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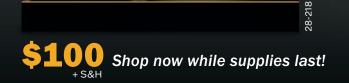
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ON THE COVER Happy Birthday Brother Swaggart!



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THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

"And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people."

-MATTHEW 9:35

IT'S BEEN SAID that two-thirds of the name of God is "Go." The method of Christ in going to all the cities and villages in Israel is the example we are to follow. After the cross, the Holy Spirit extended the commission to the entirety of the world through the apostle Paul (Mark 16:15).

The very heart of God, which means His priority, is the taking of the message of redemption to the world. If that is not paramount in any church, heart, and life, then the pattern laid down by Christ has been abandoned. Whatever replaces this is of man and will receive no blessing from the Lord and, consequently, will reap no positive spiritual results. One can tell the spiritual temperature of any Christian effort or single individual by the burden, or lack thereof, regarding taking the gospel to the world. If there is a small burden, then there is a small amount of God. Still, most of the money given by Christendom for that which purports to be world missions is used to support either bloated religious bureaucracies or false doctrine. Precious little actually gets to that which is the true gospel of Jesus Christ. Most of it goes to support the "Pharisees" (Matt. 9:34), with little going to support Christ.

Matthew 9:35 says that Christ, "went about all the cities and villages,

"Christ was the greatest teacher of men. His listeners marveled at what He said because of two things: His knowledge of the Word of God and the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon Him." *teaching in their synagogues.*" The word *teaching* refers to imparting scriptural knowledge and instilling doctrine. It simply means to explain the Word of God. Christ was the greatest teacher of men. His listeners marveled at what He said because of two things: His knowledge of the Word of God and the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon Him.

Matthew 9:35 also says concerning Christ, "and preaching the gospel of the kingdom." Someone has said that preaching proclaims truth, while teaching explains it. Teaching is referred to about one hundred and sixty-eight times in the Bible and is about equal in both Testaments. But preaching is referred to only five times in the Old Testament and one hundred and thirty-eight times in the New Testament. The reason for such little preaching in the Old Testament is because the gospel of the new covenant had only been pointed to and not yet given. Now, with the advent of the new covenant, preaching is predominant in the New Testament. It was the "gospel of the kingdom" that was preached, and which should be preached today. It simply refers to all that Christ brought and bought at Calvary and the resurrection. Preaching and teaching are God's methods of the propagation of the gospel. He has never chosen anything else and will not choose anything else. When we try to replace those two things with something else, the result is never positive.

Matthew 9:35 also says, "and healing every sickness and every disease among the people." This was the ministry of Christ, and He commanded every gospel minister thereafter to do this work (Matt. 10:1-8, 28:20; Mark 3:15, 6:7-13, 16:15-20; Luke 9:2, 10:9; James 5:14-16). Praying for the sick and believing the Lord for healing is part and parcel of the gospel. If these are eliminated, it means that a part of the "gospel of the kingdom" is no longer being preached. Sadly, most preaching today falls into this category of unbelief. Can we, as preachers of the gospel, or any believer, expect the same results that Christ had in this regard? No, and the reason is simple—we aren't Christ. Although we are allowed to use His name, and we are to expect healing, there has never been anyone who could even remotely come up to that which our Lord experienced. First of all, this was Christ, the Son of the living God. While He did not perform any miracles as God, still He was filled with the Holy Spirit to a greater degree than any human being ever has been. As well, the Holy Spirit had a perfect temple in which to reside, but the same cannot be said for anyone else. Also, Jesus was introducing the kingdom, showing what it will be like in the coming kingdom age. We can point to this age that is coming, but it's not here yet. While the

Lord still heals the sick and still performs miracles—and we should expect that—at the same time, we are not yet in the kingdom age. But thank God, that age is soon to come.

AS SHEEP HAVING NO SHEPHERD

"But when He saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd" (Matt. 9:36).

Compassion refers to the true heart of God. This should be—and in fact will be—the attitude of all believers who truly know Christ. The word *moved* refers to pity and sympathy, which had its foundation in the very heart of Christ—His innermost being.

The word *compassion* has its roots in heathen sacrifices, which spoke of the intestines being taken from the victim and held up before the sun in the hands of the offeror. It spoke of the bowels—the very guts or inner being of a victim. It was called "the compassion." Consequently, when the word *compassion* is used, it speaks of far more than just a feeling of sympathy. It is sympathy and pity that is born in the very being of the individual, which



affects the entire person. The phrase, "*because they fainted*," tells the reason for this compassion. The people are pictured as sheep harassed and prostrated by fatigue. The phrase, "*and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd*," proclaims Israel as having precious few spiritual shepherds, if any. Yes, the Pharisees of Matthew 9:34 were loud and boisterous concerning their religious claims, but they had no heart for God. Consequently, they were not true shepherds. As a result, the "sheep" did not know what to do, where to go, or what to believe. Is this any less true today?

In my travels around the world, as far as Christianity is concerned, I saw the Catholic Church ruling the people by fear and superstition. Too often, the Protestants are little better, having no leadership at all, at least no true spiritual leadership. Every under shepherd (and that's what men are) is to heed the Lord Jesus, "that great shepherd of the sheep" (Heb. 13:20). Peter referred to our Lord as the "Shepherd and Bishop of your souls" (I Pet. 2:25). If this is done, the people will be truly led. But if under shepherds listen to themselves or to other men, then they will be the same as the Pharisees. They are known as "thieves and robbers" (John 10:8). It might quickly be said that in Jesus' day, if one followed organization-institutionalized religionthen he could not follow Christ. Conversely if he followed Christ, then he could not follow organized religion. What we have now is not far from what prevailed in the time of Christ. When denominational heads demand that they be listened to and explicitly obeyed or else, you can be certain that what they are saying is not of God. Then and now, this boils down to who is the true head of the church. It is either man or Christ, but it cannot be both. Paul said, "Let no man beguile you..." into, "not holding the Head," i.e., Christ (Col. 2:18-19). To be a true shepherd, one must adhere 100 percent to the Word of God. That is the business of the true shepherd—rightly dividing the Word of Truth and properly delivering it to the people. And, to take it a little further, to be the true shepherd that one ought to be, he must understand the cross of Christ as it refers not only to justification but also

"The few who did know Him were few indeed. Out of all the hundreds of thousands of preachers in Christendom today, true laborers are few and far between."

to sanctification. In fact, he cannot really understand the Bible as he should unless he understands the message of the cross. This is absolutely imperative. And if he understands the message of the cross, then he will find the pieces of the Word of God falling into place, making it much easier to understand. Everything, and I mean everything, hinges on the cross of Christ.

The "seeker sensitive" movement has caught on big in the United States and other countries of the world, but what does the term *seeker sensitive* mean? It means that the preacher finds out what the people in his church want and what they don't want—and whatever it is, he complies. Almost without exception they don't want any preaching against sin. They don't want the cross or the blood mentioned. They don't want hell talked about or even broached. They don't want judgment spoken of, or the wrath of God, or anything of that nature. They don't want much of anything that pertains to the true gospel of Jesus Christ. A shepherd like this is a hireling. He is not a preacher of the gospel. Regarding such a church, I think it can be said that not a single person, the pastor included, is truly saved—not a one. Preachers who will not tell the people the truth present themselves as the worst enemy their adherents could ever have. Sad to say, most so-called preachers fall into this seeker sensitive category.

THE HARVEST

"Then saith unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few" (Matt. 9:37).

The phrase, "*Then saith he unto his disciples*," refers to a truth about to be given—a truth that hasn't changed from then until now: "*The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few.*" This truth cannot change because truth does not need to change. The phrase, "*The harvest truly is plenteous*" refers to two things: (1) The great number of souls who were in desperate need of God; (2) The harvest was ready to be gathered, but it could not be gathered for lack of laborers.

The phrase, "*But the laborers are few*," refers to true preachers of the gospel. There were thousands of Pharisees who constantly trumpeted their knowledge of God, but they did not know Him. The few who did know Him were few indeed. Out of all the hundreds of thousands of preachers in Christendom

THE PRICELESS CORNER

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

1. GOD LOVES YOU!

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

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

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

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

3. JESUS CHRIST IS THE ONLY REMEDY FOR SIN

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

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

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

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

WE BELIEVE:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 SAVIOR.

