



John 1:12

The Hope of the Gospel

Every Christian (and even non-Christian) is familiar with John 3 :16 “For God so loved the world, He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes on Him shall not perish but have life everlasting”.

The way of salvation is not complicated as explained in Roman 10 “that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

Another example of how quickly man is forgiven and accepted through belief in the LORD is shown in Luke 23 when Jesus told the thief hanging beside Him “And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.” That was the LORD’S response when the thief said: Then he said to Jesus, “Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.”

The thief was a self-confessed sinner receiving a just reward for his deeds. He called Jesus LORD and asked to be remembered in the LORD’S kingdom. He hadn’t lived a righteous life, hadn’t heard the Gospel of salvation (which was not yet preached) but recognized his own sinfulness and the righteousness of Jesus and the fact He was LORD. That is the only requirement for the salvation of our souls and shows how earnestly God wishes that none should perish but all come to the saving knowledge of His Son Jesus the Christ. He could not have made it easier, Jesus bore the penalty for our sinful souls and simply believing that is all that is required to have our sins blotted out, as though they never had happened.

That is the Gospel of salvation and how the way has been made that we need not condemn ourselves to hell but enter into life everlasting.

The greater hope of the Gospel is held out in the seldom preached John 1 :12 "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:"

This does not say that those who received him have their sins forgiven and enter into life everlasting, but it says they have been given the power to BECOME the sons of God. Since there is neither male nor female in Christ Jesus as stated in Galatians "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus" I believe it safe to say that 'sons' is a gender neutral word. In Genesis we read "This is the book of the genealogy of Adam. In the day that God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created."

Scripture does include a caveat as to who the 'sons' in fact are, For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. Rom. 8:14. There seems a difference between those who have believed Jesus for salvation and those who have actually been led by the Spirit of God to become a 'son' of God. An example might be the thief on the cross who was received into heaven because of his belief in Jesus, and the Apostle Paul who was in fact LED of the Spirit of God and enabled to write so many of the books of the New Testament. Books, explaining by revelation what the four Gospels do not.

We are told that the whole of creation is waiting expectantly for the revealing of God's sons. Romans 8 in the Amplified says it this way: "19 For [even the whole] creation (all nature) waits expectantly and longs

earnestly for God's sons to be made known [waits for the revealing, the disclosing of their sonship]. 21 That nature (creation) itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and corruption [and gain an entrance] into the glorious freedom of God's children."

Common church teaching would likely say this manifestation of the sons of God is an event that has to occur after the LORD Himself returns. But is that what the scripture actually says? What level of maturity can we expect before the LORD returns if not full maturity as son's of God? Is that not one of the promises in Ephesians as being the expressed purpose of the fivefold ministry? Does it not say "till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;" Clearly this is an event that is to take place before the LORD'S return for we are also told " The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool"

If the LORD is to remain seated at the right hand of God UNTIL His enemies are made His footstool, it clearly is going to take a level of maturity that has so far not been seen in the Church. Apparently it is the mature sons of God that will be equipped to put the LORD'S enemies beneath His feet.

Could it be that our enemy has convinced the church that maturity will only occur after the LORD returns, when in fact maturity is what is necessary before the LORD returns? Coming to that level of maturity does not require receiving of our glorified bodies, but coming to a level of maturity equal to that of Jesus when He walked as a Son of Man.

Is it possible that when we reach that level of maturity, as is said of Jesus; shall in us dwell all the fullness of the Godhead bodily?

Colossians makes it very clear in the Amplified bible Col. 2:9, 10 For in Him the whole fullness of Deity (the Godhead) continues to dwell in bodily form [giving complete expression of the divine nature]. And you are in Him, made full and having come to fullness of life [in Christ you too are filled with the Godhead--Father, Son and Holy Spirit--and reach full spiritual stature]. And He is the Head of all rule and authority [of every angelic principality and power].

Is that really the HOPE of the Gospel? That we are to come to a level of maturity that was EQUAL to that of Jesus when He walked as Son of Man? Being filled with the fullness of the Godhead in bodily form?

YES that is exactly what the Scripture says.

FIVEFOLD MINISTRY

Where's the fruit?

Ephesians 4 is where we discover the offices of the fivefold ministry and what their function is to be within the body of believers.

How fivefold ministers are selected and put in place.

