

## Prophetic Christians

The challenges arrayed against perceptively perceiving spiritual truth have never been greater. Prophetic Christians are serious Bible students and intercessors, believers who seek God in faith confident that He's said what He means and means what He's said. They're persuaded God is "the same yesterday, today and forever." Possessed of deep and abiding repentance, they labor for revival in the hope and fear of God.

Understanding both the love and terror of the Lord they endeavor to "persuade men" to choose eternal life rather than death. Knowing they too are sinners, they treat others as they would be treated: firm, fair, factual and friendly. They compel the lost, including apathetic and disobedient Christians within Churchianity, to come into the Kingdom by first speaking the truth in love. Should compassion fail, they spend themselves and their lives trying to pull lost humanity from "the fire."

The Bible frequently warns of a disastrous last days scenario:

- **"First off, you need to know that in the last days, mockers are going to have a heyday. Reducing everything to the level of their puny feelings, they'll mock, "So what's happened to the promise of his Coming? Our ancestors are dead and buried, and everything's going on just as it has from the first day of creation. Nothing's changed."** They conveniently forget that long ago all the galaxies and this very planet were brought into existence out of watery chaos by God's word. Then God's word brought the chaos back in a flood that destroyed the world. The current galaxies and earth are fuel for the final fire. God is poised, ready to speak his word again, ready to give the signal for the judgment and destruction of the desecrating skeptics. Don't overlook the obvious here, friends. With God, one day is as good as a thousand years, a thousand years as a day. **God isn't late with his promise as some measure lateness. He is restraining himself on account of you, holding back the End because he doesn't want anyone lost. He's giving everyone space and time to change.**"  
2 Peter 3:1-9 The Message

But are we *changing*? If so, for the *better* or *worse*?

Paul, the greatest apostle, established the gentile Church and was the majority author of the New Testament. In so doing he became the second most influential man to walk the Earth. Having issued numerous directives, many of his warnings, and those of others throughout Scripture, target end times Churchianity. Such as his continued alert to Timothy, and by extension all Christians everywhere. Note the term **later days**:

- **"God's Spirit specifically tells us that in later days there will be men who abandon the true faith and allow themselves to be spiritually seduced by teachings of the devil, teachings given by men who are lying hypocrites, whose consciences are as dead as seared flesh."** 1 Timothy 4:1-2 PHILLIPS

With Christendom divided into hundreds of denominations, offering many Christs, a variety of church models and versions of the gospel, it would seem Paul's prophecy has been fulfilled. And then some.

Yet even the best of modern Christianity may have much to learn. For many decades, the increase of temptation and deception, has resulted in a devilishly cunning strategy of incrementalism that over time has all but uprooted millennia of spiritual and sociological gains. Including the inversion of morality and the holocaust of abortion, militant homosexuality and transgenderism... Both outside and inside Churchianity. Part and parcel of the dramatic and disastrous deterioration in the times and seasons in which we live, and those vastly worse clearly evident on the horizon. Evidence of the spirit of the Antichrist terraforming the entire planet in preparation of Divine judgment and Great Tribulation. See Conspiracy Facts.

Regrettably, those with eyes to see the true degree of spiritual devastation artfully hidden in these the best of times are few and far between. Given today's craving for Me-ism's positive messages, even within Churchianity, such men and women rarely hold leadership positions. At least not for very long. So the question remains, having foreseen this eventuality, does Omnicity have a plan? The answer is Yes. But as Randy Stonehill and Phil Keagy sang in Save The Children, "If it isn't now then tell me when. If it's you then tell me who..."

As the old adage goes, "If you've got the vision, you've got the job."

If even a portion of the obvious claims easily made against modern Christianity are genuine, it raises the question, How then shall we live? The simple answer is honestly. We should readily admit our desperate need of God. We should seriously consider to what degree our doctrine, and more importantly lifestyles, may need adjusting to line up with the clear and concise teaching of Scripture. We should endeavor to more fully repent, shedding ourselves of besetting sins and even doubtful habits. We should daily "spur one another on toward love and good deeds."

Such a subset of staunch modern believers might be called Prophetic Christians. For our purpose, the use of the word Prophetic has less to do with Biblical prophecy per se, than with more fully appreciating Scriptures context and content.

Scripturally Savvy, such men and women appreciate the context of Scripture is vital to understanding its content. As well as accurately discerning and appropriately responding to the challenging times and seasons, and new sociopolitical era in which we live.

While no longer in vogue, Scripture's context is most certainly one of warfare theology. Like the whodunnit story of Job, considered by many to be the oldest Book of the Bible and perhaps its key codex, conflict between God the "Lord of Hosts" (angel armies) and Satan the "prince and power of the air" (god of this world), provides the backdrop to

Job's story. And much, if not all, the entire Old and New Testaments. For this and a plethora of reasons, the content of Scripture can only be fully understood by embracing the Bible's overarching [context](#). This crucial concern is developed more fully in GB articles such as the [Evil One](#) and demonic [Resistance](#), as well as [Eternity...The Wager](#) (see excerpts [Brief History of Eternity](#) and [Satan's Accusation](#)). For an excellent example of previous generation's handling of this topic see the [Protestant Reformer Martin Luther's](#) hymnal lyrics of "[A Might Fortress Is Our God.](#)"

Scripture reveals Lucifer's angelic rebellion altered Heaven's history and has reshaped mankind's. In a multilevel chess match, humanity's sandwiched between, and inexorably embroiled within, a cosmic conflict between God and Satan.

A spiritual and physical legal battle and war raging across Three Heavens, with the gravest temporal and eternal ramifications.



The Bible explains that both personally, and as a species, mankind faces the deadly foe of [sin](#) on three fronts. [Sin within](#), resulting from individual and inherited fallen natures. [Sin above](#), in the form of devilish and demonic [temptation](#) and [deception](#). And [Sin about](#), the collective and cumulative effect of sin within and above. In regards to sin from above, the New Testament is quite adamant:

- "And that about wraps it up. God is strong, and he wants you strong. **So take everything the Master has set out for you, well-made weapons of the best materials. And put them to use so you will be able to stand up to everything the Devil throws your way.** This is no afternoon athletic contest that we'll walk away from and forget about in a couple of hours. *This is for keeps, a life-or-death fight to the finish against the Devil and all his angels.*" Ephesians 6:10-12 MSG

### **Godly Man vs. Man of God** [See complete article](#)

An example of this most inconvenient of truths is found in the Biblical account of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Here God warns Abraham of imminent judgment:

- God continued, "The cries of the victims in Sodom and Gomorrah are deafening; the sin of those cities is immense. I'm going down to see for myself, see if what

they're doing is as bad as it sounds. Then I'll know." The men set out for Sodom, but Abraham stood in God's path, blocking his way. Genesis 18:20-22 The Message

As this tragic drama unfolds, there is much to be learned. First, God was literally preparing to rain fire down upon these two cities as judgment for their sins, And as a warning to future generations. Again a global scenario all the more easily accomplished today given an arsenal of 10 thousand nuclear weapons.

- "And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly." 2 Peter 2:6 New King James Version

Second, while these cities were clearly guilty of outrageous sins, they were no more so than any major metropolitan area within developed nations! In fact the sins of our cities may well dwarf that of Sodom and Gomorrah given abortion, murder, drug abuse (Biblically referred to as sorcery), demonism (represented in thousands of [horror](#) and gore movies) [sexual sins](#) (brazenly displayed everywhere included TV and laptops, tablets and smart phones), homosexuality, pornography, divorce, violence, gluttony, materialism, humanism, idolatry, unthankfulness, etc.

Third, this story takes place in the Bible's first Book, long before it was even written. Imagine for a moment the tens if not hundreds of thousands of grandparents and parents, teens and children, God reduced to ash. Not a one with so much as the Law of Moses, much less the historical and prophetic Books of the Old Testament. Neither did they have Christ's teaching in the Gospels or any of Books of the New Testament. Neither did they have the fullness of the Holy Spirit, 2,000 years of Church history or the [spiritual blessings](#) and unprecedented [wealth and technology](#) we so readily [take for granted](#). In this day and age, we must be at least 1,000 times more culpable than those of Sodom and Gomorrah.

So what's to be done? Biblical passages and human experience demonstrate that our beliefs only have value in as much as they lead to actions. As previously referenced:

- "Thus also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. 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. You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!" James 2:17-18 New King James Version

This is not to suggest that our thoughts and words are without meaning. They are the quarry from which by actions, or lack thereof, we build our lives. For this reason, Jesus warns to judge carefully. Again James agrees:

- "So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God." James 1:19-20 New King James Version

In this context, being "swift to hear, slow to speak" suggests the willingness and ability to think through difficult issues. Those who do soon find that **thoughts** and words matter. Sometimes even the smallest of them. Consider again the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Along with the two wicked cities, there were two righteous individuals, Abraham and Lot. While the Bible states both were upright before God, identifying the difference between them yields an important lesson.

