

The Beginning of God's Church, Pt. 2

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We are continuing in the series entitled *The Beginning of God's Church* with this being *Part 2*. Last Sabbath we ended in the story where Paul and John were entering the temple and came across an individual, a lame man, who had been lame from birth and he was, I think right at 40 at this point. That comes up later here as we go through some of this, but he's asking for offerings as he'd be carried up there to that particular area. People were very familiar with him, knew him, of course, all this time, as he's been up there in that particular area.

This is when Peter told him that he didn't have silver or gold to give him, but what he did have, he would give that to him. Then he told him, "In the name of Joshua the Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." Now, quite an incredible thing here in the beginning of the Church, things that God did through them, because of working with human beings.

It's really quite incredible when you think about how God worked with people, and trying to put yourself at that particular time, there's an appreciation in that respect of, indeed, the manner in which He did that. There are a lot of things that had to be accomplished and done to get the Church really started, to get it off to a good start. God was doing this in a very powerful way, because again, we're going to go through some of this, but quite incredible to think about some of those things and think about the kind of miracles that were being done by the apostles at the early stage there and how it got off to the kind of start it did with several thousand just from the very get-go. Incredible!

God had been preparing them for some time, working with them, and the ones who were around Jerusalem then, at the time of Pentecost, and how they were experiencing the things that they did and had the desire then, once they came into the Church, right away in the very beginning, and Paul and John and different ones going into the temple like they did teaching, being inspired to teach various things, it raised quite an uproar. Because if you think about the religious community at that time, who would normally be in this area, and here it is being, in a sense, taken over by their message. Because people wanted to hear that, and not from the others, whether it be the Sadducees, Pharisees and so forth.

So, a lot of contention there in the beginning, but God giving great power to start the Church. Then they went into the temple and of course people recognized them, when the lame man went in there. And, to imagine the excitement of finally being able to do what he was doing, standing up and being able to jump around like he did, excited and inspired as he was, by what had just taken place. And again, everyone seeing this take place, very moved by it.

So let's pick it up here in **Acts 3:12**, where we read those verses again and be caught right back up here.

Verse 12 - So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people, "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at

this?" Or why look so intently upon us, **"as though by our power or godliness we made this man walk?"** So, just human nature. The idea of God, an all-powerful, Almighty God, even for the Jews and the people of that particular time, it's not real strong, it's not real strong at all in any fashion or form. And yet this was about to change for the Church, and it goes on to say, **"The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His son Joshua; whom you delivered up, and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had determined to let him go."** So again, this message here, continually being thrown out here, "This is what you did, look what you did to the Christ." Again, very strong in what they had to say. It says, **"But you denied the Holy One and the Just."** So they didn't just do it then, they continued to do it. And that's what's kind of amazing here, as you go through some of the story, you see this attitude of individuals who know, they *know* something's going on that has to be of God.

That to me is an amazing thing to comprehend that the human mind, even when they know that something is happening here that is not normal, it's not natural, and this has to be of God, still rejecting it. It shows how tough the carnal mind really is, and how the selfish carnal mind truly is, to want to hold on to something and not accept things that God has to give, incredible. Then it says, **"You asked for a murderer to be granted to you and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead; of which we are witnesses. And his name, through faith in his name, has made this man strong."**

So again, just the boldness, and he just kept coming at them, and John did as well, and the disciples too at times, when they had the audience. But here, again, very strong message that Peter's giving. As I mentioned last Sabbath, we all have to come to that point where we recognize we all killed Christ. On a spiritual plane, we're all guilty of that. That's the whole thing to come to understand, as we come into God's Church, at the very beginning, to understand it's our sins that required his death. That's why he died for us, so that we could be forgiven of sins. So, we're all guilty of the same thing.

And so, they said here, **"Yes, the faith given by him has given him this wholeness in the presence of you all."** Verse 17 – **"Yet now, brethren, I know you did it in ignorance, as your rulers also did. But those things, which God foretold through the mouth of his prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled."** So, "You've heard these things. You've heard them told to you before in times past. It came through the prophets. These are the things that have been written about the Christ."

"Repent therefore, and be converted," a word that means to be turned or to return. And so, again here, being turned from our ways toward God's ways, and this is the process, but it begins with repentance. What an awesome thing to understand, deep down inside, is to understand this isn't a one-time thing. It's not just what leads to baptism or that point in life, but it continues on for the rest of one's life, continually repenting, because that's the process of turning toward God, of wanting God, desiring God in our lives, and fighting for it, and recognizing this is the task before us. It's a choice.

"Repent therefore, and be converted, be turned, that your sins may be blotted out." So, it's not a one-time thing. It continues on because we have sin constantly, because we have selfishness and carnal

human nature. The more we grow, or as we grow, we come to see things on a spiritual plane, more clearly as time goes on, and we can grasp and comprehend these things and understand, "You have to fight for this." It has to be a conviction you have in your mind and it never stops and never ceases as long as you're in this body, and to understand that, with this carnal human nature, there's always going to be sin.

"So repent therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted, so that the times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord." So what is that all about, "So that the times of refreshing"? Well, it's in God's time, but actually in the past 2,000 years, those drawn into God's Church, this is a process we all have to go through. This is a part of what's included in this, "the times of refreshing," well, when does that come? It's a story about Christ. It's a story about Him coming as Passover and all those who would be called into the Church, primarily over the past 6,000 years, if you will, going back in the previous 4,000 years, that first loaf of the wave sheaf loaves, but the last portion of the 144,000 that are being added to it, because that's been 6,000 years, that's the context, that's what the New Testament is covering. It's covering a primary focus of the first 6,000 years because the outlook is preparing for, desiring and wanting, to be in God's Kingdom, the first fruits. That's the primary message of scripture, primary message of the New Testament.

So, we're getting close to that point now where Christ is going to return, where he's going to establish the Kingdom of God, "the times of refreshing," finally, on this earth, where mankind isn't governing himself anymore, where God establishes His government through His Son, who will be King of Kings from that time forward. This is the period it's looking forward to, when "the times of refreshing will come from the presence of the Lord," when Christ Himself will be here on earth, awesome!

