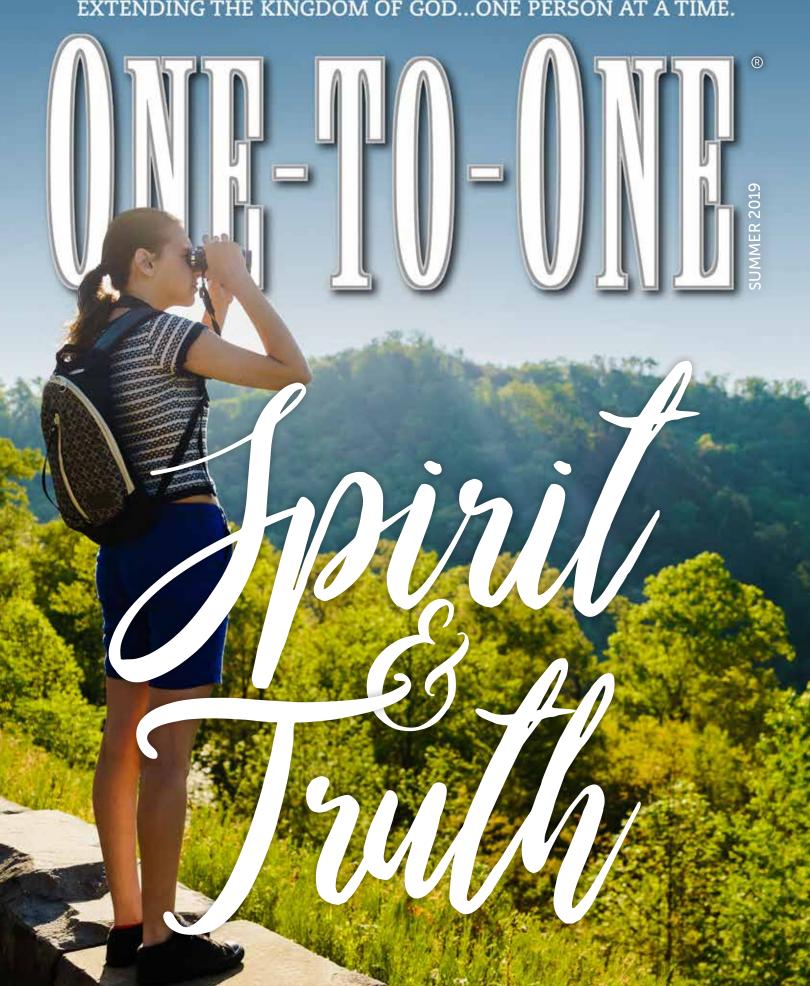
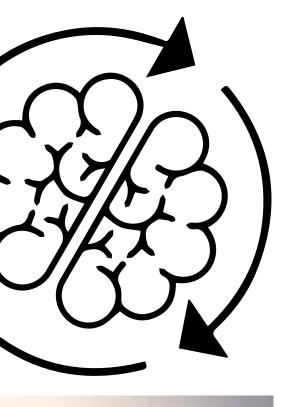
EXTENDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD...ONE PERSON AT A TIME.





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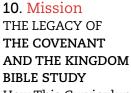
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From the Editor

Spirit & Truth

Obedient faith is a measure of the authenticity of our worship

BY STEPHEN SIMPSON



ohn, a disciple of Jesus, tells a significant story about an unusual encounter between Jesus and a Samaritan woman at Jacob's water well near the town of Sychar. The story is extraordinary, in part, because—according to social norms—it never should have happened. Jesus, a Jew, was expected to disdain Samaritans, according to ethnic and religious customs. And Jesus, a man, would not have been expected to approach a "strange" woman that He did not know.

But Jesus, Who seemed to delight in bursting human expectations, initiated a conversation with this woman. After a discussion about "living water" and everlasting life, He gave her a word of knowledge (a secret revealed to Him by the Holy Spirit) about her life. She recognized Jesus as a prophet from God, and asked Him about authentic worship. Jesus responded:

"But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth"

(John 4:23-24).

