

May 2012

Voice of Restoration

The Judgment Seat of Christ!

A Publication of Pentecostal Tabernacle, Inc.

Formerly Ministry For A New Generation!

Voice of Restoration

“Restoring the Message of Pentecost in Order to Reach a Lost and Dying World Through the Life of Christ!”

In This Issue....

Page 2

From the Pastor

Page 4

The Judgment Seat of Christ

By: Pastor Darren R. Clark

Page 7

Strive to Enter In

By: Pastor Joey Swinnea

Page 10

-Pentecostal Tabernacle Information

-Fasting & Prayer Information

The vision of Pentecostal Tabernacle is to be a small part of restoring the message of Pentecost, which is a message of truth, purity, and integrity. It's the message of Christ living His life through the Inward Man by the Holy Ghost. A great need in this hour is to see the Christ life prevail through the Church once again from the Inward Man. The true, pure message of Pentecost is the man conformed to the image of Christ, thus the Christ life being manifested through the man. It is our prayer that Christ be revealed to you in an inward way in greater and greater measures. May this publication be a blessing and an encouragement to you. We live in a very dark hour, therefore we need His Life and His Strength. Oh God, help us to rise up, and be the church you birthed us to be one more time!



SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION: Voice of Restoration is published by Pentecostal Tabernacle, INC., and edited by Pastor Darren R. Clark, 195 Tidwell Rd., West Monroe, LA 71292. All editorial questions or comments can be sent to Pentecostal Tabernacle, Attn: Voice of Restoration, 195 Tidwell Rd., West Monroe, LA 71292; or by emailing us. We greatly appreciate those who support the publishing of Voice of Restoration. If you or anyone you know would be blessed and encouraged by this publication, and would therefore like to receive it please let us know. Write to us, call us at (931) 237-2784, or email us at PentecostalTabernacleWM@yahoo.com!



From the Pastor...
Darren R. Clark

Dear Friends,

An in depth study is not needed, for a mere glance is all that is needed in order to see that our world, including America, is changing at a rapid rate as the results of the demonic taking over. Yesterdays generation is passing on. My generation knows little to nothing about God, and what's worse is the fact that the next generation is on the verge of being totally given over to the demonic. Everywhere one may look, it seems iniquity is abounding at a rapid rate. It has become so dark in the times of which we live that good is seen as bad while evil is applauded and promoted. Crime has increased at such a rapid rate in just the past couple years alone, to such a degree that many crimes are left unaddressed. For instance, we had a drive by shooting in our neighborhood over a year ago in which ten houses were shot. There wasn't a thorough investigation conducted, and when I inquired about it, I was politely told that since no one had been hurt they had to many other important crimes to deal with. We would be appalled if we only knew what really took place in America. All the time people are being murdered. The most tragic is the increase of people murdering their own children and family. Drug use has spread like a plague at an unprecedented rate. So much so that if you took all the drug money out of America today, I dare say it would be bankrupt over night. Every where we look wickedness is abounding. Homosexuality is another plague of our times that is spreading at a rapid rate. Same sex marriage is gradually being passed into law from state to state. Elementary

schools are now promoting homosexuality as alternate lifestyles. Books with "my two moms" or "my two dads" are being read to children. As if the sex education in the schools isn't bad enough, plus it being so explicit, our president is pushing for homosexuality to be added to curriculum so that homosexuals aren't offended.

Hell seems to be taken over the earth. We have witnessed the uprisings in the middle east. There is a constant threat against Israel. The one world religion is in the works of being established. The one world economy is in the works that will be followed by a push for a one world government. The whole time it seems the true church is fading out of existence. Oh, what a tragedy friend! With all the "churchism" today, it doesn't seem that the church is fading away, but it is. The remnant is much smaller than we would like to believe it is. May God help us to understand that it is much worse than we realize. With all that we can see and point out I would hate to see the unseen as God sees it. It is in fact much worse my friend. A startling statistic will prove this very fact. An April 2012 article stated that at the current rate atheism is growing in America, 1 in 4 Americans will profess no religious faith as an atheist within 20 years. How heart breaking that must be to Christ Almighty! It seems the arch enemy is making his final assault against the church. E.M. Bounds once wrote, "it is not by positive, conspicuous evil that Satan perverts the Church, but by quiet displacement and by unnoticed substitution." Oh friend, believe me when I tell you, the enemy has substituted most of what the church has today in place of the genuine. The devastating results is that there is just as much filth and wickedness in the "church" as there is in the world. The altar was taken out of the home resulting in the Holy Ghost being absent from our services as it left Christ standing on

the outside of the church knocking on the door weeping as He wants back into His own house. Praise God, however, that there is still a remnant that hasn't bowed to Baal.