The patriarch Abraham was the father of our faith. As warrior, prophet, and extraordinary intercessor, he clearly earned the distinction of "man of God." So much so, that prior to raining sulfuric fire down on the region, the Lord felt it necessary to inform only one man on the entire planet:

- Then God said, "Shall I keep back from Abraham what I'm about to do? Abraham is going to become a large and strong nation; all the nations of the world are going to find themselves blessed through him. Yes, I've settled on him as the one to train his children and future family to observe God's way of life, live kindly and generously and fairly, so that God can complete in Abraham what he promised him." Genesis 18:17-19 The Message

Because of his honored status before God, Abraham was given an extraordinary opportunity to **intercede, wrestling with God** for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. Or perhaps it was Lot's family and friends that concerned him. But what occasioned this distinction? Likely it was Abraham's previous preparation and practice of **seeking God** to discern the truth of four critical spiritual issues. Who he was? Where he was? When he was? What God was doing? Abraham understood the importance of **knowing God's will** and **interceding** until **seeing it realized** in the lives of those he loved. As a whole hearted man of worship and obedience, he had likely worked diligently to daily build his faith. In so doing Abraham grew into a commitment level meriting the distinction of a **man of God**.

As for Lot, the Scriptures testify he was a **godly man**:

- "God decreed destruction for the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. A mound of ashes was all that was left—grim warning to anyone bent on an ungodly life. But that good man Lot driven nearly out of his mind by the **sexual filth** and **perversity**, was rescued. Surrounded by moral rot day after day after day, that righteous man was in constant torment. So God knows how to rescue the godly from evil trials. And he knows how to hold the feet of the wicked to the fire until Judgment Day." 2 Peter 2:6-9 The Message

Peter uses Lot as an example of God rescuing the "righteous" and "godly" from trials. Too many modern Christians, if they ever even read this verse, speak and act as if assured God would do the same in our case. Why? Because we might read the story? The most common response is because we believe. Yet remember James'

warning that even the demons believe, to the point of [trembling with terror](#). The Bible is clear that God's [free gift](#) of [eternal salvation](#) is received only through [living faith](#).

How few of us in the [First World Church](#) today live as righteously as Lot? As Jesus warned, "Remember Lot's wife." Remember as well the grim fate Lot's daughters and whole family nearly suffered at the hands of Sodom's mob:

- "...the men of Sodom...called to Lot and said to him, "Where are the men who came to you tonight? Bring them out to us that we may know them carnally." So Lot ...said, "Please, my brethren, do not do so wickedly! See now, I have two daughters who have not known a man; please, let me bring them out to you, and you may do to them as you wish; only do nothing to these men, since this is the reason they have come under the shadow of my roof." And they said, "Stand back!" Then they said, "This one came in to stay here, and he keeps acting as a judge; now we will deal worse with you than with them." So they pressed hard against the man Lot, and came near to break down the door. Genesis 19:4-9  
New King James Version

Striking the crazed mob blind, the angels continued their rescue:

- "Do you have any other family here? Sons, daughters—anybody in the city? Get them out of here, and now! We're going to destroy this place. ... Lot went out and warned the fiancés of his daughters, "Evacuate this place; God is about to destroy this city!" But his daughters' would-be husbands treated it as a joke. At break of day, the angels pushed Lot to get going, "Hurry. Get your wife and two daughters out of here before it's too late and you're caught in the punishment of the city." Lot was dragging his feet. The men grabbed Lot's arm, and the arms of his wife and daughters...and dragged them to safety outside the city. When they had them outside, Lot was told, "Now run for your life! Don't look back! Don't stop anywhere on the plain—run for the hills or you'll be swept away." Genesis 19:12-17 The Message

Thoughtful consideration of this story's horrendous ending yields additional [insights](#). Among them is the fact that Abraham was so correctly tuned into who, where and when he was, as well as to what God was doing, that while living safely outside the impact zone, God confided in him rather than Lot. Abraham's wholly dedicated lifestyle afforded him uniquely intimate intercession. **Furthermore, as a man of God, Abraham and his family were repeatedly afforded a kind of protection that Lot's was not.**

While being a godly man saved Lot's physical existence, in nearly every other respect his life was effectively destroyed. His wife was turned into a pillar of salt. His sons-in-law, friends and those he had ministered to in Sodom were burned alive. Perhaps second only to Noah's flood, Lot became humanities greatest reminder of judgment against sin. Lot's daughters, fearing barrenness, would get him drunk and become pregnant by incest. Unlike Abraham, Lot's legacy would for all practical purposes

disappear from the Scriptural record, only to resurface as the heathen nations of Moab and Ammon. Both continual thorns in the flesh of God's people Israel:

- Thus both the daughters of Lot were with child by their father. The firstborn bore a son and called his name Moab; he is the father of the Moabites to this day. And the younger, she also bore a son and called his name Ben-Ammi; he is the father of the people of Ammon to this day. Genesis 19:36-38

This vital passage on the [judgment of God](#) against individuals and societies who's [sins](#) have [reached Heaven](#) reveals many crucial truths. First among them is that Scripture clearly differentiates between Abraham, the **man of God** vs. Lot a **godly man**. Next, that Lot's lot was far from pleasant. Outside of saving him and his daughters physically, their rescue likely appeared to the three of them more as smoldering judgment.

Few today trouble themselves with the moral of such stories. Hundreds of millions of [modern believers](#) feel confident they are beyond such reproach. Unfortunately, this popular worldview again demonstrates a tragic and persistent Biblical disconnect. There are thousands of direct and indirect passages where God commands and encourages, confronts and warns, disciplines and even destroys His own people. Some still object, going so far as to insist [God's Church is above deception](#). Yet this was hardly the case even with such powerfully anointed men as Samson and David. Today, far from achieving half the practical righteousness of the famous of Scripture, our lifestyles may be more in keeping with the moral decay and disillusionment of unbelievers. If so, rather than anticipating the praise of God, might we be storing up wrath against the day of God's wrath?

Furthermore, is it spiritual preparedness or presumption to simply assume a favored status before God? Ought we not care enough to invest the time to genuinely study Scripture? To understand the Bible's explanation of [positional vs. conditional righteousness](#)? To learn to differentiate between different [levels of righteousness](#), in regards to the kind of [corporate](#) and [personal sanctification](#) the Jesus of Scripture requires?

### **Many Called, Few Chosen**

Jesus lamented, "[For many are called, but few are chosen.](#)" Why? Because few chose to answer His call. To fully do so requires [more than simple belief](#). We must foster lifestyles of unflinching resolve, embracing [radical discipleship](#) to the point of complete transformation into the entirely [new creations](#) of New Testament promise.

Would be Prophetic Christians do well to ponder the lives and accomplishments of [Finney](#) and [Müller](#), [Roberts](#) and [Wigglesworth](#). While currently lacking the [power](#) of such men, we can certainly follow in the footsteps of their wisdom. QC particularly

recommends considering adopting a lifestyle marked by Evan Roberts 4 step process of developing [sanctification](#) and [spiritual sensitivity](#).

Whoever and wherever we are, it behoves each of us to do our best. Preferably in groups of two or more. The correlation between connectivity and causation are quantum truths. In both the physical and spiritual world. In regards to the unity of diversity, the New Testament likens Christ's Kingdom to a single body comprised of a myriad of parts functioning as a cohesive whole. Thus we all have vital roles to play. Ones in which we are far stronger together. As Scripture attests:

- "I'll make the country a place of peace—you'll be able to go to sleep at night without fear; I'll get rid of the wild beasts; I'll eliminate war. You'll chase out your enemies and defeat them: **Five of you will chase a hundred, and a hundred of you will chase ten thousand and do away with them.** I'll give you my full attention: I'll make sure you prosper, make sure you grow in numbers, and keep my covenant with you in good working order." Leviticus 26:8-10 The Message

Scripture's "[great and precious promises](#)" combine with Heaven's "[great cloud of witnesses](#)" to encourage Prophetic Christians of all persuasions to individually and collectively, "**Rise Up O Men Of God.**" [Phil Keaggy](#) provides a [moving rendition](#) of the beloved hymn.

Rise up O men of God  
Have done with lesser things  
Give heart and soul and mind and strength  
To serve the King of Kings  
To serve the King of Kings

Rise up O men of God  
His Kingdom tarries long  
Bring in the day of brotherhood  
And end the night of wrong  
And end the night of wrong

Rise up O men of God  
The Church for you doth wait  
Send forth to serve the needs of men  
In Christ our strength is great  
In Christ our strength is great

Lift high the Cross of Christ  
Tread where His feet have trod  
As brothers of the Son of Man  
Rise up O men of God  
Rise up O men of God



Our response, or lack thereof, to the cause of Christ and humanity, holds equally great and grave potential. In both time and eternity. Through chains of causation, the rise or fall of friends and family, society and entire generations rests in our hands. As exemplified in the old proverb, For Want of a Nail:

For want of a nail the shoe was lost.  
For want of a shoe the horse was lost.  
For want of a horse the rider was lost.  
For want of a rider the message was lost.  
For want of a message the battle was lost.  
For want of a battle the kingdom was lost.  
And all for the want of a horseshoe nail.

