

Join us for
**Generation
 to Generation
 Women's
 Conference**
**September
 25th & 26th**

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**FORTRESS OF
 JOY CHURCH**

The Final Word

One day Jesus was teaching the people and His disciples. He made a statement they wouldn't agree with Him on. He said that all men who desires eternal life would need to eat His flesh and drink His blood. In essence, Jesus was inviting them to believe He was the Messiah and they would need to have the faith to believe Him. How did they react?

John 6:66 From that day many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him.

Jesus lost a good portion of His followers, but He would not alter His Words for any of them. He waved good bye to them and went on doing what He was born to do. God will not change His course for anyone, we must change our course for Him. Incidents like this are all throughout the Bible to warn us not to follow after the same example of unbelief. Despite all the warnings, men readily ignore them and pierce themselves through with many sorrows. Some of these fools seem to think God will cut them slack, but God will not be mocked. Being a pastor for some thirty five years, I have had to watch a lot of good disciples go back and walk no more with the Lord.

1 Timothy 2:1 I exhort that first of all, supplications,

prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men.

I used to stand there, shake my head, and watch all these good people abandon their relationship with their Savior. I thought there was nothing I could do until the Lord asked me why I wasn't interceding. I began to pray for all these fine people and as I did, I could see the cause of their backsliding. Some got offended, some became lukewarm and some just became bored with living for Jesus.

Offended

There are two reasons to be offended. The first is because people think too highly of themselves. The second reason is the most common, people don't really want to be involved so they are looking for an excuse to storm out. They don't want to take the honest way out, so they simply find someone they can blame their decision on. I have offended a lot of people, but I'm in good company, Jesus of-

fended more than I did. Jesus offended a whole nation to the degree that they plotted to kill Him.

Lukewarm

When the Lord saves and heals hurting people they are grateful for a season; they are hot for Jesus. They revel in their newly purchased freedom and conclude they no longer need Jesus as much as before. Nothing God blesses us with has any value without the presence of the Lord.

Bored

When God doesn't move on some men's schedule and continually provide spiritual goose bumps, they become bored and complacent. But this is what living by faith is all about, it's knowing God is near even when you don't see or feel Him. God will always have the final word, but we need to stick around in order to hear it.

**THE
 FINAL
 WORD**



The Final Word Pt2

The devil is trying to obscure the light that Jesus brought into the world, the light is the Word of God.

My heart has broken so many times when I have watched good people and friends walk away from my church and God. I got to the place where I didn't want to invest love in new people because I didn't know how long they would serve with me. Pastors always take these things personal. Unwarranted departures always leave a scar. We always think we are the only one going through this because not all pastors are willing to discuss these issues. Backsliding is at an all time high according to a Gallup poll, churches everywhere are losing membership. But I choose what the Prophet Isaiah said seven hundred years before the birth of Christ.

Isaiah 60:2 Gross darkness shall cover the earth: but the Lord shall arise upon you and His glory shall be seen on you.

What is this darkness? The devil is trying to obscure the light that Jesus brought into the world. The light is the Word of God. People in the darkness are folks who are cut off from God's Word, they have no freedom. The light produces the supernatural power of God we call the glory. God says He will arrange for those in darkness to see His light on the uncompromising righteous. I believe that those who once walked in the light will return to it and be a part of it.

Isaiah 60:4 Your sons and your daughters will come from afar and they shall be nursed at your side.

Don't be misled by the word nursed, this is not referring to mama's milk. These children are adults and

they will reunite with their parents in church and be nourished with the Word of God. Some of these adult children have been out so long that when they come back they will bring their children. God is not going to let the devil have the last word. He has had this last great revival planned long before Jesus became a man.

Revelation 2:26-27 He that overcomes and keeps My Words unto the end, to him I will give power over the nations. And he will rule with a rod of iron.

