle TGN Cable |
| Waco |
| OTA 34.6 <i>Waxahachie</i> |
| Spectrum 12 |
| U Channel |
| UTAH |
| Salt Lake City Comcast91 |
| OTA 91 |
| W Channel |
| WASHINGTON |
| Bellingham |
| OTA |
| J&N Cable 487 |
| <i>Seattle</i> Comcast |
| 00111CdSL 01 |
| Frontier 24 |
| OTA 24.2 |
| |
| OTA24.2 <i>Tacoma</i> OTA24.2 WASHINGTON DC |
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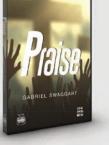
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Whatever The Need, God's Got It

In John 5, the Bible says an angel went down at a certain season and troubled the water. In this anointed message, Pastor Gabriel Swaggart uses the healing of a certain man at the pool of Bethesda to show how Christ's miracles met the physical and spiritual needs of the people, and that no matter how great or small your need is, and regardless of what obstacles Satan may use to hinder, God's got it. 15-702



Campmeeting 2024 is March 27-31! For information or to preregister visit **www.jsmcampmeeting.org**

I am compelled to tell this story as it was told to me by my doctor at a recent appointment. I was in the critical care unit at a hospital in New York. He said he had never seen anyone recover the way I did in my condition. He said that I was being given the maximum amount of everything and that there was nothing more that they could do other than transfer me to a better machine in Manhattan used to clean the blood of individuals having heart surgery of some sort. He said none of the doctors (and there were many trying to save my life) thought I would survive. He then said, "It had to be divine intervention. It was a miracle!" Those were his exact words. Paralyzed from the neck down and attached to a feeding tube, after fifty days in rehab, I was discharged. I can walk, talk, see, hear, and touch! My Healer! My Savior! With eight billion people on earth, He knew my name! Praise the Lord and glory to His name! May God forever bless Jimmy Swaggart Ministries and SBN. -NEW YORK

"With eight billion people on earth, He knew my name!"

"Thank you for being obedient to the call of God on your lives. Only heaven can record fruit that you know not of."

All letters are current and may have been edited for space.

My husband and I have been pastors and ministers since 1976. In the fall of 1976, the denomination we were newly licensed with sent us to El Paso, Texas, as home missions workers. Shortly after moving quite a ways from our home near Lubbock, Texas, we got word that our overseer had "Moved us out that far to kill us." We trusted God even after hearing this bad report. What is so amazing is I had, during my early morning devotion, been listening to a radio broadcast of Brother Jimmy Swaggart. It was always a blessing and so encouraging to my heart. We did not know very many people there at that time. One morning, Brother Swaggart was ministering, and he stopped and said, "Someone listening to this broadcast this morning needs to know that you have been told you have been sent somewhere to die. But I am here today to tell you that you shall not die but you shall live! God has sent you there, and He is going to bless you!" I wept and felt so loved by God that He would speak to me through Jimmy Swaggart. Thank you for being obedient to the call of God on your lives. Only heaven can record fruit that you know not of. I am so blessed by you two and your faithfulness to God. I just want to say thank you for being obedient to deliver the Word of the Lord and for blessing my life. -TEXAS

First, **I would** like to say how much my husband and I love watching SBN. I was raised in a Pentecostal church, but, as a young person, I strayed away, and my husband, when he was younger, was raised in the Jehovah's Witnesses. A year ago, my husband suffered a stroke, went through intense rehab, and between hospitals and a nursing facility, he was away from home three and a half months. Through many prayers, God brought him home and, even though he uses a cane to walk, God spared his life. A couple months ago, I came home from work one day, and he had SBN on. Ever since then, we watch all the time. The greatest part of all of this is, one day while we were watching one of the services, I rededicated my life to God, and my husband and I both accepted Jesus Christ into our hearts and lives. We thank you for everything you all do to get the message out all over the world. God bless each and every one of you! -PENNSYLVANIA

