



MAP ♦ 575 US Highway 250 ♦ Greenwich, OH 44837 ♦ (419) 962-1515 ♦ March 2022

The General Epistle of James Teacher's Outline and Study Bible™

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Step 1: Submit to God—resist the devil 2. Step 2: Draw near to God & repent 	<p>B. The Way to Overcome Temptation, 4:7-10</p> <p>7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.</p> <p>8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.</p>	<p>Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.</p> <p>9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness.</p> <p>10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Must have clean hands b. Must have a pure heart <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Step 3: Be disciplined & deeply or mournfully concerned 4. Step 4: Humble yourself
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Section IV TEMPTATIONS AND TRIALS: TRIUMPHANTLY OVERCOME James 4:1-10

STUDY 2: THE WAY TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION

TEXT: James 4:7-10

AIM: To learn the Biblical steps to withstanding temptation.

MEMORY VERSE:

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (James 4:10).

INTRODUCTION:

Temptation is the constant experience of man. Temptation comes, and then comes sin. Every sin is preceded by temptation. Therefore, if we can figure out how to overcome temptation, we can wipe sin off the face of the earth. Imagine a world without sin—without war, murder, assault, divorce, immorality, hatred, anger, arrogance, haughtiness, and neglect. On and on the list could go. Imagine an existence

where all sin was eradicated. Again, the answer to conquering sin is to conquer temptation. Deal with the cause, not the result. How can we overcome and conquer temptation? This is the discussion of this passage. We must do four things.

OUTLINE:

1. Step 1: submit to God—resist the devil (v.7).
2. Step 2: draw near to God and repent (v.8).
3. Step 3: be disciplined and deeply or mournfully concerned (v.9).
4. Step 4: humble yourself (v.10).

1. STEP ONE: SUBMIT TO GOD—RESIST THE DEVIL (v.7).

How can we overcome temptation? By submitting to God, obeying His every word.

- ⇒ To “submit” to God means to put yourself under God, under His care, power, and strength; to yield to God, to His will, command, instructions, laws, behavior, and Word; to surrender yourself to God for Him to strengthen you so that you can do exactly what He says.

⇒ To “resist” here means to take a stand against the devil; to exert the energy and effort to oppose and defeat the devil and his temptation; to keep your mind and energy focused upon counteracting and conquering the temptation of the devil.

Both of these words are military words; therefore, they are urgent and they are imperatives. They are from our military commander, God Himself. When temptation strikes, submit yourself to God. Do exactly what your military commander says. He has the overall plan and all the weapons and fire-power at His disposal. His grace and power can defeat the enemy.

Submit yourself to God and His Word of command. What this means is to focus your mind upon God and His Word immediately when temptation strikes. Turn away from the temptation, push it out of your mind and begin to think about God and go over and over His Word in your mind. Persevere in following God’s command and in resisting the devil. When you do, the most wonderful thing will happen. The devil will flee and the temptation will be gone. Remember: this is exactly what Christ did (see Lu.4:4, 8, 12).

Now, note the critical point: we must both surrender to God and resist the devil. Both acts are required. When the devil or temptation confronts us, we can never defeat him and his hoards of evil...

- by standing and fighting alone
- by going our own way
- by giving in a little
- by refusing to listen to our Commander’s Word.

We cannot even listen to the enemy’s tempting offer—not even for a moment. Picturing the temptation moves us a long way down the road toward defecting, moving into the enemy’s camp, and sinning against God. The only way to conquer temptation is to immediately submit ourselves to God and immediately resist the devil and his temptation. (See A CLOSER LOOK #1 below.)

A CLOSER LOOK # 1

(4:7) **Satan—Temptation—Believer, Victory:** the believer is to resist the devil. He is to overcome the evil one. But how?

⇒ By asking God and praying, “Deliver us from the evil one.”

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever” (Mt.6:13).

⇒ By quoting Scripture, fasting and praying.

“And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God” (Mt.4:3-4).

⇒ By ministering in Jesus’ name.

“And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name” (Lu.10:17).

⇒ By special sessions of prayer.

“And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: but I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren” (Lu.22:31-32).

⇒ By invoking, that is, claiming, the name and power of the God of peace.

“And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly” (Ro.16:20).

⇒ By forgiving others.

“To whom ye forgive any thing, I forgive also: for if I forgave any thing, to whom I forgave it, for your sakes forgave I it in the person of Christ; lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices” (2 Co.2:10-11).

⇒ By not giving place to the devil, that is, not allowing the devil to get a foothold, not get a foot in the door, not get a chance to further tempt you.

“Neither give place to the devil” (Ep.4:27).

⇒ By putting on the whole armor of God.

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil” (Ep.6:10-11; see vv.12-18).

⇒ By repenting and acknowledging the truth.

“In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will” (2 Ti.2:25- 26; Ac.13:10).

⇒ By resisting the devil.

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (Js.4:7; 1 Pe.5:8-9).

⇒ By being born again.

“We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not” (1 Jn.5:18).

⇒ By not fearing and by being faithful.

“Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death” (Re.2:10-11).

ILLUSTRATION:

The sign read, “WARNING! DANGER! Stay on the high bank.” But a man passing by did not heed the sign. He had seen something of interest beside the stream—an old log of unusual structure lying there in the reeds. The man was a wood-carver and thought, “This will make a spectacular piece to work with.” He climbed down the steep ground to the water below, being very careful at first. But the closer he got to the log, the more excited he became. Then, the “log” moved. The man tried to bolt, but the mother crocodile, protecting her eggs, was much faster and stronger. The man had no chance of making it back to the safe high path.

What if the man had heeded the sign when he was first tempted to go down by the river? How much trouble and destruction would have been avoided? Likewise, if we simply heeded God’s instructions, yielding to His Holy Word as soon as we were tempted, how much trouble and destruction would we avoid?

QUESTIONS:

1. On a day-to-day basis, how can you to submit to God and resist the devil?
2. What example did Jesus Christ give us for battling temptation?
3. Name several weapons available to you to resist the devil.