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today, true laborers are few and far between. Most are hirelings, false prophets, or false apostles. It was true in the day of Christ, in the time of the apostle Paul, and it is true now. When Paul was in prison in Rome, he desired to send a preacher to the church at Philippi. But he said, "*For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's*" (Phil. 2:21).

What did he mean, "*For all who seek their own*"? He meant that they did not seek the will of God but sought only their own comfort and enrichment. To be sure, there are multitudes of laborers, but most are laboring for themselves and not for Christ.

PRAYER

"Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest" (Matt. 9:38).

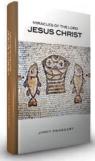
The two words, *Pray ye*, begin this admonition, but it is little followed by the modern church. It happens too often that, instead of prayer, men who call themselves shepherds—laborers—are sent by committees, or they go to a place of their own choosing. They do this because they don't have the mind of the Lord and because they haven't truly sought His face. Consequently, the result is man-appointed works, which will accomplish nothing for the cause of Christ. There was a time, at least in Pentecostal circles, when men sought God, and He laid a burden on their hearts and lives for a certain part of the world, to which they responded. This is little adhered to now, with religious hierarchy demanding the headship to designate where preachers can and cannot go. While these might be laborers, they are not God's laborers. God's laborers hear His voice and follow Him (John 10:4).

When the little church in my hometown of Ferriday, Louisiana was planted, it was done so by two women—a mother and her daughter. After seeking the Lord earnestly, they were told by the Holy Spirit, "Go to Ferriday, Louisiana." They didn't know anyone in this small backwater town in Louisiana and, in the natural, they had no desire to go there. But the Lord spoke to them, and they obeyed, which resulted in many souls being saved and many lives being changed. My family was a part of that number. As a result (speaking only of my own ministry, as surely there were others), many were brought to Christ, all because of the obedience of two women. They were led by the Lord, and a work for God was established with astounding results. Had they listened to man, as most do, they would have never come to that little backwater town. But thank the Lord, they did not listen to man!

In the early days of the great Pentecostal movement, there were some who heard from heaven. Now, too often, they hear only from man, which accrues no spiritual results. In Matthew 9:38, when the Lord said, "*Pray ye*," He meant exactly what He said. Men were to seek God until the Lord answered and gave them guidance and direction respecting their particular ministries. Tragically, too many modern Christians little believe in prayer anymore. The entirety of the phrase, "*Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest*," proclaims Jesus Christ as being the head and president of this all-important task—the most important task there is. Inasmuch as the harvest is His and that He is an active head and not a passive head, we are to seek His leading and guidance in all things respecting this all-important task.

The thrust of this passage is leadership and, more importantly, His leadership. That is to never be abrogated in any sense but rather adhered to faithfully. The phrase, "*that he will send forth labourers into his harvest*," is the single most important statement that could be made regarding this worldwide work. The Lord does the calling of the laborers and designates their field of service. Please allow me to emphasize again that more and more of this is being taken over by religious hierarchy, and the Lord will have nothing to do with it. Only those whom He calls and sends are approved and therefore blessed by Him. All other is man-directed and unapproved, at least by the Lord.

I'll add this: those He calls and sends will be greatly opposed by those who are sent by men. As the Pharisees opposed Christ, modern counterparts will do the same. And yet, despite all the hindrances from the powers of darkness, laborers sent into the harvest by Christ—the Lord of the harvest—are greatly rewarded and blessed by reaping many souls.



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



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ARTICLE BY Frances Swaggart

I want to thank all of you for the many kind words and warm wishes coming to us in honor of my husband's birthday this month—all the heartfelt messages from other ministers, our media church members, and countless viewers from around the world. What the Lord is doing in all of your lives is the best present he could possibly receive.

Rest and Refreshing

DAY IN AND DAY OUT, my husband gives so much to the work of God. From those early days in ministry until now, I've only known him to give nothing less than his all, and then some, to the work of God. And he would have it no other way. Each time he looks into that television camera and says that he's so pleased and happy to have you with us, you can be sure he means it, because his is the heart of a true evangelist, and



that calling comes with an anointing and an urgency to see lost souls come to the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

You know, the ministry of the evangelist is different because it demands a decision *now*. True evangelistic preaching is always heavily anointed by the Holy Spirit, and as He brings forth conviction, the die is cast for the sinner to come to Christ. At such times, we have seen literally hundreds and even thousands run down aisles or grassy corridors in vast stadiums around the world as the Spirit of God dealt with their souls, and they would hurry to find Christ. That is the ministry of the evangelist, whether preaching to a few or to tens of thousands, the results should be the same.

Unfortunately, most in the modern church no longer recognize or understand the calling of a God-called evangelist.

Church people hungry for titles are quick to quote, Ephesians 4:11 which says, "*And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.*" But they seem unfamiliar with the verse that follows: "*For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.*"

The *work* of the ministry. Yes, ministry is work—sometimes

"...rest and refreshing is the work of the Holy Spirit, and when He is the one doing the work, there is rest."

hard work—and if you try to do it in your own strength, you will tire too quickly and burn out. I remember reading a few years back about a pastor of a huge church who announced that he was taking a sabbatical because he was "tired in his soul."¹

Every one of us in full-time ministry—we give out, and we give out, and we get tired. There are times when we get flat exhausted to where it's a struggle putting one foot in front of the other. How many times have I seen my husband leave the house, so exhausted, on his way to the television studio or the church. But as soon as he starts to minister or preach, the anointing of the Holy Spirit would come on him in a powerful way, and he would leave the studio or the church service as refreshed as if he had been resting for days. Why? Because rest and refreshing is the work of the Holy Spirit, and when He is the one doing the work, there is rest. That's why, after all these years in ministry, we don't run from God's work, we immerse ourselves in it.

It's like the burning bush in Exodus 3: "And he looked, and, behold, the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed. (The flame of fire in the lowly desert bush—the emblem of deity and humanity of Christ and the great name "I AM" proceeding out from the fire revealed this almighty power to Moses. If it's done in the flesh, it will consume the person, i.e., "the bush"; however, if it's done by the power of the Holy Spirit, the bush will burn and not be consumed.) (Exodus 3:2, The Expositor's Study Bible)

While the Spirit is doing what needs to be done, irrespective as to how hard it might be, there is no danger of the bush—of you and me—being consumed. But when we try to do the work by the strength of the flesh, we quickly experience burnout. So how do we come to this place of the fire burning brightly, but not consuming us?

In Romans 8:1, Paul mentions, "walking after the Spirit," which refers to the Holy Spirit. This means that the Spirit of God is leading, guiding, and functioning within us so that the work of God may be properly carried out.

It's so important that ministers of the gospel understand this, coupled with the true cost of taking the gospel to others. II Corinthians 4:11-12 says, "For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh. So then death worketh in us, but life in you."

Any preacher of the gospel who properly understands God's priority of getting the gospel to the lost and operates in that capacity will be opposed by Satan. Paul, one of the champions of world evangelism, suffered opposition from the powers of darkness as few men ever suffered. But the "death" he faced constantly played out to "life" regarding those who heard and accepted his message. So, while it was death to him, it was life to these converts. It's the same today. The Lord has called my husband for the task of world evangelism. That is his ministry, his calling, and his burden—a burden that stays with him twenty-four hours a day. The Lord has called him to preach the gospel by television, and He's given him the message and the anointing to preach that message. It has resulted in untold thousands of people giving their hearts and lives to the Lord Jesus Christ, for which we give Him all the glory.

That's the reason we labor extensively to get the programming on in every city and every country possible. This is what God has called him to do for the purpose of reaching lost souls. God's business is the winning of souls, so we must be about our Father's business. God's business is seeing the gospel taken to the whole world, so we must be about our Father's business. And God's business is loving fallen, helpless, and hurting humanity, so we must be about our Father's business.

SOURCE 'The Christian Post, December 11, 2019.

JIMMY SWAGGART



- I Surrender All Draw Me Lord
- Wasted Years
- Softly And Tenderly Anywhere Is Home
- Through It All
- I Believe In A Hill Called Mount Calvary
- Jesus Use Me
- Mercy Rewrote My Life
- I'm Free
- I Surrender All
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He Loves You, Songs Of The Master's Love

- The Love Of Jesus
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- He Loves You
- No One Ever Cared For Me Like Jesus
- You Won't Leave Here Like You
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- Then Jesus Came
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- Jesus Is The One
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Welcome Holy Spirit

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- When We See Christ
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- Grace Greater Than Our Sin
- Praise The Lord
- **Oh How I Love Jesus**
- The Glory Land Way 02-206

There Is Room At The Cross For You

- Where No One Stands Alone
- I Would Not Be Denied Farther Along I Shall Not Be Moved •
- Lord, I Need You
- I Saw A Man
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How About Your Heart?

