

“If My People ...”

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**“If my people who area called by my name, will
Humble themselves and pray and seek my face
And turn from their wicked ways, then I will
Hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and
Will heal their land.”**

♥ 2 Chronicles 7:14 NIV

We've all heard this scripture quoted, particularly here in America during this decade after the attacks of 911 and more recently with what has occurred in Washington in politics; however, it's the church that is at fault with what has occurred in this land and the Lord Jesus is holding us accountable just like He did Israel during the days of their apostasy.

Three years ago we were attending Dutch Sheets' church in Colorado Springs with some ministry friends from Oklahoma whose son was graduating from the school there. At the end of praise and worship they began to pray for America and the Lord spoke the following to me:

“If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves. If my people who are called by name will humble themselves. If my people who are called by name will humble themselves. Son, my people aren’t missing it on the prayer part—there’s been much prayer made for America. They’re missing it on the humbling part.”

This made me begin to meditate on what He was talking about and I remembered something that the Lord said to my wife back in 1996 when we first went to Montana to look at a property the Lord wanted to give us for a ministry training centre. This particular facility had not been used for 8 years and we made an appointment with the woman in charge of this ministry. We flew up there from Austin, rented a car and drove to the church and grounds. The woman had left and flown to Ft. Worth—she didn’t keep our appointment! Eve and I went into the sanctuary and prayed on the floor for 3-4 hours and the Lord spoke to us. He gave me a vision and He spoke to Eve the following:

**“Men build monuments on the land so that other men
May see their glory but I build in the hearts of men so
That all men may see my Glory.”**

You see, much of what passes for a church is simply a monument to pride and the glory of men. I remember that old Southern Baptist pride—I used to read about it every month when I was a Baptist in the Baptist Standard—“We’re first church!” etc. Often we see a church plowing millions of dollars into a building project when their current facility is not even 50% occupied. There is pressure to be the biggest simply for pride and bragging rights in town.

But that pride is throughout much of the Christian world. A pastor wants to have the biggest church in town and normally it's not because of winning the lost but because of pride. That's the sure operation of religious spirits and the spirit of pride. It's also one reason why so many churches have departed from The Faith as the Apostle Paul prophesied they would in 1 Timothy.

We note from Proverbs 6:16 that there are seven things that God "hates"; the very first thing listed is pride. Pride is very unChristlike—study Jesus' life from the Gospels and you'll not find any pride in Him whatsoever even though He was God incarnate in a human body and if anybody had a right to pride it would have been the Lord Jesus.

But no, not only did Jesus not exhibit any pride but He contested those that were prideful—the Pharisees, Sadducees, Lawyers and other religious "leaders" of His day. They were so full of pride because they thought they were something and that they knew a lot about God but they knew very little. Jesus exposed their hypocrisy almost every week during His 3 ½ year ministry.

In Jesus' day the pride of the Jewish religious leaders is seen by their dress (phylacteries and borders of garments), their fasting to be seen and desiring the best seats everywhere and to be recognized everywhere they went. Today we see it in the introduction of a minister, "Now I give you ---- the world's foremost authority on Bible prophecy" or so and so "internationally known speaker, etc., etc."

The Lord gave me two messages this decade regarding signs—*The Message and the Sign* and *Recognizing God's Signs*. In Matthew 16 the Scriptures tell us that "The Pharisees and Sadducees came to

Jesus and tested him by asking him to show them a sign from heaven.” You should study and meditate on these verses.

They claimed to be the religious leaders and yet they could not see and recognize God’s signs! So, they really weren’t “leaders” at all and that is why Jesus referred to them on several occasions as “blind leaders of the blind.”

At CCI we’ve been involved in deliverance ministry for 26 years and have come to not only recognize certain spirits by sight, symptoms, etc., but also that there are many who work together. I pointed out in MSDK the triplet spirit of anger, fear and hate that often work together.

With the religious spirit, we nearly always see pride! You can recognize it in the Gospels and Acts and you can recognize it today in many of those referred to as “leaders” in the Christian Faith; however, pride—by definition—excludes somebody from truly being a leader. God hates pride above all else because He knows the danger it possesses to harm people like it did Satan.

It’s interesting to note from your Bible reading that Jesus cleansed the Temple twice—at the beginning of His ministry and again during Passion Week at the end of His ministry. I believe there is prophetic significance to this for those who can see with *The Eye of the Eagle*.

I believe the best defense against pride is to be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). Jesus never exhibited any pride and it’s because He was so perfectly yielded to the Spirit of God and was always “full” of the Spirit. Should we not emulate Him and do the same?

The best way to be “filled” with the Spirit is to develop the Fruit of the Holy Spirit in your life—the better developed your fruit is then the more you exhibit the Holy Spirit and are like Jesus.

The Church needs a revelation of this from the Scriptures—we believe this is one of the main reasons the Lord had us complete *The Gifts and Operations of the Holy Spirit*—to bring a contemporary emphasis on the Holy Spirit and what He wants to do *in* us and *through* us. There is much emphasis on the Fruit of the Spirit in this book and Evelyn has received a lot of revelation in this area over the years and ministers on it often.

If the Church in America ever wants to demonstrate the glory of Christ then she must repent of pride and begin to be a true demonstration of the Gospel and Jesus Christ by being filled with the Spirit of God and then giving out this “water of the Spirit” to a thirsty, sin-sick, crying, dying world. **IF** we’re not “full” of the Spirit, we will not attract people to the water of the Spirit.