While partial visible today, only eternity will reveal the full extent of all that has been forever lost for want of [honest](#) and [vigorous prayer](#) and [Bible study](#), [discipleship](#) and [evangelism](#). Wherever and whenever possible, we highly suggest Prophet Christians move beyond mere [Christian fellowship](#) and [church attendance](#), into and through the crucible of deeply [repentive](#) and strategic [corporate prayer](#).

**For a more complete handling of the Bibles [one and only remedy](#) to the challenges arrayed against us, see GB's [Prayer of Anguish](#). *There you'll find Scripture's only step by step instructions on how Prophetic Christians can pass through James 4's gauntlet of holiness and radical discipleship into James 5's power of Elijah! Including the restoration of miraculously and dependably [healing the sick](#).***

A deep dive into the lives and ministries, writings and legacies of [Charles Finney](#) and [Smith Wigglesworth](#) reveal a [quantum path](#) in [seeking](#) and [serving](#) God. Particularly in regards to the rigors of [radical discipleship](#) and the restoration of [power evangelism](#). Essential components when advocating for personal and corporate revival in the [modern world](#).

Both men were 200% committed to Christ. Each, in their own respective ways, lived and ministered with perhaps the greatest authentic and documented anointing seen in centuries. Neither allowed a hint [worldliness](#) or unbelief, [doubtful habits](#) or subtle [sin](#), to diminish their Scriptural power and authority. Nor did either, for even a moment, dare [grieve the Holy Spirit](#) from Whom their spiritual strength flowed. Even so, while yielding unprecedented results, their effectiveness and expertise focused on nearly opposite facets of Christian faith.

Finney's life and work majored on [repentance](#) and [service](#). ***Godly fear and love for Christ, without compromise, required vigorous and demanding holiness and sanctification. No dualistic or double-minded lifestyles.*** The reward for which was

the glorification of God and expansion of His Kingdom. ***Finney's cry was for radical Christian experience resulting from extreme sanctification to God. For the sake of God's own infinite goodness.*** A goodness that closed not only bars and brothels, but dance halls and theaters, far and wide. Often for years after he had come and gone. All this while simultaneously expanding social services and outreach for those in need at levels previously unseen.

Wigglesworth life and work majored on belief and miracles. ***Absolute faith in the love of Christ, without doubt, also required vigorous and demanding holiness and sanctification. Again, no dualistic or double-minded lifestyles.*** The reward for which was experiencing and sharing the absolute power and glory of the unequalled goodness of Christ and His Kingdom. ***Wigglesworth's cry was never to leave a Christian meeting without a life altering encounter, if not collision, with the Spirit's fruit and gifts.*** Gifts of phenomenal healings and deliverances that enabled and empowered the fullest expression of Christ's inconceivable love and grace. The experience of which created individual and corporate cravings to fully please, and never grieve, the Holy Spirit of promise.

Prophetic Christians do well to meditate on Finney and Wigglesworth in hopes of emulating their unique and unsurpassed anointing. Doing so, mindful of Christ's warning to His first disciples, "As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work." Perhaps God may yet raise up true heirs to their legacy in this late and troubled hour.

What is needed is quantum balance and equilibrium. In this case, as a decades old prayer partner once noted in regards to resolving the tension between accurately discerning Scripture and the centrality of the Holy Spirit, "***Evangelism without prayer is Fruitless, Prayer without Evangelism is Faithless. Scripture without the Spirit is Lifeless, the Spirit without Scripture is Baseless.***" With this mind, let us more prayerfully study the Bible, recognizing Scripture itself must be "*spiritually discerned.*"

### **Cruise Vs. Battleship** **See complete article**

If Christianity's a cruise ship, sailing merrily from here to Heaven, then certainly Christ's costly atonement is more than sufficient passage. ***The cross of Jesus is indeed all anyone could ever need.*** If however, Heaven and Earth are at war with fallen angels and devils, Christianity is a battleship and ***we must follow our Commander and Chief's example and directives by daily shouldering our own.***

Even if Christianity could be likened to a pleasure cruise, given Churchianity's collision course with so many modern temptations and deceptions, up to an including immorality and the blood red mountainous iceberg of abortion, in certain respects might even many well intended ministries be reduced to simply arranging deck chairs on the Titanic?

So is Christianity a cruise or gunship? We must decide. And do so quickly and carefully. Military directives and drills, cramped quarters and sea rations, would be absurd on a pleasure cruise. So too, civilian itineraries and activities, opulent suites and sumptuous banquets, would be anathema during a time of war.

Given the Bible's meta message of **Conflict Theology**, all creation is at war against or alongside its **Creator**, there is no neutral territory. Thus from a spiritual perspective, the responsibilities and duties, privileges and promises of actual, rather than **almost Christians**, concern themselves with Kingdom citizen soldiers.

Modern Christianity excels at **certain aspects of ministry** and **inappropriately intimate worship**, rightly extolling the **Cross of Christ** while all but **ignoring our own**. We glory in the promises of God while marginalizing the Bible's more **numerous conditions**, when not refuting them altogether. Our members are largely unable to quote more than a handful of Scriptures in a row, if that, rarely stopping to pray even ten minutes a day.

We know little of a soldier's commitment or training. **Enjoying the world**, or at least many of its finer things, we convince ourselves we can have our cake and eat it too; that the poverty and **humility** of Christ, and that of His apostles, as well as of **persecuted disciples** throughout history, were **costs others** bore, providing **our one way all expense paid** passage aboard Christian luxury liners, rather than a draft summons to follow the teaching and example of Jesus and all the authors of the New Testament. A call to **renounce civilian affairs** and to man our battle stations in the armada of the Kingdom of God.

And why would we? Was not the **guarantee of salvation** by the cross of Christ a **marvelous and unconditional free gift** beyond compare? Have we not devoted a substantial part of our lives to Jesus and the tenets of **modern Christianity**? Have we not given of our **minds, hearts** and **wills**? Have we not converted much of our **thoughts, words** and **lifestyles**? Have we not redirected many of our **aspirations**, attitudes and **actions**? Have we not invested significant portions of our **time, talent** and **treasure** to **fellowship, discipleship** and **evangelism**?

In many respects we truly have, and in return secured testimonies of the gospel's lift frequently blessing, often **changing ourselves**, **family** and friends. At least to some degree.

Hundreds of millions of modern Christians can attest they are far from who they once were, yet we are equally far from the **radical disciples** and entirely **new creations** we are called to become. Preliminary transformation equates to only partial **fullness of the Spirit**, in light of Christ's command to cultivate all the Kingdom's **Fruit** and **Gifts**, such as dependably and miraculously **healing the sick**. Taken together, our oversight and neglect equates to failure to become **the glorious beings we are meant to be**. Hence Jesus's lament, "**Many are called, but few are chosen.**" Why? Because too few chose to fully answer His call.

Without the fullness of the miraculous Fruit and Gifts of the Spirit, there can be little to no Power Evangelism and Discipleship; the very foundation and hallmark of 1st Century Christians. Ordinary men and women who's costly and absolute dedication and complete transformation produced the glorious New Testament and brought the Roman Empire, then the world's greatest military, political and religious culture, to its knees.

Exactly the kind of Prophetic Christians so needed today. All the more as the times and seasons quickly deteriorate and "you see the Day approaching." Understanding Earth is a besieged planet, such men and women invest their time, talent and treasure recruiting, training and deploying Biblically astute Kingdom citizen soldiers. They spend their lives wresting humanity from the grip of Heaven's angelic rebellion. An insurrection that, having marred the history of eternity, has and continues to reshape our own. Through Bible study and strategic prayer, radical discipleship and disciplined sacrifice, they don the full the armor of God. They understand we "wrestle not with flesh and blood" when struggling to rescue others from Satan's wisdom and demonic resistance, who, again, as "the god of this world" holds mankind "captive to do his will." Inside and outside of modern Churchianity.

With all the above in mind, we must give greater heed to the directive of the Holy Spirit through the author of the Book of Hebrews:

- "Let us go forward, then, to mature teaching and leave behind us the first lessons of the Christian message. **We should not lay again the foundation of turning away from useless works and believing in God; of the teaching about baptisms and the laying on of hands; of the resurrection of the dead and the eternal judgment.** Let us go forward! And this is what we will do, if God allows." Hebrews 6:1-3 GNT

In all honesty, modern Christianity's not even handling the foundational principles mentioned above, identified as spiritual milk rather than meat, all that well. In many cases only a third of our doctrine is Biblically accurate. Leaving a third in opposition to Scripture and a third of the Bible's meta-messages marginalized or ignored altogether.

All the more reason to re-evaluate our current levels of both forms of discipline in realistic hope of doing far better.