Things we can't grasp fully, but we try to appreciate and try to consider and think about what that will be like. **"And that He may send Joshua the Christ, that's the time, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of the restoration of all things,** and that's when it happens. **...which God has spoken through the mouth of His prophets since the world began. For Moses truly said to the fathers, 'The Eternal your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren; him, you shall hear in all things, whatever he says to you.'"** That's not just for the future. That's what he's already said, which is already recorded. The things that will be added to that as time continues on, but especially for the Church, we have to be able to hear.

And in the context here, it goes on to show it's not just a matter of hearing what's being said or hearing the verses or the words or, you know, for the Protestant world, as an example, it's about God's people who have the opportunity, through the power of God's Spirit, to really hear. To hear on a spiritual plane God's truth, God's way of life, and we're able to hear those things then because it's something done by God's Spirit. Then when we can hear we have choices to make, for the rest of our life, in this physical body.

The majority, I can't help but say that every time, as a whole, the majority have turned away from that, the majority of all those called to be a part of God's Church. It's hard to grasp sometimes, how the majority could pull away, could turn away, could quit living this way of life or quit seeking to live this way of life, and not desiring to continue to turn toward God. Because that has to do with the transforming of the mind, it takes place over a lifetime, through our own choices.

Verse 23 – “And it shall be, that everyone living who will not hear that Prophet, will be utterly destroyed from among the people.” We don't know what the percentage will be when it's all said and done, but I'm not going to be wholly shocked anymore, even after the Great White Throne. So, when it talks about all those that are going to be there that reject God, I'm not going to be really shocked. Because in the period of time from the Apostasy on, I think that we have been able to see, in a profound way, just how strong the carnal human mind is against God. What that means, and it helps us to see even more so the battle. That you have to continue to fight, it's a choice.

So, again here, just because we're going to have an awesome time throughout the Millennium, truth all over the world, no longer false doctrines and false religions being allowed, no longer the corruption of government being allowed on earth again, and everything being administered by Joshua the Christ as King of Kings on the earth, and all those he'll be working through, throughout the earth, to grasp and comprehend, "Yes, it's going to be awesome." But the carnal mind is the carnal mind, human nature is human nature, and you can't make anyone choose anything. It has to be a matter of free will. That's what the marvel about God's way of life is, when He offers His truth and His way of life, it's a free choice, free will. Everybody's responsible for their own choices, their own decisions, their own conclusions of how they're going to live their life. And that's just, it's righteous.

I want to read it again, **“And it shall be that everyone living who will not hear that Prophet... So, this is in a context, you hear it, you have the ability to hear it through the power of God's Spirit, but the hearing, in this context, is the choice to live it, the choice to live it. That has to do with what it means to hear in this context. If we hear it and we do it, that's, that's hearing the way it's intended to be. ...who will not hear that Prophet, will be utterly destroyed from among the people. Yes, all the Prophets from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days.”**

When I think about this and what's said here, I can't help but think about when it talks about a time of judgment. This is something the world has so messed up, especially, you know, Protestantism, traditional Christianity, so confounded in these things. It doesn't grasp and comprehend God's plan. And when it talks about these things like this, it's like, it's about judgment. Yes, there's a judgment and it's talked about throughout the Old Testament, throughout the prophets. The primary time of judgment, which is the administration of God's judgment, happens at Christ's return. That's the primary time that it happens on earth. The next time is at the end of the Great White Throne.

There are two primary times of judgment for mankind, and we're coming up to the first one. So, incredible those things spoken of in scripture, but the world doesn't comprehend those things, they don't understand what that's all about. They're way off base, and they can't help it. Just like Peter said here, they did it in ignorance, they didn't know, they didn't understand. **"You are sons of the prophets."** What does that mean? You're able to live, we're able to live, the children of, some of these words are interchangeable, in that respect. So, it's maybe better understood as "the children of the prophets." Yes, because what they were able to teach, God has given us the ability to hear, to see, to understand. Then we have the opportunity to make those choices. It's not given to everyone.

"...as many have spoken, have foretold these days, 'You are the sons of the children of the prophets and of the covenant which God made with our fathers,' saying to Abraham, 'Even in your seed, all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'" So, all families, whether they receive it, whether they grasp it or not, whether they acknowledge or not, whether they glorify God and are thankful to God for it, that's another matter. But the whole world is blessed in this because those who live during the Millennium are blessed to live in something so incredibly awesome, a world governed by God.

In the Great White Throne, people are going to be awesomely blessed, those who never had such opportunities. They're going to be blessed with abundance and plenty more than they can begin to understand, more than we can even begin to grasp now, really. So again here, this is what it's talking about, in the future. All the families of the earth will be blessed. But it's another matter when you start talking about that which is spiritual, that which has to do with choices and decisions that continue on, but as far as being blessed, awesomely so. No ignorance in religion, no ignorance, no evil that's being done by administrations of government and so forth on the earth. People who've lived into those things, that are gonna be resurrected, they're going to know the difference. They're going to be able to see the difference. It doesn't mean they're going to accept it, but they're going to see it. So that's what it's talking about here.

"Even in your seed, all the families of the earth shall be blessed. To you first, God having raised up His son Joshua." Awesome here what it's saying. "To you first," to those who are being called into the Church, to those who are having the opportunity to hear and to see, this is what was being offered. This is the beginning of God's Church. That's what this is about. It's not about the rest of the world and them comprehending it, because they didn't; but for those being drawn into the Church here from the very beginning, because he was preaching to people that were continually being added to the Church as we go on here and read, in the temple area. They were coming in because they wanted to hear, and others would come along then, and they were being called into the Church. God did a very powerful work here in the very beginning to start the Church.

"To you first God, having raised up His son Joshua, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one from their iniquities." So this is a beginning of being able to do that in a larger scale than what was done in the Old Testament. Because in the Old Testament, it was done by a relationship with God Himself, of

things that God worked with individuals in, and not as many. Now, numbers were going to begin to be added, a larger scale of people to be able to be worked with. Incredible. And this is, again, just the beginning.