Let me encourage you saint of God that has held true to Christ despite the great falling away that has begun. Across the board, in regards to the remnant, it seems that there has been an onslaught of attacks from hell against those that haven't bowed the knee to Baal in an effort to bring doubt, weaken faith, and eventually rob you of your faith. Many have faced the enemy like never before in recent times. Be encouraged to know you are not alone in the battle. At the same time there has been a great dealership of God stirring His people like there hasn't been in a long time. God has begun to deal in the depths of His peoples hearts. Many of you can testify to that very fact. We have to be very careful! To desire to live in the first century church is to question the will of God as to why he put us here now. God has called us to be a part of the end time church, and placed the burden upon our shoulders. He obviously knows that we are capable of being the end time church, as He enables us by the Holy Ghost, that will face suffering and bare the burden of this final generation through it all as the last century church. The latter shall be greater than the former. But, only if we turn fully to Christ as that first century church did becoming a living sacrifice as Paul exemplified. We must be willing to take up our cross and follow Jesus to bare the burden of this generation as Jesus did for his generation and the entire world that had been and was to come. If there has ever been a time that we need to deny self, fast, pray, and draw nigh the heart of Christ, it is in the hour which we live now.

Yes, the enemy is making his final moves. However, the fact that the enemy has attacked

like never before coupled with the great dealership of God is a sure sign that Christ is getting ready for His final move as well. In the Spirit I see something on the horizon if we will but only stay true to Christ. When you look in the natural it doesn't seem like it, but we are living in the most exciting time in history for the Blood bought child of God. We are on the verge of witnessing what no other generation ever has or will. It may not be an Azusa Street revival. It could be a move of God in underground churches. Or, it could be a move of God in pockets across the land. Either way, there will be a final altar call for God is not willing that any should perish. Oh, may we draw nigh the heart of Christ while there it is yet a glimpse of daylight for the hour cometh when no man can work. If we've ever needed the support of one another's prayer, it is now. Child of God, don't be dismayed by what you see taking place in the world or church. Don't let the enemy cause you to flee. We've come to far to turn back now! Christ will enable us to stand by the indwelling of the sweet Holy Ghost. We need the Holy Ghost more now than ever before in our lives. The enemy is wrecking havoc, but Christ is still the King that will have the final word. Be encouraged to keep up the good fight. Press in like you have never pressed into being conformed to the image of Christ. Nothing but Christ shall stand in the end. Just when Satan thinks he has conquered all, Christ the King of Glory is going to split the eastern skies! We must touch this world before it's too late. Who will pray? Who will reach out? Who will reveal Christ if we don't? America is the greatest mission field on earth. Will we reach it?

Christ's Servant,

Darren R. Clark

The Judgment Seat of Christ

By: Pastor Darren R. Clark

Eight chapters into Acts and six chapters after the day of Pentecost the church has two graves. The church full of Pentecostal power was just getting started, and there were already two graves. Signs, and wonders were the normal, yet there were two graves. The first is that of Ananias and Sapphira found in Acts the 5th chapter. The second grave is that of Stephen found in Acts 8:2. **Everybody is going to be buried in one of these two graves if the Lord tarries.** Ecclesiastes 9:5 tells us there are those of which *“the memory of them is forgotten.”* There was nobody crying over or laying flowers on the grave of Ananias and Sapphira, and they are forgotten history. They were the first example to the church of what not to be like! However, many wept and were greatly sorrowful over Stephen who will never be forgotten as he shall be remembered all through eternity. Stephen was the first example after Christ to the church of what to be like! We choose by our living, whether it be the Christ Life or the “self life”, the grave we shall be buried in and the destination as a result thereof. Ananias and Sapphira descended to the depths of hell while Stephen ascended to the heights of Heaven. The choice is ours, but we will end up in either hell or Heaven. It’s not whether or not people remember us, rather the only thing that matters is, “will Christ the Righteous Judge remember us?”

