Happy New Year 2018

FROM JIMMY SWAGGART MINISTRIES

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“And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day. And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day. —Genesis 1:2-8

The Spirit Of God

The phrase, “And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters,” presents the beginning of life, i.e., re-creation. Because it is so important, please allow me to say it again: The moving of the Holy Spirit is the beginning of life.

We will find that every act of the Godhead carried out on this earth is done through the person, agency, work, power, ministry, and office of the Holy Spirit. The only exception to that would be the ministry of Christ in this world in His first advent, but even then, the Holy Spirit functioned in every single capacity of His conception, birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection (Lk. 4:18–19).

This corresponds with the statement we have previously made, to use the vernacular, God the Father is the owner, God the Son is the architect, and God the Holy Spirit is the builder. But yet, one could use any of these designations for any one of the Trinity, and it would be correct.

Psalm 33:6 tells us that God made the world by His Spirit, and one might quickly say that by the same mighty worker, the new creation is effected in the soul.

The Holy Spirit works exclusively within the parameters of the finished work of Christ.

There is every evidence that in the mind of God, even before this particular time, God through foreknowledge knew that He would create man and that man would fall.

It was determined in the mind of the Godhead that man would be redeemed by God becoming man in order to go to the Cross, where the price would be paid for man’s redemption.

Peter said: “Forasmuch as you know that you 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: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you” (1 Pet. 1:18–20).

The Holy Spirit

From this moment of re-creation, the Holy Spirit has been in the world. He superintended the giving of the word of a limited reconciliation to the first family immediately after the fall. This is carried out in Genesis, Chapter 4, and is summed up in the sacrifices, which epitomized the coming Christ.

Up unto the time of the Cross, which was about 4,000 years from the time of the fall, the Holy Spirit was limited in what
The term “He led captivity captive,” is strange, but it means the following: As stated, every person in paradise, which included all the patriarchs and prophets of old, were actually held captive there by Satan. He could not put them over into the burning side of the pit, but, still, they were his captives. However, when Jesus paid the price on the Cross, He went down into paradise and took those who were captives of Satan and made them His captives. He did this because now the sin debt was paid by what He did at the Cross. In other words, Satan had no more claim on them, and neither does he have claim on any believer in the world today.

Now, when believers die, due to what Jesus did at the Cross, their souls and spirits automatically go to heaven to be with the Lord (Phil. 1:23).

Concerning how the Holy Spirit works within our hearts and lives as it regards our sanctification, Paul said, “For the law (a law devised by the Godhead) of the Spirit of life (Holy Spirit) in Christ Jesus (this law is based on what Jesus did at the Cross) has made me free from the law of sin and death” (Rom. 8:2).

To sum up, every single thing the Holy Spirit has done in this world, is doing, and shall do is based entirely on the Cross of Christ. The Cross is what makes everything possible (1 Cor. 1:17).

The Word Of God

“And God said, Let there be light: and there was light” (Gen. 1:3).

The phrase, “And God said,” presents the manner in which creation, or re-creation, was carried out. Some 10 times this phrase is used in this exact manner, with the exception of the last time, where it says, “And the Lord God said” (Gen. 2:18). By the use of the term, “And God said,” we are given very little information. Probably, the phrase, then, is metaphorical and actually means that God enacted for the universe a law.

However, from these three words, we do learn some things. First of all, we learn from this that God makes no preparation, employs no means, and needs no secondary agency. He speaks, and it is done. His Word alone contains all things necessary for the fulfillment of His will. By speaking, God gives to nature a universal and enduring law.

As well, His commands are not temporary but eternal; and whatever secondary causes were called into existence when God, by a word, created light, those same causes produce it now and will produce it until God recalls His word. We have then, here, nature’s first universal law.

Light

The phrase, “Let there be light: and there was light,” presents the first universal law. Are we to understand that this light now

He could do because the terrible sin debt hung over the heads of all of humanity.

The blood of bulls and goats could not take away sin, so the debt remained (Heb. 10:4). As a result, when the saints of God died who lived before the Cross, Satan could still claim them as his captives, which he definitely did; consequently, their souls and spirits went down into paradise. Because the sin debt was still there, they could not be taken to heaven when they died (Lk. 16:20–31).

However, when Jesus died on the Cross and, thereby, atoned for all sin, which removed the sin debt, He went down into paradise, which was in the heart of the earth.

Concerning that visit, Paul said: “Wherefore He said, When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that He ascended, what is it but that He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?” (Eph. 4:8–9).

Leading Captivity Captive

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Light

The phrase, “Let there be light: and there was light,” presents the first universal law. Are we to understand that this light now
brought into being by God was independent of the sun, the moon, etc.? Calvin and Augustine said that it was; however, I think not! God certainly could have spoken light into existence without the sun, etc.

Nevertheless, I think the light came from the sun, and what we see in Verses 14 through 18 speaks of the regulation of the sun, moon, and stars.

Light travels at the speed of 186,000 miles a second. Incidentally, we are told that the universe is expanding at that particular rate, which means that the Word of God saying, “Let there be light,” is still at work.

The Light Was Good

“And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness” (Gen. 1:4).

The phrase, “And God saw the light, that it was good,” refers to the fact that what it was designed to do, it would do.

It was designed not merely for illumination, although that certainly is one of its great purposes, but, as well, plants have to have light to survive and grow. So, there is a life-giving property of sorts in this light made by God.

Light And Darkness

The phrase, “And God divided the light from the darkness,” does not imply that darkness has a separate and independent existence, but that there were now periods of light and darkness.

Taking this particular statement of the dividing of light from darkness into the spiritual sense, we know that light and darkness can never be joined together. As the Scripture says: “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness” (Eph. 5:11).

In heaven, there is nothing but perpetual light, while in hell, there is perpetual darkness (Mat. 8:12; Rev. 21:23–25).

This which we are studying is the first day of the week. Likewise, Christ rose from the dead on the first day of the week. It carries the aura of a new beginning.

Day

“And God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And the evening and the morning were the first day” (Gen. 1:5).

By using the phraseology, “The evening and the morning were the first day,” we know these were literal 24-hour days.

The phrase, “And God called the light day,” is not meant to be a time measure, but rather a character description. But yet, as we shall see, at this particular time, the word day is part of a 24-hour period.

Night

The phrase, “And the darkness He called night,” has to do with the revolution of the earth. In the manner in which God made man, the work and rest cycle is figured into this 24-hour revolution of the earth.

Firmament

“And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters” (Gen. 1:6).

Firmament in the Hebrew means “expansion.” God divided the waters, making

Continued on page 8
FULL-POWER STATIONS

Fulton, AL .........................................89.3 (WJKI)
Covering Fulton, Thomasville, and Grove Hill

Mobile/Citronelle, AL.........................102.1 (WQUA)
Covering Mobile, Alabama

Augusta/Little Rock, AR .................. 97.7 (KJSM)
Covering Central Arkansas, Western Tennessee, a small part of Northwestern Mississippi, and a small part of Southern Missouri

Camden, AR ...................1450 AM (KNHD)
Covering parts of Southern Arkansas

Lake Village, AR/Greenville, MS .......... 95.9 (KUUZ)
Covering parts of Western Mississippi and Eastern Arkansas

Nashville, AR .................................96.9 (KSSW)
Covering Southwestern Arkansas

Palm Springs, CA ......................... 90.9 (KPSH)
Covering the Coachella Valley

Panama City, FL ......................... 91.7 (WFFL)
Covering Panama City, Florida

Crete, IL ........................................88.1 (WBMF)
Covering South Chicago and Chicago Heights

Kankakee, IL .................................88.3 (WAWF)
Covering Northeastern Illinois and Northwestern Indiana

Ottawa, IL .................................. 88.9 (WWGN)
Covering Ottawa, West La Salle, East Joliet, and North DeKalb

Winfield/Wichita, KS ..................... 91.9 (KBDD)
Covering South Central Kansas and North Central Oklahoma

Baton Rouge, LA ......................... 88.5 (WJFM)
Covering parts of Southern Louisiana

Bastrop, LA ................................. 88.3 (KJGM)
Covering Bastrop, Monroe, and the Northeastern part of Louisiana

