

The Faith Principle

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I want to continue on this week with a subject that requires being led by the Spirit – where to attend church. We get phone calls and emails from people every day who are having trouble finding a good Spirit-filled church to attend in their town. We've written much the last 12 years about the *apostasy* that's taken place in the Church that was prophesied by the Apostle Paul as well as being revealed to the Apostle John in the Book of Revelation. I always tell people the same thing, "You have to pray about where to attend church. The Lord knows where He wants you."

When I received the Spirit baptism of power on Father's Day in 1978 at a small church in Nassau Bay, Texas, the Lord began to deal with me about attending Lakewood Church even though it was 30 miles from where I lived in Nassau Bay and this church was only a mile away and it was a good church with anointed music and an anointed pastor. There was also a very good church in Alvin, Texas, pastured by Al Jandl that was a good "word" church with anointed music that was only a few miles from my house. Yet after my first visit to Lakewood I knew that this is where the Lord wanted us.

After I met Pastor John Osteen and got involved in missions and other ministries at Lakewood I began to understand why the Lord wanted me there. It was mainly for two reasons: (1) He wanted to birth in me a great desire for missions. At this time the missions ministry at Lakewood was "pastored" by Brother Bill and Ruthie Dearman who had come from the Baptist church with the Osteens. (2) The Lord wanted to expose me to great teaching and back then Lakewood was the best church in America. The three greatest teachers I've ever heard ministered often at Lakewood back then through the '80s. They were my pastor, John Osteen, who had a marvelous teaching gift as well as a very strong Word of Knowledge gift that manifested almost every service but especially on Wednesday night services.

The other two great teachers were Kenneth Hagin and Norvel Hayes. Both taught at Lakewood regularly and almost always during our minister convention at Thanksgiving that lasted for a week and was a great time.

As a result of these three anointed teachers I became a better student of the Word and of course really got grounded in the principles of faith. It's with this that I felt led to write this week as I was reading in Mark 11 this morning.

As I stated in *Mysterious Secrets (MSDK)*, one of the problems we have in the Church is that we tend to "forget" what we've learned in our wilderness wanderings that the Holy Spirit has tried to restore to the Church today such as the Power of the Blood, a very powerful weapon of our warfare that I devote a full chapter to in MSDK.

Today as we travel around the nation we don't find too many people who are really grounded in the faith principles. As I stated in MSDK and still believe today that the main reason for the Faith Movement was to prepare the Church for spiritual warfare; however, in most churches today if anything is taught on faith it is relegated to "prosperity" and how to get wealth.