I am a Family Worship Center media member. The message of the cross has changed my life! I'm fifty-five years old, and I've followed Brother Swaggart since I was a kid. For over thirty years now, I have been addicted to chewing tobacco. Through Brother Swaggart's teachings, through SonLife Broadcasting, and through repeatedly making the message of the cross my focus entirely, and in receiving the baptism with the Holy Spirit, as of today, I can officially say I am free! Tobacco products are now no longer a part of my life! Hallelujah!" —ALABAMA

Back in the early 1970s, my parents listened to The Campmeeting Hour each week. As a pre-teen back then, I must admit that I listened to your wonderful singing, then read a book while you were preaching! However, I always listened as you would end the program with, "Until next week at this same time, this is Jimmy Swaggart saying, go with God, and He will go with you." Just a few years later, as I walked across a college campus, I heard those words in my mind so often. Thank you for encouraging me to "Go with God." All these years later, I can truly say that even when I have failed Him, He has indeed gone with me! Thank you so much for those simple, priceless words. They have impacted my life from those days until these. -FLORIDA





"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." –PHILIPPIANS 3:13-14

THE GREAT APOSTLE Paul, whom we revere so highly, is first introduced to us in the book of Acts, 7:58 to 8:4, as a strong participant in the radical persecution of the church in Jerusalem. Paul, who was biologically Saul of Tarsus, was Jewish, also a Roman citizen born and reared in the southern part of Asia Minor (Turkey) in the region of Cilicia. He is now about twenty-five to thirty years old. It seems that he had completed advanced Jewish studies with Gamaliel. He has now become a highly educated Jewish rabbi with much zeal as a teacher with the Pharisees.

Luke records in Acts that he literally saw and assisted in the bloody stoning of Stephen in Jerusalem. He was there, consenting to the martyrdom of this young preacher of Christianity. After this, Saul (Paul) proceeds with much effort to stamp out Christianity in Jerusalem and decides to extend his efforts in Damascus. However, Acts 9:3-16 describes a divine intervention. Christ, our Savior and Lord, the Son of God, appears to Saul, and he is divinely converted to Christ and surrenders to ministry there on the road to Damascus. He is called by Christ to be an apostle to the Gentiles. After completing many

Three awesome biblical truths to follow in starting a New Year, 2024

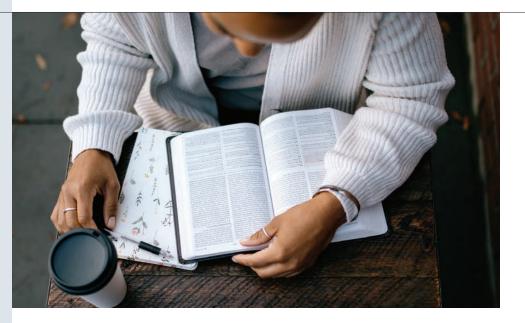
years of missionary ministry, planting many churches, after being imprisoned in Caesarea, Israel for two years, he finally meets other brethren in Rome. He is now about sixty to sixty-two years of age. Most scholars believe that Paul was imprisoned in Rome twice. During his first imprisonment, he writes Philippians as well as Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon—the prison epistles.

Now, let's do a deep dive and carefully analyze Philippians 3:13-14.

First, the apostle Paul declares that He is not satisfied in his spiritual journey. This mature and seasoned man of God who has been an anointed missionary, an apostle for about thirty-five years declares that He is not satisfied with his spiritual walk. In the King James Version, the word *apprehended* comes from the Greek word *katalambano*, meaning "to possess, or attain, or obtain. In Philippians 3:12 he writes, "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect, but I follow after." Paul—this pastor, missionary, scholar—declares that he is on the journey of faith. In Philippians 3:10, he identifies what he needed to know about God: "That I may know Him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of his sufferings." Paul desires to go deeper and higher in his knowledge of God. He makes it clear that he is not satisfied. No matter how deep your walk with God is, you can go deeper.

