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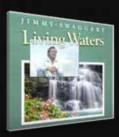
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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Jimmy Swaggart
EDITOR Donnie Swaggart
PHOTOGRAPHY Jaime Tracy, Brooke Simon,
Madison McCormick, Kendall Knaps, Elisha
Aponte

GRAPHIC DESIGN Jason Mark
ART DIRECTOR Liz Smith

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swaggart@cogeco.net (CN).
Jimmy Swaggart Ministries:
P.O. Box 262550
Baton Rouge, LA 70826-2550
PRAYER 225.768.7000 | MAIN 225.768.8300
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"We not only need mercy, but we also need God's grace to help us rise above the sin and the weights that do so easily beset us. To this end, the Holy Spirit was given at salvation."

SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 38





BY JIMMY SWAGGART

OD'S METHOD and His only method is the cross of Christ. That is where Satan, all fallen angels, and all demon spirits were totally and completely defeated (Col. 2:10-15).

That's the reason that Satan hates the cross with a passion. He doesn't really care what man does or how religious he becomes so long as he doesn't look to Christ and the cross.

Regrettably, the modern church, and that goes for all stripes, is looking elsewhere except to the cross. God help us!

"And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it."

-COLOSSIANS 2:15

The following diagram might be of help as it regards living a victorious Christian life:

- Jesus Christ is the source. Jesus Christ is the source of all things we receive from God. This means that everything we receive from God must go through the Lord Jesus Christ (John 1:1-3; 14:6; Col. 2:10).
- The cross of Christ is the means. Jesus Christ is the source while the cross is the means by which every good thing is given to us. Were it not for the cross, God could not even look at man, much less have fellowship with him. It is the cross of Christ that has made and does make everything possible (Rom. 6:1-14; Col. 2:10-15).
- The object of our faith must be the cross of Christ. With Jesus as the source and the cross as the means, the cross of Christ must ever be the object of our faith. This is critically important. If we place faith in anything other than the cross of Christ, then we violate God's prescribed order of victory (I Cor. 1:17-18, 21, 23, 2:2; Gal. 6:14; Col. 2:10-15).
 - The Holy Spirit works within the

parameters of the finished work of Christ.

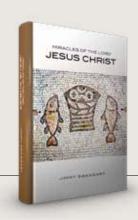
With our Lord as the source and the cross as the means, and the cross of Christ as the object of our faith, then the Holy Spirit, who works exclusively within the parameters, so to speak, of the finished work of Christ, will begin to work mightily on our behalf, making us what we ought to be, which He alone can do (Rom. 8:1-11; Eph. 2:13-18; Acts 1:4).

The cross of Christ is God's way, and His only way, because no other way is needed.

When it comes to salvation, man cannot provide anything that contributes toward this work of grace. It is altogether faith in Christ and what He did for us at the cross. It's called justification by faith.

Likewise, the believer who has sinned can contribute nothing toward his for-giveness; he can only accept what the Lord has already furnished through the cross. Whether he is unredeemed or redeemed, this is man's greatest problem: he keeps trying to submit that which he thinks will guarantee salvation or grace, which God can never accept.

God can accept Jesus Christ and what He did for us at the cross, and that alone. We accept that, and we are saved. If we reject it, then we are eternally lost. Regrettably and sadly, the modern church is filling the land with ways other than Christ and the cross.



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

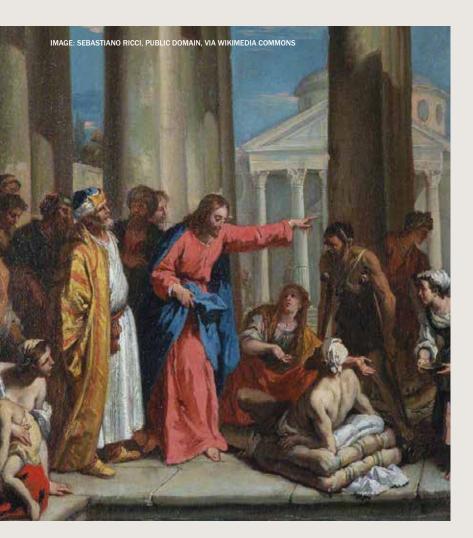
THE IMPOTENT MAN

"The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me" (John 5:7).

The phrase, "The impotent man answered him," represents this man having no idea who Jesus was or who asked him this all-important question.

Christ's appearance little spoke of who He actually was. He had no regal bearing in the sense of ostentatious display, as was the custom of those important, or at least those who thought they were important. Jesus had no runners going before Him telling the people who He was. Jesus was a peasant; consequently, His dress and the dress of His disciples who surrounded Him was according to such station.

If Jesus had been accompanied by a display of pomp and ceremony, man would have been easily impressed and accepted Him far more readily, albeit for all the wrong reasons. If this had been the case, it would have only exacerbated man's real problem of pride rather than meeting his true need.



Consequently, the manner in which Jesus came, "No beauty that we should desire him" (Isa. 53:2), was how He had to come so that man could be redeemed.

Catering to man's pride, which ostentatious display would have done, was the very opposite of what man needed.

The world is greatly impressed by pomp, ceremony, riches, fame, and popularity. All else is regulated to a secondary position if any position at all. This is because of man's pride, which speaks to the manner of his fall in the garden of Eden and his desire to play God or to be God. All too often the church falls into this same trap of being impressed by gaudy display, which is regrettable.

When Jesus spoke to this man, had he looked up, instead of seeing one of regal display that impresses the world, he would have seen one who was totally different from what world had ever known. Yes, the regal display was there, but in a manner impossible for the world to duplicate. Christ's manner was registered in humility and love, which the world did not recognize or understand. Neither did the backslidden church of that day understand.

In John 5:7, the phrase, "Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool," tells of the resignation in the man's answer, especially considering the many years of his impotence, in which he despairs of ever finding help. Much of the world is in this same condition—no more hope remains. In other words, "having no hope, and without God in the world" (Eph. 2:12). This is the awfulness of a life without God—no hope.

The phrase, "I have no man," proclaims his dependence on man, which has brought nothing but disappointment because dependence on man can bring nothing but disappointment.

Sadder still is when much of the church, even those who claim to know and understand the power of God, no longer look to Him but to man.

The world of humanistic psychology is a perfect case in point. Most in the church are not taught to look to the Lord, but rather to this broken reed. It is the same as Israel looking to Egypt in her waning days instead of asking the Lord for help. Despite the prophesying of Jeremiah, they ignored

"THIS IS THE AWFULNESS OF A LIFE WITHOUT GOD—NO HOPE."

Jehovah, who was only yards away in the temple. Even at the expense of great treasure, they resorted to Egypt, which could give them no help whatsoever. How the mighty have fallen!

If we look to man, we will get the help that man provides, which is nothing. But if we look to God, we will get the help that He provides, which is magnificent indeed, as this man speaking with Jesus will soon learn.

When he addressed Jesus as "Sir," he did so because he had no idea that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God. Because of the love and humility that resided in Christ, these offenses never bothered Him. Instead, He pressed in closer that He might heal this man.

The phrase, "but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me," proclaims the fact that in the past thirty-eight years, the angel had visited this place several times with, it seems, some being healed. But due to his impotence, this man was not so fortunate.

Again, this man's condition was a type of Israel attempting to find life in the law. But in both cases, strength was required on the part of the person who sought what was promised, which guaranteed failure because man has no spiritual strength within himself. The greatest danger of all in the church is for believers to take that which points to Christ and attempt to make it an end within itself. The church points to Christ, but the church can save no one.

Likewise, the Lord's Supper and water baptism point to Christ—the one who saves—but these ordinances, of themselves, contain no salvation, yet many have mistaken them for salvation.

In the law, all pointed to Jesus, but Israel vainly attempted to make salvation out of the law.

I bear down on this point, even at the risk of repetition, simply because this problem is acute. As Israel fell into this trap, so does the modern church. All who look to the church or to its sacred ordinances for salvation will find themselves exactly as this impotent man beside the pool of Bethesda—imprisoned in helplessness.

THE PRICELESS CORNER

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 RELIEVE

- 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,

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."

