

Larry Tomczak's Week in Review: Prayer and Repentance in Washington, DC

It's been said, "The darkest hour precedes the greatest revival!"

America has hit a tipping point. That is why over 1,000 national faith leaders, U.S. Senators, House members, plus global representatives came to the National Museum of the Bible to humbly repent and do what God calls for to turn our nation back to God.

Individuals publicly confessed their involvement in abortion; corruption; idolatry; homosexuality; lesbianism; gay "marriage"; bisexuality; transgender mutilation; abandonment of men, women and children in Afghanistan; open borders and drug trafficking that has killed hundreds of thousands.

Take 10 to learn of the humbling and spirit of repentance so critical in this hour and how you can witness the entire event at {eoa}

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Top of the Week: A Pastor's Plea After Church Is Scammed

Following are snippets of the top stories posted over the past week on c. We encourage you to visit the links to read the stories in full.

A Pastor's Plea After Church Is Scammed

A church in North Carolina is reeling after an email scam stole nearly \$800,000 while building a new sanctuary.

As reported by the Elkin Tribune, "The church, founded in 1884, had long outgrown the building on North Elkin Drive constructed in 1954 and had been holding services in its family life center since 2016. In September of last year, the church broke ground on a new facility after raising funds for the project for seven years."

In November of 2022, the Elkin Valley Baptist Church received their bill for the previous month of work from the builders of the new sanctuary.

'Give Me Jesus Right Now!' Revivals Breaking Out in Bakersfield

In a world filled with sin lurking around every corner of society, one can miss the signs of light shining bright against the darkness.

This very thing is happening in Bakersfield, California, with evangelist Mario Murillo inviting the presence of the Lord to change the heart of the city.

His ministry has been reaping the fruits of their labor in a spiritually starved part of the country, and lives are being changed because of it.

Kari Lake Shares Details of How She Encountered the Holy Spirit

Kari Lake, the rising conservative superstar who plans to take the evidence of election fraud in Arizona all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court to reveal the truth, shared her testimony on Steve Bannon's program "War Room" on the Real America Voice TV channel last week. Unabashedly, she revealed her encounter with the Holy Spirit.

“A few years ago, I found an evangelical church that changed my life,” says Lake, who grew up with a Catholic mother and a Lutheran father. “I walked in and felt the Holy Spirit and, for the first time really, a real connection with Jesus.”

This spiritual encounter happened a couple of years before Lake announced that she would run for governor of Arizona. Since her jumping from local TV news into politics in mid-2021, Lake has been distinctly known for her boldness, courage and a fierce, uncompromising commitment to the truth, integrity and Judeo-Christian values.

Satanic Worship Headlines Grammys

Surrounded by dancers with long black hair cloaked in red robes, English singer Sam Smith was center stage at the Grammys glorifying satanic rituals in a skin tight leather outfit as he sang “Unholy.”

Smith identifies as non-binary. His performance at the Grammys which streamed to millions around the world was a clear symbol of the vociferous spiritual warfare happening in our culture today.

The first transgender singer to hit No. 1 charts, Kim Petras also joined Smith for the performance. Petras is a collaborator on the song and was seen trapped in a large cage surrounded by fire on the stage.


Discerning False Prophets and Delusions With Mario Murillo

My longtime friend Mario Murillo is providing a critical role in the body of Christ in speaking up against the wolves in sheep clothing. Matthew Henry said, “A traitor inside the camp is more dangerous than 1,000 persecutors outside the camp.”

Christians want to be nice. Christianity is all about love and the gifts of the Spirit, but there is a biblical reality in speaking the truth in love. There are clear warnings in the

Bible that there will be wolves in sheep's clothing hiding among us.

Sometimes it's a false prophet leading multitudes astray, other times it's an honorable man or woman of God who just got a prophetic word wrong. {eoa}

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Super Faith at the Super Bowl

As Super Bowl LVII approaches, members of the Philadelphia Eagles and Kansas City Chiefs tell CBN Sports that the faith that has guided them to this world stage is even more important than winning the big game.

The Chiefs are fighting for their second title in four seasons. For the Eagles, it's their second shot in six years. What happens on Sunday night will live on forever in the history books.

CBN Sports talked with a few players and coaches on both sides, and they say no matter who wins or what happens, it's all part of God's plan.

Players from the Chiefs and the Eagles recount God's faithfulness through adversity, which helps them enjoy the blessing of being in the Super Bowl even more.

Eagles Defensive Back K'Von Wallace, No. 42, told us, "My faith is everything. It's all about belief. That's where it starts, just having a faith, just having a belief. My struggle helped me find my belief, even when I was in high school. I

didn't play until my senior year, a lot of things that happened, I always just kept the faith. Man, I'm in the Super Bowl. I'm blessed."