2. STEP TWO: DRAW NEAR TO GOD AND REPENT (v.8).

How can we overcome temptation? The second thing we must do to overcome temptation is to draw near God, repenting of our sins. This is the greatest privilege in all the world: to have the glorious privilege to approach and draw near God, the Sovereign Majesty of the universe, the Creator and Lord of the universe. Just think, believers can approach God and talk and share with Him anytime, anyplace. The door into God’s presence is never closed. But note what Scripture teaches: the door into God’s presence is not only open, but we are strongly urged and encouraged to draw near God. This verse is again a strong imperative: “Draw near to God.” The temptation strikes; it is immediate, unexpected, fierce. What can we do? What is our hope? God—draw near to God. The idea is more than just submitting to God, much more. Drawing near means to get as close as possible to God. Get right next to Him. Begin to talk and share with Him. How do we do this?

- ⇒ By reading the Word of God, the Holy Bible or, if we do not have access to God’s Word when the temptation strikes, by reviewing verses of Scripture over and over in our minds.
- ⇒ By prayer—by asking God for strength and power, mercy and grace. But note: the prayer should be positive, focusing upon God and His strength and Word, not upon the temptation. Keep your mind off the temptation and upon God.

Focus upon God and God alone. Get close to God. Draw as near as possible to Him and note the glorious promise: God will draw near you. He will draw near and embrace you and strengthen you and deliver you. This is exactly what God promises.

However, note that drawing near to God is conditional. There is a person who God does not allow to draw near Him. Who? The person with unclean, sinful hands and an impure, wavering heart. A person must do two things before he can draw near God.

1. The person must clean his hands. Some of the Christians James was writing to had unclean, sinful hands, and James called them just what they were: sinners. If any of us have unclean hands—if we have touched what God forbids us to touch—we have not only sinned, but we are sinners. A terrible title to have attached to our names! Nevertheless, Scripture says that a person who touches when God says not to touch is a sinner.

The point is this: our hands must be cleansed of sin before we can approach and draw near God. God will not respond—He

will not draw near—to a person whose hands are not cleansed of sin.

2. The person must purify his heart and quit wavering between God and temptation. A person cannot have a divided loyalty between God and the world. A person who is double-minded, who tries to follow God some of the time and the world at other times, cannot draw near God. God does not accept him nor draw near him. A person must purify his heart, turn his heart completely and totally over to the Lord Jesus Christ. A pure heart—a heart totally committed and loyal to Jesus Christ—is the only heart that God will accept and draw near.

ILLUSTRATION:

Drawing near to God means pulling away from temptation. But we must look to God to deliver us from the sinful desire that threatens to take control of us. In other words, we must desire God more than we desire the world.

A young Christian was invited to a party one weekend. He knew the planned events were anything but wholesome and godly, but he really wanted to be part of the in-crowd. However, he could not get away from the gnawing conviction in his heart. All week, he wavered between forbidden thoughts of upcoming affair and waves of guilt for even considering going to the party.

Finally, the young man hit upon a plan. He would ask his father for permission to go. Of course, he would be careful not to reveal the details of the event. If his father gave him permission, all would be well—or so he thought. When Friday came, he went to his father and carefully asked for his okay, choosing each word with considerable thought.

After patiently listening, the boy's father replied, "I have only one question." "What's that?" the youth asked, still confident in his plan. "If the Lord comes back tonight," his father continued, "do you want Him to find you at that event?" After thanking his father the young man meekly walked away and forgot about his plans for the party.

God is always present to deliver us from trouble, but He would much rather deliver us from the temptation to get into trouble.

QUESTIONS:

1. What two ways should we use to draw close to God every day?
2. What conditions must be met in order to draw near to God?

QUESTIONS:

3. What are some specific ways you can battle temptation?

3. STEP THREE: BE DISCIPLINED AND DEEPLY OR MOURNFULLY CONCERNED (v.9).

How can we overcome temptation? We must consider the temptation to be serious, very serious. Note how descriptive this verse is:

“Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness” (v.9).

The word for “be afflicted” means to endure toils;³³ to discipline and to voluntarily abstain.³⁴ Temptation is affliction; therefore, when tempted, it is time to be disciplined and to control the comforts and joys of life. Temptation is a time for rigorous warfare—for battle and the discipline and endurance of battle.

In fact, note this: the strife of temptation is usually immediate and unexpected. Therefore, we must immediately drop whatever we are doing—immediately stop the laughter and the comforts or joy of the moment—and focus upon getting near God. Our hearts must mourn and weep under the heaviness of the temptation and its attack, mourn and weep before God, asking for strength and deliverance, lest we disappoint and cut the heart of Christ.

When we take the temptation this seriously, God will hear our cry and deliver and save us.

QUESTIONS:

1. What should be our attitude toward temptation? How can you become more sensitive to your own particular temptations?
2. What should be our first reaction when temptation strikes?
3. How has God helped you in the past to conquer temptation? What steps did you take to receive His help?

4. STEP FOUR: HUMBLE YOURSELVES IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD (v. 10).

How can we overcome temptation? God sees us at all times, even when we are tempted. Therefore, when we are tempted...

³³ A.T. Robertson. Word Pictures in the New Testament, Vol.6, p.53.
³⁴ William Barclay. The Letters of James and Peter, p.127.

- God must not see us continuing on in our activity and comfort, laughter and joy of the moment. God must see us drawing near Him and mourning and crying for deliverance.
- God must not see a self-sufficient spirit, a spirit that overlooks calling upon Him. God must not see a spirit that ignores His Word, a spirit that faces the temptation on its own, ignoring and not even thinking about God and His Word and strength. God must see us humbly coming into His presence, calling and depending upon Him for strength and wisdom to overcome the temptation.
- God must not see us looking at the temptation and picturing how attractive and enticing it is. He must not see us reveling in the thoughts of the temptation and in picturing how nice it would be. God must see us “casting down every imagination and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Co.10:5). Imagine! Every thought is to be captured and made obedient to Christ. We must always remember that the spiritual warfare is fought in the spirit and mind, at the very core of the heart and mind. We must commit our hearts and minds to focus totally upon Christ and things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous, and praiseworthy (Ph.4:8). This unbroken communion and fellowship with Christ is what God is after. It is the very reason He created us and has now saved us.