Acts chapter 4, continuing on. **Verse 1 – Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came before them, being agitated that they taught the people, and preached in Joshua the resurrection from the dead.** Yeah, they were agitated, because the people weren't wanting to hear them anymore. They were talking about the temple, this was their custom. That's where you go to hear these things, where they talk to you. The Pharisees, the Sadducees, they weren't being able to have their word spoken. It was Peter and John, the apostles, that were throughout the area there, able to teach. People were wanting to hear them, and they were seeing things that were taking place. They were hearing of a miracle as being done as this continues to grow, and actually gains a lot of speed as we continue along here.

So, they were agitated. Well, why? They were jealous. They were eaten up with jealousy. They hated them. That's what jealousy does. It leads to hate. It leads to despising others because there's something you want that you can't have, because you want it your way. It's not a matter of the truth and what God is doing; it's a matter of carnal human nature, incredible. **So they laid hands upon them, and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening.** That's how agitated they were. They took them and locked them up. They weren't going to have this. This is the temple. It was theirs as far as they were concerned, regardless of the lame man and his being healed or anybody else being healed, and they're obviously grasping and comprehending, "This isn't of men," you know, but they ignored it.

However many of these who heard the word believed; and the number of men came to about 5,000. So, this is the beginning, 5,000, powerful! Mighty in the very beginning, being moved by God's Spirit because they were being drawn by God's spirit. That's how God works. He draws individuals, opens up their mind to begin to see things, and then they have the opportunity to address it.

Verse 5 - Then it came to pass on the next day, that their rulers, elders, and scribes, as well as Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and many as were of the family of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. So when they had set them in the midst, they asked 'By what power, or by what name...' So what they're asking here is, "by whose authority?" By what name, by whose authority, **'are you doing this?'** Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, so again, understanding this is God, Christ, God the Father. It's the power of God's spirit given to Christ to give to Peter because this is how it works. Christ is doing these things because he's the head of the Church. So, he's doing it directly.

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders of Israel,' again here, quite an experience, because he was already yielded to God in every way, and now that power is being given in his mind, and so he speaks what has been given to him to speak, awesome! **'...in this day**

we are judged for a good deed to an infirm man, by what means he's been made whole.' So, "You brought us up here because this man has been made whole and by this good deed." It's like, "What have we done?" **'Let it be known to all of you, and to the people of Israel, by the name of Joshua the Christ of Nazareth, whom you nailed to a pole, whom God raised from the dead...'**

You know, this had to cause much greater agitation, stirred them up all that much more, in their hatred. **'...by him, this man stands here before you whole.'** He didn't pull any punches whatsoever. **'This is the stone,'** so just driving it home more. I love it when individuals go through experiences like this because they're burning up inside, and God just keeps putting it toward them because of the haughtiness and pride that's so great it can't be broken. To have them squirm, to have them go through what they do, great! **'This is the stone which was rejected by you builders,'** "You leaders, those of you that the people should be learning from, this is what you've done. You've rejected the stone." They knew what he was talking about, quoting out of the Old Testament. **'...that has become the chief cornerstone. Nor is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, by which we must be saved.'**

This is some powerful stuff being given. Just to kind of think about being there and being amongst them and hear this being given, very moving to those who are being called into the Church, but the exact opposite for those who were growing in greater hatred. It's just like, that's the same spirit that happened toward Christ. Same spirit, and here it is being stirred up more. The same people, some of the same people that hate what's taking place because they're losing their influence and their power. Now this has happened in God's Church for 2,000 years. Same spirit, same attitudes within the environment of God's Church. People who begin to be eaten up with jealousy, envy, whatever it might be, and people who begin to go through this process in the mind of not living or thinking the way God says we're to think and live and begin to be lifted up by their own self-importance.

I've had my full of this, to be fully sick of that kind of spirit, because it's very evil, because it's the same spirit as Lucifer, what he did. It truly is. And yet these things have existed and those are the kinds of things that people have to nip in the bud quickly if they start, if they begin, just in the smallest way. And yet this is our experience, this is our training within the Church, that we have experienced those things in the past in a big way, and learned to detest it and hate it and recognize how evil it really is.

Now, when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and unlearned men... See, it's at the same attitude, "How could this be happening?" They're kind of, "How do you address this?" Because "they're not as educated as we are," "they're not learned like we are." You see the haughtiness right there in them and looking down upon them. Yet they're the very ones that Christ is working through. How do you receive that? It was pretty tough. It's like the scattered Church, pretty tough. They hear my name, just the reality. It's like, "You've got to be kidding. Look what happened to him. Look what he's done."

It's the same spirit and same attitude of people that can't accept something of what Christ is doing. If God makes a choice on how He's going to do it, then people have to decide, "Is this of God or not of God? Are these truths of God or not of God?" And very easily, people can, even within the environment of God's Church in the past, reject it. Passover. They can't even get across that one, to acknowledge the truth. It's the same spirit here, but with unconverted people. Same exact spirit, except its worse when it happens in the environment of God's Church.

Then it says, **they perceived that they were uneducated and unlearned, they marvelled...** It doesn't mean they were excited by it, or they marvelled with excitement. It's just that they didn't know how to handle it, how to deal with it, because they still, they looked down upon them. **...now they knew that they had been with Joshua.** So, they already knew the history here, they were there. They had seen them, different ones had seen them there with Joshua, when he came in, Holy day to Holy day. **...now they knew that they had been with Joshua, but seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.** What can you say, if someone's been healed? They're kind of perplexed here, how to handle this, how to deal with it. Because they want their power back and that's what it comes back to. They want their authority. They want to be looked up to by others. Here they're looking up to something that they see taking place through miracles, and them speaking boldly like they were, and the people were starting to look up to them.

So, it's good to put yourself in that environment, that atmosphere up here, to realize what was taking place, the carnality of it. **Verse 15 - Moreover, they commanded them to go aside out of the council, so that they could confer among themselves...** So, they wanted them aside here to discuss this, **saying, 'What shall we do to these men? for that indeed, a known,'** that's not "notable," it's the word *known* in the Greek language. So, it's not just saying this is a "notable thing," no, it's known. People *know* it. They *knew* the man. They saw him able to do what he was able to do instantaneously. And so, everyone knows this, they know the truth of something that's happened here, and a change is taking place in a man of 40 years who had been lame. **'...a known miracle,'** they had to acknowledge that. It was a known miracle! This doesn't happen, these things don't just happen! **'...has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it.'** Powerful!