At first, she didn't fully grasp what Jesus was saying, but she knew that true worship would be revealed by the promised Messiah. "I am He," Jesus said. Something resonated in the heart of this woman to the degree that she immediately went out into town and witnessed to

people about Jesus. Many believed!

Obedient faith is a measure of the authenticity of our worship. Furthermore, she received the spirit of what Jesus said: the Good News of Christ's Kingdom is meant to be shared with others!

"But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth."

In the meantime, Jesus' disciples showed up on the scene, bringing food for Jesus. His response is telling: "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work" (John 4:34).

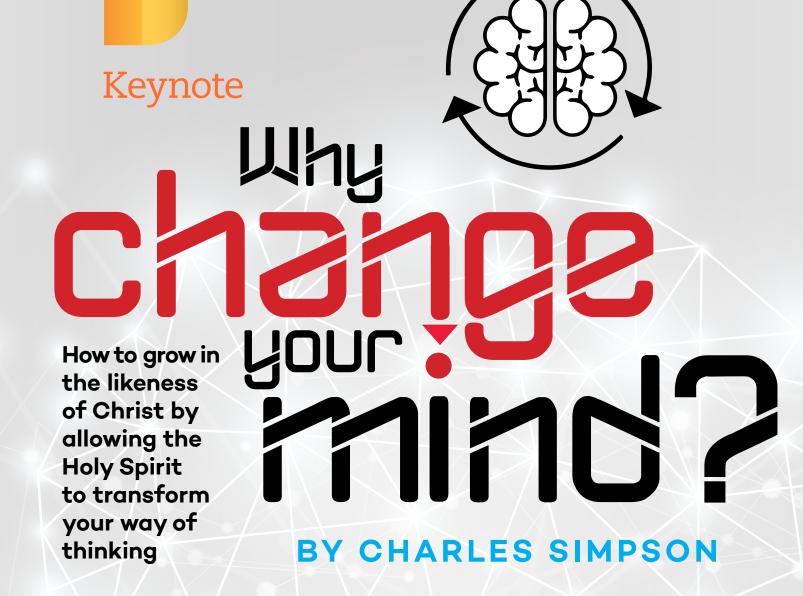
This statement is not unrelated to Jesus' earlier statement to the Samaritan woman regarding worship. Too often, we confine our ideas about worship to a Sunday Morning church service, perhaps singing some songs. Though many of the songs we sing speak of faith, obedience, mission, and the Lordship of Jesus, we seem to sometimes have a disconnect between the lyrics and our lifestyle. What we sing on Sunday too often does not impact how we live on Monday.

Authentic worship, such as what we see in Romans in Chapter 12, is marked by the recognition that our lives belong to God; that transformation and power from the Holy Spirit are necessities in order to move forward in mission. True love is not "lip service" to God, but a radical, passionate, whole-hearted response to Who He is, what He has done, and what He has said. It is His Holy Spirit filling our spirit—our heart —and making our lives new.

"The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these" (Mark 12:29-31).

The Samaritan woman was a seeker; she was thirsty for truth. She didn't want to be simply theologically correct, but she was looking for truth that transforms. When she received it in the Person of Jesus Christ, she believed and was changed. And her testimony changed other lives. Such is the wonderful result of worship in spirit and truth! 121

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believe that the Bible is the Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Word made flesh. We are told in the Bible to love God with our mind, to have the mind of Christ, and we are told that we are the way we think (see Mark 12:30; Philippians 2:5; Proverbs 23:7). In fact, there are numerous Bible references to our thinking and attitudes. The entire Bible is about focusing on the Lord, His ways, and things that are above.