Second, the next phrase in Philippians 3:13, reads, "*But this one thing I do, forgetting those things that are behind.*" The apostle Paul realizes that he cannot navigate well on this journey of faith, attempting to drive by looking through a rearview mirror. When you

"As you step into 2024, determine to serve God with a whole heart."



are backing up in your car, you need a rearview mirror, but when you plan to drive forward, you need to look ahead. It's ok to remember the blessings of God and the many wonderful times of your past, but as you step into your new year, do your best to lay aside the disappointments of the past. Quickly forgive those who hurt or disappointed you-release it, or them, to the Lord and move on. Let go of past hurts. Yes, even forgive yourself. Don't allow past hurts and past negative experiences determine your future. Someone once said, "You can't unscramble scrambled eggs." Move on. Forget past sins. If you have repented of them, then know that God has forgotten them. Do not revisit past failures. Many highly successful businessmen will tell you that they learned their best lessons in business from times of failure. Yes,

learn from your failures, but move on. Remember the story of Joseph dealing with his brothers during the famine in Egypt.

In Genesis 45:4-5, Joseph said, "Come near to me, I pray you. And they came near. And he said, I am Joseph your brother, whom ye sold into Egypt. Now therefore be not grieved, nor angry with yourselves that you sold me hither; for God did send me before you to preserve life." In Genesis 50:19-20, we read the words of Joseph to his brethren again, "Fear not: for am I in the place of God? But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good. To bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive."

Third, the apostle Paul dictated in Philippians 3:13-14, "And reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." When the apostle Paul wrote to the church at Rome, in Romans 15:24, 28, he indicated his plans to come to Rome for ministry and then to go and minister in Spain. Neither the book of Acts nor Paul's epistles say anything about Paul's ministry in Spain. Some church historians feel strongly that he did go to Spain in between his two imprisonments in Rome. I am not sure about this, but I am sure that I understand the preacher's intentions. He planned on getting out of prison and going forward in ministry to Spain. But note this, in Philippians 3:13-14, Paul makes it clear that he is reaching and pressing in a forward manner to receive the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Paul declares that he is going forward, not backward. And that He is stretching himself in every manner to receive the prize.

In conclusion, as you step into a brand-new year, the year of our Lord 2024, with great clarity and understanding, I challenge you to three things: First, see the prize, which is to hear Him say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." Second, close the chapter on the past. Forgive, forget, and move on to future goals and accomplishments. Third, pursue the things of God 100 percent. Seek the Lord with all your heart. As you step into 2024, determine to serve God with a whole heart. I urge you to stay ready for the coming of the Lord. The rapture of the church is closer than most people think. #



ARTICLE BY Loren Larson

"And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day." –GENESIS 32:24

Holding Out or Holding On?

THE LIFE OF JACOB

In the story and life of Jacob we find a type of every believer's struggle, specifically regarding sanctification. Sanctification is impossible for the believer who is trusting in his own ability, his own power, his ability to handle every situation. Scripturally speaking, growth and maturing in Christ is not going to happen unless the believer empties himself of self-trust and learns to depend entirely upon what God has done on our behalf. At Calvary, Jesus paid the price for our salvation. Faith in who He is and what He did at Calvary is sufficient for salvation. What we must arrive at as believers is the elimination of faith in self, regarding our progression in sanctification. Jacob stands as a perfect picture of this struggle in an Old Testament type. We can learn great lessons by reviewing how God worked on Jacob. It's also important to remember that no

matter how long the process, God never quits. He works with us, He works on us, He works around us—all for His purpose and all for His glory! But God never stops pushing to turn believers toward matching His nature and His character. God never quits.

JACOB'S APPROACH TO LIFE

No one was ever named more accurately than Jacob. His name described the character of the man—he was a deceiver, a supplanter, a manipulator, a regular con man. Jacob survived by his wits, his instincts, his powerful self-will. He did what he thought he needed to do to obtain what God had promised. The Bible tells us of a prophecy that was given as both Jacob and Esau were born. That "word" stated that the older would serve the younger! Rather than letting God bring this to pass, Jacob pounced on the chance to purchase the birthright from



Esau for food when he realized that his brother was extremely famished. He saw an opportunity to take advantage for his own purposes and took upon his shoulders the responsibility of making happen what God had promised. Trying to help God out is always a mistake! A little later, Jacob and his mother deceived Isaac into blessing Jacob instead of Esau. God doesn't need our lies to help promote His plan. Both instances should have been handled in a different way. But when we take control, when we take over, when we choose to dominate, the results