The point is this: when a person is tempted, if he will humble himself in the sight of God, God will lift him up. God will meet his need, give him whatever he needs, and deliver him from the onslaught of temptation.

APPLICATION:

William Barclay has an excellent description of this point.

*Only when a man realizes his own ignorance can he ask the guidance of God. Only when a man realizes his own poverty in the things that matter will he pray for the riches of God's grace. Only when a man realizes his weakness in necessary things will he come to draw upon his strength of God. Only when a man realizes that he cannot cope with life by himself will he kneel before the Lord of all good life. Only when a man realizes his own sin will he realize his need of a Saviour and of the forgiveness of God.*³⁵

“Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off” (Ps.138:6).

³⁵ William Barclay. The Letters of James and Peter, p.129.

QUESTIONS:

1. What does God want and expect us to do when temptation comes?
2. Since spiritual battles are fought in the mind, what is our best defense for avoiding temptation in the first place?
3. Read Ph. 4:8. What good, pure, and lovely things can you think about during temptation?

SUMMARY:

Remember what James 4:6 says: God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Without God's grace, we cannot stand during temptation. We will crumble under the weight or pressure of the overwhelming desire or enticement. Therefore, submitting to God is the only way to escape the traps and destruction of the devil. When we submit and draw near to the Lord, we will experience a close, precious fellowship with Him, and He will enable us to conquer and avoid temptation.

1. Step 1: submit to God—resist the devil.
2. Step 2: draw near to God and repent.
3. Step 3: be disciplined and deeply or mournfully concerned.
4. Step 4: humble yourself.

PERSONAL JOURNAL NOTES:

(Reflection and Response)

1. The most important thing that I learned from this lesson was:
2. The thing that I need to work on the most is:
3. I can apply this lesson to my life by:
4. Closing Prayer of commitment:

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An Attitude of Gratitude

—by John Weaver

This should describe every believer that names the name of Christ:

"In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thess. 5:18).

I know that it is easier to complain than to give thanks, but if we practice an attitude of gratitude, it will be a testimony that will show the world that we have something worth having.

Many situations in life are determined simply by our attitude. I used to think that people complain because they have troubles...but now I think that they have troubles because they complain.

Jesus told his disciples:

"These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Paul called the tribulation and afflictions that he suffered "light afflictions," even though we would probably consider them to be heavy. Remember that we can do ALL things through Christ. If we can be thankful and keep a positive and grateful attitude, then we are winners, regardless of our circumstances.

Some years ago, I heard of a tragic incident that moved me to the point that I went out of my way to visit the survivor. I will be forever glad that I did.

An Amish family had hired a van to take them somewhere, and a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed hit them in the side. There were injuries—maybe even fatalities. I am not sure.

What I do remember is that the young father was paralyzed from his neck down. He was a busy farmer and had a

large family. In an instant, his life was turned upside down.

He chose to look for things to be thankful for. Many people went to encourage him, but came away blessed. I was one of them. Not one of his words were negative. He stressed that there is so much that he had to be thankful for. He was so grateful to have a sound mind that was not hurt in the accident.

I do not know how many years that man laid on his bed, helpless, depending on others for everything, and yet being grateful. Finally he was released from his crippled body, and given a new one.

Today Lord, I choose to live a life of thanksgiving. You are good, and Your mercy endures forever!

For that we thank You. AMEN.

The Church of God

—by Joe Keim

Hello Church of God! I felt compelled to share some things with you that I read in my morning study. I was reminded just how special and precious you are in God's sight. There is not a spot on you, nor a wrinkle or any such thing. You are holy and without a single blemish (Eph 5:27).

While some see you as getting weaker and weaker, and Jesus wanting to snatch you out of the earth just before you die, let me encourage your heart: He is not coming back for a weak, pathetic, and defiled bride. He is coming back for a glorious church.

While you may at times feel like the world is crushing you to shreds, and the ground that you stand on is shifting in all directions, let me remind you: Jesus is holding you by His right arm and keeping you from falling. On that great and coming day, when you arrive face

to face with your Savior, He will present you faultless before the presence of God's glory. He will do so with exceeding joy – joy beyond comprehension (Jude 24)!

Isaiah says the earth will be shaken. Ezekiel says the nation of Israel will be shaken. Haggai says the heavens and nations will be shaken. Hebrews says everything that can be shaken will be shaken. But, that is not true of the church; she will never be shaken! She is as solid today as she was in the very beginning, 2000 years ago.

Why is it impossible for the church to be shaken? It is because the church belongs to Jesus! It is He who is building the church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Matt 16:18).

The devil and all his dominions cannot shake the church. All the godlessness,

all the evil, and all the corruption in our world today cannot, and will not, bring the church down. Our Head and Founder, the Lord Jesus Christ, is the highest and the most powerful authority in all the universe. His authority and power supersede all the demons, all the forces of evil, all the earthly authorities, every sickness and disease, and even death itself.

I will leave you with the following thoughts: We are clearly informed in Philippians 2:9-10 that there is a day coming when every knee of man, angels, and demons will bow and confess that Jesus is Lord. Those who have denied His existence will bow in worship. Those who have spent their lives rebelling at His authority will finally bow in submission. Every being from all ages will ultimately bow and worship Jesus.

Amen and amen!

“..nevertheless not My will, but Thine be done.”

Before Jesus began His ministry, He rose up a great while before day, went out and found a solitary place, and prayed (Mark 1:35-39).

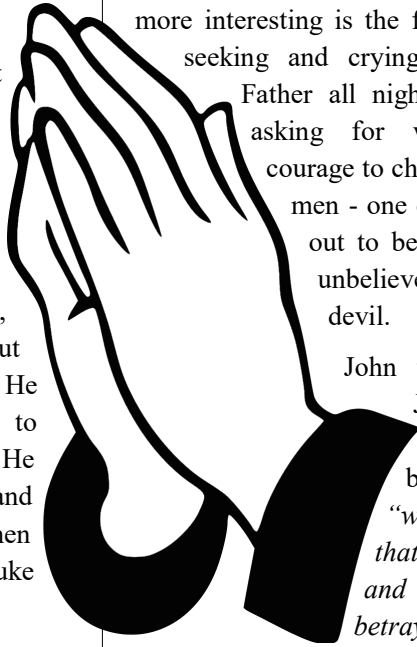
There were other times that Jesus withdrew from the multitudes and found a solitary place to pray (Luke 4:42-44 and 5:16).

