

JANUARY 2020
VOLUME 54 • NUMBER 1



The Evangelist

CELEBRATING 64 YEARS OF SPIRIT-FILLED MINISTRY

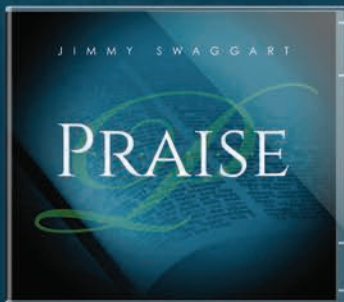


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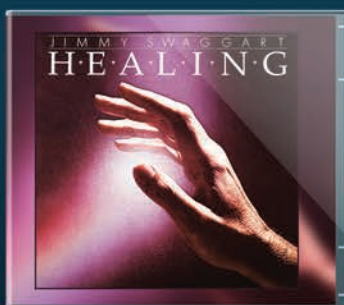
JIMMY SWAGGART SCRIPTURE ALBUMS

All of these are Scripture albums, meaning that we are reading Scripture over the songs, which I know will be a great blessing to you. In fact, it would be good to have one of these playing at all times in your home, which I guarantee will drive away evil spirits, etc. Take advantage of this most excellent offer.



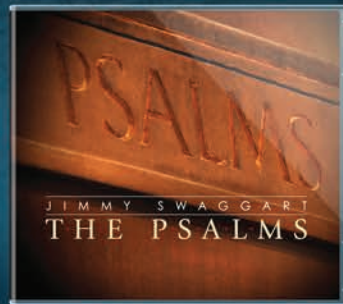
Praise (02-211)

- Tell Me His Name Again
- Rock of Ages
- The Solid Rock
- Whisper Jesus
- Sweet By And By
- Near The Cross
- The Love of God
- I Surrender All
- The Last Mile of the Way
- At The Cross



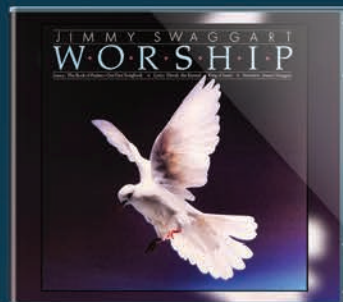
Healing (02-139)

- Living Where The Healing Waters Flow
- I Believe In Miracles
- Someone To Care
- Cleanse Me
- I Want To Be Healed
- Healing In The Name Of Jesus
- Rise And Be Healed
- Only Believe
- The Healer
- Touching Jesus



The Psalms (02-208)

- Amazing Grace
- Blessed Assurance
- I See A Crimson Stream Of Blood
- The Old Rugged Cross
- In The Garden
- Farther Along
- Draw Me Lord
- I'll Never Be Lonely Again
- I Am Thine, O Lord (Draw Me Nearer)
- How Beautiful Heaven Must Be



Worship (02-134)

- In The Shelter Of His Arms
- I Am Thine, O Lord
- Room At The Cross
- Amazing Grace
- He Hideth My Soul
- The Old Rugged Cross
- He'll Hold My Hand
- When My Saviour Reached Down For Me
- There Is A Fountain
- Blessed Assurance
- Standing Somewhere In The Shadows

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Contents

JANUARY 2020 | Vol. 54 | No. 1

The Evangelist

ON THE COVER

Make your plans now to join us for Resurrection Campmeeting 2020, April 8-12, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.



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FEATURES

The Sin Nature, *Part II*4

By Jimmy Swaggart

I Will Surely Give The Tenth Unto Thee 10

By Frances Swaggart

Let There Be Light, *Part V* 16

By Donnie Swaggart

The Bridegroom Cometh, Go Ye Out To Meet Him, *Part I* 20

By Gabriel Swaggart

The Better Covenant36

By Bob Cornell

Hope In The Lord38

By Loren Larson

Contemplative Prayers40

By John Rosenstern

Happy New Year...Maybe?.....42

By Mike Muzzerall

What Is Mental Illness?.....44

By Dave Smith

From Me to You.....46

By Jimmy Swaggart

DEPARTMENTS

SonLife Radio Stations **7**

SonLife Radio and
SonLife Broadcasting Network
Programming and
TV Stations **24**

Letters From Our Audience **34**

JSM Ministers' Schedule **50**

"It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." See article on page 38

The
Message
of the
CROSS

THE SIN NATURE

PART II

BY JIMMY SWAGGART

Whenever our faith is in Christ and the cross, the Holy Spirit will then automatically work within our hearts and within our lives and carry out what He alone can do. That's why with many new believers, nicotine drops off, alcohol drops off, jealousy drops off.



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:

Holy Spirit

The believing sinner coming to Christ feels and thinks, "I'll never sin again," because he's in love with the Lord; he's been changed by the power of God. But he finds right down the road that he does sin; he fails in some way. And then he thinks, "I can't do that again. I've got to do thus and so, so that I don't fail again."

That's when he embarks upon a position of law because that's all he knows—"I'll be faithful to Wednesday night Bible study, I'll pray this, I'll do that, I'll do the other"—and those things he sets out to do are good things, and they will bless him, but they are deceiving because they make him think, "I'm in victory," but then he finds that he fails again, and he gets confused; he doesn't understand why or what's happening.

I don't think it's too much in vogue now, but the modern church the last few years has come through these "encounter" sessions—seminars that teach, "This is going to give you victory over sin now."

Error

I got a letter from a dear brother—I don't know who he was, I'd never heard of him—but he wrote, "I've found the answer to victory over sin. I know what the solution is." Well that showed right there that he was having problems of some nature, whatever they were. And he went on to catalogue in his letter how that he attended this seminar that was put on by a man who I know—I know him very well; he was a head of a particular Pentecostal denomination. But this is what the man was told to do to guarantee his victory, and this, or one of its variations, is being used all over the world: This particular seminar was for preachers and their wives—several hundred attended there because this man was a "spiritual leader," and he knew the answers. So they were told to bring a pad of paper with them and a pencil, and they were to write down all of their sins and failures. Then this group paired off—man to man and woman to woman—and they were to read them all out to each other: "I did this; I did that," etc. And the man writing me this was quick to add, "Mine were not nearly as bad as some of the others." Then the group was told, "Now tear your papers up into little pieces, and don't let any drop to the floor, and then hold the pieces above your head—that signifies that God has taken control. Then throw the pieces on the floor," which they all did. Then the leader told them, "Jump up and down on them and start praising the Lord because you're now free from these problems; you don't have them anymore." They have all kinds of variations on this same approach—one told its participants to put all of their failures into a suitcase and then throw the suitcase into the river, which they all did.

Go ahead and laugh because it is silly. This pitiful, pathetic claim that such foolishness will give people victory came from men with all kinds of education. But do you find anything like that in the Word of God? No, you don't; it's not there. So what good are these "encounter" sessions going to do?

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" (Jn. 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..." (1 Pet. 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 SAVIOUR

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

We invite you now to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour. *"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"* (Jn. 1:12).

WE BELIEVE:

- The Bible is the inspired and only infallible and authoritative written Word of God (Ps. 119; Mat. 4:4; Lk. 24:27).
- There is one God, eternally existent in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (1 Jn. 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., Chpts. 19-20).
- In the Blessed Hope—the Rapture of the Church at Christ's Coming (1 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 (Jn. 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; 1 Pet. 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 Lord Jesus, 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 Saviour 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.

DEAR JIMMY: TODAY I ACCEPTED JESUS AS MY LORD AND SAVIOUR.

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Those people left them thinking, “Oh, I’ve got the victory now because everybody’s jumping up and down on these pieces of paper! I’ve got victory over these sins now—they’re under my feet! This is the answer, the solution!” That is the most utterly ridiculous, absolute foolishness that the church sinks to—renting these hotel conference rooms to have a big deal seminar and come back saying, “We’re victorious now.” It would look to me like somebody would ask the question, “How is this victorious? How in the world is tearing up some pieces of paper going to help you any?” It’s not, ladies and gentlemen.

The Modern Church

The modern church continues to forsake God’s way, which is the cross, and that’s how the Holy Spirit works, entirely by and through the cross of Christ, and it only allows for us to have faith in Christ and what Christ did at the cross. I’m not talking about a wooden beam; I’m talking about what Jesus there did. That’s all it requires. The Holy Spirit works through the cross: “*For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death*” (Rom. 8:2).

So the problem, in most cases, is ignorance, but that doesn’t mean that a person is exempt from the trouble that is going to come in the not too distant future if that status and state of ignorance remains.

Denial

The way that many believers address the sin nature is denial—they deny that they

have a sin nature: “Maybe we had one before we were saved, but we don’t have that anymore.” I was reading the other day, and that writer said, “No, we never did have one, period.” That’s an interesting concept.

Denial—believers deny that they have a sin nature. My answer to that is: Why in the world did Paul spend so much time and devote so much space to this problem if it doesn’t exist?

“*For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace*” (Rom. 6:14). Let’s say it again, if we are under law, sin will have dominion over us.

Dominion is a powerful word, and it means that sin is dominating that person—beyond their power of control. It’s compulsion; they’re not able to throw it off—that’s how powerful sin is. It’s not a joke. It’s not just a little walk in the park. It has a power to it, and we learn how powerful it really is by understanding what it took to address it, which is the cross.

A perfect example of this is found in Exodus 5, where the Lord sent Moses in, and the demand was, “*Let My people go.*” That came from God, but did Pharaoh relent? No! Seven times Moses had to appear before Pharaoh. *Seven times.* How long between each time? I don’t know, but instead of Pharaoh relenting and saying, “Oh, you mean it was Jehovah who said to let them go? Why certainly, they’re free to go,” No, no. Pharaoh said, “Who is this God? I don’t even know who He is, and you’re talking about me obeying Him.” Then he doubled the workload on

the Israelites. They had been making so many bricks per day with the Egyptians supplying the straw. But now Pharaoh said, “You’re going to gather the straw yourselves, and you’re going to make the bricks, just as many as you’ve been making before, and if you don’t do it, I’m going to kill you.”

It was so bad that the elders of Israel went to Pharaoh and said, “Would you do something? We can’t stand this; it’s killing us.” They wanted to give up, but thank God, Moses didn’t. (Ex. 5).

I want to say it again: This is not a walk in the park; Satan means business; God means business—this sin nature is a tremendously important thing, and yet we still think, “I believe in the message of the cross, so that means I’ll never have another temptation, there will never be another problem, everything is fine, the bad habits I’ve got are instantly gone. Friend, it just doesn’t work that way. In fact, there are untold numbers out there saying, “I believe in the message of the cross, and I’ve done what you said to do, but things are not better, they’re worse!

The key is this: If the believer won’t give up; if he won’t quit, then victory will ultimately be his. Somebody asked, “Well why doesn’t the Lord just make it easier?” Well, He has made it as easy as He can—we don’t have to get on a cross.

It may not be easy, but the result is well worth the struggle, believe me. It doesn’t mean that you will never sin again, but it does mean that sin will not have dominion over you. Praise God. ✚

“Somebody asked, ‘Well why doesn’t the Lord just make it easier?’ Well, He has made it as easy as He can—we don’t have to get on a cross.”

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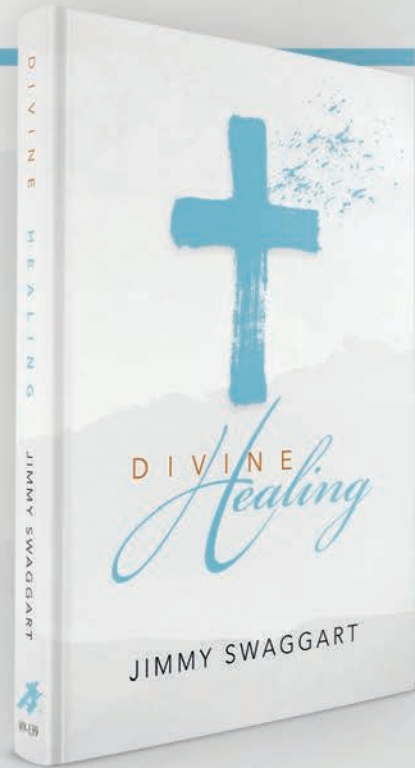
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DIVINE
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Divine Healing (09-139)

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 and heard those precious words, "Thy faith hath made thee whole."

