

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

I AM THE LORD, I CHANGE NOT

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PART 1: NUMBERS DON'T IMPRESS GOD

THE PAST

I came to Christ at the height of the Hippie movement in 1965 when these young, rebellious and out of control men and women defied anything that had to do with the Bible and being law abiding citizens.

God did not adapt to this “new way of thinking” and sent a strong Holy Ghost awakening. Tens of thousands of hippies were born again, baptized in water and received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. This huge movement became known as the “Jesus People” and they began to adhere to the teachings in the Bible.

Pastor Chuck Smith in Costa Mesa, California, embraced the Jesus people and his small church grew from 25 members to thousands. Over time this influx of new believers gave birth to the Calvary churches that grew to more than a thousand worldwide.

These were days of revival and awakening among the American people and there was a great move of God among the businessmen when Demos Shakarian led the Full Gospel Business Men's International Fellowship (FGBMIF) to circle the world with airlifts. Thousands of businessmen and their wives fanned out with the Gospel, healing the sick and leading new and old Christians alike to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Bill Bright led his Campus Crusades to establish chapters at every college and university in the United States and thousands of young college students came to Christ.

There were many spirit-filled organizations that sprang up such as Women's Aglow, Christ for the Nations and Youth with a Mission (YWAM) in conjunction with older ministries like the Gideon's, Teen Challenge and the huge Billy Graham crusades in different parts of the United States.

Television evangelists like Kathryn Kuhlman, Oral Roberts, Pat Robertson, Rex Humbard and many others filled the airways on Sundays with strong Holy Ghost messages and thousands came to Christ every week.

There were hundreds of Christian radio stations, some of them offered programming 24 hours a day stations and the most well-known was Family Radio. Media stars like Pat Boone were born again and their life stories were published as books and this resulted in scores of new Christian publishing houses being formed. One of the largest at the time was Logos with its magazine that reported on revivals and Christian events. Later it was sold and renamed Charisma.



Hundreds of music artists like Bill Gaither to the lesser known Jim Miller¹ came on the scene. New music groups formed like the Blackwood Brothers, Happy Goodman's, The Imperials, and many more.

There were no homosexual militants flexing their power, abortion was still a crime, there was no nudity and swearing on television. Prayer and Bible reading were still allowed in public schools and women were not scantily dressed like they are today.

The move of God was strong and I am glad that I was able to be part of this precious time of revival not seen in America for hundreds of years. I remember thinking that every person in America would eventually be saved while we happily waited for Jesus to return but then Satan moved in like a roaring lion and the party was over.

DEMON REVIVALS

Another problem was the "Toronto Blessing," which took place at the Toronto Airport Vineyard Church beginning in 1994. Pastors John and Carol Arnott were the leaders, who received "the anointing" from South African evangelist Rodney Howard Browne when he laid hands on them and transferred demonic spirits.

The main characteristic of these revival meetings was that it was very difficult for the person preaching to finish the message. Invariably he would break out in uncontrollable laughter that would spread to the entire congregation. Many of the people would fall to the floor, rolling around laughing, some barking like dogs, others howling like hyenas, while their bodies would twitch uncontrollably. Many people acted like they were drunk, slurring as they talked and unable to walk.

All these manifestations were attributed to the Holy Spirit. As Charisma magazine and other Christian outlets spread the news, Christians by the tens of thousands flew in to Toronto from all over the world to "catch the blessing." Before they went back to their home churches, the leaders of the revival would lay hands on them and transfer "the anointing." When these people returned to their home churches, they in turn laid hands on others, and the demonic powers were transferred again and the manifestations would begin.

The focus in these meetings was not on getting people saved but for them to receive the manifestations.

As the excitement in Toronto began to fade, another revival broke out in Brownsville, Florida, which was also known as the Pensacola Outpouring. This was led by evangelist Steve Hill and lasted from 1995-2000. The same manifestations happened in Brownsville, but more was added to it. Gold angel dust would float down from the ceiling and sometimes people could be laid out on the floor comatose all night. It was claimed that there were portals in the meeting room, and if anyone stood in them, they would be able to ascend into heaven with their spirits and then come back.