The day before Jesus chose the twelve apostles, we are told, once again, that Jesus went out into the mountain to pray. He continued all night in prayer to God. Finally, at daybreak, He called His disciples together, and from them, He chose twelve men and named them apostles (Luke 6:12-16).

Choosing the twelve apostles must have been a huge concern for Jesus, knowing

that these imperfect and unpredictable sinners would need to carry on the work in less than three years. Even more interesting is the fact that after seeking and crying out to the Father all night - probably asking for wisdom and courage to choose the right men - one of them turns out to be a traitor, an unbeliever, and a devil.

John tells us that Jesus knew from the beginning *“who they were that believed not and who should betray Him”* (John 6:64). I can't help but sit back and desire to learn from this.



1. Did the Father say to the Son, “Son, I will answer 90 percent of your prayer requests, but not all?”
2. What did Jesus feel like when He looked Judas in the eye and said, “Follow me. You are one of the chosen?”
3. If Jesus already knew from the beginning that one of the twelve would betray Him, why did He pray all night?
4. Why did God allow a traitor and a devil to be part of the twelve? Maybe Nicodemus, or the rich young ruler, but surely Judas should not be one of the chosen?

After these questions, and no answers, I have come to the conclusion that it is okay. I don't need to know all of the details. God is in charge, and He knows what He's doing. Amen and Amen!

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There has been something laying on my mind for a while. Everyone of us, no matter where and how we grew up, are more intimately acquainted with our own heritage and belief system than we are with other cultures around us. When I hear people talking about their Catholic (or any other) upbringing, it sounds strange to me. The only one I know is Amish, because that is where I was born and raised.

For some time, I have had a question about my people's heritage. I was in a discussion with a person that was raised Catholic. I asked him if he knew about how the Anabaptist people broke away from the Catholic church, and how they were brutally persecuted for it. He looked at me all wide-eyed, and said, "NO!" He had no idea. I explained to him that it was discovered that some of the things that the Catholic church had been practicing weren't

right according to Scripture. So when the people broke off and went to practice a lifestyle that they thought was Biblical, they were killed in terrible ways. Drownings. Burnings. The list goes on and on. I have never been able to force myself to read much of how they died. I guess I am weak, because my stomach feels like it will lose its contents when I read about it.

So here is what has been on my mind: When those people went to their death, they were so happy! Why? Because they knew that in just a few minutes, they would be with Jesus! How did they know that? They knew because they read in the Bible that if they called upon Him, they would be saved! We have to get to the place where we know that it is JESUS, and ONLY JESUS. Nothing else can save us.

So when and how did it happen that in

most Amish circles today (not all), everyone clings to their Anabaptist heritage, but doesn't believe that we can know that we are saved? We can only hope. If we should leave the Amish church, and go to a church that teaches that we can have assurance of heaven (just like the Anabaptists believed), we get excommunicated and/or shunned. It makes me shudder to think that in just a few generations, we can go in a full circle.

I guess my thrust is this: We had better be studying Scripture and making sure that it truly IS the Holy Spirit guiding us. All other roads lead to death. I want to be very clear here, there are a LOT of things that we were given from our heritage that are PRECIOUS and TRUE! My husband and I have always had the desire to only lose what needs to be lost, and cling to the things that are good and true.

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Feedback and Response

Our way of thinking is not what I see in your publication, *The Amish Voice*. For myself, I don't want to judge another group's way of thinking. Therefore, I ask that you be respectful to others. We are living in the last days, but we have much—many comforting words: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). —MS

MS,

Thank you for your letter. We certainly try to respect everyone. As you know, people will not always completely agree on everything. In fact, people often disagreed with Jesus, and He was God. He was hated for speaking against the sins of His culture (John 7:7). He was often opposed by those who followed tradition and religion instead of God and His Word.

It is good that we can discuss these things in a kind manner. We can certainly disagree with others without disliking or disrespecting them—

especially if both parties want to know and follow the Bible and God's truth.

It is certainly true, too, that the Bible provides many comforting words to those who know Him—including the verse you quoted that tells us that those who believe in Jesus have (not will have) everlasting life.

We need to believe what God has said in the Bible rather than simply follow "our way of thinking" or "our group's way of thinking." Our way, and even our group's way, may indeed be wrong at times, which is why Jesus taught us to "search the Scriptures" (John 5:39).

Many people have been led astray by following their own thoughts or the beliefs of a group, but it is the holy scriptures that "are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15).

In addition to meeting with other Christians, we hope that you spend time alone with God each day in prayer and reading the Bible. Let us go to the Bible to see what is true and right (Acts 17:11). Let us always be ready to tell others what God has said and be able and willing to discuss the only perfect standard, the Bible, together.

—Paul Miller



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There is a silent monster in the room. It is so big and ominous, and holds such a horrid, almost palpable dread, that in order to cope we push it out of our minds. But it's there, groping, clawing, scratching, and bringing a dreadful havoc into churches, schools, and homes. It is ever-growing, gaining momentum, gaining power—such a hidden, evil, abusive power.

This monster, as you may have already guessed, is not a literal monster, but a spiritual one. It thrives in religious groups, secret societies, and cults. It thrives anywhere it is permitted to grow. As long as we try to ignore it, it grows...silently...if you can ignore the muffled screams in hidden places, and in the dead of night, and in the souls of the abused.

This monster is not a single entity, but several who stealthily work together to build their hierarchy of deceit so devious that we miss it entirely.

Fear is a liar who gains control by causing us to believe that false evidence is real. We protect ourselves in various ways, one of which can be to hurt others before they get a chance at us, or to find a way to control them so as to minimize their perceived threat.

