

SEEING THE BIG PICTURE



“For the perfecting of the saints,
for the work of the ministry,
for the edifying of the body of Christ.”

Ephesians 4:12

PASTOR ELEANOR JOY

“In these closing hours as we are witnessing all the prophetic signs of the Second Coming of Jesus, all hands on deck are needed.”

I have discovered my own fun way to read and study the Bible, which makes it easier to understand and follow the End-Times and the chronological sequence of prophetic events, which will transpire before the second coming of Jesus.

I believe if you make the Bible fun to read, it would encourage you to read and study it more. What I've also found interesting is when we have a good understanding of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, you will discover that every member of the body of Christ is an important member and that God has a specific plan and purpose for your life.
Jeremiah 29:11

The thinking of most Christians is they believe that most of the work of the ministry is to be carried out by the fivefold ministry gifts that the Apostle Paul speaks of in Ephesians 4:11. However, this isn't the case at all. Let's read verse 12:

“For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”

In essence, v.12 speaks directly opposite to what most Christians believe: it is the duty of the fivefold ministry gifts, Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher to train up the body of Christ for the work of the ministry, not the opposite. As it is the duty of the fivefold ministry to train up God's people to do the work of the ministry, it is the continuing duty of local Pastors to release the people once they have been trained and equipped to go and do what God has called them to do.

In too many Churches today we witness that this isn't happening. Pastors have a tendency to not

release people due to selfish reasons and this should not be so. In these closing hours as we are witnessing all the prophetic signs of the second coming of Jesus, all hands on deck are needed. In these closing hours of this present age before the second coming of Jesus, the Churches primary function should be that of

1. Revival in the Church.
2. Evangelism to the lost (i.e. get outside of the four walls) and
3. A great spiritual awakening, globally.

The universal Church needs to cry out for another spiritual awakening like this country witnessed in the late 1700's. We need to witness an “Outpouring of God's Spirit” move across America again!

The 2016 Presidential Election was a “reprieve” not a “delay” for the Church. The Church should seek revival in this hour and do the work of the Lord while there is still day. Jesus said that the time will come when no man can work. John 9:4

There is no more time for just being a pew warmer and doing nothing with your gifts, talents, abilities, and resources that God has given and entrusted to you. The Bible tells us that each person will give account of himself as to what he did with the gifts that were given to him. Matthew 25:14-30

In essence, every member is important to God and He wants to use you to build His kingdom and establish his eternal purposes. Don't allow feelings of inadequency keep you from stepping out in faith. Most Christians find the Bible dry and boring and as a result of this way of thinking, they do not read and study their Bibles on a regular and consistent basis. The Bible is

the instruction manual for the lives of every believer and without it you will grope in the darkness like the unbeliever who has no sense of direction and guidance.

Without God and His Word you are lost and without hope. However, this doesn't have to be the fate of the believer. Every believer has the privilege of owning a Bible. Think about the men who died because they stood against the tyranny that would endeavor to remove our right to possess one. So we mustn't take this privilege lightly.

Every believer is encouraged and exhorted to read their Bibles and pray on a consistent daily basis. Not reading your Bible regularly is the main cause for many Christians living a defeated, powerless, and a victorious less life because they lack knowledge concerning who they are in Christ and the authority they possess which has been given to them in His the Name of Jesus and through His blood.

The Bible tells us that we are seated with Christ in the heavenly places therefore the devil is under our feet and we are not victims—but victors through Christ Jesus who loved us and gave His life for us.

Your Bible is your “sword,” it is your instrument for doing spiritual battle with the powers of darkness and his host of demonic forces which come against the child of God on a daily basis. Remember that the Christian life is one of an ongoing battle with the forces of evil. We are in a spiritual battle and the battlefield is our minds. This is why we must renew our minds with the word of God. ^{Romans 12:2} Therefore, be prepared.

Every day before you leave

home cloth yourself with your spiritual armor that the apostle Paul speaks about in Ephesians 6:11-18. It is not enough to go to Church twice a week and believe this, which is substantial to keep you nourished-up in the word of God. As you take care and time to feed, clothe and stay healthy in the natural, you must likewise give the same *or possibly even more time to your spirit man*.

It is the state of the spirit man that will sustain and support the natural man. As the spirit man is built up from within, this empowers you to withstand any pressure that comes against you from without. 1 Timothy 4:8 speaks to this is a similar way:

For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

Maybe you can use my technique of reading and studying the Bible and maybe by chance it will work for you and open up a great window of possibilities for you to fall in love with the Word of God too...

In my personal studies of the Bible I look at the entire Bible as a large jig saw puzzle. For anyone who enjoys putting together jig saw puzzles it reveals that you are a person who loves a challenge. You look at thousands of individual pieces however; it doesn't intimidate you because you are the type of person who enjoys a challenge.

In the beginning it all just appears to be a huge pile of messed up and disconnected pieces which make no sense. But with natural vision you are able to see beyond the thousands of disconnected pieces and you can see the completed

picture when all the pieces are put together in their rightful places.

This same approach is helpful when it comes to studying the Bible. In the beginning it all looks scrambled and disconnected, but once you become an ardent student, the Holy Spirit will begin revealing to you, giving you spiritual vision where to fill in the pieces.

Every person has a certain learning curve. A learning curve is the process by which a person receives, comprehends and retains information.

For some people their effective way of learning is either what you would call “visual or audio” aides. Generally my learning curve has been audio. I learn by listening and I don't require visual aids such as maps, graphics, pictures, etc. However, I have experienced a shift in my learning curve. I have found that I am employing the visual aide of learning when it comes to comprehending the Bible, specifically End-Time Bible prophecy.