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- I'm Trusting You, Lord
- Send The Light
- He Keeps Me Singing
- Redeemed
- He Brought Me Out
- More Than Ever Before
- All That Thrills My Soul Is Jesus
- When God Dipped His Love In My Heart
- I've Anchored In Jesus
- He's Coming Soon



Change My Heart Oh God (02-215)

- Change My Heart, Oh God
- Camping In Canaan's Land
- Revive Us Again
- I Just Feel Like Something Good Is About To Happen
- Hide Thou Me
- Just Over In The Glory Land
- Jesus Saves/I Believe Jesus Saves
- Hold To God's Unchanging Hand
- Sweet By And By
- When The Saints Go Marching In

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- Farther Along
- I Shall Not Be Moved
- Lord, I Need You
- I Saw A Man
- New Name Over In Zion
- The Old Rugged Cross Made The Difference
- Someone To Care
- There's Room At The Cross For You



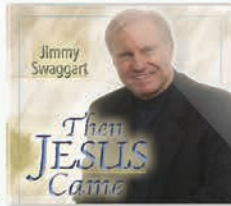
At Calvary (02-176)

- At Calvary
- O I Want To See Him
- The Old Account Was Settled
- The Last Mile Of The Way
- Rock Of Ages
- Never Alone
- Softly And Tenderly
- Jesus, Hold My Hand
- Glory To His Name
- Wonderful Words Of Life



Then Jesus Came (02-178)

- Then Jesus Came
- I Claim Jesus First
- He Bought My Soul
- He Abides
- I See A Crimson Stream Of Blood
- When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder
- Near The Cross
- Come Holy Spirit
- The Best Of The Trade
- When I Get To The End Of The Way



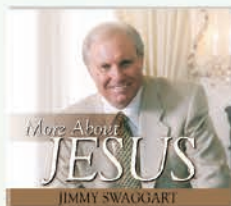
He Was Nailed To The Cross For Me (02-175)

- He Was Nailed To The Cross For Me
- 'Tis So Sweet To Trust In Jesus
- Thank You, Thank You Jesus
- I Know Who Holds Tomorrow
- Oh, The Blood Of Jesus
- At The Cross
- Are You Washed In The Blood?
- I Know My Lord's Gonna Lead Me Out
- Amazing Grace
- There Shall Be Showers Of Blessings



More About Jesus (02-177)

- More About Jesus
- Come Unto Me
- There's A River Of Life
- When I See The Blood
- What A Friend We Have In Jesus
- I Must Tell Jesus
- Oh Say But I'm Glad
- Operator (Royal Telephone)
- Jesus Saves!
- Haven Of Rest



Tell Me His Name Again (02-173)

- Tell Me His Name Again
- I Will Praise Him
- He Took My Sins Away
- God Took Away My Yesterdays
- The Healing Waters
- It Took A Miracle
- If That Isn't Love
- There's Going To Be A Meeting In The Air
- Sheltered In The Arms Of God
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Frances

I WILL SURELY GIVE THE TENTH UNTO THEE

Did you know that the majority of Christians do not support, financially, the work of God? It's true.



FOR WHATEVER reason—and trust me, we've heard them all—they struggle with the issue of paying tithes. Some feel their money is going directly to a man instead of to God. Others feel that tithing was something God required only in the Old Testament, way back when He was in a bad mood, and it's no longer relevant under the new covenant, under grace. Believers who do give want to do so on their terms, when they feel they can afford it, and they don't want to be made to feel guilty for choosing when or how much. "It's a private matter," they say, "between God and me."

My husband and I agree, it is between the believer and God. Throughout our ministry, the only thing we've said regarding people giving is that they pray and ask God what He would have them

do. We say that because we know what He would have them do—when it comes to giving, the Bible is very clear.

When Did Tithing Start?

Many Christians think, erroneously, that tithing originated with the law of Moses and does not apply to the new covenant, but that is not the case. As my husband notes, tithing was and is in every covenant.

In Genesis 4:4, the Bible says, "*And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering.*" The firstlings were representative of the Lord Jesus Christ, God's firstborn, whom He would give in sacrifice. So, the law of the firstling—or firstborn—applies to our finances as well, which includes tithing.

But it's Genesis 14 that records the first instance of tithing to the work of the Lord,

when Abraham (then Abram) paid tithe to Melchizedek:

“And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath

should keep in mind.

So Abraham, a type of the church (Rom. 4:16), paid tithe to Melchizedek, a type of Christ (Ps. 110:1-4). Today, the present-day church—children of Abraham—continue the practice of paying tithes to those carrying out the work of God.

Also in the book of Genesis, we find

up every tenth lamb. That’s why the apostle Paul likened our giving to the sacrificial system: *“And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour”* (Eph. 5:2).

Giving, therefore, ties back to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ—the Lamb of God.



“But it’s Genesis 14 that records the first instance of tithing to the work of the Lord, when Abraham (then Abram) paid tithe to Melchizedek.”

delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all” (Gen. 14:18-20).

Abraham had gone out to war, and in those days, whoever won the battle got the spoil. So Abraham paid tithe on all of the bounty taken from this battle, and he gave it to Melchizedek, who was a type of Christ.

In turn, we see Melchizedek bless Abraham. He also blessed the Lord, giving Him praise and glory—and the credit, you might say—for delivering Abraham from his enemies. This tells us that the Lord greatly helped Abraham in that conflict because without the Lord’s help, it would have been impossible for him and his small band of soldiers to defeat the enemy’s army—something every Christian

Jacob, the grandson of Abraham, making the first recorded vow in the Bible, which included tithing:

“And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, So that I come again to my father’s house in peace; then shall the LORD be my God: And this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God’s house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee” (Gen. 28:20-22).

Again, there was no Mosaic law at this time, nor was there such a thing as money. There was no tabernacle or temple. There was no priest. There was no synagogue. So how did Jacob pay his tithe? By offering

Tithing Under The Law

Under the Mosaic law, Israel was required to give to the Lord twenty-three and a third percent of their income as follows:

1. A ten percent portion went to the Levites, including the priests for their service to the tabernacle as this was their only means of support (Lev. 27; Num. 18).
2. A ten percent portion covered travel expenses for the required attendance of the three national feasts each year at the temple in Jerusalem (Deut. 14:24-25).
3. A three and a third percent was for the fatherless, widows, and strangers—charity to relieve the suffering of the poor (Deut. 14:28-29).

Tithing Under The New Covenant

If Abraham’s grandson paid tithe, which Jacob did, then we, as the children of Abraham, are to do the same.

From the start of the church (marked by

the Day of Pentecost) until now, believers give ten percent of their income, and there is no passage in the Word of God that abrogates this practice.

In the Gospels, under the ministry of Jesus Christ, the Lord had countless opportunities to speak out against tithing, to stop it, but He never did. Instead, He called His disciples together to observe a destitute widow drop two mites into the treasury, and He said, *“Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: for all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.”*(Mk. 12:43-44).

When that certain poor widow entered the temple that day, my husband notes, possibly with much concern and anxiety on her mind respecting her poverty-stricken state, how little did she know that the Lord of glory would be there, He would see her, and that her story would be known for time and eternity. Even so, the Lord is watching still, not only what is done outwardly, but also the motives of our hearts.

In II Corinthians 8 and 9, the Holy Spirit through Paul gives the greatest dissertation on giving found in the entirety of the Word of God, and yet the word *tithe* is not mentioned. Why? While tithing is incumbent upon the child of God, giving under the new covenant is intended to go beyond ten percent. The idea is this: everything that we have belongs to God; it is at His disposal, so when it comes to giving, we should be sensitive and responsive to His leading. God must come first in all things in our lives, and that includes our financial resources.



All of the teaching that the apostle gives in these two chapters seems to be summed up in this: *“He who soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he who sows bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver”* (II Cor. 9:6-7).

Fulfilling the Great Commission and taking the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the world always has and always will cost money. Bible scholar C.M. Ward said, *“The gospel can only go as far as the dollar bill takes it.”* The missionaries don't travel to foreign countries for free, somebody has to send them. Remember, someone gave so that the gospel could be brought to you.

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” (Rom. 10:13-15)

As Donnie has pointed out, under grace, no one is standing over you saying, *“You've got to give ten percent.”* As believers, we should look at the tithe—the tenth—as a place to start. We don't give out of a spirit of obligation, nor out of fear that if we don't give a certain amount then God will be mad at us. No, we give out of deep gratitude for what Jesus Christ did for us on Calvary.

Where Do I Pay My Tithe?

We believe the tithe should go to wherever that believer is being spiritually fed with the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, many churches today are feeding their congregations false doctrines.

If the tithe we give to the Lord does not advance the message of Jesus Christ and Him crucified, then we are not really paying tithe. This is the gospel that must be supported. Anything else is of little consequence.

Pay My Tithe Or My Bills?

A lot of people write or call with this question, especially those who are on a fixed income, and they want to give, but they're

Continued on page 14

“As Donnie has pointed out, under grace, no one is standing over you saying, ‘You’ve got to give ten percent.’ As believers, we should look at the tithe—the tenth—as a place to start.”

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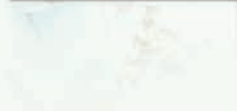
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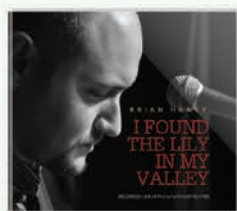
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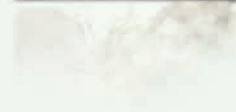
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Continued from page 12

afraid that if they do, they won't have enough money to meet their monthly bills. We respond to this in two ways: First, ask the Lord what He would have you do, and second, try to give *something*. I can't tell you how many testimonies we've received from people on fixed incomes who decided to give a dollar or maybe five dollars a month, and afterward experienced the Lord blessing them in different ways to where they were soon able to give a little more each month. So start giving something to the Lord, even if it's your time as a volunteer in the church, and He will begin to bless your faithfulness.

Excuse Not To Give

John 3:16 tells why God gave His Son—because He loved the world. Usually, when people argue about why they shouldn't have to give to the work of God, it's because they

lack love for the Lord Jesus Christ and what He has done in their hearts and lives. The apostle Paul said, "*I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love.*" (II Cor. 8:8).

As Donnie said, "My salvation is worth far more than a dime on a dollar. Who would not want to give ten percent of what comes into their hands just to say thank you for what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for them?"

Blessing

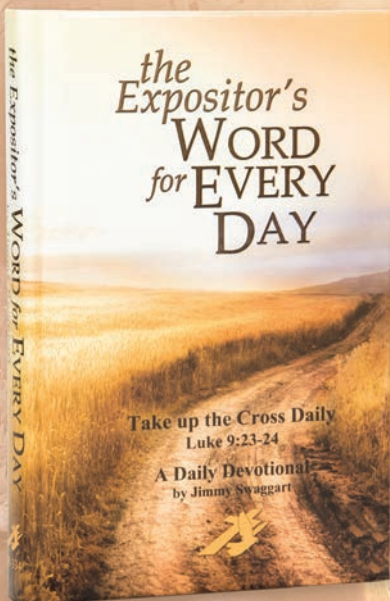
As you become a faithful tither, I believe you will experience the blessing of God, which is so beautifully illustrated in the book of Ruth:

"And when she (Ruth) was risen up to glean, Boaz commanded his young men, saying, Let her glean even among the sheaves, and reproach her not: And let fall

also some of the handfuls of purpose for her, and leave them, that she may glean them, and rebuke her not." (Ruth 2:15-16).

God is a blessing God, as shown here through Boaz on behalf of Ruth. Why did Boaz do this for Ruth? Why did he show her this courtesy? It was because, whether he realized it or not, he was already falling in love with her. So it is with God and us—even though we were strangers, aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the promise, still, despite our lowly Gentile position and our poverty-stricken state, He loved us. God came to where we were gleaning in the field, trying to get a little sustenance, and He gave instructions that there should be "handfuls of purpose" left on our behalf. God loves you, and He wants to bless you with handfuls of purpose—for the purpose of blessing those carrying out His work and helping to spread His gospel. ✚

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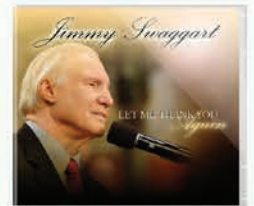
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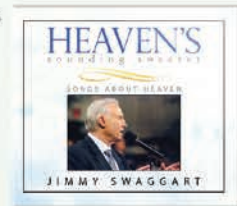
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donnie swaggart

In 1518, Luther was summoned by Pope Leo X to appear in Heidelberg, Germany, to defend his statements. Martin Luther debated a panel of distinguished Augustinian monks, who were considered to be theological masters of the church.

The monks were no match for Luther.

Let There Be Light

Part V

MONTHS LATER, Cardinal Cajetan put Martin Luther on trial. Cajetan, also a distinguished scholar, was no more a match against Luther than the Augustinian monks. While the cardinal defended the Catholic Church's use of indulgences, Luther set out his countering positions with great precision and was unfazed by feeble attempts at belittling his courage. Luther said he would not recant anything unless Scripture proved him wrong. "I deny that the pope is above Scripture. His Holiness abuses Scripture."

Cardinal Cajetan lost his temper and began shouting at Luther, demanding Luther to leave and to never darken his holy door again unless he was willing to say, "I recant."