Silence is deafening. The lies of what is hidden, unsaid, roar in our ears. As long as we remain silent, what is hidden will grow, and grow, and grow.

Abuse. The shameful things of which we don't speak are so powerful. We think that we do well to not speak of them because they are evil. However, evil has its power in secrets. Once brought to the light, it loses its power.

There is more than one form of abuse:

- ⇒ Spiritual: scripture or religious beliefs used to control another or keep them under our power

- ⇒ Physical: the actual hitting or causing bodily harm to another
- ⇒ Sexual: the act of touching another sexually in ways they do not want to be touched
- ⇒ Emotional: hurting someone in their emotions by using tricks, manipulation, etc.
- ⇒ Verbal: goes along with emotional abuse, but primarily with unkind speech
- ⇒ Psychological: the act of messing with someone's mind. Making suggestions that cause them to question their own sense of reality. All forms of abuse are used for the purpose of controlling another human being against their will.
- ⇒ Religious Beliefs: Not all religious beliefs are wrong, but religious beliefs can be used in a way to control others, and when that happens, the devil has a lot of fun wreaking all kinds of havoc.

You may be wondering how all these things work together to create a monster? Let's get the elephant out in the open, shall we? One of the darkest, most evil, hidden issues in history has always involved hidden abuse in religious settings. Now, I fully understand the shame involved, both simply in the fact that the deeds are evil and we don't want to speak of them, but also in the shame of what has happened to us as victims of abuse.

I want to give us a key area to address in overcoming this very real problem. Our silence. There are several reasons that silence holds so much power.

The first one is that if we, as victims, remain silent, nothing is ever done about the problem, and we don't find healing. Abuse always gains power in silence and secrecy.

When we remain silent we are in actu-

ality supporting the abuse and the abuser!!!! Think about it! When you were a child, if someone bullied you and no one said anything—didn't you feel like they were taking the side of the bully? They were! Because they were afraid—back to my point of Fear.

When we are silent, the issue is never addressed. Issues addressed are issues taken care of. Issues we don't address do not go away. They continue to grow behind the scenes.

Another major part of this entire issue we must address is what we are doing to victims of abuse. Consider what they have been through. Consider the shame and the intense pain which is only intensified by the silence. But what makes this even more evil, is the fact that victims are commonly told to keep silent, and even told they must be imagining it. It could not possibly be true. Now put yourself in their shoes for a minute. Would YOU make up in your head something so shameful and put it out there for the whole world to know about yourself if it WASN'T true? No! The only reason that we would consider to tell something so horrendous is to find closure and healing! I believe this is one of the most hurtful things associated with abuse of all time. To not only need to endure the abuse, but then to not be believed is excruciating. To have only one person believe...I cannot tell the immense relief the victim experiences in that moment. I say this from experience.

It is time for us to awaken from our stupor and from our sleep! It is a shameful thing that such things are not being taken care of in churches—which are supposed to be welcome havens for the hurting and the weary. We need to realize that we are bringing a curse upon ourselves that God cannot bless and prosper.

I don't think I'll ever forget that day. It is etched deeply in my memory.

I wasn't prepared for the grueling class periods when I signed up for a three week ladies' healing group. I wasn't prepared for the incomprehensible amount of emotional pain and heartache that I was about to walk through – both in my own life and in walking through other's pain.

I cannot be convinced that sexual abuse doesn't affect a person – because it does. It is the equivalent of emotional murder. I wish I could somehow explain how it felt to listen to story after story of deep, excruciating pain. The loss of innocence. The horrible betrayal. The utter powerlessness – to keep it from happening and to make it stop. The ambivalence. The shame. The contempt.

I wanted to run out of the room – away from it all. Somewhere...anywhere. I

instinctively shielded my growing abdomen with my hands as I tried to protect my unborn child.

At break time, I found myself at the window. It was a beautiful summer day, but I didn't see that. Tears blurred my vision. I only felt the deep pain. My whole body hurt. Through my tears, I managed to talk to my baby: "It's okay, child. Mama will be alright. It doesn't feel safe right now, but it is. I'll protect you, little one."

Sharing my own story of sexual abuse was harder than I had ever imagined. Oh, I had talked about it before. But this time was different – very different.

I cried as I told of the brutality and total powerlessness. I shared details that only a select few people knew. Deep sobs that I had bottled up inside of me spilled out and tears ran down my cheeks. I found myself surrounded by the dear ladies in my class. They cried

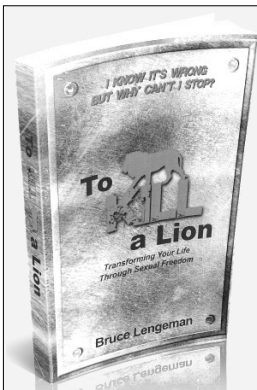
with me. It wasn't my pain – it was our pain.

As the tears flowed from our eyes, I felt the presence of Jesus. In my mind's eye, I saw Him. He was weeping with us – weeping for the little girls who'd been hurt so deeply. Tears ran down His cheeks and fell to the ground.

And then it hit me. Our pain is His pain. There is no pain or abuse that Jesus hasn't experienced. When He carried your pain and mine, our pain became His. *"He was despised, and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief... Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows..."* (Isaiah 53:3-4).

Dear hurting soul, Jesus understands your pain and He cares. His tears fall with yours. Because...

He makes your pain His.



Do you struggle with lust or other sins and addictions?

To Kill a Lion, written by Bruce Lengeman, is designed to help men find the roots of their sexual addiction. The theme is, "Men cry out, 'I know it is wrong, but why can't I stop?'" *To Kill a Lion* will help men understand their own sexuality and what makes it operate "out of alignment" with God's design. You'll learn why it is healthy to be sexual as a man, but in a pure and Godly way. Though this

book was not written for women, many are reading it and getting an understanding of things they never knew about sexuality.

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Victim or Victor?

—by Eli Lee

You know, the truth is that we are all victims of circumstances that were dealt to us and were not of our own choosing. Some, of course, have suffered many more injustices than others.

But I have seen people who have suffered unimaginable injustices, yet have given all those hurts to Jesus and received healing and received victory,

living with more joy than many people who have far less injuries.

