This is no game. It is violent warfare, a clash between two kingdoms. If we, as the Kingdom of Light, are to cause great destruction to the kingdom of darkness, we must fight the fight of faith. The eternal salvation of many will depend upon it. My greatest joy, other than seeing the One who died for me, will be to see all of you worshiping at the throne of God one day.
Charlie Walker

First Love Ministries of Perry, Georgia USA
PRAYER STUDY # 578
A VISION STATEMENT FOR 2020

General Comments

We are in a war(***But when you hear of wars and commotions, do not be terrified; for these things must come to pass first, but the end will not come immediately:*** Luke 21:9), and satan in this season is especially coming against godly leaders (*For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries:* 1st Corinthians 16:9; *Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time:* Revelation 12:12b. We can all talk Christianese (*If we say that we have fellowship with Him and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth:* 1st John 1:6), but does that make us disciples? The Bible is 2/3rds prophecy. Amos 3:7 tells us, "*Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but He revealeth His secrets unto His servants the prophets.*" It may not seem like it sometimes, but this is s prophetic house. There are prophetic voices among us. There will be an increasing move of the

prophetic here this new year. (By the way, there is not a single prophetic verse in the Koran.) I believe the Bible prophetically has told us that the behemoths of Islam, Marxism, and Humanism will play a major part in the last days.

I believe, and I think most here believe, that we are in what the Bible calls the Last Days. The Last Days refers to the final end of time of the Church on earth. In some sense, the Last Days includes the entire period of time between the first and the second comings of Christ. From the very day our Lord rose from the dead, these were the last days. Certainly we are now in the Last Days, but in addition we are living at the end of the Age or the final days of the Last Days. During these days that we now live, there will be recurrent cycles of distress. We are experiencing these times right now. These are days when people long for peace but are beset with anxiety about the future. In the closing parts of chapter 3 and chapter 4 of 2nd Timothy, Paul shows Timothy the twofold way out of these snares of the enemy. We are to (1) be patient in suffering and (2) be persistent in truth. He tells Timothy to preach the Word, be prepared in season and out of season, correct, rebuke, and encourage with great patience and careful instruction.

Again, with everything in me, I believe we are living at the end of the age. In spite of all the chaos and calamity that is going to break out more and more in our life time, we should not walk in fear. If we truly know the Savior, we know perfect love. Perfect love casts out fear (1st John 4:18), and the antithesis of fear is faith, without which it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). Faith, by the way, works or is motivated by love: *For in*

Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love (Galatians 5:6).

Another way of looking at the End of the Age is to understand that it is the last of the Last Days. We have already seen that no one knows the day nor the hour of the Second Coming, but we can know the season, and I personally believe that Jesus will come in the lifetimes of many living today. The final prophetic fulfillments of unfulfilled Biblical prophecy could happen very rapidly.

Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in My name saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that ye be not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines and pestilences and earthquakes in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted and shall kill you; and ye shall be hated of all nations for My name's sake. And then shall many be offended and shall betray one another and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that endure unto the end, the same shall be saved (Matthew 244-13).

Throughout the Scriptures dealing with the end of the Church age, there were four characteristics of this time that were most often mentioned. They are apostasy, false christs, false prophets, and deception. We have already seen many examples of these four. Every cult in the world today began with a false

prophet in the Church. False prophets deceive people and malign God's character in order to promote themselves.

Many prophetic things have already been fulfilled (although not all endtime prophecy has been.) The Lord has placed us here for such a time as this. It is no accident that some of you were birthed to be the Benjamin Generation, or last full generation on the earth and in the Body of Christ, and no doubt you are going to be equipped even further than you are now equipped to fight. In fact, that is what He is doing now: *equipping the saints*. (Here we are not talking about canonized saints. When Paul writes to the saints in various places, he is talking about the true, genuine believers who have been washed in the blood of Jesus. You may not feel like a *saint!* I know I don't! But being this kind of saint is not about anything you have done, except receive Christ. Basically, He has done it all on the cross when He shed His blood for you and me, and every saint has been baptized in that blood.

As blood-bought saints, we are designed for one primary purpose-to be a worshiper of God. Our focus must be entirely on the Lord. Always remember that when you follow a man, other than the Son of Man, that man will lead you away from God. Also, remember that, unlike every other god (all of which are false gods), God is a God, not of religion but of personal relationship. He passionately wants intimate relationship with you and is always reaching out and speaking to you through His Word and through His creation. You have to make the choice to reach back to Him, deciding if you want to remain a carnal Christian or a 30 fold, 60 fold or 100 fold Christian. He has created us in such a way that those who really know Him fall in love with Him, and those who truly love Him will obey Him, and

when we obey Him, He can shower with us blessings. I believe one of His greatest desires is to bless you. So choose this day whom you will serve (Joshua 24:15).

