



Is God in the House? *Opportunity is Knocking at Your Door*

by Thomas K. Burk

Revelation 3:20

(20) Behold, **I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.**

The root of our *problem* in America is not ungodly politicians or liberal judges, it's not TV, MTV, or Hollywood, it's not the super wealthy or the impoverished poor, its not America's enemies or her allies, no, the root problem of America is the absence of Jesus Christ in the lives of her citizens; both in the lives of those who are lost, and moreover, in the lives of those who are *saved*.

GOD WANTS TO MAKE HIS "HOUSE" CONFORM TO ITS "VISITOR."

- Story about Jesus as house guest
- People want to invite Jesus into a room. But they fail to invite Him into their house.

Where IS Jesus' House? It is located in those who are Born Again in Jesus' name. They, as His Church, are His Body and habitation!

Ephesians 2:19-22

(19) Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

(20) And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

(21) In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord:

(22) **In whom ye also are builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit.**

Jesus didn't come to change the world. No, He came to leave behind the testimony of a bloody cross and an empty tomb. After His ascension, He left His Body, the Church, with the responsibility to change the world. The way this change happens is by the Church using Jesus' gospel story to lead men and women to its life-changing promise. This is the Word of *reconciliation*.

2 Corinthians 5:17-19

(17) Therefore if any man be **in Christ, he is a new creature**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

(18) And all things are of God, **who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation**;

(19) To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and **hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation**.

2 Corinthians 5:17-19 GNB

(17) Anyone who is **joined to Christ is a new being**; the old is gone, the new has come.

(18) All this is done by God, who **through Christ changed us from enemies into his friends and gave us the task of making others his friends also**.

(19) **OUR MESSAGE IS THAT GOD WAS MAKING ALL HUMAN BEINGS HIS FRIENDS THROUGH CHRIST**. God did not keep an account of their sins, and **HE HAS GIVEN US THE MESSAGE WHICH TELLS HOW HE MAKES THEM HIS FRIENDS**.

Every member of Jesus' Body has been imparted this Word ministry. This is the message or testimony that each member of Jesus' body is to use to minister to their world. Housing the presence of Jesus, and being given the authority to speak this Word, are reason enough for why, spiritually, we are a treasure house. Remember, we are said to be God's peculiar (distinctive) people. Because so, the enemy has set his eye on breaking into our house so he can steal, kill, and destroy those things precious to Jesus, and consequently damaging to satan's kingdom.

John 10:10

(10) **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy**: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

- **Steal**: to remove the promises and hope we have in Jesus.
- **Kill**: to remove the true life that comes through the promises and the hope in Jesus.
- **Destroy**: to remove any usable trace of there ever being any true promises or hope in Jesus.

Now, though the enemy wants to eliminate any trace of what Jesus has called us to, Jesus promises in the midst of this attack, we are given opportunity to experience more life than we have ever experienced before! The way to guarantee we get to live this type life is to prepare ourselves for the enemy's attack before they come. To do this, we must first clean our house to remove every obstacle that satan could use against our home and our life! As I said in the opening of this study; the world is not the world's problem; the absence of Jesus in the life of the people of this world, and in the saints of the Church is the real problem.

2 Chronicles 29:1-8

- (1) Hezekiah began to reign when he was five and twenty years old, and he reigned nine and twenty years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Abijah, the daughter of Zechariah.
- (2) And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father had done.
- (3) He in the first year of his reign, in the first month, opened the doors of the house of the LORD, and repaired them.
- (4) And he brought in the priests and the Levites, and gathered them together into the east street,
- (5) And said unto them, Hear me, ye Levites, **sanctify now yourselves, and sanctify the house** of the LORD God of your fathers, and **carry forth the filthiness out of the holy place.**
- (6) For **our fathers have trespassed**, and done that which was evil in the eyes of the LORD our God, and have forsaken him, and have turned away their faces from the habitation of the LORD, and turned their backs.
- (7) Also **they have** shut up the doors of the porch, and put out the lamps, and have not burned incense nor offered burnt offerings in the holy place unto the God of Israel.
- (8) **Wherefore** the wrath of the LORD was upon Judah and Jerusalem, and he hath delivered them to trouble, to astonishment, and to hissing, as ye see with your eyes.

As proof for a revival's success or failure, we mostly talk about attendance numbers, about the numbers that got immersed in Jesus' name, and about the total number of first-time tongue talkers we had, but in reality, none of these are representative of true revival. *Webster's Dictionary* says the term "revival" is "the act of reviving," or "the state of being revived." So *Webster's* says "revival" is a **return** to "life, consciousness, vigor, strength, or a flourishing condition," not first finding it.