Most of today’s church live as if hell is not real, but it is. We must understand the reality of these two eternal places. Heaven is a place where mercy abounds, hell is a place where there is no mercy. Heaven is a place of brightness, hell is a place of darkness. Heaven is a place of glory, hell is a place of shame. Heaven is a place of holiness, hell is a place of wickedness. Heaven is a place of majesty, hell is a place of agony. Heaven is a place of perfect health, hell is a place of absolute torment. Heaven is a place of perfect peace, hell is a place of absolute fear. Heaven is a place of passion, hell is a place of abomination. Heaven is a place of paradise, hell is a place of wretchedness. Heaven is a place of ecstasy and jubilation, hell is a place of misery and depression. Heaven is a place where the utterness of Christ is revealed, hell is a place where the utterness of self is revealed. **Heaven sings with splendor, “Holy, Holy, Holy is He!” while hell sings in torture, “The harvest is past, woe is me!”**

We need the fear of God again. Hebrews 10:31 says, *“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.”* Why is it such a fearful thing? Jesus said in Matthew 10:28, *“...fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”* Most of the church has no fear of God, much less be in a place to restrain the world. People don’t reverence God anymore. We have lost the great

reverential awe and fear of God that the church once had. The loose living of the church is a sure sign there is little to no fear of God. For the most part, we reject God’s will and live like He is bound to honor our will. We drag the world into our churches as the result of dragging it into our lives, and then ask God to anoint it. **To lack a great reverential awe and fear of God is to be awfully foolish.** Both Psalm 111:10 and Proverbs 9:10 tell us that, *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.”* The laxity of today’s church is a sure sign that there is little to no fear of the LORD meaning there is little to no wisdom. If there has ever been a time in which we need to wake up and arise out of the ashes of religion, it is the hour of which we live now.

In Luke 16:19-31 we find the story as told by Jesus about a certain rich man. Many today are rich though spiritually poor. The average American has more than ancient kings had. **Yet still, most are spiritually bankrupt.** Though the rich man seemed to be rich, he eventually found just how spiritually bankrupt he was. His spiritual bankruptcy gained him an abundant entrance into hell. **There are a million roads that lead to hell, but there isn’t one exit once you cross into eternity!** This rich man became a great prayer warrior and missionary just five minutes into hell. If only we could hear him pray and preach from hell! He instantly had a missionary’s heart. **He was ready to conquer the world for Christ, yet he had missed his own opportunity to be conquered by Christ!** He was ready to love, pray, preach, and go to the ends of the earth, but it was too late. What agony to now be so full of zeal only to look across the gulf and see what he had rejected.

The Judgment Seat of Christ in the Heavenly Court will determine according to Christ the Law, and the evidence provided for the case where we spend eternity. 2 Corinthians 5:10 says, *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”* The Judgment Seat of Christ is where we face the most crucial moment of our life, for there the sentence of our eternity will be pronounced by the Righteous Judge. The Day of Judgment will be an awful day in the presence of a Holy and Terrible God. Yet it will be a glorious day for Christ and His bride. Revelation 16:7 says, *“...Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.”* Christ is the Righteous Judge, and His judgments are right despite what we think is right. Pontius Pilate judged Christ though he stood before the Righteous Judge who would judge him in the end. So often we make judgments of Christ by what we think or believe, but in the end He shall judge us according to the Holy Law of His Person. Many over the course of the years in the church after a true conversion begin to allow things that they were once convicted about

or that the Bible specifically dealt with. Only because somewhere along the trail they began to Judge Christ as to what He will or will not accept. They began to determine what wasn't so bad after all despite what the Word of God said. **The innocent things that have been allowed into the church is destroying her.** It all arises out of judging Christ about what He will accept instead of allowing Him to be the Judge of what He will or will not accept.

