

Why Hyper-Spiritual People Often Fall Short of God's Call for Their Lives

The hyper-spiritual too often wait for God to do what he's not going to do.

At first glance, those who know me might raise an eyebrow at the title of this article. Many might consider me to be hyper-spiritual myself. Most wouldn't use the term in a derogatory manner, but they would argue that my life has been marked by a clear supernatural focus. They would be right.

I've been awed throughout my life and ministry by the way God has performed stunning and miraculous works. I mean, I'm floored every time I think about any of the numerous times God moved outside of my natural grid.

Further, I've written on the prophetic, have led prayer movements that are fueled by tongues and fire and unapologetically call those who are naturally minded on the carpet. The call to live, move, walk, pray and function night and day in the Spirit is non-negotiable. Further, it's there that the Christian life begins to make sense—and produce joy, freedom and a load of fun!

So, no, I am absolutely not calling anybody to pull back from living in that spiritual realm. What I am doing, however, is highlighting an error that causes many people to be spiritually minded to the exclusion of understanding God-given abilities and opportunities that exist in the natural realm. They are hyper-spiritual instead of appropriately spiritual. They are hesitant instead of proactive. They spiritualize their timidity.

Natural Man Possesses Amazing Abilities

Then they said, "Come, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top will reach to heaven, and let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth."

But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower that the sons of men built. The Lord said, "The people are one and they have one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do; now nothing that they propose to do will be impossible for them (Gen. 11:4-6)."

God gifted every human, Christian or not, with abilities that are profound. Of course, everybody's gifts, talents and abilities are different, but the truth remains, even outside of a life devoted to Jesus, mankind can do remarkable things.

Consider man's ability to build the Great Pyramid of Giza. Even today's most brilliant minds are astonished by that ancient architectural accomplishment. Think about the Hoover Dam, the Great Wall of China, the Superdome in New Orleans, the world's tallest buildings and other marvels. The engineering required to build such impressive structures is mind blowing.

Think about life-changing inventions, medical advances, air and space travel and even military weaponry. Not only did all of these come about outside of a hyper-spiritual life, most of them were accomplished by unbelievers who had no spiritual focus whatsoever. Mere humans produced wonders.

Men were building the Tower of Babel, and God knew they had the ability to do so, which is why He stepped in and stopped their progress. If unbelievers and even evil people can accomplish so much, why do so many Christians overspiritualize decisions they make and presume that floating on some supernatural cloud will result in progress? It sounds so spiritual to say, "I'm waiting for God to open a door," or "God hasn't spoken to me about that yet."

I've met innumerable people who fit this description. They love to soak in God's presence (as we all should!), but without any forward, natural momentum as a result. The extent of their forward movement is a stream of semi-prophetic words they share in church, on Facebook or to anybody who will listen. They love to talk about their supernatural revelations (or imaginations), but, when it comes to actually doing something, they retreat back into their mystical, nebulous existence. They prefer to adopt the appearance of the monk on the mountain instead of the person with the shovel in their hands. They think they present themselves as spiritually wise and mature, but in reality, they are spiritually stunted accomplishing little in the spirit or in the natural.

We should certainly develop a life of intimacy with Jesus. We should have a prayer closet where we encounter God in supernatural ways. We should be prophetic and on fire for Jesus. We should also move out and produce.

You Have to Get Out and Move!

The Bible tells us that the steps of a righteous man are ordered by the Lord. We can have great confidence that God will be with us when we advance.

Too often we are gazing into the clouds waiting for signs that we are to make a decision or to move out. Stop gazing and move. Stop waiting for God to do something. He's already enabled you to do so much.

Write your book—this year! Start a business! Tell people about Jesus! Start a ministry! Go to a school! Learn a trade! Get another job! Do what is burning in your heart to do! Is there a place for seeking out wise counsel before making big decisions? Yes, there is. But, be sure the counsel is wise and not coming from someone as overly cautious as you've been.

My wife and I have enjoyed a remarkable life of advance, often because we just jumped out of the boat and went for it.

The Story of Starting Our Latest Business

Understand, I'm not talking about moving carnally. I'm not talking about ignoring God's leading. I'm not talking about living outside of God's grace. I'm talking about acknowledging that God has very powerfully affirmed and enabled us and we have many permissions, resources and abilities to do things that don't require the planets to align or a visiting prophetic minister to read our mail.

I've met so many aspiring authors who tell me they have a book in them and have been waiting years and decades for the right time to write it. What? This is nonsense! Write the book in the next three months and move on to the next project. Is there a time to wait? Of course, but today's hyper-spiritual Christian presumes a tentative life is a spiritual life. They stop until God says go instead of going until God says stop!

After years of full time ministry as church planters and pastors, my wife and I moved to Branson, Missouri. While I'd continue writing and traveling to speak at churches and conferences, we knew we'd need to develop additional sources of income. Additionally, we were excited about the opportunity to start something new. We knew God would be with us as we stepped out. He'd order our steps.

On a trip to Tulsa to visit Oral Roberts University with my son Skylar, who was considering where to attend college (he ultimately decided on Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee) we had some down time. We jumped online looking for things to do and noticed something called an escape room. I had heard of them, but wasn't exactly sure that they were. We decided to go. We played two games and were hooked. In the car afterward, my wife said, "We can do this." She was right.

Since we had developed a life of living, praying and moving in the Spirit, we knew God would redirect us if this wasn't his will. We'd go unless God said stop. The other option would be

to wait until God confirms it is his will. I'll tell you, that is usually not the right decision. Be so intimately connected to Jesus in his supernatural realm that you can continually advance without delay, knowing that he will redirect you as necessary in the natural realm.

We returned to Branson and rented a storefront, dealt with the city code requirements, built out two different escape experiences, developed our branding, installed signage, advertised and opened for business.

The entire process, from the day we played our games in Tulsa to the day we opened and watched other people play our escape games in Branson was less than eight weeks! God's grace with us!

Two years later, as we continued to develop our business, we were awarded as the fifth best escape attraction in the entire nation by *USA Today*. We were humbled and excited that out of thousands of escape rooms in America, we are in the top 10! It's not the Great Wall of China, but it's at least a lot of fun for our family to develop and enjoy our little business.

We were the first escape room business in Branson, and now there are at least five others. The competition is fierce, and the limited tourist season here presents challenges for a business like ours, but God's grace has empowered us.

We moved, God graced and now, instead of waiting for open doors and signs in the sky a few years later, our business is established and we are on to other ventures, assignments and opportunities.

Going until God says stop will save you years of delay!

You Can Do It!

God loves you and is on your side!

Live in the Spirit. Pray in the Spirit. Advance in the Spirit.

Be spiritual. Don't be hyper-spiritual. It will hold you back and stunt your growth.

God has plans for you, and He's ready to direct your steps if you just go! {eo}

John Burton has been developing and leading ministries for over 25 years and is a sought-out teacher, prophetic messenger and revivalist. John has authored 10 books, is a regular contributor to Charisma magazine, has appeared on Christian television and radio and directed one of the primary internships at the International House of Prayer (IHOP) in Kansas City. A large and growing library of audio and video teachings, articles, books and other resources can be found on his website at [http://www.johnburton.com](#). John, his wife Amy and their five children live in Branson, Missouri.

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