

# 10 Timeless Guidelines for Christian Voters—From 1984

People were questioning how the church should behave during an election year way before the questions were asked this election cycle, and the Assemblies of God voter guide from 1984 has recently gone viral for its wisdom.

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In a post to X, Dr. Daniel Isgrigg, a professor at Oral Roberts University and a historian whose focus is on Pentecostalism, shared with the world an excerpt from the 1984 AG voting guide.

These 10 guidelines appear to be more relevant today than ever:

1. Do not confuse patriotism, national pride and Western culture with Christian faith and practice.
2. Do not confuse secular political activity with the purpose of the church, nor campaigning with witnessing and preaching.
3. Do not make slanderous or false accusations against your opponents, but maintain your integrity. Do not consider a brother or sister who is of like precious faith an adversary if he or she holds a different political view.
4. At all times endeavor to verify information before accepting it as true or before repeating it to others.
5. At all times endeavor to know and understand the candidate's positions and evaluate him or her on that basis, on the basis of his or her ability to perform the duties and functions of the office, and his or her integrity.
6. At all times endeavor to know and understand the issues;

do not excuse yourself from this duty by saying, "God will show me whom to vote for."

7. At all times compare a candidate's position with Scripture but only where the Scripture addresses the issue; do not force Scripture to address issues that the Author did not intend it to address.
8. Neither vote nor work for a candidate merely because he or she professes to be of the Christian faith.
9. Do not neglect your family, worship, prayer or Bible study.
10. At all times uphold your leaders in prayer.

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These guidelines from 40 years ago carry a heavy conviction behind them. When we take a step back and analyze how much more hostile, angry and accusatory both sides of the political spectrum have become, it would behoove us to take a breath and read over wise guidelines such as these so that we act in a way that is befitting of one who represents Jesus on earth.

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***James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.***

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## **The Apathetic Church Faces Grave Consequences**

Joseph Z, a prophetic voice and founder of Joseph Z Ministries, recently appeared on "The Strang Report" podcast

to discuss the upcoming election and its potential consequences.

Z describes 2024 as a “do-over year,” referencing what he sees as unresolved tensions from the 2020 election. He claims that the church’s response will play a crucial role in determining the country’s direction.

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“The Lord is saying it’s in the hands of the church,” Z says, asserting that the outcome of the election hinges on whether the church actively engages in the political process. “If [the church] will show up, I think there’ll be victory. If they don’t, I think we’re going to go into a very, very difficult season,” he added.

People from many different backgrounds have been issuing warnings about the direction America is heading for some time now.

Some have listened and heeded these warnings, while others scoff and continue living their lives, refusing to adapt to the world today.

However, when the Daily Signal sat down with historian, author and demographer Neil Howe, the warnings he has given reveal the chilling reality facing the United States.

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As reported by the Daily Signal,

*In 1997, he published a book with Bill Strauss, “The Fourth Turning: An American Prophecy—What the Cycles of History Tell Us About America’s Next Rendezvous with Destiny.” In that book, he suggested five catalysts for a major crisis—and four*

*of the five have already come to pass.*

So what exactly are the five factors that could push America into its second civil war?

1. **Crisis over debt.** This first factor already took place according to Howe. "One of our events was a crisis over the debt, which would issue forth in a new tea party movement," Howe says, noting that we ironically named the ensuing movement the "Tea Party" in 2010 following the 2008 financial crisis.
2. **Weapon of mass destruction on U.S. soil.** Howe believes that this came true on September 11, 2001. When the World Trade Center collapsed it brought with it widespread destruction as well as "enduring consequences."
3. **A pandemic.** We are only four years removed from when the world shut down due to the COVID-19 outbreak, and it is still fresh on many people's minds.
4. **Russia will invade a former Soviet republic.** This factor became a reality when Russia invaded Crimea in 2014. This event also took place prior to the current war Russia is engaged in, and many believe paved the way for, when Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022.
5. **Federal nullification.** This is the final factor that has yet to be realized. According to Howe, "A nullification crisis, where one or more of the states would actually nullify federal regulation, which would lead to a new secession movement." While the state of Texas has been feuding with the federal government over the border, this issue will likely escalate with a Kamala Harris victory in November. The other state likely to stand up to the potentially radical communist directives from a Harris/Walz administration is the state of Florida, under Gov. Ron DeSantis. Who knows what type of chaos may ensue in places like California, Colorado,