- Where He Leads Me
- I Never Shall Forget The Day
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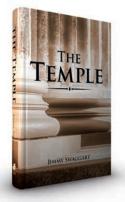
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When I See The Blood

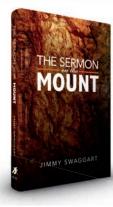
In Exodus, we find Moses before Pharaoh with this message from God: Let My people go. Pharaoh heard the word and saw God's mighty miracles, but his hardened heart would not obey. Deliverance of the children of Israel came when they applied the shed blood of the lamb-a type of Christ-to their doorposts.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

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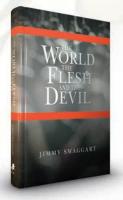


"For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert graffed contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be graffed into their own olive tree?" -ROMANS 11:24



The Sermon On The Mount

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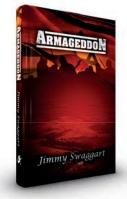
The World, The Flesh, And The Devil

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



The Future Of Israel

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



Armageddon

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



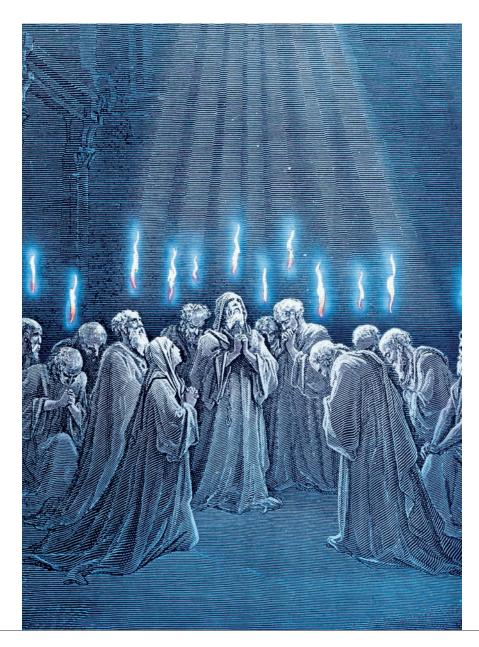
ARTICLE BY **Donnie Swaggart**

"I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all." -I CORINTHIANS 14:18

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT? The Benefits Of Speaking In Other Tongues

PART VI I CORINTHIANS 14 is one of the most misunderstood chapters in the Bible. Those who misun-

derstand believe that Paul is speaking against tongues when, in fact, he plainly says in verse 18 that he thanks God for tongues, and in verse 39 he states, *"Forbid not to speak with tongues."* What Paul is dealing with in this chapter is the proper use of three of the gifts of the Spirit in a church service. These gifts are prophecy, tongues, and interpretation of tongues.



"The idea is that the journey of life is not without its trials and tribulations, and, at times, we become weary, but the Holy Spirit brings us living water."

Never forget that seven of the nine gifts were in operation in the old covenant; the only two that were new were tongues and interpretation of tongues. Since they were the newest, there needed to be proper instruction on their use in a public gathering. The instruction was that if there was no one to interpret, it would be better for the gift of prophecy to be used as it would be in the language of the people whereby everyone could understand.

It is important for the reader to understand that the gift of tongues is not the same as one's personal prayer language. To simplify, let me put it this way: everyone who is filled with the Spirit will speak in tongues, but not everyone who speaks in tongues has the *gift* of tongues. Also, one's personal prayer language is not meant to be interpreted as it is one's personal language.

So, what are the benefits of a person being filled with the Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues?

I Corinthians 14:2 says, "*He that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men but unto God.*" This tells us that tongues is a divine means of communication between the speaker and the Lord. This is so important, for the Holy Spirit is the one who helps us to pray, helps us to worship, and helps us as it regards bringing our petitions before the Lord.

I Corinthians 14:4 says, "*He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself*." The word *edify* means "to comfort, encourage, give strength, or to build up." It is the Holy Spirit who works in us to develop us and help us to grow in grace. The Holy Spirit knows what we need, and He is the one who brings it to pass.

I Corinthians 14:14 says, "For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth." One's spirit praying is the highest form of worship that a believer can engage in. It's that which comes from deep within and not from one's own mind. Acts 2:11 says, "*We do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.*" When a person prays in the Spirit, he is proclaiming the Lord's mighty works whether in creation, deliverance, miracles, etc. He is literally magnifying and glorifying the mighty power, wonder, and works of the Lord.

Jude 1:20 says, "Building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost." Praying in the Spirit helps to develop our faith because when a person is praying in the Spirit, he is praying faith, praying victory. There is no doubt or unbelief in the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 28:12 says, "*This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest.*" This was spoken by Isaiah about 750 years before the day of Pentecost, and there is a great truth here as it regards the Holy Spirit. In Hebrew, the word *weary* means "languid, faint, or thirsty." The idea is that the journey of life is not without its trials and tribulations, and, at times, we become weary, but the Holy Spirit brings us living water. The word *rest* has two meanings. First, it means "resting place." Second, it means "to settle down." The idea is that in the midst of our trials, we can find a resting place. Isaiah 28:12 goes on to say, "*This is the refreshing.*" Refreshing means "to find ease, to make to rest." It has the idea of being refreshed or recharged in the midst of a great trial.

There are other benefits that I could mention, but I believe I have covered the most important ones.

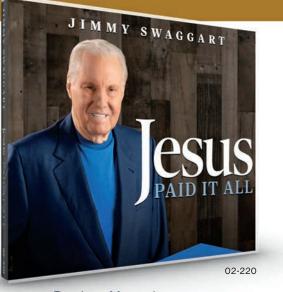
Let me close with this thought for you—never forget that when a person prays in the Spirit this is the fulfillment of Bible prophecy. Acts 2:17 says, "*And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh.*"

The last days began on the day of Pentecost and will continue until the rapture takes places. *#*

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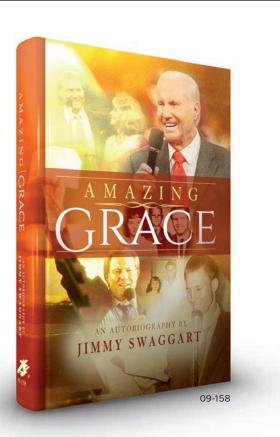
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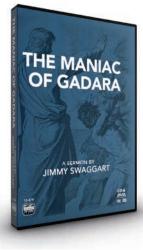
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WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT HELL

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

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ARTICLE BY Gabriel Swaggart

In the immense tapestry of human existence, one thread stands out as the critical ingredient that weaves the fabric of a life lived for God—faith.

A Study on Christian Character

Faith, which appears to be an intangible force, becomes a guiding light, directing our movements along this convoluted path of life. But here's the crux of it: when faith finds its foundation in the proper object, the cross of Christ, it transforms us. This transformation, which is central to the gospel, emphasizes *being* rather than *doing*, and not only in deeds but also in attitudes and character.

In reality, the Scripture emphasizes our attitudes and character over our actions. The gospel itself should define our character as it challenges us to explore the depths of who we are—our character and our disposition—before correcting our actions. In essence, Christianity states that we must be something before acting as such. Before we can *act* as Christians, we need to first *be* a Christian. Our character should take priority over our actions.

However, many people today have this viewpoint reversed. They believe that because they do certain things, it must mean that they are Christians. Unfortunately, that is an incorrect assessment of what Christianity is. We are not

"We are not meant to control our Christianity but instead allow our faith to control us."

Christians because we do something but that rather because we are something. We bl are Christians. Therefore, we act as Christians. We are

We are not meant to control our Christianity but instead allow our faith to control us. We are to allow the Holy Spirit, who works through the means of the finished work of Christ, to con-

trol every aspect of our lives to shape us and mold us into what He desires. The Holy Spirit must rule and reign supreme at the core of our being, guiding our beliefs, defining our outlook on life, and influencing our actions. Our Christian faith is not an afterthought or superficial; it is at the heart of our existence, with every part of our life becoming a vibrant expression and resounding proclamation of what we truly are.