The KJV says: And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Amplified says: And His gifts were [*varied; He Himself appointed and gave men to us*] some to be apostles (special messengers), some prophets (inspired preachers and expounders), some evangelists (preachers of the Gospel, traveling missionaries), some pastors (shepherds of His flock) and teachers.

The Passion Translation says: And he has appointed some *with grace* to be apostles, and some *with grace* to be prophets, and some *with grace* to be evangelists, and some *with grace* to be pastors, and some *with grace* to be teachers.

A conclusion that all translations agree with is the fact those who are truly part of the fivefold ministry are put in place by the LORD Himself. Nowhere does it suggest that those occupying these positions are to be there resulting from a career choice one might make similar to deciding to be a policeman, fireman, doctor or nurse etc.

Nowhere does it say that those occupying these positions have to attend a certain bible school and be accepted by a certain Christian

‘club’ before they can become professional ministers. Yet that seems the career path of today’s ‘clergy’.

Biblical Job Description

KJV For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Amplified His intention was the perfecting *and* the full equipping of the saints (His consecrated people), [*that they should do*] the work of ministering toward building up Christ's body (the church), [*That it might develop*] until we all attain oneness in the faith and in the comprehension of the [*full and accurate*] knowledge of the Son of God, that [*we might arrive*] at really mature manhood (the completeness of personality which is nothing less than the standard height of Christ's own perfection), the measure of the stature of the fullness of the Christ *and* the completeness found in Him.

The Passion And their calling is to nurture and prepare all the holy believers to do their own works of ministry, and as they do this they will enlarge and build up the body of Christ. *These grace ministries will function* until we all attain oneness in the faith, until we all experience the fullness of what it means to know the Son of God, and finally we become one perfect man with the full dimensions of spiritual maturity and fully developed in the abundance of Christ.

The job description is clear across these translations, the fivefold ministry is to perfect, fully equip, nurture and prepare believers so that THEY do the work of ministering toward building up Christ’s body.

Do we see in any of these translations the notion that the work of ministering and building the body is to be done by the fivefold? The short answer is 'no', the purpose of the fivefold is to equip and prepare the saints so that they are equipped to do the works of ministry, which is what builds the body of Christ.

Clearly, the work of building up the body is not up to the Pastor or teacher as it seems to be in those organizations calling themselves Christian churches.

Given, the clear job description, one must ask 'are the fivefold ministers doing their job?'

Today's Church Described?

KJV That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

Amplified So then, we may no longer be children, tossed [*like ships*] to and fro between chance gusts of teaching *and* wavering with every changing wind of doctrine, [*the prey of*] the cunning *and* cleverness of unscrupulous men, [*gamblers engaged*] in every shifting form of trickery in inventing errors to mislead.

The Passion And then our immaturity will end! And we will not be easily shaken by trouble, nor led astray by novel teachings or by the false doctrines of deceivers who teach clever lies.

These scriptures present two possible scenarios for the condition of the church.

One is a body of believers that have been equipped for the work of ministry which they are fully engaged in, resulting in the building up of the body of Christ. Growing in the knowledge of the Son of God and coming into maturity that is nothing less than the fullness of Christ.

The other scenario is a group of people who are still babes in the faith who have been fed all manner of false doctrine and teaching devised by the cunning of men. Those men are only interested in lining their pockets by selling yet another book or teaching series which is the product of their own imaginations.

Judging Mature Believers

Again scripture has the standard with which we should judge ourselves and our maturity.

Since the fivefold ministry is to equip the saints, who in turn are to do the 'work' we need to look at what that 'work' produces.

Mark 16:15 is for the body of believers not the fivefold ministry. The command to all saints, and the work the fivefold is to be equipping them for is clear and simple: ***GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO EVERY CREATURE***

Since this is clearly not the testimony of the present day church, one would have to conclude that the fivefold ministry is not producing fruit.

With very few exceptions the organizations calling themselves Christian are completely failing their calling and purpose in the earth today. As a result, during the recent crisis churches have been deemed 'non-essential' and have been shut down with barely a whimper.

Who is at fault?

Again scripture has the answer to all our questions. Jeremiah 5:31 clearly describes our current state: *The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?*

The Bible warns of false prophets in many places, hireling pastors and wolves in sheep's clothing are also a warning to those with ears to hear.

This scripture does not lay the entire blame on false teaching it also points out that the 'flock' is content with the way things are.