As noted, because Conflict Theology is the very context or metamessage of Scripture, it follows that both aspects of discipline are most viable in regards to militarized spirituality. That is, from the perspective of Kingdom citizen soldiers. Understanding Earth is a besieged and enemy occupied war zone, lets examine a few New Testament passages that make little to no sense from any other standpoint.

Initially addressing 1st century persecuted Christians, Peter imparts the following directives:

- "Therefore, since Christ suffered in the flesh [and died for us], arm yourselves [like warriors] with the same purpose [being willing to suffer for doing what is right and pleasing God], *because whoever has suffered in the flesh [being like-minded with Christ] is done with [intentional] sin [having stopped pleasing the world], so that he can no longer spend the rest of his natural life living for human appetites and desires, but [lives] for the will and purpose of God.*" 1 Peter 4:1-2 AMP
- "The end *and* culmination of all things is near. *Therefore, be sound-minded and self-controlled for the purpose of prayer [staying balanced and focused on the things of God so that your communication will be clear, reasonable, specific and pleasing to Him.]*" 1Peter 4:7 AMP

What's odd about these verses is their original audience. Frequently [persecuted](#) and even martyred Christians are hardly involved in the "appetites and desires" of [immorality](#) and obvious [worldliness](#). Sadly, the same can not be said for [modern Christianity](#). Nor does one image even subtle forms of [temptation](#) and [deception](#) taking hold of such [radical disciples](#) who were extracted from society, often giving up their wealth and possessions, family and lives, for the cause of Christ:

- "But remember the earlier days, when, *after being [spiritually] enlightened, you [patiently] endured a great conflict of sufferings, sometimes by being made a spectacle, publicly exposed to insults and distress, and sometimes by becoming companions with those who were so treated. For you showed sympathy and deep concern for those who were imprisoned, and you joyfully accepted the [unjust] seizure of your belongings and the confiscation of your property, conscious of the fact that you have a better possession and a lasting one [prepared for you in heaven].*" Hebrews 10:32-34 AMP

Later in the same chapter, Peter offers another important insight along similar lines:

- "For it is the time [destined] for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if *it begins* with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not respect *or* believe *or* obey the gospel of God? *And if it is difficult for the righteous to be saved, what will become of the godless and the sinner?* Therefore, those who are ill-treated *and* suffer in accordance with the will of God must [continue to] do right and commit their souls [for safe-keeping] to the faithful Creator." 1 Peter 4:17-19 AMP

Such passages, and hundreds like them, serve to highlight the difference between Christian Cruise Vs. Battleship mentality. The civilian mindset objects, inventing and claiming dozens of doctrines insulating and extracting them from such Scriptures and serious concerns. False narratives abound, from [external security](#) to [pre-tribulation rapture](#).

A destructive habit, one most skillfully addressed by Søren Kierkegaard, of whom Wikipedia notes was a 19th century *"Danish theologian, philosopher, poet, social critic, and religious author who is widely considered to be the first existentialist philosopher."* A fondness for doctrinal error about which Kierkegaard famously writes:

- "The matter is quite simple. The bible is very easy to understand. But we Christians are a bunch of scheming swindlers. We pretend to be unable to understand it because we know very well that the minute we understand, we are obliged to act accordingly. **Take any words in the New Testament and forget everything except pledging yourself to act accordingly. My God, you will say, if I do that my whole life will be ruined. How would I ever get on in the world?** Herein lies the real place of Christian scholarship. Christian scholarship is the Church's prodigious invention to defend itself against the Bible, to ensure that we can continue to be good Christians without the Bible coming too close. **Oh, priceless scholarship, what would we do without you? Dreadful it is to fall into the hands of the living God. Yes it is even dreadful to be alone with the New Testament.**"

To what is Kierkegaard referring? Certainly not the kinds of minute worldly bonds afflicting Peter's 1st century persecuted Christians. His is more in keeping with our own forms of sins of commission, such as gross [immorality](#), and omission, such as [abortion and the church](#), rampant throughout 21st century [Churchianity](#). Nevertheless, there is at least a subtle connection between Søren and Peter's passage. It's the habit of trying to have our cake and eat it too. Of embracing Christianity in its cheeper forms, over and above the [costly grace of whole life sanctification and radical discipleship](#).

A [honest handing](#) of both passages from Peter reveal greater, more challenging aspects of his intent. For example, why does he warn, **"And if it is difficult for the righteous to be saved..."** This flies in the face of [modern doctrine](#), teaching and [worship](#) were much is rightly made of the [costly cross of Christ](#), and little to nothing [of our own](#). Perhaps Peter's recalling Christ's teaching on the subject during His [Olivet Discourse](#) of last day events, as in the verse, *"But he who endures to the end shall be saved."*

Paul issues similar warnings, from *"[work out your own salvation with fear and trembling](#),"* to *"[But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.](#)"*

Time out! Is Paul saying we should *"fear and tremble"* over the status of our [salvation](#)? That after all he had believed and accomplished, the great apostle Paul could [loose his salvation](#)? In a word, Yes. These are explicit warnings that accentuate [Christ's harsher sayings](#) and teaching on [Godly fear](#). As well as that of His apostles on the [virtue of fear](#). Again, the author of Hebrews agrees:

- **"For the Lord corrects and disciplines everyone whom He loves, and He punishes, even scourges, every son whom He accepts and welcomes to His**

**heart and cherishes.** You must submit to *and* endure [correction] for discipline; God is dealing with you as with sons. For what son is there whom his father does not [thus] train *and* correct *and* discipline? ***Now if you are exempt from correction and left without discipline in which all [of God's children] share, then you are illegitimate offspring and not true sons [at all].*** Hebrews 12:6-8  
AMPC

- "So then, as the Holy Spirit says, ***"If you hear God's voice today, do not be stubborn, as your ancestors were when they rebelled against God,*** as they were that day in the desert when they put him to the test. There they put me to the test and tried me, says God, although they had seen what I did for forty years. ***And so I was angry with those people and said, 'They are always disloyal and refuse to obey my commands.' I was angry and made a solemn promise: 'They will never enter the land where I would have given them rest!'"*** My friends, be careful that none of you have a heart so evil and unbelieving that you will turn away from the living God. ***Instead, in order that none of you be deceived by sin and become stubborn, you must help one another every day,*** as long as the word "Today" in the scripture applies to us. For we are all partners with Christ if we hold firmly to the end the confidence we had at the beginning. ***This is what the scripture says: "If you hear God's voice today, do not be stubborn, as your ancestors were when they rebelled against God."*** Hebrews 3:7-15 GNT

Consider the glorified Christ's critique of Revelation's Church of Laodicea. Which, as noted, represented not only existing Christians in that day, and a tragic mindset throughout church history, but the final church age. Which may well be our own:

- "Write to Laodicea, to the Angel of the church. God's Yes, the Faithful and Accurate Witness, the First of God's creation, says: ***"I know you inside and out, and find little to my liking. You're not cold, you're not hot—far better to be either cold or hot! You're stale. You're stagnant. You make me want to vomit. You brag, 'I'm rich, I've got it made, I need nothing from anyone,' oblivious that in fact you're a pitiful, blind beggar, threadbare and homeless. "Here's what I want you to do: Buy your gold from me, gold that's been through the refiner's fire. Then you'll be rich. Buy your clothes from me, clothes designed in Heaven. You've gone around half-naked long enough. And buy medicine for your eyes from me so you can see, really see. "The people I love, I call to account—prod and correct and guide so that they'll live at their best. Up on your feet, then! About face! Run after God! "Look at me. I stand at the door. I knock. If you hear me call and open the door, I'll come right in and sit down to supper with you. Conquerors will sit alongside me at the head table, just as I, having conquered, took the place of honor at the side of my Father. That's my gift to the conquerors! "Are your ears awake? Listen. Listen to the Wind Words, the Spirit blowing through the churches."*** Revelation 3:14-22 MSG

Scripture could hardly be clearer. Our privileged position in the unfolding of the Kingdom of God comes at great cost. And as Jesus warned, *"Great gifts mean great responsibilities; greater gifts, greater responsibilities!"*

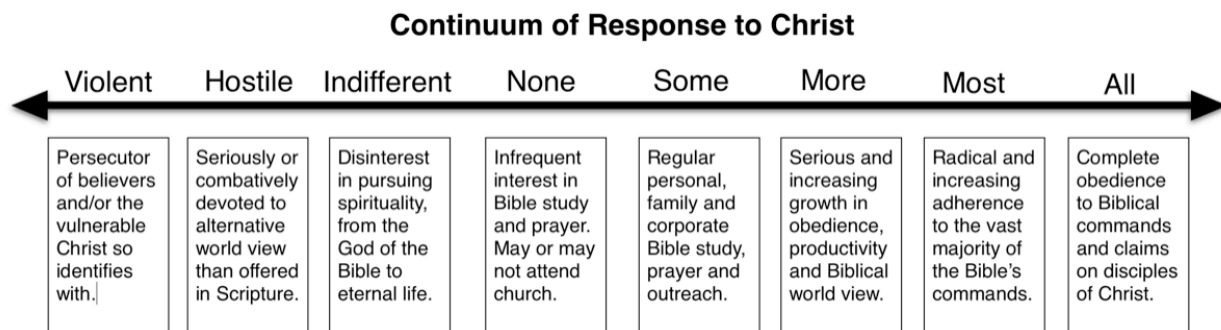
Here and elsewhere we are put on notice that we are responsible to **honestly acknowledge** and appropriately respond to the **spiritual warfare** raging around us. To grasp and learn from historical mistakes. To never **assume salvation**, confusing **presumption for faith**. Rather to **work out our salvation with fear and trembling**. To take a break from congratulating ourselves for lukewarm faith, long enough to attest the perilous nature of our condition.

