

# Legacy of Love

Those who write about leadership seem dedicated to defining the crown of effective leadership as “leaving a legacy.” Some writers suggest five, seven or 10 levels of leadership progression, with the last being legacy leadership.

The dangling carrot for a leader is to do something, build something or say a lot of somethings that outlast a lifetime. Maybe this explains why I like to see my quotes on Twitter enveloped in a meme. I can convince myself that my words will forever mark the Twitterverse.

I searched the Bible for the *l* word and found nothing in most translations. A few versions, including the Modern English Version, include the word in this one verse, “The wise will inherit glory, but shame will be the legacy of fools” (Prov. 3:35).

I can best understand the word *legacy* through a synonym such as an inheritance or gift of money or property. But it seems leadership writers are referring to something more.

Some suggest that philosophers left a legacy in their manner of thinking out loud. (And those ancient philosophers had nary a tweet among them.) And Billy Graham once said this about legacy: “Our days are numbered. One of the primary goals in our lives should be to prepare for our last day. The legacy we leave is not just in our possessions, but in the quality of our lives. What preparations should we be making now? The greatest waste in all our earth, which cannot be recycled or reclaimed, is our waste of the time God has given us each day.”

A good friend of mine suggested I consider the Bible’s “hall of faith” to gain an understanding of legacy. Hebrews 11 is peppered with legacy imprints. The book of Hebrews is pastoral in nature and it seems to be written to encourage and edify.

In Chapter 11, the author forms a message arc around the importance of faith in our Christian walk. After making an opening statement on faith, he references the lives of men and women who modeled faith. Apparently this is how their legacy was established—in faith. And we know faith works through love (Gal. 5:6).

If you hope to leave a “good report”—a strong legacy—walking in faith, which works through love, is your aim. By faith, Abel demonstrated his love to God through his obedience and sacrifice, and his faith speaks volumes to this day (Heb. 11:1-6).

The Bible tells us that Enoch walked with God for 300 years (Gen. 5:22). Can you imagine? All told, he lived 365 years and never tasted death. His legacy is that he pleased God. I could live with that! Love-driven leaders seek to please God and are quick to repent when they don't.

It seems Enoch's legacy of faithfulness to God influenced future generations. His grandson Noah also made the hall of faith: “By faith Noah, being divinely warned about things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark to save his family, by which he condemned the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith” (Heb. 11:7).

Noah feared the Lord and demonstrated a righteousness that comes by faith. Noah's legacy is obedience in the faith of what looked ridiculous—and his obedience essentially saved the human race. Love-driven leaders take risks.

We also see in Abraham a legacy of faith that influenced generations (Gal. 3:13-14; Heb. 11:8-12, 20-22, 30-31). Love-driven leadership is moved by faith, which works through love. Even when you spy out the land and it looks as if the giants are too great for you, you can choose to see through the eyes of faith, as Joshua and Caleb did (Num. 13). Love-driven leadership seeks the Lord, finds confidence in Him and

executes His vision in His timing in His way for His glory. And it takes great faith, which works through love.

Indeed, faith seems to be interwoven with legacy. Leaders with little faith probably do not leave a legacy. So consider this question: When you make decisions, do you consider how your choices will impact your legacy? Should you?

The teams we lead will remember us not by profits earned or buildings built. We will be remembered by the love we have demonstrated. When I am gone, I pray that love will remain.

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## Wide-Angle Lens

I enjoy photographing birds. I especially like to capture them in flight.

Often when I'm out watching birds, I have a powerful telephoto lens on my camera. I can zoom in on a bird from relatively far away and capture a stunning image of God's creation.

Sometimes, from the corner of my eye, I notice a bird winging across the pond. I try to yank my camera around with lightning speed to snap that picture-perfect calendar shot, only to find that my subject has escaped the viewfinder. The bird hasn't moved, but I missed the shot because I looked through the wrong lens. I need a wider angle to capture the flight properly.

Likewise, I need a wider lens—a different perspective—to make it through most days. The Lord has more for me to see than my hyperfocused activity allows. Last week, circumstances forced me to write a column using my iPhone for data entry. The front door lock on our building refused to unlock, so I trekked back

to my car to write.

My normal place of focus is a computer screen above my keyboard. I write in total quiet with little stimuli within eyesight. But on that day, I opined from the front seat of my car, windows rolled all the way down. I listened to birds singing in the early-morning hours—birds I couldn't see but wished I could photograph. They sounded so full of color. I was wholly satisfied to snap images with my ears.