Fruit The Body Produces

The properly equipped body should be preaching the gospel in all the world (wherever you are, you don't need go any further than your job, or next door neighbor).

All we need do, is tell of the good news, that God is not angry with us and wants us all to come into heaven for all eternity. Our sins have been forgiven because Jesus died on a cross in our place. Simply believing this good news shall save anyone, rejecting this good news will damn that soul forever. We don't have to engage in lengthy intellectual discussions, we simply present the gospel, which is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes.

The preaching of the gospel will be accompanied with these signs, in the name of Jesus, demons will be driven out, people will speak with new tongues, they will be supernaturally protected from snake bite or drinking any poison, they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover.

The conclusion of the matter

If the Church of today was being properly equipped by those claiming fivefold ministry titles, the equipped saints would be doing the works of ministry that would be undeniable. The church would not be closed but where the sick come for healing.

APO\$TLE\$ & PROFIT\$

We were Warned!



The Pathetic movement of today

The Bible (ESV) has much to say about false prophets who have been a problem throughout the ages.

“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.” Matt. 7:15

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. 1 John 4:1

But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. 2 Peter 2:1

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds. 2 Cor. 11:13-15

And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. Matt. 24:11

With the advent of the ability to communicate to the masses via television and now social media false prophets have the ability to deceive the masses, as never before. They are able to gather to themselves people by the thousands who are ever clamoring to hear a word from God, not unlike people in the world seeking fortune tellers or tea leaf readers or tarot card readers.

The role of the prophet in the New Testament is far different from the role of the Old Testament Prophet. Paul's letter to the Ephesians clearly

lays out the function of the church age prophet. They are to equip the saints for the work of the ministry. Their role is not to tell you what is going to happen tomorrow. A genuine Prophet of God in this age can relate what is God's will for this time and season. However, God's will is seldom done in the earth and believing that something prophesied is a fait accompli is a common error of the church. Recent events testify to this fact.

Today on the Christian stage there are many claiming to be apostles and prophets, who even have business cards and certificates validating them. They have a near star status with their own groupies who follow them and cling to every word they utter. There seems an obsession with wanting to know what is going to happen tomorrow and how the events in Revelations are going to play out. There is no shortage of 'prophets' willing to tell what the Lord has told them about current events, or things to come. Not unlike the fortune teller, much of what is offered is couched in nonspecific language with enough wiggle room to explain why something didn't happen.

Much of their success is due to lazy, immature Christians who don't take the time to study the Bible, pray in the Spirit and seek a personal relationship with God for themselves. There is one word that applies to all who run here and there seeking a 'word' from the 'prophet' That one word is REPENT.

These 'prophets' who prophesy for profit depend on a flock they can fleece for their very livelihoods. The results of the recent presidential election sent a whole bunch of them scurrying trying to explain why their predictions weren't as iron clad as they once presented. There

was a time that among this band of hoodwinkers another four year term was a sure thing.

In spite of their obvious error they have seemingly kept their followers who now are clinging to the next revelation being offered. Now looking for direction as to which book of revelation we are living in. Should we stockpile food? Head for the hills? Buy guns and ammo? Convert paper to gold and silver?

The ONLY way forward in these turbulent times, is to quit following these profiteering 'prophets' and make the 91st Psalm your way of life. Many of us can quote some of the benefits promised in this Psalm but ignore the caveat which says we are to DWELL in the secret place and ABIDE under His Shadow. Note, this says to dwell and to abide, which is not accomplished by going to church once or twice a week and popping in for a brief visit.

Christians today are doing what people have always done. They are always putting someone between them and God, in this case the false prophet who is only too happy to oblige with a 'word'. There would be little need or desire to seek a 'word' if we were close enough to God that WE can hear what He is saying for ourselves.

From the beginning, God always wanted to have a personal, one on one relationship with His man. Enoch got it, and went to heaven directly, bypassing the grave. The invite at Mt. Sinai was to all, and not just Moses. But the people spurned His invite! They later insisted they have a King to replace God and they got one. To this day we do the same thing when we bypass direct relationship with God and feel we need the pastor or prophet to intervene.

The Prophet Jeremiah spoke of this fatal flaw when he wrote: *The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?*

Christians Need To Take Healing

As SERIOUSLY as Jesus Did

Any Christian who is being honest will have to admit what we see in the church today does not even vaguely resemble the Church as described in the scripture.