Still the original problem persists. **Churchianity's** been taught to believe everything's fine. All the more given our natural inclination to **judge ourselves** by those around us. Compared to our fellow **modern Christians**, we're doing well. Compared to billions **far more worldly** and **worse**, we're doing great!

Yet compared to our full potential we're **doing poorly**. Without the **fullness of the Spirit**, we continually **fall short of our mission parameters**; an acceptable state aboard a cruise ship. A **disastrous state** aboard a **battleship**.

So where are the biggest areas of weakness in regards to welcoming the rigors of discipline in the arenas of obedience and training? These break down into **elementary**, **intermediate** and **advance** issues. Foundational issues include learning and adherence to the basic requirements of **salvation** and **following Jesus**, **Bible study** and **prayer**, **worship** and **fellowship**. For churches, identifying their gospel among the **current seven church models** would be a good start. Prayerfully developing correct **Biblical instruction** and **lifestyle choices** can provide an initial **litmus test**.

Having illustrated the fact that even we Christians are all **telling ourselves a story**, a question arises. How accurate is our narrative to Scripture's requirements? The following graphic emphasizes that knowingly or not, all who have heard the story and claims of Christ are somewhere to be found on the continuum from inappropriate to appropriate response. To which most believers rank ourselves more highly than we ought:





When asked about Christ's growing popularity and authority, John the Baptist explained, "*He must increase, but I must decrease.*" Far easier said than done. Failure to abide by the Kingdom's diminishment principal accounts for most, if not all sin. Outside and inside [modern Christianity](#). [Quantum spiritual physics](#) such as those [who give receive](#), [who suffer rejoice](#), and [who die will live](#), are fine and dandy to read about, but living them out's another thing altogether. Particularly when the [cost is great](#), or even ALL (God's holy number). As in the Baptist's case.

In regards to recognizing Kingdom inversion, and fully embracing the need for growth in [brokenness](#) and [discernment](#), James, the Lord's half brother, provides another astounding example of victoriously overcoming his own gross [deception](#) and [insensitivity](#). It's both encouraging and alarming to consider the spiritual journey of James and Jude, Biblical authors and half brothers of Jesus. Tellingly, the former is by far the most practical of all the New Testament writers. And the latter the most angry.

After Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, but prior to His ascension into Heaven, Jesus appeared to over 500 people including James. Once converted, the Apostles appointed James, who may have lived with Jesus for nearly three decades, to oversee the [First Church Council of Jerusalem](#). Yet, prior to the His brother's literal "come to Jesus meeting" neither James or Jude were anywhere to be found! In fact, so conspicuous were their absence, while [agonizing from the cross](#), Jesus was forced to place their mother [Mary in the care of His disciple John](#).

Only after Christ's resurrection and appearance to James do we find him named among believers. As Paul explains:

- "The first thing I did was place before you what was placed so emphatically before me: that the Messiah died for our sins, exactly as Scripture tells it; that he was buried; that he was raised from death on the third day, again exactly as Scripture says; that he presented himself alive to Peter, then to his closest followers, and later to more than five hundred of his followers all at the same time, most of them still around (although a few have since died); **that he then spent time with James and the rest of those he commissioned to represent him**; and that he finally presented himself alive to me. It was fitting that I bring up the rear. I don't deserve to be included in that inner circle, as you well know, having spent all those early years trying my best to stamp God's church right out of existence." 1 Corinthians 15:3-9 The Message

***It's inconceivable that the half brothers of Jesus could live day in and day out with the Son of God, and yet require personal epiphanies before embracing Christ.***

[Catholic traditions notwithstanding](#), James was moved to the head of the class. As evidenced by his presiding over the afore mention [Jerusalem Council](#), where we are

told both Peter and Paul have *a say* but James has *say*. [Issuing the final edict to the emerging Gentile believers](#).

On one hand this is great news. If James, arguably among the worst brothers in human history, can [repent](#) to such an extent as to become the head of the church of Jerusalem, there may well be reason for all to take his advice. Conversely, if those like [James](#) and [Jude](#) who knew Jesus best, are as direct and [harsh as Christ](#), *woe to we who fail to take the combined warnings of the Kingdom's first family seriously*.

Also, if Christ's actual family members could live day in and day out for decades within a close and intimate family relationship with Jesus, yet be off page regarding some of the most important truth's regarding their Older Brother, what might we [be missing](#)?

Interestingly, when it comes to a Scripture reveal as to what [God wants most](#) from each and everyone, what many believe to be the Bible's first story may have the last word. In fact, given [Conflict Theology is Scripture's very context](#), it's perfectly fitting that [Job's behind the scenes bet between God and Satan](#) appears to be not only the [oldest Book of the Bible](#), but its codex.

To set up this incredible narrative, keep in mind that by definition God alone possess [Omni](#)ty: Eternal Self Existance (causeless first cause), Omniscience (all knowing), Omnipresence (present everywhere), Omnipotence (all powerful) and Immutability (unchanging). God clearly knows the end from the beginning. Thus by flaunting Job in Satan's face, God was initiating all that was to follow.

The primary reason for the [Devil's](#) requesting and receiving permission to target and destroy all that was dear to Job was his righteousness. For which all Job's possessions would be stolen or destroyed and all the lives of his children forfeit. Furthermore, his immediate reward for standing up against Satan's onslaught would be debilitating disease engulfing his entire body head to toe. So devastating was Job's dreadful state, that his so called three false friends would fast without speaking for seven days and nights in mourning. An act of compassion unique in all of Scripture.

After chapters of back and forth discourse and argument, Job was granted the audience with God he all but demanded. During which Job received no explanation or apology. Instead, by way of rebuke, God partially revealed His majesty, to which Job replied:

- **"I'm convinced: You can do anything and everything. Nothing and no one can upset your plans.** You asked, 'Who is this muddying the water, ignorantly confusing the issue, second-guessing my purposes?' I admit it. I was the one. I babbled on about things far beyond me, made small talk about wonders way over my head. You told me, 'Listen, and let me do the talking. Let me ask the questions. *You give the answers.*' ***I admit I once lived by rumors of you; now I have it all firsthand—from my own eyes and ears! I'm sorry—forgive me. I'll never do that again, I promise!"*** Job 42:1-6 MSG

Scarcely surviving the scathing interview, Job later receives far more in his later life, which lasted another 140 years, than all that which was taken, including seven sons and three of the world's most gorgeous daughters.

Did this somehow make up for the workers and children destroyed by Satan's assault, of which God had precise foreknowledge? Perhaps not. But a further gift Job received might.

Without his ordeal, Job would likely have lived a long and healthy, happy and wealthy life. With none the wiser. Rather, through his severe testing and trial, via [God and Satan's wager](#), he became the Patriarch of Patience and Suffering for all mankind. And particularly for the [household of faith](#).

His story also pulls back eternity's curtain, plainly revealing a level of personal spiritual conflict unprecedented in human history! An ultimate example of Peter's warning and encouragement to embrace and [endure](#) discipline and/or [persecution](#): "*If the righteous one is scarcely saved, Where will the ungodly and sinner appear?*"

## Deep Calls to Deep

[Psalm 42](#) describes the overwhelming and aching need within believers for more of God, employing a variety of metaphors including, "*deep calls to deep.*" Our desperate desire reaching out towards God's immeasurable supply. Yet as reflected throughout this article, and the entirety of Scripture, the [greatest gifts](#) within the treasure house of the Lord's [presence](#) and [power](#), [provision](#) and [protection](#) are reserved for those who [diligently seek Him](#). [Prophetic Christians](#) surrendering [their all](#), in [hopes](#) that as Paul prayed, we might be "[filled with all the fulness of God](#)." Kingdom citizen soldiers embracing both aspects of Godly discipline, rapidly growing in [whole life obedience](#) and [radical discipleship](#).

In keeping with the tenets of Quantum Christianity, Scripture repeatedly emphasizes the Principal of Diminishment, our need to [grow down into righteousness](#) and the greater aspects of the Kingdom of God.

In this, as with all arenas of life, our willingness or refusal to humble ourselves in harmony with the will of God, as revealed in Scripture, ranks as one of mankind's most fundamental and eternal choices. So much so, from the vantage point of eternity, both [angelic and human history](#) are encapsulated in the two clear and opposing mindsets of [entitlement](#) vs. humility.