Charisma magazine and other Christian outlets dutifully hyped the meetings and more than a million Christians from all over the world spent a week in Brownsville to get "the anointing." God TV pre-empted all their programming and streamed the evening meetings.

¹ www.eaec.org/jim_miller.htm

Demons once again transferred from person to person, and as these people returned to their home churches, they passed the demon power to others.

The height of these highly charged demonic meetings came in 2008 when a Canadian evangelist named Todd Bentley came to Lakeland, Florida. This time there was an intensifying of the manifestations where people rolled on the floor and barked and howled like a pack of dogs. People standing in the audience were slain like bowling pins and then they would violently twitch and twist their bodies in ways that were naturally impossible. Some hissed like snakes and it was a common practice for those who could walk to put a belt around the necks of those barking and howling like dogs and parade them around in the sanctuary.

Bentley was brutal in his dealings with people; he would hit them hard in the stomach, or knock them over the head and at times he even kicked people with his boots, because God had supposedly told him to do so. He claimed that it would not hurt anyone; it was the Holy Spirit "moving upon him." There is no doubt that Bentley was possessed by demons and they would manifest when he would preach and pray for people during the evenings. During the day he would cheat on his wife with a female ministry worker. The affair eventually became public knowledge and he was asked to leave Lakeland. He later divorced his wife and married the woman with whom he had committed adultery.

Charismatic leaders were quick to pray and work with Bentley and restore him back to ministry but he walked away after a while and started up a new ministry. Today he travels in the United States, holding revivals with his new wife, saying that God has sanctioned their marriage and ministry. People who are unaware of what has transpired in his life are attracted to the spiritual power he displays, ignorant to the fact that these are demonic manifestations.

It is hard to find a local church today where the pastor preaches from the King James Bible and the worship music is of such quality that it will attract the Holy Spirit.

In the midst of this chaos, Satan continues to flourish his other churches like the Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, New Age groups, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, etc.

THE PRESENT

The Jesus People movement is gone and the people who were part of it are dead or in their seventies. Pastor Chuck Smith has gone to be with the Lord and the Calvary denomination of churches has lost their Holy Ghost roots and stagnated into Baptist-like churches.

Demos Shakarian has passed away and the organization he founded split in two; the Holy Ghost fire is no longer with them and the movement is just a thing of the past.

Bill Bright has also passed away and Campus Crusade has dwindled and no longer is relevant.

Loren Cunningham, the founder of YWAM, is now 80 years old and the organization has lost most of its power.

The Gideon's have surrendered to liberal pressure and no longer hand out King James Bibles, but other watered down bible versions. I was a member of this organization from 1967-1969 and today it is just a shadow of its former self.

David Wilkerson, founder of Teen Challenge, has gone to be with the Lord and the organization was turned over to the Assembly of God denomination years ago. They no longer cater to teenagers; only adults with substance abuse problems are received. A once vibrant Holy Ghost outreach to young people is now an established rehab center.

Billy Graham is now in his mid-nineties and the large crusades in stadiums are now just a memory of the past.

Pat Robertson is the last one of the old vanguard. While he still hangs on to his 700 Club program, the content has lost all of its spiritual power.

Most Christian radio stations have been sold to secular media outlets. Family Radio was run into the ground by the late Harold Camping. In order to salvage the network, the current administration has been selling off stations. People have lost confidence in Family Radio since they still run old programming featuring Harold Camping.

Charisma magazine is more or less a Christian tabloid reporting on revivals around the world, the latest in prophecy from the prophetic movement, the death and sickness of Christian leaders and defending derelict ministries like TBN and other false teachers and preachers within the Charismatic/Pentecostal circles.

Steve Strang, the owner and publisher of Charisma, is a strong Christian Zionist and publishes a special electronic magazine entitled, "Standing with Israel."

Almost all Christian publishing houses have closed or been sold to Jewish media moguls. This means that the decision to publish is primarily now in the hands of unbelievers and anything that is not politically correct will not be printed.