It is clear that the choice is ours—whether we continue to wallow in self-pity as a victim, or rise up above our circumstances and become a victor by the power of Jesus.

So which one are you? A victim or a

victor? Those are the only two options.

If you find yourself in the former state, please find someone who can help you walk through the steps to receive healing in Jesus. Don't continue living in misery and fear. When we trust Jesus with it all and He gives us His power to overcome, our outlook in this world completely changes.

A tidal wave of awakening will flood the whole world – It's unstoppable!

We are at the beginning of something that is unstoppable and which will flood the entire world. A historically unprecedented worldwide awakening is happening, where hundreds of millions of people are beginning to see how their governments, media, and health organizations are indescribably corrupt, and are lying to them in ways nobody could have ever imagined in their worst nightmares. As a result, innumerable people in every nation no longer blindly submit themselves to the criminal plans of their overlords, but they have begun to rise up and take action to build a better world.

The magnitude of this worldwide awakening is beyond anyone's comprehension. Nothing like this has ever occurred since the beginning of time. Still, it is only just starting, and is nothing compared to what the world is about to witness soon. As vaccine adverse events get worse worldwide, as healthy and innocent people are rounded up in quarantine camps, as vaccine passports are required to participate in society, and so many more insane things are happening, this current awakening will evolve into something we cannot even imagine.

VAX ALERT

Who could have imagined what we are seeing now already? In past decades, only a minority of medical experts were aware of the dangers of vaccines. They fought a hard and seemingly impossible war to wake up an uninterested world that was more engaged in watching mindless movies and silly TV programs than hearing about the dangers of vaccines. Now, all of a sudden, hundreds of millions of people worldwide know how incredibly devastating vaccines can be.

In the most liberal state of the USA - California, over 30% of all law enforcement, firefighters, and nurses are standing up against the vaccine mandates. It is estimated that at least half of all physicians in America are refusing the vaccine tyranny. Medical organizations that resist the plan to forcefully inject experimental, untested, and highly toxic substances into the entire world population, are being formed in every nation of the world.

In our World Freedom Directory, you can find over *six hundred* organizations worldwide that say 'NO' to this criminal tyranny. Six hundred organizations, yet our brand-new directory only shows a fraction of what is happening worldwide. Who could have imagined? Yet this is only the early beginning of the worldwide resistance.

MEDIA CRASH

For the past century, the media has had a monopoly on the minds of mankind, determining strictly what the world was allowed to think, believe, or do, without anybody having the slightest clue as to how they were being manipulated by the news. Now, a rapidly increasing percentage of humanity no longer trusts the media.

I see an explosion coming that will be far greater than what we have seen so far. Let the wicked increase the tyranny. Let them put healthy humans in quarantine camps for no reason whatsoever. Let them impose mandates that are so ridiculous that only the very foolish will fall for them. They are digging their own graves. They will fall in the traps that they put out for humanity.

THEIR OWN TRAPS

The following may pose somewhat of a challenge for some readers. Still, it's worth mentioning because it's very en-

couraging. At the start of this "pandemic," I received one specific statement from the Bible several times from different people. That rarely happens, and when it does, I know I should pay attention. This is the verse several people - out of the blue - sent to me:

"The heathen are sunk down in the pit that they made: in the net which they hid is their own foot taken. The Lord is known by the judgment which he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands."

Psalms 9:15-16

A simplified paraphrase could read: *'The Lord is well known for the fact that He judges the wicked, by causing them to fall in their own traps.'* In a Dutch Bible translation (I migrated to the USA from The Netherlands), it is even more clear: *'God became famous for defeating his enemies with their own weapons.'* I thought about it, and suddenly I realized how true it is. Here are a few examples:

Facebook was, believe it or not, created by military intelligence agencies as a tool for spying on and controlling all of humanity. However, millions used it to spread truth to their friends, and soon hundreds of millions discovered critical truths that the government and criminal agencies desperately wanted to hide from the world. When Facebook saw this, they panicked and began censoring, but...*they were too late*. A vast portion of humanity had already seen the truth, and is now spreading it far and wide, outside of Facebook.

While Facebook was designed to be a tool to enslave the world, it has been used to open the eyes of humanity. YouTube is the same story. Tens of

thousands of truth revealing videos informed hundreds of millions of formerly ignorant people before the owners of YouTube realized that they had better start censoring. *They, also, were too late.* The lid has been blown off and the steam has already filled the room.

Even the internet itself was created to be a system that would eventually control the world. But, it is being used to liberate mankind. The number of websites revealing truth is innumerable!

Another example: the toxic medical experiments incorrectly called ‘vaccines,’ are intended to enslave every soul to a never-ending series of booster shots, yet they are alerting hundreds of millions - and soon billions - to the criminal nature of governments, health agencies, and the pharmaceutical industry.

While the vast majority of the world population has never questioned the integrity of the pharmaceutical industry, they are now seeing how mind-blowingly evil it is, by demanding to inject every child, every few months, again and again, with untested medical experiments that are proving to kill millions and permanently disable hundreds of millions. The documented evidence for this can be seen in our Vaccine Death Report (online).

Even in the USA, we are seeing how the Biden administration intended to enslave the American people to communist China, is waking up large numbers of hard-core liberals, because President Biden is pushing things way too far. Intelligent humans all over the world are waking up to the criminal plan to enslave humanity to the tyranny of an evil elite.

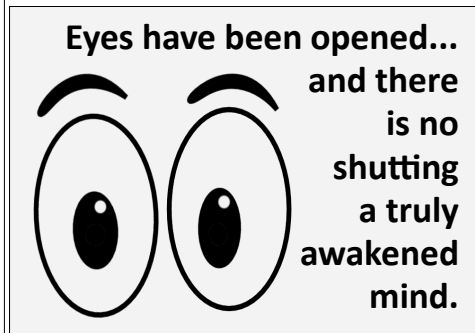
TRUTH EXPLOSION

Every scientist they silence wakes up an entire scientific community surrounding that scientist. Every medical doctor they shut down for speaking

truth is observed by an entire medical community, which, as a result, is awakened, because they witness with their own eyes, how a sincere and good medical colleague is being silenced.