So what do you do? Well, they didn't change. **'But so that it spreads no further...'** That's their concern. "We don't want any more recognition being given to them; look at the people." "We're afraid of them, to do much here." **'But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us threateningly forbid them,'** in other words, with threats, in a threatening manner, **'forbid them, and from now on, they speak to no man in this name.'** We already know the story. It's not going to go too far, but that's their thinking. It's hard sometimes to comprehend such foolishness of the mind, the human mind, but to understand that it can happen, and why? It's carnality, selfishness. Amazing how far it'll go.

So they called for them, and commanded that they not speak at all nor teach in the name of Joshua.

That was their solution, to put a stop to this. To somehow, "If we can do it in a threatening manner, we're

the leaders here, and they have to listen to us," another story. **But Peter and John answered and said to them, 'Whether it's right in the sight of God for us to listen to you more than to God, you judge.'** Like, "You think this is going to happen? We're going to listen to you more than to God?" So they put it right exactly the way it should have been put. They should have gotten the message. **'For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.'** So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done.

So again here, they felt the limitation that was on them because of the people and the people that were turning here toward them and wanting them. And then, **verse 22 - For the man was over 40 years old,** it says here, this lame man, **was over 40 years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed. So being let go, they went unto their own, and reported all that the chief priests and elders said to them. So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord,** unanimously, but it's a matter of an agreement as well here, of what they were seeing and what they were experiencing and said, **'Lord, you are God, who made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that is in them...'** So, it's a matter of here, something being said, that they all concurred with, they all agreed with, they all saw what was taking place. They saw God in the picture of those who were being drawn, being called, if you will.

'Who by the mouth of your servant David hast said,' so this is a quote now, and we don't know who spoke it, but one of the apostles here, possibly Peter, John, whatever, but they're quoting here, **Psalms 2, Verse 1-2—** This is what was said, **'Why did the nations rage, and the people plot vain things?'** Question being asked here, **'The kings of the earth took their stand and the rulers were gathered together against...'** It's a quote here, the word is **Yahweh,** against the self-existing Eternal One. That's the actual quote in Psalms, **'...and against His Christ.'** Against the Messiah, against His Christ, the Eternal's Christ. So again here, it'll explain some of this as it goes on here, but it's showing here this is a message that's going out and here's how the people have received it. "Look what they did to the Christ and look what they're doing now to those through whom Christ is working."

'For truly against your holy son Joshua whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, to do whatever your hand and your purpose determined before to be done. Now, Lord, look on their threats; and grant to your servants, that with all boldness they may speak your word.' So again here, it's, understanding here they were all in this unity of oneness of what is being said, of what their purpose is, of what the apostles were doing as well. They're recognizing these scriptures that are being fulfilled. How? By the power of God's Spirit. Sometimes I marvel at that when you go through and read certain things that Christ has said, and you find the scriptures in the Old Testament where they came from, and you realize you could never know, by reading the Old Testament, what it meant except that he quoted it and they gave then, "This was a fulfillment of specific things that were being said by Christ." Same thing with the apostles. Certain things

that were being said, there are times when you can go through the Old Testament and read it and not know specifically what it is until it's revealed, until it's given. And then it's like, "Oh yeah," it could be just a blurb out of the context of something else that's being addressed in the Old Testament, but it's prophetic in nature of something to happen in time.

So again here, reading that again, **'For truly against your holy Son, Joshua, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, to do whatever your hand and your purpose determined before to be done.'** So it's acknowledging here, "It was your purpose. He, it was Passover, it was your purpose that he died. It was your purpose that he be put in a tomb for three days and three nights. It was your purpose that they gathered together against him and put him on a pole and killed him." So again here, it was God's purpose. It had to be fulfilled in this manner. God planned it out long, long, long before. Awesome to understand these things. And here's where it's fulfilled. And so, they're acknowledging these things, done on a spiritual plane, because God's giving it to them, Christ is giving it to them through the power of the Holy Spirit. **'Now, Lord, look on their threats,'** and so this is a request, **'and grant to your servants that with all boldness, they may speak your word.'** Because here they're being threatened. They don't know what they're capable of doing: "They killed Christ, they killed Joshua, they can kill us." They knew that.

So again, **'...that they may speak your word, by stretching out your hand to heal; and the signs and wonders may be done through the name of your Holy Son, Joshua.'** So whoever was speaking was being inspired in exactly what was stated here, written basically, for us to be able to read and for others to read through time. To understand what was taking place, how the Church began, and to understand this was their prayer, because they were in unity and oneness with God, because this is what God was going to do. They were asking for themselves, they knew they needed help. They knew they needed the ability to be able to speak in boldness considering the threats and so forth and what was going on. Knowing what was in front of them, that they still do it. That they have the courage, if you will, the confidence and the boldness to go forward and do what they were told not to do. That's what they're asking for. Christ asked for help; they asked for help. Just like when, that last day on earth, that last night, he says, "Father, if there's any other way, take this cup from me." Because he knew what was before him. Well, the disciples understood what was in front of them because of what they'd already done to Joshua, and they understood the power that they had.

And so, yeah, that causes concern, and so you want help, you need help, and you know where it comes from. It comes from God. So that's what they're doing here. They're having a prayer here, a petition, if you will, to God to help them in this, to give them that strength and courage, **'that with all boldness they may speak your word by stretching out your hand to heal.'** So, to continue on doing these things. So even being inspired and asking that because you can't just decide that you're going to want these things in the Church, like some have done in the scattered Body. That somehow they're going to fast for, and have a desire that we have healings taking place. It doesn't work that way, unless God gives it, and

then if God gives it, a person can be inspired to say those things and ask those things. But if it's not, then it's just of people, even within the scattered Body that took place.