My purpose is to grow in my own thinking and hopefully help others to do the same. So, I have been thinking about my own thinking and how our culture seems to be thinking, or not thinking. Given how our minds affect our brains, and our brains affect our bodies, thinking seems vital to our lives and our future. I enjoy reading and listening to "mindstretchers" and there are many. We don't have to agree with someone in order to

learn, but we do have to learn to listen if we are going to grow. Let me mention a few of these "mindstretchers" that I've appreciated.

Dr. Caroline Leaf, a Neuroscientist and a Christian, has written and lectured extensively on the mind and its biological affect upon the brain. Her book, **Switch on Your Brain**, has become a classic. She echoes the Biblical narrative about the importance of what we think and how we

think. Dr. Jordan Peterson, author of 12 Rules for Life, has become a phenomenon in recent years and is attracting millions of followers. He is a professor of Psychology and a Psychiatrist at Toronto University. He quotes Carl Jung as saying, "People do not have ideas; ideas have people." In other words, we are captive to our thoughts.

My friend, Stephen B. Clark has written an excellent and insightful book, *The Old Testament* in the Light of the New. His book is extremely well-documented and is designed to give us a new look at both testaments. Another friend, Rex Miller, has an organization called Mindshift, which demonstrates how collaboration with qualified people enables us to think about old problems in new ways. Rex is a consultant to some of our nation's largest corporations and has collaborated to produce several books.

we think; to think more like Jesus.

In order to better understand the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew chapters 5-7, we need to see the historical context in which Jesus spoke. Israel was under Roman rule and there were many Roman restrictions upon Jews that were oppressive and repugnant. One such rule was that a Roman soldier or Roman official could require a Jewish male to carry that Roman's baggage for a mile. This rule was not only difficult, but humiliating. Jewish resentment ran deep, and added to that, the Romans were pagan and emperor worshippers. Anathema!

While Jews resented Romans, there were many resentments and divisions within Israel's culture. Conservative Pharisees were divided from Liberal Sadducees. There were also the Herodian Roman sympathizers and the escapist Essenes.

Among "mindstretchers", there is no equal to Jesus and His "Sermon on the Mount". "Second Mile Thinking" permeates His entire message.

Among "mindstretchers", there is no equal to Jesus and His "Sermon on the Mount" (see Matthew 5-7). My friend Bob Mumford calls it "The Constitution of The Kingdom of God."

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

The message that Jesus delivered by the Sea of Galilee is still having a major impact around the world. I read it again and realized that it reveals the mind of Christ to us. When I came to Matthew 5:41, it struck me as a theme for the message. "If someone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles." I call this "Second Mile Thinking" and it permeates His entire message.

Romans 8:28-29 tells us that all things are working together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose, and that purpose is to conform us to the image of His Son. So, He uses things and events to change the way

Religion was a problem; many were legalistic adherents to scores of rules and were very contentious. There was very little grace toward offenders and stoning to death was not uncommon. Religious leaders were focused on appearance and tradition, and blind to the real condition of the people. Demonic activity and disease were prevalent even though people were very religious. It was into this milieu that Jesus said, "Go two miles with them." To many, including His disciples, this was unthinkable, preposterous, and out of the question to carry someone else's baggage—and a Roman at that! Go the second mile!

The climate of rebellion had been growing, and minor rebellions had already been put down easily by Rome, the dominant world power. But a bigger revolt was coming, and in 70 AD, Jews would be slaughtered by the thousands; many would be crucified. Second mile thinking, along with

Jesus, would be rejected. He saw the slaughter coming and offered a better path through better thinking; but they were trapped in their ideas.

SECOND MILE THINKING

I have thought a lot lately about my thinking and our culture's thinking, how it affects our minds, attitudes, our brains, bodies, health, families, and our nation. I took another look at the Sermon on the Mount and that expression of the mind of Christ. As I came to Matthew 5:41, I realized that if there was a Second Mile Thinking, then there had to be a "First Mile thinking". As I read on, I began to contrast the two ways of thinking.