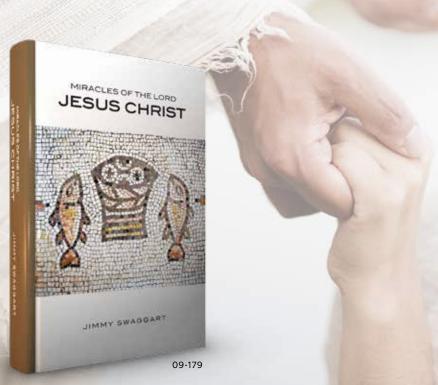
If you prayed this prayer in all sincerity, you are now a child of God. So that we might rejoice with you, we invite you to fill out this coupon and mail it to Jimmy Swaggart Ministries, P.O. Box 262550, Baton Rouge, LA 70826-2550. In Canada, mail to Jimmy Swaggart Ministries of Canada, P.O. Box 1020, Niagara Falls, Ontario, L2E 6V9. We will send you a free copy of Jimmy Swaggart's book *What Must I Do To Be Saved?* This book will help you grow in grace and knowledge.

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ARTICLE BY Frances Swaggart

Christmas is a glorious season, and I love everything about it—the decorations, the lights, special time with family, and carols that mean so much to the Christian heart. Most of all, I love that Jesus was born. God kept His promise and sent to us His only begotten Son.

Have You Ever Felt Like **Giving Up?**

BUT YOU CAN'T be in ministry for long and not see that for many people, this season is a sad time. Like winter days short on sun, some of you are dealing with more darkness than light. I got an email the other day that said, "I feel like giving up. I'm at the end of my rope. Can you pray for me?" We get a lot like that—letters and emails from believers, including preachers, who feel ready to throw up their hands and quit. "It's not working out," they say. "I've misread God; I've failed Him."

And that's exactly what the devil wants believers to say. The devil is doing everything in his power to stop you, hinder you, discourage you, and cause you to stop believing. But as my husband says, if you won't quit, God won't quit.

Maybe it helps to know that every believer, at one time or another, reaches the end of his rope and wants to give up. Trials, tribulations, and things that we plain don't understand happen to all of

us. In the early years of our ministry, we endured such times, including money problems, which is one of the biggest discouragements of all when trying to do the work of God. In fact, in one of our crusades my husband commented on those lean times, saying, "Back then, if somebody would have given me a nickel, I probably would have put it between two pieces of bread and tried to eat it!" He was being humorous, of course, but we do know what discouragement feels like, and we understand the struggle that so many people are engaged in today, in this economy, to pay a medical bill, a car note, or just put food on the table.

If you're in that place now, wondering if God even knows you're alive, then take what my husband and I learned long ago—it's just a season. It's not permanent. Peter wrote, "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations." And the reason? Peter said, "That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" (I Peter 1:6-7).

My husband and I had to learn, just like the ministers and missionaries that we listened to and read behind learned you have to stop struggling against the Hows and the Whys and the Whens that threaten to pull your faith under. Learn to trust the Lord.

Our children's pastor Jonathan Steele shared a great analogy about this. On a certain day at a water park where he worked, he heard unusual splashing and looked up to see that someone in a nearby pool was drowning. To his relief, he watched the lifeguard dive in

"But as my husband says, if you won't quit, God won't quit."



and swim toward the swimmer in trouble only to suddenly stop. Why wasn't the lifeguard helping? Finally, just before the exhausted swimmer went all the way under, the lifeguard resumed his efforts and pulled that swimmer to safety. But why did the lifeguard pause? Because that swimmer—desperate, panicked, flailing, and thrashing—could have caused them both to drown. The lifeguard had to wait until the swimmer stopped fighting. And that's what God does for us in our seasons of hard times. He wants us to stop fighting, give up, and admit, "Okay, I can't do it. But Lord, You can." And that's when God rushes to our rescue.

So during those seasons when our faith is developing, the Lord will step in to help. At other times, when we find ourselves in a valley, He walks with us.

Psalm 23:4 says, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me." Theologian Albert Barnes says this valley is "applicable not merely to death itself though it embraces that—but to any or all the dark, the dangerous, and the gloomy paths which we tread in life: to ways of sadness, solitude, and sorrow. All along those paths God will be a safe and certain guide. I will fear no evil—dark, cheerless, dismal as it seems, I will dread nothing. The true friend of God has nothing to fear in that dark valley. His great Shepherd will accompany him there, and can lead him safely through, however dark it may appear. The true believer has nothing to fear in the most gloomy scenes of life; he

has nothing to fear in the valley of death." Why? Because "Thou art with me."

Not long ago, Evangelist Jason Stidham was here ministering, and he shared the story of world relay champion Derek Redmond, a runner in the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games. While running the 400-meter race, Derek suffered a torn hamstring that immediately brought him to his knees. His competitors, of course, ran on. After a slight pause, Derek got up and continued, trotting on his good leg, determined to finish. His dad, who had been watching from the stands, ran onto the track, and father and son finished the race together. Years later, reflecting on that event, Derek said, "When you do get knocked down, and you get up, you get up as if that was the last time. If it isn't, you get up as if this time is the last time. If it isn't, you keep on doing that."1

Are there times when we feel like giving up? Yes, we're human. Is the valley of the shadow of death real? Yes. But if you are born again, then God is with you. As Brother Stidham encouraged us with that runner's story, he said, "Your heavenly Father is telling you, 'If you won't quit, we will finish together."

God is with us—it's His very name. Matthew 1:23 says, "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

¹"Derek Redmond on the power of perseverance: What defines you in life," https://olympics.com/ en/video/derek-redmond-on-the-power-ofperseverance-what-defines-you-in-life.

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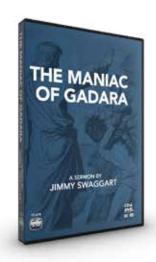
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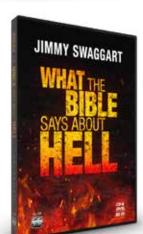
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THE MANIAC OF GADARA

In this riveting message, Evangelist Jimmy Swaggart takes his listeners on Christ's journey to the country of Gadara. On the way, Jesus calms a raging storm at sea, the wind and waves at His command. Likewise, upon meeting a maniac that no man could bind, Christ, in a word, sets him free, soothes his soul, and proves again just how far God will go to save a human soul. 15-737



WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT HELL

The Bible says that hell is a real place, and those who go there will suffer forever in flames, in torments, with weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth. In this sobering message, Evangelist Jimmy Swaggart reminds his listeners that the way is still broad that leads to destruction, and of the narrow way that leads to life through the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. 15-739

THE EXPOSITOR'S STUDY BIBI

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CHAPTER 8 LIFE IN THE SPIRIT THERE is therefore now no condemnation (gall) to them which are in Christ lesis (refers back to Rom. 6:3.5 and our being but

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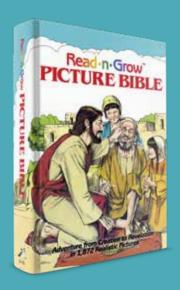
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ARTICLE BY **Donnie Swaggart**

In the previous two articles of this series, we looked at the Holy Spirit in the Godhead and the names of the Holy Spirit. Now let's look at biblical symbols of the Holy Spirit.



WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Symbols Of The **Holy Spirit**

MYER PEARLMAN, speaking of symbols said, "It has been well said that 'words are often but lame vehicles for the conveyance of truth. At their best, they but half reveal, half conceal, the hidden depths of thought.' God has chosen to illustrate with symbol what otherwise, because of the poverty of language, we could never know."1

Symbols are used to bring to the mind of the reader a specific function or purpose. So let's look at these symbols.

OIL. Pearlman says of this, "Whenever oil was used in the Old Testament it spoke of usefulness, fruitfulness, beauty, life, and transformation. It was commonly used for food, light, lubrication, healing, and soothing of the skin. In like manner, in the spiritual order, the Spirit strengthens, illumines, liberates, heals and soothes the soul."2

> When a king was chosen in Israel, he was anointed with oil. The oil that anointed the kings was, in effect, stating that their success in ruling came from God through the anointing of the Holy Spirit. In fact, when they were anointed, the oil was liberally poured upon them to the degree that from the head to the bottom of the robe was saturated in oil, symbolizing the fact that we can be saturated with God's power, guidance, and love as one is baptized in

the Holy Spirit. Oil was also used as fuel for lamps to illuminate a room. Likewise, we need the oil to burn bright in us. We need the oil to illuminate Christ in us. Oil also penetrates, saturates, and lubricates—all of which portray the work of the Holy Spirit.

"God has chosen to illustrate with symbol what otherwise, because of the poverty of language, we could never know." - MYER PEARLMAN

WATER. (Ex. 17:6, Ezek. 47:1-9, John 3:5, 4:14, 7:38-39.) Water speaks of life, or, as John 7:37-39 says, "Rivers of living water." Just as natural water is a necessary requirement for physical life, so too is the water of the Spirit necessary for spiritual life. Any church that welcomes the Holy Spirit and seeks

after the Holy Spirit is a church filled with life. There is an exuberance there—joy, worship. In other words, there is an obvious expression of spiritual life. Water symbolizes divine grace, refreshing, and purification. As the song says:

There's a river of life Flowing out from me, Makes the lame to walk And the blind to see

On the other hand, churches that do not believe in the Holy Spirit experience of Pentecost are dry, formal, and, for the most part, have no life.

