

Close the Gap - Pt. I

There is a struggle, a certain battle that I'm wrestling with in my walk with the Lord. I would like to call it the "dichotomy of the believer's reality." You see on one end of the spectrum is the believer's Heavenly or spiritual reality of who we are in Christ. It is the present reality of who we are because of the finished work of the cross. It is the reality that I'm redeemed, forgiven, seated in Christ as a heir who has been given an inheritance and has the kingdom of God and the Holy Spirit, the same that rose Jesus from the grave, living inside of me. On the other end I have the reality of myself in this natural world. It's the natural reality. For instance, it says in Acts 8, starting in verse 5, that Philip, who was considered the first evangelist, "went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city." Now, I've seen many healings through my ministry, and I have seen many people delivered from demons, but I have yet to see a paralytic get up and walk. That causes a holy, righteous, unrest to stir deep within me. I'm thankful for every miracle I've seen, but I see a difference between who the Bible says I am and what I have, and even the power and glory the church in the book of Acts operated in, versus my life. And that is the dichotomy I wrestle and struggle with and that I'm not willing to accept. I'm not willing to accept the gap there seems to be between who I am in Christ, in the kingdom, and the present reality of what I'm walking in. I'm also not willing to write a doctrinal statement or theology that explains away the signs and wonders, the power of God being active right now, because I am not fully seeing it in my life. That is what the church has done for too long. In order to explain why they haven't seen or have been experiencing what is clearly shown in the Bible, Christian leaders, whether to appease their conscience or not to have to wrestle with these facts that should lead to an earnest and desperate pursuit of the Lord, or possibly to try and order things in their logical minds, just wrote off the power and signs and wonders in their theology as ceasing after the early church. It is much easier to write a theology explaining them away then to have to wrestle with the fact of why we see a powerless church. It also allows us to feel much more comfortable in a luke warm church and just do Sunday morning Christianity then to press into the Lord and rise up as a church in power. I'm not willing to do that. I'm not willing to make excuses of why I'm not seeing what is displayed in the Word. It rather causes me to take my position in Christ and seek His kingdom until I see the Heavenly realities of who I am in Christ manifest into the natural realities all around me. I won't rest until I see His kingdom come and His will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. I'm not willing to write off the gap in bad theology, nor be satisfied or comfortable with that gap, nor go through religious motions of "doing church" ignoring the gap. I

want to close the gap. Close the gap between the one reality and the other. Close the gap between heaven and earth.

I've seen people with bad knees healed. One man walked with a limp for years because of His knee and was drastically made better and started running around the church. There was a woman who had surgery and the doctors miss cut into her nerves behind the knee. She had pain and could not stoop down. She was healed and knew it the next day at work when she was stooping down to stock shelves without realizing it and had no pain. We've seen those miracles and many more including fibromyalgia, hernia, osteoporosis, rotator cuff injuries, artery blockage, back pain, and much more. But the other day I laid my hands on the knees of a young man. He was in a wheel chair and I began to command life to come into his legs in Jesus' name. He was paralyzed from the upper body down. I wanted to pull him out of the wheel chair and see him walk with everything within me. A few times he tried to get up out of the wheel chair and walk, but nothing as far as we could see. I had a decision to make at that moment. Rather than just write off that God doesn't heal paralyzed people today I decided that this would cause me to get on my face and cry out for more of His power. For more of the reality of Heaven and who I am in Christ to manifest through me.

So what are the things that have allowed the problem of this gap to be? As I've already said one is writing it off with theology, bad theology, to explain why we don't see the power and the reason we do see the present problems and sicknesses. The next, which is almost a natural progression because of bad theology, is comfortability. It's accepting and being comfortable with our lack of power in the church. We become satisfied with having "Sunday morning family church." We have a little something that will cater to everyone, to keep their interest, meet their "felt needs" and keep them coming, and giving, to your church. We have our services nice and planned out, everyone is entertained and afterwards promptly dismissed at the proper time. We get the "duties" of ministry done and maybe give the Holy Spirit a few minutes at the end of our last worship song and a moment or so at our altar call to move in our congregants lives. Now don't misunderstand me, I know the need and importance there is to minister to whole families, and the critical importance of strong family units to see health in individuals and in society. The only thing is when I read the book of Acts I don't see a "family church", I see an "evangelistic church" operating in power with signs, wonders, and miracles reaching whole regions and turning the world upside down for Jesus. So, the problem is that when we get comfortable with the gap we begin to do "Sunday church" and reach families felt needs and never do anything that might "rock the boat" in order to maintain the status quo. The only problem is when Jesus shows up He has a way of blowing up the box of "status quo" and bringing us to a place of un-comfortability where we are not in control but can only follow Him as His power shakes the foundations and His light exposes, and removes all the powers of

→ pg 2

- - REVIVAL RESOURCE - -

This month's revival resource is a compilation of music with clips of preaching on **CD** by **Fire on the Altar**. The tracks on this CD are "Revolution" with preaching from Dr. Michael Brown, "A New Generation of Children in America" with audio of young children crying out to God in prayer, and "The Revival Hymn" with clips of preaching from many speakers such as Leonard Ravenhill and Ray Comfort.