When I look at the Bible I see it as a huge jig saw puzzle. I see all 66 books as the four corners of the puzzle. The visual aid is helpful because in the Bible there is symbolism and imagery. In essence the 66 books of the Bible give us the “big picture” From Genesis to Revelation.

The Written Word (*logos* in the Greek) reveals a large portion of Gods overall plan for the world. As time progresses God begins to

give us the other pieces to fill in the puzzle. These pieces come in various ways. They may come by:

- Individual revelation through the time you spend in the Word communing and fellowshiping with the Lord;
- Through prophetic words spoken by others;
- A Rhema Word, which is a spoken Word to us by God;
- Dreams or visions;
- Praying in tongues;
- And also by both positive and negative events that we see transpiring in the world.

Because my main discipline is the End-Times and Bible Prophecy, I'm seeing significant prophetic convergences which are signs that the Second Coming of Jesus is near, and it's closer than we realize.

This is no time for the Church to be asleep. The Church must be awakened out of her slumber. The **parable of the ten virgins** is a great example of the Church today. When the Lord returns there will be fifty percent of the Church not ready. Matthew 25:1-13 There will never come a time when we will have complete knowledge and understanding of God's Word.

However, He gives us what we do need and to know when we need it. It is similar to how God leads and guides us. He never gives us the complete picture. He leads us one step at a time. When you are seeking direction from God, keep in mind He will not give you the information to take the next step until you have obeyed His last instruction. So if you feel as though you are stuck or in a holding pattern, in essence going nowhere, possibly it's because

God is waiting on you to obey Him, not you waiting on God? 1 Corinthians 13:9

For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. As we draw nearer to the Second Coming of Christ, the revelation the Church needs is that she should prepare herself because the "perilous times" the apostle Paul spoke about in 2 Timothy 3:1 are here and will become more intense and frequent. Similar to that of a woman who is in labor, about to give birth. We will begin to witness more prophetic signs taking place that are signs of the Lord's soon return.

Today we are witnessing an increase in earthquakes in diverse places, which is another sign of the Second Coming of Jesus Matthew 24:7. Our duty is to not ignore the signs but to prepare and be ready.

Today there are many true prophets who are blowing the trumpets and sounding the alarm. However, many aren't listening. Jesus said, "As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the coming of the Son of man." Within the Church there will be a remnant of Christians who will see and understand the prophetic signs and they will endure to the end and be joyous to see the Lord return.

However, there will be many Christians who will be so weighed down by the cares of this world that they will not be ready when the Lord returns.

Today from the pulpit many messages are on prosperity are being preached. The majority of the Church is focused on how can I make more money, how can I

get a bigger house, or a newer car? Instead of being focused on eternity and the age to come, most Pastors have not prepared the people for eternity. There are prophetic words spoken that reveal that there are many Churches today that have a name, but do not realize that their candle has gone out and that Jesus is no longer in their midst. In essence they are dead, and the river is now only a dry bed. The "Holy Spirit" is gone.

Pastors are preaching things which keep people in bondage. Instead of preparing God's people for eternity, they preach on how God's people can prosper now which has no lasting or eternal value. This is sad. However it's very true.

If you are one of those people who dread reading the Bible because you find it boring, try using the analogy of a jigsaw puzzle and I assure you the Word of God will become more fascinating to read and begin revealing things to you that you've never known or understood before. God says that if you seek Him, you will find him. The way to find Him is by reading His Word and setting time aside each day to just sit quietly in His presence and allow Him to speak to you in that still small voice. God isn't going to compete with all the other voices and sounds that surround you on a daily basis. You must make Him a priority in your life and then He will speak to you and give you direction for your life and ministry.

As you read the Bible, you are drawing nigh to God. As you draw nigh to Him, His promise is He will draw nigh to you. I believe that if more Christians had a better perspective of creation, redemption and restoration which begins in

Genesis and ends in Revelation their entire view of God and the Bible would change. Every born again Christian has been born into this world for a specific purpose. Jeremiah 29:11 You don't get to decide what that is. *You discover it.* It is the responsibility of each person to discover what that plan is. Unlike the world that goes about deciding what they will do in life without ever consulting God about it, this isn't the way the Christian goes about it. In the kingdom of God you don't get to decide what you will do, you discover it.

Generally the gift that God has given you is a indicator of what He has called you to do. Our gifts are to be used both in the church and the world to advance the kingdom of God and to bring glory to Him.

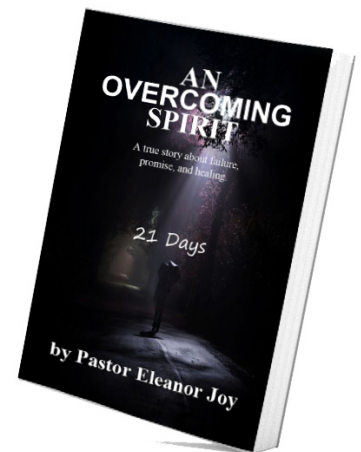
I spoke this before at the beginning and I want to emphasize it again. In these closing hours before Jesus' Second Coming, the Church's focus should be on revival, evangelism and a great awakening across America and the globe.

The foremost place we must use our gifts is in the local church. It is in the local church where you will most likely discover what the plan of God is for your life. If you are a Christian and you don't have a Church home, pray and ask God to guide you to the Church where He knows your gifts are needed. All you have to do is ask!

ENJOY ALL

of Pastor Joy's books and articles on our website [In His Love Ministries](http://InHisLoveMinistries.com) (Updated often)

Also be sure to check out her latest book
AN OVERCOMING SPIRIT



NOW AT
amazon.com



pastorjoy@inhisloveministry.org

Copyright
In His Love Ministry