Jesus began His message with the word "Blessed," which means, among other things, Divine favor. That could include health, prosperity, and a good journey for those who regard His Words. Evidently, first mile thinking was not being blessed. Let's look at some of the contrasts between first and second mile thinking:

- First Mile Thinkers were about self –
 Second Mile Thinkers were about others.
- First Mile Thinkers were about duty Second Mile Thinkers went beyond duty.
- First Mile Thinkers were about laws –
 Second Mile Thinkers went beyond the law to grace.
- First Mile Thinkers were proud –
 Second Mile Thinkers were humble.
- First Mile Thinkers were vengeful –
 Second Mile Thinkers were forgivers.
- First Mile Thinkers were focused on appearance – Second Mile Thinkers were focused on characters and purity of motive.
- First Mile Thinkers reviled their enemies
 Second Mile Thinkers responded with kindness.
- First Mile Thinkers could be brutal Second Mile Thinkers have mercy.
- First Mile Thinkers are combative Second Mile Thinkers seek peace.
- First Mile Thinkers get hot with anger Second Mile Thinkers keep their cool in conflict.
- First Mile Thinkers see the building –
 Second Mile Thinkers see the foundations.
- First Mile Thinkers don't see the coming storm – Second Mile Thinkers prepare for it.

- First Mile Thinkers are rigid Second Mile Thinkers are flexible without loss of character.
- First Mile Thinkers have a mindset that leads to chaos – Second Mile Thinkers bring order into chaos.
- First Mile Thinkers see the problem Second Mile Thinkers see solutions.

These are just a few contrasts out of many that I see. Let me stress that the Law is Holy; it is we who are not holy. Jesus did not come to destroy the Law, but to fulfill it and go beyond its requirements—the second mile and beyond.

By the way, I understand First Mile Thinking; I was once a "fundamentalist" or as some call it, "A fighting fundie." I have created unnecessary strife due to being captured by a perspective.

Let me also say that we are not called to be passive. There are a lot of scriptures that tell us that we are in a battle against powers, principalities, and spiritual wickedness in high places. However, we are told that the war is not against flesh and blood. We must remember that our enemies are captive also.

The issue is, how do we win the battle? Is it by First Mile Thinking or Second Mile Thinking? I hope that the answer is apparent.

DOES IT MATTER?

Does it matter if we fight for our position, destroy our enemies, and win temporary victories? Will that be blessed? Or will blessing ultimately come by Second Mile Thinking? Can we actually change the hearts of enemies by how we think about them? This is tough and often costly in the short term. The government may justly declare war, but our battle is in a different dimension.

These questions were no doubt asked by the apostles who were ordinary men, fishermen, tax collectors, and even zealots. Matthew understood being selfish. Peter knew how to use the sword. James and John wanted to call down fire on opponents. Changing their minds did not come easy. They were still struggling

when Jesus was crucified, and even after the Resurrection. They believed He was the Messiah, but what kind?

These are my struggles and yours, but a mental change, especially now, is critical. It wasn't until Pentecost, when they were filled with the Holy Spirit, that the dramatic change in thinking became evident. Then they changed history, and that should be evident to us all.

Only the Holy Spirit can affect the needed change in our minds; religion is not enough. But if we set our mind on Jesus and on things above, we will be transformed (see Romans 12:2). We can become lights in this night. We must not allow some idea to have us or control us contrary to the mind and will of Christ.

Before meeting Jesus, the Apostle Paul had been a rigid First Mile Thinker, even going beyond Israel to find and persecute Christians. He gave consent to stoning Stephen. But on the road, he met Jesus. Then he was filled with the Holy Spirit and became a Second Mile Thinker. Countless numbers of those who have gone before us have had similar stories. John Newton's great hymn "Amazing Grace" is the testimony of a former slave trader who was saved and transformed into a Second Mile Thinker.