FIRE. (Isa. 4:4, Matt. 3:11, Luke 3:16.) Fire speaks of the purging and purification of the Holy Spirit. As John 3:11 states, "He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire." The fire of the Holy Spirit refines us and purifies us. Fire molds us into that which the Lord desires just as natural fire is used to mold and shape metal. And just as fire can warm a house, spiritual fire warms the heart of the believer.

WIND. (John 3:8, Acts 2:2.) Wind speaks of power, as in the rushing, mighty wind of Acts 2. Kenneth Wuest, in his Greek expanded translation of the Bible, says this: "An echoing sound out of heaven as a wind borne along violently." And Zodhiates Word Study Dictionary, New Testament describes this "wind" as "violent wind," "storm," "a hurricane," all of which speaks of power. The Holy Spirit is

power—power to heal, deliver, and save. Every miracle performed by the Lord during His earthly ministry was done through the power of the Holy Spirit.

DOVE. Pearlman says of this, "The dove, as a symbol speaks of gentleness, tenderness, loveliness, innocence, mildness, peace, purity, and patience. Among the Syrians it is an emblem of the life-giving powers of nature. A Jewish tradition translates Gen. 1:2 says, as follows: 'The Spirit of God like a dove brooded over the waters.' Christ spoke of the dove as the embodiment of the harmlessness which was characteristic of His own disciples."3

The Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove in all four gospels. Mark D. McLean says of this, "The dove was a poor person's substitute for a lamb and identified Jesus as the Lamb of God who by His sacrifice on Calvary takes away sin."4

The Holy Spirit's influence and His working in us is always gentle, hence the use of the dove as an appropriate symbol. The Holy Spirit as the dove will never force Himself upon us. We must yield to Him. We must also be very careful how we treat the Holy Spirit and how we respond to the Holy Spirit.

By the use of these symbols, we begin to see how the Holy Spirit operates and how He functions in our lives and in the church. 🥒

SOURCES:

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

⁴Mark D. McLean, "The Holy Spirit," in Systemic Theology, ed. Stanley M. Horton (Springfield, Missouri: Gospel Publishing House, 1994), 266.

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Rahab And Other Miracles

Rahab, a harlot doomed to die without God and without hope, had heard of the great miracles performed by Jehovah, and they ignited in her a spark of faith. But how did this woman, who had given her life to licentiousness, find grace in the sight of God? Evangelist Jimmy Swaggart shares the powerful story of how God saved Rahab and her family, turned her harlotry into holiness, and lifted her life into the lineage of the Lord Jesus Christ. In this beautiful testimony of faith, readers will gain a true understanding of how God responds to anyone who dares to believe Himwith miracle after miracle after miracle. 09-174

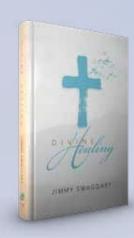


The Resurrection

Next to the miracle of salvation, the resurrection is the most exciting, the most thrilling and the most glorious of all doctrines in the Word of God. Why? Because as mortals, we carry inside of us the dread of death. Inevitably, death comes to us and to our loved ones and, when it does, we need a living faith. The great truth on resurrection, as relayed by the apostle Paul, has brought more comfort to mourners than any human words ever written. In this anointed book, Evangelist Jimmy Swaggart reveals the power of Christ's resurrection which enables every believer, and His church, to rise again. 09-156

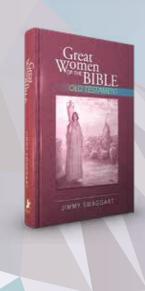


What Jesus Christ did at the cross is what formulated the new covenant and made it a viable force. In this revelatory book, Evangelist Jimmy Swaggart takes his readers from the law given at Mount Sinai to the grace of Calvary's cross. Though many in the church today still see Him as the lawgiver, this Bible-based book shows the Lord Jesus Christ as the forgiver of sins, the Savior of the world, and the very person of the new covenant. Believers who dare to follow the new covenant and all of its teachings will reap God's blessing, His favor, and everlasting victory. 09-167



Divine Healing

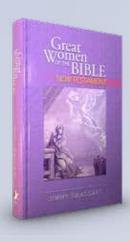
Does the Lord still heal the sick? If so, why doesn't He heal every person every time? And does it hinder a believer's faith to see doctors or take medicine? These and many other questions related to divine healing are answered in this illuminating book. Through testimonies of healings—his own, some he witnessed, and those found in Scripture—Evangelist Jimmy Swaggart reveals how the promises of God, perseverance, and properly placed faith operated in the lives of those who were miraculously healed by the power of God. 09-139



HMMY SWAGGART

Great Women Of The Bible, Old Testament

Since the creation of mankind, God has used women to help fulfill His plan of redemption. In this powerful book Brother Swaggart informs his readers of scriptural details of the lineage, circumstances, and immovable faith of several women named in the Old Testament. Included is Sarah, who bore a miracle child at the age of 90; Rahab, whose plea for salvation for her and her house was granted; Naomi and Ruth, who modeled types of Israel and the church; and Esther, who was chosen over all other women to be queen of the Persian Empire. Also included is the beautiful story of Rebekah and her marriage to Isaac, symbolic of Christ and His bride, the church. 09-120



Great Women Of The Bible, New Testament

This volume looks into the lives of New Testament women who made phenomenal contributions to the plan and work of God. Nearly 200 pages are dedicated just to the story of Mary from her lineage in the house of David to her miraculous role as the mother of our Lord. In this book, Brother Swaggart also explores the tremendous faith of these women: Mary Magdalene, who announced the resurrection of Jesus Christ: Mary and Martha. who watched Him raise their brother Lazarus from the dead; Phebe and the elect lady, and Lydia, who hosted the first church in her home. Two chapters also address the roles of women in the home and in the church, 09-121



ARTICLE BY Gabriel Swaggart

As a pastor, encouraging families to live strong for the Lord is something very close to my heart. Being raised by Christian parents and supported by Christian grandparents is one of the greatest blessings that I believe a child can experience. Part of that child's blessing is growing up hearing the testimonies of faith from those they love most.

Faith In The Telling

AS A GROWNUP with four daughters of my own, I still love to hear my grandfather tell how he sat at his grandmother's feet, excited to hear again and again how she received the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Why did he love hearing it? And why does his grandson and his great-granddaughters love hearing it? Because there is faith in the telling. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 says, "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up."

There is no easier time for parents and grandparents to talk about the Word of God with their children than at Christmastime. As a kid, I remember sitting on the floor with my sister and brother, listening to Papaw tell us the story of Jesus' birth, and no one tells it like he does! I captured one of his renditions to share here, in the hope that maybe, instead of reading your kids stories about reindeer, snowmen, and Santa, you can read them this—a children's version of the Christmas story as told by Evangelist Jimmy Swaggart.

"I'm going to tell you a story tonight, and it's the most important story that's ever been told, so I want you to listen very, very carefully to me now. In a little town by the

name of Nazareth, not far from the Sea of Galilee in Israel, there was a house, and young lady by the name of Mary lived there. She was thrilled to death, getting everything ready because in just a short time, she was to be married to a young man by the name of Joseph. He was a carpenter.

That night she was hurrying about trying to get things done when, all of a sudden, the room filled with light, and she saw an angel standing there before her. His clothing literally shone with beauty, and it was like a thousand light bulbs were on. The angel spoke and said, "I am Gabriel who stands in the presence of God, and I've come all the way from heaven to tell you this: the prophet Isaiah said that a virgin shall conceive and bring forth a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us."

And so, just a short time later, she and Joseph were married. But then, right before, well, let me say this quickly, nearly a year passed—really about nine months—and Mary was given the news by her husband, Joseph, that they had to go to the town called Bethlehem because one of the Caesars, who was mean, had given instructions that every person in the land of Israel had to go to the city where they were born to pay taxes. And Mary said to Joseph, "What am I going to do? It's just a few days before Baby Jesus

"I'm going to tell you a story tonight, and it's the most important story that's ever been told..."

will be born." And Joseph said, "Well, we don't have any choice, we have to go." I don't know how they went, but probably he got a wagon, and Mary lay down in the back of that wagon. The roads were rough, and it was about seventy-five miles that Joseph and Mary had to go. They got to Bethlehem, because that's where both of them had been born; they were of the tribe of Judah.