Minnesota, Washington or other deep-blue states should Donald Trump be re-elected. There have already been two attempts to assassinate him, another term as president could see untold chaos in major cities across the country.

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A civil war within the U.S. brings with it a situation of global ramifications. As the driving force behind world affairs, any disruption to U.S. military bases would have massive ramifications.

“If it requires our forces around the world to stand down for six months, the entire world will remake itself,” Howe says. “The entire world, for better or for worse, depends upon our presence to be what it is.”

Many Christians likely would also point to the end times impact such an event would have on biblical prophecy, and the likelihood of the revealing of the Beast and his world system.

Thankfully, Jesus sent His helper, the Holy Spirit, to guide His people during difficult times. He gave us a peace that passes understanding and that no matter what chaotic events are going on in the world around us, He is the One who will reign victorious in the end.

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***James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.***

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# Pastor, Father of 11, Takes Own Life After Sexual Abuse Charges Filed

The stories of American church leaders succumbing to sin and committing heinous and atrocious sexual sins seems only to be getting worse and more frequent.

These painful stories of what is taking place in the church continue as recently, the accusations and charges leveled against a Baptist pastor in Tennessee came to light and led to a horrific scene at a local hospital.

As reported by The Christian Post:

*David Baker Sr., a Tennessee pastor and father of 11, who served as vice president of Independent Baptist Online College, walked into a local hospital Wednesday and fatally shot himself a day after he was charged with aggravated sexual battery of a minor family member.*

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This tragic web spun from the bowels of hell sent the hospital, Maury Regional, into lockdown. The hospital has since released a statement on the matter:

*It was discovered that an adult male entered the ED, did not seek medical treatment, and proceeded directly to the public restroom where he administered a self-inflicted gunshot to the chest, discharging the weapon twice. The ED staff initiated life-saving medical treatment; however, he succumbed to his injuries.*



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In the wake of this tragic turn of events for everyone involved, the CEO of Maury Regional, Dr. Martin Chaney, offered the hospital's condolences and prayers to the family who is dealing with untold grief and disbelief at the situation.

"We are deeply saddened by today's events. Our prayers are extended to the family and friends of this individual as well as the members of our team who responded," Chaney said. "The welfare and safety of our patients and health care team members are paramount at Maury Regional Health. I am proud of the quick response of our security team, Emergency Department staff and Columbia Police Department."

A local newspaper, Main Street Maury, reported that Baker had been "booked into the Maury County Jail on Tuesday, Sept. 10 and charged with one count of aggravated sexual battery. Baker was released on \$200,000 bond and had been scheduled to appear in court on Wednesday, Oct. 9."

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The crime was reportedly committed against a minor, who was also a family member of Baker's.

Far too many crimes like this are being committed by trusted leaders in the church, that should never happen in the body of Christ. Too many leaders are succumbing to their flesh and committing horrific acts while tarnishing the name of Jesus.

Christians must take action to bring an end to this cancer that is killing the witnessing power of the church. Victims must be protected, leadership must stand against corruption

and sin while the name of the Lord must be held in high regard and honored for His sacrifice and love for us.

So pray for your pastors, for your church's leadership and for your communities. Pray that the snares and chains of the devil be broken over people's lives and that this type of behavior is eradicated from the church once and for all.

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*James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.*

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## **Prayers Pour In for Christian Quarterback Following Another Alarming Injury**

Outspoken Christian and quarterback for the Miami Dolphins Tua Tagovailoa suffered another injury resulting in a concussion on Thursday Night Football.

