

U.S. Drops Demand for Settlement Freeze

The Obama administration has dropped demands for a Jewish construction freeze in eastern Jerusalem, according to a report filed by Ha'aretz on Thursday. The news comes as a result of a meeting held this week in London between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. special Mideast envoy George Mitchell.

While rejecting a total freeze in settlements and stressing the need to guarantee "normal life" for Jewish residents of Judea and Samaria, Netanyahu proposed a nine month halt to settlement construction in the West Bank. Besides Jerusalem, the agreement would also exclude about 2,500 Jewish homes in disputed territories already under construction.

Persecuted for Her Faith

Pnina Pie is a successful baker in Tel Aviv, Israel. But when authorities discovered she is also a Messianic Jew, they revoked her kosher license, told other Jews to boycott her bakery and started a campaign to close down her establishment. Pnina took her case all the way to Israel's Supreme Court and won. But that's not the end of the story. To learn why Pnina and others like her suffer for their faith, click below to watch the video.

Are You Obsessed With God?

Do you treat God like your “holy hobby,” someone you spend time with on the weekends, but you don’t know Him intimately? Anne Graham Lotz, daughter of evangelist Billy Graham, challenges believers to develop a life-long obsession with the Father in her new book *The Magnificent Obsession*. She says our relationship with God is rooted in love not religion, but we must be willing to follow the Creator of the universe wholeheartedly. To listen to the new SpiritLed Woman eMagazine podcast with Anne Graham Lotz, click below.

Sightseeing at the Sea of Galilee

The Sea of Galilee is one of the most popular tourists spots in Israel. This historic body of water is home to 27 species of fish, but in biblical times, Yeshua stood on its shores—and sometimes *on* the sea—and performed many miracles. He saw Peter and Andrew casting their net into the water and said, “‘Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men'” (Matt. 4:19, NKJV); He walked on water (see Matt. 14:22-33), and fed more than 5,000 people with five fish and two loaves of bread (see Matt. 14:13-21). To learn how to cast your net in this ancient sea, click below to watch the video.

Are You Addicted to S_ _?

☒ Several years ago my friend mustered up the confidence to tell me about her struggle with lust. Even though she wasn't dating anyone, she was afraid her fixation would eventually seduce her into having premarital sex.

Thinking about her problem made me want to blog about premarital sex, a topic I believe the church often shuns. But why? Christian singles have sex or want to have sex too. And though the Bible prohibits such behavior, that hasn't stopped believers from going too far.

Sadly, some Christian singles behave as if there are no consequences to sex outside of marriage—but there are. Dr. Freda McKissic Bush, a Christian, a board-certified OB-GYN and co-author of *Hooked: New Science on How Casual Sex Is Affecting Our Children*, says premarital sex and extramarital affairs can unleash a host of psychological and emotional problems in a person's life.

Dr. Bush says hormones are released in the body that “knit” couples together and “complement the biblical vision of two becoming one flesh.” In females, she says, oxytocin is released in the brain when a woman experiences “meaningful touching.” And in men, vasopressin is released when a man experiences meaningful touching.

But Dr. Bush says dopamine, the other brain hormone, also “rewards” the body. “The God-given gift of sex is exciting and when the bonding act of love is rewarded with dopamine, we become ‘hooked,’ even addicted, to this bonding activity with our mate. Within the confines of marriage this is healthy and in accordance with God's intent.

“When an individual begins to search for extramarital opportunities to satisfy their natural desire for a dopamine fix, the consequences include a chemical bond that literally addicts that person to sin.”

Are you addicted to sin? My friend was, but she confessed her problem and got counseling. With all the scandals happening in the church today, we can no longer afford to keep quiet about sexual issues. Let’s start talking about it now.

Mike Huckabee Says Two-State Solution “Unrealistic”

Former Republican presidential hopeful Mike Huckabee said it is “virtually unrealistic” for a Palestinian state to be placed “in the middle of the Jewish homeland” and that Israel should be able to build settlements where it wants, according to the Associated Press (AP).

While on a three-day tour of Israel this week, the former Arkansas governor and one-time Southern Baptist pastor told reporters on Tuesday that the international community should consider establishing a Palestinian state elsewhere.

“The question is should the Palestinians have a place to call their own? Yes, I have no problem with that,” Huckabee said. “Should it be in the middle of the Jewish homeland? That’s what I think has to be honestly assessed as virtually unrealistic.”

One of Your Greatest Spiritual Weapons

Ephesians 6:12 tells us that our struggles are not with other human beings but with the devil and his demons. Satan, the enemy of our souls, attempts to defeat us with strategy and deceit through well-laid plans and deception.

But the devil is a liar. Jesus called him “the father of lies and of all that is false” (John 8:44, The Amplified Bible). He tells us things about ourselves, people and circumstances that are just not true. He does not, however, tell us the entire lie all at once.

Empower Me, Holy Spirit!

✖ Are you expecting God to use you to do marketplace ministry, reach wayward teens or whatever else He’s called you to? If not, you should be. He wants to reveal Himself in unprecedented ways and empower you for purpose, but unbelief can keep you bound to a life of mediocrity.

We look at women such as renowned Bible teachers Beth Moore and Joyce Meyer or a powerful preacher like Cindy Trimm and think God will never use us like that. So instead of acting on what He has said, we retreat to our comfort zones, never to pursue our spiritual calling. I know this because I’ve experienced it.

I attend a Pentecostal church and for years I struggled with not being able to minister like some of the women in my denomination. The rhythm and cadence in black preaching is an art form, and I wasn't endowed with the ability to rev up a crowd. God instead told me to "power teach." That's when the Holy Spirit anoints you to speak the Word with confidence, but without pressure to stir a crowd into an emotional high. What a relief.

An Ancient Jewish Symbol

The Menorah is a seven-branched candelabrum used in ancient synagogues long before the birth of Jesus. It is a symbol of Judaism and remains an emblem of the nation of Israel today. To learn more about the Menorah and the Star of David, click below to watch the video.

Marriage Meltdown: Straight Talk for Christian Couples

Marriage is a covenant created by God, but today half of all Christian couples end up in divorce court. The success of the family depends on the health of a marriage, and husbands and wives must work hard to preserve the bond.

J. Lee Grady, editor of *Charisma* magazine and author of *10 Lies the Church Tells Women*, talks candidly about the

challenges couples face in the new SpiritLed Woman eMagazine podcast. He says husbands hold the key to strong, loving relationships. Click below to listen now.