At an inn there, Joseph went in to say, "Can I get a room? My wife is about to have a baby, and we have nowhere to go. And the man said, "I'm sorry. I don't have anything for y'all. I don't even know why you're here anyway." Joseph said, "Sir, I've got to have something because my wife is about to have a baby. She's already feeling the pains in her body." He said, "Well, you can go out in the stable where the cows and the horses and the sheep and the mules are. That's all I've got. If you don't want that, then get out of here!" And Joseph said, "Well, I don't have anywhere else to go." So they pulled the wagon around to where the sheep and the horses were stabled, and Joseph got some hay together, and he had Mary to lay down on the hay. And soon, Baby Jesus was born, who was the Son of the living God, born in Bethlehem in a manger, in a stable, where Joseph had to push the cows out of the way and the sheep.

But, a little bit outside of Bethlehem, there were some



shepherds and, all of a sudden, they said, "Do you hear that? They're singing 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men." And other shepherds stood there and started looking up and the whole heavens were filled with angels singing, "On earth peace, goodwill toward men." And those shepherds went into Bethlehem saying, "We want to see this Child."

But wait a minute, there's one more story. Joseph and Mary went back to Nazareth. And one day, when Jesus was about a year and half old, there was knock at the door. And Mary told Joseph, "You better see who it is." Joseph went to the door and there stood three wise men. They said, "A star appeared where we were, and we were told by the ancient prophecies that if we followed that star, it will lead us to the Son of God." And they said, "We've got some gifts—gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These are for Baby Jesus."

And King Herod had asked, "Where is this king to be born?" and the priests said, "Bethlehem." And so Herod told the wise men, "Come back and tell me where He is so I can worship Him" But Herod was evil and mean. He didn't want to worship Jesus, he wanted to kill Him. But one more time, an angel appeared to Joseph and said, "Go into Egypt because Herod will kill Baby Jesus if He stays here. And I will appear to you and tell you when you can come back." And the angel did just that saying, "Herod is dead. You can go back now. Everything is safe."

And Jesus was raised by Joseph and Mary, became a young man, and He was the Son of the living God and died on Calvary's cross that we might be saved. Praise God."

We get to hear this story each and every Christmas in our household, and we always enjoy listening to it. I hope you enjoyed it as well. Jill and I are so thankful that our girls— Samantha, Abby, Caroline, and Mackenzie—are growing up hearing this same Christmas story, the same gospel, and that they are surrounded by the same family who love and serve the Lord faithfully. From our family to you and yours, we wish you a blessed and merry Christmas and a happy New Year!



























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1:00:00 AM				
1:30:00 AM				
2:00:00 AM 2:30:00 AM	FWC Music	FWC Music	FWC Music	FWC Music
3:00:00 AM				
3:30:00 AM	Jimmy Swaggart Broadcast	Jimmy Swaggart Broadcast	Family Worship Center - Associate Pastor Broadcast	Jimmy Swaggart Broadcast
4:00:00 AM				
4:30:00 AM			FWC Music	
5:00:00 AM				
5:30:00 AM	FWC Music	FWC Music		FWC Music
6:00:00 AM		A Charles The West		
6:30:00 AM	Family Worship Center - Associate Pastor Broadcast	A Study In The Word	A Study In The Word	A Study In The Word
7:00:00 AM		FWC Music	FWC Music	FWC Music
7:30:00 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)
8:00:00 AM		THO I	THE STATE OF THE S	- IVI
8:30:00 AM	Preachers, Patriots & Providence	FWC Music	FWC Music	FWC Music
9:00:00 AM	A Study In The Month	Insight (Live)	Insight (Live)	Insight (Live)
9:30:00 AM	A Study In The Word	Frances & Friends (Live)	Frances & Friends (Live)	Frances & Friends (Live)
10:00:00 AM	Family Worship Center Sunday Live Service			
10:30:00 AM				
11:00:00 AM		EWC Music	EWC Music	EM/C Music
11:30:00 AM		FWC Music	FWC Music	A Study In The Word
12:00:00 PM	FWC Music	A Study In The Word	A Study In The Word	A Study In The Word
12:30:00 PM	- Widsic	Jimmy Swaggart Crusade Classics	Family Worship Center - Associate Pastor Broadcast	Jimmy Swaggart Crusade Classics
1:00:00 PM	Generation of The Cross E/I		FWC Music	
1:30:00 PM	Generation of the cross E/I		TWO WILLSIC	
2:00:00 PM	Family Worship Center Morning Service	FWC Music		The Story Behind The Song
2:30:00 PM	(Repeat Of AM Service)	THO MUSIC		FWC Music
3:00:00 PM		Jimmy Swaggart Broadcast	Gabriel Swaggart Broadcast	Jimmy Swaggart Broadcast
3:30:00 PM		onning orraggart broadcast	Sabrici Swaggart Broadcast	
4:00:00 PM				
4:30:00 PM	FWC Music			
5:00:00 PM	Crossfire Service E/I	Insight (Re-Air)	Insight (Re-Air)	Insight (Re-Air)
5:30:00 PM		A Study In The Word	A Study In The Word	A Study In The Word
6:00:00 PM	Family Worship Center Sunday Evening	*	Frances & Friends (Re-Air)	FWC Music
6:30:00 PM	Live Service	(,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	()	
7:00:00 PM				Family Worship Center Live Service
7:30:00 PM	FWC Music			
8:00:00 PM	The Story Behind The Song	The Message of the Cross (Re-Air)	The Message of the Cross (Re-Air)	
8:30:00 PM	Family Worship Center Morning Service	` '		FWC Music
9:00:00 PM	(Repeat Of AM Service)	Donnie Swaggart Broadcast	Jimmy Swaggart Broadcast	The Message of the Cross (Re-Air)
9:30:00 PM				
10:00:00 PM				Frances & Friends (Re-Air)
10:30:00 PM				
11:00:00 PM	FWC Music	FWC Music	FWC Music	
11:30:00 PM				

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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
			10:30:00 AM
			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 4:00:00 PM
Donnie Swaggart Broadcast	Jimmy Swaggart Broadcast	Gabriel Swaggart Broadcast	4:30:00 PM
			5:00:00 PM
			5:30:00 PM
			6:00:00 PM
Insight (Re-Air)	Insight (Re-Air)	The Message of the Cross (Re-Air)	6:30:00 PM
A Study In The Word	A Study In The Word		7:00:00 PM
Frances & Friends (Re-Air)	Frances & Friends (Re-Air)	Jimmy Swaggart Crusade Classics	7:30:00 PM
			8:00:00 PM
			8:30:00 PM
			9:00:00 PM
The Message of the Cross (Re-Air)	The Message of the Cross (Re-Air)	Preachers, Patriots & Providence	9:30:00 PM
Creative Comics Ell	Cabaial Comment Baradasat	Family Warship Contact Madage	10:00:00 PM
Crossfire Service E/I	Gabriel Swaggart Broadcast	Family Worship Center Wednesday Night Service (repeat)	10:30:00 PM
EMC Music			11:00:00 PM
FWC Music		FWC Music	11:30:00 PM
	FWC Music	Crossfire Service E/I	12:00:00 AM
	- Wo Music	Olossine Service E/I	12:30:00 AM
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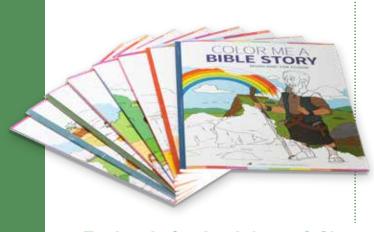
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In this riveting message, Pastor Donnie Swaggart challenges believers to stand for righteousness and reflect the truth of Jesus Christ while upholding two moral pillars: traditional marriage as God ordained, and the sanctity of human life. As the world we live in continues to darken, born-again believers are exhorted to wake up, redeem the time, and walk wisely as children of light. 15-728



That Others May Live

In this special tribute, Pastor Donnie Swaggart shares a heartfelt message that honors the sacrifice of servicemen and women who died defending the freedoms of the United States of America. Teaching from John 12:24, Pastor Donnie ties their fullest measure of devotion to the greatest sacrifice ever known to humanity—Jesus Christ and Him crucified. 15-727



To Set At Liberty Them That Are Bruised

In a message taken from Luke 4, Pastor Donnie Swaggart addresses the sensitive subject of child abuse—physical, sexual, and verbal—and its long-term effects on survivors. The One anointed to heal the brokenhearted can also set the bruised free. 15-647



Calling all high school students ages 16-18! Join us at Jimmy Swaggart Bible College for JSBC Campus Days—a fun on-campus experience—January 25-28, 2024. For information or to sign up visit www.jsbc.edu!