Romans 2:4 tells us, "It is the goodness of God that leads to repentance." I wonder if watching the stoning of Stephen, who asked God to forgive his murderers, did not have a dramatic impact upon Paul. Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit!

GROWING

I have reviewed my own mind and how it has been changed through the years, often through painful experience like the apostles experienced at the Cross. I'm sure that there is more ahead. And I have walked with others on their journey. If we are going to grow, we are going to change, hopefully, from glory to glory!

Usually we have to discover for ourselves that we need to change, but I believe that the Holy Spirit is walking beside us in that process. He can use many different tools—"all things"—to urge us, even "goad us" toward the mind of Christ. I thank God that He is good, patient, and faithful. He Who began a good work in us will also complete it if we stay open to Him. Be blessed!



CHARLES SIMPSON is Editor-in-Chief of One-to-One Magazine. He ministers extensively throughout the United States and among the nations.



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The Legacy of THE COVENANT AND THE KINGDOM

BY MICHAEL MCCARTY AND RONALD GRAY

How this groundbreaking Bible Study Curriculum from CSM has made a major world impact during the past 30 years

ore than 30 years ago, the Lord put it into Charles Simpson's heart to publish a basic Bible curriculum focusing on the practical application of Christ's Lordship in the day-today lives of Jesus followers. Along with a team of writers, teachers, and researchers, CSM began to publish a total of seven modules of this comprehensive curriculum in 1986. Eventually, these seven workbooks were combined into one volume. This passage from the forward of the 1995 edition sums up the publication's purpose nicely:

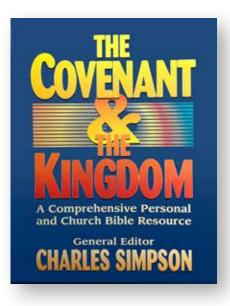
"The information it contains is both timeless and timely. That is, we seek to proclaim biblical truth, which is the same yesterday, today, and forever. God's eternal Word, settled in Heaven before

time began, is as relevant, practical, and encouraging today as it was the beginning."

Today, this material is being used not only the United States, but around the world in places like sub-Saharan Africa, India, Latin America, Eastern Europe, Russia, and China.

Through the years we (along with many others) have had the wonderful opportunity of teaching this material. Though originally envisioned for use in Western countries and cultures, it has been received warmly in many countries and has had, perhaps, it's greatest impact in so-called developing nations. To date it has been translated into Polish, Telugu, Russian, French, Mandarin Chinese, and Spanish.

The dictionary defines *legacy* as "...something of value passed down from one generation to another." Because it is based firmly on the Word of God, the content in *The Covenant and The Kingdom* is such a legacy—even as it enables students to gain practical



experience applying Kingdom principles in their lives here now. To help illustrate just how powerful this curriculum is at helping to change lives, we asked some of the missionaries and teachers who have taught it around the world to share some personal testimonies regarding its use.

LARRY NEESE, KENYA MINISTRY TRAINING INSTITUTE

"It's really impossible for me to adequately describe the powerfully positive impact that The Covenant and the Kingdom has had on the students of Kenya Ministry Training Institute. Through the years, many of our graduates have told me that the principles they learned in 'Christ's Kingdom in the Family' (one of the seven curriculum modules) literally restored their marriage as they learned that a wife was not personal 'property', but rather a wonderful gift from God. In a similar vein, others told me that they never realized how they were supposed to treat their wives. For instance, they discovered in I Peter 3:7 for that a wife is to be honored and a co-equal in the Kingdom of God-and that, if these husbands do not treat their wives properly, their prayers could be hindered—many began to cut the firewood, help with the children and even carry water from the river. In that culture, those were tasks traditionally done by women. These pastors were so transformed by the Word of God that their wives began to request becoming students after the husband completed his studies." Now that's legacy!

