

3 Things You'll Miss Today if You Don't Pray in the Spirit

Bob Yandian, pastor and excellent Bible teacher, taught me a spiritual lesson I've never forgotten.

In one of his powerful teachings, he spoke about bad days and the things that happen through the normal pace of life. He spoke about the full armor of God and how often we head into our work day only half clothed.

My recall of what he said next has been with me for at least 15 years. He looked at the audience and said, "If you want to have better days and better outcomes, you need to pray in the Spirit more often. Some of you go far too long without speaking to the Lord in the Spirit."

Paul wrote in Romans 8:26, "Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weaknesses, for we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words."

When we focus on the presence of the Lord, our prayer lives change. An intimacy with the Father produces an exchange that can suitably be called a love language.

I know my wife's love language, and she knows mine. We know the love languages of our children and grandchildren. When we have those sweet moments of conversation, all else fails to compare. Many of those moments are seared deeply in memory.

The Lord wants the same with us. He wants us to draw close and tell Him about our day ahead. He wants to hear of our worries and frets. He wants us to tell Him everything and "make [our] requests known" (Phil. 4:6b).

The closer we get, the more our native tongue fails to satisfy

our need to love Him with our words—to “worship Him in spiritual songs” (see Eph. 5:19).

The Lord reminded me early this morning of the things I miss when I don’t start my day by praying in the Spirit. Here are three of them to encourage your prayer life.

When you don’t pray in the Spirit, you miss:

–**Help for your weakness.** Instead of a day filled with regrets about what you can’t do, pray for strength in the Spirit.

–**Intercession for others.** We long to pray for others. The Spirit knows our heart and our desire to pray for those in need. Every morning, different people come to my mind while praying, and I know there is effectual intercession occurring through the Spirit.

–**Intimate worship.** When we pray in the Spirit, I believe we worship as the angels do. I sense they gather ’round and join our worship offering. Of course, we worship in our understanding, but there is also a time of worship as we pray that simply cannot be described. “The same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells in me” (see Rom. 8:11) and worships Him.

Paul also wrote this great word in Ephesians 6:18: “Pray in the Spirit always with all kinds of prayer and supplication. To that end be alert with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.”

Yesterday, I was truly honored to interview Marilyn Hickey. Listen as she describes her prayer life and commitment to memorizing the Word. She is an amazing woman of God. and I truly believe this interview will bless you. {eo}

For more about Spirit-filled intercession, check out the Charisma e-book Power Up Your Prayers, available at [this link](#) for just \$.

Christian Supporters of Trump, the President Can Defend Himself

The progression is clear and undeniable.

For many Bible-loving followers of Jesus, Donald Trump was our last choice for the Republican nomination.

We didn't like his past. We were appalled with some of his comments. And we didn't trust him to keep his promises. Those were certainly my sentiments during the primaries.

Things changed for many of us when he became the Republican candidate, since, in our view, a Hillary Clinton presidency would have been disastrous. It was at this time I began to write articles like, "Why I'm Actually Rooting for Donald Trump" and "Why I Will Vote for Donald Trump." (For a collection of 100 relevant articles, see [here](#).)

Come election day, we voted for him. But still, for many of us, there was great trepidation.

How would he behave once elected? Would he live up to his campaign commitments to evangelicals? And would the good he would do outweigh the bad?

So, we were with him, but cautiously.

Then, he was elected, and it really appeared as if the Lord had a special hand in getting him in. The scenario was so unlikely and Hillary Clinton's political machine so formidable that his election seemed impossible.

But there he was, victorious. Maybe God does have a plan to use him!

So, our sentiments shifted a little more in his favor. And yet, we remained cautious.

Then, three things happened.

First, his presidency came under instant, unrelenting, over-the-top attack. It came from the leftist media. It came from other political leaders. It came from social media. The man is evil! The man must go!

That, in turn, triggered a response in us. "We will defend our man! You're trying to get rid of the man we voted to be president." Our caution was now replaced by loyalty. You attack him, you attack us.

Second, the Democrat Party began to lurch further and further left, fighting Trump's conservative policies with an extreme liberalism never before seen on this scale. And the crazier the Democrats became, the happier we were to have Trump (rather than Hillary) in office.