Jonesboro, LA ......................... 104.9 (KTOC)
Covering Northern Louisiana

Lafayette/Church Point, LA ........... 91.9 (KCKR)
Covering Southern and Western Louisiana

Desoto/St. Louis, MO ...................... 100.1 (KDJR)
Covering Southern Missouri, parts of Eastern Missouri, and Western Illinois

Benton/Yazoo City - Jackson, MS ... 92.1 (WJNS)
Covering Central Mississippi and Eastern Louisiana

Grenada, MS ............................... 95.7 (WTGY)
Covering parts of Northwestern Mississippi

Beatrice/Lincoln, NE 88.9 (KNBE)
Covering South Eastern Nebraska

Grand Island/Hastings, NE .......... 90.7 (KNFA)
Covering South Central Nebraska

Albion/Rochester, NY ................. 102.1 (WJCA)
Covering North Western New York State

Lakewood/Jamestown, NY .............. 88.9 (WYRR)
Covering Lakewood and Jamestown, NY

Bowling Green/Toledo, OH .......... 730 AM (WJYM)
Covering parts of Northern and Central Ohio, Eastern Indiana, and the Southern tip of Michigan

Ada, OK ...................................... 88.7 (KAJT)
Covering South Central Oklahoma

Bristow, OK ............................... 104.9 (KREK)
Covering Bristow, Sapulpa, Cushing, Drumright, Okmulgee, Chandler, and the southside of Tulsa, OK

Guthrie, OK .............................. 1490 AM (KMFS)
Covering Oklahoma City, Edmond, and parts of Central and Northern Oklahoma

Norman/Oklahoma City, OK ........... 89.3 (KSSO)
Covering Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Graysville, TN .............................. 95.7 (WAYB)
Covering parts of Southern Tennessee and Northern Georgia

Atlanta/Texarkana, TX ................. 100.1 (KNRB)
Covering parts of Northeastern Texas, Northwestern Louisiana, Southwestern Arkansas, and Southeastern Oklahoma

Corrigan/Lufkin, TX ..................... 99.3 (KYTM)
Covering Corrigan and Lufkin, TX

TRANSLATOR STATIONS

Andalusia, AL ......................... 89.7
Eufaula, AL ......................... 88.9
Camden, AR ...................... 97.9
El Dorado, AR ..................... 89.7
Bishop, CA ...................... 91.7
Key West, FL ...................... 90.5
Dublin, GA ......................... 90.9
La Grange, GA .................... 90.3
Waycross, GA ...................... 90.7
Carlinville, IL ..................... 89.1
Effingham, IL ...................... 88.7
Freeport, IL ...................... 91.3
Jacksonville, IL ................... 88.1
DeRidder, LA .................... 89.5
Grayson, LA ...................... 91.9
Many, LA ......................... 91.3
Minden, LA ......................... 91.1
Morgan City, LA ................. 91.5
Natchitoches, LA ................ 90.1
Alexandria, MN ................... 91.7
Morris, MN ....................... 90.5
Kirksville, MO .................... 88.1
Mountain Grove, MO .......... 91.7
St. James, MO ................... 89.3
Springfield, MO ................... 91.5
Willow Springs, MO .......... 90.5
Columbia, MS ..................... 88.3
Morehead City, NC .......... 91.9
Rockingham, NC ................ 88.3
Corning, NY ...................... 89.5
Chambersburg, PA ............ 89.7
Franklin, PA ....................... 90.3
Lock Haven, PA ................ 89.3
Mansfield, PA ..................... 91.5
Andrews, SC ..................... 88.7
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Mitchell, SD ...................... 89.3
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Columbus, TX ................... 91.1
Midland, TX ..................... 91.7
Palestine, TX .................... 91.1

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Divide The Waters

The phrase, “And let it divide the waters from the waters,” refers to the fact that before this was done, not only was there water all over the earth, but, as well, it seems that water also filled the expanse that we refer to as the atmosphere. The Lord divided these waters and separated the clouds, with some of them filled with water, i.e., rain, from the waters that covered part of the surface of the earth.

And God Made

“And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so” (Gen. 1:7).

The waters “under the firmament” pertain to the oceans, seas, rivers, etc. The waters “above the firmament” pertain to the water that’s in the clouds, which comes down as rain upon the earth.

The phrase, “And God made the firmament,” refers to the wide-open expanse above earth’s surface, reaching up to the clouds and beyond, with that marvelous mixture of gases...
that form atmospheric air, which are necessary for man’s existence and activity.

Waters Under And Over The Firmament

The phrase, “And divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so,” is not contrary to, but in accordance with, science.

The creation that God has devised presents the laws by which rain is formed and the earth watered. This is constantly referred to in the Bible as the chief natural proof of God’s wisdom and goodness (Acts 14:17).

Six times the phrase, “And it was so,” is used. It speaks of the resistless energy of the divine Word. As creation functions accordingly, we should, as well, function, always eager to do the will of God, so much so, in fact, that His Word becomes our command.

Heaven

“And God called the firmament heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day” (Gen. 1:8).

“Heaven,” as referred to here, pertains to the atmosphere around the earth. God adjusted the firmament on the second day of re-creation.

The work of the second day is not mentioned as being good because the work of day three had to be carried out before this part was complete.

The phrase, “And God called the firmament heaven,” is not the same meaning regarding heaven as in Verse 1.

In Verse 1, “the heaven” refers to the entirety of the universe. “Heaven” in Verse 8 refers to the atmosphere around the earth, which goes up about 45 miles from the surface before it begins to lose its gravitational pull.

The phrase, “And the evening and the morning were the second day,” as well, speaks of a 24-hour time frame.
If asked the question, do you want your children educated? Most would say, “Oh, yes. I’m really anxious to send my children to college. We will do everything we can to help them get a good education.”

Of course, there is nothing wrong with college or university training, or with getting a degree. We must make this point, however: To entrust your child’s education to the “professional educators,” without first training them in the Word of God will almost guarantee the loss of your child’s eternal soul.

Without any foundation in the Word of God, they will have no basis for life. Tragically, multitudes are being taught how to make a living, but few are being taught how to live. Without the foundation of the Word of God and the knowledge of the basic principles of life, these young people must face teachers and educators who do not know God. Such atheistic teachers seem dedicated to tearing down what little faith may be in the hearts of children not firmly anchored in the Word.

We can be grateful to God for every Christian teacher we have in the public schools. There are those in education who love the Lord and are truly committed to Him. Their dedication is commendable. Many Christians working in the field of education feel it is a ministry. One of my dear friends in Baton Rouge has a bachelor’s degree and also a master’s. Despite all of his training, education, and ability, his salary is less than that of many jobs requiring no prior preparation. He doesn’t make a lot of money, but he said, “Brother Swaggart, this is my ministry.”

That man—as well as thousands more like him—is a blessing to children who know nothing of God. It is his ministry. A great educator and proclaimer of the gospel made the statement years ago that a knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education in preparation for a useful and happy life.

At the time he made this statement, the schools were not nearly as anti-Christ as they are today. If it were true then, this great man’s statement is even more valid today.

I have no desire to degrade or minimize the significance of a college education and higher degrees, but we should emphasize the fact that the basic training of a child should be in the Word of God. The place he should receive this foundation is in the home. This will help him establish the kind of life that will not result in his or her becoming an alcoholic, a prostitute, a drug addict, or having his or her life destroyed by the many evils existing today. It is imperative that your child know the Bible. And above and beyond all the other reasons we have outlined, remember that this is the only route that will bring your child to the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Editor's note: This article is a continuation of the “Successful Home & Marriage” series by Jimmy Swaggart.
Starting As A Child

Paul said to Timothy, “And that from a child thou has known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (II Tim. 3:15).

I remember when I was a boy and the Lord saved me and filled me with His Holy Spirit at 8 years old. I devoured the Word of God. Going back and thinking about it in my mind’s eye, I can still see it today.

The Scriptures were so interesting; I read them by the hour. I had a little Bible that probably cost $4 or $5—if that much. It had a zipper around it and made me very proud.

My little Bible didn’t have headings or any of the other aids that make today’s Bibles so easily read. I remember reading it, though, and studying it by the hour. Even though I was just a child, I would study particular passages of Scripture and meditate on them.