America’s Frontline Doctors was censored on all social media, and even their website was taken down. As a result of that persecution, they now have almost a million members, and they have become a worldwide movement for freedom.

Censorship tries to silence the voice of scientists and physicians, but it is causing volcanoes of truth to erupt. In short: every plan these psychopaths are plotting is massively turning against them, and will lead to the exact opposite of what they are hoping. Instead of total slavery of all of humanity, it is causing the greatest mass deliverance of all time.



The eyes have been opened, and there is no shutting a truly awakened mind. The veil of deception is being lifted, and nobody will be able to put it back. The wicked elites think that the world is full of fools, but they forget how many millions of wise, brave, and good people there are, that they will soon wish they had never messed with. So I want to encourage you... the awakening is truly only just beginning. We will see things that we cannot even imagine. Really. We cannot imagine it.

META MADNESS

Another attempt to alienate humanity from true joy and abundant life has been launched by these psychopaths.

Facebook has now announced META, a life-less, artificial dimension that will inflict even more mental illness, relational conflict, loneliness, depression, and other disasters on the human soul than ever before. Science has established how Facebook, and social media in general, have severely increased depression, loneliness, and mental illness, resulting in a rise of suicide. Now they intend to ramp it up to a whole other level of destroying countless lives, by enticing everyone into a realm that is 100% fake. Although it will prove intensely thrilling, it will cause deep inner conflict and confusion.

None of us were created to live in a fake digital world that alienates us from reality and that only exists when we press a button in our brain. We are born to enjoy the REAL world with true friendships, genuine relationships, and heart-to-heart interaction with other humans. We are born to experience deep love that fills, strengthens and establishes our soul. We are made to hug one another, to feel one another, to see each other’s eyes, and to touch the soul of the ones we love with our deepest inner being - so we feel connected, valued, safe and cherished.

We were not born to become addicted to exaggerated sensations of intense surreal experiences that only exist in projections on our mind. We are born to sense the fresh air, breathe in the breeze, enjoy the cool of the night, and be thrilled by the blazing sunlight.

Nobody is born to live in a world of lies, deception, mind control, and virtual 'reality'. There is nothing real about virtual reality—just like there is nothing social about social distancing.

These criminals are wizards at deceiving the public with cunning word plays. Saying ‘virtual reality’ is the same as saying ‘ice fire,’ or ‘loving hatred.’ It is total nonsense. They play the same trick with the words ‘social distancing.’

There is nothing social about distancing yourself from other human beings. It is destroying everything social! But with these word games, they easily fool people who don't think a little deeper.

Virtual reality is 100% fake - the opposite of reality. A world of lies that sucks people in and steals reality from them. Millions are addicted to video games because they yearn for more than the dead, meaningless city life that is offered to them— always being locked into their stone prisons, called 'homes,' where they find no meaning, no adventure, and no challenge. Man wasn't born to be a couch potato, enclosed by stone walls, in concrete cities, and devoid of life. Man was born to be surrounded by life, animals, seasons, challenges, adventures, and everything that fills our soul with sheer LIFE.

META is the new virtual reality of Mark Zuckerberg and the insane criminals behind him. It is intended to enslave humanity even more deeply to the death-grip of suffocating technology that steals true joy, true intimacy, true relationships, and true life, by offering instead a fake realm, fake experiences, fake environments, fake friends, and fake interactions - all made out of digital code instead of living atoms.

Real flowers can never be replaced by fake digital images. Butterflies, birds, even the buzzing of the bugs, will never be replaced by the dead, fake lies of a virtual world where nothing is real. Escaping a purposeless existence to seek meaning in even more fakery will never satisfy humanity.

THE REAL DEAL

I believe that at the end of the day, all of this will increasingly lead to humanity yearning for the real thing. Conscientious and good people will turn back to the roots of nature. Ultimately, META will kickstart the opposite of what it was intended for.

Just as the tyrannically imposed toxic injections are opening the eyes of people to the criminal nature of the so-called 'health agencies' and 'caring governments,' META will show the world how we need to return to basic, organic, true, genuine, God-given life.

We are now seeing how the criminally centralized power in every part of our world is inspiring people to return to building small, local communities. Being slaves of a consumer-oriented, city-based system kills the life in us, and will lead innumerable people to shift back to a more basic, God-made form of life, where we grow our own food, help our neighbors, serve our communities, and share love with one another.

Humans were not created in a big city. The Book of Genesis shows that man was created in a beautiful, lush garden and was given the authority to make the whole earth a fruitful paradise. Farmers - the good ones who don't destroy the earth, but cherish it and cause it to flourish - are the closest to the first-created man. Humans were made for the earth; to learn, discover, value, cherish, love, and protect the earth, so that it is a source of LIFE for all.

The wicked have stolen most of that, and have caused humans to be disconnected from the world by focusing our attention on fake movies, lying media, poisonous 'health' care, and toxic food, that has caused more disease in our time than ever before. But, I see a change coming - where the basics of true life will be valued again. The more dead, fake, empty illusions that are created, the more people will return to that which is alive, real and fulfilling.

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

This current crisis offers tremendous opportunity to ALL OF US who are awake - to learn so much that will benefit us, our children, friends and communities. We are the first of a new

breed that will no longer say 'YES' to the crimes of governments and wicked agencies claiming to 'help' us. The warriors of the GOOD SIDE are rising - more than ever - and this cannot be stopped, as it is being led by the Great and Higher Force that is far above all.

Throughout the coming ages, I believe that we will see more and more awakening, healing, restoration and a better world. It will, however, not be easy. Sometimes we have to walk through the dark in order to see the light. We need to see evil expressed in its fullness before we understand how badly we need to return to what is GOOD.

Our world has been on a steep slope towards perversion and wickedness for decades. Only a crisis is able to shake us wide awake and turn us back to the Source of love, light, and truth, which we desperately need, instead of filling our lives with the nonsense that is constantly offered to us from the dark side.