"Yes," we said, "he's far from a perfect man. But what's the alternative?" All the more has this become our position with the current crop of Democratic presidential candidates.

Third, Trump kept many of his promises to us, one after the other. He did fight for our religious liberty. He did nominate lots of fine justices to the courts. He did sign pro-life legislation. He did push back against LGBT extremism. He did move the embassy to Jerusalem.

Not only so, but he surrounded himself with fine Christian leaders and appointed many fine evangelical leaders to his Cabinet. In fact, in contrast with some of our past Republican leaders who got close to evangelicals while running for our office then cut many of those ties once elected, Trump has

done the opposite. He is more connected to us than ever.

How, then, we wonder, can we be disloyal to him? How can we not stand with him when he is attacked—and I mean stand with him openly and proudly? Is this not part of our sacred duty as well?

And it is here that we find ourselves in a moral and ethical dilemma. We now feel the need to defend him at every turn. If he uses ugly rhetoric and engages in personal insult, we applaud him. “We need someone who fights back!”

If he stretches the truth to make a point (to put it mildly), we say, “Show me one politician who tells the truth.” If he makes a wrong policy decision, we’re silent. After all, we don’t want to appear to undermine our man.

But just a few years ago we would have called these things out. We would have said, “This is disgraceful behavior, unfitting for a president.” Or, “Lying never helps anything.” Or, “With all respect, we differ with this policy.”

Instead, today, we feel morally obligated to defend his every decision and word. But why? It’s one thing when he’s lied about. By all means, if you have the opportunity, set the record straight. It’s one thing when he’s the subject of witch hunts designed to take him down. Call them out for what they are.

But it’s another thing when we seem to show more loyalty to the president than to the Lord. When we seem to be more jealous for Trump’s reputation than for the reputation of Jesus. When we are more sensitive to criticism of the Commander in Chief than to criticism of the Lord of Hosts.

My friends, this ought not to be. Our Christian witness and our moral integrity must come first. And that means that we say, “Yes, I voted for President Trump and plan to do so again, but I take issue with some of his words and actions and

decisions and have no problem saying that.”

Really now, since when did any elected official deserve our total and unswerving loyalty at each and every point?

Earlier this week, with the impeachment hearings beginning, I tweeted: “If you’re a Christian, I urge you not to define yourself as being pro-Trump or anti-Trump. Define yourself as being a follower of Jesus who is pro-truth, pro-justice, pro-life, pro-good. Then, live and speak and vote accordingly.”

Let that be how the world knows us: As devoted followers of Jesus. And yes, we voted for Trump.

And don’t let the watching (and often hostile) world determine the narrative. Don’t let people judge you by whether or not you voted for Trump. Be judged for your life testimony and work.

And there’s one more reason you don’t have to take it on yourself to be the president’s Defender in Chief. He’s more than capable of defending himself.

How You Can Find the Perfect Fit for Your Soul

“C’mon, girlfriend, we’re going to the mall.”

“Whoo hoo!” I hung up the phone with a huge smile. Any chance to hit stores and come home with bargains stirred girlish excitement. Since I lost my eyesight, these trips gave me a chance to get out, catch up, laugh and come home with crazy stories.

Anticipating a great time, my friend took me by the arm, and

we strolled through crowded store aisles, headed to the petite department.

"I see a perfect outfit for you," she said, "and I think it's on sale!" Our steps quickened.

Once in the dressing room, she handed me the fitted top. "The colors are perfect. They'll look great on you."

I slipped my arms through. "Hmm ... a little tight." I tried to poke my head through, but got stuck midway. "I think I need a bigger size," I muttered.

"No way. It's your size," she said. She tugged first on one side, then the other.

The top wouldn't budge, on or off. My arms pressed against my ears, and my words of panic muffled by the blouse that smashed my face.

"No pain," she said as she yanked with all her might, "no gain."

My head poked through, jack-in-the-box style, and while catching my breath, I stared into space.

My arms hung limp at my sides, and my mind imagined this garment, never to come off again.

Moments later, my friend gasped as she ran her fingers to one side. "Oh, I can't believe it ..."