James 5:14.15 seems to have been removed from our bibles and seems ignored in Bible Colleges of all types. It certainly is not normal in any of the churches I have seen either in practice or results.

To refresh our memories that passage of scripture says: Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the LORD. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the LORD will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. NKJV The Amplified bible says And the prayer (that is) of faith will save him who is sick.

Another passage of scripture that seems to have been expunged from our Bibles is Mark 16: 15-18. To refresh our memory that passage says: And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

These two scripture passages alone should be sufficient to cause the 'church' to take 2Chron.7:14 to heart. That scripture has been the call

from prophets for at least the past three years, which seems falling on deaf ears in the pulpits across the land. *If my people which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*

The church seems quite content to call to the LORD to send revival so that the harvest can come in and the LORD can return. Sadly, like the Laodicean church, the church today seems to think it is rich, prospered and grown wealthy and is in need of nothing; and does not realize and understand that it is wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. Being neither cold nor hot the LORD will spit it out of his mouth.

Our LORD went about doing good HEALING all those oppressed of the devil. He is the same yesterday, today and forever and we are His body. So, when did the LORD stop healing? The lack of healing has nothing to do with the LORD and everything to do with US, those who call upon His Name and who claim to be His body, who claim to be His Bride, who claim to be sons of God.

James 5 makes the path to healing very clear and allows no wiggle room for why healing is not manifest when we follow the directions given therein.

1. We are to call for the elders (this status is not achieved by merely warming a pew for years and years) it is a level of maturity that is achieved through consecration to the LORD. If there are no genuine elders in the assembly, the outcome of their prayers is predictable.
2. The elders are to pray for the sick, anointing them with oil in the Name of the LORD. The prayer that is of faith will save him who is sick.

3. The sick person needs to confess their sin, which will be forgiven as a condition of receiving their healing.

The fact that healing does not routinely manifest within the body of believers (James 5) and in the world (Mark 16) should have the leadership tearing their garments and sitting in sackcloth and ashes, repenting for the pitiful state of the church today. Healing was the LORD'S calling card, everywhere He went. It is also what set the early Church apart, with the mere shadow of Peter carrying enough power to heal the sick.

If the church had been walking in power this last year or so, no one could ever have shut it down and relegated the assembly to an online virtual event. The sick would have been lined up at the church house door from morning to evening as the good news of the Gospel went forth, not only in word but in the power of the Holy Spirit. The healings that manifest would have made it impossible for the government to convince people to huddle in fear in their homes waiting for symptoms to develop to the point that hospitalization was the only option.

Instead of being the salt and light of the world the church of Laodicea closed the doors and hid behind Romans 13 based on ignorance of the scripture and cowardice.

Believers Don't Take Healing Seriously and Spit In The Face Of The Saviour

That is a pretty strong statement and is not common in today's 'seeker-friendly', loosey goosey grace assemblies calling themselves Christian. It is however something that needs to be said and as the title of this little

writing says, the church needs to take healing as seriously as the LORD did.

Most Christians are familiar with Is. 53:5 which sometimes is a declaration made in desperation during a time of some affliction. The King James version is oft quoted from the pulpit: *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.* It is obvious by observation that this verse is neither believed nor understood nor taken seriously, and that is to our shame.

Looking at other translations of this scripture helps broaden the full meaning. The language 'wounded and bruised' does not come even close to relaying the true horror and brutality of what our LORD endured, not on the cross but at the whipping post, where he was beaten beyond recognition and no longer looked human. One commentary says his whole body WAS a bruise, from head to foot he had been beaten black and blue.

Some other translations:

But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. New Living Translation

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was crushed for our wickedness [our sin, our injustice, our wrongdoing]; The punishment [required] for our well-being fell on Him, And by His stripes (wounds) we are healed. Amplified

He is killed because of our sins, and he is afflicted because of our evil. The chastisement of our peace is upon him and by his wounds we shall be healed. Aramaic Bible in Plain English

But because of our sins he was wounded, beaten because of the evil we did. We are healed by the punishment he suffered, made whole by the blows he received. Good News Translation

Seldom referred to from the pulpit, but related to the same event is Is. 52:14 which is speaking of what the LORD endured for our healing.

