



# TODD LEVIN MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

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A monthly teaching publication to our partners and friends

## STAYING WELL BALANCED

Dear Partners and Friends,

Recently I talked about the importance of “Getting Back to the Basics.” How easy it is for some to leave the foundational truths of the Word of God. I’d like to continue by looking at some areas of concern that seem to be prevalent in the Body of Christ today. Let’s begin by reading **Acts 17:16-21**.

*“Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry. Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him. Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbling say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection. And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is? For thou bringest certain strange things to our ears: we would know therefore what these things mean. (For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing.)*

**Notice that last sentence again. It says, “All the Athenians and strangers spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or hear some new thing.”**

The Living Bible says, *“They spent their time discussing the latest ideas.”*

### **WAITING TO HEAR SOMETHING NEW.**

This seems to describe a whole lot of the church world today – **just waiting to hear something new**. The philosophers of Athens were not so much interested to know more about Paul’s doctrine because it was **good news** to them, but rather because it was **new, something they had never heard before**. So they brought him to the Areopagus, the place where judges sit, in order to inquire about this “new doctrine.”

I can’t help but to notice the pressure that pastors and guest ministers go through when stepping up to the pulpit week after week. Christians are sitting out in the congregation waiting for the preacher to announce his topic. Within a few minutes of introducing the message and

turning to the text, people have already sized him up and have decided whether to tune-in and listen or tune-out. It's like the merchant setting out his goods on the market place in hope that it might attract the crowd. How quick people are to judge and draw their own conclusions without ever giving the Holy Spirit a chance.

I believe it is wrong when a pastor or any minister stands in the pulpit and feels under pressure – like he has to perform and come up to the level of the people's expectation. I'm sure that if Christians would place a demand on the gift and anointing by faith which is in the minister, that they would be blessed, even without "hearing something new."

Often people are self deceived by thinking, "well I already heard that before." This surely **closes the door** to any further revelation. It's like Christians are waiting to hear something new, something they have never heard before. If a pastor announces Sunday morning that he is going to continue his "**series on prayer**" already people become discontent and uninterested because in their minds "they've already heard it and know enough." How can you exhaust the Word of God. Why are people so quick to disconnect? Could pride be a factor? Has anyone arrived? Only God is omniscient – all knowing. Hebrews 4:12 says,

*"For the word of God is **quick(active, alive)** and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*

"Did you see brother so-and-so on the Christian channel today? He announced that this month He will be releasing his **latest series** on prosperity. I can hardly wait. God has showed him 3 **new** keys that will unlock my harvest. I must order those tapes as **soon** as possible."

"Did you hear Prophet See-More today on the God channel? He is offering his **latest** book called, "**Predictions for 2002.**" He said that every Christian needs to know what God showed him in order to prepare for 2002. If I send a love gift of \$20 or more, then He'll send me this **mini** book for **FREE!**"

Why is it that Christians are always looking for something new? It seems quite obvious that many have enough difficulty walking in the light that's been given them, let alone wanting more whereby becoming even more accountable before God.

People do not need to hear something new, they need to HEAR what has already been spoken. We need a RHEMA (spoken word) from God. Simply allowing the Spirit of God to take what we have already heard and to SAY IT AGAIN UNTIL WE START WALKING IN THE LIGHT OF IT. Jesus said it this way.

*"If any man have ears to hear, let him hear. And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: **and unto you that hear shall more be given.** For he that hath, to him **shall be given**: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath."*

**Mark 4:23-25**

Notice, to the one who **HAS**, (*more*) shall be given. Sometimes we **think** “we have,” and the truth is “we have not.” Jesus said, “*to you that hear shall more be given.*” Sometimes we think “we’ve **HEARD** it before” and the truth is, “we have not.” For if we have, then more (*incite and revelation knowledge*) would be given, and we would already be walking in the light of it. When we walk in the light of God’s Word, then **more light shall be given**.

It’s like when I minister at a church, afterwards the pastor and the people tell me that I preached the same thing that the pastor has been preaching on for the past two Sundays. Why do you think the Holy Spirit would lead me to minister along the same lines that the pastor had been ministering on? Two reasons: 1) as a confirmation for the congregation and 2) because there are still those present who have not truly “**HEARD**” and received what the Lord has been trying to get across to them. **Before the Lord takes the church onto the next station, he wants everyone to get on board.**

### **SELECTIVE LISTENERS**

There is another group among us today within the church that I refer to as the “**selective listeners.**” These are the Christians who are looking for teachers who will tell them just what they want to hear.