In all honesty, I didn’t really know what meditation was, but subconsciously I gave serious thought to each passage, asking the Lord to explain it. The Holy Spirit would open up God’s Word.

Satan subsequently fought hard to destroy me, and would have succeeded if it weren’t for this foundation. My mother, dad, and I would discuss Scriptures for hours. What a blessed time that was. I can still see the living room of our little frame house.

I would sit with my mother, dad, and my sister who was six years younger. We would often talk back and forth. My daddy would say, “Jimmy, what does this Scripture mean?”

I would explain it to him as best I could and he would sit there and think about it I don’t know if my perceptions were all that deep, but he would act as if they were the greatest things he had ever heard.

My mother would say, “Oh, that is wonderful.” And then my dad would praise me, and I would grow by inches. It inspired me with greater delight and a desire for studying the Word further.

Beyond that, I would go out behind the house to a little log I used for an altar. I would pray there for hours on end. Many times I would put my little black Bible there and study it on my knees. Mother and dad encouraged me and strengthened me in every way possible.

They were simple people and uneducated. They had been raised during the Depression and had had no opportunity for a formal education at the college level. There were many things in the world they didn’t know and many with which they were unacquainted.

I thank God I was not born into a rich mansion with all the emphasis on material things. I thank God that I wasn’t born to parents who would not come to know Jesus Christ. Even though they had little education and our home was humble, we had the things that counted most: we knew God.

My parents taught me the Word of God. They instilled it in me; poured it into me; and helped me with it. They guided my life, and created a hunger in my heart that burns to this day. It literally saved my life.

The home is the best place in the world to teach the Bible. That is where God places the responsibility. The Sunday school teacher, the pastor of the church, or other ministries are supplemental and helpful, but it is the home that is most effective.

The teaching of the Bible in the home is supremely important.

“God commands that His Word be taught in the home. He didn’t make a vague request or suggest it be done if convenient. He commands that it be done.”
further stated, ‘And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates’ (Deut. 6:9).

This presents the Word of God as being a constant influence, ever present in and about the home. When this is done, it will produce concrete results and change society.

This teaching of children must be done with consistency. A Sunday school session of less than an hour a week is not enough. Children couldn't be expected to learn arithmetic or English with less than an hour’s exposure per week.

Sunday school is a fine institution and a great help. It is not, however, sufficient exposure as a total teaching tool for God's Word.

The complete teaching of God's Word must be centered in the home. There are many attending church and Sunday school regularly who know little about the great doctrines of the Bible. Obviously, more is needed and this is where the home enters in.

Some would note that daily vacation Bible schools can be a great help. Certainly, in the hands of well-trained and spiritually capable workers who concentrate on teaching the Bible, vacation Bible schools are a valuable adjunct in teaching God's Word to children. They use many techniques such as gospel choruses, object lessons, Scripture memorization, Bible stories, the plan of salvation, and other tools. But as excellent as these Bible schools can be, they are only a concentrated course lasting a few days a year. Certainly this is not enough for a well-rounded Bible background.

No Substitute For The Home

It is good for children to go to church and to Sunday school. But the Sunday school teacher and the pastor cannot be responsible for foundational teaching. They are supplements to the home, but the home must build the base. Parents must become familiar with the Word of God first, and then instruct their children in it broadly and in-depth.

In Deuteronomy 6:7, Moses said, “And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”

Note the scriptural language here. It says, “thy children” and that they are to be taught diligently. It is to be done whether you are sitting in the house, walking by the way, or “when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.” It is certainly a wide-ranging prescription and a perfect picture of parents teaching the Word of God to their children. It presents diligent, earnest teaching within the line-upon-line, precept-upon-precept setting. It is

Rich Dividends

Training and teaching outside the home, good as it may be, just can’t adequately meet the full needs of the child in respect to moral and spiritual development. Ideally, godly parents should do the complete job.

Training and worship in the home will pay rich dividends in the lives of children, when properly approached. It is, of course, easier to side-step parental responsibilities and impose the job you should be doing on the pastor or Sunday school teacher. The trouble with this is that you can’t be sure they will do the job that you would want done.

How much better to shoulder your responsibilities and develop the truly fine Christian children that you desire. In addition, when the job is done, you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you obeyed God’s Word—and are personally responsible for the sound, moral character your children display.
THE TRUTH ABOUT COMMON CORE (15-648)
In this four-segment series, Frances Swaggart and her distinguished panel of educators discuss the subject of the Common Core State Standard Initiative, now adopted by 46 states to standardize public school curriculums. Learn how this educational reform is hurting students.

AN EXPOSE ON THE RELIGION OF ISLAM (15-622)
Islam is a violent religion, as we've seen too frequently on the news. In this three-part segment taken from Frances & Friends, Pastor Mike Muzzerall and the panel discuss the subject of Islam—its history, the Koran, and sharia law.

THE TRUTH ABOUT CATHOLICISM (15-634)
In two episodes of Frances & Friends, Pastor Mike Muzzerall presents a history of the Catholic religion and compares its practices and traditions to the Word of God. Topics include the Virgin Mary, Catholic prayers, purgatory, priests, and the pope.

THE TRUTH ABOUT JEHOVAH'S WITNESS (15-607)
Join Frances Swaggart and her panel as they discuss the false religion of Jehovah's Witness. Topics include: its founders, the Watchtower magazine (22 million printed each year), the chosen 144,000, the refusal to celebrate man-made holidays, and its changing prophecies.

THE TRUTH ABOUT SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST (15-632)
Frances Swaggart welcomes Pastor Mike Muzzerall to explain the history and tenets of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Join the Frances & Friends panel as they discuss the false doctrine attached to Sabbath-keeping, the remnant, and Ellen White's spirit of prophecy.

THE TRUTH ABOUT MORMONISM (15-606)
The Church of Latter Day Saints, the largest branch of Mormonism, has 13 million members worldwide, but is Mormonism biblical? The Frances & Friends panel discusses the history and practices of Mormonism including Joseph Smith's revelation, Moroni, and celestial marriage.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE MASON'S (15-633)
Many believers think that the Masons are another branch of Christianity, but that is not true. Frances & Friends panel member Jim Nations reveals the roots, rituals, and symbolism of freemasonry and its deceptions related to the Word of God.

AN INTERVIEW WITH BRIGITTE GABRIEL (17-003)
Few people know more about the religion of Islam than Brigitte Gabriel. In this captivating two-hour interview, Brigitte shares her experiences and insights regarding the worldwide threat—possibly the most dangerous enemy that America has ever faced.
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- Just As I Am
- King Jesus
- Living Up On The Mountain
- He Poured In The Oil And The Wine

How About Your Heart?
- Where He Leads Me
- I Never Shall Forget The Day
- How Great Thou Art
- The Solid Rock
- Jesus Got A Hold Of My Life
- He The Pearly Gates Will Open
- The Great Physician
- Higher Ground
- Until Then
- How About Your Heart?

Draw Me Nearer
- Draw Me Nearer
  (I Am Thine, O Lord)
- Victory In Jesus
- Nothing But The Blood Of Jesus
- In The Sweet By And By
- The Hallelujah Side
- House Of Gold
- Our Lord’s Return To Earth Again
- I Love My Savior
- It’s My Desire
- It Is Love

Burdens Are Lifted At Calvary
- Burdens Are Lifted At Calvary
- It’s Different Now
- Jesus Is The Sweetest Name I Know
- I Was There When It Happened
- Suppertime
- One More Valley
- Touching Jesus
- Down The Sawdust Trail
- Only The Blood
- I Bless Your Name

All I Need Is Jesus
- The Anchor Holds
- What A Day That Will Be
- My Sins Are Gone
- So Faithful
- Just A Closer Walk With Thee
- He Accepted Me
- I’m Trusting You, Lord
- To Me He’s Become Everything
- I’ve Found The Answer
- All I Need Is Jesus

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How Shall They Hear Without A Preacher?

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

In these three verses, we are given God’s plan for evangelism. I would pray that you read and take to heart what the Lord says about evangelism and the responsibility that we all must share.

Whosoever

This one word tells us that it is God’s plan for all of humanity to be saved, without any regard to gender, race, or socio-economic standing. It states that there is no one—no matter how bound by sin—whom the Lord cannot save.