"What?"

"It has a zipper."

A zipper? She's got to be kidding.

"Sorry. I just didn't see it."

Another Crazy Story

But this one mirrored a difficult dilemma in my own life. I battled, trying to decide whether I fit into the world's pattern or fit into the mold tailored by God.

Initially, thinking it'd be a perfect match, I carefully chose goals, dreams and expectations in line with the world's standards. But when adversity swept through, the struggle began. I tugged, yanked and pulled on various styles to find a way out of difficult situations. I wore myself out trying to make my own solutions fit my problems.

I even battled with the correct order of priorities. In my role as a wife, mom, friend or church member, I desired to please everyone. Often anxiety visited reminding me of my inability to please even myself.

But did I change? No. I stubbornly continued to use my values, beliefs and choices to overcome and find satisfaction.

But when the effects of losing my sight crushed my world, it became real, painfully real, that my own ways to solve my problems were not sufficient. My solutions were not a match for a tragedy of this magnitude. Nothing I tried brought comfort, reassurance, encouragement or hope.

And empty of hope, I began shopping for a dose of comfort—through fortune tellers, psychics, New Age healers and more. They successfully increased my frustration and decreased the balance of my checking account.

My whole life was off-balance. And when almost ready to tumble in defeat, I found the zipper—the opening. It was the entrance designed in my heart for Jesus to come in.

Freedom

When He did, He provided freedom from the world's deceptions.

Once I received Him into my life, I made Him my Lord, my God, my all.

His faithfulness, compassion and guidance offered a perfect garment for my soul. The price tag read, "Free."

This incredible gift, complete with the jewels of His trustworthy promises, adorns my renewed life.

A new beginning, leaving behind unnecessary struggles when facing difficulties. A newfound reassurance, knowing He created me and thus knows what will fit my soul. He knows the size of my needs, the color of my pain, the fabric of my fears and the fashion of my insecurities.

Christ knows yours, too. Trusting in the pattern He custom-designed for you, surrender happens. Fear, anxiety and doubt no longer fit a new life in Christ.

All becomes new. Redirection begins. No more desperation to be free from setbacks big or small. Christ is the one who gives eyes to see a new world—one of renewed hope, confidence and peace.

And it's that profound peace that filters through when God turns blindness or any other setback to joy. And with a new outlook, we can hold on to His healing Word as it dances in our soul. "I will rejoice greatly in the Lord, my soul will exult in my God; for He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland" (Isa. 61:10, NIV).

Let's Pray

Father, thank You for giving me the spiritual garment I can wear as I live the life, abundant and rich, You promised. In Jesus' name, amen.

God has the perfect garment for your soul. Will you try it on?
{eoa}

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This article originally appeared at .

Marilyn Hickey: God's Name and Power of the Cross Manifest to Heal, Cast Out Demons

God's healing power, says author and evangelist Marilyn Hickey, includes physical and emotional healing as well as the power to cast out demons. When she visited Russia just after the Iron Curtain fell, she says, some students from Oral Roberts University met her at the plane and said, "Would you come with us to pray for this girl? She's demon-possessed."

The young woman was practicing witchcraft, Hickey says on "The Marilyn and Sarah Show" on the Charisma Podcast Network. "17 years old, and these demons would bite her and cut her skin though she couldn't see them. ... And these voices would say to her, 'We're going to kill you.' So we went ... and we got these students, and we cast those demons out of her and led her to Christ.

"I went back eight months later; she met me at the airport.

She said, 'I'm Natasha ... and I love Jesus.' And she won all of her family [to Christ], and all of her family knew that."

One of the ways we access this kind of healing power, Hickey says, "is through the names of God, because He reveals who He is all through the Old Testament. ... This is profitable, because it's Jehovah revealing Himself, and whatever your need may be: Jehovah Shalom, Jehovah Jireh—it's just exciting.

"Your thinking can be sick. You can have a broken heart. You can be physically sick. You can have generational weaknesses from your parents, grandparents, whatever," Marilyn adds. "But whatever the condition, He heals. He is the Lord Jehovah Rophe ... He doesn't just tell you that, He heals you. ...From Genesis to Revelation, there are wonderful demonstrations, manifestations of healing."