Eagles Wide Receiver A.J. Brown, No. 11 and Defensive End Brandon Graham, No. 55, have both battled injuries in Philadelphia. However, they're choosing to put their trust in God.

Brown said, "I like to say it's not me out here. I get all my blessings and strength from the Man above. You know it's big in my life so whichever way He wants me to go, just hopefully I'm on the same page as Him, you know. And if I'm not, hopefully He will redirect my path."

Graham recalled, "When I got hurt, I definitely said a prayer. I told the Lord, man I know that this is a time that I can spend with my family. I took it one day at a time. I got stronger with my word and enjoyed serving. I'm so thankful. I'm still thanking Him now. You know every second I get I'm just mesmerized by the moment. You know? Thank You for this moment."

When it comes to the magnitude of this Super Bowl event, they say faith helps keep all of that in perspective.

✘ Eagles Linebacker Christian Elliss told CBN Sports, "I see it as a platform. Ten years from now, 20 years from now, my faith, that's what's going to remain the same. My relationship with God will remain the same. I want God's will to be done. I want God to be glorified. And that's just my biggest thing. Let God's will be done."

For the rest of this article, visit our content partners at .
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Distracted Much? How Our Crazy Culture Is Stealing Our Souls

No generation in history has had so many distractions to deal with. No generation in history has had so many temptations. No generation in history has had so much entertainment and defilement available right at our fingertips (quite literally). That means that it is much harder to live consecrated, undistracted lives for the Lord, lives that are free from the contamination of sin and the saturation of the world.

To say it bluntly, we are in the midst of a fierce war for our souls, yet many of us are living as if we were on vacation. We must wake up! The enemy of our souls is out for our souls. Make no mistake about it.

This is not to minimize the terrible suffering endured for the faith by our brothers and sisters in heavily persecuted countries. They are paying the ultimate price for their convictions, right until this day. But in this context, I'm simply speaking of the temptations of sin and the distractions of the world. We are facing these in unique and unprecedented ways, because of which many more are falling away from the Lord. This is a simple observation rather than rocket science.

So, in addition to the objections of the new atheists and the agnostic professors, in addition to the impact of LGBTQ-plus activism, in addition to the problem of suffering, in addition

to the many church scandals, in addition to the challenge of religious exclusivism, there is now one more great obstacle to our relationship with the Lord: lots and lots of opportunities to sin. Some things just never change.

There's an old saying that either sin will keep you from the Bible, or the Bible will keep you from sin. The same can be said about prayer. Either sin will keep you from prayer, or prayer will keep you from sin. In both cases, the more that sin is present, the more that devotion to God will be absent. It's a simple spiritual principle.

It's also true that distractions will keep us from maturing in the Lord. Jesus addressed this in the Parable of the Sower, which spoke about a man sowing seed on different types of ground. (The man in the parable represented Jesus, and the seed represented God's Word.) The seed that fell on thorny soil grew into a plant, but the thorns choked it, and so it could not come to maturity and bear fruit.

What did these thorns represent? As Jesus explained, they represented the cares of the world, the deceitfulness of riches, the pleasures of life and the desires for other things that enter in and choke the Word, and it proves unfruitful. (See Matt. 13:22, Mark 4:19, Luke 8:14). We live in a very thorny world!

That's why John wrote 1 John 2:15–17 (ESV): “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.” In our day, it has become increasingly difficult to keep our hearts free from the love of the world.

Think back to the days before we had cable TV, let alone

streaming services online. We had four or five channels to choose from, and some of them stopped broadcasting at midnight. And, for many years, our home TVs were black and white, often with poor reception. Before that, there was radio only, and before that, only books and table games and the like.

Contrast that way of life with today's way of life, when you can watch breaking news on your cell phone or view an endless number of movies or a multitude of live sporting events—almost wherever you are in the world, and right in the palm of your hands. And let's not forget the constant distraction of endless texts, messages, emails and social media posts. Our brains are becoming rewired for constant digital stimulation, to the point that it's becoming increasingly difficult to focus for long. This, too, is destructive to our spiritual life. It is so much easier to be shallow and scattered than to be deep and focused.

Devotion to the Lord requires discipline, and if we can't control our physical appetites, it's unlikely that we will master the other areas of our lives.

(Excerpted from my newest book, *Why So Many Christians Have Left the Faith: Responding to the Deconstructionist Movement with Unshakable Timeless Truth*. To read a free chapter, go to .)

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Dr. Michael Brown () *is the host of the nationally syndicated Line of Fire radio program. His latest book is "The Political Seduction of the Church: How Millions of American Christians Have Confused Politics with the Gospel." Connect with him on Facebook, Twitter or YouTube.*

Mike Bickle: The Certainty of Persecution

Mike Bickle and I have been friends for more than 35 years, and I've heard him preach some pretty stirring sermons during that time. In fact, Mike says he's preached about 7,000 sermons in his 50 years of ministry, but not many could be more important than the one he delivered in front of his church in Kansas City, Missouri, on New Year's Day.