STEPHEN RANNELLS, IOM ITINERANT TEACHER

"The use of 'The Covenant and the Kingdom' lays the groundwork for systematic presentation of the revelation of God through the Adamic, Noahic, Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic and the declaration of the Prophets, all being fulfilled in Christ. It allows sound Scriptural teaching on the joining of the Old and New Testament and the clear definitions and application of the Trinity to show the power of knowing God, the Father; Jesus, His Son; and God, the Holy Spirit. It is producing men and women of renown and strong spiritual knowledge in our modern culture that is characterized by shallow and erroneous understanding of Spiritual truth.

"The format utilized in Africa was useful in the formation of additional

schools elsewhere in the world. After being translated to Spanish, it has been useful in Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Nicaragua. Four years ago, its availability was instrumental in the development of a pastoral training school for a group of churches in Mexico. The curriculum became the basic academic material for use at The Institute Biblico Internationale (IBI) in Chenalho, Chiapas. Courses are taught to both Mexican and Mayan pastors and leaders from throughout southern Mexican States. These pastors and leaders oversee more than 200 churches and are now teaching much of the IBI curriculum. They are using The Covenant and the Kingdom concepts, along with the Inductive Bible Studies (developed by LeRoy Curtis) to further the Kingdom of God in their diverse environment." Once again, that's legacy!

WILLIAM WATTS, IOM ITINERANT TEACHER

"I have taught both 'Christ's Kingdom in Me' and 'Christ's Kingdom in the World' (two other modules from The Covenant and the Kingdom). The greatest blessing for me has come in personally diving into the lessons, coming to terms myself with what the scriptures teach, and finding increasingly, as I go back to the contents of these lessons, what a rich condensation of biblical truth is found in each. It is that rare combination of reformed doctrine

and life in and with the Holy Spirit and all His gifts. The lessons build on one another in a methodical and logical way. This is great systematic theology designed for the non-theologian.

"'Christ's Kingdom in Me' is extremely practical teaching for the personal life of the believer and for greater understanding of how God acts in our lives to bring us into relationship with Him and into greater conformity to Christlikeness. 'Christ's Kingdom in the World' does an excellent job of casting the vision of God's Sovereignty and His nature as a Redeemer, calling us to His redemptive mission to the world as His ambassadors. One of the module's final lessons is a wonderful teaching about maintaining a balance in emphasis of the principles of the kingdom of God, the power of the Spirit, and the future return of Christ. This characterizes the whole unit of these lessons." More legacy!

FUTURE LEGACY

Hopefully, this brief article provides a glimpse into the wonderful and practical ways the Lord has used this remarkable publication. We could fill many more pages of testimonies like the ones above. I (Mike) have had the privilege over the last 18 years to travel to Kenya more than 20 times to teach *The Covenant and the Kingdom* curriculum. I never cease to be amazed at the impact it has had and continues to have

COVENANT continues on page 15

Testimony A Life of Worship

The Lord makes our praise His Throne

BY ABBY DUKE

ou are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel" (Psalm 22:3).

Do you ever have part of a song come to you and then you try hard to find it? I remembered part of a song yesterday and after finding it, I have been enjoying hearing it again. The song is "Behold (Then Sings My Soul)" from Hillsong. As I was listening again last night, I was bought to tears and got chills every time the end came that says:

Watch as the clouds He rides swing low
Lift up a sound
As He makes our praise
His Throne
Behold the Lord our God
Will lead us home,

I thought about what this really means, and I feel like the Holy Spirit was telling me it means that as we worship and give Him praise, He is put in His rightful place in our hearts. He is enthroned and takes His place of Lordship over us and our lives (see Psalm 22:3). I guess I've known that praise is acknowledging Who He is and giving Him adoration and thanksgiving. But somehow I'm receiving a fresh understanding of what that really means.

He dwells ("remains, sits, abides, stays," according to Strong's Concordance) within our praises. Worship is part of how He remains close, how we invite Him in to the places of our lives that need His touch, how He sets our perspective and view, and how we acknowledge His Lordship over us.

