# AUGUST 2024 A SURE WORD FOR TODAY



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# **UPDATE**

The month of July revealed how great the struggle is for control of this nation. We saw an attempt made to take Donald Trump's life; Joe Biden finally admitted the truth and withdrew from making a second run for the presidency, and almost overnight, Kamala Harris was chosen as the one to take his place. With all this happening, we must not lose sight of our calling and our weapons.

## 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 KJV

- 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:
- 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds....

Church, we must pray like never before! If we don't, we will lose this nation to the forces of darkness, but if we humble ourselves and pray like never before, God has promised to heal our nation.

PRAY! PRAY! PRAY!

# FEATURE ARTICLE: "There Is A Line!"

WARNING: You are entering the "TRUTH ZONE". You may not like what you read. At times it may make you feel uncomfortable. That is not my goal. My goal is to speak truth that will provide spiritual guidance for you and your family in a time of great spiritual darkness.

You can be sure that what you read here will be TRUTH!

One of the most challenging aspects of the human experience is our interaction with other humans. In her book **Psychoanalytic Diagnosis**, Nancy McWilliams lists eight psychoanalytic disorders: Psychopathic, Narcissistic, Schizoid, Paranoid, Manic-Depressive, Masochistic, Obsessive-Compulsive, and Histrionic.

I don't claim to understand what each of these looks like, but in my journey through life, I am quite sure I have probably interacted with all of the above. You probably feel the same way. In addition to this, there are "normal people" who always seem to rub us the wrong way. The thought of getting to heaven and finding out that one of them will live next door to me for all eternity is undoubtedly cause for wanting to live a long life here on Earth! Thank God, I have a nephew who is a real estate broker; perhaps he can help me list and sell my heavenly mansion.







Wouldn't it be wonderful if when we got saved, we automatically changed into "nice people." Unfortunately, it doesn't work that way. Most of my interaction with other humans has been in the context of the church, and I assure you, some I have interacted with have not been nice. So, we have no choice but to find out what the Bible says about navigating this mess and living in peace with our brothers and sisters. Many scriptures address this issue, but the best is found in Ephesians 4.

## Ephesians 4:31-32 NIV

31 Get rid of all hard feelings, anger and rage. Stop all fighting and lying. Don't have anything to do with any kind of hatred.

32 Be kind and tender to one another. Forgive one another, just as God forgave you because of what Christ has done.

If I were to write a paraphrase of these two verses, it would read something like this:

"Look, you just need to get along. Stop fighting. Put up with one another and cut each other some slack. Remember that other folks are putting up with you and have forgiven you even when you acted like a self-centered, egotistical jerk." This is simple, to the point, and easy to understand.

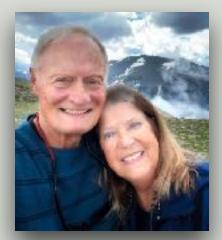
However, simple isn't always possible because life is complicated, and sometimes "just cut each other some slack" won't work and isn't what God wants us to do. It is one thing to always try to get along with people even though you are not fond of them and they rub you the wrong way, but it is another when someone sets themselves in opposition to you and tries to hinder you from doing what God has called you to do. When this happens, a line has been crossed, and the rules of the game must change!

If, in my attempt to live peaceably with all men, I capitulate to this type of person, then I have placed them above God in my life, and in reality, this is a form of idolatry. In the Bible, an excellent example of this would be when Peter, knowing Jesus would be crucified, told Him not to go to Jerusalem, and Jesus responded by saying, "Get thou behind me, Satan." Jesus knew what His Father had called Him to do and was not about to let Peter get in the way of Him finishing the task.

As with any teaching, some will abuse the position they claim to be walking in. On one side of the line, some will tell you that you must tolerate evil in the name of love. On the other side of the line will be those who claim to have a mandate from God but haven't heard His voice in at least 500 years. Both are wrong, but that does not mean we shouldn't apply the truth of this teaching to our lives.

Always attempt to live peaceably with all men, but do not be afraid to declare war on any who would try to stop you from doing what God has entrusted you to do.





## "What God Says, God Does"

Have you ever had a situation that caused you to question God's existence or faithfulness? I think most of us have, and in fact, some have even abandoned their faith because God didn't do what

they asked Him to do. What can you say to a person who finds themselves in that situation? That's the question I want to address in this article.

I want to do this by looking at the most outstanding example of God's faithfulness in the history of the entire world: His promises to Israel. These promises date back thousands of years, with some being fulfilled during Bible times and others not being fulfilled until our lifetime.

Let's start by looking at one that God fulfilled in Bible times. I am sure you all know the story of Nebuchadnezzar's conquest of Israel. Israel was carried into Babylonian captivity, but God promised that after 70 years, they would return and rebuild the walls of the city and the temple.

### Jeremiah 29:10 KJV

10 For thus saith the LORD, That **after seventy years** be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.

## Jeremiah 30:3 King James Version

3 For, lo, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the Lord: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it.

It may have seemed impossible to the people of Jeremiah's day, but God's ways are truly beyond our understanding. Seventy years and three kings later, God stirred the heart of a pagan king named Cyrus to not only allow the Jews to return but also to finance the rebuilding of the temple. What God said, He did, in a way that was nothing short of miraculous.

Even though this was an amazing example of God's faithfulness, it was eclipsed by what we have seen happen in our lifetime. As you know, God promised that after the diaspora, Israel would return from the four corners of the earth, and the nation of Israel would experience a rebirth.