Here's the life lesson: When we change our focal length, we often expand our horizon. We see things—or hear things or think about things—in a new way. When we focus only on the issue at hand, we may miss a broader view of what God wants us to see. When circumstances force me to zoom out, I receive inspiration to see and hear new things as a young child would see, as if for the first time. Perspective is everything.

This probably happens to you as you read the Word. A familiar verse jumps from the page with fresh insight. The Holy Spirit leads us with many and varied methods. I want to receive His direction with an open mind, especially when I've fallen into comfortable patterns or established ways of thinking. Comfort helps us zoom in with a desire to hold onto this feeling forever. But at times, God wants to move us out of the comfort zone and into a creative zone.

The Shepherd is happy when we “lie down in green pastures”(Ps. 23:2). This holds true until we must transition to a new pasture. We often have trouble traveling from where we are to where the Lord knows we should be without a prophetic perspective of what lies ahead. Although we walk by faith and not by sight, we must be willing to change our lens to see as God sees when we sense transition at hand. When the Spirit stirs us for a move, our vision must change to a wider lens.

What is the Lord doing with me? I remain happy in my normal routine. But He has greater plans. His rod and staff bring a

unique kind of comfort to me if I don't respond with instant obedience. I want to be where He is, but sometimes that means hearing what He is saying, seeing what He is seeing—or at least sensing that He wants to show me something—and walking in blind trust, because He's ordering my steps.

The same is true when we live in discomfort. Our focus seems to narrow when we feel things are going well. We don't want anything to change when we're standing on top of the mountain. We enjoy the view. By contrast, when we're in the desert—when we are stuck in a cave—we can only see the problems that surround us. We cry to the Shepherd, "Get me out of this mud pit." We can't see the bigger picture. We likely won't be moved until God opens our eyes to the lesson of the day. Lord, give us Your perspective!

I put away my zoom lens that morning to allow the Shepherd to feed me with the dawn of a rising sun, bird-filled trees in our parking lot and creative thoughts about the day's potential. Change your lens and see all the Lord has for you today.

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Listen to Dr. Steve Greene's Greenelines podcast on the CPN network.

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# What Do You Seek?

One sunny Saturday afternoon in St. Louis, Missouri, near my 10th birthday, the doorbell rang, and my dad did two things I had never seen him do before: He got up from his recliner and answered the door.

My sister and I looked at each other in full-on shock and awe. The deeper surprise? He invited the man at the door into our home. Obviously, these events attached themselves to a long-term memory cell somewhere near a Halley's Comet image in my mind.

Our guest sold my dad a set of encyclopedias with an annual bonus book. He told me it was my birthday present. I wanted a Kodak camera to capture Kodak Moments.

Thus began my season as a Google boy: "Look up the Erie Canal. Tell me what you found." We did this nightly for a while. Thankfully, Bonanza and Perry Mason gave me a couple of nights off from my human Google duty. Today, I shake a little when I hear someone say, "Just Google it."

According to estimates, over 2 trillion global searches occur every year. I Googled it.

The search starts with a word, phrase or question. We call the words we use for searching "keywords." Keywords matter to marketers, researchers and people who cheat in trivia games. The study of key words has become an industry in itself.

Wouldn't it be helpful if we could Google spiritual truth? Sometimes I just want a quick answer from the Lord. At the crossroads, like a child, I want an audible voice.

When two disciples first met Jesus, He asked them a question that stirs conviction:

“The two disciples heard him speak, and they followed Jesus. Then Jesus turned, saw them following, and said to them, ‘What do you seek?’” (John 1:37-38a).

When we find ourselves mired in a search, His question reverberates.

In my devotion this morning in the book of Acts, I read again about Tabitha (Dorcas).

“Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which when translated means Dorcas); this woman was excelling in acts of kindness and charity which she did habitually” (Acts 9:36, NASB).

Tabitha worked with habitual acts of kindness and love. When she became ill and died, her friends sent for Peter:

“So Peter got ready and went with them. When he arrived, they brought him into the room upstairs; and all the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing all the tunics and garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them” (Acts 9:39).

The widows showed Peter Tabitha’s resume of tunics and garments to persuade him to pray for her. Leaders leave a legacy of helps. Now that’s spiritual truth.

After reading these passages I searched the simple word “kindness.” I called on the best keyword, Google-tool I’ve ever used: Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance.