Word for 2020

Because 20/20 is perfect vision, most prophetic voices will describe 2020 as a Year of New Vision for the Body of Christ, a Time to Wake-up and realize what is going on in the Spirit realm, and a Time of New Revelation in the Body of Christ. I believe all of these things will come. This will no doubt be a year of breakthrough, a word we have heard over and over in anticipation of 2020, and the Year of the Word. We see Biblically that 20 often symbolizes completion or the ending of a waiting period. In Genesis 31:28-41, Jacob served Laban his father in law for twenty years before he was allowed to take his wives and leave. After the Ark of the Covenant was stolen by the Philistines, who kept it for only 7 months, Israel waited for 20 years for the Ark of the Covenant, which was in the house of Abinadab, to make it back to Jerusalem (1st Samuel 5-7). For 20 years, the Israelites struggled to be free from the King of Canaan (Judges 4 & 5). At the age of 20 a man was eligible for military service (Leviticus 27:3).

My Personal Word for 2020

PRAISE

I believe, however, that the Lord is calling this body of believers and me back to praise. We praise the Lord for what He has done. We worship Him for Who He is. We are a generation that has lost the zeal to praise Him, in spite of circumstances.

Praise never replaces worship. Worship is a deeper expression than praise because true worship takes place in our Spirit whereas praise generally is a soulish activity. Our dear friend Blanche Reynolds, now with the Lord, gave us the difference between praise and worship:

Praise extols God for what He has done.
Worship extols God for Who He is.

Praise lifts us to the Heavenly Places.
Worship lifts God to His rightful place-The Throne!

Praise says, "Praise the Lord!"
Worship says, "He is Lord!"

Praise claims heirship to the throne rights.
Worship lays crowns at His feet.

Praise enjoys God.
Worship esteems Him.

Praise acclaims Him.
Worship beholds Him.

Praise lifts.
Worship bows.

Praise lauds.
Worship loves.

Praise celebrates.
Worship humbly reveres.
Praise addresses God
Worship waits on God.

Praise dances.
Worship removes shoes for Holy Ground.

RICK JOYNER

The day of the Lord is called "The great and terrible day of The Lord." It will be great for some, and terrible for others. These are the times we're living in. This will be increasingly intense, but we are actually among the most privileged to live in these times. Just as the greatest revivals and moves of God in history all come in the darkest times, as the darkness increases, it will be one of the greatest opportunities to walk in the light- and to be the light we are called to be. What factors will determine if this "day of The Lord" will be great or terrible for us? One of the most decisive factors is if we are a thankful person or a complainer. As we are told in Psalm 16:11, in the Lord's presence is "the fullness of joy." We know from Psalm 100 that we enter His gates with thanksgiving, and we enter His courts with praise. This means we get even closer to Him with worship. It is not possible to be anxious or depressed in His presence because there we have the "fullness of joy."

Around 1970 a man from California wrote a book, *Prison to Praise*, that revolutionized the charismatic movement in

America. Sometimes in the 70s or 80s, I meet that man. Merlin Carothers' little book turned the attention of the Body of Christ to the power of praising the Lord. **Praise is a scriptural command** (*PRAISE the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD! Praise Him, O you servants of the LORD! You who stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God. Praise the LORD, for the LORD is good: Sing praises to His name, for it is pleasant:* PSALM 135:1-3).
Praise is an invitation to the presence of the Lord (*But thou art holy, O thou who inhabitest the praises of Israel:* Psalm 22:3), and **praise is a weapon of warfare (***So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the LORD your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper." And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying, "Praise the LORD, for His mercy endures forever." Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated:* 2nd Chronicles 20:20-22).

I believe it is one of the most neglected commands by the Body of Christ in these last days. We certainly don't want to get into religious rote and tradition, speaking praise words without our hearts being in it, but praise is so important to the spiritual health of every believer. In fact, the Word tells us that we are

to give the *sacrifice of praise*, or praise Him even when we don't feel like it (Psalm 107:22, Jeremiah 33:11, Hebrews 13:15). Furthermore, and more importantly, He is worthy of our praise (2nd Samuel 22:4, Psalm 18:3, Revelation 4:11, Revelation 5:122).

Who should praise the Lord?

Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all the depths; fire and hail, snow and clouds; stormy wind, fulfilling His word; mountains and hills; fruitful trees and all cedars; beasts and all cattle; creeping things and flying foul; kings of earth and all peoples; princes and all judges of the earth; both young men and maidens, old men and children. Let them praise the name of the LORD, for His name alone is exalted; His glory is above the earth and heaven. Psalm 148:7-13

Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!
Psalm 150:6

The dead do not praise the LORD, nor any who go down into silence. But we will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore. Praise the Lord!
Psalm 115:17-18

How to Praise the Lord?

1. **With the whole heart**: *PRAISE the LORD! I will praise the LORD with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright and in the congregation* (Psalm 111:1).

2. **With praise that can be heard**: *Oh, bless our God, you peoples! And make the voice of His praise to be heard…* (Psalm 66:8).
3. **With shouting**: *Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph!* (Psalm 47:1).
4. **With singing**: *Sing praises to God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises! For God is King of all the earth; sing praises with understanding* (Psalm 47:6-7).
5. **With a joyful noise**: *Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands* (Psalm 66:1).
6. **With crying out**: *Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion; for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee* (Isaiah 12:6).
7. **With laughter**: *Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing; then said they among the nations, "The LORD hath done great things for them"* (Psalm 126:2).
8. **With skill on musical instruments**: *Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet! Praise Him with the lute and harp! Praise Him with the timbrel and dance! Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes! Praise Him with loud cymbals! Praise Him with clashing cymbals!* (Psalm 150:3-5).
9. **With thanksgiving**: *But I will sacrifice to You with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay what I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD* (Jonah 2:9).
10. **By bowing and kneeling before Him**: *Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD our Maker* (Psalm 95:6).

11. **By falling prostrate before Him**: *And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God. Then all the people answered, "Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground* (Nehemiah 8:6).
12. **With clapping of hands**: *Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph! (Psalm 47:1).*
13. **By raising of hands**: *Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name* (Psalm 63:4). The raised hands are a universal sign of surrender. Also, a child raises his or her hands when he or she wants the father (or mother) to pick him or her up. And finally kids in school raise their hands when they know the answer. **With dancing**: *You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, to the end that my glory may sing praise to You and not be silent. O, Lord my God, I will give thanks to You forever* (Psalm 30:11).
14. **By speaking in tongues**: *For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God…*(Acts 10:46-Note that at Pentecost they were not *preaching* in other languages. They were overheard by men from many nations as they were *magnifying God* in other languages.)

LET'S RESOLVE TO PRAISE THE LORD BOTH IN OUR MEETINGS AND IN OUR PERSONAL DEVOTIONAL TIMES WITH THE LORD. I ASSURE YOU THAT IT WILL CHANGE YOUR ATTITUDE AND YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES!

Words Concerning 2020

Rick Joyner

The world is being brought to the "Valley of Decision." All will have to choose between the light and darkness, good and evil, truth and lies. We are in the times that will separate the wheat from the chaff, and the nations as sheep or goats.

It is not just the U.S. that is headed for civil war. All of the social fault lines in civilization will shake, and we can expect increasing divisions because of it. At the same time, the greatest unity will be coming to God's true followers. The most glorious event on earth happening now is the bride of Christ beginning to make herself ready for Him.

Joshua Olson

Nearly half a century after the Jesus movement, many of its young leaders are not so young anymore, as they prepare for retirement and ministry transition. Waiting in the wings to take their place and continue the ministry of the kingdom is a new generation of young people. Many of them even describe this moment as a second Jesus Movement-a modern continuation of what the Holy Spirit began decades earlier.

Nathan Shaw from New Zealand

We live in a significant time of transition. Many things are shaking and will continue to shake. Times of transition are often

turbulent. Transition is an in-between period. It takes us from one reality or dynamic to another. If we over-focus on the turbulence it's easy to become disorientated. If, instead, we focus on where the transition is taking us, we become prophetic beacons of hope. 2020 is a hugely significant year. It will be marked by several seismic shifts among God's people and within society as a whole.

Casper McCloud (Derek's Dad)

I pray you may be able to experience the supernatural peace, agape love and joy of the Lord and see His divine protection over you now and always as we enter into 2020 and this new decade. I pray that the blessings of Abraham who was blessed in all good things chases you down and overtakes you in every level and dimension of your life. May we enter each day in faith, trusting the Lord shall provide for all our needs and understand how the spiritual world interconnects to this physical realm. We read in 2 Kings 6:17,"And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha." Let us therefore put on the mind of Christ that we are divinely instructed in everything that we think, say and do with supernatural 2020 vision. We are instructed in places like 1 Corinthians 2:16,"For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? but we have the mind of Christ."