I am a media member and every month my siblings and I take turns in a "Zoom" family devotion. I live here in California, and my other brother lives in Switzerland, while my three other siblings live in the Philippines. I get an article from *The Evangelist*, and when it's my turn to share the Word, it really blesses me and my family! I will be patiently waiting for my next delivery. God bless! —CALIFORNIA



In 2013. I was told I had irreversible [damage] to my spine. I was using a walker and being fitted for my wheelchair. The Holy Spirit gave me a message to begin clapping and singing along with the praise and worship service. Brother Jimmy repeated verbatim the message the Holy Spirit gave me! I started out sitting and clapping my hands and within a week I was up on my walker praising along. By three weeks, I was back walking! I'm not my younger body, but I'm grateful for every step. Thank you, Brother Swaggart, for yielding to the Holy Spirit and letting Him use you. God bless JSM. -NORTH CAROLINA

I love your ministry and can't get enough of all your programs since I rededicated my live fully to my Lord Jesus. I've not looked back and never will! I watch your program every day and your live preaching. Thank you for listening to God's instructions to start this ministry. Love y'all so much and

continue what God has led you to do!

-TEXAS

I just wanted to say that I grew up in an Assembly of God church, was saved, parents divorced, and I went down a wrong road. I was thankful I have two

"I read in Portuguese all the Expositor's Bible with its notes from Brother Jimmy Swaggart, and I was so blessed."

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



Hello, I wanted to express my appreciation for The Psalms CD that Brother Swaggart did. As a police officer, I listen to The Psalms CD every morning on the way to work. I find that listening to the Word of God and the music helps me to have the proper frame of mind to fulfill my purpose and calling. Thanks again for the music! -TEXAS

You can purchase The Psalms CD (02-208) at www.shopjsm.org

go back to church. I stumbled upon your SBN station and watch every Sunday now! I have been unable to find a good church locally, especially not having a car makes it difficult to get to a church, but SBN has been a really great! -PENNSYLVANIA

My husband and I have been in the ministry for close to forty years. We pastored a church for twenty-eight years and are now involved in our son-in-law and daughter's church. My husband is eighty-one and I am seventy-three. The

past few months, we have been watching your ministry on TV. Both of us have been so blessed! We have ordered ten of the Bibles—three for ourselves and seven for our children and their spouses. Your ministry has revived us, and we both are learning more about Jesus and the cross! Thank you all for your ministry. — EMAIL

Through the years, I have been watching Evangelist Jimmy Swaggart, and I've been so impacted by his messages and

boldness, songs, and ministry. I see the urgency of running with this gospel in all over the world, starting from my country, Mozambique. Jesus is coming and there is not time to waste! I want with all my heart to serve the Lord. I read in Portuguese all the Expositor's Bible with its notes from Brother Jimmy Swaggart, and I was so blessed. I really want to be a soul winner like Brother Swaggart, and I believe it is possible by the grace and power of our mighty God! -MOZAMBIQUE



We would love to hear from you! Please email your comments to info@jsm.org



ARTICLE BY Dr. Don Paul Gray

"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise; When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto you Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins." —MATTHEW 1:18-21

The Christmas Story: Why, When, Where?

DOES THE CHURCH CELEBRATE THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS? In Galatians 4:4, the apostle Paul declares, "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son." Notice the phrase that Paul uses, "fulness of the time." Luke 2:1-4 reads, "And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one in his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem."

Luke 2:7 tells us that at this time the virgin Mary, "Brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." However, nine months earlier, in the "fulness of time," I believe the great God of heaven whispered passionately to His Son, the second person of the Trinity, "I can wait no longer, I need you, My Son, to go to the world below, My beloved creation, to teach them and provide for them the way out of despair, bondage, hopelessness and sin."

One of my very favorite gospel songs, "O What A Savior," was written in 1948 by Marvin P. Dalton, and the lyrics, in part, state:

Once I was straying in sin's dark valley, No hope within could I see, They searched through heaven and found a Savior To save a poor lost soul like me.

O what a Savior! O hallelujah! His heart was broken on Calvary, His hands were nail scared, His side was riven, He gave His life-blood for even me.

What a great song and what a great truth. The Christmas story is all about Christ invading our world to save fallen mankind from sin. The angel told Joseph, "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21). And now, for two thousand years, that has been happening.

"...for he shall save his people from their sins."



WAS JESUS CHRIST, THE BABE OF BETHLEHEM, REALLY **BORN ON DECEMBER 25?** The Gregorian calendar reminds us every year to celebrate the birth of Christ on December 25. However, from my studies, I now believe that the babe of Bethlehem was not actually born on December 25. In my studies of the Greek and Roman culture, up through the third and fourth century, Saturnalia (worship of the god Saturn) was celebrated, associated with the winter solstice. This was a pagan celebration observed annually from December 17 to 25. During this time in December, leading up to December 25, millions of pagans, in the Greek and Roman world exchanged gifts, laughed, and celebrated with the finest cuisine and drink. Some historical sources say that Emperor Constantine I, in AD 337, as an alternative to the pagan celebration of Saturnalia, began to officially promote December 25 as a date and time to celebrate the birth of Christ. Other historical sources tell us that the bishop of Rome, Julius I, agreed with this and officially declared in AD 350 that the church would celebrate the birth of Christ on December 25. So, since AD 337 and/or AD 350, Christians began embracing the tradition of celebrating the birth of Christ on December 25 and this has continued down through the centuries of time.

After studying the historical timeline of the reigns of Caesar Augustus and King Herod of Palestine and then the biblical and Jewish record of the taxation by Cyrenius, governor of Syria mentioned by Josephus, many scholars believe that this trip to Bethlehem actually occurred in the fall of the year, after the Jewish harvest and somewhat near the time of the Jewish

celebration of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. Yom Kippur always occurs in late September or early October. This could mean that Joseph and Mary made their trip from Nazareth to Bethlehem in late September or early October.

Luke 2:8 tells us that shepherds were in the field, "keeping watch over their flock by night" when the angel appeared to them announcing the birth of Christ. New Testament scholars remind us that the shepherds did not graze their sheep in the open fields at night during the winter months; it was too cold.

So, will I now set a date in the fall of the year to celebrate Christmas? Absolutely not. I will enjoy December 25.

In John 1:29, John the Baptist declared about his cousin Jesus, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." Sin is mentioned 112 times in the New Testament. The Greek word for sin is *hamartia*, which is interpreted as "an offense; to err or trespass; to miss the mark." It means to mess up. Sin is destructive and brings shame, regret, and heartache.

Dear friend, you don't have to live in sin, shame, and bondage. You can be free. In I John 1:7 John writes, "But if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

The apostle John said "all." How do we truly experience forgiveness of sin and be set free from the power of sin? It is only by sincere faith and complete trust in what Christ did on Calvary. We must be fully persuaded that Christ really, really died for us. He shed his life's blood to cleanse us and pardon us from all sins.

Understanding Christmas is understanding and believing with all of our heart, mind, and soul that God truly loves us and wants us to be free from sin, shame, and brokenness. Simply, in prayer, admit to God that you have sinned, and you need a Savior. Ask Him to forgive you and to live in you. Declare to God that you want to make Christ the Lord of your life and that you will serve Him with all of your heart, soul, and mind. Afterward, testify to others that you have decided to be a follower of Christ. Then, as soon as you can, present yourself to your pastor to be baptized in water as a testimony of faith.



ARTICLE BY Loren Larson

"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." —HEBREWS 4:16

Mercy and Grace in Time of Need

COME BOLDLY UNTO THE THRONE OF GRACE

In the setting of the book of Hebrews, the author is attempting to show why the covenant established by Christ supersedes the covenant given to Israel as given by the hand of Moses. For the first century church, this was an extremely difficult concept to grasp. For 1,600 years, the law of Moses had reigned supreme as the revelation of God to man. With the coming of Jesus, a more complete revelation of God's nature, character, and redemption plan was introduced. The apostle Paul was attempting to stabilize the early church in the truths of the new covenant by explaining that what Christ had done at Calvary introduced a better covenant with better promises. One of the emphases of his argument was that Jesus had taken on the role of high priest, replacing the old system of high

priests that had come through the line of Aaron. Jesus is the High Priest who will remain in that role for all eternity. He walked on the earth as a man and understands the dangers, the temptations, the afflictions, and the heartache of those who are willing to live for God in a world that opposes Him. Jesus will stand forever as both our Advocate and as our access to the heavenly Father. We must realize that whenever we have a need, every believer has the right to enter into the presence of God and ask for aid with that issue. Based on this truth, we enter the presence of God boldly, not arrogantly. We stand assured that what Christ has done for us at Calvary is sufficient to grant us access at any time, regardless of our circumstances. Precious believer, you may march boldly into the presence of God. Through Christ, your entrance and your acceptance is assured.