When we mention the Judgment Seat of Christ, we often think in regards to sinners who will one day stand before the Judgment Seat. We tend to think on "flee the wrath that is to come." We think of how terrible it's going to be for the murderer, the drug addict, the alcoholic, the adulterer, etc. We must understand the Judgment Seat, not just how it relates to the sinner, but to the saints of God as well. Just as sinners will, every Christian will give an account at the Judgment Seat. Paul tells us in Romans 14:12, "*So then everyone of us shall give account of himself to God.*" This account goes much deeper than we realize for it involves the whole man. Jesus said in Matthew 12:36 "*But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.*" Every word, action, deed, motive, thought, etc. will be given account of. How many idle words have we spoken? Malachi 3:16 says, "... *a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.*" We see here that God has a record of memory. God keeps records of absolutely everything we do in His book of memory. Nothing goes unrecorded! **As we stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ before the host of Heaven, all will be exposed.** Hebrews 4:13 says, "*Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.*" There will be no secret sin, wills, motives, passions, etc. held back on that day. All the evidence and records of our whole life will be weighed in the Balance of Justice before the host of Heaven. **Everything about us will be exposed before the Apostle Paul, John, Peter, Isaiah, David, Noah, and a host of other witnesses that gave their whole being to God.** How embarrassed will we be on that great day? We will each stand alone before the Judgment Seat of Christ with no one else to blame and no preacher's coat tail to hold to; nor can we hide behind the smoke screen of false grace on that day. We had better wake up and seek a fresh baptism of fire that purifies. **When we stand before the Judgment Seat, it will be too late to run to the Mercy Seat for Christ will then be upon the Judgment Seat.** Let us run to the Mercy Seat while there is yet still time.

It will be a terrible day of reckoning! "*But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when*

he appeareth?...", Malachi 3:2. Will we have boldness on that day? Jesus said in Matthew 5:17, "*Think not that I am come to destroy the law, ... I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.*" **Therefore, Christ stands as the fulfillment of the Law, and as a result He judges by the evidence of What and Who He Himself is.** In the Heavenly Court, Christ will weigh each individual's evidence separately in the Balance of Justice. Daniel 5:27 tells us the hand writing on the wall said that Belshazzar had been weighed in the balances and found wanting. Belshazzar took the vessels of God and used them for self and idolatry. **We are to be the vessel of God, but how often have we used the vessel of God for the idolatry of self!** It's a terrible thing to be weighed in the Balance of Justice and be found wanting. On the Day of Judgment, when we are weighed in the Balance of Justice, will we be found wanting of the Christ Life? The evidence of self will be placed on one side of the balance, and the evidence of Christ in us will be placed on the other side. Whichever weighs the most is the one that we are governed by.

Revelation is a book of mystery, majesty, and misery. It's a book of misery for it reveals the end of those who reject the Christ life, though they hold to the hope of salvation. **Many accept the hope of salvation, yet very few accept the Christ life as their salvation for most reject it.** "*And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. ... And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*", Revelation 20:11-15. What if we asked Gabriel to hand down the book of our life's record? Would we be embarrassed if it was read publically? What if we compared it to Brainerd, Wesley, Edwards, Howells, Hyde, Wigglesworth, etc.? There is a lot more for us to be embarrassed about than we realize. Romans 1:32 tells us that even to have pleasure in the sin of others is a sin in itself. To have pleasure in them is just as bad as those that do such things. To entertain yourself with sin is no different to God than if you did it yourself, for the only difference is they did it in the natural and you did it in the spiritual. Many won't make the grade as the balance points to self as they will be wanting of the Christ life.