So these things have happened even within the environment of the Church, in a wrong way. So again, if it's not of God, if God doesn't give it, it has no meaning. You can't just decide. This is why, even in the Protestant world, people want to be closer to God, and so they work these things up like this speaking in tongues, or they want to be able to have healings and be able to heal and have people come up on the stage and don't even understand, in many cases, they've been fooling around with the demonic world. That's what they fool around with, but they don't know that. They don't grasp it.

'Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to your servants, that with all boldness they may speak your word, by stretching out your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of your holy son Joshua.' Now when they had prayed, the place where they were gathered together was shaken. Now they needed that. You know, there are things that happen in our lives at times we need it. We need encouragement; we need help to continue doing what we're doing. We're given that in the end time, if we have eyes to see, of things that have been happening, things about Thunders and so forth. It's a part of a process and part of that process is for us, to understand we're coming down to a time of judgment, to be better prepared for it, and in that way, to be able to see, "These things are coming, they're in front of us."

Now, when they had prayed, the place where they were gathered together was shaken, Awesome! They needed that! Again, to be shaken, to be where you are? **...and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...** Now, it has powerful meaning too, if we understand that, then if you're all filled with the Holy Spirit, it means you receive the encouragement, you know what's taking place. You know that God has done this. This wasn't just an earthquake. **...and they spoke the word of God with boldness.** So again, it didn't stop, it just got stronger.

Verse 32 - Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one life. They were moved mightily, very powerfully. This is the beginning. God poured out more of His Spirit to accomplish it. **Neither did anyone say that any of the things they possessed were their own, but they had all things in common.** So, they were staying there in Jerusalem, all these people, thousands. And it's basically saying, "We had it all in common." It's like, "bundling it all together so we can continue on here and get started here, so that this work can have a beginning." This is where it was beginning, and this is how God was doing it. They didn't all go back to their own places yet. **And with great power, the apostles gave witness of the resurrection of the Lord Joshua: and great grace was upon them all.** So it shows here that what they were receiving from God, great grace was on them all. It means a favor of God because God is doing something powerful here. This is just the beginning of the Church, and nothing else had existed before like this. So indeed, a lot of power is being poured out to help them in this process, to go through this.

Verse 34 - Neither was there anyone among them who lacked: for all who were owners of lands or houses sold them, and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold. Incredible! So they were moved to do this, through God's Spirit, in that respect, to begin this process where they could continue to stay there and the apostles could continue to teach them. Because, again, this is just the start and they need this in order to get it going, to get things moving forward, in a proper way.

And then it says, **They laid them at the apostles feet, and they distributed to each as anyone had need.** So again here, in order for them to continue doing this, because they weren't going back and working and doing various things, and as somebody had need, then they started this process of taking care of them. So that they can stay together and get this started. **And Joses, or Yoses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles, which is translated son of encouragement,** meaning consolation or comfort, **a Levite of the country of Cyprus,** so he's given that respect here, of what's being written here, a special account of what he did, **having land, sold it.**

Now, it wouldn't be mentioned unless this were really important because of this occasion here. So, most likely, a lot, **and brought the money and laid it at the apostles feet.** So, that example of him, a Levite of the country of Cyprus, a long way away, but he still went there, got rid of it, sold it, brought it all back, gave it. Then this continues right on into the next chapter. **Acts 5:1 - But a certain man named Ananias,** so again here, this contrast being made, in the beginning, of the excitement of the group that was there, and their willingness to stay there and their desire to stay there so they could continue to be taught, guided, directed, instructed. Because the apostles had been with Christ already, several years there before that, obviously, and so they had that ability with the power of God's Spirit to bring all those things to life now that Christ had taught them because they didn't grasp a lot of it on a spiritual plane at all.

They latched on to certain things as much as God gave to them, but after Pentecost, wow, it was a powerful thing in their minds, everything that Christ had told them. But now there's a need to teach and prepare others, and this is that process, to give them that opportunity to be taught, to be able to learn. Not to go out into different areas, because what would they have? They have to learn some things first. They had to go through things that Christ had taught, and what he had to say, that's what they did. It wasn't just a message here about Christ having died and so forth, it's coming to understand why he died, understanding why he's a Passover, and all the other things that go with it, of things that Christ said during that period of time before he died.

So again here, **a certain man named Ananias, and Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, and kept back, to keep back for oneself, part of the price received, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain portion, and laid it at the apostles feet.** So again, they brought a certain portion, but it's to understand the rest of the story of what's being said here that's important. Let's go ahead and read it because it needs to be in the context. We've gone through this before, but let's do it again. **Peter said, 'Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit?'** So it was a matter of what he said or purported to be saying that he was doing, because he held back a certain amount. But he gave the

impression he was giving it all, just like the man before. It mentioned the man from Cyprus, and what he had done. So, they're following suit, as many others did as well, had the ability to sell various things and brought them there to help the Church get its start. But Ananias and Sapphira had done something totally different. And basically, they're being called out on it when Peter was given the ability to know it. He didn't know it of himself, he knew it by God's Spirit.

And so, he asked him, "Why have you held back a portion?" In essence. First of all, **'Why have you filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit?'** So this is an important thing for the entire Church to grasp early on, that God knows what's in the mind. God knows what we do in our lives. God is all-knowing about His creation and Christ taught those things, and the disciples learned from that process, and this is their opportunity now to help the Church to understand, "You have to be truthful with God. You have to be truthful with God." And if we're not, then we're lying to the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit, meaning God knows. That's what it means. It's the power of God. And He knows. He knows what's in our minds. He knows what's in our thinking. So, **'Why did you lie to the Holy Spirit, and keep back,'** the word literally means to keep back for oneself, **'part of the price received of the land?'** And so, to understand here, it was fine if he did that, but that's not what he said he was doing. He wanted to be looked up to, like the man from Cyprus, that he was doing something just like him.