MERCY

The idea of mercy and our need to obtain it generally occurs after the believer has experienced a failure of some kind. It is an unrealistic expectation to believe that we would never fall short of God's glory in our journey as a Christian. As a matter of fact, that would be unscriptural to assume. So, what must we know when we fail? What must we be assured of regarding God's response to us? And what would allow a holy God to commune with a failing saint? The answer lies in the knowledge of what Christ has done for us on Calvary. On Calvary, God laid upon Christ the sin penalty for all human failings. There was not one sin that has existed. does exist, or will ever exist that was not paid for by Christ's death on Golgotha. With the confidence gained from the knowledge of Christ's sacrifice, the believer who has failed should come to the Father and confess his fault. This evidences that he agrees with God in regard to his wrong action or attitude. He agrees with God that he did wrong, and he appeals to God for mercy by this action. According to I John 1:9, God will always be faithful and just to forgive us our sin and cleanse us

"...God's grace becomes a reality in the form of the supernatural help of the Holy Spirit."

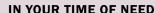
from all unrighteousness. Beloved, go boldly to the throne and confess to the Father your wrongdoing. If this is done in humility and faith, then God will never fail to extend mercy. It is His great pleasure and right to do this for His children.

GRACE

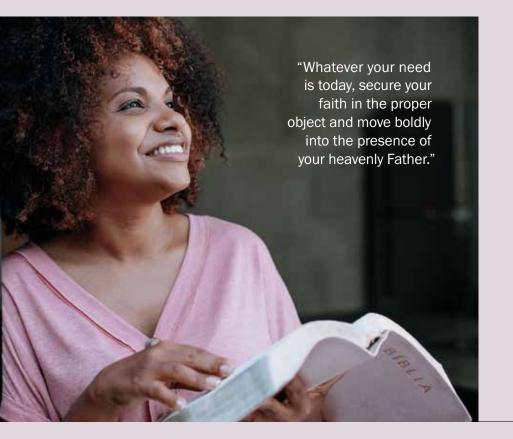
It is one thing to gain forgiveness, and it is quite another thing to be kept from failing. A repentant soul that confesses his sin to God can be assured of being forgiven. But repentance is not

deliverance. We not only need mercy, but we also need God's grace to help us rise above the sin and the weights that do so easily beset us. To this end, the Holy Spirit was given at salvation. That is, as the believer's object of faith remains constant upon Christ and His finished work, the Holy Spirit will be faithful to reveal wrong to us and supply the power to rise above any ungodly action or attitude. Salvation supplies us with the tools to be conformed into the image of Christ. But this transformation cannot be accomplished by

human effort. It can only be accomplished by grace which is available as the believer trusts exclusively in Christ and the cross. With our dependence upon Christ, God's grace becomes a reality in the form of the supernatural help of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is given to quicken our mortal bodies, and it causes us to rise above every sin agent that we face. God's grace is greater than the sin nature, the world's influence, the misleading lies of the powers of darkness, and even the pull of the flesh. God's grace, in the form of the moving and operation of the Holy Spirit within you, is able to empower us above and beyond every desire that we have toward sin. Once the believer has repented, he should look toward Christ, his faithful High Priest, to supply him with grace that is needed to rise above sin.



Dear friends, I am so glad I can tell you that in every situation, God's mercy and God's grace is available for all who come to Him in faith. Without faith it is impossible to please Him. Our faith must not be in ourselves, our church, our disciplines, or any other religious activity. Coming to God in faith means that our trust and our dependence rests entirely upon Christ and His finished work. Whatever your need is today, secure your faith in the proper object and move boldly into the presence of your heavenly Father. There you will find both mercy and grace to help in your time of need. 🥒





ARTICLE BY John Rosenstern

Well-known German philosopher and one of the teachers to many of the world's leading communist revolutionaries, Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche, said of Christianity, "I condemn Christianity; I bring against the Christian Church the most terrible of all accusations that an accuser has ever had in his mouth. It is, to me, the greatest of all imaginable corruptions; it seeks to work the ultimate corruption, the worse possible corruption. The Christian Church has left nothing untouched by its depravity it has turned...every integrity into baseness of soul."



CULTURAL REVOLUTION

Country Without God

ABOLISH CHRISTIANITY

Historically, Christianity was criticized by many well-known thinkers and philosophers such as Voltaire, David Hume, Thomas Paine and the Baron d'Holbach. Although America's Founding Fathers strongly advocated and referenced Judeo-Christian principles in our founding documents, through subtlety, Marxist-thinking progressives sought to gradually remove our Christian heritage and replace it with communist principles. Organizations were created with the sole intention of eradicating Christianity and its influence from American society. Roger Baldwin and Crystal Eastman founded the American Civil Liberties Union in 1920 along with several other organizations dedicated to the most Leftist and progressive causes. In 1931, the U.S. Congress was alarmed by the ACLU's devotion to communism. Congress investigated the ACLU and prepared a special report revealing that the ACLU was "closely affiliated with the communist movement in the United States, and fully 90 percent of its efforts were on behalf of communists who have come into conflict with the law."2

The ACLU claims to stand for free speech, free press, and free assembly, but it is of concern to observe that a function of the ACLU may have been an attempt to protect the communists.

Baldwin openly sought for the utter destruction of American society. Fifteen years after the founding of the ACLU, Baldwin boasted: "I joined. I don't regret being a part of the Communist tactic, which increased the effectiveness of a good cause. I knew what I was doing. I was not an innocent liberal. I wanted what the Communists wanted."³

Baldwin would also say, "I am for socialism, disarmament, and, ultimately, for abolishing the state itself... I seek the social ownership of property, the abolition of the propertied class, and the sole control of those who produce wealth. Communism is the goal."

CPUSA

Earl Browder, the general secretary of the Communist Party of the United States of America (CPUSA) in the 1930s through the mid-1940s, ran twice for president of the United States. While leading the CPUSA, he directed the transformation of the CPUSA into a communist political association. The long-term objective of communism was to change American laws, but to do so, the communists had to remove the established foundations of society first. Through the concept of gradualism, they had cleverly leavened communist principles into

"It is obvious to see the devastating effects that socialist and communist principles have had on the United States."

FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE

every fabric of American life. Few today can distinguish communist principles from biblical principles.

As recently as 2012 the Democratic Party publicly and politically tried to dump God from its platform. In 2008 the Democratic platform declared, "We need a government that stands for the hopes, values, and interests of the working

people, and gives everyone willing to work hard the chance to make the most of their God-given potential." In 2012, "Godgiven" was briefly taken out. The Democrats merely embraced, "The simple principle that hard work should pay off, responsibility should be rewarded, and each one of us should be able to go as far as our talent drives us."5

After much criticism from conservative news and Republican politicians the Democrat camp tried to undo the damage as quickly as possible. Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, the Democratic Convention chairman, called on former Ohio governor Ted Strickland, who moved to suspend the rules in order to amend the platform to restore the former "God" and "Israel" language. This required two-thirds voice vote, but while Villaraigosa's teleprompter read that the motion passed, the vote hall sounded like no such thing. So the mayor called for a re-vote. Again, no two-thirds. And another re-vote, which sounded the same. Finally Villaraigosa simply declared that the motion passed. Obama immediately had his advisories go on many news programs for damage control. Valerie Jarrett, David Axelrod, DNC Chairwomen Debbie Wasserman, and Newark Mayor Cory Booker gave Obama credit for the reversal and affirmed that America had a president who loved God.

CPUSA/ACLU/PLANNED PARENTHOOD

One of the more intriguing developments of many members of the CPUSA is their admiration of Margaret Sanger. ACLU co-founder Crystal Eastman, for example, held Planned Parenthood founder Sanger, in highest regard. According to Eastman, feminists must all be followers of Sanger.

Sanger was a passionate advocate of eugenics—the attempt to improve the human race through selective breeding. Sanger believed that abortion was a primary means of improving the human race. She taught that the most merciful thing a family does to one of its infant members is to kill it. Roger Baldwin was also a great admirer of Sanger. He heaped praise on Sanger, claiming that she was a frail, beautiful, unassuming woman while she always had a quiet insistence on the rightness of what she was doing. Sanger's despicable influence still resonates throughout America today. Since the Roe v. Wade decision in 1973, estimates on the number of abortions performed range from sixty million to seventy million.