## Amos 9:14-15 Amplified Bible

14 "Also I shall bring back the exiles of My people Israel, And they will rebuild the deserted and ruined cities and inhabit them:

They will also plant vineyards and drink their wine, And make gardens and eat their fruit.

15 "I will also plant them on their land, And they shall never again be uprooted from their land which I have given them," says the Lord your God.

# "What God Says, God Does" CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

## Isaiah 66:8 Amplified Bible

8 "Who has heard of such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day? Or can a nation be brought forth in a moment? As soon as Zion was in labor, she also brought forth her sons.

Seventy-six years ago, we saw an unprecedented event in world history. Never before had a decimated ancient people managed to retain their identity through almost twenty centuries of dispersion, only to reestablish their nation in their original homeland—all of this despite surrounding nations vowing to eradicate the young state.

With these examples of God's faithfulness as a backdrop, I want to examine why we often cannot see such faithfulness extended to us. First, I want to point out that God's promises often do not pass for many years. In the case of Israel's return from Babylon, it was 70 years, and in the case of Israel's rebirth, it was 2000 years. I am not saying you will need to wait 2000 years to see God's faithfulness, but I am saying that you shouldn't charge God with unfaithfulness just because you have waited a few months or even a few years.

## What God says, God does!

Then there is the question of, what has God said? In modern-day Christianity, we have the strange idea that somehow God is duty-bound to do whatever we say instead of trusting Him to do what He has said. There is a vast difference between those two positions. He is not obligated to do what you tell Him, nor what someone else claims He told them. Learn to hear His voice by being still before Him; soon, you will begin to see He is faithful and will do whatever He has spoken. He has been doing this for thousands of years, and He is not

about to stop now.

Speaking of that, let's take a look at Israel's future. Right now, there are many calling for the destruction of Israel and the annihilation of the Jewish people. But what does God say?

### Jeremiah 31:35-36 EXB

35 The Lord ·makes the sun to shine in the day and the moon and stars to shine at night.

He stirs up the sea so that its waves crash on the shore. The Lord All-Powerful is his name.

## This is what the Lord says:

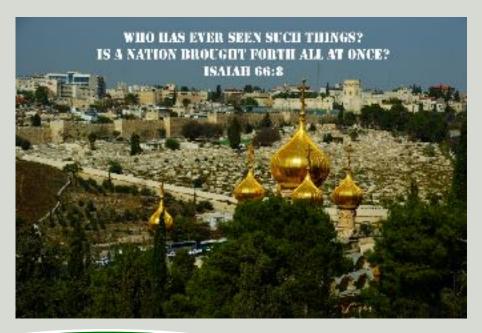
36 "Only if these laws that uphold the natural order should ever fail" says the Lord, "will Israel's descendants ever stop being a nation before me forever."

## WHAT GOD SAYS, GOD DOES!

## Numbers 23:19 CJB

19 God is not a human who lies or a mortal who changes his mind.

When he says something, he will do it; when he makes a promise, he will fulfill it.



## PROPHECY UPDATE

# "Who's The Hypocrite?"

Hypocrite! This is one of the most demeaning things anyone can ever be called. Webster's dictionary defines "Hypocrite" as:

- 1. A person who puts on a false appearance of virtue or religion.
- 2. A person who acts in contradiction to their stated beliefs or feelings.

Hypocrites are viewed with contempt because they are seen as fake counterfeits who try to pawn themselves off as something they aren't. They are like a fake Rolex. If you want to know what Jesus thought of hypocrites, look at the 23rd chapter of Matthew. Seven times in that chapter, He called the religious leaders of His day "Hypocrites."

## Matthew 23:25 EASY

25 It will be very bad for you, teachers of God's Law and Pharisees. You are hypocrites! You always clean the outside of your cups and plates very carefully. You only clean the outside part that people can see. But on the inside, everything is still dirty. Inside you, your minds are full of bad thoughts. You want to have more things for yourself. You hurt other people to get what you want.

I have had people tell me that the church is just a bunch of hypocrites trying to make everyone believe they are holy when, in truth, they are sinners who are no better than anyone else. They give this as an excuse for refusing to enter a church.

People who say such things do not understand the Christian faith because at the heart of Christianity is the belief that we are all sinners who need a savior, and our good works can never be enough to earn God's favor. We believe our sin was so great that we deserved to die, and that is why Christ had to give His life to pay the penalty our sin deserved. I fail to see the logic of calling those who believe this "Hypocrites."

So, who are the real hypocrites? You don't have to look far to find them in our world. I will give you four examples of gross hypocrisy.

- 1. How about those who shout and carry banners that say, "Black Lives Matter"? (That is unless the black person happens to be a police officer.) Then, the rules change. For me, that shouts "hypocrisy."
- 2. How about those who protest the slaughter of innocent animals but then kill their own unborn children? That sure looks like hypocrisy to me.
- 3. And then some champion the message of love and insist we must learn to accept our differences and love each other unconditionally, but at the same time hate Jews and call for the elimination of Israel. If that's not hypocrisy, I don't know what it is.
- 4. Oh, and we must not forget those who demand their right to 'free speech" only to turn around and vilify a man like Harrison Butker, for having the courage to say that he believes the highest calling a woman can have is to be a mother and give herself to raising her children. Classic hypocrisy!

These are the same people who say they will never enter a church because all churchgoers are hypocrites. That's a joke! If what they say about the church just being a bunch of hypocrites is true, then I suggest they all go to church next Sunday; they will fit in just fine.