Friends, don't get me wrong. By no means do I count myself as an expert in all of this, but I've got my eyes on the goal, where

God is beckoning us onward to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I am not turning back!
Philippians 3:13-14 The Message Bible

Let us not glide through this world and slip quietly into heaven, without having blown the trumpet loud and long for our Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Let us see to it that the devil will hold a thanksgiving service in hell, when he gets the news of our departure from the field of battle.
C.T. Studd

First Love Ministries of Perry, Georgia USA

THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS

Prayer Study # 579

A priest is someone set apart to act as God's representative and to be a liaison between God and his people.

This hope [the hope we have in Jesus] *we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek* (Hebrews 6:19-20).

<u>You, as a Believer, Are in a Holy Priesthood</u>

But, YOU are a chosen generation, <u>a royal priesthood</u>, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.
1st Peter 2:9-10

…If indeed you [believers] *have tasted that the Lord is gracious, coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, <u>a holy priesthood</u>, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*
1st Peter 2:3-5

<u>You, as a believer, are a Tabernacle, Tabernacling the Holy Spirit</u>

Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.
1st Corinthians 6:19-20

Now therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.
Ephesians 2:19-22

Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
1st Corinthians 3:16

…Christ in you, the hope of glory.
Colossians 1:27b

<u>We, as Priests, Need to Wake-up and Get Busy!</u>

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is time TO WAKE OUT OF SLEEP; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.
Romans 13:11-12

Therefore, He says, "Awake, you who sleep. Arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light."
Ephesians 5:14

<u>All Spirit-baptized Believers Need to Arise!</u>

ARISE, shine: For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth and deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you.
Ephesians 4:14

THE STATE OF THE AMERICAN CHURCH

1. **A.W. Tozer notes that in the American Church the messenger has become more important than the message.** *But "he who glories, let him glory in the LORD." For not he who commends himself is approved but whom the LORD commends*. 2nd Corinthians 10:17; *He must increase, but I*

must decrease. John 3:30; *For You have magnified Your word above all Your name*. Psalm 138:2b.

2. **Much of the Church has a form of godliness with little power.**
   …having a form of godliness but denying the power. And from such people turn away!-2nd Timothy 3:5.
3. **The might men are asleep and not functioning in their gifts.**
   Proclaim this among the nations: "Prepare for war! Wake up the mighty men. Let all the men of war draw near. Let them come- Joel 3:9.
4. **The Full Gospel Message, including the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, is not being preached.**
   For I [PAUL] *have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God*-Acts 20:27; *Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy and do not forbid to speak in tongues-1st Corinthians 14:39; But earnestly desire the best gifts. And I will show you a more excellent way-1st Corinthians 12:31; Do not be ignorant concerning spiritual gifts-1st Corinthians 12:1.*
5. **The "church" at large has forgotten that the chief end of man is to glorify God (Greg Gordon).**
   For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's-1st Corinthians 6:20; *Therefore, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God*-1st Corinthians 10:31.
6. **Many treat "church" like any other social club or sports event that they might attend (Greg Gordon).** *Therefore, take heed to yourselves and to allt eh flock, among which*

the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God, which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock-Acts 20:28-29).

7. **Worship has become an idol in many "churches." The music often resembles that of the world (Greg Gordon).**
   *Take away from Me the noise of your songs, for I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments-*Amos 5:23; *Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy-meditate on these things-*Philippians 4:8; *Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen-*1st John 5:21.
8. **The church must repent of its idolization of personality (Greg Gordon).**
   *Who then is Paul and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase-*1st Corinthians 3:5-7.
9. **The world is shaping the views of the "church" more than the "church" shaping the world (Greg Gordon).**
   *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God-*Romans 12:2.
10. **Different kind of Shepherds Over the Flock.**

a. **The Hireling** is in it for the money. John 10:12: ***But a hireling, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep.*** Micah 3:11: *Her heads judge for a bribe. Her priests teach for pay. And her prophets divine for money. Yet they lean on the LORD and say, "Is not the LORD among us? No harm can come upon us." Therefore because of you Zion shall be plowed like a field. Jerusalem shall become heaps of ruins, and the mountain of the temple like the bare hills of the forest.* 2nd Corinthians 2:17: *For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God….* 1st Corinthians 9:18: *What is my reward then? That when I preach the gospel, I may present the gospel of Christ without charge, that I may not abuse my authority in the gospel.*
b. **The Celebrity or Christian Rock Star** wants fame and fortune. Galatians 2:6a: *But from those who seemed to be something-whatever they were, it makes no difference to me; God shows personal favoritism to no man….* 1st Corinthians 1:29: *…no flesh shall glory in His presence.*
c. **The Entertainer** tells mostly stories and jokes. Ephesians 5:3-4: *But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as it is fitting for saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.*
d. **The Jezebel** wants to control everything.