So, true *revival* necessitates one being ALIVE before being REVIVED. While in our Old Nature, we are a part of the kingdom of darkness, and therefore literally walking dead men. It is not until after we are born of the water and the Spirit in Jesus; name that we are made alive in Jesus Christ. Since this is the case, "revival" is more for those *in* the Church, than it is for those *coming* into the Church. This means true revival begins at a SAINT'S HOUSE before it can come to the church house. Because so, just like in Hezekiah's day, for true revival to come, the Church—the body of believers—must get rid of some the clutter in their physical house before they can see it come to their spiritual house. Remember, we are the ones given the Word of reconciliation; it is our individual responsibility to see a true apostolic move of Jesus come to our family, friends, co-worker, community, and world; but such a move of God begins by us being first completely made alive in Jesus Christ!

Hebrews 12:1

- (1) 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,**

Many times people think junk is treasure. Treasure is not just where you look for it, it is also what you consider it to be.

STORY:

An old rundown hotel across from the Excelsior House in Jefferson, Texas had over \$175,000 hidden in its floorboards.

- A mom and son lived like hermits
- They had all the money they needed to live ‘nicely,’ but chose the filth and clutter of a decaying building.

We have a great treasure waiting to be dug-up and used right here in this assembly of believers. To fuel the flames of true apostolic revival, we must look to our own homes to find the treasure God has given us for this cause.

What is some of the clutter, or weight that needs to be thrown out?

- (1) Traditions that don't edify.
- (2) Self-contentment that makes us accept “just good enough.”
- (3) The desire to put I to before U. Now for the alphabet, that's okay; but in regards to God's Kingdom, “I” before “U” is backward.
- (4) Prayerlessness.
- (5) No Bible study time.
- (6) No witnessing time.
- (7) No godly family time.
- (8) Anything that you know is contrary to your spiritual health!

For us to see where these issues are, we must be open to pray as the Psalmist:

Psalms 139:23-24

- (23) **Search me**, O God, and know my heart: **try me**, and **know my thoughts**:
(24) **And see if there be any wicked way in me**, and **lead me** in the way everlasting.

The world offers children many differing ways to view life. Again, revival starts at the home. As parents, or as adults, we are called to help children correctly see what truth is and what error is.

The Blind Men and the Elephant –

John G. Saxe (1816-1887)

It was six men of Indostan
To learning much inclined,
Who went to see the elephant
(though all of them were blind).
That each by observation
Might satisfy his mind

The first approached the elephant,
And, happening to fall

Against his broad and sturdy side,
At once began to bawl,
“God bless me! But the elephant
Is very like a wall!”

The second feeling of the tusk
Cried: “Ho! What have we here
So very round and smooth and sharp?
To me ‘tis mighty clear
This wonder of an elephant
Is very like a spear!”

The third approached the animal,
And, happening to take
The squirming trunk within his hands,
Thus boldly up and spake:
“I see,” quoth he, “the elephant
Is very like a snake!”

The fourth reached out his eager hand,
And felt about the knee;
“What most this wondrous beast is like
I mighty plain,” quoth he;
“‘Tis clear enough the elephant
Is very like a tree.”

The fifth, who chanced to touch the ear,
Said: “E’en the blindest man
Can tell what this resembles most.
Deny the fact who can.
This marvel of an elephant
Is very like a fan.”

The sixth no sooner had begun
About the beast to grope,
Than, seizing on the swinging tail
That fell within his scope,
“I see,” quoth he, “the elephant
Is very like a rope!”

And so these men of Indostan
Disputed loud and long,
Each in his own opinion
Exceeding stiff and strong,
Though each was partly in the right,
And all were in the wrong!

So, oft in theologic wars
The disputants, I ween,
Rail on in utter ignorance
Of what each other mean,
And prate about an elephant
Not one of them has seen

What a person sees is often simply a matter of their point of view. Children are no different. For them to see Jesus and His Truth, they will need to see Him and His Word as they truly are. Such a view begins at the home and is personified for them first in their parents.

Why God Chose Abraham...

Genesis 18:19

(19) FOR I KNOW HIM, THAT HE WILL COMMAND HIS CHILDREN AND HIS HOUSEHOLD AFTER HIM, AND THEY SHALL KEEP THE WAY OF THE LORD, TO DO JUSTICE AND JUDGMENT; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

Abraham's life was not a coincidence; it was a reflection of who he was!

EXAMPLE: Echo

A son and his father were hiking in the mountains.