When our faith is correctly anchored in Christ and the cross, a profound transformation will occur within our lives. This internal work, which is driven by the Holy Spirit, starts to manifest itself outwardly, emanating from the way we interact with others. As we plunge deeper into Jesus' teaching, we will find that living for God will provide a tangible demonstration of mercy extended,

> a pursuit of purity in heart, and an active participation in fostering peace. These characteristics of a faith-filled existence indicate a journey of spiritual development and meaningful involvement with those around us.

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL

Christians.

Therefore.

we act as

Christians.

Mercy is deeply rooted in Christianity and is more than just a word; it is a profound manifestation of God's compassion and goodness for His people. Grace is the goodness of God given to undeserving people and is intrinsically linked to our sin. In contrast, mercy sheds light on the suffering brought about by sin. Mercy is more than a feeling of sympathy; it is compassion with action. It is a compassionate desire to relieve the suffering of people in need. John Stott said it best, "Mercy is compassion for people in need. Our God is a merciful God and shows mercy continuously; the citizen of His kingdom must show mercy too."1

In reality, the concept of mercy crosses cultural and socioeconomic barriers,

emphasizing the value of providing mercy to everyone, regardless of whether they deserve it or not.

As we grow in our faith, we should see the world through new eyes. Instead of passing judgment, we should acknowledge people's hardships, their slavery to sin, and their need for salvation. This elevated perspective produces compassion and a desire to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ to those around us. However, pride can readily infiltrate the believer's heart, impeding his ability to show mercy. This pride can only be eliminated when Christians genuinely understand that as God has extended mercy toward them, they, in turn, display mercy toward others. When we realize this truth, we naturally become more merciful toward others. 🚿

SOURCE ¹Stott, John. The Message of the Sermon on the Mount. 1978.

























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Gabriel Swaggart





Tommy Bates



Hour (CT)	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	
12:00:00 AM	Jimmy Swaggart Crusade Classics	Jimmy Swaggart Crusade Classics	Gabriel Swaggart Broadcast	Jimmy Swaggart Crusade Classics	Do
12:30:00 AM					
1:00:00 AM					
1:30:00 AM					
2:00:00 AM	FWC Music	FWC Music	FWC Music	FWC Music	FV
2:30:00 AM					
3:00:00 AM	Jimmy Swaggart Broadcast	Jimmy Swaggart Broadcast	Family Worship Center - Associate	Jimmy Swaggart Broadcast	Fa
3:30:00 AM	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		Pastor Broadcast		Fa Pa
4:00:00 AM			FWC Music	-	FV
4:30:00 AM					
5:00:00 AM	FWC Music	FWC Music	-	FWC Music	
5:30:00 AM					
6:00:00 AM	Family Worship Center - Associate	A Study In The Word	A Study In The Word	A Study In The Word	AS
6:30:00 AM	Pastor Broadcast	FWC Music	FWC Music	FWC Music	FV
7:00:00 AM	The Message of the Cross (Re-Air)	The Message of the Cross (Live)	The Message of the Cross (Live)	The Message of the Cross (Live)	Th
7:30:00 AM					
8:00:00 AM	Preachers, Patriots & Providence	FWC Music	FWC Music	FWC Music	FV
8:30:00 AM		Insight (Live)	Insight (Live)	Insight (Live)	Ins
9:00:00 AM	A Study In The Word	Frances & Friends (Live)	Frances & Friends (Live)	Frances & Friends (Live)	Fra
9:30:00 AM	Family Worship Center Sunday Live				
10:00:00 AM	Service				
10:30:00 AM					
11:00:00 AM		FWC Music	FWC Music	FWC Music	FV
11:30:00 AM		A Study In The Word	A Study In The Word	A Study In The Word	AS
12:00:00 PM	FWC Music	Jimmy Swaggart Crusade Classics	Family Worship Center - Associate	Jimmy Swaggart Crusade Classics	
12:30:00 PM		Simility Swaggart Grusade Classics	Pastor Broadcast	Simility Swaggart Ordsade Glassics	Fa Pa
1:00:00 PM	Generation of The Cross E/I		FWC Music		F۷
1:30:00 PM					
2:00:00 PM	Family Worship Center Morning Service	EW/C Music	-	The Story Behind The Song	
2:30:00 PM	(Repeat Of AM Service)			FWC Music	
3:00:00 PM		Jimmy Swaggart Broadcast	Gabriel Swaggart Broadcast	Jimmy Swaggart Broadcast	Do
3:30:00 PM		Sinning Swaggart Droadcast	Gabriel Swaggalt Broadcast	Simility Swaggart Dioadcast	
4:00:00 PM					
4:30:00 PM	FWC Music				
5:00:00 PM	Crossfire Service E/I	Insight (Re-Air)	Insight (Re-Air)	Insight (Re-Air)	lac
5:30:00 PM		A Study In The Word	A Study In The Word	A Study In The Word	Ins A S
6:00:00 PM	Family Worship Center Sunday Evening		Frances & Friends (Re-Air)	FWC Music	Fra
	Live Service	Trances & Thenus (Re-Air)	Trances & Thenus (Re-Air)		110
7:00:00 PM				Family Worship Center Live Service	
7:30:00 PM	FWC Music			Failing worship Center Live Service	
8:00:00 PM		The Macage of the Cross (Bo Air)	The Macagers of the Cross (Be Air)		Th
0.20.00 DM	The Story Behind The Song Family Worship Center Morning Service	The Message of the Cross (Re-Air)	The Message of the Cross (Re-Air)	FWC Music	Th
	(Repeat Of AM Service)	Donnio Swaggart Presdeset	limmy Supagart Breadeast		6
9:30:00 PM		Donnie Swaggart Broadcast	Jimmy Swaggart Broadcast	The Message of the Cross (Re-Air)	Cr
10:00:00 PM				Francos & Friends (Re Air)	EVA
10:30:00 PM				Frances & Friends (Re-Air)	FV
11:00:00 PM		EN/C Music	EWC Music		
11:30:00 PM	FWC Music	FWC Music	FWC Music		









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	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	Hour (ET)
	Donnie Swaggart Broadcast	Jimmy Swaggart Crusade Classics	Jimmy Swaggart Crusade Classics	1:00:00 AM
				1:30:00 AM
				2:00:00 AM
				2:30:00 AM
_	FWC Music	FWC Music	FWC Music	3:00:00 AM
				3:30:00 AM
	Family Worship Center - Associate	Jimmy Swaggart Broadcast	Jimmy Swaggart Broadcast	4:00:00 AM
	Pastor Broadcast			4:30:00 AM
	FWC Music	-		5:00:00 AM
				5:30:00 AM
		FWC Music	FWC Music	6:00:00 AM
				6:30:00 AM
	A Study In The Word	A Study In The Word	Family Worship Center - Associate	7:00:00 AM
	FWC Music	FWC Music	Pastor Broadcast	7:30:00 AM
_	The Message of the Cross (Live)	The Message of the Cross (Live)	The Message of the Cross (Re-Air)	8:00:00 AM
				8:30:00 AM
	FWC Music	FWC Music	FWC Music	9:00:00 AM
	Insight (Live)	Insight (Live)	The Story Behind The Song	9:30:00 AM
	Frances & Friends (Live)	Frances & Friends (Live)	Frances & Friends (Re-Air)	10:00:00 AM
		rances & menus (Live)	Tances a menus (Nevan)	10:30:00 AM
				11:00:00 AM
				11:30:00 AM
_	FWC Music	ENC Music	Generation of The Cross E/I	12:00:00 PM
		FWC Music	Generation of The Cross E/I	12:30:00 PM
	A Study In The Word	A Study In The Word	Dennie Curennert Due denst	1:00:00 PM
	Family Worship Center - Associate Pastor Broadcast	Jimmy Swaggart Crusade Classics	Donnie Swaggart Broadcast	1:30:00 PM
				2:00:00 PM
	FWC Music			2:30:00 PM
				3:00:00 PM
		Crossfire Service E/I	FWC Music	3:30:00 PM
				4:00:00 PM
	Donnie Swaggart Broadcast	Jimmy Swaggart Broadcast	Gabriel Swaggart Broadcast	4:30:00 PM
				5:00:00 PM
				5:30:00 PM
				6:00:00 PM
	Insight (Re-Air)	Insight (Re-Air)	The Message of the Cross (Re-Air)	6:30:00 PM
	A Study In The Word	A Study In The Word		7:00:00 PM
	Frances & Friends (Re-Air)	Frances & Friends (Re-Air)	Jimmy Swaggart Crusade Classics	7:30:00 PM
				8:00:00 PM
				8:30:00 PM
	The Message of the Cross (Re-Air)	The Message of the Cross (Re-Air)	Preachers, Patriots & Providence	9:00:00 PM
				9:30:00 PM
	Crossfire Service E/I	Gabriel Swaggart Broadcast	Family Worship Center Wednesday	10:00:00 PM
			Night Service (repeat)	10:30:00 PM
	FWC Music		FWC Music	11:00:00 PM
				11:30:00 PM
		FWC Music	Crossfire Service E/I	12:00:00 AM
				12:30:00 AM