Most of the Gospel singers from the 1960's have moved on to heaven. Bill Gaither is 80 years old and continues to influence Christian music. He tours the United States, putting on gospel concerts and producing specially recorded concerts that are aired on television and sold on DVD. The new style of worship music has an infusion of rock-n-roll and the only differentiating factor when compared to secular music is the lyrics, which are hard to hear due to the loud volume of the music instruments.

Today there are some 15 national Christian television networks; the most recognized is TBN, followed by the Church Channel, TCT, Daystar, CTN, the Word network, the World Harvest network, God TV and lately SBN, which is owned and operated by the Jimmy Swaggart ministries.

Most of these networks sell time to the same television evangelists, meaning you can watch Charles Stanley on several of these networks at different times. SBN is the only one that does not sell time; all their programs come from within the ministry. This means there are some good programs, but most of the programming is aimed at raising money by telling people how to get rich. Invariably riches are promised to those who give money to the television evangelist or through buying the latest books or videos produced by said evangelist.

Jimmy Swaggart Ministries maintains a strong classic Pentecostal style, uses the King James Bible and upholds the Bible as the Word of God. Donny Swaggart and his son, Gabriel, are taking more control of the ministry and they are being faithful to the Bible. They are anointed preachers that refuse to compromise and defenders of the faith.

Franklin Graham has surprised me because Billy Graham compromised his faith during the last decade in order to be politically correct. Franklin reminds me of the way Billy used to be in the 1960's. Both Franklin Graham and Donnie Swaggart have taken strong stands against the homosexual agenda.

It is a sad fact that any minister of the gospel must be a Christian Zionist in order to be on television and radio. Anyone who refuses to embrace Zionism is labeled anti-Semitic.

Many denominations have become apostate, ordaining homosexual ministers and allowing homosexual weddings in their churches. Some teach that God is a woman, that there is no hell or eternal punishment, no need to be born again, etc.

Rick Warren and Bill Hybels have created their own denominations and teach a watered down gospel that condemns its adherents to hell. Joel Osteen has a weekly audience of millions and they are continually told that God loves them all, don't worry about sin, just be positive and do the best you can.

WHAT KILLED THE MOVE OF THE HOLY GHOST?

Having lived through this period of time I can share with you what I observed as a minister of the Gospel.

1. Satan attacked the core of the Gospel when he moved upon a Baptist minister named E.W. Kenyon (1867-1948) and gave him "the revelation" that Jesus did not pay for our sins on the cross.

According to Kenyon, sin is a spiritual problem and must be addressed in the spirit world. When Jesus died on the cross, he only fulfilled the Abrahamic covenant; he also had to die spiritually and be taken to hell, where he was tormented for three days and nights. It was in hell that Jesus paid for the sins of mankind, and when he was resurrected, he came back as a man and went to heaven as a man, so that believers can become gods on this earth. Kenyon wrote a book in 1946 entitled, "WHAT HAPPENED FROM THE CROSS TO THE THRONE" that outlined this diabolical doctrine.

This is a heretical doctrine that destroys any chance for a person to be saved from his sins. How can God die? Hell is not run by the Devil; it is the temporary prison that God has created for sinners who died without Christ.

This book was picked up by Kenneth Hagin (1917-2003). Hagin had his origins in the Assembly of God and then broke with them to start his own ministry in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Hagin embraced Kenyon's doctrine that is known as JDS (Jesus died spiritually) and introduced this hellish doctrine as a core teaching when he started Rhema Bible Training College in 1974. The students who graduated from Rhema became pastors and evangelists and spread the JDS teaching all over the world. As these men and women founded churches and Bible schools, it eventually became known as the "Word of Faith" movement.

Some of the most well-known proponents like Kenneth Copeland (born 1936), Frederick K.C. Price (born 1932) and Ulf Ekman (born 1950) graduated from Rhema Bible Training College.

There are many other pastors and evangelists who have embraced the JDS doctrine in conjunction with what is called the "Prosperity Gospel," which also came from Kenneth Hagin as well. Here are some of the most famous: Joel Osteen, Benny Hinn, Joyce Meyer, Creflo Dollar, Paul & Jan Crouch, Jim & Tammy Bakker, Paula White, Mike Murdock and Rod Parsley

Kenneth Hagin and Kenneth Copeland were embraced by the Full Gospel Business Men's International Fellowship (FGBMIF) and were the main speakers at the hundreds of conventions held all over the United States. They exposed millions of born again Christians to the JDS and prosperity teaching. Most people attending the FGBMIF conventions were leaders in their communities, both in civic and Christian circles. The Devil's plan worked well and many believers in Christ were contaminated with false doctrine and infested with demons.