Do I worship just because it's part of a Sunday church service? Because it makes me feel better or because I enjoy it? Do I worship without music? Do I worship with my whole heart? Do I worship if lose my job? Do I worship when I don't feel like it? Do I worship when I lose my child? If we want Him to be Lord, we do. And something eternal happens when we do.

He cannot be exalted in our hearts without it affecting us. Worship is not meant to be just for a few minutes each week. He's inviting us into a life of worship and praise. It's where He dwells, remains, sits, and abides.

He doesn't *need* my praise to be enthroned. He is more than enough all on His own! But I have the privilege and honor to give Him my praise. As I do, He has promised to make that place the place where He remains. 121

1 "Behold (Then Sings My Soul)" written by Joel Houston, Hillsong International (2016)



ABBY DUKE is a full-time wife, mother, and nurse. She has been a member of Covenant Life Church in Lawrenceville, Georgia, for 26 years.





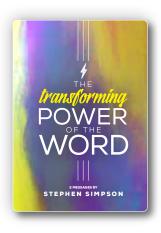
SEEING THROUGH HEAVEN'S EYES

What is God doing in us and around us that we are unable to see? In this message, Pastor Charles Simpson deals with these questions and more. Charles shares how we must gain spiritual eyes to see what He is doing and respond accordingly to His purpose. As the world's "vision" is darkened, our task is to bring the light of heaven in all we do. CD206 \$7



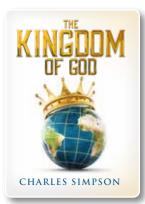
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on the brothers and sisters who use it. It's such a great illustration of what can happen when you hear and do what the Bible teaches.

Likewise, I (Ron) have worked in India with James Rebbavarapu and India Christian Ministries. They have used the curriculum in the past and now a plan to begin the new Ministry Training Institute in Ongole, India, beginning this year. God continues to open doors!

We also now have in place the opportunity to start a school in Cuba under the leadership of Pastor Sergio Gonzalez. These two new schools are beginning to carry the message and help leaders extend the kingdom of God.

Thank you, Brother Charles and CSM for this powerful legacy that is continuing to provide lifechanging practical Bible teaching, helping to change the world one person at a time. 121



DR. MICHAEL T. McCARTY is the Executive Director of International Outreach Ministries (IOM), a not-forprofit international service organization committed to serving those who serve Jesus around the world.



RONALD GRAY is the Director of Mission Support for International Outreach Ministries leading short-term missions globally. He serves on the IOM Board of Directors and on the Board of Directors for Charles Simpson Ministries.

Editor's Note: The Covenant and the Kingdom is NOW available via PDF format via CD-ROM or online download at csmpublishing.org.



Tidbits of Audacity A Walk Down Thankless Lane

Starting your day with gratitude keeps life in proper perspective

BY JASON GRAINGER

can remember growing up, I played a lot of sports. No matter which sports I played, there were a few constants. I wanted to win. My coach liked to yell. If I was disrespectful to anyone, I was quickly dealt with. Win or lose, I got my juice box and relaxed on the ride home. But I never remember the referees. In fact, we were always told not to say a word to the refs...that this was coach's job, not ours. So we never got involved in the ref bashing.

As I got older, that changed. My smart mouth got me in so much trouble that I literally once called out a defense "Twelve!", which was our 2-1-2, and was given a Technical Foul. The ref said, "I heard what you said!" I said, "Yes, my teammates heard it too...I called the defense." He looked at the coach and said, "If you don't take him out, I'm going to throw him out!" The fact was, I had a reputation, and not a good one. I remember a lot of fun things, bad things, tough things from those days in sports. But one thing I can never remember doing back then was... well...I don't ever remember thanking the refs. Ever. For anything.

MY DAD

I can remember when I was little, my dad was my coach. So he had to be at every game. He would've been regardless. He went to work and then took that money and put me and my brothers in sports. I can remember him coming to my brother's defense because I couldn't. I can remember him working late hours just so we didn't have to ask if we were going to eat that night. I can remember him driving all the time so my mom didn't have to bother with that. (She was too busy reaching in to the back seat smacking us around. Ha!)