Whosoever” also tells us that everyone deserves to hear the gospel at least once. There are approximately 7 billion people on earth. With that number of people, there is really only one way to reach the masses and that is through television. There are simply not enough missionaries to cover the globe.

How Shall They Believe In Him Of Whom They Have Not Heard?

This phrase tells us several things: Paul himself wrote in Romans, Chapter 1, that man is without excuse, referring to the fact of the existence of God. Creation demands a creator (Rom. 1:20). However, the mere knowledge of God has nothing to do with salvation. In other words, people are not saved simply because they know and believe that there is a God. Something else is needed, and that something else is the gospel of Jesus Christ preached unto them. Simply put: they must hear!

This passage also tells us that ignorance is not salvation. We know from the Word of God that a person must believe in the
Lord Jesus Christ in order to be saved (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 10:9-10). However, they cannot believe if they have not heard that in which they are to believe. Consequently, that’s the reason that the last message of Jesus Christ was what is commonly referred to as the Great Commission (Mk. 16:15-20).

For every person in the world who does not have an opportunity to hear the true gospel of Jesus Christ, as far as that person is concerned, all that God did to redeem humanity was in vain.

And How Shall They Hear Without A Preacher?

This phrase tells us God’s method of proclaiming His message. God has chosen the manner of preaching to proclaim His Word. There is nothing in the world more powerful than a Holy Spirit-anointed preacher of the gospel.

We are not speaking about the preacher’s education, oratorical capabilities, or intellectual knowledge, but rather one who has heard from heaven and has been given a message by the Lord to deliver.

And How Shall They Preach, Except They Be Sent?

This tells us, in no uncertain terms, that the ones who send the preacher are just as important as the preacher. Just as God calls someone to preach His Word, at the same time, He calls others to support the one He whom has sent.

Actually, the reader is just as important as the one sent. Every single believer has a responsibility to do what he can do to help take the gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. Although only a few are called directly to preach the gospel, all believers are, in fact, called in some capacity respecting world evangelism.

Everyone can pray for those whom God has called to preach His Word, and, as well, every believer can give something to help the gospel go forth.

In closing, the Lord has called this ministry for world evangelism. As well, He has called you to pray and to give. As we begin a brand-new year, I hope that you will continually lift us up in prayer and give what you are able to give so that others may hear and be saved.
**BRAND-NEW**

**LIGHT OF LIBERTY**

If you want to know how this nation—the United States of America—came into being, then this book, I think, will open the door as nothing else that you’ve ever read. It is something that every believer, in fact, every person, needs to read. I urge you, don’t fail to get this book.

**Light of Liberty (09-147)**

Men and women came to the New World in hopes of establishing a new nation—a free nation unbound by kings, popes, and religious oppression, and a nation whose cornerstone was God’s Word alone, in which freedom and liberty were rights for all. An overwhelming majority of America’s Founding Fathers were Christian, but even those who were not understood that the foundation of this fledgling country was rooted in Christian doctrine. In his book, Evangelist Donnie Swaggart leads his readers from Plymouth Rock to Pennsylvania Avenue and from the Declaration of Independence to the Bill of Rights showing how the United States of America was not a grand experiment but rather the ultimate testament to any nation founded on the Word of God through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

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- Will the Circle Be Unbroken?
- I Am Thine, Oh Lord
- I'm Bound for That City
- Yes, I Know

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- I'll Fly Away
- Holy, Holy, Holy
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Far too many laypeople are placing the responsibility of bringing people into the church on the shoulders of the pastor. But it’s not the pastor’s responsibility to reach new people; his job is to shepherd those who are attending church. I understand that many of you may not agree with me on that statement, but I do believe that I’m right. Now, this doesn’t mean that the pastor is not a soul-winner, but that his main focus should be to disciple and shepherd the local body.

We cannot simply wait for people to just magically appear and walk through the doors of our churches; we must go out and get them and literally bring in the harvest. In other words, we should not wait for people to meet Jesus and find us, but we should go out and show them Jesus.

The future of the church hangs in the balance, and this is one of the most important factors on how that future will come together. If we do not do our part and reach those around us, then the church will ultimately dry up. When people are not added to a church, in time, that church will die.

Several years ago, I preached at a church in a particular Southern state, which will remain nameless. As I arrived to minister that morning (it was just a Sunday morning service), I noticed that the church only ran about 30 people (on a good Sunday), and about 20 of those sat on the back row.

Inquisitively, I asked someone how many young people attended the services and, to my shock, the answer that came back to me was, “Zero.” I asked why there were no young people in church, and this person’s response was, “No one wants to go out and bring them in.” This was appalling to me. I couldn’t believe it. I was stunned, to say the least, at this person’s admission of not doing anything to reach a vital part of our society.

I was always taught that if we do not do what we can to reach the young people, then the Devil will stop at nothing to ensnare them. That specific church is undisputedly dying off because new life calls for new people.

In order for the church to survive, there has to be a gathering of the harvest, which means that we, as a body, must look outside the four walls of our church buildings, and not heave that responsibility onto the shoulders of the pastor. We must all do our part and go where the pastor cannot go. We run into people that the pastor will never run into. But a word of caution: don’t keep your eyes locked on a goal so far and distant that you miss what is right in front of you.
It’s Time For You To Invite Someone To Church

Everyone has the ability to invite someone to church but, sadly, only about 2 percent of church members actually invite unchurched people to attend. That number should never be so low. Too many church members wonder why their churches aren’t growing, and they begin to blame the pastor yet fail to look at themselves. If church members would do their part and bring someone to church, then their church congregation size would instantly double.

We must do what we can to gather in those who are on the outside of the church. There are so many hurting and suffering. They are looking for answers to life’s problems, and they fail to see that Jesus is the only answer to their problems. They look instead to pills, a bottle, sex, drugs, lust, or whatever else, when the answer that they seek is found only in the Cross of Christ.

I read a statistic sometime back that said nearly 70 percent of first-time attendees come to church because of a personal invitation. Think about that! That is a huge number! People want answers; they want something that is real, and I can think of only one thing that is real, and only one person who is the answer—Jesus Christ.

When I was growing up, I heard my father say in a youth service at Crossfire that you may be the only Bible that someone else would ever read. This means that people are hurting and looking for something that can satisfy their souls, and when you—as part of the body of Christ—reach out to your local community, understand that you are an ambassador of Christ, and should not be like the world, act like the world, or march to the beat of the world’s drum. We have been separated by God for a specific task and, because of that, we should be like Christ and not like the world.

No matter where you go, understand that you are a representative of Jesus Christ. The person of the Holy Spirit lives within you, so ask the Lord for His leading and His guidance and then let the Holy Spirit give you the words to say when you step out into your community.

You have good news to bring to the drunkard, the drug addict, the lost and hopeless, the homosexual, and the transgender—anyone who is bound by sin. You have the good news that Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world, and that He is able to change lives for the better. You have the greatest message that’s ever been told: “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (Jn. 3:16).

You may never step behind a pulpit to deliver God’s Holy Word, and you may never be called to give a devotion or even teach a Sunday school class, but that doesn’t mean that you don’t have what it takes to be a witness and reach your community for Christ. We all have a part to play, and we all must look beyond the walls of our local churches, for there are people who are ready to receive the gospel of Jesus Christ if they are given the opportunity to hear it.

Where Do I Start?

After reading this, you may ask yourself, Where do I start? That’s a good question. Start with family members, friends, schoolmates, relatives, teammates, and work associates. You never know, the ones closest to you may be looking for something that can bring them peace, rest, and hope. That friend whom you are always around may be longing for someone to love him, to reach out to him, and show him a better way than the way that he’s been living.