In due time, a series of commissions was convened to examine Luther's teachings. The first papal commission found

them to be heretical, but the second merely stated that Luther's writings were scandalous and offensive to pious ears. But, Pope Leo X had all he could take of Martin Luther. In 1520, he issued a "papal bull"—a public declaration that concluded Luther's propositions as heresy. The papal bull not only obliged all Christians to acknowledge the pope's authority and power to grant indulgences, but also threatened Luther with excommunication from the Catholic Church and gave him 120 days to recant in Rome. No sooner than Luther received the bull, he burned it—publicly!

When Pope Leo X received word of Luther's active defiance, he issued a "Decret Romanum Pontificem," in English meaning, "It Pleases the Roman Pontiff," thus banishing Luther from the church. The issue was turned over to secular authorities,

and Luther agreed to appear before the Diet of Worms.

As vast as the rift now appeared between Martin Luther and the church, there was still a chance for reprieve, and Luther was prepared to address the accusations against him. This was to be Luther's defining moment.

After a long and difficult journey from Wittenberg, Luther arrived in Worms with great fanfare. Preceding his arrival, a crowd of 2,000 lined the streets to escort him into town. The citizens eagerly pressed forth to see this man, every moment the crowds increasing. The procession made its way with difficulty through



the multitudes. A great number even climbed onto rooftops to catch a glimpse. The tops of houses and the pavements of the streets were littered with spectators. To some, he was a prodigy of wisdom; to others, a fool. Nonetheless, the entire city came to see him.

Luther advanced through the crowds with difficulty as he made his way into the town hall. Luther's appearance before the Diet in itself was a great victory over



the church and the papacy. The pope had condemned him to perpetual silence, yet, here he was, about to speak before thousands of attentive listeners.

Approaching the assembly, Luther was

presented with a table littered with copies of his own writings. The panel of dignitaries demanded confirmation that he authored the various writings attributed to him and whether he espoused of its contents. Luther calmly stated, "The books are all mine, and I have written more."

The Diet further noted that Luther's writings contained the errors of previous reformers and that various councils had already condemned these heretics over past centuries. Luther was undeterred. He demanded that these men show him any Scripture that would refute his positions and writings. There was none.

"You have not answered the question put to you," one of the dignitaries said. "You were not summoned hither to call in question the decisions of councils. You are required to give a clear and precise answer. Will you, or will you not retract?"

Luther responded, "Since then your serene majesty and your lordships request a simple reply, I will give it without horns and hoofs, and say: Unless I am convinced by the testimony of Scripture or by plain reason (for I believe in neither the pope nor in councils alone, for it is well-known, not only that they have erred, but also have contradicted themselves), I am mastered by the passages of Scripture which I have quoted, and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant, for it is neither safe nor honest to violate one's conscience. I can do no other. Here I take my stand, God being my helper. Amen."

The assembly, including the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, was

thunderstruck. They witnessed firsthand Luther's bold demeanor and unshaken courage. The monk, who so courageously nailed his Ninety-Five Theses to the door of the Castle Church nearly four years prior, had braved his enemies amongst an assembly of men who thirsted for his blood. Dumbfounded but still seeking grounds to convict Luther, the Diet convened to deliberate. After several days of deliberation, the assembly was faced with coming to a decision on Luther's fate.

Without validation, Charles V issued the "Edict of Worms," placing Luther under imperial ban, banning his literature and officially declaring him a heretic to the entirety of the Holy Roman Empire. He was to be arrested on site. Furthermore, the assembly sanctioned his death with no legal consequences under the law. Essentially, the Roman Catholic Church was condoning the murder of Martin Luther.

The Edict of Worms further stated that it would be considered a crime for anyone within the empire to give Luther sanctuary.

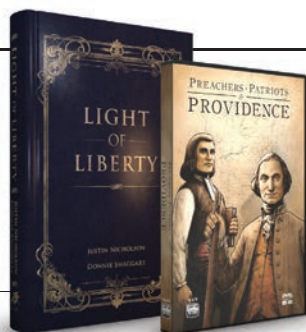
But, Luther had already vanished.

His sentence came down several days after the Diet, so Luther, now a condemned and wanted man, had already taken shelter, thanks to Prince Frederick of Saxony, who whisked him into hiding at Wartburg Castle days before the edict was made public. 🦋

This article is an excerpt from the book, Light Of Liberty.

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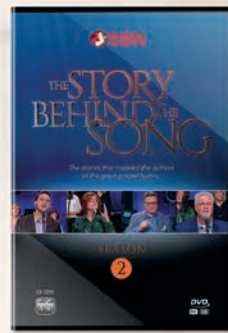
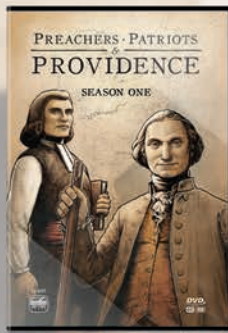
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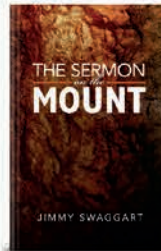
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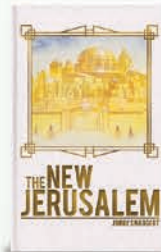
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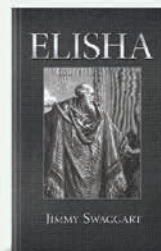
The New Jerusalem (09-143)

Consider the most renowned and wealthiest cities of the world, recognized for their ancient architecture, man-made landmarks, and impressive skylines. Yet as beautiful as they seem to be, every city on this planet is still polluted with the ruins of sin: heartache, death and dying, loneliness, murder, shame, and suffering. But there is coming a city whose builder and maker is God. John the Beloved saw a glimpse of the Holy City coming down from God out of heaven and described its beauty as a bride adorned for her husband. In this powerful book, Brother Swaggart leads his readers through the Scriptures to the promise of a New Jerusalem—1,500 miles high and just as wide—where God will dwell with His people and wipe away every tear from their eyes.



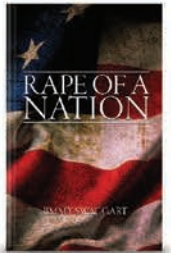
Elisha (09-134)

Elijah first cast his mantle on Elisha as he plowed a field with 12 yoke of oxen—an indicator of God's true calling. Years later, Elisha would pick up the same mantle that fell from the prophet who was suddenly taken to heaven in a whirlwind by a chariot and horses of fire—a sign that Elisha had received a double portion of God's anointing. In this book, Brother Swaggart replays the miracles that God did throughout Elisha's ministry: dividing the waters of Jordan, healing the poisoned waters of Jericho, and raising the dead son of the Shunammite woman. Believers are reminded that we serve a miracle-working God and that we should live—as Elisha did—in a state of expectation that cries out, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?"



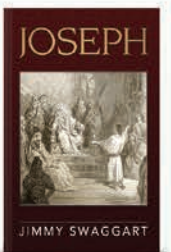
Rape Of A Nation (09-131)

The very moral fabric of our nation is being torn by unseen forces at work around us. These malicious forces have names but no faces. But what are these unseen forces at work? What can we do to stop them? Until now these questions hung in the still air without reply. This powerful book by Evangelist Jimmy Swaggart lays bare the truth behind the terrible effect these unseen forces are having on our nation. It uncovers the root causes of these forces and what we can do to curb their malevolent influence. This is a book that every citizen of the United States should read, but perhaps more importantly, one that every Christian must read. It is a potent book that pulls no punches—one that is as uncompromising in its reach as the author himself. This book sounds a clarion call to awaken believers to the realization that the only answer for America is Jesus Christ and Him crucified.



Joseph (09-124)

Joseph takes you back to the ancient history of Genesis; back to the beginning when God was raising up his chosen people through promises He made to the patriarchs—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This is the story of Jacob's son, Joseph, whose actions and reactions after being sold into slavery by his brothers mirror the compassion, grace, and love of the Master, the Lord Jesus. In these pages, you'll find the meaning of Joseph's coat of many colors, his God-given dreams and interpretations, and his miraculous journey from the pit of slavery to the palace of Egypt—all part of God's plan for his life. Every believer can learn from studying the life of Joseph, a type of Christ, who demonstrated to his own family true forgiveness, acceptance, and restoration.



Jacob (09-123)

From his beginning, Jacob—one of two nations in Rebekah's womb—is found struggling. From birth we see the supplanter at work: grasping Esau's heel, bargaining with his brother for the birthright, and deceiving his father for the blessing of the firstborn. Cut off from his family, running from a murderous brother, and headed somewhere he knows nothing about, Jacob comes to the point of total dependency on God. We see him discover the same place that the Holy Spirit draws every believer—where human abilities and resources end and the power of God begins. In this anointed book by Brother Swaggart, we watch the wrestling, the wrong direction, and the revelation as God transforms Jacob from the deceiver he was to the patriarch he becomes—Israel, prince with God.



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GABRIEL
SWAGGART

PART I

THE BRIDEGROOM COMETH, Go Ye Out To Meet Him

“While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight, there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him.”

—MATTHEW 25:5-6

THIS PARABLE GIVEN by our Lord Jesus Christ details the action of ten virgins—five who were wise, and five who were foolish. As well, it gives us the all-important doctrine of the rapture of the church.

I believe the rapture of the church is about ready to happen. There are no more biblical prophecies left to be fulfilled, which means that it could happen at any moment. But it grieves me that this great doctrine of the Bible is not really preached from behind most pulpits in this country, and I’m beginning to wonder if it is even believed by those pastoring youth groups and churches. Some have even gone so far as calling those who do believe in the rapture, as I do, as having an “escapist”

mentality. Think about that for a moment. To call a person who is looking for the rapture as having an escapist mentality is to call the rapture a fairy tale. In response, my question is this: do you believe in the resurrection? Of course they would answer with an emphatic yes. Well, if a person believes in the resurrection, then he should believe in the rapture, because the two events are one in the same—two words that refer to the same event.

The Ten Virgins

The ten virgins in Matthew 25 refer to people who have accepted Christ as their Lord and Saviour. They have been cleansed from all sin, redeemed from all unrighteousness,

and delivered from the grip of Satan—they represent the church today.

Each virgin carried with her a lamp, and she was supposed to carry oil along with it. This spoke of each virgin as being responsible for her own planning; she was to make sure she had enough oil for her lamp.

Now, the Bible tells us that five virgins were looked at as wise, and five were looked at as foolish. Why?

As mentioned, each virgin not only carried her lamp but was supposed to carry also enough oil to keep it lit continually. The light in the lamps refers to the light of Christ, which means now that we have been born again, saved, redeemed, justified, and delivered, we have the light of Christ living within us and shining outwardly.

Matthew 5 says we have been chosen by God as the light of the world. Christ is the Light, and we are reflections of that light, which is to shine so that others can be drawn to the Lord Jesus Christ. Outwardly, these virgins were all the same. The difference, as we’ll soon see, was in their character.

The Five Foolish Virgins

The Holy Spirit labeled five virgins foolish because they took no extra supply of oil; they only had that which was in their lamps. Oil, as outlined in the Word of God, is a symbol and type of the Holy Spirit. When an individual is saved, the Holy Spirit resides on the inside of that person

(Jn. 14:15-18; 16:4-16), and because of this, the Holy Spirit will lead us and guide us into all truth, which is Christ and Him crucified.

As well, it is natural for the light that now resides in that heart and life to burn bright. This is not the same as being filled with the Spirit, but rather born of the Spirit—what we call being born again. However, as great as our salvation experience is,



Never stop at the initial filling. Ask the Lord daily to refill you...

the second greatest happening for someone who is saved should be the baptism with the Holy Spirit. This is where the extra oil comes into play. The Holy Spirit functions in our lives and designed that we have many fillings, extra fillings. It is a supply that will not last forever, only a short time, and that is why we need the extra oil for our lamps, so that our lamps burn bright continually.

Spiritual Burn-Out

Tragically, for many Christians across this nation—and the world—the oil of their lives has long since burned out, and there have been no refillings. They have become a spiritual desert and experienced something called “spiritual burn-out.” This happens when a Christian strives with all of his might, power, strength, and ability to live for God, but he cannot seem to overcome the sin nature ruling in his life. He loves God with all of his heart and life, but he’s trying to live for God through the means of self-effort, which, in all honesty, God can never accept. God only accepts faith—faith anchored in the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The light begins by shining bright, but because there have been no refillings and no extra oil to fill their lamps, the oil runs out, which means the lamps begin to go out. Soon the light is extinguished, which would result in loss of the soul.

Others try and live off of their old blessings—what took place yesterday, or last week. The emphasis here should be obvious: the Holy Spirit wants us to understand that it is not what happened yesterday, but what we need today.

Please understand that I am not demeaning what took place yesteryear. We have what we have today because of the great outpourings of the Holy Spirit that took place in certain parts of this nation that literally shook this world. But I do want you to understand that we cannot live off of past blessings. We need fresh manna from heaven for today. We need a fresh touch to face the trials that are before us. This is where having and experiencing a fresh refilling is needed. Every morning, when I seek the face of God, I use my prayer language, and I have noticed that there are times when my prayer language changes, and I

am refilled with the Holy Spirit, and that provides strength, rest, and refreshing for the journey ahead (Is. 28:12). Never stop at the initial filling. Ask the Lord daily to refill you, for there is enough oil to be poured out on His children, which never will run dry.