I once carried Strong’s Concordance and the Scofield Study Bible to every church service. I’ve used these books for almost 40 years. Neither is in great shape today. You may recall the hardback version of the concordance as broad and bulky. I used it as I listened to sermons, in small group discussions and for arm curl workouts.

I used the concordance as a tool to find every verse in the Bible with the keyword from a verse. It's amazing how one word in a verse can affect personal theology and behavior.

Today, we search the Bible for a keyword from our smartphones. I'm not sure how many people in the church want to do a word search these days. But I remember my charismatic church of the '70s had a building full of seekers who knew countless verses and Strong's word numbers.

Thankfully, most of us do not need to do a word search for kindness. We know it when we see it. We know how to do it. We don't need to watch a YouTube video for further instructions about human kindness.

I want more of Tabitha's model of habitual kindness. Random acts of kindness appear in man's encyclopedia. Habitual kindness is a fruit of the Spirit.

Jesus is the answer to every search. {eoa}

Find the episode of *Greenelines* featuring this column at this link, and subscribe to *Greenelines* on your favorite podcast platform.

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# Keyword Search

Around the age of 20, I discovered the best keyword tool on earth. And it has nothing to do with Google searches. Keep reading and I'll reveal it.

To improve my search engine optimization skills, I've been re-studying the use of keywords for the last several weeks. I've studied keyword tools in the past. Not much has changed since my last review over 10 years ago.

Content writers and marketers use keywords to help an audience find helpful resources. A search engine provides a list of all the websites that might include the searched word.

Many online tools exist that highlight best practices to connect with prospective audiences. There are hundreds of online training seminars, classes and videos available for study.

The keyword training I've subscribed to does little to point us to answers to our search for spiritual truth.

In my devotion this morning in the Book of Acts I read again about Tabitha (Dorcas):

“Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which when translated means Dorcas): this woman was excelling in acts of kindness and charity which she did *habitually*” (Acts 9:36, NASB)

What a terrific lesson on loving leadership. Tabitha worked with habitual acts of kindness and love. When she became ill and died, her friends sent for Peter:

“So Peter got ready and went with them. When he arrived, they

brought him into the room upstairs; and all the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing all the tunics and garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them" (Acts 11:39).

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After reading these passages, I wanted to study the simple word "kindness." So I called on the best key word tool I've ever used: *Strong's Exhaustive Bible Concordance*.

I carried *Strong's Concordance* and the Scofield Study Bible to every church service. I've used these books for almost 50 years. Neither of the books is in great shape today. You may recall the hardback version of the concordance was large and bulky. I used the book for sermons, small groups and arm curl workouts.

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Today, we can search the Bible for a keyword from our smartphones. I'm not sure how many people in the church want to do a word search in Strong's these days. But I remember my charismatic church of the '70s had a building full of people who knew verses and the accompanying Strong's word numbers.

Thankfully, most of us do not need to do a word search for kindness. We know it when we see it. We know how to do it. We don't need to watch a YouTube video for further instructions on kindness.

I want more of Tabitha's model of habitual kindness. Effective leaders make it a habit to show kindness in their keywords and actions. {eoa}

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## **Decision Making**

Leaders must make decisions in the midst of uncertainty.

We rarely possess enough time, facts or prophetic input to bring certainty to a course of action. Effective leaders seek first to understand. They work hard to consider every possible outcome of the pending decision.

I've learned to exert extra caution when I'm presented with a slam-dunk option. Haven't we all experienced a slam-doh?

I once had a boss who exerted an amazing amount of effort to determine, "What can go wrong if I say yes or no?" The deeper question bellowed, "Will I get blamed if this doesn't work?" Self-preservation forces scaredy-cat-decisions and suboptimal outcomes.

Even "easy" decisions produce unexpected results and poor outcomes.

At least two types of errors occur in deciding a course of action:

- We accept our baseline hypothesis about the facts and act accordingly. (We accept the null hypothesis.)
- We reject our assessment of the hypothetical baseline. (We

reject the null hypothesis.)

We accept the story told by the collection of inputs, or we reject it.

Some seek a third, fourth or fifth alternative. However, the story mutates as more alternatives arise. Baseline thinking warps through manipulation, weighting or forgetting.

Consider these three tips to produce better outcomes in your decision making:

**1. Take a bias bath:** As you come to the decision, what do you currently believe? Are you persuaded by facts or opinions? Do you have personal beliefs that cloud your vision? What underlying assumptions affect your thinking?

**2. Dig for Data:** Find organizational facts. How have others decided in similar situations? What are the opportunities and risks? Is money allocation an investment or an expense? Does this decision promote growth or retreat?