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

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Beresford
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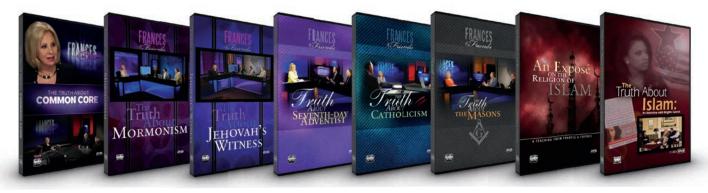
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The Fivefold Blessings Of The Lord To The Believer

Too many Christians today are going without all that God desires for them simply because of misplaced faith. Under the old covenant, in Deuteronomy 28, we find a series of blessings that God made to the children of Israel if they would simply hearken to the voice of the Lord. In this anointed message, Pastor Gabriel Swaggart reveals how these blessings are still within the believer's reach, under the new covenant, which is based on better promises and attainable through the finished work of Christ. 15-704

Whatever The Need, God's Got It

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



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

I was in satanism and witchcraft for over twenty years. I happened to find SBN on the radio, and Donnie was preaching. Even though I was still into satanism, I started listening to SBN every day, and I got saved and delivered through your ministry! I'm now a media church member. Thank you, Donnie, and thank SBN for all you do. I even got an Expositor's Study Bible, and it has helped me tremendously. Love you all. Keep doing what you are doing! –EMAIL

* I happened to find SBN on the radio, and Donnie was preaching.

You are my home church. I'm disabled now, but I used to go every time the doors were opened. My thoughts are: preachers are not preaching the true gospel of Christ. They're preaching from The Message Bible or from books from these famous new age teachers. Family Worship Center preaches the Word, the cross, and from the King James Bible. JSM makes the Bible interesting, and they are guided by the Holy Spirit. I can't wait to watch twenty-four hours of the day the Word of God from SBN. There are not many churches around today that preach the message of the cross with the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the only truth. Love you guys! -EMAIL

Years ago, I was pastoring in Alabama. This pastorate was one of the hardest. On a certain day, I was discouraged and depressed. My wife called me and asked me to come home. She knew what I was going through. I went home, and she said, "Lay down on the sofa." She put on Brother Swaggart's record where he was reading from the psalms with music playing in the background on the record. Listening to Brother Jimmy reading chapters in Psalms and listening to the background music, by the time the recording was finished, my spirit was lifted, and I was renewed! Often, I have thought of sharing this with your

"Listening to Brother Jimmy reading chapters in Psalms and listening to the background music, by the time the recording was finished, my spirit was lifted, and I was renewed!"

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

organization. So today, I want you to know how much that time spent listening to that record meant so much to me! Thank you for the encouragement I received; it was deeply appreciated! Your ministry is not in vain! —FLORIDA

Just want to thank you and the ministry for *The Evangelist* magazine. I love it and pass it on to someone after I read it. All of your programs are fabulous, and I've learned so much. They bring me much joy, and I sing and dance around my living room. The Holy Spirit comes right into my room and it's joy upon joy! —EMAIL

I wanted to follow up with you on my testimony that I sent in right after camp meeting. We were in Baton Rouge for a baseball tournament that our grandson was in and, as we were about to leave for home, I told my husband, "Hang on a second." I ran in and grabbed clothes for church just in case we could go one night while down there. We were there that first night when Pastor Gabriel preached on healing. I had just gotten a call the day before from my doctor that my cancer had returned after eight years of clear scans. My husband and I went down for prayer that Wednesday night. We went down believing

the Lord for my healing. They changed me to another kind of treatment, but I wouldn't be able to have a pet scan to show that I was healed until October or November. Well the day finally came for my scans in November-proof to the human eye that I was cancer free in those few short months. All clear! No signs of cancer! I know God healed me that night in that church service. I will continue to tell others of how good God is and that He is still in the healing business today! Thank you for your prayers. May God continue to bless you all and your ministry. Praying for you all always. We watch every Wednesday night and listen anytime we are able. Love your programs—all of them! —MISSISSIPPI

Please do not ever quit playing the Classics. I watch them at midnight, at noon, at 6 p.m. on Saturday, and whenever you show them in the afternoons. The anointing is still all over those crusades! I am watching the midnight Classic tonight; I started praying in tongues and praying and believing for healing. I'm a Baptist that got a Holy Ghost experience (filling) back in 2005, and God healed me from a life-threatening attack of blood loss. I have been a "Bapticostal" ever since. I look so forward to the Classics. I have witnessed to my lost neighbors and friends and beg them

to watch your 1982 Classic from Portland, Oregon, about "Hell is No Joke." I send them info and ask them to watch. Every night or day I get something from them—encouragement, healing, faith, learning new things about the Bible, etc. But these Classics are still very much anointed, and God still uses them today. Thank you so much. —EMAIL

About a month ago, I was watching one of your services, and you had a visiting minister. I don't remember who it was, but back in April 2020, I herniated a disc in my neck and, since then, I had surgery in June of the same year and did a lot of physical therapy to try to get the neck corrected. Nothing worked. I was watching the sermon by a visiting minister in your church on TV, and he preached an excellent message. He did an altar calland I've been a Christian for a long time, since my early 20s; I'm 60 now-and when I said the sinner's prayer, the Holy Spirit hit me! I began to weep, my neck got completely set loose—and that's been over a month ago, and I feel great, and it's like I never had a problem! I think I'm just gonna watch you guys on TV from now on. I also downloaded the SBN Now app on my iPhone. Thank you for providing such a loving presence on TV. I praise God for your ministry. -CALIFORNIA





ARTICLE BY Dr. Don Paul Gray

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen" –REVELATION 1:5-6

NOW, TURN TO PAGE 390, Let's Sing "There Is Power In The Blood"

MY DAD, Rev. James Ben Gray, was an old-fashioned Pentecostal preacher who emphasized salvation and holiness. He was converted from a very sinful life, having been bound many years by alcohol, tobacco, and other vices of the world. My dad really loved the hymn, "There Is Power in the Blood." I can still see him standing on that wooden platform in the church sanctuary, holding that red song book and, with a strong voice, singing:

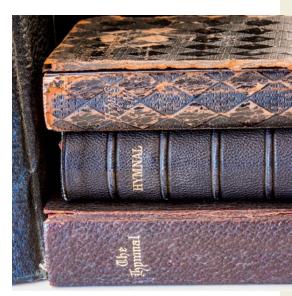
> Would you be free from the burden of sin? There's pow'r in the blood, pow'r in the blood; Would you o'er evil a victory win? There's wonderful pow'r in the blood.

Dad loved this hymn because he remembered how God had forgiven him of all his sins and had delivered him from a life of being a drunkard and from the addictions of the world.

This great hymn, "There Is Power in the Blood," was written in 1899 by Lewis Edgar Jones. He was born in Illinois, lived in Iowa, and attended college at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, where he got to know evangelist Billy Sunday. Jones wrote more than 200 gospel songs, but let's take a closer look at perhaps his most familiar.

VERSE ONE

In "There Is Power in the Blood," Jones writes about how the power of the blood



can set one free from the burden of sin. What is the burden of sin? It's the debt and weight of sin; the guilt of the past life. Living life under the conscious reality of past sins is a terrible burden. The songwriter is persuaded that faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ is so powerful that the burden of sin, no matter how great, can be removed from a person's heart, life, and conscious memory. Whatever you have done—lies, jealousies, theft, immorality, and even murder—if you come to Christ in true faith

"The Christian experience and journey is a definite yet growing experience in knowing and serving God."

and repentance, then you can be forgiven, cleansed, and reconciled to God. In Colossians 1:14, Paul writes, "*In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.*" Sincere repentance and real faith in the shed blood of Christ will set one free from sins of the past.