But many were amazed when they saw him. His face was so disfigured he seemed hardly human, and from his appearance, one would scarcely know he was a man. New Living Translation

Just as there were many who were appalled at him — his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness— NIV

Many were horrified at what happened to him. But everyone who saw him was even more horrified because he suffered until he no longer looked human. Contemporary English Version

Images that were created for the movie The Passion by Mel Gibson made an attempt to portray the brutality of the LORD'S beating but still fall short of representing the pure horror of what happened. I heard Mr.Gibson say, they felt if they made it any more brutal people simply would not look at it. As it is, it is hard for a Christian to watch the movie version but is absolutely necessary if we are to grasp the depth of what was accomplished by His beating. Then perhaps we won't be so casual when we quip 'by His stripes I am healed'.

To the point of how seriously our LORD takes OUR healing, Is. 53 describes of what the LORD endured so that we could be healed. How offensive it must be when we head to the medicine cabinet, the pharmacist or the doctors when we have an ailment in our bodies, most likely brought on by our own sin.

John G. Lake in one of his sermons likened turning our back on the LORD and going to the doctor akin to the sin of adultery. He described 'medicine' as one of the biggest humbugs ever foisted on the church. Mr. Lake is credited as having a healing ministry that resulted in Seattle being declared the healthiest city in the nation at one time. A group of doctors once approached him offering a large sum of money if he would leave town. I am saying this to convey the fact that Mr. Lake was a man most familiar with bringing healing from heaven into the earth.

He said that Christians seem to have no idea what consecration is all about when we don't consecrate our body to the Lord as well as we do our soul. We come to the Lord for matters of the spirit and run to the doctors for matters of the body.

Do you think we might see healing in the Church as we should, when we take them as seriously as our Lord?

By His stripes we **WERE** healed past tense, full stop! As painful as it might be to our egos, when we don't see healing manifest we need to look inwardly for the reason. Ask the Holy Spirit of God to search us for whatever is stopping us from being able to receive what the LORD purchased with such a heavy price.

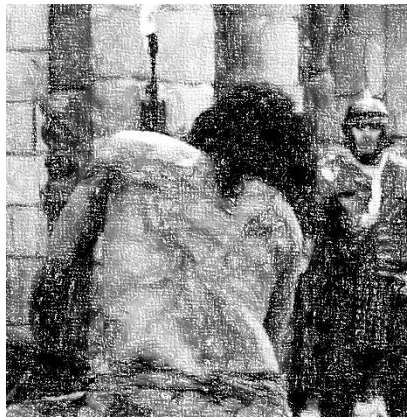
It will come as no surprise if the first reason to be revealed is UNBELIEF. We can read and declare that scripture till the moon turns blue but

when we have a few 'yeah buts' to justify our lack of healing, our unbelief is on display for all to see.

If our first response is to go to the doctors and then and only if that doesn't work do we consider going to God in prayer, we are making Jesus our PLAN B. Don't you see how much that is a slap in the face to our LORD?

JESUS IS NOT OUR PLAN B

By His Stripes We WERE Healed



“IN MY NAME”

Incantation or a place of abiding?

If you shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. John 14:14

Any Christian who has been around the church for more than a day, is familiar with the term "in the name of Jesus", added to all prayer and used to bind and cast out evil spirits.

Any honest Christian will admit that they do not always witness the devils complying, nor the thing they have asked for manifest even though they have applied the ‘formula’.

Why does there seem to be a discrepancy between what the Bible says and what we experience?

Is the problem with the Bible or is the problem with us and our application? Of course WE are the problem.

Incantation or Place of Abiding?

The shortest word in that phrase is perhaps the key to understanding what is happening when we pray 'in the name of Jesus'.

The word translated IN is defined in Strong's like this:

en

A primary preposition denoting (fixed) position (in place, time or state), and (by implication) instrumentality (medially or constructively), that is, a relation of rest.

For this scripture to be consistent with our experience we need to be fulfilling what the word 'in' translated from 'en' actually means.

The word 'in' is the key to grasp what is really being said. When we say IN the name of Jesus it means we are to be in a fixed place in a relation of rest.

The amplified bible says: in My name {*as my representative*} which implies a position of ambassador who is in fact speaking for and with the same authority as the one who sent him.