Malachi 3:5 says, "*And I will come near to you to judgment...and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.*" What a tragedy to become a stumbling block of offense that turns the stranger away from the household of God, (2 Cor. 6:3). **If we really feared the judgment of Christ, we**

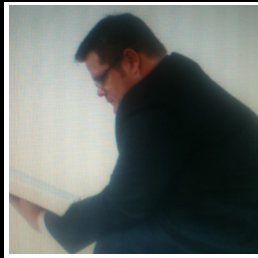
wouldn't do most of what we do. Now more than ever before, we must live in light of eternity. **Won't be a lot of things we fill our lives with in Heaven, so why fill our lives with it now as a possible stumbling block for ourselves or others?** Though not sinful, these fleshly pleasures can become a great stumbling block if you aren't careful, (1 Peter 2:11). Only Christ will stand for eternity in Heaven, so why not fill our lives with Him instead of that which brings a war against our own soul, though it may not be sinful in itself? **We must live in light of eternity!** Our date with destiny in the Court of Heaven before the Judgment Seat of Christ depends on it.

1 Cor. 3:11-15, *"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire."* If the balance is tipped more toward Christ the man is granted entrance, but his works must first be tried by fire. Every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor. What if we had \$50,000 dollars to invest in the stock market? Would you buy stubble or gold? If we understood the Saints work and purpose we wouldn't invest foolishly, much less waste it all together. We would be foolish to mix dirt with gold, but so often we do. Here are two groups, those who built with gold, silver, and precious stones, and those who built with wood, hay and stubble. The works of both groups shall be exposed by the fire. That being every motive, thought, desire, etc. Those of the gold, silver, and precious stones are those that entered a depth of Christ others didn't. Yet the three attained to different depths of the Christ life. These are they who desired absolute truth and purity as Christ was Himself. Precious Stones have their rough edges knocked off to a degree to increase value and beauty. Silver is tried in the fire, yet not as costly as gold. Gold is tried in the fire and the most costly and desired for God's glory. Now the other group who built wood, hay and stubble upon the foundation of Christ, though they adhere to the foundation, they depart from the fullness of Christ's mind in many particulars, substitute their own beliefs and inventions as, or in place of Christ's doctrines and build upon the good foundation that which will not abide the test on the day of judgment and the fire will make it manifest as wood, hay and stubble which will not stand the trial of fire, but be consumed in it.

Everyone will behold our whole life in that day. It will also be exposed to those who were misled by the wood, hay and stubble of our life and those who escaped

the error thereof. The works that will be burnt up are those which stem from the lack of desire and hunger for Christ, corrupt opinions and doctrines, vain inventions and usages in the worship of God, all to be discovered, disowned, and rejected in that great and terrible day. All disguises will be removed, and everything will appear as God sees it. I'm afraid that most of today's church's works will be burned up and handed to us in a pile of ashes. **It seems very little reward will be granted to today's church when you compare us to the ages before us.** Matthew 13:23 tells us of those that received the seed and bear 100-fold, 60-fold, and 30-fold. Only those who bear fruit shall be saved in the end. Those saved as by fire whose works are burned up are the 30-fold Christians. They did the minimal to get by and were satisfied with spiritual poverty. The 30-fold barely tips the balance of justice to point from self to Christ as their life, though they never entered a fullness of that life. Then you have the 60-fold, or precious stones. The silver are moving toward the 100-fold, but not yet got there. The gold is the 100-fold saints that lived their lives totally unto Christ. 1 John 4:17 says, *"Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world."* The 100-fold are certainly as He is. The 100-fold saint has no worries in facing the Judgment Seat of Christ, however there be few 100-fold saints as we'll see on that day. We must know that it's not how much we went to church, gave, done, or knew the Bible; rather it will be based on the measure of Christ in us versus the measure of self. It's based on the fruits of the Christ Life and He alone has the right motive and desire to glorify the Father. There are no excuses for slackness in the Kingdom of God, but it's better to be the least in the Kingdom of God than to be the greatest in the kingdom of hell. The Judgment Seat of Christ has been forgotten by our living for the most part today.

Paul says in 2 Cor. 5:11, *"Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences."* We must preach by our living, or preach not at all. We are all called to minister the Christ Life. Does our living persuade men by the Christ life? We shall all face the Judgment Seat of Christ. How ashamed will we be? **Five minutes into eternity we will wish we lived the life of Christ more in order that we had loved more, prayed more, wept more, sacrificed more, gave more, and died to all that we could that Christ live more and more.** It would be of great advantage to us to ever live with the judgment seat in view. Paul lived with the judgment seat in view lest he be a castaway, (1 Cor. 9:27). May we ever live with the judgment seat of Christ in view! If we did this, we wouldn't do most of what we do that amounts to nothing for the Kingdom of God and His Glory.