Tagovailoa collided with Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin, who himself suffered a near-fatal episode on the football field, after diving forward head first in the third quarter. Tagovailoa would not return to the game.

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Calls for prayer rang out from many within both the football and Christian communities for Tagovailoa, who has a history of suffering concussions due to the hard hits he takes on the field.

Worship leader and “Let Us Worship” founder Sean Feucht posted on X in support of Tagovailoa, imploring his followers to lift the quarterback up in prayer.

*Praying for my friend @Tua right now.*

*He’s a true worshipper of Jesus.*

*May God bring peace, healing and wisdom over his mind and body right now.*

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Additionally, many former players in the NFL called for Tagovailoa to retire, saying that the money made playing in the league is not worth the price it will take from his health.

The NFL quarterback has never been shy about sharing his faith, in both victory and defeat.

“I think the best thing about being a believer of Jesus Christ, to me, is that the good Lord up above doesn’t care whether you win a game, whether you lose a game,” Tagovailoa shared after a loss to the Bills in 2023.

“...allowing me this platform, to me, is the thing in the world to be able to profess my faith on something that I firmly believe in, something that’s been foundationally instilled in me at a young age.”

As Tagovailoa begins his recovery from this most recent injury, the community is encouraged to keep him in their thoughts and prayers. Fans, teammates and supporters alike are urged to come together in a spirit of hope and healing for Tagovailoa, wishing him a swift and full recovery. His faith, strength and determination have inspired many, and now, in

this challenging moment, he needs the support of those who stand behind him.

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# **Understanding Transhumanism's Risks Through the Lens of Scripture**

There are many warnings God gives His children in the written Word, but are there some that are more important than others?

In a recent episode of "The John Bevere Podcast" with his son Arden, Christian author, speaker and co-founder of Messenger International, John Bevere addresses what he says is Jesus' most important warning to the church, and it has specifically to do with the end times, and are we as the church ignoring it?

So what is the warning that should be taken seriously by all Christians?

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As the disciples beseech Jesus to tell them of the signs before His return in Matthew 24, He tells them what to look for, and who to be wary of during the end times. But most importantly, according to Bevere, Jesus says four times that we are not to be deceived.

“You’ve heard me probably say it before, ‘there’s only one problem with ‘s deceiving,” Bevere says. “It’s deceiving. The person that’s deceived believes with all their heart they’re right, when in reality, they’re wrong. That’s so scary. In other words, they are self-fooled.”



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Bringing this deception is one of the greatest threats facing those in need of salvation: false teachers.

“Jesus is not the only one that warns about false teachers,” Bevere explains. “Every writer in the New James. Now James warns about deception, but he doesn’t warn about false teachers. Every single one of them, warned about false teachers.”

There are false teachers in the world today, Bevere warns, and it is imperative that Christians are able to identify them. According to Bevere, this must be done without turning into a “watchdog” or somebody who gets tunnel vision and only looks out for false teachers. These individuals have become known as “heresy hunters” who often fail to grow the kingdom in their search for their next clickbait video.

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Discipleship is the key to not becoming a watchdog according to Bevere. “When a counterfeit comes in, if I train you how to recognize a counterfeit \$100 bill, do I need to be next to you when that fake \$100 bill comes into your hand?” Bevere asks. “No, I don’t need to be there, do I? What I taught you, the way I trained you, it taught you how to recognize it for yourself.”

According to Bevere, there are three categories in which

teachers are placed:

- True teachers that are on the right path.
- True teachers who are off course but receive correction humbly.
- False teachers who are not humble or teachable, and cannot be corrected.

Bevere has seen leaders fall over the years. Leaders that were at one point on the right path, but all fell and left the ministry when they demonstrated their inability to be taught and corrected in their behaviors. This highlights the necessity for not just leaders but all Christians to develop a humble heart, because as the Bible says, "...God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble," (James 4:6).

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