God has a plan for all those who began with Him and held fast to the end. They will oversee the world during the thousand year reign. What a glorious time to be in Christ, the devil will be locked in the pit and all men will bow to our authority. No babies will be aborted, no one will be able to lie and no one can harm God's chosen vessels. This world has been molding itself in the image of the devil, but God will put it back to the way He always wanted it. Every being in the earth will be made to reverence the Lord, they will have no other options. God has never lost His love for mankind and He has never given up on His vision for man. Those who are alive at His return will be the last folks to have a glorified body. God has had all this planned before He created man. The devil had no idea, even when He revealed it to His prophets. God will have the final Word and we will live in it with Him as our Lord.



Two Men in the Last Days

We are in the last days, this world as we know it will end because Jesus said it would. No matter what anyone else chooses to believe, it will be as the Lord says. He will not be mocked. We have two camps that divide the believers from the nonbelievers. The first camp, which is substantially smaller than the other camp, know this world will come to an end and they are preparing for it. These are men and women who live by the faith of the Son of God. They pay little attention to the customs of the world.

in their camp don't even agree with one another. Their goal is to save a planet that has been cursed by sin, the problem is they are using material that is cursed. They put all of their faith in their fellow man and none in God who created all things. The happiness in camp number two comes from alcohol and drugs. The joy in camp number one comes from the Words spoken by the Lord Jesus.

Hebrews 9:28 And those who look for Him, shall He appear the second time without sin

knows this world is not his final destination. Jesus the carpenter has built us mansions in heaven. How in God's Name can a believer be inundated with depression? I will tell you how, because they have too much invested in this planet. The believer must continually remind himself that he is a stranger and a pilgrim here. The sinner fears death but the believer knows death is the beginning of eternity in a body that death will never touch.

I John 1:8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

The folks in camp number two will not identify themselves as sinners because then they would have to admit they are wrong. The only folks who acknowledge their error are the humble, they don't want to be out of God's will for any reason. God doesn't punish the repentant, He gives them grace and forgiveness. The sinner has an unrealistic view of God, they "think" that repentance will lead to punishment. Further more, some of them believe that hardships are God's judgement for being naughty.

Ephesians 4:22, 24 Put off the old man which is corrupt. Put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

God is so full of mercy that the hopeless in camp two can transfer to camp one and the Lord will receive them.



Mathew 24:11 Many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

All of the deceived folks are members of the second camp, they are tossed to and fro by every wind of news reported by the false prophets. They don't know what to expect because all of the leaders

unto salvation.

The first time Jesus visited our world, He became sin so we could become righteous. The next time He appears it will not be on account of sin, but rather He will come to gather all those who receive the free gift. The believer

They put all of their faith in their fellow man and none in God who created all things.

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**Restoring the
supernatural power
of God back
to the local church**

Jesus is Coming Soon

Every day of our lives we get one day closer to our scheduled meeting with Jesus. Whether we meet Him in the air or in heaven, that day is coming fast. It is foolish to believe the only way you will see Jesus is at the day of the great catching away. You must understand that many of us will meet Jesus before the rapture of the church. No matter which of the two ways you participate in, it will be glorious for sure and for certain. What has the Lord instructed us to do until our time comes?

Hebrews 10:24 Do not forsake the assembling of yourselves together, as the manner of some is; but encourage one another: and so much the more, as you see the day approaching.

Take note of the word [see](#),

it means to be aware of or to perceive. God would not have us be ignorant, He reveals to every believer the day of their reunion with Him. The other day an older lady said to me, "Ya know, I'm looking forward to passing over to the other side". Believers need to stick together, who else can encourage your faith and be in agreement with you? When we are citizens of the world, we tend to take on the cares of the world and then our beloved hope grows thin. The world is talking doom and gloom, they are determined to

save a planet that is doomed on account of sin. The time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight. I have about finished my course. I will see heaven soon and I can only imagine.



**Behold, I am
coming soon!**

Rev. 22:12