**3. Take more time:** Yes, everyone loves a decisive leader. But when the outcome materializes, few will applaud the speed of decision making. Time provides an opportunity to collect more data. How many lamentations begin with the phrase "If only I had known ..." Take time to know.

Most importantly, seek the full counsel of the Lord as you make decisions. Pray for the leading of the Holy Spirit. "Show me the way!"

The disciples witnessed signs and wonders while in training and in their own experiences. People then and now choose to accept what they see or reject it.

Some go so far as to reject scientific evidence of things seen. The Holy Spirit says, "Come."

Eternal life begins with a decision. {eoa}

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## **Burning in the Spirit**

I submitted a theme in an English Composition class one day in which I described watching a house burn down. I received a Pavlovian reward in the form of an A, but a question my teacher posed disturbed me:

“Does a house burn up or burn down?”

That question burned me up for years. I certainly never wrote the phrase again until now. But the word-choice challenge did prepare me to consider other similar quandaries: write down or write up, beat up or beat down, tear up or tear down?

I recently finished reading Joseph Mattera’s book *The Jesus Principles*. He wrote it to help readers unleash greatness in themselves, their homes and their circles of influence. The principles he shares are those Jesus used to unleash human potential.

The book grabbed my attention quickly with seven questions to help me consider whether I’m currently living a directed life or drifting aimlessly toward the latest shiny object.

One of those questions took me back to that high school English Composition class: “Are you suffering burnout?”

The Mayo Clinic describes burnout with a non-medical description: "Job burnout is a special type of work-related stress—a state of physical or emotional exhaustion that also involves a sense of reduced accomplishment and loss of personal identity." The clinic offers the following list to consider:

Have you become cynical or critical at work?

Do you drag yourself to work and have trouble getting started?

Have you become irritable or impatient with co-workers, customers or clients?

Do you lack the energy to be consistently productive?

Do you find it hard to concentrate?

Do you lack satisfaction from your achievements?

Do you feel disillusioned about your job?

Whether we believe we're suffering from burnout or not, we all sometimes feel as though we are drifting through our work, our relationships and our spiritual walk. Some of us haven't recovered from the multiple impacts caused by COVID.

Things simply feel harder. Progress comes with more struggles, more effort and many more distractions. Some days, it just feels as though we are tied by a leash.

Another question Mattera asks cuts straight to the heart of a drifter: Are you experiencing continuous frustration?

If we aren't pursuing God's specific path for our life, it's likely that we experience many frustrations throughout the day. God lets us know when we are drifting. He sends us several wake-up calls.

When we lose our passion and purpose, it's a good sign that our boat is adrift. We may feel increased anxiety with every

project we attempt and feel blocked by circumstances and feelings. We know the motions to go through and boxes to check. But motions and checkmarks don't satisfy the sense that God has more for us.

Frustration breeds more frustration. How can we influence others when we lack clarity of purpose?

Jesus accomplished more in his three short years of ministry than we can hope to accomplish in a lifetime. Yet we see no signs of frustration as the Savior walked through life. We see no signs of burnout, even when He spent hours ministering to large crowds.

Instead, Jesus offered a simple, wise solution: "'Let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile.' He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn't even have time to eat" (Mark 6:31, NLT).

If you're feeling frustrated or burned out, check your rest meter. Find that quiet place with Him. Only He can transform a life of burnout to one burning with the Spirit of God.

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Dr. Steve Greene is the publisher and executive vice president of the multimedia group at Charisma Media and executive producer of the Charisma Podcast Network. His Charisma House book, *Love Leads*, shows that without love, you cannot be an effective leader. Sign up for his free "5 Things I Learned Last Week" and "Greenelines" newsletters, and download his *Greenelines* and *At Work With God* podcasts at .

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## **What Government Said About the Bible**

I had the privilege to interview Robert J. Morgan last week in our studio. His grandson Luke was with him, and we had a divine appointment to discuss his new book, *The Jordan River Rules*. My time with Morgan propelled me back into his bestselling book, *100 Bible Verses That Made America*. When I first began to read the book, I spot-read various verses, and each reading inspired me deeply. I continued to read the book as a devotional a few mornings of each week. This past weekend, after spending time with Morgan, I read the book from start to finish. I'm so glad I did. When colleagues asked the routine Monday-morning question, "How was your weekend?" I could only think about what I'm about to share with you.