These are, *I will ascend* and *I will descend*.

The folly of *I will ascend* is made obvious in the [original sin](#) sparking [Lucifer's angelic rebellion](#). Apparently, while being created and honored as Heaven's greatest archangel,

over time, he found even the eternal blessings of perfection inadequate.

The wisdom of *I will descend* is best exemplified through Christ's incarnation and lowly birth, humble family and life, meek ministry and miracles, [costly crucifixion and atonement](#), unprecedented resurrection and ascension, heavenly intercession and [Second Advent](#). About all of which we are told:

- **“Your attitude should be the kind that was shown us by Jesus Christ, who, though he was God, did not demand and cling to his rights as God, but laid aside his mighty power and glory, taking the disguise of a slave and becoming like men. And he humbled himself even further, going so far as actually to die a criminal's death on a cross. *Yet it was because of this that God raised him up to the heights of heaven and gave him a name which is above every other name*, that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”** Philippians 2:5-11 Living Bible

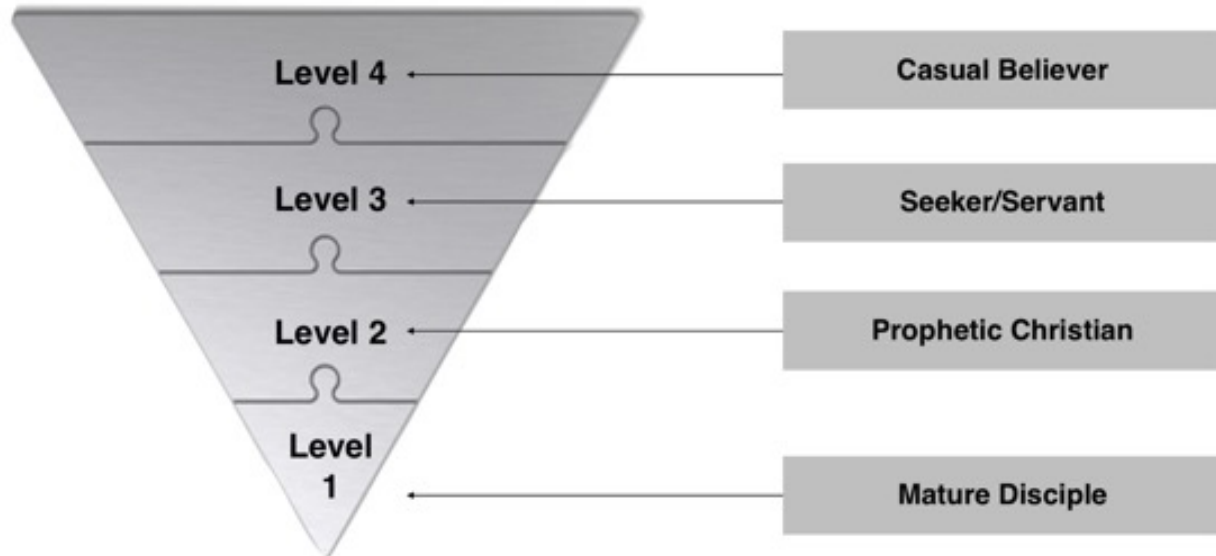
To one degree or another, these two opposing philosophies filter their way into the nuisances of daily life, guiding all of us into one of two eternal fates. As C. S. Lewis so eloquently noted in his, "The Weight of Glory":

- **"It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses, to remember that the dullest and most uninteresting person you talk to may one day be a creature which, if you saw it now, you would be strongly tempted to worship, or else a horror and a corruption such as you now meet, if at all, only in a nightmare. All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. *There are no 'ordinary' people. You have never talked to a mere mortal. Nations, cultures, arts, civilizations -- these are mortal, and their life is to ours as the life of a gnat. But it is immortals whom we joke with, work with, marry, snub and exploit -- immortal horrors or everlasting splendors...*"**

Could even God provide more compelling motivation to fully embrace spiritual discipline in all of its aspects?

Again, diminishment is far easier said than done. It's at odds with our hopes and efforts. It wars against both fallen angelic and human nature. Nevertheless, it alone offers reservoirs of Kingdom wisdom and power. A process designed to [shame the apathetic and arrogant](#), while rewarding the [diligent](#) and [humble](#).

Still, given the **ease and opulence** surrounding us, surpassing the imagination and **prayers of all past generations**, as well as the challenge and cost of descending into depths of godliness, unsurprisingly **modern Christianity** produces few takers:



**Biblical faith** can be spelled in a variety of ways. *Risk* is one. *Cost* is another. No wonder cheap grace accomplishes so little, and **costly grace** so much. In Saul/Paul's case, grace was an almost inconceivable transfiguring force turning the chief of sinners and persecutor of the Church, into the most notable and persecuted of apostles! A miraculous transformation, according to Paul himself, intended to **extend the same offer to all Christians**.

In fact, like the ranking spiritual military general he was and remains, Paul directs, "*Imitate me, just as I imitate Christ*, while **pouring out his life like a drink offering** to lead us to victory." How well do we imitate Paul? Are we exchanging even half, much less **our All for God's**? To what extent are we experiencing the vibrancy of the miraculous **Fruit and Gifts of Spirit** Paul used as both **armor** and weaponry, to **fight the good fight of faith**? The kind of marvelous and miraculous transformation **Paul prayed for all Christians**. Transfiguration that outstrips knowledge, literally filling us with "**All the Fullness of God**."

**Ephesians 3:14-21** (New King James)

**"For this reason** I bow my knees  
to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
from **whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named**,  
that He would grant you, **according to the riches of His glory**,

to be strengthened with might  
through His Spirit in the inner man,  
that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith;  
that you, being rooted and grounded in love,  
may be able to comprehend with all the saints  
what is the width and length and depth and height  
**to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge;**  
***that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.***  
Now to Him who is able to do **exceedingly abundantly**  
above all that we ask or think,  
according to the **power that works in us,**  
to Him be glory in the church  
by Christ Jesus to all generations,  
forever and ever.  
Amen."

Peter also joins in Scripture's call to [Kingdom citizen soldier transformation](#), reinforcing the critical need for growth in the disciplines of obedience and training. Note the detail of Peter's list of necessary [additions to faith](#), as well as their [hopeful promise of eternal reward](#):

- "In this way he has given us the very great and precious gifts he promised, so that by means of these gifts you may escape from the destructive lust that is in the world, and may come to share the divine nature. **For this very reason do your best to add goodness to your faith; to your goodness add knowledge; to your knowledge add self-control; to your self-control add endurance; to your endurance add godliness; to your godliness add Christian affection; and to your Christian affection add love.** These are the qualities you need, and if you have them in abundance, they will make you active and effective in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But if you do not have them, you are so shortsighted that you cannot see and have forgotten that you have been purified from your past sins. ***So then, my friends, try even harder to make God's call and his choice of you a permanent experience; if you do so, you will never abandon your faith. In this way you will be given the full right to enter the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.***" 2 Peter 1:4-11 GNT

The path to Biblical [salvation](#) and genuinely [following Christ](#) has collective and individual aspects. The following resources should provide help in both regards. First, in priming the pump for drilling down into deeper aspects of Christian life. Second, in assisting with the identification and implementation of Kingdom citizen soldier directives. While not for the feint hearted, such insight and encouragement is vital for those ready to redouble their efforts [to know](#) and and be known by God.

Links are provided throughout, and at the end of this article, to promote further research and application in areas our [most holy faith](#) may be anemic and/or deficient. Familiarity with each may be essential in recovering much that has been lost, yet more needed now than ever.

To this end, some bear repeated emphasis. With [Hell](#) to loose, and [Heaven](#) to gain, few questions in life are as important as where God draws the line in regards to [Biblical Salvation](#). What does Scripture teach [we must do to be saved](#)? Is [following Christ](#), the [authentic Jesus](#), different in the the [modern world](#) than the 1st century?

When aboard a massive ocean liner, in certain respects it doesn't seem as if you're moving. Because you're not, when judged by those around you aboard ship. To plot your course and speed, you need a waypoint off ship.

The same holds true for entire generations. There may be no sense of momentum, because we're all aboard the same massive ocean liner. But actually, we may be moving at a rapid pace, into dangerous waters. Or in our case, questionable if not heretical doctrine and [worldly lifestyles](#).

Few adequately recognize the growing gap between 1st century [Biblical Christianity](#) and 21st century [Modern Churchianity](#). Or even the requirements of salvation popularized by a pair of well known sermons by two of the primary architects of the 18th century [First Great Awakening](#).

[Jonathan Edwards' Sinners In The Hands Of An Angry God](#) may simultaneously be the most famous and infamous sermon of all time. Lightyears from the "cheap grace" of [modern Christianity](#), it's as interesting as it is a difficult read.

While not [religiously correct](#), the [God of the Bible](#) is simultaneously awe-full and awful, and should be [approached](#) as such. While [Churchianity](#) considers itself exempt from judgment, [Jesus](#) and His [apostles](#) tell a different story.