So it goes on to say, **'While it remained,** basically meaning in your possession, it was yours, **'While it remained, was it not your own?'** Was it not your own, the word that sometimes we have that means to abide to remain, to keep as your own, **'even after it was sold, was it not in your own power?'** Wasn't it yours, all of it? Within, the word having to do here with the meaning of within one's own authority, the right to choose, in essence here. **'Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied unto men.'** And the word here "not" in the context, in essence, "not simply," that's what's being said here, "You've not simply lied unto men, **'but you have lied to God.'** That's what you've done. When it talks about the Holy Spirit, you know, people can't grasp that necessarily, they didn't, but to recognize here, "You lied to God."

This is something we have to understand on a spiritual plane. What a horrible thing to lie to God. I think of all the people who've come, been drawn, called, and then left, put out, whatever it might be; every one of them, have lied to God. This is not a small thing with God. It's not just a matter of turning against God, or turning against Christ, yes, yes, yes. But anyway, this is mind-boggling that this can happen to people who have the impregnation of God's Spirit. It's a scary thing.

Then Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the spirit, and great fear came upon all those who heard these things. Because it helps to sober oneself up to realize this is for real. This is about a relationship with God and His son Joshua, and nothing is held back from them. They know everything we do. They know everything we think. They know everything we say. And they're deeply concerned about those things because, "Is our mind being transformed and changing? Are we repenting when those things come out that are wrong in our thinking or in our actions, or not?" And so, God wants

us to address those things. This is what was happening in the Church, sobering the Church up to take this more seriously. Because we've gone through phases in the Church where things haven't been taken seriously as they should have been. I think of Laodicea. Sick, sick, sick, sick, sick what happened to God's Church through Laodicea. Weaker and weaker and weaker, truth going out the window right and left, a desire to burn, you know, Herbert Armstrong's books. Get rid of all the literature so that no one is tied to any of that anymore, so we can wipe the slate clean and start something new.

You think, and every one of them who had been called into the Church didn't know diddly you-know-what, except that it came through that man to the Church! They didn't know anything about the Holy Days. They didn't know things about the Sabbath that were revealed through him. They didn't understand things about Passover, which many had lost before they ever got started, even those who went to college, because they were taught by an individual. You think, who sat at Herbert Armstrong's feet in college as well, and then went off in left field and did his own thing. You think of some of the things that have happened we've experienced, they're really mind-boggling. But it shows you the carnal human mind, what it's capable of doing.

So, a healthy fear, a fear of not lying to God, a fear of recognizing what it means if we make choices to lie against God, or to do anything that's wrong before God. It should cause great fear in the sense of realizing the consequences. That should motivate us then to want to repent and want to weed out the things in our lives that we know are wrong, and, especially when they happen, and cry out to God for help, the ability to be forgiven through our Passover. What an awesome blessing we have, anyway.

Then to know, even on top of that, to grow in that, to realize as soon as you repent, it's gone! You don't have to drag around those rocks anymore. If we could just see that, if we could just really grasp that, we don't have to do that anymore. We're free! We're free to march forward, clean, because God says you're righteous, because of your believing Him and doing what He says, awesome! Not because we are, and yet so often the struggle in God's Church for many people have been to try to be righteous. There's that big difference, that difference we talked about, works. You're trying to do it on your own ability to be righteous, to set an example to others, not an example, but to get others to see you in a certain way. That's the heart of wanting people to see someone in a certain light. If you're trying to do that you're wasting your time. It's what we live, through the power of God's Spirit, that's the answer. That's what we do, you know, not because we're trying to be seen as being righteous. And so, just in the thinking about going through those sermons before this series, awesome!

Too many people, in the environment of God's Church, have tried to make themselves appear as being righteous. That's what Ananias, the liars, Ananias and Sapphira were doing, lying to God. They were liars, and they weren't telling the truth, and that's the horrible thing. **So the young men arose, wrapped him up, carried him out and buried him. Then it was about the time, three hours later, when his wife, not knowing what had happened, came in, and Peter inquired of her, 'Tell me whether you sold the land for such and such amount.'** So it doesn't say what it was, but it was what they said, and what they told

them, “that you sold this land for that.” **And she said, ‘Yes, for so much.’** She repeated the amount, that she was in agreement, lying. Mind-boggling how people, how the human mind can do that! That's why I so often marvel, and mind-boggling that someone can be in the impregnated with God's spirit, be in the environment of God's Church, and lie about tithes or offerings. It really is, to me, mind-boggling! These kinds of things should ring in our ears to the point that it'd scared the you-know-what out of us! If we really see them and really believe them and believe what God says. And yet, I know that it's still going on. Not much, but I know it's still going on. We can't lie to God. We're not going to be able to get by with it.

Verse 9 - Then Peter said to her, ‘How is it that you have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? Look, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and will carry you out.’ Now, he knew this by the power of God's Spirit. It was given to him to know exactly what to say, to know exactly what had happened. That's a marvel in itself that God can give things in the human mind to know. This wasn't of his doings, this is Christ. **Then she fell down immediately at his feet and yielded up the Spirit, and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her out, buried her by her husband. Even great fear came on the entire Church, and on as many as heard these things.** You think, that happened then to teach people for the next 2,000 years, and yet people can know this story and somehow still deceive the mind to think that they can get by with something. Sooner or later, God may give a lot of patience and a lot of time, but there comes that time when He says, “Enough is enough. You had every opportunity and you haven't used it. This is it.”

Verse 12 - Now by the hands of the apostles, many signs and wonders were done among the people, even as they were all with one accord in the covered walkway of Solomon. It's a covered walkway of the temple, that's what it's talking about here. **Verse 13 - But the rest dared not join themselves to them; yet, or the word however, nevertheless, the people esteemed them. But believers were added all the more to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women.** So, it didn't just start with the 5,000, but it says multitudes of men and women continued to be added here at the beginning, more and more. **Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.**

So, even at this, it's like, “If we can just have them out there close in his shadow...” That's what they believed, that they were so moved by the things that were happening, the city was filled with this, where people were bringing them. So again here, what an incredible and a powerful thing that took place in Jerusalem at this time. It really is awesome! Because it rocked the whole city, truly did. **There also came a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem.** You know, word spreads, people that have health problems, issues, and so forth. Yeah, it's got to spread. Now, they saw something in this very physical. Well who wouldn't? You don't have to be called of God, but you know in this respect, to realize the power that's there, that this is what God is doing, and people are being healed, that it has to be of God. They were being, and some out of that, being drawn into the Church. Awesome, awesome! And so

they were coming in from the towns round about because this word spreads out fast. Good thing there wasn't internet back in those days, or telephones. They wouldn't have been able to handle it!