Three Major Themes

The rapture of the church is right around the corner, and this parable given to us by the Lord Jesus Christ stresses three major themes: faithfulness, watchfulness, and consecration. These three major themes are lacking in much of the church world today. In fact, Jesus spoke of this very moment in Revelation 3:14-22, as He spoke to John the Beloved concerning the Laodicean church. He told them, “*So then because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot* (if a person is lukewarm toward something, it means he hasn’t rejected it, but at the same time he has by no means accepted it; in the mind of God, a tepid response is equal to a negative response), *I will spew you out of My mouth.*” (There is no prospect of repentance here on the part of this church, or restoration. In fact, there is divine rejection.) (Rev. 3:16, *The Expositor’s Study Bible*).

The five foolish virgins had the outward show and the outward form of faith, in other words, they had the appearance of faith, but in reality, it was all an outward show. And because of this, they lost their chance to be with the bridegroom, which means they lost their souls.

Dear reader, the time for your salvation is now. The Bridegroom—Jesus Christ—is coming. The rapture of the church is right around the corner, and you must make your calling and election sure. Today is the day of salvation! All of your chances to make it right are on this side of eternity. Make it right today.

This article will be continued in the next issue of The Evangelist.



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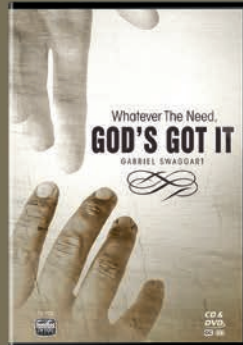
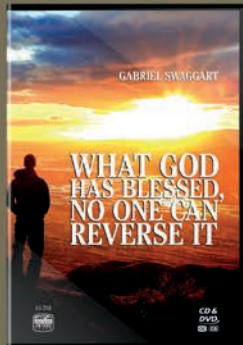
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I Know Somebody, Who Knows Somebody, Who Knows What To Do For You (15-701)

In this powerful service from an International Youth Conference, Pastor Gabriel Swaggart turns to the story of Naaman, the leper, to show believers what it is to live without hope. Eventually, God would heal Naaman, but not before the mighty man of valor humbled himself and gave ear to a young maid's testimony of the one who could recover his life. Includes:

- Praise & Worship (Grace Brumley)
- The Midnight Cry (Joseph Larson)
- Sermon: I Know Somebody, Who Knows Somebody, Who Knows What To Do For You

Whatever The Need, God's Got It (15-702)

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. Includes:

- Praise & Worship (Joseph Larson)
- It's Shouting Time In Heaven (FWC Choir)
- His Name Is A Strong Tower (Donna Carlina)
- When We See Christ (Jimmy Swaggart)
- Sermon: Whatever The Need, God's Got It

What God Has Blessed, No One Can Reverse It (15-703)

In this powerful message, Pastor Gabriel Swaggart draws from Numbers 23 to show how God used a backslidden prophet to tell a heathen king that what God has blessed, no man can reverse. God has commanded that His children be blessed, and blessing means increase. This anointed message will encourage believers again and again as the truth of God's eternal promise to His people is proclaimed: God is not a man that He should lie, and what He has promised, He will do. Includes:

- Praise & Worship (Robin Herd)
- Cast All Your Cares (FWC Choir)
- Name Above All Names (Donna Carlina & Brian Haney)
- I'm Free (Jimmy Swaggart)
- Sermon: What God Has Blessed, No One Can Reverse It

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Radio & Television Program Listings

PLEASE NOTE: Sonlife Broadcasting Network and SonLife Radio now follow the same programming schedule.

Hour (CT)	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
12:00 AM	Jimmy Swaggart	Jimmy Swaggart	Family Worship Center - Associate Pastors	Jimmy Swaggart
12:30 AM			FWC Music	
1:00 AM	FWC Music	FWC Music	FWC Music	FWC Music
1:30 AM				
2:00 AM	Jimmy Swaggart Crusade Classics	Jimmy Swaggart Crusade Classics	Jimmy Swaggart Crusade Classics	Jimmy Swaggart Crusade Classics
2:30 AM				
3:00 AM	FWC Music	FWC Music	FWC Music	FWC Music
3:30 AM				
4:00 AM	Family Worship Center - Associate Pastors	A Study In The Word	A Study In The Word	A Study In The Word
4:30 AM		FWC Music	FWC Music	FWC Music
5:00 AM	The Message Of The Cross (Repeat)	The Message Of The Cross (Live)	The Message Of The Cross (Live)	The Message Of The Cross (Live)
5:30 AM				
6:00 AM	FWC Music	FWC Music	FWC Music	FWC Music
6:30 AM				
7:00 AM	A Study In The Word (Repeat)	Insight (Live)	Insight (Live)	Insight (Live)
7:30 AM				
8:00 AM	Frances And Friends (Live)	Frances And Friends (Live)	Frances And Friends (Live)	Frances And Friends (Live)
8:30 AM				
9:00 AM	Family Worship Center Sunday Morning Service (Live)	FWC Music	FWC Music	FWC Music
9:30 AM				
10:00 AM	A Study In The Word (Replay)	A Study In The Word (Replay)	A Study In The Word (Replay)	A Study In The Word (Replay)
10:30 AM				
11:00 AM	FWC Music	Jimmy Swaggart	Family Worship Center - Associate Pastors	Jimmy Swaggart
11:30 AM				
12:00 PM	Generation Of The Cross (E/I) (Repeat)	FWC Music	FWC Music	The Story Behind The Song (RPT)
12:30 PM				
1:00 PM	Family Worship Center Sunday Morning Service (Replay)	Jimmy Swaggart Crusade Classics	Donnie Swaggart	Jimmy Swaggart Crusade Classics
1:30 PM				
2:00 PM	FWC Music	Insight (Replay)	Insight (Replay)	Insight (Replay)
2:30 PM				
3:00 PM	Crossfire Service (E/I) (Repeat)	A Study In The Word (Replay)	A Study In The Word (Replay)	A Study In The Word (Replay)
3:30 PM				
4:00 PM	Family Worship Center Sunday Evening Service (Live)	Frances And Friends (Replay)	Frances And Friends (Replay)	FWC Music
4:30 PM				
5:00 PM	FWC Music	The Message Of The Cross (Replay)	The Message Of The Cross (Replay)	Family Worship Center Wednesday Night Service (Live)
5:30 PM				
6:00 PM	The Story Behind The Song	The Message Of The Cross (Replay)	The Message Of The Cross (Replay)	FWC Music
6:30 PM				
7:00 PM	Family Worship Center Sunday Morning Service (Replay)	Donnie Swaggart	Jimmy Swaggart	The Message Of The Cross (Replay)
7:30 PM				
8:00 PM	FWC Music	FWC Music	FWC Music	Frances And Friends (Replay)
8:30 PM				
9:00 PM	FWC Music	FWC Music	FWC Music	FWC Music
9:30 PM				
10:00 PM	FWC Music	FWC Music	FWC Music	FWC Music
10:30 PM				
11:00 PM	FWC Music	FWC Music	FWC Music	FWC Music
11:30 PM				

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Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Family Worship Center - Associate Pastors	Jimmy Swaggart	Jimmy Swaggart
FWC Music		
Jimmy Swaggart Crusade Classics	Jimmy Swaggart Crusade Classics	Jimmy Swaggart Crusade Classics
FWC Music	FWC Music	FWC Music
A Study In The Word	A Study In The Word	Family Worship Center - Associate Pastors
FWC Music	FWC Music	
The Message Of The Cross (Live)	The Message Of The Cross (Live)	The Message Of The Cross (Repeat)
FWC Music	FWC Music	FWC Music
Insight (Live)	Insight (Live)	The Story Behind The Song (RPT)
Frances And Friends (Live)	Frances And Friends (Live)	Frances And Friends (Repeat)
FWC Music	FWC Music	Generation Of The Cross (E/I)
A Study In The Word (Replay)	A Study In The Word (Replay)	
Family Worship Center - Associate Pastors	Jimmy Swaggart	Jimmy Swaggart
FWC Music		
Donnie Swaggart	Jimmy Swaggart Crusade Classics	Donnie Swaggart
	Insight (Replay)	The Message Of The Cross (Replay)
A Study In The Word (Replay)	A Study In The Word (Replay)	
Frances And Friends (Replay)	Frances And Friends (Replay)	Frances And Friends (Repeat)
The Message Of The Cross (Replay)	The Message Of The Cross (Replay)	FWC Music
Crossfire Service (E/I)	Donnie Swaggart	Family Worship Center Wednesday Night Service (Replay)
FWC Music		Crossfire Service (E/I) (Repeat)

Hour (ET)

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Cox	483
Spectrum	470
OTA	20.1
Verizon	297
<i>Palm Desert, San Diego</i>	
Spectrum	470
<i>Redding/Chico</i>	
OTA	41.2
<i>Sacramento</i>	
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OTA	27.4
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Wave Division	21 / 26
San Bruno Cable	18 / 370
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OTA	38 / 68.3
<i>Santa Maria, San Luis Obispo,</i>	
<i>Santa Barbara</i>	
OTA	40.2

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D	
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OTA	46
<i>Statewide</i>	
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<i>Pocatello, Idaho Falls, Twin Falls</i>	
Cable One	91
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<i>Champaign</i>	
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Hamilton County	
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<i>Highland</i>	
Hamilton Communications	
Services	161
<i>Metamora</i>	
MTCO	201
<i>Peoria</i>	
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Comcast	103

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Comcast	111
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Spectrum	TBA
IOWA	
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OTA	14 / 36.2
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Comcast 389
Spectrum 158
WOW (Wide Open West)..... 194
OTA..... 14.5 / 19.2 / 47.3
Oakland County, Livonia

Spectrum 179 / 379

MINNESOTA
Minneapolis

Comcast 191

Minneapolis, St. Paul
OTA..... 25.2

Rochester
Spectrum 150 / 705

Thief River Falls
Sjoberg's Inc..... 182

MISSISSIPPI
Biloxi, Columbus, Grenada

Cable One..... 91

MISSOURI
Higginsville

Citizen's Cablevision..... 122

Joplin, Pittsburg
OTA..... 49.3

Kansas City
Spectrum 470
OTA..... 21.3

Kirksville
Cable One..... 91

St. Louis
Spectrum 109 / 775
OTA..... 7.2

Excelsior Springs
New Dawn Fiber..... 15

N Channel

NEBRASKA
Auburn, Columbus, Fremont, Lincoln
Spectrum 470

Norfolk
Cable One..... 91

Omaha
OTA..... 48.4

NEVADA
Las Vegas

OTA..... 30.3

Reno
Spectrum 139 / 890

NEW ENGLAND
Region-wide

Spectrum 470

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 280

Toms River
Comcast 19

NEW MEXICO
Albuquerque

Comcast 91
OTA..... 32.3

Rio Rancho
Cable One..... 91

NEW YORK
Albany, Binghamton (Montros, Bath, Jamestown), Buffalo, Syracuse, New York

Spectrum 470

Buffalo
OTA..... 56.6
Spectrum 470

Cobleskill
OTA..... 41.4

Carmel
Comcast 191

New York
Cablevision 15
Spectrum 22 / 470
Comcast 19 / 27 / 15
Frontier 43
RCN..... 39 / 270
OTA..... 42.1 / 43.1

Rochester
Spectrum 470

NORTH CAROLINA
Asheboro, Denton, New London

Randolph Telephone..... 257

Charlotte
Comporium..... 391
Spectrum 81 / 470
OTA..... 46.3

Fayetteville
OTA..... 15.3

Asheboro, Greensboro, Raleigh
Spectrum 470

Raleigh-Durham
OTA..... 16.3

Wilmington
OTA..... 43.2

NORTH DAKOTA
Enderlin

MLGC Enderlin 150

O Channel

OHIO
Akron

OTA..... 27.3 / 41.3

Akron, Canton, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Dayton

Spectrum 388 / 1388 HD

Cincinnati
OTA..... 25.6

Cleveland
WOW (Wide Open West)..... 193
OTA..... 27.3 / 41.3
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

P Channel

PENNSYLVANIA
Philadelphia

Comcast 24 / 25
OTA..... 51

Philadelphia
RCN..... 17 / 51
Service Electric Cable TV.. 22 / 26
Blue Ridge Comm..... 8 / 24

PUERTO RICO
Region-wide

Claro 24
Dish 7
Liberty Cable 41

Choice Cable..... 41

San Juan
OTA..... 25.2 / 42.1

R Channel

RHODE ISLAND
Providence

Cox Cable 70

S Channel

SOUTH CAROLINA
Charleston

Comcast 270

Columbia, Statewide
Spectrum 470

Rock Hill, Fort Mill, Lancaster, York, Chester, Clover, Lake Wylie

Comporium Cable..... 391

Spartanburg, Greenville
OTA..... 16.3

SOUTH DAKOTA
Beresford

Beresford Cablevision 487

T Channel

TENNESSEE
Dyersburg

Cable One..... 91

Jackson
OTA..... 27.4

Memphis
OTA..... 26.5 / 44

Nashville
OTA..... 31.3

TEXAS
Abilene

Harris Broadband 17

Alma-Garret
Spectrum 12

Amarillo
Cable One..... 91
OTA..... 22.3

Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio, Waco, Killeen

Spectrum 470

Austin
OTA..... 17.3

Balch Springs
Suddenlink..... 20 / 107HD

Bryan
OTA..... 34.6

Carrollton
Spectrum 14

Dallas
Rio Holdings..... 17 / 8147
Greenville Electric
Utility..... 22 / 222

Nortex Comm. Co...... 21 / 121

Northland Cable Television. 12 / 96 / 10

TEXAS (cont.)

