



Spirit of Grace Herald

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America's Downward Spiral!

Things are not looking especially promising in America these days. Our new president sat down in the first days of his term and with numerous signatures slashed jobs, opened our southern border, creating total chaos with thousands of unaccompanied children showing up every week, and seems intent on pushing some of the most extreme and hyper-liberal positions ever proposed in our history.

On television homosexuality is not merely accepted but is essentially shoved in our faces. Singing competitions like "The Voice" make sure that every gay man and every lesbian woman tells her story fully and completely. America, out of sheer self-defense, has caved in to the enormous pressure from Hollywood and the media, and about the only holdouts who still insist that homosexuality is immoral are the evangelicals.

Sadly, even popular Christian singer Lauren Daigle wimped out when asked if homosexuality was a sin, declaring that she didn't know. She suggested that people should read the Bible to "find out for yourself ... and when you find out let me know, because I'm learning too." Uhh, how about reading the Bible yourself, Lauren? Or just talk to any Christian who has read the Bible, even a little

bit? Any knowledgeable Bible reader (not Bible scholar but Bible reader) could settle that question for you in five minutes, or even less, depending upon how many Scriptures you want to hear.

Our nation is sliding into an abyss of moral turpitude. We are rejecting the truths of the Bible that we once took for granted. I will admit that born-again Americans have perhaps never made up the majority, but in previous generations, even those who rarely prayed, and never went to church or read the Bible would at least show respect for the Bible and call it "the good book." We don't hear that phrase anymore. Most tend to see it as the antiquated book, the old, non-relevant book, and the "hopelessly -behind-the-times-book." Most Americans today would not dare to be seen carrying a Bible in their hand.

The trademarks that identify true evangelicals have always been an insistence on the exclusivity of Jesus Christ as the only way to God and only hope of heaven, and an unshakeable confidence



that the Bible is the inspired word of God. Today, in America, we are becoming fewer and fewer. Our slide into immorality and our total rejection of absolute truth is happening at such a dizzying pace, it makes your head spin.

Is there any hope for us? I'm not so sure, at least not as a nation. Of course some people will be saved this year and the next and the next. The gospel

will still transform lives, but we have become so hardened to the truths of Scripture that it seems unlikely that we will ever return to being the church-going, Bible-reading, praise-singing people that we once were. The voices of a secular press and a spiritually hostile Hollywood blare loudly every day and few seem to have the strength, the will, and the sense to resist them.

What should we do? We must do what Christians have always done. We can attend church regularly, read our Bibles daily, talk to God in prayer, and share our faith with others the best we can. Whether or not we can turn America around is hardly the issue. We can turn individuals around, and that is what matters. We can make our voices heard through social media, through radio and television, by teaching Sunday School, by talking to neighbors, and fulfilling our unique callings and ministries.

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When I get up in the morning, my mind is not usually on America's increasing ungodliness. I get up and open my Bible and begin to read. Usually, after lunch I will play some praise music, sip some coffee or tea, and talk to the Lord. No one every tries to stop me. No religious police come to the door and tell me I cannot pray or read God's word. Most of America may not be praying and reading the Bible these days, but there is no one to stop me from walking with the Lord – no one but me.

And as I read the Scriptures I find that a different culture shapes my thinking and molds my heart. It is not American culture; it is the culture of the Bible, the culture of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the culture of Moses, David, and Isaiah, and the culture of Jesus, Paul, and Peter. The word of God strengthens me and helps me to resist the siren song of popular culture.

But it is not only the words of Scripture that reinforce and protect me from outside ungodly pressures. Jesus has sent us a Helper, One who empowers, comforts, teaches, guides, and directs us. He is the Holy Spirit, and by His gentle presence I can resist all those loud, demanding, angry voices that tell me to forsake my "primitive" ways and place myself on the "right side of history."

Jesus is able to keep us, whatever direction our nation may be taking. We will stand firm, we will not be apologetic as followers of the Savior. We will keep right on reading the Bible, right on praying, right on going to church, and right on telling others that they, too, can have eternal life through Jesus.

THIS MONTH—AFRICAN MISSIONS



Though COVID 19 kept us from being in Africa personally for most of 2020, we will continue to minister in Africa in 2021. We are planning another mission by proxy this month. Although we cannot go there personally, we will be distributing food to orphans, widows, and the poorest people in four different communities, two in Nigeria and two in Kenya. Please pray about supporting these missions with a generous gift!