Here the songwriter asks, "Would you be free from your passion and pride?" and then gives an invitation: "Come for a cleansing to Calvary's tide." Every true believer in Christ knows that he still has a sin nature even though he has been genuinely converted. By using the words passion and pride, Jones reminds us of the ongoing need of sanctification. Jesus Himself was tempted by Satan with passion and pride. In I Corinthians 6:11, Paul

writes, "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God." In this verse he declares that the Corinthians were washed and sanctified. The Christian experience and journey is a definite yet growing experience in knowing and serving God. The Greek word for sanctification, is *hagiasmos*, and it means "to be set apart; to be holy" before God. In writing his thirteen epistles, Paul uses the words, *sanctify, sanctified* and *sanctification* twenty times. By keeping our spiritual focus on Christ and the reality and power of the shed blood of Calvary, a believer will be able to reject the temptations of pride and passion of this world.

VERSE THREE

The third verse declares that faith in the power of the blood of Christ will make us "whiter than snow." Then the writer adds that faith in the power of the blood can remove the sin-stains of the past. Verses one and two of this hymn declare the promise of God's Word that we can be forgiven, cleansed, set free, and made whiter than snow. Those verses deal primarily with man's relationship with God. But in verse three, the writer adds that by keeping our focus on the power of the blood, even the stain of sin can be removed. In a powerful line, Jones writes, "Sin stains are lost in its life-giving flow." By faith in Christ and the power of the blood of the cross, God has a way of removing the stains of past sins and failures. He can even do spiritual surgery and remove scars. Christ not only forgives our past sins and transgressions and failures, but He also heals the scars of the past and the brokenness of the present (Luke 4:18-19).

VERSE FOUR

Jones now raises two important questions. The first, "Would you do service for Jesus your King?" And the second, "Would you live daily His praises to sing?" Here the focus shifts from conversion,

sanctification, or scars of the past to one's witness. Will you be a witness by serving your King, and will you sing His praises to all who will listen? Jesus, said, "Look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest" (John 4:35). Isaiah heard the voice of heaven say, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I, send me" (Isa. 6:8). All believers are called to some aspect of service and ministry. Will you live and conduct yourself in such a manner to be a witness for Christ to a lost and hurting world? Is Christ, your Savior, your Lord, and your King? The writer does not suggest that you start preaching, but he does ask "Would you live daily His praises to sing?" We must be willing to stand up, speak up, and keep singing the wonderful story of Christ and the power of the blood of the Lamb.

CONCLUSION

Faith in the shed blood of Calvary changes lives. I Peter 1:18-19 says, "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold ... But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot." Revelation 12:11 says, "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony." We must always sing and preach that there is power in the blood. *A*



ARTICLE BY Loren Larson

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." –PSALM 119:105

Let God's Word Light Your Way

PSALM 119

Psalm 119 is written in a unique style an acrostic format-and its primary purpose is to reveal the psalmist's dedication and dependence upon the Word of God. The psalmist states his undying devotion to adhere to and follow the concepts contained within the pages of God's Word while traveling through the dark and precarious world through which he passes. David remains one of the top options as the author followed by Ezra or one of the major prophets. It certainly feels to me as though King David was telling all of Israel of the important place that God's Word had played in his life, but no one can say of a certainty.

THY WORD

The Word of God should be an all-important part of every believer's daily life. Jesus Himself taught that "*man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*" This tells us that both Christ and the psalmist held the same view as to the importance of God's Word in directing, motivating, and leading the life of those who truly worship the Father. The Word of God should be a continual part of the daily spiritual diet of every believer. One should set apart a few minutes every day to just read the Bible. My own practice is to read early in the morning before I start my day. I have counted on the Word of God to direct me in my interactions with others, my ministry, and my person. I can't tell you the number of times that what I read in the morning is what was so desperately needed to dominate my life throughout that particular day. Dependence upon God's Word as my premier guide has kept me free from going down many a wrong path. The believer should have a reading plan that allows him to take in the entirety of the Bible, not just choosing different sections that appeal to him personally. The entirety of the Word of God is valuable and, again, I can't accurately state

the numerous times that God would use where I was in my daily reading to guide me. Be sure to make the Bible a constant in your everyday life.

A LAMP UNTO MY FEET

The word used for lamp is the same Hebrew word used to describe the lamps of the tabernacle. The word indicates the presence of illumination, even revelation. The seven-branched "menorah" that lit the inner portions of the tabernacle was the only light that serviced the interior of the tabernacle. The lamps were fueled by oil, and the priests were to see to the lamps' oil supply and make certain that the lamps never went out. This shows the constant need for the Holy Spirit's presence to both shed light (illumination and revelation) and to help us understand what God desires for us to

"We live in a darkened world, and every step the believer takes is important."

know. The idea that this light helps guide each step I take may very well indicate the need to guide my every decision in life. The view is not one of looking far off into the distance, but rather, watching very closely where I am choosing to walk in the immediate here and now. We live in a darkened world, and every step the believer takes is important. Without the Word of God guiding his steps, the believer can oftentimes find himself somewhere he shouldn't be or

doing something he has no business doing. The Bible says that the steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord. We must also consider that the lamp is God's revelation to the soul. It's His Word that stands to illuminate our hearts and minds. causing faith to exist where it did not before. The Bible says that faith comes by hearing, but hearing is not simply the ability to comprehend with the physical ear. True spiritual ears hear what the Spirit is saying to our hearts and minds. When this revelation is given, God also brings faith alongside that revelation and asks us to operate in the faith that He has just freely given. Revelation and illumination come from the Holy Spirit and are oftentimes experienced through the reading or hearing of God's Word.

A LIGHT UNTO MY PATH

The word translated as light is not the same word we saw earlier as lamp. The author may have intended to speak of a light that has a far greater reach than the lamp. While the lamp may indicate close

proximity, a light sheds forth brightly and reveals a path or a road upon which the believer is traveling. It will not only show us where we are but where that specific path will take us. Granted, God has not often revealed to us what the future holds. To be honest, He rarely tells us what we will find around the next corner. But there are many pathways that we might find ourselves walking upon. If we are not careful, we could find ourselves on a road that is unbiblical or not the will of God. Once again, the Word of God has the capacity to help us to correct our choice of paths and show us the best path—one that is pleasing to the Lord.

A CHALLENGE TO YOU

Are you spending enough time in God's Word daily? Are you letting the Word guide your steps—your life? I can't stress enough your need to have a consistent relationship with the text of the Bible. If you will dedicate a bit of time each and every day just to the reading of God's Word, I promise you that His Word will be a continual light unto your feet and a lamp unto your path.



ARTICLE BY John Rosenstern

Islam is more than a religion. Those who live in Islamic-run countries experience Islamic sharia law in every facet of life. The concept of sharia law governs politics, education, business, and jihad—both concepts of jihad being the internal struggle to improve character and one's participation in spreading and defending Islam.

Radical Islamic Ideology

Throughout Islam's 1,400 years of existence, since Muhammad until now, there has arisen many Islamic schools of thought and interpretation. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, there has been a resuscitation of conservative literal interpretation of Muhammad's teachings as Muslim thinkers and scholars became dissatisfied with Western influences and secularism. To help understand modern radical Islam, it must first be understood that what Muslims do is a result of what they believe through what they are taught. Their daily focus on religious duty is used to supply the necessary motivation to fulfill and participate in purifying self and the quest to make Islam rule over all religions and society as a whole. Religious Islamic leaders issue fatwas-religious interpretations and opinions of Islamic laws—as guidance for Muslims. To better understand what is happening in Israel

with Hamas and Hezbollah seeking her destruction and the rise in antisemitism all over the world, we must become familiar with what Islamic leaders are telling Muslims about their faith and religious obligations.