Dallas
Millennium Telcom LLC 27
Alenco Communications 3
OTA 52.1
Spectrum 470

Denton
Spectrum 6 / 749 HD

Duncanville
Charter 13 / 749 HD

Ennis
Spectrum 12 / 750 HD

Greenville
Geus Cable 551

Greenville (Commerce)
Spectrum 22 / 742 HD

Houston
Comcast 76
OTA 10.2

Lubbock
OTA 29.4

Odessa
OTA 22.3

Park Cities
Spectrum 3 / 749 HD

Pilot Point
Suddenlink 97 / 197 HD

Port Lavaca, Aransas Pass, Texarkana
Cable One 91

Rockwall
Spectrum 14 / 749 HD

Sherman
Suddenlink 95 / 714

Temple
OTA 34.6

Throckmorton, Lake Graham, Newcastle
TGN Cable 487

Waco
OTA 34.6

Waxahachie
Spectrum 12

U Channel

UTAH
Salt Lake City
Comcast 91
OTA 23.2

W Channel

WASHINGTON
Goldendale
J&N Cable 487

Seattle
Comcast 14 / 102
Frontier 24
OTA 24.1

WASHINGTON DC
Washington DC
RCN 55
Cox 28

Comcast **Check local listings**
OTA 68.1

WEST VIRGINIA
Riverton
SKSRT 34

Wheeling
Comcast 190

WISCONSIN
Green Bay
Spectrum 388 / 1388 HD

Madison
OTA 8.3

Milwaukee
Spectrum 388 / 1388 HD
AT&T 68 / 1068
OTA 68.8

***U.S. OVER-THE-AIR (OTA), LISTINGS**

For those of you who are not familiar with digital television, these are free "old fashioned TV channels" that are able to be picked up with a digital tuner and antenna. Most new televisions are equipped with built-in digital tuners or you can purchase a tuner from your local electronics store (Best Buy®, Radio Shack®, etc.). As well, you can purchase the proper antenna at your local electronics store. Many viewers under the broadcast signal of the television station can use a small, digital antenna inside the home. For those on the outer edge of the signal or to receive the best signal, an outdoor antenna may be required. Both indoor and outdoor antennas are available for less than \$50!



INTERNATIONAL CABLE, SATELLITE AND FREE-TO-AIR (FTA) LISTINGS
ALL LISTINGS OPERATING 24/7

A Channel

ASIA & INDIA
ABS 1
sonlifetv.com for more info

AFRICA
Intelsat 20
Thaicom 5

Northern Africa
Hot Bird 6
sonlifetv.com for more info

AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND
OPTUS D2
sonlifetv.com for more info

AUSTRALIA
Foxtel® **NATIONWIDE** 186

Terrestrial Television Channels:
New South Wales
Canberra, Wollongong, Orange, Dubbo, Wagga

Excludes Sydney 55

Northern Territory
Darwin, Central 74

Queensland
Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Maryborough, Toowoomba, Excludes Brisbane 55

South Australia
(Spencer Gulf Area), Loxton, Mt. Gambier, Griffith, Mildura, Excludes Adelaide 54

Tasmania
Launceston, Hobart 64

Victoria
Albury, Ballarat, Bendigo, Gippsland, Shepparton, Excludes Melbourne 55

AUSTRIA
AustriaSat 313

B Channel

BARBADOS
Lime TV 4

BELGIUM
TéléSAT 532
TV Vlaanderen 356

BRAZIL
NATIONWIDE:
StarOne C2 Satellite
sonlifetv.com for more info
Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo
Net Cable 188

BULGARIA
Dcable, 3 Air Media

C Channel

CAYMAN ISLANDS
Lime TV 104

CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA / CARIBBEAN
Hispatas 1E
sonlifetv.com for more info

CZECH REPUBLIC
Skylink 265

D Channel

DENMARK
Viasat 205

E Channel

EUROPE
Hot Bird 6
sonlifetv.com for more info

F Channel

FINLAND
Viasat 205

FRANCE
WEBSERVICE - Play Media
Canal Sat

G Channel

GERMANY
Kabel Deutschland 847
Unity Cable 238
Kabel BW 302
Sky Deutschland 975
Stadtwerke 442
HD+ 983

Zattoo
Astra 1
sonlifetv.com for more info
Cologne, Dusseldorf, Bonn & Aachen
Net Cologne 409

I Channel

ISRAEL
Hot Cable 180
Hot Bird 6
sonlifetv.com for more info

ITALY
Tivu 79
Sky Italia 850

M Channel

MIDDLE EAST
Hot Bird 6
Eutelsat 25
sonlifetv.com for more info

N Channel

NETHERLANDS
Canal Digital 208

NEW ZEALAND
Sky 203
OTA Hill Nelson-26
OTA Takaka Hill-27

P Channel

POLAND
Korbank
MGK

R Channel

RUSSIA & EASTERN EUROPE
Amos 2 4^{West}

RUSSIA WEST
Yamal 1
sonlifetv.com for more info

S Channel

SLOVAKIA
Skylink 265

SOUTH AMERICA

Intelsat 21
sonlifetv.com for more info

SPAIN

Canal+ 463

SWEDEN

Viasat 205

SWITZERLAND

Zattoo

T

Channel

TANZANIA

Push Media

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Air Link Communications 25

U

Channel

UNITED KINGDOM

Sky Satellite 593

Freesat 695

Freeview 239

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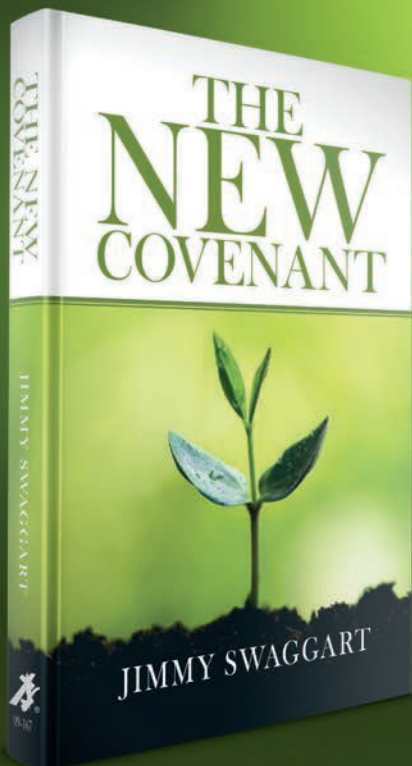
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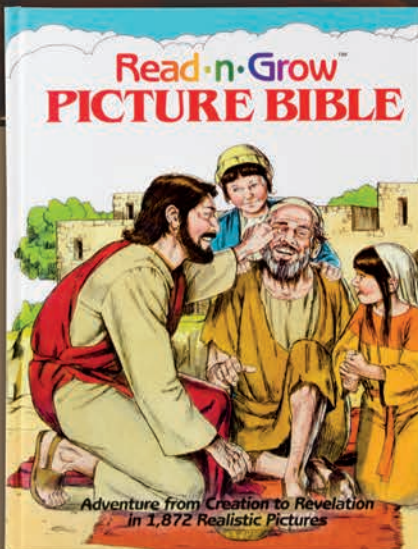
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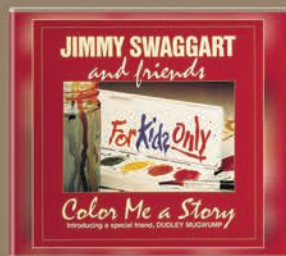


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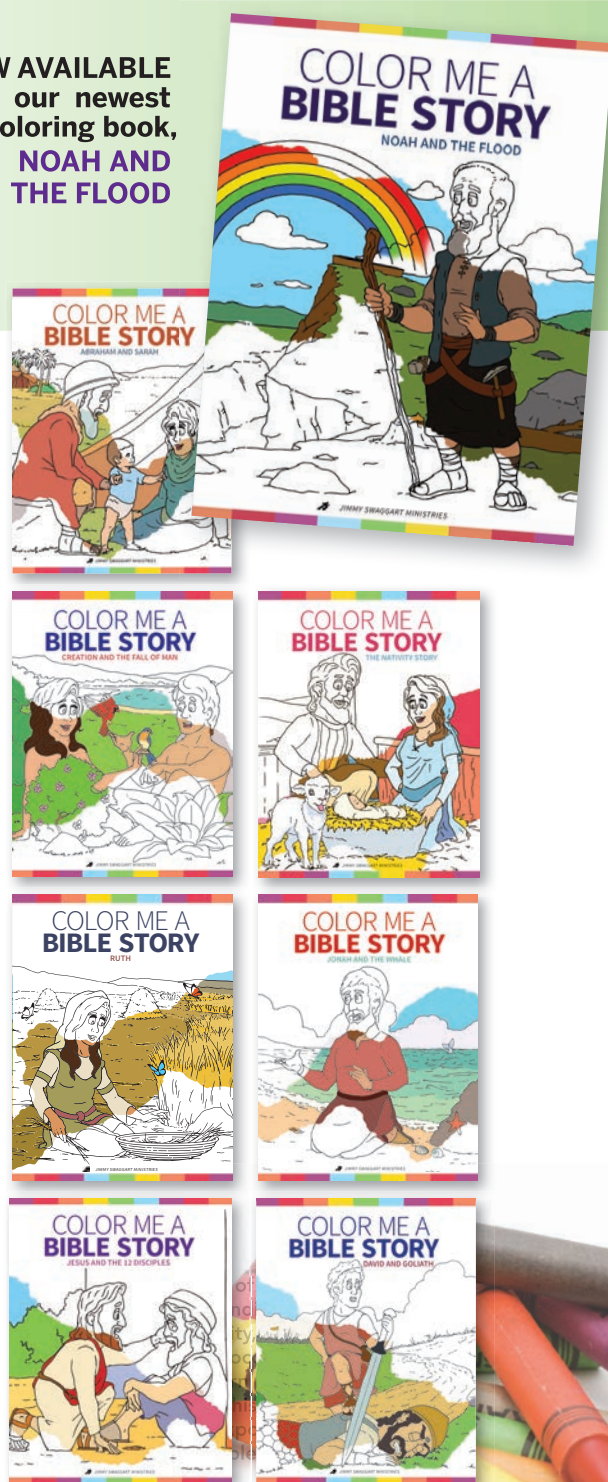
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inbox

LETTERS FROM THE AUDIENCE

SBN ENCOURAGES VIEWERS AROUND THE WORLD

“First, I want to thank Jesus about the health and life that we have. And, I want to say that your message that is given to us is very wonderful and full of teachings. I’m Mozambican, but I like very much your message, it is really helping me, so the most powerful God bless you all.” —Mozambique, Africa



FREE FLOW OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

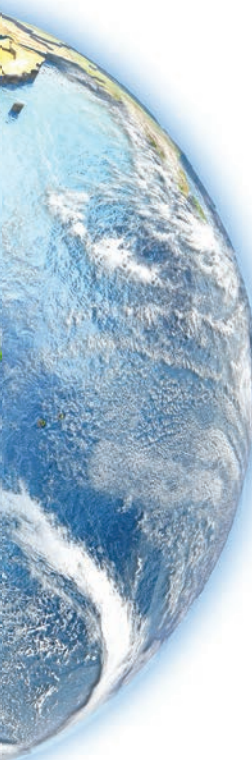
The most incredible thing happened to me today while watching Donnie preach on Acts. I am Pentecostal and never understood how to speak in tongues, but when he had the people gather around the octagon who were born-again believers yet struggle with speaking in tongues, and he explained how to let the free flow of the Holy Spirit bring the words that flowed into my mind, it happened. In my living room they poured out for the first time ever. I’m a sixty-eight-year-old disabled Vietnam veteran, married forty-six years, and



We would love to hear from you.
Please email your thoughts and
comments to info@jism.org

“I was touched to the core of my being watching the Sunday service with the song, “His Voice,” and seeing Pastor Gabe and Brother Larson praying with their daughters at the altar.”