Marilyn shares the powerful story of when God first revealed Himself as Jehovah Rophe in Exodus 15. "The Israelites are going through the wilderness, and it's a hard time for them. ... So they come to this water ... But when they get down to taste the water, it is bitter. There's something bad, probably poisonous water. And so Moses prays. Instead of murmuring, Moses prays, and God gives him a revelation. ... And God says to him, 'Cut this tree and throw the branch in the water, and it will heal the water.'

"So what did [Moses] do? He cut the tree, threw it into the water, and the water was made sweet, and he calls the Lord: 'You have revealed Yourself to me as a healer. You can heal.'"

Hickey says one of her favorite parts of this story is the way Moses listened to God. "And when He cut the tree down, I believe that represents the cross. And it says Jesus Himself took our infirmities and our diseases, and 'by His stripes, we are healed.' This happened on the cross. So the cross is wood. And when we take the provision of the cross into our needs, there is healing power."

To hear more stories of Jehovah Rophe's healing power, listen to this podcast. {eoa}

For more miraculous stories of God as healer, check out the Charisma e-book, Power to Heal, available for just \$ at this link.

Don't Listen to This Damaging Lie

You were made on purpose, for purpose and with purpose! What an extraordinary—but sadly, often disbelieved—truth! May I make that statement again so that you can allow the power of the words to sink deeply into your purpose-parched soul?

You were made on purpose ... for purpose ... and with purpose!

You must not allow any person or situation to convince you of anything to the contrary. Your circumstances may endeavor to persuade you that you will never walk in your life's destiny. Don't believe them.

Your culture may attempt to strip you of your God-ordained purpose. You must defiantly believe His Word and lay bare the lies of the culture. Your feelings will undoubtedly shout at you, endeavor to manipulate you and then cause you to minimize the purpose that is eternally yours. Remind yourself daily that your feelings are not the author of all truth. God is.

Even well-meaning people may try to convince you that your purpose is less than what you were created to fulfill. You must learn whose advice to listen to attentively and whose to

resolutely ignore at every juncture in life.

Allow me to affirm this truth one more time: You were made on purpose, for purpose and with purpose. Your life matters to the plans of God at your moment in history. You are the only person just like you whom God has ever created in all of eternity past or will create in all of eternity future.

There has never been anyone like you in all of recorded history. There is no one else like you today, and there will never be anyone like you in all of the ages to come. No one else has exactly your genetic makeup, your fingerprints or the number of hairs on your head. How astounding!

It only takes one sentence to explain definitively why your existence on planet Earth in the first part of the 21st century is so important to the plans of God and to eternity. It is not necessary for you to consult the insights of philosophers or the theories of psychologists in order to comprehend your purpose. You can understand your overall assignment with this simple but profound truth: You are here to reveal the story of Jesus!

Dear friend, you are here so that Jesus can be present in the flesh through you.

If you don't reveal Jesus to other people through the power of His Spirit, who will?

If you don't tell the story of Jesus with your life, who will?

If you don't love difficult people as He has loved you, who will do the difficult loving?

If you are not good, as He is always good, who will be good?

If you are not kind, as He is unspeakably kind, who will be kind?

Your life, dear friend, will only be as significant as your

choice to lay down your life and tell the story of Jesus. The overriding, driving purpose of your life is to reveal Jesus to others!

I can assure you that you will never be distracted by comparing yourself to other people if you are captivated by your purpose. No one can reveal the story of Jesus like you can! {eoa}

Carol McLeod is an author and popular speaker at women's conferences and retreats, where she teaches the Word of God with great joy and enthusiasm. Carol encourages and empowers women with passionate and practical biblical messages mixed with her own special brand of hope and humor. She has written five books: *No More Ordinary*, *Holy Estrogen!*, *The Rooms of a Woman's Heart*, *Defiant Joy!* and *Refined: Finding Joy in the Midst of the Fire*. Her teaching DVD *The Rooms of a Woman's Heart* won the Telly Award, a prestigious industry award for excellence in religious programming.