- Suddenly, his son falls, hurts himself and screams: "AAAhhhhhhhhhhh!!!" To his surprise, the son hears the voice repeating, somewhere in the mountain: "AAAhhhhhhhhhhh!!!"
- Curious, he yells: "Who are you?" He receives the answer: "Who are you?"
- Angered at the response, he screams: "Coward!" He receives the answer: "Coward!"
- He looks to his father and asks: "What's going on?" The father smiles and says: "My son, pay attention." And then he screams to the mountain: "I admire you!" The voice answers: "I admire you!"
- Again the man screams: "You are a champion!" The voice answers: "You are a champion!"
- The boy is surprised, but does not understand. Then the father explains: **"People call this ECHO, but really this is LIFE."**
- Life gives you back everything you give to it, because our life is simply a reflection of our actions.
- If you want more love in your family, talk and show more love in your family.
- If you want more dedication in your family, be more dedicated to your family.
- This relationship applies to everything, in all aspects of life; Life will give you back everything you have given to it."
- **Who will you and your family serve? The answer is first up to YOU!**

FOUR THINGS THAT A PARENT NEEDS TO OFFER THEIR CHILD;

1. Intimacy—Closeness warmth.

- To open yourself up with honesty and integrity to your child. To allow your ups and downs to show through and then allow them to be recognized and discussed.

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- Jesus allowed His disciples room to discuss the truths of the Kingdom. He walked with them and personally taught them for three and a half years. They were there through all the miracles and popular up times as well as the times of persecution and seemingly defeat at Calvary. Yet He walked them through each situation and showed them His Glory.

John 14:8-9

(8) Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

(9) Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?

John 1:14

(14) And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Acts 4:13

(13) Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

2. Discipline—Structure boundaries.

- Jesus always gave us safe boundaries to walk within.

Job 5:17

(17) Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty:

Psalms 94:12-13

(12) Blessed is the man whom thou **chastenest**, O LORD, and **teachest** him out of thy law;

(13) That thou mayest **give him rest** from the days of adversity, until the pit be digged for the wicked.

3. Love—By Word and Deed

Romans 5:8

(8) But God **commendeth his love** toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ **died for us**.

Colossians 3:17, 20-21

(17) And **whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus**, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

(20) **Children, obey your parents in all things**: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

(21) **Fathers, provoke not your children to anger**, lest they be discouraged.

1 John 3:18

(18) My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but **in deed and in truth**.

4. Value—Of Self and Others

Matthew 10:29-31

(29) Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.

(30) But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

(31) Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.

Luke 15:4-7

(4) What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

(5) And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

(6) And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbors, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

(7) I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

John 13:34-35

(34) A new commandment I give unto you, **That ye love one another**; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

(35) By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, **if ye have love one to another**.

The Shema is the Key to focus on both Jesus and His Truth.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

(4) Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

(5) And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

(6) And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

(7) And **thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children**, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

(8) And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.

(9) And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.

David's words to his son, Solomon

1 Chronicles 28:9

(9) And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and

understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

Parents, this is our duty to God and our families...

Proverbs 22:6

(6) Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Treat them with respect and show them Jesus Christ...

Ephesians 6:4

(4) And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

God is NOT about OUR purpose; He is about HIS purpose. You see, the title of the study series, *Is God in the House?*, is not a challenge for a family to grow closer one to another; rather, it's a questioning as to whether or not a family is growing closer to Jesus, together.

"Grown men do not need leaders." ~ Edward Abbey (1927-1989) This quote is the goal of Ephesians 4:13-14.

Ephesians 4:7-16

(7) But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

(8) Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

(9) (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

(10) He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

(11) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

(12) FOR THE PERFECTING OF THE SAINTS, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

(13) Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:

(14) That we henceforth be **NO MORE CHILDREN**, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

(15) But speaking the truth in love, MAY GROW UP INTO HIM IN ALL THINGS, which is the head, even Christ:

(16) From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, **maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.**

The opportunity is before us all. We have the right to chose. Joshua was presented this same choice; his response is as follows:

Joshua 24:15

(15) And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: **BUT AS FOR ME AND MY HOUSE, WE WILL SERVE THE LORD.**

So here we are. Opportunity to be a success is knocking at the door. Do you hear it? If you do, then you must know who is knocking, and what He wants. You also have a good idea what is required from you once you open that door; but, you must also remember what your efforts are promised to bring—fellowship with Jesus!

Revelation 3:20

(20) Behold, **I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.**

Remember, **BIG DOORS** swing on **SMALL HINGES**. So what you do with a simple message like tonight's may have big consequences for you life. So, if your hearing "knock, knock," don't ask, "whose there?" You already know who is there, so the real question is if and how will you answer your door. Opportunity for Jesus being in your house is available; how will you now respond?

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