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



now I thank God every day for His only Son Jesus who died upon the cross for me. And now, to experience the Holy Spirit in a way I never have before is a life blessing to me. Thanks for Donnie’s teaching of God’s Word. —**Missouri**

BLESSED IN PARAGUAY

I thank God because I was blessed, and many people I know, through Jimmy Swaggart Ministries in the 1980s, and God used it for us to become God’s children. Thank you. —**Paraguay**

PRAISE AND WORSHIP

God bless you and thank you for the CD of “Praise and Worship.” My favorite song on the CD is “His Eye Is on the Sparrow,” and when I play that song, I can feel the Holy Spirit, and my mom and dad, they feel it too. Thank you so much. God bless. —**Email**

UNSPEAKABLE GIFT

I don’t know where to begin. I was sitting in my living room broken and defeated when I channel surfed on to your network, and Brother Swaggart spoke to me right through the screen. What he said brought me to tears as I repented then and there. At that time he prayed, and I felt the Holy Ghost sweep over my spirit! Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift! Oh, and thank God for Jimmy Swaggart! —**Email**

HOLY SPIRIT MOVES IN HEARTS

Yesterday’s service was really amazing—what a move of the Holy Spirit! What a blessing to see people going to the altar without actually making an altar call; it was evident that the Holy Spirit was moving in hearts. This is only the beginning of what the Lord is going to do through the ministry. The church needs to keep

seeking the Lord now more than ever and pray for ministers to be brought accountable for their congregations and turn to the cross. —**Email**

ENLIGHTENED!

Thank you for the message of the cross preached on the SonLife Broadcasting Network. I am really enlightened! —**Zimbabwe**

MUSIC COMFORTS LISTENER

Brother Swaggart, I just wanted to tell you what happened to me when my dad died. The day we buried him, I walked in my bedroom, and my TV came on and you were on, singing a song. All I heard was, “I am on my way to heaven shouting the victory.” If I had any doubt, God was telling me where he went. —**Email**

“LET DOWN YOUR NET”

Pastor Jimmy, you’re speaking words and then singing it too on “Let Down Your Net” is as powerful as any long sermon! —**Texas**

MELTING A COLD HEART

I was touched to the core of my being watching the Sunday service with the song, “His Voice,” and seeing Pastor Gabe and Brother Larson praying with their daughters at the altar. I had been cold for a long time, but my spirit and soul are warming up and melting my icy inward self. SBN is reaching people and changing lives! —**Email**





BOB CORNELL

THE BETTER COVENANT

In Hebrews 8:6, the writer of Hebrews (likely Paul) states, *“But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.”* This one verse summarizes the emphasis in the book of Hebrews more than any other verse.

HEBREWS WAS written around AD 64 to Jewish believers in and near Jerusalem who were tempted to go back under Old Testament law and thereby leaving faith in Christ and His atoning death as the only means of salvation. This temptation came in the form of long-lasting persecution, which the Jewish Christians faced in Jerusalem, and also the martyrdom of James, the pastor of the church in Jerusalem.

Ananus, the high priest and leader of the Sanhedrin—the highest Jewish religious authority—hated James and had him stoned to death in AD 62. James, often criticized for not leading Jewish believers away from the law more, had been used of

God to see tens of thousands of Jews converted to faith in Christ as Saviour.

With James dead and all of the original apostles gone to other places of the known world, there was a lack of leadership in the church in Jerusalem. Discouragement set in among many of these Jewish believers. It was the perfect storm for Satan’s lie that going back to the law was better than staying with Jesus by faith.

An important lesson we can learn is this: the lack of godly church leadership emphasizing dependence on Jesus and the cross opens the door for lying spirits to seduce God’s people to go back to law. It can be religious law (legalism) or the law

of self (“I’ll live life my way”). If you are being tempted to go backward spiritually, I encourage and warn you not to go back to what Jesus delivered you from. Only bad can come from going back.

The main way that Paul encouraged these Jewish believers not to go back to law was by showing them that the covenant established through Christ’s death was so much better than the old covenant established on the death of animal sacrifices. The word *better* refers to something that is stronger and greater because it is fully developed. Something or someone is *better* after exerting the power needed to dominate the opposition. Paul uses this adjective to describe the new covenant.

God’s power was exerted at the cross through Christ’s death to dominate mankind’s greatest opposition—sin. Paul wrote that Christ has a *“more excellent ministry”* than the high priests of the old covenant (Heb. 8:6). Why? Because they offered animal sacrifices that could never take away sin; they were simply a shadow of the ultimate sacrifice—Jesus Christ.

“If you are being tempted to go backward spiritually, I encourage and warn you not to go back to what Jesus delivered you from.”

Paul also wrote that Jesus is “*the mediator of a better covenant.*” Why go back to the old when the new covenant is better? The reality is that life through Jesus Christ and what He accomplished on the cross is better than any other way of life, religious or worldly. The new covenant is better because Jesus is the mediator of it. Christ as mediator refers to the fact that He accomplished what mankind could not. Through His perfect birth, life, and ultimately His death, He fully kept the law, something that mankind is incapable of doing.

The old covenant (law) was between God and mankind. It requires perfect obedience to every aspect of the law. It proves that man is a sinner in need of the Saviour. The new covenant is the covenant between God and Jesus—mankind’s mediator and representative. When we put our trust in Jesus—trust that He died for our sins and rose from the dead—the Holy Spirit then



placed us in Christ (Rom.6:3-6). When God looks at us, He sees us in His Son, Jesus Christ.

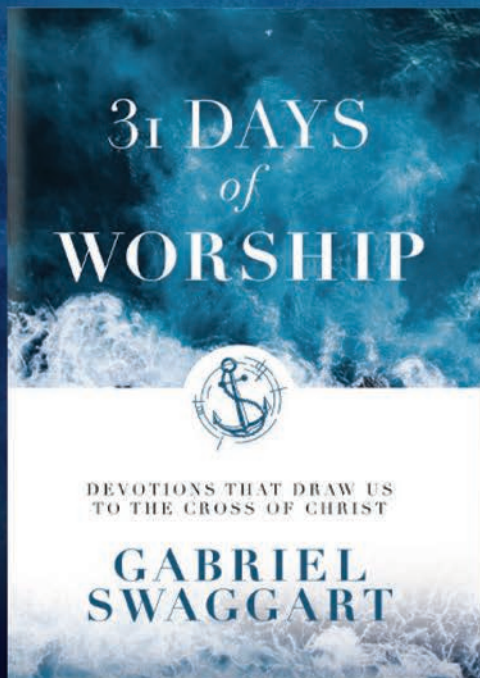
Everything that Christ accomplished through His death and resurrection is ours through dependence in Jesus—victory over sin, love, joy, peace, and all blessings from God come through what Jesus did on our behalf at the cross. What God requires of us is that we believe that.

We live in a world that is constantly

looking for something or someone *new* and *better*. Even though Jesus died and rose again almost two thousand years ago, what He accomplished on our behalf will always be *new* and *better* than anything this world can offer, so believe and live by the better covenant. ✈

To contact me about our new church plant in the Nashville, Tennessee area, email to bobcornell77@gmail.com. Blessings!

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LOREN LARSON

hope IN THE LORD

“This I recall to my mind,
therefore have I hope. It is
of the LORD’s mercies that
we are not consumed,
because his compassions
fail not. They are new
every morning: great is thy
faithfulness.”

—LAMENTATIONS 3:21-23

The New Year

The dawn of a brand-new year is upon us. As this new year begins, we find ourselves in various circumstances. For some, the new year will start with a sense of excitement, great enthusiasm, and a can’t-wait-to-get-started attitude. But for others, the new year begins in devastation. Life has not been kind, and situations far beyond our control have stepped up to steal the joy and peace that our relationship with God usually provides.

Regardless of the positive or negative situations you are facing, I write today to encourage you to place your faith and hope in the Lord. He will not leave if you are in a time of trial, and His presence will make your times of celebration and joy even greater. I write to encourage you to hope in the Lord.

Jeremiah

Jeremiah is the author of this particular text, and we join him as he views the demolished city of Jerusalem. Jeremiah had

dedicated his life to speaking the Word of God to the children of Israel, primarily to the tribe of Judah. He started off his ministry with high hopes and a sense of revival amongst the people, but it soon went downhill. Much to his dismay, he soon discovered that the people’s heart was far from God. Though he warned them of the consequences of sin and idolatry, the people failed to heed his warnings. Because of their rebellion, God allowed his people to be decimated and taken into Babylonian captivity. The city of Jerusalem is destroyed and stands burning and empty. The view is a scene of death—an empty moonscape that is barely recognizable as the city of David. Everything that might have been is now no longer. The idea that things could ever be right again is hard to imagine and even more difficult to believe.

In this setting, Jeremiah writes the words of our text. He declares that despite what is obvious and evident, he still believes that God will set things right for

His people. He has hope in the Lord. The reasons he calls up this hope are given in Lamentations 3:21-26. These reasons are good for those of us who need to replenish our hope in the Lord.

New Every Morning

Jeremiah has hope in the Lord because God's mercy and compassions never fail to be exhibited and expressed in the lives of His people. The love that God has for those of us who have accepted His Son is a love that will not fail or be depleted. It is a love promised through covenant relationship that God cannot fail to express. Romans 5:8 says, "*while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*" How much more now being made partakers of His covenant, will He save us from our untoward circumstances and situations? If we think for a moment that God's compassion and His loving kindnesses toward us have been worn down and depleted, then we are mistaken. Jeremiah reminds us that no matter how much mercy or love God expends upon His people at any certain hour, God has a supply that is more than enough for that current day. And whatever He might have expended in the day before is replenished at the start of each new day. It is impossible for God to run out

of compassion toward his people. Based on this truth, we should continually hope in the Lord.

God Is My Portion

Jeremiah also expresses hope in the Lord because God is his portion. This means that he is affiliated or belongs to the person named. As believers, we belong to the Lord. Everything that we are, and everything that we have is in His capable hands. Circumstances are not in charge of our fate. We are not dependent upon luck or chance. Serving God secures us to the one sure thing in the universe. He watches over my inheritance. He has delivered me from the pain of my past, and He has secured me for a future and an eternity with Him. God is my portion. Therefore, I will hope in him.

“The love that God has for those of us who have accepted His Son is a love that will not fail or be depleted.”

Wait On The Lord

Jeremiah has hope in the Lord and knows that it is good to wait for His delivering power. In times when we fail to understand or see what God is doing, it is easy to be overwhelmed by the negativity and hurt that dominates our hearts and minds. But there is an avenue that is always open to the believer. We have access by faith into grace from God. We are to seek Him and believe that He has our best in mind. We come boldly to the throne of grace where we find mercy and grace to help in our time of need. Having made our requests known, we then wait upon God to deliver the answers regarding the salvation we require. It is good to both wait and hope in the Lord.

He Came To Pick Us Up

The story has been told of the child in day care. Each day she waited patiently for one of her parents to arrive and take her home. On one afternoon she was particularly anxious to leave. When her father arrived to take her home, she ran quickly to him and stated passionately, "Let's go home!" But the day care worker had to slow her down. Before she could leave, she needed to put the toys away that she had left on the floor. Almost in a panic the child cried out, "Oh Daddy, don't leave me!" Her father smiled and said, "Don't worry, dear. I didn't come to leave you; I came to pick you up." Your heavenly Father did not save you to leave you. He came to pick you up. Hope in the Lord! 🦋

**I didn't
come to leave
you; I came
to pick
you up.**



JOHN ROSENSTERN



Contemplative Prayers

In the last several articles, I began to expose the false teachings of mysticism along with its modern New Age concepts that have crept into the church. As previously discussed in my recent articles, the principles of this teaching are far from new.

SIMPLY PUT, THEY are repackaged satanic lies couched with Christian jargon and sold in books by popular so-called Christian authors. Aside from trying to judge their motives we can, and we should, evaluate their writings and teachings to determine if they are biblically correct in interpretation and understanding of God's Word.

Centering Prayers, Breath Prayers

A simple method of contemplative prayer, often called "centering" prayer, has several steps: a person chooses a single sacred word and repeats it inwardly—slowly and often. Eastern religions refer to this as a mantra. During a conference on contemplative prayer, the question was put to

Thomas Merton, "How can we best help people (not just Christians) to attain union with God?" His answer was very clear. He said, "We must tell them that they are already united with God. Contemplative prayer is nothing other than coming into consciousness of what is already there."

In my last article, I defined pantheism and panentheism. These two words basically mean that everything is God and God is in everything. Popular so-called Christian authors of the contemplative movement oftentimes quote from their contemplative prayer peers to gain notoriety and authority to themselves in order to justify their teachings.