Are Demonic Spirits Influencing the Trump Impeachment Process?

Wherever you turn, it seems people are talking about the impeachment against Donald Trump. Clearly, political motives are driving the hearings, but are there also spiritual factors involved? Cultural commentator Michael Brown says yes.

I invited Brown onto my “Strang Report” podcast to offer his insight into these impeachment hearings. He says the fury of the left and its drive to take down Trump go way beyond mere passion.

“When you look at the women who were literally scratching the doors of the Supreme Court building and pounding the doors, it was like someone having a tantrum when they couldn’t get their way,” Brown says. “It’s one thing to feel passionate about an issue. It’s another thing to behave in that way. ...

“We have to recognize we’re in an intense spiritual battle. We’ve always been in a spiritual battle since the fall of man; we understand that. But for decades now, there has been a real push to destroy the very fabric of our culture to uproot any Christian heritage and roots that we have.”

Democrats have been talking about impeachment for a long time now, but they didn’t seem to have enough evidence against the president to impeach someone they already didn’t like. For this reason and more, Brown calls this entire impeachment process “suspect.”

“It’s almost like the parents are telling you, ‘You’re going to be grounded for four months’ when you haven’t done anything. And then the moment you do it’s like, ‘See, I told you you’re going to be grounded.’ So the whole thing seemed suspect from the start. And does anyone really think that the president committed offenses that are so serious he should be removed from office?”

So if this is all just a ploy to remove the president from office simply because people don’t like him and not because of a criminal offense, then what are we to think of it? Whether we like the leaders elected into authority over us or not, we are called to pray for them. (Read 1 Tim. 2:1-2 for Paul’s thoughts on the matter.) But from protection of illegal aliens to same-sex marriage to abortion, Trump has exposed the

dangerous radicalism of the left—and that’s made Democrats angry at him since before the first day of his presidency.

“What I don’t understand is if we’re talking about essentially removing the president of the United States for an impeachable offense, and the one launching the charge can hide behind anonymity,” Brown says. “What in the world are we thinking and what universe are people living, that they think we can talk about the direction and fate of the United States of America based on anonymous sources?”

Just as with the Brett Kavanaugh case, it appears Democrats are throwing every unfounded, unkind and unjustifiable charge against Trump. Brown believes this strategy will backfire on the left, causing the liberal party to self-destruct.

Will you join with me in fervent prayer for our country? We are in a spiritual battle for the soul of our nation, and there’s no better time to intercede than right now. Share this article, and be sure to listen to my full interview with Brown about the current impeachment hearings!

Clear Signs You’re Dealing With a False Prophet

Note: This is Part 2 of a two-part series. Be sure to read Part 1 by clicking [here](#)!

God’s Purpose

What purpose did these events have for Israel?

—It reminded them of God’s exclusive claim upon them. He demanded that they worship and revere Him to the exclusion of

all other gods.

–No mere replica of one of God’s creations could ever reveal the totality of God and thus become worthy of worship.

–Further, God used this occasion to teach them the danger(s) of following ungodly leaders, false prophets, who will lead them astray from His commands into sin.

What Correlation Do These Incidents Have Upon You and Me?

At first glance, you may doubt that any correlation exists between then and now. Our “enlightened” times entice us to think that we surpass those days. Today’s technological and educational advances have transformed our world in significant ways beyond the days of Aaron.

However, we share similar dangers from the rise of ungodly leaders. In fact, with few exceptions, false prophets inhabit every Christian congregation. They fool the unwary and gain leadership positions even as pastors in assemblies of believers by deceit, prestige and promises.

How do you decide which Christian leaders you will follow? How many false prophets in the church of Jesus Christ can you identify? None? One? Several?

False Prophets Dread Man

Like Aaron, they fear mankind and adopt practices to relieve that fear. Fear of man appears in different forms:

–**A physical fear**, where we fear for our very lives. We dread that some kind of physical harm could come to us, perhaps even death. That is a very real kind of fear. Perhaps Aaron felt this kind of fear.