ISLAMIC RENAISSANCE AND AWAKENING

One of the major figures in Islamic unification efforts was Persian political agitator and activist Jamal al-Din al-Afghani. He started a clandestine jihadist project, and his followers influenced the founding of the Muslim Brotherhood (MB). Afghani believed in pan-Islamism. His studies of radicals in Islamic history seem to place him in concordance with the Nizari Isma'ili creed of the Assassins. Afghani combined the Western model of secret societies with Islamic clandestine proselytism. His goal was to bring unity to the Muslim nation. He sought to covertly bring together the Shia and Sunni Muslims and establish a unified Muslim state. During this time in the mid-to late 1800s, Afghani traveled and lived in Egypt and was on the opposing end of Western influence and secularism being embraced by Egyptian leaders. The dominance of sharia law was being shaken off in Egyptian society as freedoms and liberties of the West were embraced. Afghani's project was a regressive Islamic awakening in the face of the progressive renaissance civilization project embraced by Egyptian leaders. Afghani's resistance project would later be organized by the MB. It is currently called the al-Nahda (resurrection or renaissance) project. Afghani would join Freemasonry for political purposes, and they gave him an outlet to propagate his clandestine proselytism. He created a secret society in Egypt and later would expand his efforts in India and then into Paris. His student protege traveled to Tunisia and developed relationships with influential Islamic leaders. One of these leaders would later become an instrumental figure in spreading German-jihadist propaganda that would lead to the founding of the MB.

"The United Nations in their Security Council resolutions speak of a permanent ceasefire but supply no condemnation of Hamas."

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD

Afghani's Sunni-Shia project went smoothly in its early years. The historical divide between the two sects was almost nonexistent. An example of this was seen in the marriage of Princess Fawzia Fuad to a Shia royal, the crown prince of Iran Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, in 1939 (he became the shah of Iran in 1941). However, we must not ignore the ideology taking shape behind this modern Islamic renaissance. The MB's influential forefather, Hasan al-Banna, studied Islamic secret societies and life and teachings of al-Hashashin, the founder of the assassins, and modeled the MB in its image. The MB's clandestine activities made possible the wider acceptance of the Shia sect. The relationship between Hezbollah, a Shia sect of Islam, and the MB, a Sunni sect of Islam, clearly shows their willingness to cooperate in destroying Israel and Jews as a common goal.

Hasan al-Banna was not deficient in learning. Hasan al-Banna's father was an imam, a religious leader, where he was born and raised in Cairo, Egypt. His father received religious training at Al-Azhar University in Egypt. Ahmed Abdul Rahman Banna was trained in the fundamentalist Sunni Hanbali school of jurisprudence. This school of learning is the

most radical of the four orthodox Sunni schools of jurisprudence. Ahmad ibn Hanbal influenced Islam's most radical theologians. A well-known example of this is Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab, the founder of Wahhabism, established Hanbali religious interpretation of Islam in Saudi Arabia. Wahhabism and Hanbali jurisprudence are one and the same and are part of Salafism. Salaf means "ancestors," and it is often used in reference to the first few generations that were associated with Muhammad. The Salafs are fundamentalists and purists and believe Sunni Muslims are in a perpetual state of jihad. Salafism is not a sect in Sunni Islam but rather seen as a movement. Most terrorists groups in Islam adhere to the Hanbali school of jurisprudence, i.e., ISIS and al-Qaeda. It was Jamal al-Din Afghani that developed and propagated this ideology through a magazine publication named after their clandestine group was established in India. Hasan al-Banna was raised in this ideology as well by his

father and through his schooling. His father spent thirty-eight years compiling hadith (sayings and traditions of Muhammad) and fiqh (interpretations of Islamic jurisprudence) by ibn-Hanbal. Hasan al-Banna at an early age desired to work on rectifying society. When a representative of the Society of Moral Behavior visited him and his father, together they established the Society of Vice Prevention. This newly formed organization was a juvenile version of today's Saudi Committee for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice.

HISTORY UNFOLDS

There is plenty more that needs to be said about the origins of radical Islamic thought. There are sects of Islamic learning that do not subscribe to the fundamentals and interpretations

of Hanbalism. However, the effects of MB teaching in our schools, with international funding from Saudi Arabia and other Muslim donors, has enabled the spreading of this jurisprudence to be taught and widely accepted. The successful evidence of this influence was seen in the streets of America, in 2023, during Christmas as streets were blocked and Christmas celebration gatherings were interrupted by protestors doing their best to stop the activities. The rise

of antisemitism is up significantly. The debacle that occurred in Israel on October 7, 2023, did not bring condemnation of Hamas and its hateful ideology but rather opened Pandora's box of antisemites to add fuel to the hatred of Jews around the world, especially in many Islamic nations. The Holocaust deniers continued their propaganda of lies, calling October 7 a lie as well. The United Nations in their Security Council resolutions speak of a permanent ceasefire but supply no condemnation of Hamas. Meanwhile, on October 6, 2023, a ceasefire was in place, until Hamas assassins violated the treaty and sought to target civilians in the most horrible way—the way their forefathers before them behaved. The Great Islamic Awakening is a regressive backward movement. We must pray for every opportunity to share the good news of Jesus Christ to these that sit in darkness. It is not too late for them, or anyone. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. #

The rise of antisemitism is up significantly.



ARTICLE BY Mike Muzzerall

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." –JOHN 3:16

The Revelation of God

PART II

JOHN 3:16 SAYS, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son." This act of love

was meant to be reciprocated through an intimate daily walk with Him. Just as little babies grow into maturity, so believers are meant to grow in their relationship with God. This means we must grow in the revelation of God.

THE REJECTION OF THE SON OF GOD

John tells us that Jesus, "*came unto his own, and his own received him not*" (John 1:11). This could be translated as, "He came to His intimate ones, and His intimate ones would not embrace Him." *Paralambano* has the idea of receiving to your side—rib to rib. The intimate ones speak of family and friends. In context, it speaks of Israel but in a larger sense it speaks of all of mankind. All of mankind refused to *paralambano* Christ (Isaiah 53:6).

THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE SONS OF GOD

John 1:12 says, "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." The word power in this verse is *exousia* which also speaks of "authority, ability, and privilege."¹ By faith in Christ, I have an authorized relationship with God that allows me to become a child of God with all of the privileges the cross provides!

THE FATHER/CHILD DYNAMIC

In a proper father and child relationship, there should be a close bond: I know my father, and my father knows me. I know where he was born, who he married, and what his chosen career was. He, in turn, knows my birth date, my favorite color, and how I don't like fish. As a child of

"The true sons of God know Him and not just know about Him."

God, it is expected that I should have a revelation of my heavenly Father.

KNOWING ABOUT GOD OR KNOWING GOD?

There's a difference between knowing about someone and knowing them. I know who the president of the United States is, but I don't know him personally. It's not enough to just know about God. The difference between knowing about Him and knowing Him decides where you will spend eternity. The true sons of God know Him and not just know about Him.

KNOWING HIM THROUGH GOD'S WORD

God reveals Himself through His Word. All revelations of God must pass the scrutiny of God's Word. God will never reveal Himself in prayer, vision, prophecy, or through the still small voice that goes contrary to the correct interpretation of God's Word. To know God's Word is to know God as well as knowing about God.

KNOWING HIM THROUGH PRAYER

Prayer is meant to be a two-way conversation. Many times, God speaks in the time of prayer. As we make our requests known to God, the Holy Spirit often uses that time to encourage, strengthen, direct, and even correct us. So even in our time of prayer we can receive a revelation of God.

KNOWING HIM THROUGH SUFFERING

Paul shared his desire to be separated from his past failures and accomplishments so that he would know God in a greater way. He wanted his righteousness to be found through faith in the completed work of

There's a difference between knowing about someone and knowing them.

Calvary and not in himself. He desired to "know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death" (Phil. 3:10). We love the resurrection part, but more often it's in

the fellowship of His sufferings where we really get to know God. It is here that we are made conformable "to what He did for us at the cross, understanding that this is the only means of salvation and sanctification" (The Expositor's Study Bible notes on Phil. 3:10).

Do you know Him this way? 🏕

Source: 'Thayer's Greek Lexicon

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ARTICLE BY Josh Rosenstern

I'll never forget visiting the land of Israel. The topography is quite varied with streams, deserts, hills, and plains.

When There's an Increase of Decrease

I'll never forget visiting the land of Israel. The topography is quite varied with streams, deserts, hills, and plains. A curious detail from that trip still stays in my mind. There's a particular desert-dwelling goat called a Nubian ibex found in the hillsides and mountains of Israel. The elevated terrain keeps the Nubian ibex safe from predators. Ironically, these creatures appear most vulnerable while eating because they must descend from the summit to find food. They simply can't spend all of their lives living high in the mountains. Why is that significant? Nothing grows on the mountaintops.