To sum up what the phrase 'in the name of Jesus' means: we need to be in a place of abiding and dwelling (Ps 91) and when we are we will only say what we HEAR the Father saying. Jesus only said what he heard: "*For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.*" (John 12:49).

I think it can be safely said for 'in the name of Jesus' to have the desired effect it must come from a place of abiding and from that position hearing and from that position doing. Jesus said "*I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.*" (John 5:30). Notice that Jesus was only seeking the will of the Father and not Himself. Should we expect our prayers to be answered when we are not in line with Father's will?

It is clear that unless we abide WE CAN DO NOTHING. "*I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*" (John 15:5)

Scripture also says "*and all things, whatsoever you shall ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive*" (Matt. 21:22). The key word believing comes from that place of abiding and hearing. When we hear from that place of abiding we have no trouble 'believing'. What we hear from that place will be in line with the Father's will. "*Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. If we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him*".(1 John 5:14,15)

To think adding 'in the name of Jesus' is the only requirement for answered prayer is a sign of immaturity. We risk shaking our faith, when we use that incantation again and again, only to see our prayer not answered or devils disobey. If we are being brutally honest with ourselves do we really believe all we have to say is 'in the name of Jesus' to have done whatsoever we ask?

What is an incantation? The dictionary defines it as a use of spells spoken as a part of a ritual of magic. It is also defined as a recited formula of words designed to produce a particular effect.

Place of abiding or incantation? You be the judge.

REPENT

Who Can Hear?

For over two years the call to the church was 2 Chron. 7:14 If MY people called by my Name will humble themselves, pray, seek my face and turn from their wicked ways then I will hear from heaven, and forgive their sin and heal their land. (paraphrased)

The year of covid was a test and a time of division. The Church is to be a place of healing, deliverance and freedom. It is a place that should welcome one and all with the good news of the Gospel which is presented not with enticing words of man's wisdom but in a demonstration of the Spirit and power.

With few exceptions all churches closed and retreated to the safety of Zoom under the guise of following scripture (wrongly applied) saying the church had no choice but to obey the government. A convenient means of avoiding the real issue, the fact their assemblies have the appearance of Godliness but deny the POWER.

The call of 2Chron. 7:14 is still being spoken to those who have an ear to hear. In the meantime the separation of the sheep and goats, wheat and tares, the wise from the unwise has and is happening.

The remnant has heard the call and has come out from among them. The goats will once again open the doors to their pens, having the form of Godliness but never demonstrating the Spirit and power. They have denied the Holy Spirit as have many in times past. They will also persecute the Remnant who have heard the call of the Spirit.

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves,

and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. 2

Chron. 7:14 KJV

and My people, who are called by My Name, humble themselves, and pray and seek (crave, require as a necessity) My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear [them] from heaven, and forgive their sin and heal their land.**Amplified**

A prophet from India brought this warning to a church in Lancaster Calif. at least two years ago. The same call has been heard intermittently from other voices but never seems to have been HEARD by the church in North America.

Those in the Church seem of the opinion all that is wrong in the world is because of what the people 'out there' are doing. The LORD did not say "if those people out there, who don't know me, will quit their wicked ways" He said if MY people will humble themselves and pray and seek His face and turn from THEIR WICKED WAYS He is addressing the wickedness that is within the church house.

He that has ears to hear let him hear.

**JESUS IS NOT
A HELPLESS BABE IN A MANGER**



**JESUS IS NOT
AT THE WHIPPING POST**



**JESUS IS NOT
ON THE CROSS**



**JESUS IS NOT
IN THE TOMB**



HE IS RISEN
SEATED ON HIS THRONE IN HEAVEN



WHERE HE SITS UNTIL
HIS ENEMIES ARE MADE HIS FOOTSTOOL

Sit Thou At My Right Hand **UNTIL**

A Psalm of David. The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. **Ps. 110**

The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? **Matt. 22**

For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. **1 Cor. 15**

These scriptures make it very clear that the LORD is seated at the right hand of GOD until His enemies are made His footstool.

Wait a minute, aren't Christians waiting for the LORD to make the enemies a footstool? How is He going to do that if He remains seated UNTIL that happens?

This generation like many previous are expecting the LORD to return any day and set up His kingdom after taking His bride away.

That Bride of course is to be without spot, wrinkle, blemish or any such thing. Who in all honesty can look at the state of the church in the earth today and think for a moment it represents the spotless Bride?