I remember every time someone died, their family called Dad and he left to comfort them. Every time someone was very ill, he was called, and he left. I remember the absolute tonguelashing he gave an elementary school principal for man-handling me in the parking lot. I remember the times he would go to practice when he wasn't the coach. I remember the time he built me and my brother bunk beds (from which my younger brother pushed me off and gave me my first

broken bone). One thing during all of that I don't remember...well...I don't remember thanking him. For any of it. Ever.

POLICE OFFICERS

Then there's the time a police officer pulled a speeding teenager over who had to give a presentation for school and didn't know how to tie a necktie, so he was on his way to his friend's house to get help. The police officer had him get out of the car and he tied the young man's tie. Or the time the officer saw a homeless man with no shoes on and went and bought the guy new shoes and socks and put them on him.

How about an officer in Pennsylvania eating at a restaurant the day after the horrible 2016 Dallas shootings (where a man killed 5 police officers and injured 11 more just because they were the police)? A couple was about to be seated next to the officer's table. They abruptly said "No, I don't want to sit there." They made eye contact and it was clear why they didn't want to sit near the officer. This officer paid for their meal in an

effort to bridge the gap.

These police officers have a couple of things in common besides being police officers. First, they did what they did because they care about people and had no idea that their acts of kindness would be made public. They just did it because it was the right thing to do. The second thing they have in common is that most likely, when they went to their next call, they were not thanked... by anyone.

THANK YOU!

So, here's a big thank you. To the ref that gets underpaid and overworked. Who gets yelled at every single night on the job. Who gets ridiculed and has his character questioned every five minutes while attempting to do his job to the best of his ability. Who gets called everything BUT a referee by the multitudes shouting down towards him as he runs by. Who is given no credit for the countless hours he or she spends reading the rule-book and watching plays to get better. Who leaves his family night after night. To the guy who cares about his sport but cares about the kids and the relationships MORE. THANK YOU for the sacrifices you make!

Here's a huge thank you to the dads that sacrifice tirelessly without ever receiving or even expecting a thank you. To the guy that speaks life into his daughter. To the guy that won't let his son settle for mediocrity. To the guy that always eats last and listens first. To the guy that works but lets

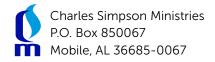
the kids enjoy the fruits first. To the guy who stays up late to make sure all the Christmas gifts look just right (if a kid reads this, this is before Santa comes). To the guy that teaches his boy to be a man by treating his wife with the utmost respect and serving first rather than receiving first. To the guy that works hours on his daughter's car just in time for her to jump in it and go be with her friends. THANK YOU!

To the officer that risked his life so that we can be safe. To the guy that realizes he may be saying "have a good day" to his wife for the very last time...every time he goes to work. To the guy that does it right only to be overshadowed sometimes by a few bad apples. To the officer that is ridiculed and scoffed at and chooses not to take that home. He leaves it at work. To the guy that gets called every vile name in the book and still does CPR on that person to make sure they live. To the guy that defends your right to call him a "Pig". To the countless, life-changing

sacrifices you make on a daily basis...THANK YOU!

Do yourself and your community a favor and start finding the thankless and thanking them. It will go a very long way. Stop talking about how the world needs to change and BE the change you want to see. Start with gratitude. If you'll start each day with gratitude, the rest of the day stays in proper focus and perspective. Prove me wrong. I dare you.

JASON GRAINGER is a writer, singer, and songwriter who lives in the Nashville area. During the past 15 years, he has also served as a producer and road manager, and is presently helping to run four businesses. Jason is married to Jennifer, raising seven children, and serving the community by bringing people of diverse backgrounds together. Check out his music at: jasongrainger.com. Read his blog: tidbitsofaudacity.com.



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