Fully grasping the message and exacting meaning of this sermon is crucial if we are to recover even a [fraction of what has been lost](#). Beginning by developing [living faith](#) rather than [presumption](#), whereby we [assume salvation](#) rather than [seeking](#) and [serving](#) God acceptably by means of [serious sanctification](#) and [radical discipleship](#). All necessary foundational requirements should we [realistically hope](#) to experience [Biblical Revival](#), much less [Kingdom Reformation](#), in our generation.

**Instead of reading [GodBlog's classic 18th Century version](#), [we highly recommend downloading "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God: Updated to Modern English Kindle Edition"](#) by [Jason Dollar](#). It can be read for \$2.99 on any device by downloading the Kindle app or simply on the Amazon cloud. It is a far easier and meaningful read when updated into modern language and format. The author also includes a balanced introduction and second sermon entitled "Love The Sum Of All Virtue" to present Jonathan Edwards in a more accurate light.**

Nevertheless, reader be warned. When Edwards uses the phrase “Born Again” in the 18th century, it is not with the same flippancy as in the 21st, whereby we erroneously grant ourselves privilege to have our cake and eat it too. Doctrinally justifying continuing our pursuit of the Christian/American Dream, while living [mostly worldly lives](#).

To understand the difference, you will need a sermon by his contemporary, [John Wesley](#), founder of the once puritan Methodist Church, entitled "[The Almost Christian](#).” Keep in mind that Wesley, who had been the leader of [Oxford's Holy Club](#) almost thirty years prior, was long famous for his passionate preaching and pursuit and service of Christ, backdated the final phase of his conversion experience to crossing the Atlantic in the company of Moravian missionaries to the New World.

Wesley’s Journal, covering the years 1736–1738, is replete with comments of his observations of and encounters with the Moravians (often calling them “the Germans”). A few selections of highlights give insight into the characters and spirit of the [Moravian movement](#) and its impression on the founder of the [Methodists](#).

- **Sunday, January 25, 1736 Wesley is on board a ship bound for America and observes the Moravians in the midst of life-threatening storms.** "At seven I went to the Germans. I had long before observed the great seriousness of their behaviour. Of their humility they had given a continual proof, by performing those servile offices for the other passengers, which none of the English would undertake; for which they desired, and would receive no pay, saying, “it was good for their proud hearts,” and “their loving Saviour had done more for them.” And every day had given them occasion of showing a meekness which no injury could move. If they were pushed, struck, or thrown down, they rose again and went away; but no complaint was found in their mouth. There was now an opportunity of trying whether they were delivered from the Spirit of fear, as well as from that of pride, anger, and revenge. In the midst of the psalm wherewith their service began, the sea broke over, split the main-sail in pieces, covered the ship, and poured in between the decks, as if the great deep had already swallowed us up. A terrible screaming began among the English. The Germans calmly sung on. I asked one of them afterwards, “Was you not afraid?” He answered, “I thank God, no.” I asked, “But were not your women and children afraid?” He replied, mildly, “No; our women and children are not afraid to die.” From them I went to their crying, trembling neighbours, and pointed out to them the difference in the hour of trial, between him that feareth God, and him that feareth him not. At twelve the wind fell. This was the most glorious day which I have hitherto seen.
- **Tuesday, February 24, 1736 In Savannah, Georgia:** "At our return the next day, (Mr. Quincy being then in the house wherein we afterwards were,) Mr. Delamotte and I took up our lodging with the Germans (the Moravians). We had now an opportunity, day by day, of observing their whole behaviour. For we were in one room with them from morning to night, unless for the little time I spent in walking. They were always employed, always cheerful themselves, and in good humour



with one another; they had put away all anger and strife, and wrath, and bitterness, and clamour, and evil-speaking; they walked worthy of the vocation wherewith they were called, and adorned the Gospel of our Lord in all things."

For additional journal entrees [please see entire article](#).

Clearly the [Moravians](#) had a tremendous effect on Wesley, greatly influencing his following [Christ](#) and ministry, [Wesleyan Theology](#) and founding of the [Methodist Movement](#). In essence, Wesley lived and preached, as in his sermon "[The Almost Christian](#)" that believers ought to progress beyond "Honest Heathens" who themselves often displayed more godly character and characteristics than the church of his day. And far and away more than [modern Christianity](#). Those progressing became [Almost Christians](#) in every inward and outward form, as Wesley identified himself prior to meeting with the [Moravians](#).

The final leg of the journey to salvation was that of being transformed into Authentic Christians, or [New Creations](#), by the mighty and continual power and presence of the [Holy Spirit](#). A transfiguration that would be clearly manifest to all. His concern and contention was that most believers, then and now, have yet to possess the traits and attributes of "Honest Heathens," much less "Almost Christians."

A century latter, One of the most notable and relatively recent heroes of the faith [George Müller](#) would arise. During his lengthy and world famous ministry in Bristol England throughout most of the 1800's, he housed and educated over 10,000 orphans. He also established over 100 schools providing Christian education for over 120,000.

Considered by many as a legendary icon of faith and miracles, George Müller was a Christian evangelist and the director of the [Ashley Down orphanage](#) in Bristol, England. According to many sources, some of the highlights of Müller's well documented ministry include:

- "Preaching three times a week from 1830 to 1898, at least 10,000 times. And when he turned 70 he fulfilled a life-long dream of missionary work for the next 17 years until he was 87. He traveled to 42 countries, preaching on average of once a day, and addressing some three million people."
- "He had read his Bible from end to end almost 200 times, 100 times on his knees. He had prayed in millions of dollars (in today's currency) for the Orphans and never asked anyone directly for money. He never took a salary in the last 68 years of his ministry, but trusted God to put in people's hearts to send him what he needed. He never took out a loan or went into debt."

Often praying in meals and resources for thousands of orphans, his journal entries reveal his unwillingness to touch a surplus of offerings targeted for missionary work. As with [Finney](#), and other great men and women of God, Müller also attributed his success to [developing sensitivity](#) to the [Holy Spirit](#). Few today can claim any, much less all such attributes. Each begun by Müller reading his Bible, 200 times, 100 times on his knees.

As [Leonard Ravenhill](#) noted, God doesn't answer prayer. He answers desperate prayer. Why? Because *Faith* is spelled *Cost*.

A more recent shining example of [Christ's city set on a hill](#) is the persecuted church throughout the world. The ministry of Nick Ripken, missionary extraordinaire, is showcased in his book and movie "[The Insanity of God](#)," his subsequent book "[The Insanity of Obedience](#)," and podcast "[Witness and Persecution](#)."

One excerpt from [The Insanity of God](#), regarding Ripken's meeting with Chinese persecuted house church leaders is particularly revealing:

David Chen had told me that this particular house-church movement was one of biggest and most diverse in the entire country. Many of its congregations and their leaders, like those who rode in the van with me, were urban, educated and comparatively sophisticated in the modern ways of the world—or at least in the modern ways of China.

At the same time, a significant percentage of this regional movement had sprung up and spread among people in places so provincial and so remote that much of the twentieth century had passed them by. Some of the church leaders from the most rural areas had little knowledge of the outside world.

In light of what David had told me, I was somewhat prepared for the curious stares during supper that night. But I was profoundly surprised after supper when I was formally introduced to the group. One of the local pastors raised his hand to ask a question. What he wanted to know was this: “Do the people in other countries also know about Jesus—or is He still known only in China?”

I had never been asked that question before—or even considered that point of view. For several long seconds I gathered my thoughts, trying to figure out where exactly to begin my answer. Then, with David interpreting for me, I told the group that millions of Americans and even more people in different countries around the world knew about and followed Jesus. I then told the group that believers in other parts of the world also knew about them—the Chinese believers in house churches. I told them that believers in many parts of the world prayed for them and their churches.

“Wait, wait!” people cried out. They could hardly believe what I was saying. One man responded this way: “Do you mean that people in your country know that we believe in Jesus? Do you mean that they know that some of us are suffering for our faith? Do you mean that they haven’t forgotten us and that they pray for us?”

I assured them: “Why yes, we have always loved you. And we have never forgotten you. For a long time, we have prayed for you.” It was a holy moment as these believers realized that they “were recognized, remembered and prayed for by fellow believers around the world.

One of the younger women in the group asked, “Since Jesus is known in other countries, are the believers there persecuted like we are?”

I told them about the experience of believers in two very oppressive Islamic countries. The entire gathering of house-church leaders in the farmyard became strangely still. Just minutes before, they had been clapping and shouting and asking questions. Now they were completely silent and still. They sat expressionless.

I attempted to enliven the group by sharing about Muslim-background believers we were close to—people who had exhibited inspiring faith under the most oppressive circumstances. But there was still no movement and no questions. When I had told a number of such stories, I felt half-dead myself.

I lowered my voice and I said to David, “That’s it. I’m done. I’m drained. I have nothing more to say tonight!” I stepped off the little stage in the middle of the compound and headed for the room where I was to sleep.

