

### **Miracles, Wonders, and Signs**

1. Miracles, Wonders, and Signs attract people.
2. Miracles, Wonders, and Signs confirm the Word that is preached.
3. Miracles, Wonders, and Signs bring people to repentance and salvation.
4. Miracles, Wonders, and Signs bring Glory to God.

#### **Why don't we see more of the manifest presence of God in our churches today?**

1. There is a Lack of Unity. / 2. Man is Taking God's Glory.
3. There is a Lack of Repentance. Sin Abounds in the Church.
4. Wrong Motives. We Must Be Motivated by Love.

Today we will look at reason three. There is a lack of repentance in our churches today and this lack of repentance and sin ***WILL HINDER THE MANIFEST PRESENCE OF GOD!***

#### **Two things we must understand:**

***The manifest presence of the Lord will bring repentance.  
Repentance will bring the manifest presence of the Lord.***

Chicken before the egg? The manifest presence of God and sin cannot co-exist!

- ***ILL:*** *A Vision during worship at Believers Church 2002 “Logs damning a mighty river.”*

#### **The Manifest Presence of the Lord Will Bring Repentance**

- What was Isaiah's response when he saw the glory of the Lord?

**Isaiah 6:1-5** **In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. 3 And they were calling to one another:**

**“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”**

**4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. 5 “Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty.”**

- Concerning one of the roles of the Holy Spirit, Jesus said, **“And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment.” John 16:8 NLT**
- If we allow the Holy Spirit to move freely in our midst and in our churches, people will experience the Holy Spirit's conviction, and repentance will be the result.

**1 Corinthians 14:22-25** **Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers; prophecy, however, is not for unbelievers but for believers. 23 So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and inquirers or unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind? 24 But if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is prophesying, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all, 25 as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, “God is really among you!”**

**EX:** I knew a young man in the past that told me that he couldn't come to our church anymore. When I asked why he responded, “I like to stay out late and party on Saturday nights. When I came to your church the next morning I felt really bad about what I did the night before. But when I go to my mom and dad's church, I can still party on Saturday, and it doesn't bother me at all there.”

At Believers Church, all are welcome. You come just like you are. But if the presence of the Lord is here you will either: repent, (change), or flee.

**NEXT STEP: This week I will allow the Holy Spirit's presence to bring me to repentance.**

The manifest presence of the Lord will bring repentance.

### **Repentance Will Bring the Manifest Presence of the Lord**

*“The depth of your repentance will determine the height of your revival.”  
Frank Bartleman, of the Azusa Street Revival*

- **Acts 2:38** Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- **Acts 3:19-20** Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, (NKJ may come from the presence of the Lord) **20 and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.**

There is something *fresh and purifying* about admitting you're wrong, being honest with God, and receiving the forgiveness paid for by Christ Jesus on the cross.

NOT just a one-time repentance but an ongoing daily repentance. Staying clean. An attitude of repentance.

What was true for the Jewish people in that day is still true for all people today:

**Repentance brings times of refreshing from the very presence of the Lord.**

### **Refreshing With Your Sins Wiped Out!**

**Acts 3:19-20** Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out...

- **Hebrews 10:17** ...“Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more.”
- **Isaiah 44:22** I have swept away your offenses like a cloud, your sins like the morning mist. Return to me, for I have redeemed you.”
- **Psalms 103:12** as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.
- **Micah 7:18-20** Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy. **19** You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

*They're all behind you, They'll never find you, They're on the Ocean Floor  
Your sins are forgotten, They're on the Ocean Floor.  
Your sins are erased, and they are no more, They're out on the Ocean Floor. <sup>i</sup>*

### **Baptisms Paint a Picture of Leaving Our Sins in a Water Grave!**

**Romans 6:1-4** What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? **2** By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer

**3** Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

**4** We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

**Romans 6:5-7** For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. **6** For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin — **7** because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

**Romans 6:11** In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

## Repentance Involves Turning From Your Wicked Ways

**2 Chronicles 7:14** If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Turning from your wicked ways. There is a difference between feeling sorry for our sins and repenting for our sins. We should feel sorry and remorseful, that's part of repentance, but we should also turn away from our sins. Take a one hundred and eighty-degree turn from our sins, turn to Jesus, and stop doing the sins we were doing.

Jesus calls for Repentance: **Matthew 4:17** From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

REPENT - Greek Word 3340 metanoias (met-an-o-eh'-o); from 3326 and 3539; to think differently or afterward, i.e. reconsider (morally, feel compunction): KJV-- repent. True repentance involves changing your way of thinking which will change your actions that follow your thoughts.

When we repent the Kingdom of God is at hand, so close you can reach out and touch it.

**Matthew 4:17 Amplified Bible (AMP)** ...“Repent (change your self—your old way of thinking, regret past sins, live your life in a way that proves repentance; seek God’s purpose for your life), for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

### Jesus said, “Repent or Perish.”

**Luke 13:1-5** Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. **2** Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way?

**3** I tell you, no! **But unless you repent, you too will all perish.**

**4** Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem?

**5** I tell you, no! **But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”**

- In the Old Testament the high priest was the only one who could enter the Holy of Holies in the temple. On the Day of Atonement, he would enter burning incense and sprinkling animal blood as a sacrifice for the sins of the people. If the High Priest did not atone for his own sins and entered with sin in his heart, God would strike him dead when he entered the presence of the Shekinah—the glory of God—that filled the Holy of Holies. Therefore, bells were attached to his robe to track his movement and a rope was tied on his ankle to pull out his dead body if necessary.
  - Different from the Church today We tend to bring our trash right into the presence of God!
- AG Church in Jacksonville, Youth Group was dead, later the Youth Pastor was seen in a Night Club.

### Jesus Breaks the Death Cycle When We Repent

**DEATH CYCLE** Free from Sin but no longer living free from sin. You choose the yoke of bondage. The Holy Spirit is grieved and hindered by the presence of unconfessed sin in your life. Where the Spirit is not, there is no liberty.

**LIFE CYCLE** Free from sin and living free from sin. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom! Due to a lack of sin, you experience more of the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life, hence more freedom!

**NEXT STEP: This week I will choose to live in the life cycle rather than the death cycle.**

## Let's Repent and Experience Times of Refreshing from the Presence of The Lord

- **Acts 3:19-20 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.**
- **1 John 1:8-9 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**
- **Proverbs 28:13 Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.**

***The manifest presence of the Lord will bring repentance.  
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Then we will experience The New Testament Pattern.

- 1) God desires to show up in our midst and demonstrate his power!
- 2) People will be drawn by the manifestation of the presence of God. They will see that He is a mighty God who can change lives, circumstances, and situations.
- 3) The gospel is to be preached, and salvations follow.

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<sup>i</sup> Audio Adrenaline: Lift, Stuart, Mark/ McGinn