Visit www.fireonthealtar.com

There are resources and many more inspiring compilations that will wreck your life for Jesus in a good way.

Ministry Reports, Updates & Testimonies

Ministry Update - I want to take a moment to update all of our friends and partners on some recent developments with our ministry. Starting this month of September I have officially been made apart of the leadership of Word of Life Church in Ft. Myers, FL. The desire of Bishop Gaspar Anastasi was to restructure the organization of the church in order to establish more of a five fold ministry leadership team for the church. As part of this team we will be discerning the leading of the Holy Spirit and making decisions in a round table format concerning the direction of the church. I will be fulfilling the office of an evangelist in this leadership team. These are exciting times as we all sense in our

darkness. The next thing that has allowed the problem of the gap, is religion. Once we get comfortable of just going through the motions of our faith we then get to a place where it is just performance or religious works with no reality of power. Here is a good definition of religion in the sense I am using it: "An organized system or institution of belief based upon the traditions of men instead of the pursuit of friendship with God" and "The act of playing church, exchanging internal truths for external performance, substituting spiritual realities with carnal rituals." When we get caught up in religion we cease to be a light and influence into a dark and hurting world that is suffering in sin and sickness. The reason being is that we don't have the power to break the yoke and remove the burden that holds the world in bondage, which leads us to the last reason, which is also the reason why bad theology writes off the gifts and power of the Spirit in the first place. That is the sin, sickness, and fallen world around us and our inability to see it changed and transformed by the power of God and what God says we can operate in according to the scripture. The natural fallen world around us with its sin, sickness, and darkness, is the ultimate reason for the gap between the spiritual reality, Heavenly reality, of what Christ has made me and deposited in me and the extent I see that in and through my life in the natural reality. If the world is in deep darkness it is because of the absence of God's light. The question is who is the light? Jesus said, "You are the light of the world." So, I refuse to be comfortable with the darkness around us or the lack of brightness within the present day church that is supposed to displace the darkness. I will not relent until I see the truth of God's Word in reality for the church which says, "Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; But the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising" (Isaiah 60:1-3). Now I could write that off as simply a

spirits that God is on the move here and we believe that there is going to be a regional outpouring of God's presence in this area.

As an evangelist I will continue to travel and minister under Ben Naughton Ministries while also being sent out by Word of Life to different places and while being apart of the leadership meetings. So, please keep us lifted up and prayer as we move ahead with this new responsibility. Visit www.wolm.net to learn more about Word of Life Church, their New Life Dream Centers for men and women and to stream their services live.

promise to Zion in the millennial reign of Christ or I can contend to see that promise manifest now to see the darkness dispersed by the light and glory of God on His church and in my life. After all, when Christ returns to reign over all the kingdoms of the world will there really be deep darkness over the earth then?

So the question becomes what can we do in our generation, even in our lifetime to close the gap? How is the gap closed? I believe the most important thing is to focus our minds, or set our minds if you will, on the heavenly realities of who we are in Christ rather than the natural realities we find ourselves living and operating in. Everything we receive from that spiritual realm is by faith. As we take in and receive the revelation of the inheritance we have through Christ and what He has accomplished for us on the cross our faith will arise to believe that all things the Father has is ours. There is a well known saying that goes "you're too heavenly minded that you're no earthly good." What a lie from the pit of hell! You can be so earthly minded that you're no heavenly good, but we must have a right understanding of our heavenly reality in order to begin to close the gap. False religious sayings like these have been an example of the religious ideology that have kept the church from walking in the reality of who we are. We must focus on that reality if we are going to see heaven invade earth by faith and close the gap. We must take our position of who are in Christ to see that reality invade this natural reality.

Therefore, lets look into the revelation out of the Word of God concerning what Christ has accomplished for us and our position in Him. Colossians 3:1-3 says, "If you were then raised with Christ seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God." We will continue this teaching next month as we delve into the Word revealing our heavenly reality. - BN

[Send us your prayer requests & Testimonies!](#)

April and I would love to pray for you and to hear testimonies of what God has done in your life through our ministry.

E-mail us at: BNM@BenNaughton.com

BNM Itinerary

Bethel Assembly of God Immokalee, FL	9/16
Praise Tabernacle Pentecostal Church Port Charlotte, FL	9/18 - 20
River of Life Church Alachua, FL	9/27 - 9/28
First Assembly of God Hollywood, FL	10/ 11
Iglesia de Dios Pentecostal Fortaleza Bonita Springs, FL	10/ 23 - 26
Fire Starters of Florida Hialeah, FL	10/ 30
<i>Check our website for recent itinerary additions www.BenNaughton.com</i>	



**Ministry Needs:
MiniDV Camcorder—
\$350**

Prayer Points

- Anointing and Open Heavens for Signs, Wonders, and Miracles
- For the Fires of Revival to be released in each church we minister
- Necessary finances to come in to do all God is calling us to do
- Hedge of Protection around Ben & April
- Ben & April to have greater intimacy with the Lord