That family member whom you tell yourself will never accept Christ may be hoping that you would say something to her. She sees how you live; she sees the joy in your life, and she desires to know the source of that joy. Once again, be led by the Spirit and seek Him to lead you to that person in need. The people you approach may not accept your invitation to church right away, but keep after them and don’t give up on them; their day of salvation is coming. The fields are white unto harvest and all we have to do is to go out and get them.
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Lincoln
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Gloucester, Jersey City,
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Carrollton
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Oregon City
Spectrum............................ 12

San Antonio
Spectrum............................ 22.3

Waco
Spectrum............................ 470

Weslaco
RCN.............................. 17 / 51

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### UTAH

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### U.S. OVER-THE-AIR, DTV LISTINGS

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

### INTERNATIONAL CABLE, SATELLITE AND FREE-TO-AIR (FTA) LISTINGS

### ALL LISTINGS OPERATING 24/7

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Yamal 1
sonlifetv.com for more info

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sonlifetv.com for more info

SPAIN
Canal+ 463

SWEDEN
Viasat 205

SWITZERLAND
Zattoo

T

TANZANIA
Push Media

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO
Air Link Communications 25

UNITED KINGDOM
Sky Satellite 594
Freesat 695
Freeview 239

Bible-thon
Outreach Update

In 2017, we distributed more than 1,572,000 Outreach Bibles in the following countries:

• Spanish Outreach Bibles in Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, Honduras, Mexico, and more.
  More than 690,000 distributed

• Portuguese Outreach Bibles in Angola, Brazil, and Mozambique.
  More than 96,000 distributed

• Russian Outreach Bibles in Moscow, Ukraine, Lithuania, Siberia, and more.
  More than 136,000 distributed

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power of God working with us. Still, we needed answers for our community and purpose-driven life techniques and books on how to attain victory in five steps were not working.

As I listened more and more to Brother Swaggart’s program, I noticed that he used Romans 8:2: “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death,” and I could understand the victory. One day Loren Larson was teaching, and he said that a believer can be free when the object of his faith is the Cross. At first this frustrated me, and I remember talking back to the radio, “But how? Give me steps!” I had been so conditioned by the church environment to look for something else when I all I needed to do was rest.

In 2009, a brother invited Bob Cornell to Rochester, but then lost his venue for the event. He called me and asked if we could help him, and I offered our church for the three-day meeting. We knew of Brother Bob from listening to him on the radio, so it was an exciting thing for him to come. I spoke to Brother Bob about our church and told him where it was located. “I don’t have a bulletproof vest for you,” I said, and he laughed. Brother Bob came into the hood and stuck out—a tall white guy walking into this area—but with God,

In the 1980s, I attended a Jimmy Swaggart crusade in Madison Square Garden with my mother, brothers, and sisters, and the experience impacted my life forever. The arena was huge compared to our little church in Brooklyn. Our seats were high in the nosebleed section, yet throughout the service, God’s anointing filled the Garden.

When Brother Swaggart ended the service, he called for all who wanted to be filled with the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in other tongues. I was so excited; I started to make my way down, but my mother didn’t allow me—I was too young and would get lost in the vast crowd—so I believed God from my seat.

Brother Swaggart led everyone who wanted the baptism in prayer, and as the Spirit of God touched and filled all those gathered around that altar, He also met me where I was in the nosebleed section. My language changed as I began to speak in new tongues, praise the Lord!

From that point, God continued calling me into His work. That’s why, in 2006, my heart filled with joy as I heard, once again, Brother Swaggart’s voice.

We had just launched a new ministry to reach the urban areas of Rochester. The name of our church is Restoration Life Christian Fellowship, and God placed us right in the middle of a lost people—drunks, drug addicts, gang members—and all kinds of illicit activities happened right in front of our church. But we had the power of God working with us. Still, we needed answers for our community and purpose-driven life techniques and books on how to attain victory in five steps were not working.

As I listened more and more to Brother Swaggart’s program, I noticed that he used Romans 8:2: “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death,” and I could understand the victory. One day Loren Larson was teaching, and he said that a believer can be free when the object of his faith is the Cross. At first this frustrated me, and I remember talking back to the radio, “But how? Give me steps!” I had been so conditioned by the church environment to look for something else when I all I needed to do was rest.

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“I don’t have a bulletproof vest for you,” I said, and he laughed. Brother Bob came into the hood and stuck out—a tall white guy walking into this area—but with God,
the color barrier was broken and the only culture became God’s culture.

Brother Bob preached the Message of the Cross for three days, and on Saturday he did a study on the tabernacle. These meetings changed our lives forever! I remember he preached from Romans 5:2 which says, “By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” Brother Bob said that Jesus is the only access to this room of grace and that everything we need is in that room—all we need is faith in Jesus and Him crucified. What a change in our lives! We abandoned our seeker-sensitive plans, and we didn’t teach the drug addicts to declare and decree. Instead we taught them how to put their faith in the finished work of the Cross. And we didn’t need any rap music to attract people, the Lord drew them.

Finally, we had the answer for this broken community. We’re still located in a place where not too many churches would go, but we dug in and we’re preaching the answer. Our congregation is filled with all people—black, white, Hispanics and others—and we’ve seen families changed and lives delivered, forever, because of the Message of the Cross!

In our men’s group, we use Brother Swaggart’s study guide on the sin nature and have seen men changed forever. In our discipleship class, we use the book, Brother Swaggart, How Can I Understand the Bible?” Why? Because all of the fads and programs used by the church today will fail, but faith in the finished work of Christ is the only answer for the drug addict, the alcoholic, and the prostitute.

I thank God that our lives have been changed. For seven years, we’ve been preaching this message, and we can testify of the victory through Jesus Christ because this message transcends all barriers. Gloria a Dios—Glory to God!
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JSBC PRECAMPMEEETING SESSIONS
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CAMPMEETING SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
(Located in Family Worship Center • Please Note the Changes to the Service Times)

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“Just a brief note to say thank you for your daily program. I switched on the TV and went through the news channels—all were grizzling and grinding away against President Trump and the British Conservative Party. The only channel of peace and tranquility and any spiritual value is SBN via Sky satellite. Your team continues to display a very high standard of integrity and open Christian love and concern. You are doing the Saviour and His church a wonderful service. You are in our prayers.” —ENGLAND

Thank You for the Crusades

Dear Evangelist: I don’t know why it’s taken so many years to thank for your crusade at the Greensboro Coliseum, in North Carolina in the 1980s. I don’t remember the exact year, but I will never forget the service. The Spirit-filled songs prepared us for the Word of God that was spoken by you. God’s presence was so strong; tears of love flowed from our eyes. My 8-year-old daughter and I came forward for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I had already received the baptism, but my daughter had not. I’ll never forget the power that flowed through my daughter and down through my right hand that was on her right shoulder as she received the baptism and began to speak in tongues. An 8-year-old is not capable of faking this kind of experience. It’s real because I was there, and I felt the power and heard her speaking in tongues. I tried many times to explain the baptism, but I could tell she didn’t understand. When she said, “Daddy, I want to go up to receive the baptism,” I knew God had been talking with her. Praise God! Thank you, Brother Swaggart, for listening to God when He told you to go to North Carolina. God bless you, your family, and your ministry. Many millions of people will see Jesus face-to-face because of your love and obedience to God. I love you with the love of God that is within me.

—NORTH CAROLINA

The Spirit Brings Salvation

Dear Evangelist: Oh my word, the Spirit of conviction, repentance, and salvation today on this program. I wept almost the last 30 minutes; I’m crying now. The Spirit of God is strong in your studio today and in my living room! —EMAIL

Viewer Grateful for SBN Church Family

Dear Evangelist: I go to a very small church, yet God’s Word is preached, and the Spirit of God is there. I love my church, but I also love my SBN church family. With my church being so small, we don’t have the blessings of having the music program or the panel of pastors that you guys have
and thank you for sharing your ministry, as the Lord has blessed you all too. I have been so blessed by this ministry. I’ve learned so much through this ministry. I know many cast their stones at SBN, but I am so blessed by your courage to keep pushing and persevering. God bless you all. I just feel you folks could use a big thank you from those of us whose lives are being touched through this ministry and the moving and anointing of the Holy Ghost! —EMAIL

SBN Helps With Recovery

Dear Evangelist: Just wanted to say thank you. I had to have emergency back surgery. The doctor said I could die if I didn’t have the surgery. I had never watched SBN before. Now it’s about all I watch. The messages and music have helped me through the toughest part of surgery. I still have a long way to go, but I trust God and His reason and timing. Thanks so much for your faith for God’s calling. —SOUTH CAROLINA

Crossfire Bibles Are A Legacy

Dear Evangelist: My mom was a Family Worship Center Media Church member, and she just recently purchased a case of the Crossfire Bibles. She was a very, very, very faithful listener. The radio was turned to the station 24/7 for, I know, a good 10 years or more. She would not listen to or watch anything else, ever! She did not get a chance to pass those Bibles out because she passed away in June of 2017. But my other siblings and I are determined to pass out those Bibles because that’s definitely what she wanted! Thanks and God bless. —TEXAS

Music Eases Homecoming

Dear Evangelist: I have a beautiful testimony to tell you about Sunday’s service. My aunt and I were sitting in the rest home with a dear friend who was in her last moments of life. She was on oxygen and unresponsive. Brother Jimmy began to sing “Give Up and Let Jesus Take Over” when all of a sudden, she opened her eyes and then closed them and took her final breath. I thought to myself, What a blessing it was for Brother Jimmy to sing her into heaven. Today is her burial, and I just had to express how much your family is a blessing to us. We love SBN and love the preaching of the Cross. God bless. —EMAIL

Keep This Station On The Air!