Verse 16 - There also came a multitude out of other cities round about Jerusalem, bringing those who were sick, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits, who were all healed. So, unclean spirits? Yeah. Demonic beings who like to torment human beings and the things that they did and so, here they're being healed. **Then the high priest rose up,** they're not a happy bunch! All these things taking place and they, the primary thing they see, again, people moving to hear them. People moving to them to listen to what they had to say, people wanting to be around them. Not around *them*, the Pharisees and Sadducees anymore, but around the disciples and the Church. **Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him, who are of the sect of the Sadducees, now they were filled with indignation, and laid their hands on the apostles, and put them in the common prison. But by night, the angel of the Lord opened the prison doors, and brought them out, and said, 'Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people, all the words of this life.'**

So again, they were just to go out and continue doing what they'd been doing. They were being given this encouragement, again, that here an angel is brought in, who leads them out, you know. No one else recognizing it and seeing it, because they had guards there and it was sealed tight and there were guards around the area, and none of them knew what had happened. **Verse 21 - Now after they heard this, they entered into the temple early in the morning and taught.** So they obeyed what they were told to do. They went into the temple, just as always, and here, early in the morning, started teaching again like they had been doing the days before.

Then the high priest came, and those who were with him, and called the council together and all the Senate of the children of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought forward. So now they're acting and have a motivation to act with greater force because they haven't been listening. They're still doing the same old things. So, "We're going to put more teeth into it," that's basically the mindset, because there's greater indignation than ever before, and they wanted to stop this. **But when the officers came, and found they were not in the prison, they returned, and told it saying, 'The prison, we truly found, shut with all safety,'** in other words, it was secure, **'and the keeper standing outside before the doors,'** just like they were supposed to be, **'but when we had opened it, we found no one inside.'**

So again, things that gave the Church continual encouragement that God knew they needed in the beginning, just kept giving them more and more strength, more and more confidence, more and more encouragement. These things just continued to happen. Awesome! It had to be that way, otherwise, it would have been too easy to begin using human reasoning and have doubt come in and God wasn't going to allow that in the beginning here. So, those are maybe things we live by and have to address in our lives as we're called and the things that might happen from time to time. But that's another phase of a different kind of growth and a maturing and a faith that God has different ones lived by at different times.

We all go through different things, different training and so forth. "We found no one inside." **Now when the high priest, the captain of the temple and the chief priest heard these things, they were perplexed as to what would follow because of this.** You know, "What next? What's going to happen next?" **Then one came and told them saying, 'Behold, the men whom you put in prison are standing in the temple, and teaching the people.'** That's what happened! So just adding torment upon torment here, really. Again, I enjoy stories like this because I love seeing people put down when they have such haughty, wretched, sick attitudes against God and against God's people and God's dealing with this.

Verse 26 - Then the captain went with the officers, and brought them without violence, without using violence or force, it's like being a little more courteous: "They've called for you and we're going to escort you back, in quiet." **...for they feared the people, that they might have been stoned.** So here you're still dealing with the Jewish people, even those being called, but they didn't know the difference of those being called into the Church. And it's like, "We fear them because we know what can happen," and if they think that something is unjust and they have the right to stone, they will stone."

Then when they had brought them, they set them before the council, and the high priest asked them, saying, 'Did we not command you that you should not teach in this name? But look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.' In other words, "Because of what you're saying." Because constantly they said, the leaders, they decided that, "This is what should happen. He should be put to death," and so "you're putting this blood upon us." **Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, 'We...'** So, he didn't state it the same way this time, basically saying the same thing but driving the point home even more. So now, he said, **'We ought to obey God rather than men.'**

This is something, a principle we live by in God's Church as well. This is why sometimes people haven't understood things about jury duty and so forth, and why we don't do those kinds of things, as a whole. It's because of this principle here. Because if a judge knows, if lawyers know, that if something comes up then you have to go by what you believe because of that which is moral in your mind, of your beliefs and convictions toward God.

As an example, if a legal team would get up and someone has done something, and then because of certain, I think of sometimes some of the stupid laws and things that happen, but here there's absolute proof that something has taken place, that somebody has done something, and then, all of a sudden something comes up, an objection by a counsel, and it's like, "Oh, that's to be stricken from the record." Now, you've already heard it. You've already seen it. Maybe you've even seen a video of it, you know, so-and-so used a knife, and it's very clear what they did with it, but you can't use this because they, maybe, brought up some technicality of something that is prejudicial. And you think of some of the stupid, stupid laws that are out there. And it's like, the jury, "You're not to use this." It's like you're to be brain dead. "Don't remember this. Don't use this in your thinking, in your judgment when you go back and decide this case."

But for us in God's Church, you see something, you have to do what is right before God, if that were the case, if you had to come down to a decision. So again, courts are not about a matter of absolute morals and a relationship with God Almighty, and so that's why things like this are stated and why, in the Church basically, that's the primary principle, that we don't serve on juries because it doesn't agree. There are going to be conflicts with God's law at times because we don't live by man's.

Anyway, I want to stop there today on the flow of the sermon here. But I do want to read just a little bit more news and things that are going on in the world. Sometimes you wonder how on earth things can keep going. This year, we're in for an incredible year. We don't know which direction it's going to go. We have to be prepared, we have to be ready, but this world really is positioned in a way that's mind-boggling. I don't know how it can go on. But if it's God's purpose that it does, and we're to go through something in order to get to that point, then so be it. But we have to be prepared, and that's why I'm going through some of these things, to help us to realize we have to keep on our toes on a spiritual plane in a relationship with God. Because things can happen anytime, especially because of what's getting ready to take place now, a change in government. It's not just happening here. It's happening around the world. It's happening in Europe in a very strong way right now. And when it happens in Europe, something is generally produced and it doesn't take all that long. But again, it's a matter of God's will and God's purpose, but there are definite things taking place, and we have to be prepared.