Strive to Enter In

By: Pastor Joey Swinnea

Jesus said in Luke 13:24-27, *“Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity.”*

I was eleven years old in 1995 when God called me to preach. It was Tuesday night August the 17th. That Friday the 20th I preached my first message. These are the scriptures I used and my message was titled “Strive to Enter at the Strait Gate.” Friends, that was seventeen years ago and this thought of “striving” is more important today than it ever has been. The church world that we have around us today is one that has let down on many things, but one of the most important things is that of salvation requiring something out of us. Leonard Ravenhill said he had a woman in his church whose husband was not saved. She told Pastor Ravenhill, “for the past 30 years he had been working hard at trying to become a 33 degree mason and still had not succeeded.” Pastor Ravenhill said, “That same man could have prayed at our altars and two hours later we would have had him in

the choir.” This is what we have come to – a Christianity that requires nothing out of us. No commitment, no dedication, just join and send your tithes. Well it may not be popular but I believe the Bible teaches differently. **Striving is a most vital part of salvation, for getting saved is but a moment in repentance but holding on to that salvation requires a lifetime of service.**

In this life, there are three different aspects of striving: 1) to contend with an adversary, 2) to endeavor to accomplish something for the Kingdom, 3) to compete for a prize.

All three of these different battle fronts require striving.

The first one that we want to look at is that of contending with an adversary. Ephesians 6:10-12 says, *“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. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.”*

Our enemy is not flesh and blood, but we are in a great spiritual warfare. The powers of Satan are very real and are everywhere in this world. The enemy is in television, he is in the newsroom, the courtroom, the school room, the government, all advertisement, and entertainment. But friend the most disturbing of all places that the enemy is found is the church. The only way to counter the attack of hell is to leave him with nothing to fight. We are made up of three parts: body, soul, and spirit. When

you get born again 2/3's of your person belongs to Christ; your soul and spirit. The Bible says, "...Present your bodies a living sacrifice..." , Romans 12:1. If we will obey the Word of God and present our flesh to the Lord by denying ourselves and taking up our cross and following the Lord, Friend, we will leave Satan with very little to fight against.

We must accept the fact that we are in a struggle, a conflict, and a very violent fight. What does a soldier do when the struggle gets intense? You fight fire with fire. **This battle we are in does not award the skillful, able, nor the strong, but rather that one that will endure.** 2 Timothy 2:3, "*Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*" This is the instructions that we must adhere to, for we will be tested. My father, Daniel Swinnea, was one of the greatest examples of endurance that I have known in this life. I remember the story last year when he had come in contact with a virus on the foreign field. For fifty-six days he was not able to hold food on his stomach. His bowels were loose and would not allow him to receive nourishment. He became so weak that he could not walk without assistance. He never missed a church service, and he preached most of the times he was there. He had a mission trip to Honduras already planned, so instead of cancelling, as everyone figured he would do, he went on the mission trip. They had to push him in a wheelchair to the airplane and when he got to Honduras they put him in another wheelchair. When he got to the car lot, the San Pedro Sula, Honduras Airport parking lot, he stood up out of the wheelchair and God instantly healed him.

You cannot overcome the enemy when

you are in a struggle, by doing less, you must endure, by doing more.

Strive to enter at the strait gate! Why do we have conflict? Because the rarest, most sought after, and most precious diamonds are conflict diamonds. In order to be of worth to the Kingdom, you must go through conflict. **True faith is tried faith.** So many people want to get out of their conflict, when God has orchestrated their entire life for that very conflict. Do not get out of the conflict prematurely. Please remain in the fire, so as to not abort God's mission. "*And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.*" Matthew 11:12. This is where we are at today. We are fighting against a violent enemy and we must be as violent in our striving for the Kingdom. Let us do war with the enemy.