It's about Christian persecution, but let me explain a little bit about that before I reveal what Mike said in his message.

Open Doors USA, which raises the level of awareness of Christian persecution and supports Christians in more than 70 countries, estimates that more than 360 million believers suffer persecution and discrimination globally. There are some countries, like North Korea and China, where the persecution is extreme.

But we who live in the West, especially here in the United States, have our Constitution and our Judeo-Christian values. We haven't seen the level of persecution believers face in many other countries.

But Mike says to make no mistake about it, it's headed our way, and it's going to be intense. The Bible guarantees it.

In his Jan. 1 sermon, Mike spoke about the "Certainty of Persecution and its Blessing."

"That Sunday morning, I got before the IHOPKC community and told them that this is a really important message," he says. "It's not my version that makes it the most important, it's

the fact that it's been talked about so little in the Western church. As a believer for the last 50 years, I haven't heard or talked much about it.

"But I believe persecution is coming to the West, and it's a very important subject for us to find out what the biblical narrative is," Bickle continues. "What does the Bible say about persecution, particularly in the generation that the Lord returns? We don't know that we're in that generation, but I have an opinion that there are people that live on the earth today—maybe the 20-year-olds, maybe the 2-year-olds, I don't know—but I believe we are in that hour where there are people that live on the earth today that will see it with their eyes."

Most people don't like to deal with this. It's not a happy topic. In Christian circles, there are people who have talked about the end times. Hal Lindsey's "The Late Great Planet Earth" came out about 50 years ago, and it was all about the rapture. There are a lot of different views on the subject.

The Great Tribulation is not something to joke about. We can't understand exactly what it is, but it has to do with the Antichrist, one-world government, the mark of the beast. These are examples of what will occur during the Tribulation, but Mike wants to help people understand how the coming persecution applies to them.

"I believe that this is one of the more important subjects for the body of Christ in the West to start talking about," he says. "It needs to get into the conversation of the church.

"When you read the words of Jesus ... and this is a verse that really struck me some time ago ... but in Matthew 24:9, he said 'Then, all nations will hate you,'" Bickle says. "I never really have focused on that word at all. If you read Matthew 24 verses five, six, seven and eight, Jesus called it the beginning of birth pangs and then, 'all nations will hate

you.’ That time frame hasn’t happened yet. That’s the future, and America is in that cluster. ... There is coming a time where all people that are true to the words of Jesus, really loyal to what He said, will suffer.

“Jesus said there are a lot of truths that are really popular about free forgiveness, that’s pretty neat,” he adds. Resurrection? Cool. But He also has a number of truths that are unpopular, and mostly we don’t talk much about those. I believe before the Lord returns, the Spirit is going to be zealous that we give the whole counsel of God. ... I think that all nations will hate those that are faithful to the whole message, which is yet future. But it’s inevitable, and it’s coming and will involve the church in the West.”

Yet Mike says Christians should not fear the coming persecution and that it will yield actual benefits to the church.

That’s a concept many believers can’t wrap their heads around, but Mike uses Scripture to back it up.

There’s 1 Peter 4:1, which says, “Arm yourself to suffer persecution.” Mike says we must arm ourselves, which means knowing the biblical narrative. And, Mike says:

“Jesus was teaching on persecution, and in John 15, he said, “Do not marvel when you are hated,” Mike says. “He was telling the church in His generation, don’t marvel, meaning don’t be shocked or surprised when you are hated. Understand that hatred is inevitable. Right now, we marvel when we’re hated. I want a generation of young people that know the biblical narrative. Their hearts will be set and prepared.

☒ “They’ve determined certain responses they are going to have and how they will be faithful,” he explains. “Those conversations with the Lord and the grace of God that touches our heart is critical. ... If you are shocked and surprised when people hate you for standing for Christ, you

are far more vulnerable and will be offended at God, and even will be fearful enough to retreat from your faith.”

Indeed, it’s an important message to hear, and you can watch that message here. Please make sure you also listen to my “Strang Report” podcast with Mike on the Charisma Podcast Network.

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Spiritual Warfare in Your Marriage

Are you investing in your marriage? Marriage is a gift from the Lord and should be cultivated and stewarded well by both the husband and the wife. Part of honoring your marriage is continuing to grow and learn new things to help you succeed in your life together.

Charisma magazine sat down with Mike and Cindy Jacobs to talk about the difficulties many people face in marriage and how they have overcome obstacles. The Jacobses are celebrating 50 years of marriage this year and credit continuing to learn and grow together along the way as a major source of their strong relationship.

God designed marriage to provide a companion for you as well as a picture of our relationship with Him. Tune in to the interview with Mike and Cindy Jacobs to learn practical and spiritual tips that will keep your marriage healthy, long-lasting and filled with Jesus.

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