Dear Evangelist: I just wanted to say thank you, thank you, thank you for bringing SBN to our cable! I have never supported any television ministry because of so much scam that I see, but I will begin supporting you guys to help keep this station on air here! I think we have one Assembly of God church left in this city. Most churches here are off-the-wall where the pastors dress like they just came out of the night clubs! I have not been in church in many years, but I gave my heart to God last Sunday morning when your grandson was preaching. Thanks again for preaching God’s Word! —ARKANSAS

Thank You, Brother Donnie

Dear Evangelist: Thank you, Brother Donnie, for your ministry. For years, I never listened to the broadcast because of my judgmental attitude toward the ministry, and I missed out on blessings. Thank you once again, brother. You and your father are a true blessing. —NEVADA

Having Church Right At Home

Dear Evangelist: I dressed up today and put a chair in front of the TV this morning. After hearing you, I ended up on my deck with the French doors open, SBN on the TV and on my iPad with my ear plugs in, dancing and praising Jesus for an hour. I live alone in a three-bedroom house I rent from my son. I could be the kind of Christian where I worship and praise and dance. The best part is that I live right on the golf course, and golfers saw me having church all dressed up. —WASHINGTON

Learning The Gospel Through SBN

Dear Evangelist: I wanted to say thank you to the whole Swaggart family for preaching the gospel to me. I really enjoy all the shows—I love the SonLife Broadcasting Network—so thanks for teaching me about things I didn’t know about the gospel, and now I’m baptized in the Holy Spirit. I have been made new and changed! —VIRGINIA
Don’t Settle!

When I say, “don’t settle,” I mean don’t settle for partial victory when God has given you complete victory.

Through the blood of Jesus, God has provided for us:

- Complete victory over the dominion of sin (Rom. 6:14)
- Complete victory over every foul, wicked, and immoral spirit that is in this world
- Complete victory over every lying, seducing, discouraging, confusing, oppressive, and religious spirit that is in the church
- Complete victory over Satan

More important and impressive than all of the above is complete victory over unbelieving, self-dependent, self-trusting, self-glorying, and selfish self—our own flesh (Gal. 5:16).

That’s a lot of victory provided to us through belief in Christ and His victory on the Cross for us. But we have a tendency to get to certain points in our Christian journey and settle. We settle in and get satisfied at the level of growth that God has brought us to, and we stop believing God for more. This can happen both individually and corporately, as a church. At times, we settle for talent, professionalism, protocol, church tradition, and going through the motions rather than being desperate for the anointing of the Spirit that breaks yokes in the lives of other people and our own.

We should always be pressing in for more of Christ and less of us (Phil. 3:12-14). We have many examples in the Bible of individuals who settled in rather than pressing in for more. It not only affected them personally, but others around them—even future generations after them. Unbelief always does.

A prime example is Joash, the wicked king of Israel, in II Kings 13:14-19. In that passage, Israel was losing ground to the Syrians—Israel’s enemy. The Syrians were taking more and more of Israel’s country, and there was nothing that Israel, the northern kingdom, could do about it. Joash heard that the man of God, Elisha, was dying, so he came to Elisha and wept over him (vs. 14). He sought God’s help near Elisha’s death when he should have been seeking God’s help when Elisha was much younger.

Elisha told Joash to do something that was strange to Joash; he told him to take his bow and an arrow and to shoot an arrow out the window facing eastward. Elisha rose up from his sickbed and put his hands on Joash’s hands, and told Joash, “Shoot.”

Joash and Elisha shot the arrow, and Elisha declared, “The arrow of the Lord’s deliverance, and the arrow of deliverance from Syria” (II Kings 13:17).

Elisha putting his hands on Joash’s hands was a type of our union with Christ that we received when we first got saved, and that we continue to have through faith alone in Christ and His death and resurrection. We are helpless without the hands of Jesus. We need His hands and His help in everything we do. The “arrow of the Lord’s deliverance” is a type of the Cross—it is His deliverance, His victory, His everything—and He gives it to us. For Joash, this arrow typified deliverance from the Syrians and every enemy that would stand against them, if Israel would trust God. God’s plan was that Israel would completely defeat the Syrians until they were consumed.

In II Kings 13:18, Elisha told Joash to do something else that was strange to Joash. Elisha told him to take the rest of the arrows and strike the ground. In ancient days, it was common, when armies were facing each other, that each army would strike the ground with their spears or anything they had to produce a pounding...
sound that was meant to intimidate the enemy. It was a way of saying, “This is how we're going to defeat you, over and over again, until you are completely defeated.”

I believe Joash understood this, so he struck the ground three times probably thinking that three times would be enough. Maybe he thought Elisha would be impressed with him. Instead, Elisha was fuming angry with Joash and told him, “You should have smitten five or six times; then had you smitten Syria till you had consumed it: whereas now you will smite Syria but thrice” (II Kings 13:19).

Because of unbelief Joash settled for partial victory when God desired to give Israel complete victory over the Syrians. Israel eventually defeated the Syrians three times just as Elisha said, but 100 years later they would come back and completely destroy Israel, the northern kingdom.

Joash’s lack of faith not only affected him, but also future generations to come. The same applies to us: our faith or lack of faith today will affect not just us, but also future generations to come. God wants us to keep on striking the ground—keep on believing—and don't settle for less when God has provided so much more.
In last month’s article, we established certain facts that are important to recall. We established these facts to open our hearts and minds to the truths surrounding divine healing.

First of all, we see the need to believe what the Bible has to say about healing. Our main source must not be someone else’s experience, our own experiences, or even the suggested methodologies of our favorite preacher. We must see in the Scriptures what the Bible says about healing and believe the report given by the Lord.

We have already established that the event of Christ traveling to the Cross paid the price to bring about freedom from the penalty of sin, freedom from the power of sin, and, ultimately, freedom from the presence of sin.

In Isaiah 53:4, we studied the words griefs and sorrows, which revealed that Christ’s work of the Cross also dealt with physical sickness as well as the emotional condition of the heart. Not only did our word study show this to be true, but the Holy Spirit also produced commentary that confirmed the definition of these words in Matthew 8:1-17. Truly Jesus has “borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.”

### Healing And The Atonement

My greatest purpose in writing these articles regarding divine healing is to provide evidence that will help establish faith in the heart of each individual that will encourage him or her to reach out in time of need and receive what Christ has paid for.

I would first like to show that healing is a part of the atonement for every believer. In order to see this as a truth, we must first look at the big picture regarding what Christ’s work has afforded humanity. In relationship to the sin problem, we realize that every believer is immediately saved from the presence of sin; he must learn to live by faith to overcome the power of sin, and, when he receives a glorified body, will be forever free from the presence of sin.

We can follow the same line of thinking regarding the healing of our physical bodies. Sin entered both humanity and the world as a result of the fall. The penalty for sin is death. The physical body is subject to the corruption of sin, and, no matter what a person might do to prevent it, he will grow old and die as a result of the presence of sin contained in his physical body.

Death is simply sickness matured. Physicians can’t explain why we grow old. Simply, put, the wages of sin is death. When Jesus died on Calvary, He paid the penalty required to free us from both spiritual and physical death. As with sin, even with the penalty paid, the power of sickness still remains and takes a toll on our physical members.

Also, every believer will one day be delivered from the presence of sickness when he experiences his glorified body. This future status from corruption to incorruption is a result of what Jesus did for all humanity at Calvary.