At 6:00 the next morning I was awakened by screaming and shouting outside in the compound. My first thought was that the security police had come.

As my eyes adjusted to the daylight, I saw that there were no security police swarming into the compound. What I saw were those Chinese house-church leaders and evangelists scattered around the farmyard, either lying or sitting on the ground, crying, screaming and yelling hysterically (or so it seemed to me). Many of them were pulling their hair or clutching at their clothes.

I spotted my friend David across the way and I rushed over to him. I demanded to know: “What in the world is going on?”

He told me to be quiet and to listen.

“You know that I don’t know a word of Chinese,” I told him. “What do you mean ‘just listen’?”

Again he insisted, “Just be quiet, Nik!” *Before I could protest again, he took me by the arm and began to walk me among these people who were crying and screaming. Because I was now silent, I actually began to hear and recognize the names of the two Muslim countries that I had told them about the night before. The names of those two countries were being repeated again and again in passionate and anguished prayer.*

When David stopped and turned to look at me, there were tears streaming down his face. He said, “**They were so moved by what you shared last night about believers who “were truly persecuted, that they have vowed before God that they will get up an hour earlier every morning to pray for those Muslim-background believers that you told them about in \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ (and he named**

the two nations\*) until Jesus is known throughout their countries." *In that instant, I could see why the number of Chinese believers had gone from a few hundred thousand to perhaps hundreds of millions!*

That's just a sample of the passion and [perseverance](#) of the impoverished and imperiled [Persecuted Church](#). Having little or no of modern Christianity's [blessings and technology](#), equivalent to a thousand personal servants, and facing unimaginable hardships of their own, they committed to an EXTRA [hour or prayer](#) of [behalf of believers](#) they would never know.

This what the [Holy Spirit](#) through Paul meant by the previously mentioned passage, "*Remember prisoners as if chained with them.*" This is also what Paul means when writing to his beloved Galatians, "*My little children, for whom I am again suffering birth pangs until Christ is completely and permanently formed (molded) within you.*"

Yet how many churches throughout the [modern world](#) have no regular and serious [prayer meeting](#) at all? Even for ourselves, [lost family](#) and the [failings of modern Christianity](#)? Nor the swiftly degenerating [times and seasons](#), clearly evident since 2020's introduction of the [Covid plandemic](#), [deadly clot shots](#) and a [dozen other unprecedented events](#). Much less do we care to burden ourselves with an extra hour of daily prayer for the [persecuted](#). Even as [judgment](#) and [tribulation](#) brood overhead, gathering like a [final global storm](#).

As noted, Jesus asked all seven of Revelation's churches the same question, "*Are your ears awake? Listen to the Wind Words, the Spirit blowing through the churches?*" In the Garden Gethsemane He also asked Peter and His disciples a question:

- " Going a little ahead, he fell on his face, praying, "My Father, if there is any way, get me out of this. But please, not what I want. You, what do *you* want?" **When he came back to his disciples, he found them sound asleep. He said to Peter, "Can't you stick it out with me a single hour? Stay alert; be in prayer so you don't wander into temptation without even knowing you're in danger."** Matthew 26:39-40 MSG

Blaise Pascal, the 17th century French [mathematician](#), [physicist](#), inventor, writer and [Christian philosopher](#) noted, "All Jesus's enemies awake and *all his friends asleep*. It is the same to this day..." Doubling the tragedy is that today, *it's not Christ's Gethsemane, but our own*. Yet, how few engage in [strategic daily prayer](#), much less enter into James 4's [Prayer of Anguish](#), as Jesus Himself did:

- "During the course of his earthly life, **Jesus offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who had the power to save him from death, and he was heard because of his godly fear.**" Hebrews 5:7 NCB

Will we not yet follow Christ's example, responding to His challenge to His disciples echoing to us down through the ages? Or shall we continue to leave Him knocking at the door without answer:

- "Look at me. **I stand at the door. I knock.** If you hear me call and open the door, I'll come right in and sit down to supper with you. **Conquerors will sit alongside me at the head table, just as I, having conquered, took the place of honor at the side of my Father. That's my gift to the conquerors!** "Are your ears awake? Listen. Listen to the Wind Words, the Spirit blowing through the churches." Revelation 3:20-22 MSG

Towards the end of the 2013 movie, Star Trek Into Darkness, the crippled Enterprise is helplessly falling to Earth. [Kirk sacrifices himself attempting to re-align the warp core](#) while being exposed to heavy radiation. He succeeds as Sulu fires the thrusters on the Enterprise having it rise above the clouds, battered but alive. A fitting scene, aptly expressing the crucial need for [Prophetic Christians](#) to arise to the challenge of this late hour.

All depends on restoring not only [accurate Biblical doctrine](#) and [radical discipleship](#), but on recovering the miraculous [Fruit and Gifts of the Holy Spirit](#). Particularly given the degraded [sociopolitical era](#) and degenerating [times and seasons](#) in which we live. Tragically, almost all modern Christians find the cost of such [honesty](#) and [holiness](#) too high a price to pay. As [Leonard Ravenhill](#) noted, "If you can live without [Revival](#), you will." Sadly, the same may be true in respect to [Biblical salvation](#). Who among us hasn't unsaved [family](#) and relatives, friends and neighbors galore? Yet we spend a thousand hours on [entertainments](#) to every hour [fasting](#) and/or [prayerfully agonizing](#) over their current state and [eternal fate](#). Furthermore, such [apathy](#) and/or [worldliness](#) raises serious questions about [our own relationship](#) and [walk with the Lord](#).

A point well made by the late great [David Wilkerson](#). Such messages as "[A Call To Anguish](#)" and "[A Time To Wake Up](#)" rank as some of the best ever preached.

"A Time To Wake Up" begins with "**Today you will rarely find a message on repentance.**" "[A Call To Anguish](#)" (abridged version) begins with "Folks... I'm tired of hearing about revival. I'm tired of hearing about awakenings... Of last day outpourings of the Holy Spirit... I've heard that rhetoric for 50 years... **Just Rhetoric. No meaning whatsoever.** I'm tired of hearing about people in the church who say that they want their unsaved loved ones saved... I'm tired of hearing people say I'm concerned about my troubled marriage when it's just talk... **Rhetoric.** And I look at the whole religious scene today and all I see are the inventions and ministries of man and flesh. It's mostly powerless. It has no impact on the world. And I see more of the world coming in and impacting the church rather than the church impacting the world. I see music taking over the house of God. I see entertainment taking over the house of God. An obsession with entertainment in God's house, A hatred of correction and a hatred of reproof. Nobody wants to hear it any more... **Whatever happened to anguish in the house of God?** Whatever happened to anguish in the ministry? It's a word you don't hear in this

pampered age. You don't hear it. Anguish means extreme pain and distress. The emotion so stirred that it becomes painful. Acute deeply felt inner pain because of the conditions about you, in you, or around you... **Anguish. Deep Pain. And Sorrow. Agony of God's heart...**"

And sprinkled throughout this [fearfully honest](#) sermon David further cries:

- **All true passion is born out of anguish. All true passion for Christ comes out of a baptism of anguish.**
- Hear's what God said, "I've heard the words of this people. They have well said all that they have spoken. O that there were such a heart in them. That they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always that it might be well with them, and their children forever!"
- "When I (Nehemiah) heard these words (regarding the ruin of Jerusalem) I set down and wept. And morned certain days and fasted. And prayed before the God of heaven."
- **We face a similar situation except ours is many times worse.**
- **Does it matter to you at all that God's spiritual Jerusalem, the church, is now married to the world?**
- Does it matter about the Jerusalem that's in our own hearts? The sign of ruin that is slowly draining spiritual power and passion? Blind to lukewarmness. Blind to the mixture that's creeping in.
- **You won't fight. You won't labor in prayer anymore. You won't weep before God anymore. You can sit and [watch television](#) and your family go to hell!**
- Does it really matter to you that your unsaved loved ones are dying and we're getting closer and closer to the end?
- Where's the anguish. Where's the tears. Where's the mourning? Where's the fasting?
- It's going to take more than preaching. More than a new revelation.
- Please don't tell me you're concerned. Don't tell me you want your unsaved loved ones saved while you're spending [hours before the internet](#) or [television](#). **Come on...**
- **There's going to be no renewal, no revival, no awakening until we're willing to let Him once again break us. *Folk's it's getting late and it's getting serious.***

This is classic Wilkerson. Anguishing over the [fall of God's people](#). Throughout David's 50 year ministry he witnessed a downward spiral of [spiritual disciplines](#) such as [prayer](#) and [Bible study](#), [sanctification](#) and [service](#). During the very same period in which we were given unprecedented [wealth and prosperity](#). As in Christ's warnings in the [Rich Man and Lazarus](#) and [Good Samaritan](#), we've refused to [humble ourselves](#) over the spiritual loss both around and within. Like [Laodicea](#) we've been deceived into believing we're on a [cruise rather than battle ship](#).

It's one thing to fight and fail, and quite another to fail to fight...