2. Satan had infiltrated most of the seminaries in the United States by the mid-1960's and divinity students were taught that the Bible was unreliable. During my time at Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, the professor's told me the following:
 - a. The five books of Moses were not actually written by Moses, making the information unreliable.
 - b. The prophet Isaiah never existed; his book was written by three unknown people.
 - c. The book of Daniel was a forgery created in 200 B.C.
 - d. No one is quite sure who wrote the four Gospels; they are hearsay and no one knows for sure what Jesus said or did.
 - e. The apostle John wrote the Book of Revelation in code to the church in Ephesus from the prison island of Patmos so that the guards wouldn't seize it. The book has no value and should not be quoted authoritatively.

Instead of accepting this nonsense, I became angry and argued with the professors. My faith in God and the Bible was stronger when I graduated than when I first entered seminary. The situation was different for the majority of seminary students who believed the lies. They became pastors and taught this unbelief to their congregations. The people whose faith they destroyed left the churches disillusioned with God, the Bible and the gospel.

3. When the Christian leadership at large became Christian Zionists, this blasphemous doctrine was propagated in most churches and destroyed people's faith in Jesus as the Messiah. You cannot teach that God has a different salvation plan for the Jews, meaning Christians are not supposed to evangelize them, and that Christians are to unconditionally support the political state of Israel without the power of the Holy Spirit departing from the churches.

4. The teaching that all Christians will be raptured and taken to heaven prior to when the Antichrist comes to power. This false teaching has destroyed all incentive for Christians to spiritually prepare themselves for the future.
5. The Bible is unreliable and hence there are no absolutes and therefore sin is a relative concept. What is sin to one person is not necessarily sin to another. Live and let live is the new slogan. The new teaching is that God is love and the best thing man can do is to love people unconditionally and not be judgmental.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

God does not change. **Isaiah 45:5-6; 46:9-10; Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8**

God does not lower His standards to meet a rebellious people at their level. It doesn't matter how many people have rebelled against God; He is not swayed by numbers.

God did not lower His expectations for the people living before the Flood. He killed them all with the exception of Noah and his family who lived according to God's standards.

Genesis 6:5-13

The people living in Sodom and Gomorrah wanted to have their own lifestyle and do that which God called sin. God did not change His laws just because the people living in these cities and the surrounding areas decided to write their own laws in opposition to Him. God refused to accommodate reprobate sinners and killed them all with the exception of Lot and his two daughters. **Genesis 18:20-33; 19:17-28**

When Jesus comes back, He will not make a special accommodation and spare the millions of people who have taken the Mark of the Beast. Just because the majority of people have taken the Mark doesn't mean that God will lower His standards and change His laws. It is a simple fact that people who refuse to line with God will be punished.

Revelation 14:9-11; 19:11-21

The fact that the majority of people who lived from the time of Adam and Eve until the end of the 1000 year kingdom died in their sins and went to hell doesn't faze God. He is not going to rewrite His laws and create a double standard.

Jesus stated that a person must be born again in order to enter the kingdom of God. **John 3:1-7**

The laws of God will stand at the Great White Throne Judgment. Anyone whose name is not written in the Book of Life will be cast into the Lake of Fire. **Revelation 20:11-15**

Christians who go astray will be penalized while on earth. They will bear their shame and lose access to God. Worse still, they won't even know that the Lord has departed from them. **Ezekiel 44:10-14**

There will be an even heavier penalty for these Christians when they leave the earth with unconfessed sins at the Judgment Seat of Christ. **2 Corinthians 5:9-11; Hebrews 10:26-31**

When people reject the conviction by the Holy Spirit and refuse to repent God gives them a reprobate mind. A person with a reprobate mind has no conviction over sin. **Romans 1:18-28**

Are you working with God or are you working against Him?

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?