Every believer who has ever believed in God’s redemption plan will receive this miracle of a glorified body. Therefore, it must be conceded that the healing and restoration of the physical body was accomplished by the work of Christ on the Cross.

### We Appropriate Healing By Faith

As we have already stated, faith is the most important aspect of receiving healing now.
There is no one method, process, 10-step program, or biblical routine that will force God into action on our behalf relative to our healing.

Having said that, I must also say that there are steps that one who is suffering from an ailment might take to open himself up to the healing power of God. Again, we approach the Father with our petitions—not with the idea that we will earn healing—but from the truth that Christ has already paid for the healing of our physical bodies on Calvary. No routine or discipline, no repetition of Scripture, and no mental gymnastics will pressure God to heal.

In fact, a believer would be far better off expressing his faith in the attributes of God’s character, rather than placing his faith in what he himself might do. In the scriptural examples of divine healing, His compassion, pity, or mercy far outweighs any action accomplished by those in need. Appeal to the truth that God cares for you.

Check Your Object Of Faith

While I am not against the use of physicians, doctors, surgeons, or other legitimate medical help, one has to be very careful not to place his faith in those practicing medicine or their solutions. Solutions to some medical problems often escape the most educated and well-intended physicians. Acknowledge Christ as the only true and legitimate healer of your body. It’s not wrong to take medicines, but bear in mind that your faith must reside in Christ and not in the medicine. Pay attention to what you eat and how often you exercise. Many illnesses are a result of what we are putting into our bodies and what we are doing (or not doing) relative to fitness. But don’t place your faith in the implementation of new diets and exercise programs to heal. Fight to keep your faith free and singular—healing by Christ alone.

Explore The Word Of God And Pray

In the four Gospels and in the book of Acts, to my simple count, there are more than 90 examples of individuals being healed by God’s power. Pore over these passages. Let faith in God’s desire and willingness to heal the human body rise in your heart as a result.

Ask and keep on asking for the healing that you need. Appeal to the Lord on the basis of His redemption plan and His mercy.

In this way, we open ourselves to receive healing from a divine source. Keep your faith centered on Christ and His work on Calvary, and this will position you to receive that for which you are asking. And, if God should so choose not to extend healing now, then the everlasting healing of your body is still assured. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. Death is simply sickness matured.

No Condemnation

It’s important as well that we do not allow ourselves to fall under the condemnation of men. Some preachers and Christians will try to tell you that you don’t have the proper faith or enough faith to be healed. Others will say that you haven’t done the right thing, haven’t taken all the right steps, or haven’t said all the right words. Don’t let the ignorance of men add to the burden of an already extra heavy load. Simple faith is all that God requires.

I don’t know why everyone who asks for healing is not healed here and now. However, I will continue to believe God for the physical well-being that I need to finish my course here on this earth with joy. After which, I will receive the ultimate conclusion—healing in my body which will never be sick or ill again. Glory be to God!
All Israel Shall be Saved

“And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob.”
—Romans 11:26

The early church apostolic fathers drifted from a literal interpretation of the Bible to what we now call a functional hermeneutic (method of interpretation). This means they applied the meaning of the Bible’s texts to their own situation, frequently without regard for its original text. In his epistle to the Corinthians, Clement did not seek to discover the original Old Testament message on its own, even with regard to the work of Christ. Instead he sought to offer types and pictures of Christ as a basis for moral obedience.

In letters that he wrote to Ignatius, another early church father, he used dozens of references to 1 Corinthians. Clement took Pauline expressions from their contexts and used them in his own situations when writing letters to Ignatius.

Gnosticism Debated

By the end of the second century, the early church was bedeviled by gnostic critics. The Gnostics taught that the world was created by a lesser divinity and that Jesus Christ was an emissary of the Supreme Being, and through esoteric (secret) knowledge (gnosis), he enabled the redemption of the human spirit. For the Gnostics, special knowledge was necessary and replaced faith.

To combat Marcion’s rejection of the Old Testament, Justin Martyr applied a typological hermeneutic to Old Testament Scripture. Martyr adopted the idea that the entirety of the Old Testament pointed to Christ. To him, almost every person or event in the Old Testament could be used to foreshadow the life and work of Christ. He saw the Tanakh—Old Testament—as a Christian book rather than a Jewish book. This paved the way for the allegorical interpretive hermeneutic, developed and used by Clement of Alexandria and Origen.

New Interpretations

Clement was recognized as the leader of the Alexandrian school. The name, Alexandrian school, is often used to describe religious and philosophical learning based on Hellenistic (Greek) and Roman thought.

A mixture of Jewish theology and Greek philosophy led to much mystical speculation. The early Christian church incorporated Neoplatonism (Platonic doctrine mixed with Eastern mysticism used in the third century) and the philosophical beliefs from Plato’s teachings into Christianity, and interpreted the Bible allegorically.

As the leader of the Alexandrian school in A.D. 190, Clement saw the literal meaning of Scripture as being a starting point for interpretation. He believed that was suitable for the majority of Christians but God revealed himself to the spiritually advanced through a “deeper meaning” of Scripture. He taught that the literal sense indicated what was said or done, while the allegorical showed what should be believed.

As one can see, this is how ethnic Israel was gradually removed from inheriting the promises of God and how the church replaces her, according to the allegorists. Clement’s successor took this approach to new levels.

Origen

Origen was viewed as having one of the most creative minds in the early church, by many of his admirers. Origen’s constant desire to find hidden meaning of
the text left him ignoring the grammatical and historic meaning of the context of Scripture. While true, he did not deny the literal meaning, it was certainly not his emphasis. He taught that Scripture has three meanings: a literal or physical sense, a moral or psychical sense, and allegorical or intellectual sense.

To him, much of the Bible, when read literally, was either morally objectionable or intellectually incredible. His arbitrary interpretation was dependent on his personal preferences and became the emphasis of interpretation and oftentimes violated the original intention of the Scriptures. Sadly, as history progressed, the allegorical interpretation gained momentum and broad acceptance.

Although there were many critics, the early church fathers’ doctrinal error was well-known. For example, Origen believed and taught in the pre-existence of souls, universal salvation, and a limited hell—doctrines to which he was posthumously condemned as a heretic.

Augustine

Apart from the apostle Paul, Augustine gained the reputation of being Christianity’s most preeminent theologian. Augustine was drawn to the Alexandrian school by Ambrose who became his spiritual mentor. Augustine’s early years were influenced by Manichaeanism, a dualistic religion that breaks everything down to good and evil. It was a synthesis of Persian Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, and Gnosticism.

Afterward, his exposure to the neo-Platonism of Plotinus appears to have played a role in shaping Augustine’s theological interpretation of Scriptures. It was Augustine who developed the concept of the church as a spiritual “city of God.” His thoughts profoundly influenced the medieval worldview. His perpetuation of the allegorical method of interpretation was embraced by the Roman Catholic Church; though many Protestants—especially Calvinists and Lutherans—consider him to be one of the theological fathers of the Protestant Reformation for his teachings on salvation and divine grace.

Augustine’s early life method of interpretation was adopted by medieval theologians and embraced a four-fold sense of Scripture: literal, allegorical, tropological and analogical. I’ll have more on Augustine in future articles.

The Paradigm Shift

The early church during persecution and martyrdom found hope and comfort in Christ’s eminent return to reign on earth with the saints for a thousand years. It was believed that this would occur before the general resurrection and great white throne judgement.

Justin Martyr, Irenaeus, and other church fathers who embraced the Alexandrian school allegorical interpretation remained committed premillennialists. Sadly, in Alexandria, Origen spiritualized end-time prophecies of Scriptures, in keeping with his general allegorical hermeneutic. Dionysius the Great was a student of Origen and even denied that the apostle John wrote the book of Revelation and gave credit to an unknown elder of the same name.

The Edict Of Milan A.D. 313

Constantine removed all hostility towards Christianity and gave it favor and recognition. No longer was the blood of the martyrs the seed of the church. Christianity was recreated in the image of the empire. Christianity was baptized in worldliness! No longer did the church have to look for comfort in the world beyond. The need for the future was replaced with the here and now. Instead of anxiously waiting and praying for the return of Christ and the millennial reign, the amillennial—rejection of the belief that Jesus will not have a literal 1,000-year reign on earth—teachings of Augustine would reshape and reinterpret the Word of God. His first writing from this standpoint placed emphasis on Christians being citizens of the “city of God” rather than aliens and strangers in this world.