The Bride would not close the church house door and hide away in cowardice behind a gross misrepresentation of scripture.

The true Church would be demonstrating the power of the Gospel and would be in the business of healing all those oppressed of the devil, as they were commanded.

How can Christians be so deluded as to think this is the church the LORD is coming to take away to Himself?

The Church at Laodicea said they were rich, increased with goods and had need of nothing. They did not know they were wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.

This is an accurate description of the church in North America today. It is still parading around pretending to be fully mature and only in need of yet another revival. There is a wasteland filled with dead men's bones who have been led around by an army of false prophets and teachers.

The advent of electronic communications has created fertile ground for these false prophets and teachers to gather to themselves those with itching ears chasing after the newest 'word' or revelation from the LORD.

The prophet Jeremiah warned of these days: *An appalling and horrible thing [bringing desolation and destruction] has come to pass in the land: The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests exercise rule at their own hands and by means of the prophets. And My people love to have it so! But what will you do when the end comes?* **Jer. 5: Amplified**

If this picture in Jeremiah and the warning in Revelations can't be seen by those calling themselves believers today, then there is a need to anoint their eyes with salve that they might see for truly they are blind.

The Great Commission

Make no mistake the gospel of the kingdom MUST be preached before the LORD'S return. *And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in*

all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Matt. 24

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. **Mark 16**

To think what passes for the 'church' today is equipped to preach the gospel to all nations for a witness is delusional.

Where is the assembly today that is casting out devils, speaking with new tongues, not being harmed by venom or any poison and laying hands on the sick seeing them recover?

All those big screen and smoke machine monuments to man social clubs aren't demonstrating the power of the gospel within the confines of their clubhouses. How in the world would they be the ones taking this gospel to the nations for a witness?

Sadly those coming for some entertainment in the form of clever 'feel good' messages and soul-led music have had to substitute a counterfeit experience for the real, which they have rejected.

Rousing music, fog machines and strobing lights are a pathetic attempt to mimic the glory of God and what only the Holy Spirit can do.

The light show appeals to the soulish side of believers and to the immature can be mistaken for the moving of the Holy Spirit.

To our hurt we have quenched and grieved the Holy Spirit with our rigid religious performances that do not give place nor honor to the Holy Spirit.

How have we grieved and quenched the Holy Spirit? Our services are so rigid and predictable, the local restaurants know when to expect the 'church' rush on a Sunday afternoon. We offer up a few rehearsed worship songs, pass the plate, listen to a 22 minute sermon then sing another song and get out in time for lunch. We have not even penciled in a place for the Holy Spirit to move let alone given Him full reign to do as He pleases. That is why we don't see the healing, deliverance and freedom that should accompany the preaching of God's word.

The signs and wonders validate the preaching of the gospel and no matter how hard they try the local 'elders' can't work up the miracles. That is the work of the Holy Spirit and Him alone.

The church houses where He is actually welcome are as rare as hen's teeth and can be counted on the fingers of one hand. As much as no one would admit it the Holy Spirit is not really welcome by most of the leadership. Why? Because He is not subject to the control of any person and 'leadership' simply can't relinquish control.

Another well kept secret is the fact that very few occupying the pulpit even know the Holy Spirit and have no way of knowing how to turn the meeting over to Him.

Once you have had the blessed experience of being in an assembly where Holy Spirit is allowed to take control you can never settle for the manmade version of 'church' ever again.

The River Church at Tampa Bay, pastored by Rodney Howard Browne is one of the very few gatherings where the Holy Spirit is clearly in control. If you have the opportunity to visit in person do yourself a big favour. If you can't attend in person find them online and you will be blessed.

Signs Wonders Miracles

What Happened To The Signs Wonders Miracles? *They Confirm The Word Being Preached*

These past two years have shown how feckless the assemblies taking the name of Christ have become.

When the devil's sickness was wreaking havoc on the world was a perfect time for the Church to rise and shine.

Instead of throwing open its doors and inviting one and all to come and be healed, what did the church do? With very few exceptions most claiming to be Christian churches did exactly what satan told them to do. They closed their doors, went on zoom and pretended to be having 'church' from there.

A few brave pastors defied the orders and tried to reopen only to be dealt with harshly by the state. A handful of churches in Canada tried defying the state only to have their doors padlocked, and in a couple of cases were pastors thrown in jail. These were hardly a measurable fraction of the institutions calling themselves

Christian. In Canada you could count on one hand the churches that tried to remain open.