–**An emotional, psychological fear**, prevalent in the body of Christ today. It reveals itself in this fashion. Our leaders today, like false prophets, display a fear of man that causes

them to give in to mankind's demands because they do not want to lose friendships or families from the congregation. They want a crowd, so they will yield whenever they need to yield in order to encourage people to stay and visitors to come.

—A conformity to culture. Too often Christian congregations yield to the siren call of culture out of fear. In a misguided belief, ungodly leaders adopt the fallacy that to win unbelievers to Christ requires compliance with the culture. These influencers fear culture's influence upon people and modify the gospel to suit the world's impact.

The Scriptures remind us:

"The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever puts his trust in the Lord will be safe" (see Prov. 29:25).

False prophets display a fear of man that affects their leadership and leads them into ungodly ways. The dread of man has reared its ugly head. That describes a very real, common experience in the church of Jesus Christ today.

Like Aaron, False Prophets Doubt God

The Scriptures tell us frequently that when we rest upon the arm of the flesh we sin against God, doubting Him. God reminded His children of this truth in Isaiah 31.

"Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help" (Isa. 31:1).

In Scripture, Egypt always pictures the world and the flesh. "Don't go down to Egypt for help," He said. "They have horses, yes. They have manpower, yes." However, God in essence said, "I am your defender. I am your protector. I am your provider. Trust me."

Trust in God demands that we seek Him. Perhaps you, like many people today, emulate the church and false prophets that pay lip service to seeking after God. We start all of our services and meetings with prayer. After all, this is a church

function, and we should pray.

Therefore, we give God His due, almost like a pledge of allegiance to the flag. We will say our one or two minutes of prayer, which describes lip service. God told His people to seek Him with all their hearts:

“You shall seek Me and find Me, when you shall search for Me with all your heart” (Jer. 29:13).

To trust God and to find His presence and plans, we must seek Him with all of our hearts. God does not reveal Himself to the flippant. He reveals Himself to the sincere in heart, those who come to Him seeking Him with all of their hearts.

False prophets reveal their unbelief when they fail to take time to seek God for themselves and on behalf of those whom they lead.

False Prophets Depend Upon the World's Methods

Aaron's solution to the demands of Israel followed the world's pattern. Come up with an exciting plan, convince the people to accept it, then they will give to make it happen. It worked, but God was not in it.

Like Aaron, false prophets trust the world's methods when they emphasize worldly schemes in place of godly measures. They develop their plans according to the world's patterns. They leave God out of the picture, and that describes Aaron's sin.

Thus, they lead Christ's followers to trust the ways and means of the world. They think that if it works in the world, it will work for the church. As a result, we follow these false prophets and adopt the world's practices.

Then, we ask God to bless our efforts, and attempt to give God the glory. When it works, we attempt to give God glory for our success. But at no point do we truly trust God and seek His will and purpose. As a result, God did not/does not bless

methods that He did not/does not order.

False prophets stress the world's methods without seeking God's plan(s) and purpose(s).

False Prophets Depart From Truth Into False Doctrine

Aaron erred when he taught Israel that the golden calf depicted the god that brought them out of Egypt. His delusion led them astray into sin and God's judgment.

False prophets today follow the same pattern. It often begins when they water down the truth so that they might appeal to the crowd. They fear that if they stand for the truth, they will offend people. Then, people will leave, because they dislike the preacher and his messages. They will not respond to him.

This fear causes false prophets to set aside the truth. Instead, they cater to mankind because of fear, and they want to satisfy the crowd instead of God.

Today, many church leaders display this clear sign of an ungodly, false prophet. They fail to adhere to God's truth, giving way to popular but unbiblical, false doctrines.

Like Aaron, False Prophets Displace the Truth for the Sake of Peace.

Today, false prophets lead Christians into false doctrines in the same fashion as Aaron did. They push for peace at any price, even if it means sacrificing the truth. Many leaders push for unity and want it so badly that they set aside truth to get it. We do not want contention and strife.

Therefore, we set aside the truth to avoid controversy and contention. However, neither unity nor peace occurs. It is merely a cessation of strife. When you set aside the truth, you lose the basis for unity and true peace, which rests upon the truth.

Righteous ends do not sanctify nor make holy ungodly means to attain them. Scripture shows that Jesus did not make peace at any price. In fact, He often brought division among people by inserting the truth.