We are not only contending with an adversary, but we are endeavoring to accomplish something for the Kingdom. Proverbs 29:18 says, "*Where there is no vision, the people perish...*" **If we are truly striving to enter, then we will have a vision larger than just our four and no more.** Matthew 9:37-38 "*Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.*" So many people forget who the Lord of the harvest is. The harvest is not yours, but it is His and when you labor in it you are striving for His Kingdom. **When a thing attempted in the spiritual ceases to be about the Lord of the harvest, that thing becomes idolatry.**

Your labors must all be focused upon Jesus.

You must understand one thing about this Kingdom: It requires effort. We have all been given the great commission and we must put forth great effort. **If we neglect our talent and refuse to strive in the vineyard, we will have that talent stripped from us and given to another.** We have what it takes to accomplish the work, but we must put forth the effort. We can't allow anything to hold us back. Not even past accomplishments.

Philippians 3:13-14, *“Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”*

We must forget what is behind us, whether good or bad, and we must press forward. This word press is very similar to our topic word strive, the calling of the church is forward. Not backward and certainly not at state of satisfaction, but pressing, striving forward. For the ultimate end – the prize!

This brings us to our final aspect of striving; to compete for a prize.

In a competition you always have an objective. Our objective in this contest is very clear—the Rapture, Heaven, our Crown, and our Savior. We must be preparing to finish. Paul never said that he out run everyone he was racing against. He was not the fastest, but he finished. Anyone can start the fight but only the man who finishes will receive the prize. Hebrews 12:1-2, *“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with*

patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

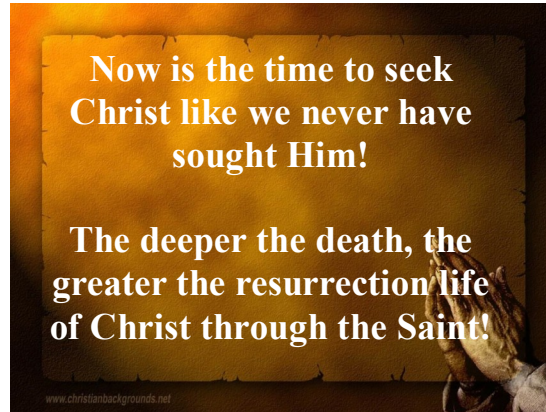
You must not expect to hit the mark and win the prize if you are weighed down with the things of this world. **If the weight of this world is hanging on your relationship with God, the connection will be broken.** This world will cause you to lose your contact with Heaven.

To win the prize we must be willing to strive or contend. Jude said to *“... earnestly contend for the faith...”* This is the will of God for your life.

Paul's final words at the end of his journey went like this. 2 Timothy 4:6-8, *“For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.”*

Herein lays the key! Are you willing to fight the fight? Finish the race? And keep your faith? Everything about finding the straightway has to do with your commitment. Strive! I must say it again, for importance sake, Strive to enter in at the strait gate. **Come on church, let us strive like never before to hear those words, “Well done thou good and faithful servant.”**

Pentecostal Tabernacle



New Website!

www.PentecostalTabernacleWM.org



Upcoming Gatherings

2012: Belgium

2012: Ukraine

2012: Italy

Fasting & Praying Gatherings!

Prayer is a great necessity that needs to be greatly increased in these end times. If you would like to know more information regarding these Fasting and Praying Gatherings you can go to www.ActsEurope.org or contact:

Pastor Danny Kirby
Email: pastor@actsamerica.org
Telephone: 1-919-735-8094

If you would like to support these gatherings you may do so by the above mentioned contact or simply by going to www.actsamerica.org/europe/ and using the Help Reach Europe Donate Button found on this page.

Most of the leaders of these gatherings have attended the School of Christ, and have an ardent desire to see Christ divinely manifest in this generation.



www.ActsAmerica.tv



www.ActsEurope.org

Pentecostal Tabernacle
195 Tidwell Road
West Monroe, LA 71292

Postage Paid
Non-Profit
Permit No. 93
Monroe, LA



CD INSIDE

Please inform us of any address
changes you may have!

It is our prayer that Christ be revealed unto you in a deeper, inward way. May you be richly
blessed in the name of Jesus Christ!

New Website!

www.PentecostalTabernacleWM.org