

The Word Exposes the NOW Apostasy

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I recently experienced a restless night one night between the hours of 2:30 and 4:30 a.m. and while trying to go back to sleep, I lay praying in the spirit and thinking--praying. At first, my thoughts were scrambled with the events of the day and other situations and circumstances. Then those thoughts left suddenly and I found myself thinking about the Word of God and its importance. A few Scriptures from the Word came bursting forth into my mind, but I was too tired to get up, so I simply laid there and meditated on the Scriptures—the Word. In meditating on the Word in the middle of the night, even though I enjoyed it and it brought rest and peace to me, I wondered about this whole event even after I arose in the morning.

The LORD spoke into my spirit, “My people do not know My Word—and because they do not know My Word—they do not know Me. They are in great danger.”

Now for me, God’s Word has become more and more precious and powerful over the years—absolutely crucial to me. I struggled in the beginning of my born-again walk for many, many years to read the Bible and understand it. But then again, I struggled to read anything! I had a learning disability growing up which almost totally crippled my comprehension abilities. While I could fluently read words, I couldn’t read a greeting card and understand it! So, I developed a dislike for reading. Then after I received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, things changed tremendously, and the Word began to come alive to me, as well as my gift. Not that I understood everything I read; I certainly did not, but I didn’t have to struggle to desire to read it. The Holy Spirit began to work with me gently and patiently, but at the same time, through discipline, He taught me important truths from the Word. Thus, He began the important transformation-change work in me. I am still a slow reader and I have to intentionally apply and discipline myself to read and comprehend; but honestly, I don’t know what I would do without the transforming knowledge of the Word of God in my life. The Holy Spirit remains my greatest Teacher today— and too many times to count, He has released such wisdom and revelation to me, so much so, that I often want to stand and do the happy dance!

Soberly, the LORD tells me now that His people are in great danger and at risk of perishing because they do not know His Word—and if they do not know His Word, then they cannot and do not know Him. Therein lies the greatest threat to a Christian’s life in this Hour-of-time. In other words, if you don’t know the Word of God, then you don’t fully know God, Jesus Christ or Holy Spirit--you cannot know God. So many today are claiming they know God, but they reject His Word. And to the degree you don’t truly or fully know God, is the degree to which you will create a personal god for yourself—one that agrees with you versus One that you agree with. When the first is the case, you are in danger of apostasy—i.e. falling away.

The Bible warns of a great apostasy in these Last Days—which has already begun. At the same time, the many who are in this apostasy do not realize it because they do not know the Word of God. They believe they are Christians, yet do not know the truth of the Word of God and it is very evident in their lives. And if they do not know the Word of God, then they do not truly know Christ Jesus. THIS IS EXTREMELY SERIOUS. The truth is: without the Word of God we are prone and open to great deceptions.

You see, Jesus Christ is the Word: *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. ⁴ In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. ⁵ The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it”* (John 1:1-5).

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

Jesus Christ is both the *logos* Word, which is the written Word of God aka the total message of God (John 1:1-5; 1:4; 1 Thess. 2:13; Rev. 1:3; Col. 1:25) and the *rhema* word, which is the spoken--written *logos* Word of God which involves the Word (testimony) of prophecy (Rev. 19:10).

How can one truly know Jesus Christ then without His Word? How can one truly know grace and truth without His written Word?

The term, *Word of God*, is more than just written words on a page; it is a Person, who is alive, active and manifesting through the power of the Holy Spirit (Heb. 4:12).

Certainly, there is grace for new and young Believers and for those who do not have the Bible readily available to them. However, *“From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more”* (Luke 12:48).

The writers of the Old Testament and the apostles that recorded the New Testament of the Word of God through Holy Spirit so believed in the power of the written Word of God that they gave their lives to do what it took to record it. In fact, most of them were led by Holy Spirit to record the Word, not in the comfort of their own offices through the ease of writing with a computer, but rather under horrendous, severe and difficult circumstances using ancient writing tools that presented a trying, difficult, and demanding process. As well, they often worked under impossible physical conditions such as in hiding for their life and imprisonment. Nothing stopped them—nothing—from recording the Word of God. Why?

They knew what the Psalmist knew: The Word would be the Believer’s very Life and Light! The Psalmist said this about the Word of God: *“How sweet are Your Words to my taste! Yes, sweeter than honey to my mouth! ¹⁰⁴ From Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way. ¹⁰⁵ YOUR WORD IS A LAMP TO MY FEET AND A LIGHT TO MY PATH. ¹⁰⁶ I have sworn and I will confirm it, that I will keep Your righteous ordinances. ¹⁰⁷ I am exceedingly afflicted; revive me, O Lord, according to Your Word.”*

Thus, the recorders of the Word of God sacrificed greatly that we today would live a safe and sound Godly life rooted in the Word. And, of course, this is also why so many missionaries today risk their very lives to get the Bible to the needy and unfortunate Christian Believers who live in impossible and dangerous circumstances day in and day out.