This has nothing to do with religion, but it is the very essence of our existence: do we choose the LIGHT, or do we prefer darkness?

The World Economic Forum, and its criminal allies at the United Nations, and other globalist entities say that this world crisis is a unique window of opportunity to seize total control over every aspect of the world and to enslave humanity, all in the name of 'sustainability.' They use beautiful words to hide their true intentions, but they are right about one thing: this crisis offers tremendous opportunity.

Let's use it to wake up and see how evil is terrorizing our world and our loved ones. Let's shift back to the Source of all life, goodness, and hope, so we become cleansed and empowered to stop this flood of wickedness and build a better world, founded on principles that create life, goodness and true sustainability.

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March

Book of Romans (Romans 8:10-14)

Taught by Michael Pearl.

What to Do When You Are Not Okay (part 2 of 2)

Debra Fileta helps you better understand your emotions, and intentionally pursue a path to mental and spiritual wellbeing.

Saying “Thanks” versus Being Grateful (part 2 of 2)

We can say “thanks” but not be grateful. We can mouth words, but our hearts are elsewhere. The Bible says in 2 Timothy 3:2 that people can be “lovers of self...ungrateful.” We can even sing a song of thanks while in a worship service at church, but inwardly dwell on the hurt and offense we feel toward someone who wronged us the day before. Message by Emerson and Jonathan Eggerichs.

Conscience

Join Pastor John Marino and J.D. Crowley in this message on the conscience. (J.D. Crowley is the co-author of the book, *Conscience: What it Is, How to Train it, and Loving Those Who Differ*.)

April

Book of Romans (Romans 8:15-23)

Taught by Michael Pearl.

The Free Gift of God is Eternal Life

Sanctification is both something we do and something God does. We must work hard to obey, but only God’s grace sustains us in the fight. Taught by John Piper

8 Ways to Jump Off the Crazy Cycle

Emerson and Jonathan Eggerichs discuss 8 ways to prevent and get off the Crazy Cycle. Examples include what to do when you see the spirit of your spouse deflate, accepting some trouble as normal, and trusting in each other’s good will.

Theology

Pastor John Marino is joined by Dr. Royce Short to discuss the importance of theology in how it relates to everyday life.

May

Book of Romans (Romans 8:8-39)

Taught by Michael Pearl.

In the Hands of a Rapist

Kidnapped from a Kmart parking lot, Margy Mayfield spent the next 10 hours with a violent and dangerous criminal. Stephan Morin had never known anything but driving hatred, until he experienced the love of Christ. What happened on their journey is nothing short of miraculous!

How to Deepen Your Love

Chip Ingram shares the missing link to most failing marriages and why it’s central to enjoying the marriage that you’ve always hoped for.

Pornography, A Sexualized Culture (Part 1 of 2 parts)

We live in a sexualized culture where God’s good and perfect design for sex has been twisted and perverted. Pornography is not only a degrading of women made in God’s image, pornography is a degrading of God’s purpose in representing the gospel through marriage. Pastor John Marino expounds on reclaiming the importance of sex in God’s design.

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The cost of *The Amish Voice* is \$.50 a copy and is totally funded by readers from across our great country who appreciate the ministry and care to support it. If the Lord would lay it on your heart to come alongside of us by helping with expenses, it would be a great benefit, as well as highly appreciated. Thank you. —Joe Keim, Executive Director

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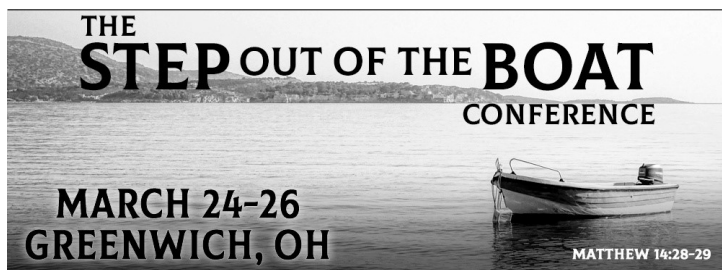
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The conference dates are set for March 24, 25, and 26 of this year. You are invited to come. In fact, I ask you with a sincere heart, to seriously pray and seek the heart of God before you just shrug this invitation off and continue on with your life as it is.

Consider that this is our generation. It is our turn to make an eternal impact. Others before us had their chance. Now it is ours.

So, come on, move away from your comfort zone and join us this March for the *Step Out of the Boat Conference*. I promise, you will be challenged to get busy about our heavenly Father's business as well as encouraged in your faith. You desperately need it, and so do we!

As the world gets darker, dives deeper into the pit of sin and godlessness, and persecution begin to show up at our own doorsteps, one thing is more and more clear: you need me and I need you.

Let's put our petty differences aside, and together fall at the feet of Jesus and ask for His mercy and anointing.

What to expect:

1. Common people, like yourself, who want more of God, but don't know how to get out of the rut and stay out.
2. Fifteen people, filled with the Spirit, are scheduled to preach and share their testimonies.
3. Jimmi DeLay, a preacher and friend of mine, will lead us in worship.

4. Times of prayer will be offered up on behalf of those who are desperate for more of God in their life.

The conference will begin right at 7pm on Thursday, March 24, go all day Friday and end about noon on Saturday. A light breakfast (Friday and Saturday) and full meals (Friday) will be included. If you need a place to stay for the night, you can either stay at a local motel in Ashland, OH, or we will find a home for you.

We are requesting that attendees register for the conference. It is the only way for us to know how much food to prepare. We are also suggesting a registration payment of \$25/person, \$40/couple, or \$60/family when you register.

Date: March 24, 25, and 26

Place: Bethel Church

Location: Savannah, OH (15 minutes from downtown Ashland, OH)

Address: 575 US-250, Greenwich, OH

Phone: (419) 962-1515

You can register in the following ways:

1. Send a letter with all the names coming to the conference. Please include the age of anyone 12 and under. (Children's program and nursery provided throughout conference.)
2. Call our office at (419) 962-1515.

If you come just as you are ... expecting God to move in your life ... you will leave a totally changed person, on fire for God!!!

Bring your family and your friends. Do not miss this life changing event.