In Rick Warren's book, *The Purpose Driven Life*, one will find plenty of these contemplative prayer mystics quoted and named by Warren. Notwithstanding, he himself will make references and recommendations for readers to practice contemplative prayers. "With practice," Warren

Deceptive Quotations Regarding Contemplative Prayer

"Today I personally believe that while Jesus came to open the door to God's house, all human beings can walk through that door, whether they know about Jesus or not. Today I see it as my call to help every person claim his or her own way to God." —HENRI NOUWEN

"Ask for a simple prayer to express your willingness to meet God in the silence ... a simple statement ...such as "Here I am." ... Help yourself return to your original intent by repeating the prayer that you have chosen." —RUTH HALEY BARTON

"Everyone is born a mystic and a lover who experiences the unity of things and all are called to keep this mystic or lover of life alive." —MATTHEW FOX

"If we are not still before Him [God], we will never truly know to the depths of the marrow of our bones that He is God. There's got to be a stillness." —BETH MOORE

"The quiet repetition of a single word can help us to descend with the mind into the heart." —HENRI NOUWEN

writes, “you can develop the habit of praying silent ‘breath prayers.’”¹ He adds: “Use ‘breath prayers’ throughout the day, as many Christians have done for centuries. You choose a brief sentence or a simple phrase that can be repeated to Jesus in one breath.”²

Likewise, Brennan Manning recommends William O’ Shannon’s book, *Silence on Fire* and Thomas Keating’s book on centering prayer titled *Open Mind, Open Heart*.

In *Silence on Fire*, O’ Shannon blasts the Christian’s biblical God: “This is a typical patriarchal notion of God. He is the God of Noah who sees people deep in sin, repents that He made them and resolves to destroy them. He is the God of the desert who sends snakes to bite His people because they murmured against Him. He is the God of David who practically decimates a people.... He is the God who exacts the last drop of blood from His Son, so that His just anger, evoked by sin, may be appeased. This God whose moods alternate between graciousness and fierce anger. This God does not exist.”³

It is important to note that the purpose of contemplative prayer is to enter an altered state of consciousness in order to find one’s true self, thus finding God. This true self relates to the belief that man is basically good. Christian proponents of contemplative prayer teach that all human beings have a divine center and that all, not just born-again believers, should practice contemplative prayer.

In his book, *Signature of Jesus*, Manning

writes, “The God who dwells in our inner sanctuary is the same as the one who dwells in the inner sanctuary of each human being.”⁴

In his book, *Here and Now*, Henri Nouwen writes, “Deep within us all there is an amazing inner sanctuary of the soul, a holy place, a Divine Center.”⁵

In his book *Celebration of Discipline*, Richard Foster writes, “Even people who have yet to turn their lives over to Jesus Christ—can and should practice them (spiritual disciplines).”⁶

In his book, *Abba’s Child*, Manning writes, “If I find Christ, I will find my true self and if I find my true self, I will find Christ.”⁷

According to the website, “A Sacred Journey,” Lacy Clark Ellman posts this about centering prayer:

“The practice of centering prayer, though ancient in roots, is modern in design. Based on the contemplative practices of the Desert Mothers and Fathers of early Christian monasticism wherein practitioners prayerfully engage passages of Scripture, the method of centering prayer as we know it today was developed by mystic Roman Catholic priests Thomas Keating, M. Basil Pennington, and William Menninger in the 1970s.

“With a desire to make contemplative prayer more accessible—an ancient posture of prayer and practice which emphasizes abiding in the presence of God, leading to union with the divine—Thomas Keating and his colleagues created a practice which

would utilize the style of the contemplative practices of the East that were so popular with seekers at the time while still being rooted in the Christian tradition.

“Centering prayer is a meditative practice. However, it does not focus on words but on the places of interior silence and stillness where God abides and invites practitioners toward a deeper connection with Christ Incarnate—the perfect union of human and divine.

“This is the invitation of centering prayer, a practice which, when engaged regularly, slowly transforms us at our very core in a way that is beyond words, teaching us to not only abide in the presence of the Divine but also cultivating a sense of inner silence and stillness.”⁸

Meditation is the first of the disciplines taught in the book, *Celebration of Discipline* by Foster. The idea of being still and emptying yourself is not taught anywhere in the Bible. The use of repetitive prayer is nothing but vain repetition that Jesus spoke against in Matthew 6:7. ✚

SOURCES:

¹Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life* (Running Press, 2003), 299.

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³William H. Shannon, *Silence on Fire* (New York: The Crossroad Publishing Company, 2000), 109-110.

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⁵Henri Nouwen, *Here and Now*, (New York: The Crossroad Publishing Company, 1994), 22.

⁶Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*, (Harper Collins, 1988), 2.

⁷Brennan Manning, *Abba’s Child*, (NavPress, 1994), 12.

⁸<https://www.asacredjourney.net/how-to-practice-centering-prayer/>

“We need to become aware of the Cosmic Christ, which means recognizing that every being has within it the light of Christ.”

—MATTHEW FOX

“What works for me is a combination of disciplines: I do yoga, tai chi which is a Chinese martial art and three kinds of meditation—vipassana, transcendental and mantra (sound) meditation.” —JACK CANFIELD

“Isn’t it a pity that people are going into LSD to have spiritual experiences, when we have a

tradition in the Church [contemplative prayer] which no one knows anything about?”

—THOMAS MERTON

“My acquaintance with eastern methods of meditation has convinced me that ... there are ways of calming the mind in the spiritual disciplines of both the east and the west [and] many serious seekers of truth study the eastern religions.” —THOMAS KEATING

“When we go to the center of our being and pass through that center into the very center of

God we get in immediate touch with this divine creating energy ... that the divine energy may have the freedom to forward the evolution of consciousness in us and through us, as a part of the whole, in the whole of the creation.”

—M. BASIL PENNINGTON

“Pick out a word or two. Tell your children to sit quietly and repeat the word in their heads—not thinking about the word, just repeating it.”

—POPE JOHN PAUL II

MIKE
MUZZERALL



HAPPY NEW YEAR... MAYBE?

To those who know Christ, it's a time to thank Him for all that He has done in us, for us, and through us. It's also a time when churches around the world seek His anointing for the year to come. For those who do not call Him Lord and Saviour, there is a misplaced hope and anticipation. They act as if "in the midnight hour," something miraculous occurs making everything new.

The Next Day

What happens the next day? Would their financial problems mysteriously disappear? Would their debits miraculously turn into credits? Would marital struggles somehow get resolved at the stroke of midnight? The reality is that very little changes the next day. Sometimes, it becomes worse.

The Old Has Passed Away

Yet for some of us, it indeed has become a reality. In one day, in one moment, in one second, the old passed away and everything becomes new. No I'm not talking about something that came about as the New Year's countdown reached zero, or the New Year's ball fell. I'm talking about a true miracle from heaven.

If Anyone Is In Christ

This miracle came the moment we placed our faith in the completed work of Calvary and accepted Christ as our Lord and Saviour. Paul tells us, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Cor. 5:17).

If you are in Christ, and I pray that you are, then you are definitely a new creature—old things have passed away. All things are become new.

Reconciliation

Many in the world make a New Year's wish for reconciliation. It might be between husband and wife, boyfriend and girlfriend or between family members. Sometimes, it happens. Most of the time, it doesn't happen. There is, however, a reconciliation that is greater than what can happen between any two individuals. I'm talking about the reconciliation that comes through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ on an old rugged cross: "And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ" (II Cor. 5:18).

There's No Other Way!

There's no other way to be reconciled to God but through Jesus Christ. Through one's own efforts, religious fervor, and the

labor of one's own hands, mankind cannot obtain reconciliation with a holy God: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8-9).

Everything Made New For A Purpose

Why did the Father reconcile us to Himself by Jesus Christ (II Cor. 5:18)? Of course it was because of His great love (Jn. 3:16). Yet there's more. Paul speaks about this purpose: "And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; to wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world

unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation" (II Cor. 5:18-19).

The Ministry Of Reconciliation

We have been reconciled in order to minister reconciliation—reconciled to reconcile. The true gospel of Jesus Christ always offers reconciliation to mankind.

Happy New Year

Happy New Year—I hope so. There is, however, a way we can know with certainty that we will have a happy and blessed year. If we let Christ have the preeminence in every aspect of our lives, then it will be a happy new year. ✎

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[Dave Smith]

WHAT IS MENTAL ILLNESS?

In order to answer the question about what mental illness is, we must first answer these questions: Who decides what is a mental illness? Who decides when a person is mentally ill?

Who Decides What A Mental Illness Is?

Mental illnesses have been determined in these ways: by the Supreme Court, by the American Psychiatric Association, personal distress, majority cultural opinions, changing attitudes, and for eligibility purposes in claims against health insurance and disabilities.

The Supreme Court, for example, voted that drug addiction (*Robinson v. California*), and alcoholism (*Powell v. Texas*), which had been thought of as social problems were redefined as mental illnesses in 1962 and 1967 respectively.

In their book, *Christian Response to Mental Illness*, Martin and Deidra Bobgan write, “The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) is based on

the medical model of mental illness. It describes and categorizes mental-emotional-behavioral symptoms for the purposes of diagnosis and treatment. The American Psychiatric Association published the DSM and psychiatrists regard “The Manual” as the bible of mental disorders, in spite of the fact that it is a subjective instrument based on subjective symptoms rather than on objective biological evidence.”¹

According to the Citizen Commission on Human Rights International’s website, “The disorders listed within the DSM are arrived upon by psychiatrists literally voting on what is, or is not considered a mental disorder. Unlike the rest of medicine, mental disorders are arrived at by a political process.”²

An example is the fact that in 1974, the

American Psychiatric Association voted to remove homosexuality from the list of mental illnesses except for those who were experiencing conflict about their condition.

So, the Bobgans write, such a condition is considered a “disease that is determined by personal distress, cultural acceptability, and changing attitudes. In the biological sphere, a disease is a disease regardless of personal distress or cultural acceptability.”³

Based on these findings, it’s no wonder that the DSM has grown from 107 diagnoses and 132 pages in 1952, to 300 diagnoses and 900 pages in 2013.

Another example: here is the summary of the criteria from the DSM for diagnosing someone with depression (if he or she



has five or more of the following symptoms during the same two-week period):

1. Depressed mood
2. Diminished interest or pleasure in activities
3. Significant weight loss or gain, or decrease or increase in appetite
4. A noticeable slowing down of



thought or physical movement

5. Fatigue or loss of energy
6. Feelings of worthlessness or guilt
7. Diminished ability to think or concentrate, or indecisiveness
8. Recurrent thoughts of death or suicide.⁴

Notice that each symptom deals with thoughts, feelings, or behavior and has nothing to do with biological, organic, or physical diseases or causes that can be objectively measured.

It is true that symptoms of depression can be caused by physical diseases such as thyroid problems, hypoglycemia, and hormone imbalances, but if these can

be discovered by physical tests, why are they not called physical diseases instead of mental illnesses?

The Bobgans add, “Problems of living, therefore, must be transformed into illnesses, diseases, or disorders to be eligible for health insurance payments.”⁵ The same is necessary for disability payments.

Who Decides When A Person Is Mentally Ill?

Diagnoses of mental illnesses are made by psychiatrists, and, sometimes are even impacted by the choices of the patients. The general public, for example, “has been lead to believe that a diagnosis of a mental disorder is the same as a legitimate medical diagnosis of disease, which is false. Any diagnosis of mental disorder is dependent solely upon the psychiatrist’s opinion, reading through checklists of behaviors that define the various ‘mental disorders’ contained in the DSM. This is why a person diagnosed with one mental disorder can see another psychiatrist who decides he has a completely different mental disorder. There are no medical tests to prove either psychiatrist’s diagnosis is wrong, because there are no medical tests to prove either psychiatrist is right.”⁶

So, the determination of whether or not a homosexual is mentally ill now depends on whether or not that person is considered disturbed or comfortable with his homosexual lifestyle. “In other words,” the Bobgans write, “a homosexual who is disturbed about his condition is mentally ill;

but, if he is comfortable with his orientation, he is not. The same is now true with pedophiliacs. In the light of such voting, a person’s evaluation about his own condition has now become a measure of whether or not he is sick, which reveals how fraudulent the mental labeling game is.”⁷

Another example: when a person who is commonly called a transgender is diagnosed as having gender dysphoria—previously called a gender identity disorder—simply because that person prefers a different gender identity to the one he or she was born with.

So, mental illnesses are not diagnosed based on physical biological tests, but on the thoughts, attitudes, feelings, and behaviors of people and determined by a person’s distress, cultural opinions, and the changing attitudes of a majority of people. ✎

SOURCES

¹Martin Bobgan and Deidre Bobgan, Christian Response To Mental Illness (Santa Barbara: Eastgate Publishers. 2019), 42.

²Citizen Commission On Human Rights International (cchrint.org).

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⁴Jessica Truschel, “Depression Definition and DSM-5 Diagnostic Criteria,” <https://www.psycom.net/authors/jessica-truschel>.

⁵Martin Bobgan and Deidre Bobgan, Christian Response To Mental Illness (Santa Barbara: Eastgate Publishers. 2019), 85.

⁶Citizen Commission On Human Rights International (cchrint.org).