*Are you taking the Word for granted? Do you see the Word of God as Christ Himself?
Are you living as though reading and meditating upon the Word is an option?*

Now, we are presented with challenges today in the Church and many are faced with falling away—they just don’t realize it. The temptation and deception of the enemy is great in this hour, but unfortunately few realize his great temptation and deception because they are floating along in life with no real truth. They call themselves Christians, but have virtually no real relationship with or understanding of, God. They live their life through the world’s beliefs and standards and believe those to be linked to God. In other words, they allow the world to interpret God to and for them. In this case, ignorance is NOT bliss! The Israelites of the Old Testament often made the same mistake. If you don’t believe me, just read a few books from the Old Testament—Exodus, Deuteronomy, the Judges for starters! When the Israelites did not know, honor and obey God’s Word, they would fall into idolatry. And idolatry led to their slavery.

What makes us think it is any different for us today? If you do not know, honor and obey (by living) the truth of God’s Word, you are in great danger of falling into idolatry—whether you believe it or not. Idolatry is followed with slavery—unrealized slavery. These equal apostasy!

The Word of God tells us in regards to the Last Days (now), "As He was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, 'Tell us, when will these things happen, and what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?'"

"And Jesus answered and said to them, 'See to it that no one misleads you. ⁵ For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many'" (Matthew 24:4-5).

What Christ are you following?

"Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. ¹⁰ At that time MANY WILL FALL AWAY and will betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹ Many false prophets will arise and will mislead many. ¹² Because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold. ¹³ But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved. ¹⁴ This Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:9-14).

Not a few or some, but MANY WILL FALL AWAY. Why or how? Because false prophets will arise and mislead many.

Who are these false prophets? Are they prophets in the Church today? Yes and no!

They are of the world (and the god of this world), but strategically positioned in both the Church and world (secular) arena and under the power and jurisdiction of satan himself.

"But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who WILL SECRETLY INTRODUCE DESTRUCTIVE HERESIES, even denying the Master [Jesus Christ] who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves" (2 Peter 2:1 emphasis added)

"Let no one in any way deceive you, for it [the End] will not come unless the APOSTASY COMES FIRST, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God" (2 Thessalonians 2:3-4).

What God do you know and who are you serving?

"But the Spirit explicitly says that IN LATER TIMES SOME WILL FALL AWAY from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, ² by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron . . ." (1 Timothy 4:1-2)

Hmm.

Is this apostasy clear yet?

What you don't know will hurt you and put you directly into the influential path of deceiving demons.

While I do teach and preach, I am a listener by nature and a seer by the power of the Holy Spirit. I listen to and see what God is saying. But, I also listen to the speech of others—really listen. I listen to their words, but their words are not always what are important. I also listen to their body language and the spiritual atmosphere around them. And I can tell you that some of those I care about most are secretly being influenced and making strategic life decisions according to the world. They are allowing the world to influence their very thinking and belief. It is for this reason, they are in great spiritual danger.

Why?

Because they refuse to immerse themselves in relationship with the Word of God. Therefore, I listen to and see them being immersed in the world and all that it gives—but they don't know it. In fact, even though most are obviously struggling, they fail to apprehend any realization as to why. Their speech indicates that they are more influenced by those in their work place, a political party, unbelieving Believer friends, unbelieving family, the environmental church, zealous hyper-grace teachers, their own logic, and the like.

*“For the time will come [in the Last Days] when they WILL NOT ENDURE SOUND DOCTRINE; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their **own desires**” (2 Timothy 4:3 emphasis added).*

Who or what are you allowing to teach you?

Through Holy Spirit, every Believer has the capacity to read and understand the Word of God. In fact, in this day and age, every person seems to be reading more—at least through text, email, on Facebook and Twitter! If you are a Believer, why don't you plan a FAST to give up some Internet play time, texting time, Twitter and/or Facebook for a season and direct your FACE TO THE BOOK—the Word of God! It is your very lifeline of truth and power. It is a lamp unto your feet and a light to your path in life! It holds your true identity and destiny. It is your safe place and spiritual protection in this Hour! And so much more!

Is it worth your time, desire and determination to enter into a relationship with the WORD OF GOD?

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