It's easy to shout over the promises of God to bring the increase, and we should do so. We serve a God who blesses and keeps His children. We can all look back at the hand of God working in so many areas of our lives, even seeing how the Lord has used us for His work. But the Christian experience is not defined only by these times of increase. What about when the Lord allows the decrease? Think of that season when things suddenly changed in a devastating way. I'm talking about when the finances are finite, sickness occurs, friends forsake, and perhaps even areas of ministry evaporate almost overnight. Without warning or understanding, you're looking up at a place where you once stood, wondering what to do now. The only thing that has increased is the decrease.

Joseph went from wearing the coat of many colors to garments of a slave and a prisoner, trading the comfort of his father's house for the suffering of a pit and then a dungeon. Moses had the finest that Egypt could offer; he was called by God to deliver His people from bondage, but the lawgiver would spend forty years in the deserts of Midian as a shepherd. The giant killer David was anointed to be the king of Israel, yet he finds himself hiding in the cave of Adullam while fleeing for his life. Sometimes the Lord allows a season of decrease, where it feels as though we're not on the perceived mountaintop any longer. The Bible catalogs many other examples of what I'm attempting to share, so let's consider one more—Paul.

After a miraculous conversion on the road to Damascus, the apostle Paul immediately and boldly preached Christ in the synagogues of Damascus and Jerusalem. What was the response? They sought to kill Paul. He was lowered from the Damascus walls in a basket, only to be later smuggled out of Jerusalem. It takes the casual reader a handful of minutes to read Acts 9-11, but these few pages cover years of time in the apostle's life. There was Paul, a man who once stood on the summit of pharisaical pomp, now reduced to silence after running for his life. Through all of this, the Holy Spirit revealed to Paul the meaning of the new covenant, which is Jesus Christ and Him crucified. It was in that valley where the Lord removed the religion, pride,

"We are saved by expressing faith in what Christ did at Calvary, and that must forever be the only object of our faith."

tradition, and distraction from Paul's life. This is when I believe he began to receive the revelation that would literally change the world and rewrite the course of history.

Symbolically, the mountaintop is the most desirous place during a battle, but otherwise it's rocky and deficient of resources. Rather than the mountain, it's in the valley where you'll find the Lily. Psalm 23 is the song of the valley. That's where you behold the green pastures and still waters. In the valley you'll feel the comfort of the Shepherd's rod and staff. The table is prepared in the presence of your enemies, and that is where you will experience the goodness and mercy of God. When we're brought down into the valley of the shadow of death, what surrounds us is actually life. The most important thing in the life of a believer is the object of his faith. For some, the focus is works and performance; for others it's church affiliation, and yet none of those things save us. We are saved by expressing faith in what Christ did at Calvary, and that must forever be the only object of our faith. The mountaintop is wonderful, but down in the valley is where the view of everything else is stripped away. In your valley, where you've experienced an increase of decrease, know that it will be He that increases. John 3:30 says, "*He must increase, but I must decrease*." When the view of all else wanes, make the finished work of Christ the object of your faith. As the great hymn says, "On Christ the solid Rock I stand: all other ground is sinking sand."

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FROM ME TO YOU | Jimmy Swaggart



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ME

March 15 marks this evangelist's eightyninth birthday. It's hard to believe that I am just one year away from ninety years old, but I can still say that I believe we are just getting started! The Lord is opening doors in 2024 for more opportunities for television and Bible outreach. We have one goal and one calling—and that is to see souls saved and lives changed by the message of the cross. And, by the grace of God, we have held to that calling for almost seventy years.

When I look back as to how the Lord chose to use us over these years, it's hard to believe, and yet, at the same time, with God all things are possible. So we will keep bringing the gospel to the ends of the earth and fulfilling what the Lord has called us to do.

FAMILY

Every Christmas our entire family gets together the week before Christmas, and it is something I look forward to each year. It's when we take our annual family photo that you see here and on the magazine cover. To me, this shows one of the greatest blessings in my life second only to my salvation. When the Lord blessed me with Frances, I had no way of knowing that one day we would



"We have one goal and one calling—and that is to see souls saved and lives changed by the message of the cross."

grow to be a family of nineteen!

But let me tell you, when you get nineteen people together, with all nine great-grandkids, it's like a whirlwind has blown through! And Frances and I wouldn't trade it for the world.

Most importantly, I am most thankful to the Lord that our entire family loves and serves Him. Donnie has always worked in the ministry. All of my grandchildren work in their home churches (Gabriel here, Jennifer in Georgia, and Matthew in Oklahoma) and their children are all being raised in Christian homes. I am believing that out of all these kids the Lord will make a preacher or teacher or evangelist out of a few of them.

CHRISTMAS

While all the adults make the Christmas preparations of food, and wrapping presents, and making sure everything is just right, I have one job each year (other than trying out all the sweets that are made) and that is to sit down with our entire family and read the Christmas story. While the presents, food, trees, and lights are something we all enjoy, the coming of Jesus to this earth is one we should never forget. And it should be told year-round not just at Christmas. I would encourage you, if an opportunity arises, that you will take the time to share the

Christmas story—the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ—whenever and wherever you can.

CAMP MEETING

As I write this, we are making our preparations for the upcoming Camp Meeting. You still have time to make plans to be with us in person when you read this. I know we make this available on television for everyone to watch from home, but there is nothing like attending a Camp Meeting in person and experiencing the presence of the Lord in services live. It will change your life, revive your spirit, and refresh your walk with the Lord. I am extending my personal invitation for you to be with us March 27-31, 2024. And if you have time to be with us a few days earlier, we have teaching sessions that

will enrich your Christian walk.

I know it feels like we say this each year, but these Camp Meetings are just getting better and better. The moving and operation of the Spirit has been so prevalent, and we give the Lord all of the praise and glory. In this day and age in which we live, a revival in our hearts and lives is just what the believer needs. So again, we are asking that if you can find the time in your schedule, we would love for you to be with us in person. For more information, please visit www.jsmcampmeeting.org

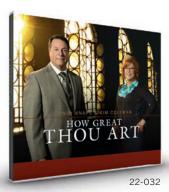
THANK YOU

I know I say this every month, but without your support we would not be able to fulfil that which God has called us to do. Whether it be your prayerful or financial support, this ministry is 100 percent dependent upon your partnership to carry out this task. We are covering the globe with the message of the cross—and that is because of you. So I want to say again, thank you.

In the Master's service, yours,

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- Amazing Grace (Live)
- How Great Thou Art (Live)

Give Me Jesus Joseph Larson

- Give Me Jesus
- My God Can Do Anything
- You Are My All In All
- Four Men Walkin'
 Around
- Let The Fire Fall
- Lord, I Believe In You
- How Long Has It Been?
- When I Lift Up My Head
- To Be Used Of God





22-046

Here We Are

- Here We Are
- One Day (When We All Get To Heaven)
- Leave It There
 Medley
- Touch Through Me
- Be Bold Be Strong
- Listen To Our Hearts
- Had It Not Been
- More Than Ever Before
- Your Grace Still Amazes Me
- The Goodness Of God

Yahweh

FWC RESURRECTION SINGERS

- Yahweh
- These Are They
- We Are The Church
- Lord, You're Holy
- By And By
- Trust In The Lord
- Say Amen
- Calvary Came
 Through
- Still Feeling Fine
- Lord, You Have Been Faithful



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MARCH 3, 2024

Crowlev, LA Pastor Kerry Doucet Crossway Fellowship Church 395 VFW Drive, Crowley, LA 70526 337.783.6524 SUN 9:30 AM (Bible teaching) SUN 10:30 AM (Service)

APRIL 13-14, 2024

Crosby, TX Pastor David Cavazos At The Cross Worship Center 19322 Dallas Rd., Crosby, TX 77532 405.923.5576 SAT 10 AM & 3 PM - Super Saturday Youth

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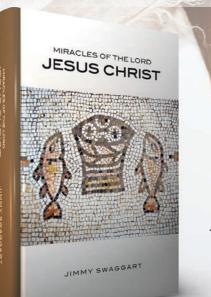
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