Revelation 2:10: *Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou suffereth that woman Jezebel, who calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.*

Jezebel is a master manipulator who uses flattering words and smooth sayings to seduce your soul. She seeks positions of power, influence, favor and authority that allow her to control and advance her evil agenda. Jezebel likes to isolate her disciples from others in an effort to control their lives and soulishly addict them to her. She does this through mysticism and false prophecy. The Jezebel spirit is motivated by an insatiable hunger for power and control. Bondage to the Jezebel spirit is an evil form of slavery. Every believer should aggressively stand against this usurper of liberty and join God's abolitionist movement. (taken from Jonas Clark's book *Jezebel: Seducing Goddess of War)*

e. The True Shepherds love the sheep. They are called to defend (1st Samuel 17:34-36), to water (Genesis 29:2-10), to give rest to (Jeremiah 33:12), to know (John 10:3-5), to number (Jeremiah 33:13), to secure pasture for (1st Chronicles 4:39-41), to search for the lost (Luke 15:4-5).

IT IS TIME FOR ALL MINISTERS, WHO WANT TO GO DEEP WITH CHRIST DURING OUR DAY, TO DIE TO THE FLESH

1. DEATH TO RELATIONSHIPS: 1st Corinthians 5:11: *But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner, with such an one, no not to eat.*
2. DEATH TO THE LOVE OF MONEY AND MATERIAL POSSESSIONS: Matthew 6:19-21: ***Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in and steal; for where your treasure is there will your heart also be.***
   Colossians 3:5b: *Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world.* NLV
3. DEATH TO LUSTFUL DESIRES: Colossians 3:5a: *So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, or evil desires….NLV*
4. DEATH TO EGO, AMBITION, POPULARITY AND POSITION, PRIDE AND FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD: James 4: 4b: *…Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.* Habakkuk 2:4-5: *Behold, the proud. His soul is not upright in him; but the just shall live by faith. Indeed, because he transgresses by wine, He is a proud man. And he does not stay at home because he is like death and cannot be satisfied. He gathers to himself all nations and heaps up for himself all peoples.*

* *

POTENTIAL PITFALLS OF MINISTRY

Don Van Hoozier

The Longer I am in the ministry, the more I realize how vulnerable and how prone we are to falling, and how it is only by the grace of a faithful God that we can keep faithful and finish well. Ministry is an incredible and awesome privilege. It is also an incredible and awesome responsibility. Our trust must be in the Lord and not in ourselves if we are to be faithful to the finish line.

It is possible to finish well. I am so thankful for the example of those who keep faithful to the end. They are setting a pattern for us. Their lives preach even more powerfully than their preaching. On the other hand, I've seen many servants of the Lord who ran the race well become disqualified. Today they are out of His service.

We have an incredibly active enemy, Satan, who is always attempting to cause God's servants to stumble. I want to share with you what for me personally have been nine of probably the greatest potential pitfalls in my service for the Lord, although the list is not exhaustive. <u>These are recurring areas of vulnerability.</u>

Losing the wonder

Neglecting Our Personal Relationship with the Lord

Proclaiming Truth We Are Not Living
Relying on the Natural
Leaving the Pathway of Humility
Settling for the Status Quo
Serving Without Love
Losing Perspective
Seeking Comfort and Convenience

(From High Point Church, Macon, Georgia's *The Scepter*)

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3) The third view is that the baptism of fire comes after the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I believe the third view is correct. I see the baptism of fire as both setting spirit-baptized believers on fire to do the ministry and also including a refinement, involving trials and tribulations, that will purify these believers. I believe that these believers are His Third Day Church of Hosea 6:1-3-*Come, and let us return unto the LORD; for He hath torn, and He will heal us; He hath smitten, and He will bind us up. After two days will He revive us; in the third day He will raise us up, and we shall live in His sight. Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD; His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come upon us, as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.*

Will you open the door of your heart to Jesus tonight? I am talking to the believers who have become lukewarm and are no longer stirred by the preaching of the Word, who no longer have a passion to see lost people saved, wounded people healed, and captive people set free. What you need tonight is a Baptism of Fire? You, men and women, boys and girls, are called to be a priest or minister to a broken world. Would you dare to believe that you could be a mighty warrior in the Lord's endtime army and a threat to the kingdom of darkness? Will you be the one tonight?