Vice President Theodore Roosevelt, addressing the Long Island Bible Society only weeks before being thrust into the presidency by the assassination of William McKinley, said, "A very large number of people tend to forget that the teachings of the Bible are so interwoven and entwined with our whole civic and social life that it would be literally—I do not mean figuratively, I mean literally—impossible for us to figure to ourselves what that life would be if these teachings were removed" (Robert J. Morgan, . *100 Bible Verses That Made America*, pp. xxi-xxii).

Roosevelt was prophetic. Yes, it is impossible to consider what life would be like without the Bible. Yet here we are in 2021, clearly able to picture living without a Bible in our hands. How many events do you read or hear about today that you never thought would happen?

President Franklin Roosevelt said, "We cannot read the history of our rise and development as a Nation without reckoning with the place the Bible has occupied in shaping the advances of the Republic."

I'm reckoning the decline of our republic as a cohort moves away from even a puny parcel of belief in the Bible as the inspired Word of God.

President Franklin Roosevelt said, "We cannot read the history of our rise and development as a Nation without reckoning with the place the Bible has occupied in shaping the advances of the Republic" (Morgan).

John Jay, the first chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, said, "The Bible is the best of all books, for it is the Word of God and teaches us the way to be happy in this world and the next. Continue therefore to read it and to regulate your life by its precepts" (Morgan).

It's stunning to read that a chief justice of the Supreme Court exhorted Americans to "regulate our life" by the precepts taught in the Bible.

"In regard to this Great Book," wrote Abraham Lincoln in a letter dated Sept. 7, 1864, "I have but to say it is the best gift God has given to man. All the good the Savior gave to the world was communicated through this Book" (Morgan).

Arguably the greatest president ever to lead America agreed that the Bible is a gift that keeps on giving.

Calvin Coolidge said, "The foundation of our society and our government rest so much on the teachings of the Bible that it would be difficult to support them if faith in these teachings would cease to be practically universal in our country" (Morgan).

We've come a long way from "practically universal." Morgan's assembly of significant quotes from government leaders of that era at once reminds us of the spiritual focus our country once prescribed and of how far we have drifted from the path. We need leaders who encourage a closer walk with God.

"A prudent person sees evil and hides himself, But the naive proceed, and pay the penalty"(Prov. 22:3, NASB).

Listen to both episodes of *Greenelines* with guest Robert J. Morgan here (*Bible Verses That Made America*) and here (*The Jordan River Rules*)[here](#) (*The Jordan River Rules*). Subscribe to *Greenelines* on your favorite podcast platform for more

inspiring stories like these. {eoa}

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## Burning in the Spirit

In Joseph Mattera's book, *The Jesus Principles* (available here at a 50% discount), he asks seven questions to help readers determine if their walk with God is fully directed or set adrift. Because I feel the book makes a powerful impact on living and working in the presence of the Lord, I felt it important to review Mattera's questions in serial format for readers and podcast listeners of *Greenelines*. This is part two in the series. For part one, click here.

I submitted a theme in an English Composition class one day in which I described watching a house burn down. I received a Pavlovian reward in the form of an A, but a question my teacher posed disturbed me:

"Does a house burn up or burn down?"

That question burned me up for years. I certainly never wrote the phrase again until now. But the word-choice challenge did prepare me to consider other similar quandaries: write down or write up, beat up or beat down, tear up or tear down?

Mattera posed a second question about drifting through life in his book *Jesus Principles*: "Are you suffering burnout?"

The Mayo Clinic describes burnout with a non-medical description: "Job burnout is a special type of work-related stress—a state of physical or emotional exhaustion that also

involves a sense of reduced accomplishment and loss of personal identity.” The clinic offers the following list to consider:

- Have you become cynical or critical at work?
- Do you drag yourself to work and have trouble getting started?
- Have you become irritable or impatient with co-workers, customers or clients?
- Do you lack the energy to be consistently productive?
- Do you find it hard to concentrate?
- Do you lack satisfaction from your achievements?
- Do you feel disillusioned about your job?

Prayerfully consider these questions, and check back here tomorrow for more help in keeping the Spirit burning—in life and in work. Click here to purchase Joseph Mattera’s book *The Jesus Principles*, on sale now for 50% off. {eoa}

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## **Are You Drifting?**

Check your frustration levels.

Sometimes we all feel as though we are drifting through our

work, our relationships and our spiritual walk. Some of us haven't recovered from the multiple impacts caused by COVID.

Things simply feel harder. Progress comes with more struggles, more effort and many more distractions. Some days, it just feels as though we are tied by a leash.

