



FOLLOWING BIDEN'S INAUGURATION

Pastor Vern Peltz

Jan. 24th, 2021

**I THOUGHT GOD
PROMISED PRESIDENT
TRUMP WILL BE THE
PRESIDENT FOR 4 MORE
YEARS??**

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B. What did God personally tell you?

Did he tell you that.....?

ROMANS
10:17
(NKJV)

[17] So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

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Hearing another man's words gives you faith in the man.

Hearing God's words give you faith in God.

**WHAT ABOUT ALL THE
PROPHECIES AND WHAT
THE PROPHETS SAID?**

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**Not everything that was said,
Not everyone that was prophesying**

Missed it.

BUT THE ONES WHO SPECIFICALLY SAID THAT BIDEN WOULD NOT BE THE NEXT PRESIDENT - FROM EVERYTHING WE KNOW RIGHT NOW >> THEY MISSED IT.

- a. They need to own it.**
- b. We need to accept it and move on.**

1
THESSALONIANS
5:20-21 (NKJV)

[20] Do not despise prophecies.

[21] Test all things; hold fast what is good.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:20-21 (AMP)

[20] Do not spurn the gifts and utterances of the prophets [do not depreciate prophetic revelations nor despise inspired instruction or exhortation or warning].

[21] But test and prove all things [until you can recognize] what is good; [to that] hold fast.



WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

ONLY 25 PERCENT OF
AMERICAN CHRISTIANS
BELIEVE IN THE EXISTENCE
OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, IN
PART BECAUSE THEY'VE
RELEGATED THEMSELVES
TO THE SIDELINES AS
MERE "EXTRAS" IN GOD'S
KINGDOM WORK. BUT HERE'S
HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES
US ETERNAL SIGNIFICANCE.

BY JEFF KENNEDY

in the *existence* of the Holy Spirit! Barna also found that younger generations were less likely to believe in and engage with the Spirit. This statistic is alarming when we consider the mass exodus from church life among 18- to 34-year-olds in America.

This means that for most professing Christians the Holy Spirit is nothing more than a symbol of the faith—a dove on a stained-glass window. This “Spirit-less” version of Christianity is dangerous for several reasons.

First, it compromises biblical truth. Jesus told Nicodemus that unless he was born again by the Spirit, he would never enter God’s kingdom (John 3:3, 5-8). The church was born on the Day of Pentecost, when the Spirit of God baptized and filled every believer (Acts 2:2). The Christian

We’ve ignored Him as a present reality in our midst even while insisting that parishioners learn rightly *about* Him. In effect, we’ve barred would-be worshippers and ministers of the gospel from the fullness of the Spirit’s experience while teaching them the Apostles’ Creed.

Though the reasons for this are multifaceted, a prominent culprit is a particularly faulty paradigm that dominates American churches today. Somehow we’ve bought into the idea that there are superstar ministers who are gifted by the Holy Spirit to do God’s “real” work—and then there’s the rest of us.

Let me explain.

Red-Shirt Christians

As a kid, I was mesmerized by the cult classic TV show *Star Trek*. I wanted to be Captain Kirk and command the starship *Enterprise*. I wanted to spend my life as an intrepid explorer, voyaging through space, going on away missions,

Yumbo!” my friend Kevin said. We were having an intense conversation over whether the Holy Spirit was real or not.

“Just seems like a bunch of nonsense,” he grouched, rolling his eyes and folding his arms.

Now, Kevin wasn’t a hardened atheist or a confused agnostic. He was a self-identified believer in Jesus who went to church with his family on occasion. He had no problem relating to God as a heavenly Father or believing that Jesus died for his sins. But the notion that God is presently at work in us by the person of the Holy Spirit sounded like religious jargon to him.

We may be tempted to chalk this up as an extreme case. Regrettably this example is the rule, not the exception. The Barna Group found that only 25 percent of American Christians believe

historic creeds, but without His presence we are not of Christ at all.

Second, Spirit-less Christianity jettisons our mandate. Christianity is not a nice family religion. It is a living, active and missional enterprise. God did not send Jesus so that you and I could inherit a harmless delusion that makes us feel better when we’re sad. If we make the mistake of treating the Spirit as nothing more than a theological abstraction, an amorphous concept or a vague idea, we will utterly fail to disciple the nations and the next generation. This is why Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Father’s promise—God’s empowering presence (Acts 1:4-8). Take the Holy Spirit away from the church, and all we’re left with is a grace-deficient, family-based cult.

How did we get here? I suggest that the widespread incredulity of the next generation is the fruit of the previous generation’s marginalization of the Spirit.

After watching the first 20 episodes of *Star Trek*, I began to notice certain patterns in the show. Almost every episode had a crisis of cosmic scope where the spaceship *Enterprise* was threatened with destruction and Kirk and Spock had to figure out an ingenious solution. And no episode would be complete without an away team beaming down to the planet surface. The away teams usually consisted of Kirk in a khaki shirt, Spock and McCoy in blue shirts, and a couple of security guards in red shirts. I noticed the red-shirt security officers almost never came back from away missions but would get killed by the bad guys. The main characters always seemed to be smart enough or fortunate enough to cheat death. But those poor red-shirt guys just couldn’t keep up. At some point the show’s creators decided that the red-shirts were expendable. These disposable extras existed to prop up the stars. In fact, the red-shirt guys