"Are you holding out, continually depending on self, or are you ready to just hold on to Christ?"



will never be what could have been. As it was, Jacob paid dearly for his deceptions. While it is true that Isaac was being disobedient regarding God's choice of who would receive the blessing, Jacob should not have intervened. He should have waited upon and trusted in God. His deception cost him twenty years away from the land God had promised him. The conniving nature of Jacob was plainly exhibited in his choices. But God was patient and waited to bring Jacob to the end of self-trust.

Him go."

GOD SENDS JACOB HOME

After twenty years in exile, God tells Jacob that it is time to return home. He gathers his wives and family and sets out to return. While nearly home, Jacob sends a message to Esau and lets him know that he is coming home. Esau had decided to murder Jacob twenty years before, and Jacob was decided to rely on bribery to protect himself from that threat. Esau responded to the information by getting together an army of four hundred men and heading out toward Jacob's reported location. Jacob leans to his own understanding and tries to pacify Esau's hatred with gifts. Assured that Esau's intent is to kill him, Jacob connives to sends gifts in the form of livestock. The total cost of the gift in

today's dollars would total well over \$100,000. In addition, he places the least favored family members in a position to encounter Esau first. If Esau's intention was evil, then this would become obvious, and Jacob would escape with the

most favored people of his family. After dividing up the family, Jacob feels ready to ford the Jabbok River, but is hindered from doing so by the appearance of a man.

CHRIST STOPS JACOB COLD

The man Jacob encountered was Christ Himself. He begins to wrestle with Jacob. I am so glad that when going the wrong way, believing the wrong thing, or attempting something unpleasing to God, that Jesus will block my way. Jacob's self-will and stubbornness holds out all night long as he grapples with the Lord. Finally, near daybreak, the Lord touches Jacob's thigh, making it impossible for him to fight in his own strength any longer. If we do not submit our strength to the Lord, He just might need to remove our perceived strengths in order to teach us to fully trust and depend upon Him. Jacob now holds to the Lord and won't let Him go. Jacob sees his need for God's help and refuses to release the Lord until God blesses him. He has moved from holding out to holding on! Only as we surrender our will, our thoughts, and our hearts to Christ completely can we move forward to His designed privilege and plan. Are you holding out, continually depending on self, or are you ready to just hold on to Christ?

HOW ABOUT YOU?

Let me ask again, what about your life? What are you trying to change about yourself or your circumstances that only God can change? How long will you keep wrestling with God, manipulating, conniving, and deceiving in an attempt to locate or perform God's will for your life? God doesn't need our help. If you insist on this path, He may have no choice but to cripple you. Why don't you stop holding out and start holding on to what God has provided! Let's move from being Jacob (the deceiver) to being Israel (prince with God). Those who trust in Him will never be ashamed!



ARTICLE BY John Rosenstern

I'm writing this article in October 2023, just weeks after Israel suffered a surprise attack by Hamas terrorists against Israeli civilians living just across the Gaza border. On October 7, the Jews, celebrating the festivities ending the Feast of Sukkott and Simchat Torah, were attacked by Hamas terrorists.



Israel's Affliction

THE INITIAL CARNAGE witnessed 1,400 innocent Israeli lives snuffed out and hostages taken as pawns for trading. Women were brutally raped, babies decapitated, and bodies mutilated with footage by Hamas terrorists wearing body cams to document the horror.

The initial response of the world, and especially the Unites States, favored Israel's right to defend herself and avenge the Hamas. An eminent ground incursion was immediately planned by Israel with the intention to once and for all eliminate the Hamas terrorist network. Hamas is the duly elected government in the Gaza Strip after it was given to the Palestinians as a gesture of peace by former Prime Minister of Israel Ariel Sharon in 2005. Jewish residents that lived there for many years were physically thrown out by Israeli soldiers and their land given over to Palestinian Arabs. The newly formed Hamas government began to receive help and money from Israel and the world to build a society to advance the well-being of its inhabitants. The hope for economic development, education, healthcare, and opportunity for the people was squashed by the generational hatred of Jews from the Hamas and Palestinian leadership. Instead of building a society that could evolve into a country that Palestinians desired, the newly-elected government of Hamas developed an underground tunnel system. They periodically launched rockets and made incursions into Israel and took hostages for negotiations for their terrorists who were arrested by Israel for attempting or participating in terrorist activities.