I recently finished reading Joseph Mattera's book *The Jesus Principle*, available here at a 50% discount. The principles Mattera shares are the principles Jesus used to unleash human potential.

Most of us work to live a life of influence. This book is written to unleash greatness in yourself, your home and your circle of influence.

The book grabbed my attention quickly with seven questions to help me consider whether I'm currently living a directed life or drifting aimlessly toward the latest shiny object.

I will share Mattera's questions over the next several days in this space. I hope you take this opportunity to consider your path.

The first question cuts straight to the heart of a drifter: *Are you experiencing continuous frustration?*

If we aren't pursuing God's specific path for our life, it's likely that we experience many frustrations throughout the day. God lets us know when we are drifting. He sends us several wake-up calls.

When we lose our passion and purpose, it's a good sign that our boat is adrift. We may feel increased anxiety with every project we attempt and feel blocked by circumstances and feelings. We know the motions to go through and boxes to check. But motions and checkmarks don't satisfy the sense that God has more for us.

Frustration breeds more frustration. How can we influence

others when we lack clarity of purpose?

*The Jesus Principles* will help you recover your focus and press in to God's call on your life.

Check back here tomorrow for help in ending the drift. Click here to purchase Joseph Mattera's book *The Jesus Principles*, on sale now for 50% off. {eoa}

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## Revival Stopper

True revival is on the way.

As a pastor, I've said it.

As a believer, I see it.

As a publisher, I read about it in issues of Charisma like this one and on our online outlets. Here, you'll find many fascinating stories of pockets, movements, even waves of revival breaking out in the United States and across the globe.

But where a movement of God exists, so also exists a force determined to stop it. We know that force as "the prince of the power of the air" (Eph. 2:2b).

That's why the apostle Paul reminds us to "be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of

God that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For our fight is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world" (Eph. 6:10-12a).

Sometimes, those spiritual forces take a surprising form. Pastor Jamie Morgan, longtime Assemblies of God minister who hosts the Firestarter podcast on the Charisma Podcast Network and also contributed to this issue (see "Get Your Second Wind," page 34), shared an experience on a recent Greenelines podcast in which she stood up to the enemy when he manifested in her church—in a way most of us would consider unexpected.

"We were crying out to God for a revival," Morgan says. "And all of a sudden, right smack dab in the middle of a prayer meeting, this older gentleman who had been attending our church for a little while, and whom I really respect and love, stood up in the middle of the prayer meeting and said, 'I hate to be a wet blanket, but there will not be revival.'"

Morgan then faced a challenging moment. The man made a public statement, so as a leader, she had to bring public correction.

"Sir, you're out of order," she told him. "There will be revival. Yes."

What Morgan said next should inform our prayers and our personal preparation. She explained to the gathered church, "What you saw was someone operating with a religious spirit."

A religious spirit, Morgan says, is the No. 1 enemy of revival and will attempt to shut down revival when it comes. In her church's case, the spirit was at work to stop the movement of God even as the people cried out for it.

The Pharisees serve as a New Testament example of people operating in a religious spirit. But, as Dr. R.T. Kendall writes in his new book, *You Might Be a Pharisee If ...*, "we must first examine ourselves." Morgan says, "We have to say, 'Lord,

examine my heart. Do I have any Pharisee in me? Is there anything in me that would try to stop revival when it comes?" she reminds us. "Is there anything in me that impedes the moving of the Holy Spirit?"

"I think it's so important that pastors stand against the spirit of religion in their local church," Morgan says. "But also, we must individually ask the Lord, 'Do I have any of that in me?'"

Morgan and others believe we must prepare for the coming revival in the same way believers did ahead of the revivals of old: by crying out in personal repentance. Many cry out for a revival in the church without the testimony of a personal revival.

"We're in a season of the Lord, I believe, of sifting and cleansing and purifying," Morgan says. "This is the season of repentance. It's the season where God is preparing His people. He's preparing His bride for revival, but also His soon return."

I stand with this godly pastor in contending for revival. And I agree with her word to the church: "It's time to get your spiritual house in order. Submit and surrender to God's cleansing and sifting and purifying. Place your heart on the altar of threshing so He can prepare you for all the wonderful things He's going to do."

Let us come alongside this pastor and the many others calling for true revival. Let us stand against the spirit of religion. Let us cancel the enemy's schemes to stop God's reviving work.

In the words of the classic hymn, "Lord, send a revival. And let it begin in me!"

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