The ACLU fights for the most extreme of pro-abortion positions, including support for partial-birth abortion and opposition to parental consent for minors. The adoration of Sanger set the tone for the ACLU concerning the issue of abortion.

Baldwin and Eastman's agenda included every facet of civil rights, as they saw it, including marriage. Recently, the ACLU has extended its defense to include LGBTQ issues: "Today, the ACLU brings more LGBTQ rights cases and advocacy initiatives than any other national organization does."7

It is obvious to see the devastating effects that socialist and communist principles have had on the United States. The tearing down of the nuclear family unit, education, healthcare, religion, the economy, the media, the corporate world, and clearly in politics, are all symptoms of a nation that has turned its back on God. The only answer is repentance. It's not too late for the bright and morning star, Jesus Christ, to arise again. He is life. Let us turn back to Him before it is too late. **

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- ² https://aclu.procon.org/historical-timeline/
- ³ http://libertytree.ca/quotes/Roger.Baldwin.Quote.9B41
- 4 https://www.azquotes.com/author/832-Roger_Nash_Baldwin
- ⁵ https://www3.trincoll.edu/csrpl/RINVOI14N2/Democrats Dump God.htm)
- 6 https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/OTUS/
- democrats-rapidly-revise-platform-include-god/story?id=17164108
- ⁷ https://www.aclu.org/issues/lgbtq-rights



ARTICLE BY Mike Muzzerall

Life is filled with opportunities to celebrate: the arrival of a newborn child, accomplishing academic goals, purchasing your first car, moving into your first home, or finding someone who makes you heart skip a beat. One of the greatest expressions of celebration is in sports when thousands will stand to their feet and cheer. But we have a greater reason to celebrate—we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Celebrate

WHILE IT IS possible to celebrate Christmas without incorporating manmade traditions, which does trouble some Christians, all believers can celebrate the birth of Christ. Certainly this is a good reason to celebrate.

WE CELEBRATE THE INCARNATION

Isaiah, the Messianic prophet, proclaimed more than any other prophet the coming, the ministry, the death, the resurrection, and the millennial reign of the Messiah. He prophesied of the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. Time wise, true prophecy has to be separated far enough from the fulfillment so that it is clearly seen as prophecy. Seven hundred years before the event definitely met that condition. True prophecy also has to have

specific details so that it is seen as clearly prophetic and not just guesswork. Isaiah said, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" (Isa. 7:14). Immanuel means "God with us." Imagine that—God sent His Son born of a virgin and living among us! Certainly, this is a good reason to celebrate.

WE CELEBRATE GOD'S LOVE

We celebrate God's love. The Bible says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but



"His birth made it possible for Him to be our substitution on the cross. Certainly, this is a good reason to celebrate."

have everlasting life" (John 3:16). God's love is a universal love that transcends national borders and ethnicities. That love went beyond mere words. God put action to His words of love. He gave us a baby, born of a virgin, who would grow up to express the love of God to us in the most tangible way. Certainly, this is a good reason to celebrate.

WE CELEBRATE THE PURPOSE

The importance of Jesus' birth is found in the importance of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The birth was the physical implementation of God's plan of redemption. The cradle of Christ is only important because the cross of Christ is important. We celebrate the birth of Christ because of the purpose of His incarnation. Jesus came to become the sin sacrifice, the Paschal Lamb, the kinsmen-redeemer, and the Savior for all who believe. His birth made it possible for Him to be our substitution on the cross. Certainly, this is a good reason to celebrate.

WE CELEBRATE HIS SOON RETURN

I have always loved celebrating the birth of Christ. As a child I would lay down in

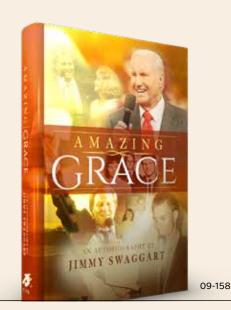
front of the nativity set and talk to "baby Jesus." Of course now that I have grown up and benefited from the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the celebration means so much more. In the songs we sing, in the sermons we hear, and in the time we spend in His presence, we celebrate Christ.

He is coming back soon for His bride. In that moment, when we hear the trump of God and a divine shout, we will enter into a greater dimension of celebration. Till then, keep your faith on the completed work of Calvary and celebrate!

AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY BY JIMMY SWAGGART

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ARTICLE BY Jonathan Steele

Life is full of difficult circumstances. That sentence alone will ring true with everyone who is reading this article now. I would even say that some of you have thought of a specific event in your life, whether past or present as you read that sentence.

There is a Purpose for Your Pain

THERE ARE THINGS that we all have faced and are going to face that seem too difficult to bear—losing a loved one to a deadly disease, having a spouse hurt you physically or emotionally, walking through a "shadow of death" experience, suffering through a mental illness—you name it, and someone has gone through it.

Even though that list is not exhaustive, there is a common thread that runs through all of them: pain. When losing a loved one, you feel the grief and pain of that loss. When a spouse damages you physically or emotionally, it does not just go away overnight. When you walk through that valley or suffer from depression or anxiety, it takes up your whole world and is a miserable, painful experience. Pain is something that everyone, saved and unsaved, will go through in their lifetime. However, if

you find yourself going through a season of pain; if you find yourself struggling to see the light of day and not knowing up from down; if you find yourself struggling to hold on, then there is good news for you—there is purpose in the pain that you are feeling.

In the Old Testament, Job was a man who had everything. In fact, Job 1:3 makes the statement, "this man was the greatest of all the men of the east." He had family, he had property, he had herds of animals, and he was seen as one of the greatest and wealthiest men in the east. These things, though, were not his greatest achievements. His greatest achievement would be found in Job 1:1: "There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil." The most important thing to know about Job was the fact that

he was a follower of God. He hated evil and held his faith in God. Job is even seen giving sacrifices on behalf of his family.

There came a day, though, that Satan would present himself to God, and God would bring up Job. This conversation in heaven, which Job was not privileged to, would be where Job's pain would begin. First, Job would lose his property and his children. One servant right after the other would continually bring bad news. One blow right after the other. Job responds to this pain with worship. Job 1:22 says, "In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly." Instead of blaming God, he still worshipped through the pain.

This, though, was not the end of Job's sorrows. Satan then has permission to attack Job's health. His "friends" come over and don't speak to him for seven days and seven nights. When they finally spoke, it was better when they had just kept their mouths shut. They blamed Job and his sin for everything that had gone wrong. In fact, Zophar would say "Know therefore that God exacteth of thee less than thine iniquity deserveth." This friend tells Job, "You deserve worse than what

"The reason you are going through the pain and heartache is so that you can come alongside others who are experiencing the same thing."

you are getting." In the middle of Job's pain and suffering from losing everything, these friends tell him he deserves worse than this. However, at the end of it all, Job 42:10 says, "The LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before." God not only restored what Job lost, but He also gave him more than he had.

This story, though, does not answer the question, "What is the purpose of my pain that I am going through?" Job suffered greatly, and the pain he felt must have been tremendous. There were moments of not understanding what was happening or why. God, though, came to Job in a whirlwind to comfort him in the time of his need. Before you can understand the purpose for your pain, you must understand that God is there to comfort you in it.

II Corinthians 1:3-4 says, "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." Everyone experiences different types of pain. You can experience physical pain when you are sick. You can also experience emotional or mental pain from depression or anxiety. No matter what pain you are experiencing, it is good to know and understand that God is the God of all comfort. There is no pain that we experience that God cannot comfort us in. Not only that, but this verse also says that He will comfort us in all of our tribulations. So it does not even matter what trial is causing the

pain. God will still comfort us through every trial that we face as well.

So what is the purpose of your pain? The phrase in these verses say that says, "That we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble."

The reason you are going through the pain and heartache is so that you can come alongside others who are experiencing the same thing. Job lost everything and everyone around him. His friends did not comfort him, and his wife gave up on him. This is not what we are supposed to do to those who are around us.

First, you need to know that God is here to comfort you. When you feel like letting go, He is there to hold on to. When you feel like giving in, He is there to support you. When you feel like throwing in the towel, He is there to give you strength to make it through.

Second, you need to know that the purpose of the pain you are going through is so that what God does in you, He can do through you. The comfort you received from Him-go and give it to others. Be the shoulder to cry on. Be the encouraging word at the right time. Be the person that is present while everyone else walks away. Walk through trials with those who are around you. That is the purpose for your pain.