When the state finally 'allowed' the churches to open it applied masking, distancing, attendance and even singing rules designed to stop any form of true Biblical assembly.

Why Did The Church ALLOW This To Happen?

The simple answer? The 'church' for decades has not been following the commandments given to the Church by the LORD Himself.

If it has been awhile since your Bible was dusted off, let's refresh ourselves with the orders our Commander gave the Church when He walked among us as the Son of Man.

7 And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.

8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give. **Matt. 10: 7,8**

1 Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

2 And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

3 And he said unto them, Take nothing for your journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece.

4 And whatsoever house ye enter into, there abide, and thence depart.

5 And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them.

6 And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing every where. **Luke 9: 1-6**

15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

20 And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen. **Mark 16: 15-20**

17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. **Matt. 16:17-19**

The LORD commanded His disciples to preach the gospel of the Kingdom, cleanse the lepers, heal the sick, cast out devils and raise the dead. He said we are to be a witness, he did not say we are to witness but BE a witness. If we are to be a witness we should be doing what He commanded us to do. He did not tell us to be forever speculating on when the end will come. Nor did He tell us to come together once or maybe twice a week to hear what pastor has to say. He told us to preach the gospel of the Kingdom, cleanse the lepers, heal the sick, cast out demons and raise the dead.

If the Church were doing what our Commander said to do, there isn't a government in the world that could have closed the real Church down. If the Church actually believed the Gospel it's doors would never have been closed, the sick would have come and they WOULD have been healed, and then gone forth and told everyone the Good News. Even the corrupt governments and media could never have hidden what was happening. The police would have been powerless to stop God being God if the Church actually believed what they claim to believe.

18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. **Matt. 18:18-20**

We today focus on the same question the disciples asked the LORD, ignoring how the LORD replied. They wanted to know when the kingdom would come and the LORD return to establish His kingdom. Clearly we are told that only the Father knows when this will happen, yet that is the subject of much of the 'teaching and prophesying' you hear in christian circles today. Sadly very few are doing what the LORD commanded them to do. Which is preach the gospel, cleanse the lepers, heal the sick, cast out devils and raise the dead.

6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. **Acts 1: 6-8**

We 'believers' seem to think the best we can hope for is just hang on until Jesus returns and puts everything right. That is a deception straight from the pit of hell which results in a 'church' sitting on it's blessed assurance asking the LORD to do what He has already done. He gave ALL power and authority to the Church and is seated at the right hand of the Father UNTIL His enemies are made His footstool. It is the Church that is to put His enemies under OUR/His feet.

Where Are The Signs Wonders Miracles Today?

Every Word that proceeds from the mouth of GOD is true and does not return void and is a living word that goes into eternity. The LORD still confirms His Word

with signs following, so where are the signs wonders miracles what is being preached?

The Gospel of Salvation is pretty much all that is preached and in some 'churches' that is no longer being preached. When was the last time there was an altar call in the church you attended? If it is rightly preached it will be confirmed by the Holy Spirit and people will come forward to receive the Good News that their sins are forgiven and they have entrance to heaven when they die. True and Wonderful.

When was the last time the gospel of deliverance from demonic oppression was preached as part of the kingdom message?

When was the gospel of healing from all manner of sickness and disease preached as part of the kingdom message?

When was the baptism of the Holy Spirit with His accompanying gifts preached as part of the kingdom message?

When was John 1:12 preached as part of the kingdom message? To refresh it says that to all who believe on Him the power is given to become the sons of God. This incredible promise means that if we believe we can become a son of God and walk just like Jesus did when He walked as the Son of Man. He meant it when He said these works I do, you shall do also and even greater works.

Why are preachers not preaching all the Good News of the Kingdom of Heaven which among other things includes deliverance from demonic oppression, healing of all manner of sickness and disease? The simple answer might be, they don't believe what the Word says, and don't dare step out and preach something they can't 'deliver' upon.

Signs Wonders Miracles WILL FOLLOW

The signs wonders and miracles will follow to confirm the Word that is being preached, they will not however follow the soulish, entertaining drivel that is being foisted on the flock today.

Note: This little publication is not associated with the Church at Tampa Bay, nor any other ministry.

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