⁷Martin Bobgan and Deidre Bobgan, Christian Response To Mental Illness (Santa Barbara: Eastgate Publishers. 2019), 80.

“Notice that each symptom deals with thoughts, feelings, or behavior and has nothing to do with biological, organic, or physical diseases or causes that can be objectively measured.”



FROM ME TO YOU

By Jimmy Swaggart

The Call Of God

As I have mentioned any number of times, and I will continue to mention it, the Lord called me for world evangelism when I was eight years of age. To be frank, I hardly knew what world evangelism was, limiting it to missionaries. Since then, that has changed by at least one hundred percent.

The change comes not only in the means by which the gospel is taken to the world, which we do by television, but really the change is every believer on the face of the earth also being called for world evangelism.

SOME YEARS AGO, most believers had little means by which to obey that command of our Lord. But now, it is within the reach of every single believer.

We ask you for money to pay for the time that goes all over the world when it's aired over television a few days later; think about that for a moment. We now reach well over half of this world, probably closer to two-thirds, and we're adding areas all the time. In other words, we reach more people with one program for television than most of the churches in the United States and other parts of the world are able to reach. How we thank God for that privilege.

I Cannot Do It Without You

As I have said over and over again, and will continue to say, I cannot do this without you. It's just that simple. And please understand, that is not a mere cliché, it is the truth. I cannot do this thing that God has called me to do—reach out to the entire world and give hundreds of thousands (if not millions) of people who watch this programming an opportunity to be saved. I have got to have your help. By that I mean your prayerful and financial help.

On the other side of that proverbial coin, what a privilege it is to do this. At times, we may think that the Lord requires too much. He really doesn't require



“We have a book on just about every doctrine of the Bible. And if we don’t have it now, we will have it shortly.”

much of anything on our part. What little it is, it’s something that all of us can do.

Make Certain

And yet, the sad fact is, most of the money given for world evangelism goes for false doctrine or for whatever, but very little that is true and right. Now think about that for a moment.

How do you know that what is being preached out there is correct? Actually, you can tell more so now than ever before. Most of what is preached is shown over television, so you can see what the preacher is saying. Some small amount of it is true and right, but most of it isn’t. To be sure, it does no good whatsoever for a false message to go out. Remember this: Satan knows how to dress up his wares. He’s had many, many centuries worth of

experience in deceiving people. So if you will ask the Lord to show you what is right and what is wrong, that He will do.

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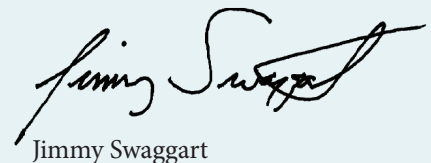
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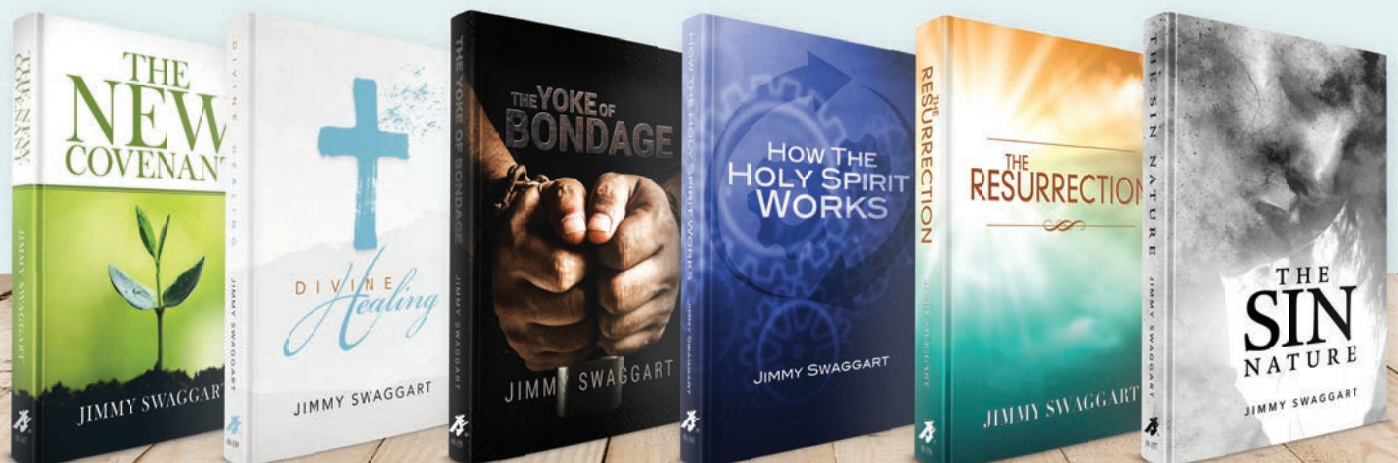
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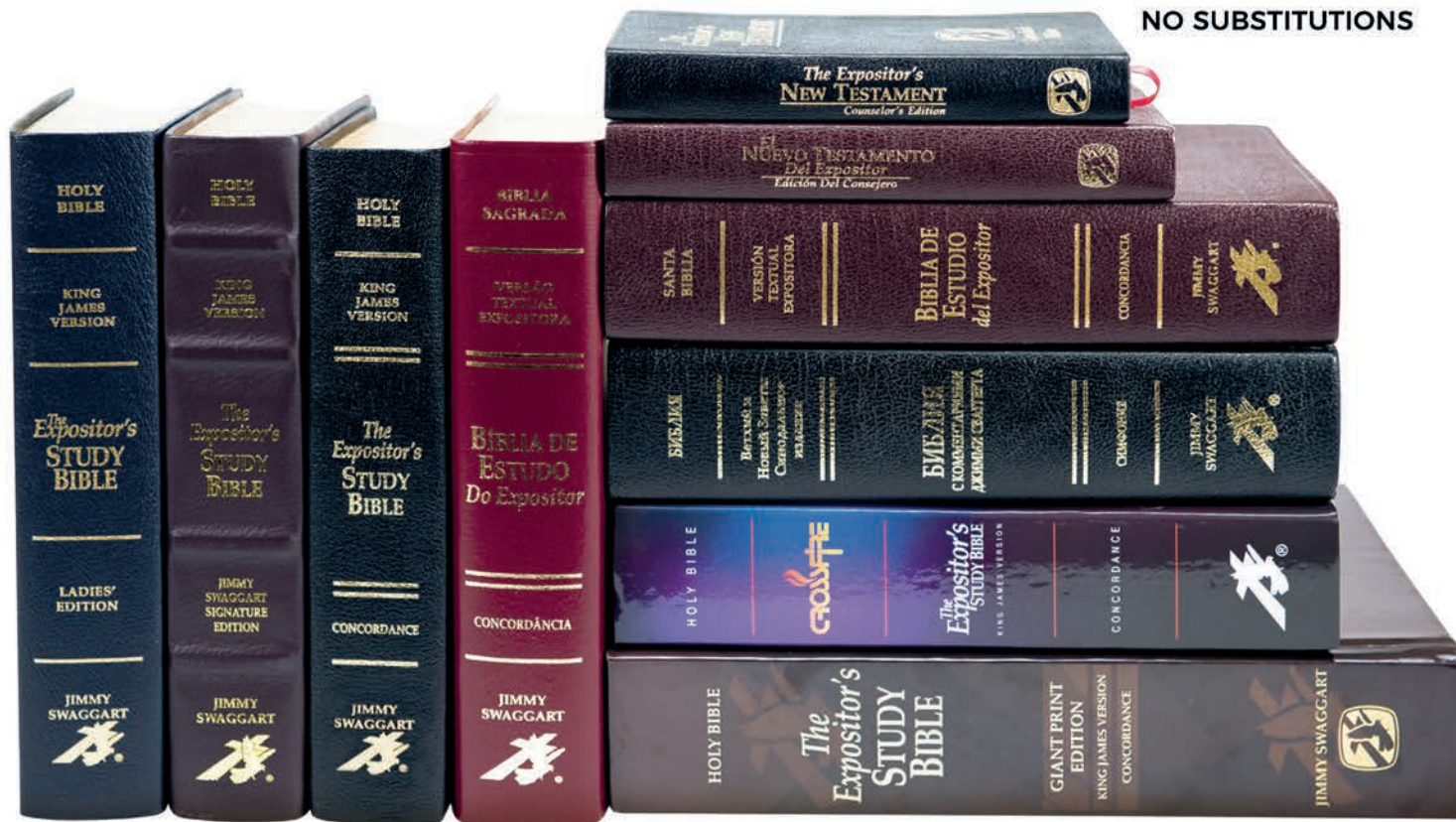
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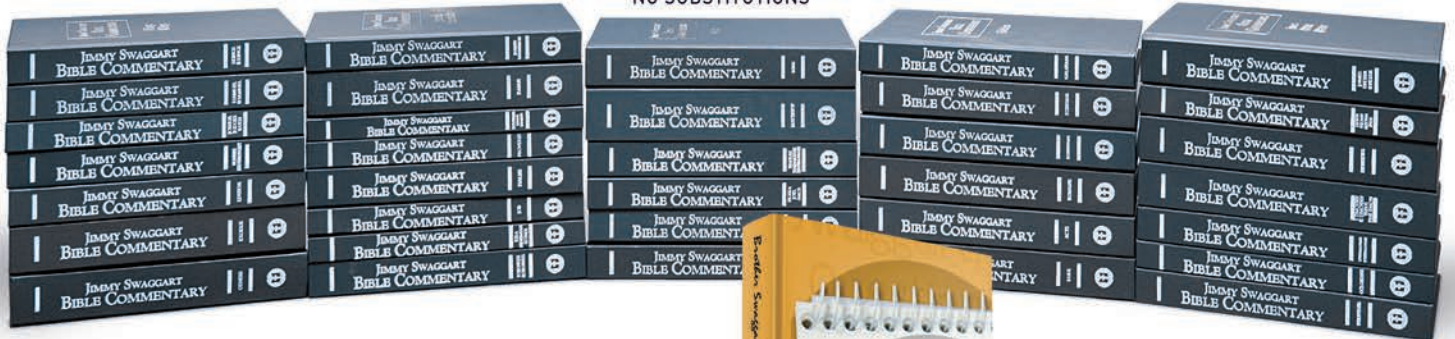
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→ **SUN 11 AM (Adult Service)**

APRIL 3-5, 2020 - FORT GIBSON, OK

Pastor Lonnie E. Orman
New Life Assembly of God
200 N Lee, Fort Gibson, OK 74434
918.348.6288
→ **FRI 7 PM**
→ **SAT 10 AM & 7 PM**
→ **SUN 11 AM**
(This is their annual homecoming revival 2020)

JUNE 3-6, 2020 - BATON ROUGE, LA

International Kid's Conference
Jimmy Swaggart Ministries
8919 World Ministries Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70810
For information call 225.768.8300
→ **WED 7 PM**
→ **THURS 10 AM & 6 PM**
→ **FRI 10 AM & 6 PM**
→ **SAT 10 AM & 6 PM**

AUGUST 7-9, 2020 - LEMING, TX

Christ the Rock Church
8986 US Highway 281, Leming, TX 78064
→ **FRI 6 PM**
→ **SAT 10 AM - 3PM (Super Saturday - Children's Crusade, food, fun games)**
→ **SAT 6 PM (Adult Service)**
→ **SUN 10:30 AM (Adult Service)**

All meetings subject to change. Please visit
www.jism.org for most current schedules.

Wed.

Thur.

Fri.

Sat.



David Borg

Office: 225.768.3890
Email: davidborg@jism.org

JANUARY 2-5, 2020 – COACHELLA, CA

Pastor Daniel Munoz
Send The Fire Ministries Church
1604 7th Street, Coachella, CA
760.342.9612

- THURS 7 PM*
- FRI 7 PM*
- SAT 6 PM*
- SUN 10 AM*

**(Martha Borg ministering in song)*

JANUARY 11-12, 2020 – OTTAWA, IL

Pastor Jon Wenger
Heritage Christian Center
900 Hitt St., Ottawa, IL 61350
815.434.0507

- SAT 6 PM
- SUN 10 AM

JANUARY 24-26, 2020 – HOUSTON, TX

Pastor Tony & Faye Pittman
Oak Meadows Community Worship Center
1605 Allen Dale Road, Houston, TX
832.421.4117

- FRI 7 PM*
- SAT 6 PM*
- SUN 10 AM

**(Martha Borg ministering in song)*

FEBRUARY 7-9, 2020 – QUEEN CITY, TX

Pastor Curtis Hutchinson
Crossway Church
610 Hwy 59, Queen City, TX 75572
903.799.7181

- FRI 7 PM
- SAT 10 AM & 6 PM
- SUN 10 AM

MARCH 7-8, 2020 – COLUMBUS, MS

Pastor James Verdell
All Nations Ministries
1560 Hwy 69 South, Columbus, MS
662.425.6626 or 662.244.8772

- SAT 10 AM & 7 PM
- SUN 9 AM

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BY JIMMY SWAGGART



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