Jesus said, "I did not come to bring peace, but a sword" (Matt. 10:34).

The Lord Jesus demands the truth. Granted, the search for the truth and insistence upon it might bring temporary discomfort. However, God's truth ultimately brings freedom, peace and unity based and founded upon the truth, not a false foundation of peace at any price.

The Scriptures confirm this certainty. The Lord Jesus warned His disciples about the leaven of the Pharisees, the false prophets of His day, talking about their false doctrine. He said, "beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees" (Matt. 16:6).

The false doctrines of the Pharisees infected the whole culture of Christ's day. He did not cater to it. Instead, He declared the truth, even when it meant that the crowds left Him (John 6:66).

False prophets disregard doctrinal truth and replace it with popular but unbiblical commentary that they vainly believe will promote peace. {eo}

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How Recent Sex Scandals Reveal the Church's Major Problem With Unchecked Sin

Recent news that popular Christian comedian John Crist has been accused of—and admitted to—sexual harassment put the spotlight once again on sexual sin within the church.

This would not, of course, be the first time a prominent Christian figure has fallen from grace because of a moral failure. With the advent of the #MeToo movement, more stories of sexual abuse and harassment and even rape within the church have come to light. It should break our hearts that the body of Christ has failed to protect the most vulnerable among us and, at times, has even been complicit in covering up for abusers.

The good news is that these revelations, as painful as they are, have prompted churches and denominations to do more to protect people in their community who may fall prey to an abuser. Some churches are implementing measures such as background checks for volunteers and installing security cameras. Denominations also are setting up committees and encouraging member churches to treat any instance of sexual abuse as a crime and report it to the authorities instead of dealing with it internally.

Yet there remains the issue that these measures are largely reactionary, not preventative. Because how do you hedge against a sin that originates in the human heart? As the New Testament's letter of James reads,

Let no man say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God," for

God cannot be tempted with evil; neither does He tempt anyone. But each man is tempted when he is drawn away by his own lust and enticed. Then, when lust has conceived, it brings forth sin; and when sin is finished, it brings forth death (James 1:13-15).

Is there a better approach churches can take to dealing with sexual sin? James gives us the answer a few chapters later: "Therefore confess your faults to one another and pray for one another" (James 5:16a).

Now, many of us who come from the Protestant tradition have a troubled history with the idea of confessing our sins to another person. After all, the Protestant Reformation was ignited because of the Roman Catholic Church's abuse of sacraments such as the confessional to exert power over the masses.

The Reformers rejected the idea that followers of Jesus needed a human mediator to receive forgiveness or commune with God. They believed, as we do to this day, that Jesus' sacrifice was all-sufficient and, as the book of Hebrews teaches, he is our permanent intercessor before God. At the time, removing the requirement of regularly confessing one's sin to a church official liberated the masses who for so long did not have direct access to God or Scripture.

However, by doing away with the confessional, Protestant and evangelical Christianity lost a deeply sacramental act of obedience. As noted above, the New Testament does enjoin Christians to confess their sins to one another—not so that we can receive forgiveness for our sins, but so we can enjoy spiritual accountability to God and one another.

As long as we are on this earth, followers of Jesus will have to contend with the reality of sin. As Paul writes in his letter to the Romans:

“For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwells no good thing, for the will to do what is right is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. For the good I desire to do, I do not do, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who does it, but sin that lives in me” (Rom. 7:18-20).

We know that even the best among us, though made righteous before God through faith, are still sinners on any given day and need to learn the discipline of daily confession before God. There is no substitute for the humility that comes when we regularly acknowledge we are sinners and in need of God’s generous mercy. It prevents us from having a self-righteous attitude, which has damaged the witness of many modern churches.

The Protestant church could gain much from developing a culture and discipline of confessing our sins to one another. Imagine a church where everyone, including the senior pastor, was required to have a person to whom they confessed. For one, it would help avoid some of the major crises in the failures of leadership.

One option would be for congregations and denominations to create teams of ministers who are trained confessors in the church—again, not to forgive sins but to help people deal with their own sinfulness. These men and women could be sworn into confidentiality the same way psychiatrists, professional counselors and lawyers are bound by oath and law.