The comfort you received from Him—go and give it to others. Be the shoulder to cry on. Be the encouraging word at the right time.



FROM ME TO YOU | Jimmy Swaggart



"Even though God has called me, I couldn't do what I do, I couldn't be what I am, without your prayerful support."

CONCERNING THE SAINTS of God in the church at Ephesus, Paul said I, "cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers" (Eph. 1:16).

That's what I want to say about you. I am thankful to the Lord for your help, your involvement, your work, and your ministry, because your involvement with this organization most definitely plays out to ministry. Without you, we simply could not do what we are doing. In other words, the Word of God to my heart could not be realized without your involvement, and for that we thank you.

As Paul needed the involvement, the concern, and the help of the saints at Ephesus, likewise, for those of you all over the world who stand with this ministry, it means more than words could ever begin to say.

THE EXPOSITOR'S STUDY BIBLE You have helped us to distribute over 7 million of The Expositor's Study Bible all over the world. I want you to think about that—without you, we could not have done what is being done. And to be sure, that is a work for God.

THE SONLIFE BROADCASTING NETWORK These programs go literally all over the world. I was speaking with a missionary the other day, and I asked him, "Do you get our television programming where you are in Africa?" He turned around and looked at me and said, "Brother Swaggart, of course; it comes in loud and clear." You are making that possible with your prayerful support and your financial support. How so much I thank you.

The spirit of the gospel is the greatest work on the face of the earth. You are involved in that, and I say thank you.

Even though many of you live miles away, still, you are helping to make Family Worship Center Church what it is today. Also, you are helping with the Bible College, which is just now really getting off the ground, at least as we are believing God. That's what I want to say—thank you. Without your help, your prayerful support, your financial support, and your well wishes, we simply couldn't do the things that we do.

When I was eight years of age, the Lord called me to ministry. At nine years old, He told me I would preach to the nations of the world, and that is exactly what is now happening. Once again, I must say thank you. Even though God has called me, I couldn't do what I do, I couldn't be what I am, without your prayerful support. I must say thank you.

As you pray for us, our prayers are with you, and that I want you to know. It's almost every service at Family Worship Center that there are visitors from all over the world. And, after every service, people will line up just to shake hands and say, "I love you." That means so very, very much to this evangelist. And I thank you for helping to make it possible. I am thrilled at souls being saved anywhere in the world, but I am doubly thrilled, so to speak, to see them come from other countries of the world who have given their hearts and lives to Christ as a result of this ministry and, in a sense, as a result of your participation. As I close this article, I will again say thank you, and be certain that our mind and heart is in that capacity.

In the Master's service, yours,

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TARA MONTPETIT

- Come See A Man
- My Tribute
- Ain't Gonna Give Up On God
- Just As I Am (I Come Broken)
- What He's Done For Me
- The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power

Hear My Heart

GRACE BRUMLEY

- Hear My Heart
- Your Cries Have Awoken The Master
- Our God Saves
- Oh The Blood
- I Am Blessed
- Every Praise
- Every Time I Speak His Name
- Waymaker
- Your Blood
- People Need The Lord



CH 22:043

I Choose Christ

KIM COLEMAN

- I Choose Christ
- We'll Soon Be Done With Trouble And Trials
- Only The Blood
- Pray Now
- But What A Name
- Breathe On Me Jesus
- Broken World
- The River
- Whenever I Hear His Name
- There's Somebody Out There

If Not For Grace

MARTHA BORG

- How Jesus Loves
- If Not For Grace
- If There Ever Was A Time
- In The Sweet By and By
- Land Of Endless Tomorrows
- Mercy Saw Me
- The Mercy Throne
- Precious Is Thy Name
- Thank You Lord, For Your Blessings
- What He Is Will Never Change

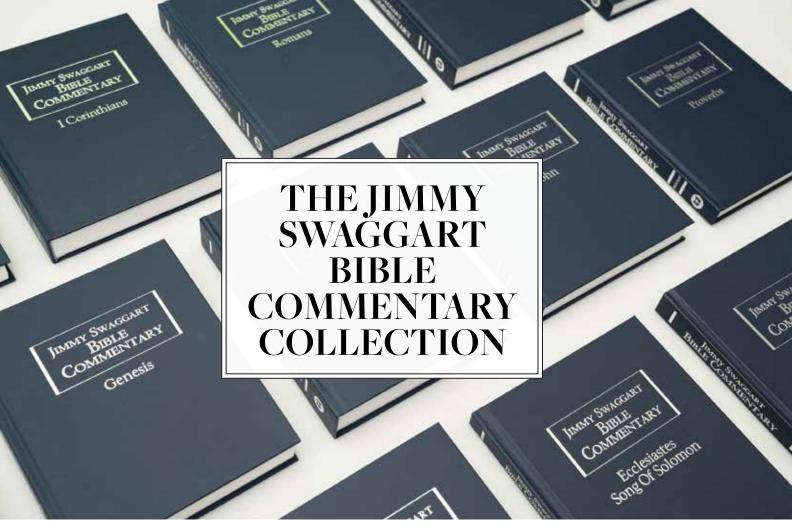


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MEETINGS

JSM MINISTERS' EVANGELISTIC SCHEDULE



DONNIE SWAGGART

225.768.8300 info@jsm.org

DECEMBER 4, 2023

Jacksonville, FL Pastor Steve Dobbs Paxon Revival Center Church 5461 Commonwealth Ave.. Jacksonville, FL 32254 904.781.0348 paxonrevivalcenter.com **MON** 7:30 PM

JANUARY 11, 2024

Texarkana, TX The Acts 6:4 Conference 2024 The Texarkana, TX Convention Center 2910 S. Cowhorn Creek Loop Texarkana, TX 75503 THURS 7 PM

JANUARY 26-28, 2024

Montevideo, Uruguay Pastor Alexia Medina Centro Cristiano del Cordón Rivera 2135, CP 11200 Montevideo 598 2 409 6877 email:info@centrocristianodelcordon.com www.centrocristianodelcordon.com FRI 8 PM

SAT 8 PM SUN 11 AM

FEBRUARY 23-25, 2024

Capetown, South Africa Pastor Gerhard Kotze **Amazing Grace Ministries** 24 Kitchener Street Parrow West Cape Town, South Africa 7500 +27 21 930 1504

FRI 7 PM SAT 7 PM **SUN** 9:30 AM

APRIL 5-7, 2024

Gastonia, NC Pastor Jeff Williams Spirit Of Life Church 450 S. Myrtle School Rd., Gastonia, NC 28052 864.425.1975 Email: westfranklin77@gmail.com FRI 6 PM SAT 6 PM



SUN 11 AM

SUN 10:30 AM

LOREN LARSON

225.768.3890 info@jsbc.edu

DECEMBER 2-3, 2023

Grenada, MS Pastor Farrell Wilson Lighthouse Church 1004 Highway 7 North (Use exit 211 on I-55) Grenada, MS 38901 662.294.0608 SAT 10 AM-12 PM Teaching session SAT 7 PM



DR. DAVE WATTS

225.768.3890 info@jsbc.edu

DECEMBER 10, 2023

Farmersville, TX

Pastor Garry Chadwick Grace Fellowship Assembly of God 206 E. Audie Murphy Pkwy., Farmersville, TX 972.782.8574

SUN 10:45 AM

Wylie, TX

Pastors Kerry and Aimee Sampson First Assembly of God 207 College St., Wylie, TX 972.442.2548

SUN 6 PM



MIKE MUZZERALL

225.768.3890 info@jsbc.edu

JANUARY 5-7, 2024

Spartanburg, SC Pastor Nikkie Corbin Truth Chapel 250 North Church St. Spartanburg, SC 29306 864.585.3006

FRI 7 PM (Adult Service) SAT 10 AM (Kid's Sermon)

SAT 7 PM (Adult Service)

SUN 10 AM (Adult Service)

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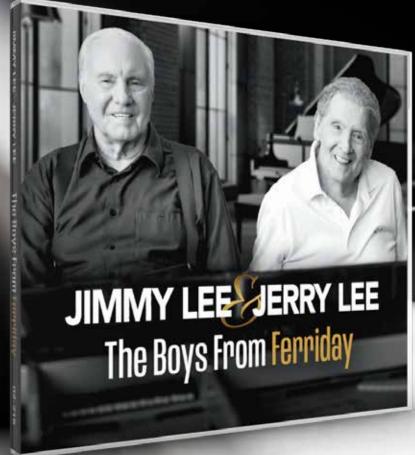
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