The world would judge Israel in the court of public opinion through lying narratives and propaganda spewed by Palestinian sources and Islamic nations that sympathized with the Palestinians. Israel's reactions to the terrorists were judged by the world and members of the United Nations while the actions of the terrorists were not. Israel has sought to gain acceptance by the world, especially since she became a nation in 1948. Instead of acceptance, she has fought multiple wars on all her borders and ongoing intifadas, all with the intention of her adversaries to ultimately wipe Israel out. The popular slogan shouted at protests on colleges and universities in the United States and all over the world is, "From the river to the sea." What that means is "No Jews in any part of modern day Israel or Palestine."

"God is merciful, but His Word is true. He said that He would scatter Israel, and He also said that He would regather them."

GOD'S CHASTISEMENT AND RESTORATION

God warned the nation of Israel that he would punish Israel for disobedience: "But if ye will not hearken to unto me, and will not do all these commandments; And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant: I also will do this unto to you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you. And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you seven times more for your sins" (Lev. 26:14-18).

The remainder of this chapter deals with the punishments and Israel's future repentance and restoration. God promised to regather Israel from all over the world where He scattered them: *"For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land"* (Ezek. 36:24).

The Lord would do this for his name's sake: "Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord God; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went" (Ezek. 36:22).

Israel is the apple of God's eye (Deut.

32:10). He watches over them carefully for chastisement and to protect them from extinction, so He scattered them, although they lived under their enemies for centuries. It was chastisement for Israel but also observation by God on the nations that ruled over her. Ultimately, God will judge the nations of the world for how they treated Israel. Jesus spoke of the sheep and goat nations in Matthew 25. This will occur after the seven-year tribulation period still to happen in the future.

NATIONAL PRIDE BROKEN

Israel is a mystery to many but also an ensign for us today. Although God scattered His people, they were faithful to their identity and to the hope of returning to Jerusalem. Year after year in diaspora, Jews would recite Psalm 137:2-6: "We hanged our harps upon the willows in the midst thereof. For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us required of us mirth, saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. How shall we sing the LORD's song in a strange land? If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning. If I do not remember thee, let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth; if *I prefer not Jerusalem above my chief joy.*"

In verse Psalm 137:1, it speaks of the Babylonian captivity, but after the second scattering took place when the temple was destroyed in AD 70, Jews for centuries continued to believe in their future restoration. But the question I asked of the Lord for years was, what will Israel need to do to be restored? It is clear from Leviticus 26 that they will need to repent as a nation. But there is something else that goes along with their future repentance. It is tucked into a verse of Scripture that deals with God purging the rebels out of Israel after the tribulation period and the beginning of the kingdom age-the future time when Christ Jesus the Messiah will reign in Jerusalem with David: "In that day shalt thou not be ashamed for all thy doings, wherein thou hast transgressed against me: for then I will take away out of the midst of thee them that rejoice in your pride, and thou shalt no more be haughty because of my holy mountain. I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the Lord. The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a *deceitful tongue be found in their mouth:* for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid" (Zeph. 3:11-13).

This article was hard for me to write because of my love for my people. God is merciful, but His Word is true. He said that He would scatter Israel, and He also said that He would regather them. As a nation, Israel will be born-again. This will take place after the tribulation when Jesus Christ returns and they will ask of Him, "What are these wounds in thy hands?" (Zech. 13:6). But now, Jews or Gentiles can make Jesus Christ the Lord of their lives by asking for forgiveness of their sins and accepting Christ and His death on the cross as payment to God for our sins. Take that step of faith today!