We will continue next month with the doctrinal errors that were birthed out of Augustinian heresies and improper hermeneutical interpretations. The stage was set very early for the 20th century Holocaust. 

“No longer was the blood of the martyrs the seed of the church. Christianity was recreated in the image of the empire. Christianity was baptized in worldliness!”
New Beginnings

New Year’s. Many use this time to evaluate the previous year. They are embarrassed about the failures, and they glory in their accomplishments.

The image of Father Time leaving at the close of the year and the Baby New Year taking over paints a picture of out with the old and in with the new. For many people, New Year’s Day presents a time of new beginnings.

I see some parallels between this and the spiritual reality of a new beginning that accepting Christ’s completed work at Calvary brings to the new believer. Paul spoke of this reality in II Corinthians 5:17: “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

If

This is a conditional clause. It doesn’t say that every man experiences a new beginning. It says if he is “in Christ” then he is a new creature. With conditional clauses, if the condition is met, then the result will always come to pass. You could not be in Christ and not experience a new beginning. It is therefore necessary to answer the question, What does it mean to be in Christ?

Genuine Relationship

Being in Christ means that, by faith, you have entered into a genuine relationship with the Son of God. You believed that He is the Son of God and that He was your substitution on the Cross. He paid the debt that He did not owe for the debt that you could not pay. One cannot be part of the kingdom of God without being in Christ.

En Kristo

Paul loved the term “in Christ.” He used it 75 times in his epistles starting with Romans 3:24: “Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”

In Romans 8:1-2 he said, “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.” Obviously, being in Christ changes a person—his past, his present, and his future.

New Creature

The moment that you accepted God’s gracious gift of salvation, you became a new creature. “And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him” (Col. 3:10).

At that moment, we were forgiven of our sinful past. We literally became “born from above”—gennethe anothen (Jn. 3:3). As Paul said, “old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” Except, we were not the ones taking out the old and bringing in the new. It was God who made us a new creation as a result of our faith in what Jesus Christ did 2,000 years ago.

Mended Or Made New?

Were we mended or miraculously made new? We were definitely made new. Once we were children of the kingdom of darkness, now we are part of the kingdom of light. We were once dead, but now we are made alive. Once sin had dominion over us, but now sin does not dominate us: “For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace” (Rom. 6:14). We were once under the law, but now we are under grace.

Nothing Like It

There is nothing like the new life that God offers the sinner—a new beginning, a new kingdom, and a new future. And it’s all possible because of Jesus paying for our sins at Calvary. We don’t know what we will face in this new year, but we do know who holds our futures—Jesus Christ. ✝️
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Complaining

“Do all things without murmurings and disputings.”
—Philippians 2:14

Complaining, or murmuring, is an expression of grief, pain, or discontentment. It is blaming or charging circumstances, people, or even God for causing losses, hurts, or dissatisfaction.

Ultimately, complaining is doubt—unbelief in God's Word, love, and power. God not only says He will control the number and strength of temptations and tests Satan can bring into the believer's life (1 Cor. 10:13), but He also promises to bring good out of everything that He allows if we continue to love Him and stay in His calling by faith (Gen. 50:20; Rom. 5:3-5; 8:28,37).

So, if someone persists in complaining, he is attacking what God is trying to accomplish in his life. No one can control what happens to him, but he is accountable to God for how he reacts.

From Exodus 5 through Numbers 21, the Israelites murmured and complained against God 12 times. They complained about:
1. Their increased work load (Ex. 5:19-21).
2. Pharaoh's army chasing them at the Red Sea (Ex. 14:10-12).
3. The bitter water they could not drink (Ex. 15:23-24).
4. Not having bread and meat to eat (Ex. 16:2-3).
6. Telling Aaron to make the golden calf when Moses did not return (Ex. 32:1-6).
7. God's leading (Num. 11:1).
8. A lack of meat and desire to go back to Egypt (Num. 11:4-9).
10. The rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram (Num. 16:1-3).
11. Having no water (Num. 20:2-5).
12. Having no water or bread (Num. 21:5).

Obviously, most of these needs were legitimate, but they complained, which was unbelief and rebellion against God. But during this same time, they ignored and overlooked 46 miracles that God performed in their presence.

It is so much easier for us to focus on the negative things in our lives rather than on the positive, on ourselves and our circumstances rather than on God, and on problems rather than on solutions.

So, what should the Israelites have done when these problems and needs came into their lives?

First, they should have continued praising God for who He is—thanking Him for what He had done for them in the past, trusting Him to meet their present needs, and praying God in faith for what He was going to do.

Second, because of their faith in the Cross, they should have kept asking, seeking, and knocking that God's will would be done. God says we have not because we ask not (James 4:2). Asking God for things is a recognition that we cannot produce what is needed but God can, and asking is an expression of faith that He will.

Third, if they had kept their faith in the Cross and the help of the Holy Spirit, then things that were true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report would have been in their minds and hearts and expressed by their mouths. Matthew 12:34 says, “O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.”

People cannot see physically without light because their eyes only pick up and are able to see objects as they reflect light. The same is true spiritually. So, if believers want to see things more clearly—as God sees them—then they need to get closer to the living and written Word of God, which are the only sources of truth and spiritual light (Jn. 3:19-20).

For example, when Isaiah saw the Lord, he saw himself, others, and his circumstances in a totally different way. Previously, when he compared himself to others, he had seen himself as religious and with good morality. But when he experienced the presence of the Lord, he saw himself and others as sinners who needed spiritual cleansing, and he saw his circumstances in the spiritual context of God's plans and purposes instead of just as problems and calamities. This changed Isaiah's whole life, and it can also change the lives of everyone who allows it to happen in their lives.

Instead of just reacting to things in their lives in the natural, believers need to let God heal their spiritual eyesight so they can see things the way that He sees them, react accordingly, and allow Him to accomplish His will in their lives.
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Happy New Year

I believe that as far as the moving and the operation of the Holy Spirit are concerned, this coming year is going to be the greatest ever. I am believing the Lord for a harvest of souls, for tens of thousands to be baptized with the Holy Spirit, and for bondages broken by the power of God. I believe we’re going to see it, and not only do we thank the Lord, but you, as well.

You!

As I say all the time, and I will continue to say it: what the Lord has called us to do we simply could not do it without you. How thankful I am for those of you who stand with us both prayerfully and financially. How much you are needed, and how important is your participation!

Television Programming

I personally believe that the Lord is helping us to turn out some of the best programming that we’ve ever offered to the public. Of course we thank the Lord for this in every capacity. One thing is certain: if you watch the SonLife Broadcasting Network for any time at all or listen over SonLife Radio, then you are going to learn the Word of God—of that I am absolutely positive—and there is nothing greater than that.

Also, the Lord has given us some of the finest singers and musicians in the world, and I think you will agree. The type of music that goes out over the airwaves all over the world is what we believe is designed by the Lord. It makes you want to worship the Lord, and that’s what it’s all about.

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Incidentally

I would urge you, please, to get a copy of every book that we put out as we believe they will greatly help you to understand the Word of God a little better. Whatever the book and whatever the title, in the body of it there will always be teaching on the Cross that every believer needs to
“One thing is certain: if you watch the SonLife Broadcasting Network for any time at all or listen over SonLife Radio, then you are going to learn the Word of God—of that I am absolutely positive—and there is nothing greater than that.”

help him understand the new covenant, and that is the most important thing of all. To make it possible for more people to get copies, we’ve cut the price on the books, so I would urge you, please, as each book comes out, get a copy for yourself, and possibly one or two for others. All are hardback, easy to read, and you will learn the Word of God.

The material that we are giving in these books is that which every believer desperately needs to know and understand. I personally do not know of anything that’s more important than our understanding of the Word of God. To be sure, these books will help you to understand it. So, whatever you do, make certain, if it’s at all possible, that you get a copy of each one of these books and then take the time to read them. You’ll be glad you did.

Once again, a happy new year to you and yours, and the greatest blessings of the Lord ever.

In the Master’s service, yours,

Jimmy Swaggart

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