The confessor’s role would not be to simply hear confessions in privacy, but to counsel and exhort when a serious sin pattern is developing. This should all happen within the context of love, prayer and careful self-examination, which is the model Paul sets in his letter to the Galatians:

“Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But

watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ" (Gal. 6:1-2, NIV).

We cannot continue believing that there is such a thing as personal sin that affects no one else but us. All sin has a public dimension, and it impacts those around us, including our family, leadership team and congregation.

The consequences of unchecked sin in a Christian leader can be devastating. The victims of sexual abuse within the church suffer not only physical and emotional trauma but also spiritual trauma, which could lead some to leave the faith. This kind of moral failure also damages the church's ability to witness to a watching world, particularly to young people who are already questioning the faith.

The church needs to demonstrate it is a place where sinners, not the self-righteous or morally perfect, can come and experience the grace of God and his salvation, and yet be a place where, no matter where we are in our walk with Jesus, we are all working out our salvation. {eo}

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God Still Heals Cancer Today—And Here's Proof

God still heals, and yesterday morning, I received this wonderful testimony from Paul and Jane in Europe that shows God still heals. And in this case, God heals lung cancer.

Dear Becky, I'm Paul from Europe. I wrote to you this year . and . about my wife, Jane's, illness. She had lung cancer. Your prayers, Becky, have been answered! Jane is healed. Doctors gave her a biological treatment. During the treatment she had special examinations of the whole body in June and again in October. The cancer is gone! Doctors will investigate it again in February 2020. My wife, Jane, and I thank Jesus Christ every day for healing. Your prayers for my wife and reading the prayers on your website gave my wife strength. Thank you very much. Thank you very much for your prayers and your ministry. Paul and Jane from Europe.

Perhaps you have received a hopeless report from your doctor. What should you do?

1. First of all, choose life. God's Word tells us in Deuteronomy 30:19-20 (AMP), "I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse; therefore, you shall choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the Lord your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding closely to Him; for He is your life [your good life, your abundant life, your fulfillment] and the length of your days, that you may live in the land which the Lord promised (swore) to give to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

2. Trust God. Proverbs 3:5-6 explains to us how we are to trust, and what God will do for us when we put our trust in

Him. "Trust in and rely confidently on the Lord with all your heart and do not rely on your own insight or understanding. In all your ways know and acknowledge and recognize Him, and He will make your paths straight and smooth [removing obstacles that block your way]." And again in Mark 9:23b, Jesus says, "[You say to Me,] 'If You can?' All things are possible for the one who believes and trusts [in Me]!"

3. Renounce the spirit of death, and the disease. We discover that we have power in our words in Proverbs 18:21: "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it and indulge it will eat its fruit and bear the consequences of their words."

4. Speak life. Even if the report is filled with death and gloom, speak life! Romans 4:17 (KJV) instructs us this way: "(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were."

5. And finally, act out your faith-filled words. James 2:18 (NKJV) explains the importance of putting action behind your words: "But someone will say, 'You have faith, and I have works.' Show me your faith without your works, and I will show you my faith by my works." {eo}

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This article originally appeared at .

For more about God's healing power over cancer, check out the Charisma e-book Spiritual Strength Through the Valley of Cancer, available here for just \$.

How Spirit-Led Christians Can Pray Right Now for the Impeachment Process

As the formal impeachment inquiry continues in the House of Representatives, My Faith Votes has released this simple guide to explain the impeachment process. The guide also helps Christians know how to pray during the proceedings with specific prayer points.

“It’s tempting to ignore the impeachment hearings and chalk them up to partisan politics,” says Jason Yates, CEO of My Faith Votes, “but Christians need to be informed and engaged.”

“Most importantly,” he says, “Christians need to pray.”

My Faith Votes calls Christians in America to specifically pray for each person on the House Intelligence Committee, the committee handling the impeachment inquiry, as well as the other committees participating in the inquiry.

Yates encourages Christians to pray every leader involved would “operate in good-faith bipartisanship, seek only the truth and display fairness and integrity.”

Access the guide [here](#).