ARTICLE BY Mike Muzzerall

In North America, January is traditionally a month when resolutions are made and, too often, quickly broken. There is something about starting over. Some would call it a reset. Is it the hope of starting anew with a clean slate? Is it the desire to distance ourselves from failures of the past? Whatever the case is, we often spend time setting goals for the coming year.

He Will Direct Your Path



A CHILD OF God has an advantage over the non-believer in that he can look to God for guidance. If you yield to His leading and guidance, then He will direct your path.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT BEFORE DIRECTION

In Proverbs, we are given a foundation for divine direction: "*In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths*" (Proverbs 3:6). Acknowledgment is meant to precede divine guidance. But for a lot of people, this is not case. Many assume that God will lead and direct their paths automatically. Since they are God's children, wouldn't every day be divinely orchestrated? That is not, however, the central thought of this proverb. The Holy Spirit is saying that the result of acknowledging God in all our ways is to receive divine direction.

"...too many times we make our plans and then ask God to bless them as if they were given to us by Him."

GOD BLESS MY PLANS, OR GOD BLESS MY MESS

Christians are more apt to ask God to bless what they planned independently from God. I'm sure they came up with the best plan under the circumstances. I'm sure that their plans attempted to bring God glory. I am, however, suggesting that too many times we make our plans and then ask God to bless them as if they were given to us by Him.

DAVID SOUGHT THE LORD

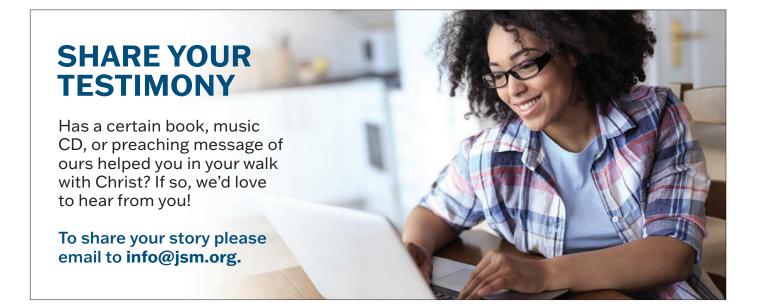
One of the characteristics of King David was that he inquired of God. This was especially so when confronting the enemy. Every time David inquired, God was faithful to reveal His will. David allowed God to direct his paths. When made aware of the Philistines' brutal attack on Keilah, David sought the Lord: *"Therefore David enquired of the* LORD, saying, Shall I go and smite these Philistines? And the LORD, said unto David, Go, and smite the Philistines, and save Keilah" (I Sam. 23:2). David did not assume that since he was the king of Israel that God would automatically bless his plans. No, he sought the Lord and God directed him. We need to do the same.

DAVID DESIRED TO PLEASE GOD

David desired to please God: "And when he had removed him [Saul], he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will" (Acts 13:22). Of course, David was not perfect. He did not seek God when he stayed home and sent the army—the army of which he was commander and chief—to war. He did not seek God when he sought refuge from the enemies of Israel when fleeing from Saul, and he certainly did not seek God when provoked by Satan to number the people of Israel (I Chron. 21:1). David was not perfect.

ORDERED BY THE LORD

Most of us are acquainted with Psalm 37:23, "*The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.*" The idea must be understood that this person was dedicated to serving God. His life was therefore under divine guidance. Isn't that what we want? Don't we desire to have the blessing of God in the coming year? It's simple: keep your eyes on the completed work of Calvary. After all, Jesus is the author and finisher of your faith (Hebrews 12:2). Acknowledge Him in all your ways, and He will direct your paths.





ARTICLE BY Shaun Murphy

Careful how you assess adversity. Not every storm that arises in our lives shares the same origin. Life will undoubtedly present difficulties along the way as trials and tribulations impact all of us regardless of age, occupation, or status.

Job or Jonah?

The life of a believer is supposed to be utterly surrendered to God, much like Job exemplifies.

WE CANNOT AVOID opposition, but we can seek wisdom to properly assess opposition when it arises. Difficult circumstances are found all throughout Scripture, but two of the clearest examples are found in the lives of Job and Jonah.