*“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.”*

**2 Tim 4:4 (KJV)**

Some Christians are not wanting anything too strong that will bring conviction or change in their lives, but rather a more or less social and materialistic Gospel. When the word of the Lord came unto Zechariah for God’s people, the Lord reminded them of how their relatives responded:

*“Your fathers would not listen to this message. They turned stubbornly away and put their fingers in their ears to keep from hearing me. They hardened their hearts like flint, afraid to hear the words that God, the Lord Almighty, commanded them--the laws he had revealed to them by his Spirit through the early prophets. That is why such great wrath came down on them from God. I called, but they refused to listen, so when they cried to me, I turned away”.*

**Zech 7:11-13 (Living)**

I’ll be real honest with you, I believe in prosperity and the abundant life. In fact I’ve also written a teaching syllabus on Biblical finance. But what concerns me is when I get around some Christians and the only thing they talk about is prosperity. The only Christian books they read and preachers they listen to are those who are preaching about prosperity and finance. There is nothing wrong with including this in your spiritual diet, because it is part of your inheritance, but if prosperity is all you feed upon, then you will become grossly out of balance.

How healthy would it be if all you ate day after day is strawberry, chocolate and vanilla ice cream? Nothing else in your diet, only ice cream. This is how some have become. They only feed themselves on ice cream. (i.e. Feeding upon one area alone for their spiritual nourishment.) **People get so accustomed to eating what they want instead of what they need, that it is no surprise why some are out of balance spiritually.** We all need a well balanced diet. Going to a church that offers the same food week after week is not the way to stay healthy and in balance either. What happened to the meat and potatoes? (i.e. the love walk, evangelism, prayer, marriage and family or holiness.) This problem doesn't just exist among baby Christians. I'm referring to people who have known the Lord for many years and have walked with Him. It's like they have lost their first love and have forgotten their first and foremost priority in life, and that is – **to know Him.**

*“But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the **KNOWLEDGE** of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I **may win Christ**, That I may **KNOW him**, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death”*

**Phil 3:7,8,10 (KJV)**

### **THE GENERATION OF SIGN SEEKERS**

The other area of concern is the individual that attends church or Christian gatherings and comes for entertainment. This individual has come to see the spectacular. He or she has followed Brother so-and-so's ministry for many years. They have come to witness once again the supernatural power of God in demonstration.

*“They replied, **You must show us more miracles if you want us to believe you are the Messiah.** Give us free bread every day, like our fathers had while they journeyed through the wilderness! As the Scriptures say, 'Moses gave them bread from heaven.' ”*

**John 6:30 (Living)**

*“In the course of his journey through Galilee he arrived at the town of Cana, where he had turned the water into wine. While he was there, a man in the city of Capernaum, a government official, whose son was very sick, heard that Jesus had come from Judea and was traveling in Galilee. This man went over to Cana, found Jesus, and begged him to come to Capernaum with him and heal his son, who was now at death's door. Jesus asked,*

**“Won't any of you believe in me unless I do more and more miracles?”**

**John 4:46-48 (Living)**

*“One day some of the Jewish leaders, including some Pharisees, came to Jesus asking him to **show them a miracle.** But Jesus replied, "Only an evil, faithless nation would ask for further proof; and **none will be given** except what happened to Jonah the prophet! For as Jonah was in the great fish for three days and three nights, so I, the Messiah, shall be in the heart of the earth three days and three nights.”*

**Matt 12:38-39 (Living)**

Somewhere I think we forgotten that “signs are suppose to follow them who believe” and have substituted it now with “those who believe shall follow the signs.” What did Jesus say?

***“And these signs shall follow them that believe.”***

**Mark 16:17**

I had just finished ministering in a church and headed for the lobby to greet the people as they were leaving. Upon shaking hands with one man I asked him if he was from this church or just visiting. He said he was a visitor and had come along tonight because he heard there was going to be a guest speaker and had come “to see what is it that I do – what my thing was.” You know with some it’s healing, with others its prophecy or music. I couldn’t believe it. Here this man came tonight just to see what “I could do.” I don’t suppose he also brought along a bag of popcorn?

I was holding a meeting last year and had just finished preaching. The audience was on the edge of their seat just waiting for me to “give the signal” to come forward for prayer. I knew by the Holy Ghost that they were waiting to “see something.” They wanted to watch me perhaps “wave my hand” or “give the command” and all would be healed. To their amazement, I announced that I would not be praying for anyone but rather they would pray for one another. The atmosphere of disappointment was so thick you could have cut it with a knife. The word of the Lord came unto me saying, “*This generation seeketh after signs but not would be given to them.*”

Christians are looking for the spectacular but missing the supernatural. The Word of God is as supernatural as you can get. I’m fully persuaded that when we begin to honor the Word of God and give the Word first place in our lives, our homes and in our churches, then we will experience the supernatural power of God. For the Lord watches over His word to perform it. Heaven and Earth will pass away but His word will never pass away. Every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God will not return void but it will accomplish, prosper, produce wherever it has been sent and received.

Let’s seek the Lord by studying His Word and allowing the Holy Spirit to reveal to us the character of God. Let the Lord confirm His word with signs following instead of us running after them.

I’m sure as you and I seek the face of God instead of seeking the hand of God, then we will see the manifestations of God.

Your Friends and Partners,

*Todd + Eva*