The life of Job demonstrates a man who is utterly devoted to the Lord, yet, by no fault of his own, tragedy strikes. God gives Satan latitude to take Job's livelihood, children, and even his health. Amidst great sorrow Job's "friends" come to arrogantly explain how these trials are the result of concealed immorality in his life. Be careful when analyzing the trials in other people's lives as we risk standing in the ungodly shoes of Job's friends.

As Job faced great trouble, so too did the prophet Jonah. God had commanded him to travel to Nineveh, the capital city of Assyria. He was to prophesy that judgment was coming to destroy them after forty days. However, instead of traveling to Nineveh, Jonah went down to Joppa and bought a ticket to sail in the opposite direction toward Tarshish. On that journey, a storm arose so great that the ship was nearly capsized. The entire crew panicked as death loomed near, and those onboard cast lots, which fell upon Jonah. The fleeing prophet told the others what he had done, and that they needed to throw him overboard. Once in the water, Jonah was swallowed by a large fish and spit up three days later near the place where his disobedience began.

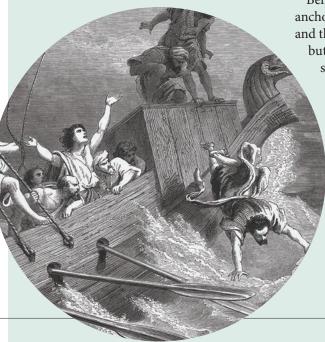
The stories of Job and Jonah are both recorded in the Word of God. Both men found themselves in great trials, and both found their lives at stake. However, their storms had very different origins and served vastly different purposes.

The life of a believer is supposed to be utterly surrendered to God, much like Job exemplifies. Our will is to be swallowed up in the will of our heavenly

"Jonah hated the Ninevites, so his opinion of mankind inhibited his obedience to God."

Father-where He wants us to go, what He wants us to do, and how He wants us to serve within the body of Christ should be our priority. This means that Jesus is in authority over our lives, and the lives we want to live must die so the life that Jesus desires for us may stand in its place. To the unredeemed, that sounds harsh, and to the immature believe that sounds. extreme; but to the obedient saint, that surrender sounds like freedom. Living the life that God created you to live is the only path to immeasurable joy, purpose, and effectiveness in the kingdom of God-something Jonah did not exemplify all too well.

The issue is that our diluted, Western view of Christianity does not prioritize obedience as it should. Thus, we have many Christians who think God is



indifferent about their lives. The results are people who seldom seek God's will or those still convinced that the reins of their lives belong to them.

The fruit of such lives is marked by inconsistency in service and unsubmissive hearts. There is little commitment to serve where God intends for them to serve, little resolve to stay in places that God wants them to stay, and little willingness to submit to biblical authority.

The root of their instability in service is masked in bitterness toward their local church, disapproval of leadership in their church, or consistent offense from other members in the body. Christians who are unsubmissive to the commands of God in their lives become utterly unstable and seek to cast the blame of instability upon the performance of other saints.

Believer, your stability should not be anchored in the performance of others and their ability to meet your standards, but it should be found in your personal relationship and obedience to Christ.

A difficult truth to embrace is that trials still arise on the road of obedience. There, we have opportunity for our faith to be refined by fire. It is in those seasons that Job stands as a remarkable example of faithfulness for us to model.

Obedient saints will endure trials, at times, but many Christians find themselves in storms of their own disobedience. What amazes me is how often believers can be living like Jonah but associate themselves with Job.

Christian, be careful not to see yourself as the hero of every story. Sometimes that storm is a wakeup call, not a display of obedience. Jonah was in the middle of a deadly storm and thrown overboard into the sea while he was running in the opposite direction of where God wanted him. Jonah hated the Ninevites, so his opinion of mankind inhibited his obedience to God.

If you are being moved by your own opinions rather than the command of God, then I want to challenge you don't compare your trials with Job's. Not all storms are the same, and the difficulties you face may be intended to draw your heart back to obedience rather than a testing to display your faithfulness before the world.

Let us walk humbly, honestly, and maturely so that we can properly assess adversity. May we have the grace to know when trials are there to refine our faith and when they are there to call us back to obedience. And let's be cautious, too, in assuming that we are like Job when we just might be living like Jonah.

Jonah was in the middle of a deadly storm and thrown overboard into the sea while he was running in the opposite direction of where God wanted him.



FROM ME TO YOU | Jimmy Swaggart

There is nothing more important than the WORD OF GOD.

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I personally believe that The Expositor's Study Bible is at least one of, if not the greatest missions work in the world today. There are some eight million of these Bibles in publication around the world, and hundreds of thousands going out each month presently. The reason I say what I do is because the Word of God is ever so powerful, ever so helpful. In fact the Bible is the greatest move of God in the world today because it is the Word of God.

UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE

Another reason I say what I do is because The Expositor's Study Bible is the Bible that helps one understand the Bible, and that is very, very important. If you can't understand what you are reading, then it doesn't do you that much good. But the Lord told me how to do this—how to position the notes with the scriptural text that would make it easy to understand. That's what we did, that's what we have done and will do, and that's the main reason why this Bible is so very, very important. When we set out to do this, which was some years ago, the Lord told this to me: "I have told you to do this. I will help you to do it. I will anoint you to do it just as I anoint you to preach." And that's exactly what the Lord has done.

YOUR SUPPORT

How so much I thank you for helping to support this work, and I speak of you purchasing one or more, even many more of these Bibles to be given out to individuals. Think about the following: By the time you read this, we should have begun printing New Testaments in the Vietnamese language. We started with the translation of the New Testament into Vietnamese, and we will, by the grace of God, translate the entirety of the Bible. Our goal is to then move on to the Hmong language. There is a growing number of Christians in the Hmong population, and we want to make sure that they have the best opportunity to

grow in their knowledge of the Word. Just forty to fifty years ago, they had never heard the name of Jesus. Now Christianity is growing by leaps and bounds due to the work of missionaries and ministries in that region.

Dr. Dan Dang, who translated the New Testament, is the son of the former general superintendent of the Assemblies of God in Vietnam. His background in the Pentecostal doctrine has made him the perfect person to translate our notes. As I have mentioned before, it was a divine appointment amongst Gilbert Lindsay (World Wide Printing),



"I want to wish everyone a very happy and healthy New Year."

Patrick Klein (Vision Beyond Borders), and Dave Roever and Dr. Dan Dang (Roever Evangelistic Association) that has allowed this opportunity to happen.

As I dictate these notes, we have approximately two million Bibles on order at this very time. Thank God for that and thank you for helping us to pay for these Bibles, to put them into the hands of those who very much need them.

THE WORD OF GOD

There is nothing more important than the Word of God. That's why The Expositor's Study Bible is so important. As we have already stated, it is the Bible that helps one understand the Bible, and nothing is more important than that.

Again, I wish to thank you for helping to put these Bibles into the hands of millions of people all over the world. Yes, I said millions. As I've already stated, we have put into the hands of people nearly eight million of The Expositor's Study Bible, and we will push toward ten million in just a matter of weeks, or months at the most.

Again, I say thank you because without you, we couldn't do what God has called

us to do. But with your help, your financial support, your prayerful support, and by the grace of God, I think the world's greatest missions effort is now underway full steam ahead. Again, thank you.

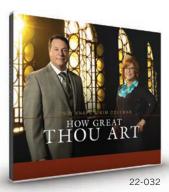
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Brownfield, TX Pastor Nick Rogers Christian Life Church 1302 Tahoka Road, Brownfield, TX 806.636.9731 SUN 10:30 AM

MARCH 17, 2024

Laurel, MS Pastor Jason Poole Kingston Assembly of God 4637 Highway 15 N, Laurel, MS 601.649.1002 SUN 10:30 AM

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APRIL 20-21, 2024

Powhatan, AR Pastor Gary Duzat Lake Charles Full Gospel Temple 6 Lawrence Road 245, Powhatan, AR 72458 870.878.6440 SAT 7 PM SUN 10:45 AM

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CHAPTER 8 LIFE IN THE SPIRIT

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