Here's one, **“Turkey Outraged At Possible French Presence On Syrian Border.”**¹ You talk about the insanity of mankind. Turkey wants to have this relationship with Syria. And you think of some of the crazy things with Turkey. It's nuts that he's in NATO. It's nuts that they allow it to continue on. It's really insanity when you understand everything that's happening here. Because they have a totally different agenda than what the rest of Europe has, Turkey does, and his is very much Muslim-based and what he believes and what he's going to do and the Muslim religion. Christianity, traditional Christianity up in the continent farther up, they don't mix, they clash. That's what it's coming down to. It's a clash, not just between countries, but it's religious-based, if you will.

He has these concepts, these ideas, the Ottoman Empire, as much as what's coming out of Russia has a concept of the Soviet Union once again. This is the way of human beings and their thinking. So, here he's outraged that the French have a presence on the Syrian border. Well, “Isn't France a great ally? Aren't you a part of NATO? Don't you get along? Don't you have the same principles and intent of what you want to accomplish?” “No.” You think, “How much louder does it have to get?” I'll mention it again, Turkey's in prophecy as betraying Israel. This isn't over with, but it's Israel's folly, the scattered nations, if you will, that's parts of Europe. It's their own folly, because they're allowing this to take place. Stupidity, foolishness, ignorance.

¹ Durden, Tyler via Middle East Eye (2025 January 10), [Turkey Outraged At Possible French Presence On Syrian Border | ZeroHedge](#)

“Nord Stream Pipeline Should Be Re-launched - German Chancellor Candidate.”² It says here: “The AfD,” which I mentioned last week, the Alternative for Deutschland, “members met in the town of Riesa on Saturday to formally approve Weidel as the candidate to succeed Chancellor Olaf Scholtz, whose coalition,” we're talking about swing to the right in a very powerful way and more of them are swinging to the right throughout parts of Europe right now, just as they are here, “government collapsed last year. Weidel's nomination marks the right-wing AfD's first bid for the chancellery in its 11-year history. In a speech after the nomination vote, Weidel promised to implement harsh immigration policies.”

I like the way some of these sometimes phrase things, “they're harsh.” Okay, I think of some who feel like what's getting ready to take place here, with people who, you think of one group, the insanity of the use of words, “illegal.” It's like you can't use that word, you know, and yet it's illegal. What country allows people to come in? What country, without laws, and having to go through a process? But we've lived through a period here that really is insane. It's mind-boggling what has taken place, and it has its toll, and it has its ramifications, and it has its divisiveness in a very powerful way, far more than what we can grasp at this point.

Here it's talking about something that's happening over there, that they have allowed millions and millions, for years and years, to keep coming up into Europe. And you know what they found out? Traditional Christianity and the Muslim world, they clash. Bad, if you will. They don't mix. It doesn't matter. It just doesn't mix. It's caused incredible problems because along with that comes incredible prejudices: jobs, ability to hold down a job, and if you don't hold down a job, what do you turn to? And so, they have all kinds of crime and so forth. There's a lot of that that's come up.

Now there's a backlash on that, that's turning to the far right, especially, especially in Germany. It is in other parts of Europe as well, but the Germans have a tendency to react differently. We have a history of that, to certain things that they don't like. And this, they don't like. So again here, it goes on to say here, “Weidel's nomination marks the right-wing AfD's first bid for the chancellery in its 11-year history. In a speech, after the nomination vote, Weidel promised to implement harsh immigration policies, including the ‘re-migration’ of immigrants already living legally in Germany...” So, they're dealing with something that, they are legal, because they allow them in legally, and now they want to send them back.

“...and to scrap Scholz's green policies in a bid to drive down energy prices.” So again, this green stuff... I'm sorry, I think of some crazy stories, Soylent Green. Anyway, that's what I think of when I think of some of these green things. But again, insanity! This thing with having to get rid of cars with gasoline and the things we've had to deal with over here, they've been dealing with in Europe, because it primarily has come out of Europe more than it did even over here, but there are those who got on the bandwagon over here and, “Yeah, yeah, yeah.”

² World News (2025 January 11), [Nord Stream pipeline should be relaunched — German chancellor candidate — RT World News](#)

And so we have these clashes going on all over the world and people turning to extreme; extreme right, extreme left. It's just that the right is gaining the upper hand right now. I think what a wonderful world when we don't have this kind of garbage anymore. Politics, some of the shenanigans that go on, some of the stupidity that goes on, sometimes you scratch your head, you think, "How can this be?" Some of the things in the legal system, I could go on and on, and I don't want to, but I can't help myself. You think of all these people that go into these courts and then they let them go? You talk about a demoralized law enforcement. Why do your job? If that's what you're there to do, to bring them in, and then they're just let go, and you hear some of these things sometimes, how many times; 50, 60 times they've been brought in? You think "How could that even be possible?" But we live in a world where that which is insane is possible right now. And it's getting ready to blow up because of that. Because this is affecting the minds of Europe in a very powerful way to where they're reacting, powerfully. It goes on to say here: "Immigrants already living legally in Germany - and to scrap Scholz's green policies in a bid to drive down energy prices."

They even quit producing diesel vehicles, in some cases, because of the green stuff, policies. And one Feast, I guess two years ago here, they had flags in the Netherlands, upside down along fields, because they're wanting to get away from agricultural things in a certain way. Insane what's taking place, but a rebellion against the government because they want to go green, they don't want to have cattle raised anymore. Here it is the country of cheese! And they want to get rid of cattle because of gas that comes from animals. It's like, "We don't want them in the Netherlands anymore and we don't want to do certain things with fields anymore. We don't want this raised, or that as a crop." People are being told these crazy things. And so you think, "Well, where are you going to make your cheese from? And you're just going to rewrite history, now, what are you going to do?" I'm sorry, people are getting tired of the crazy, I'll tell you.

So he said "Restoring energy ties to Russia is vital to this latter goal." See the thinking here? "Because of what's happened, we're suffering, and because of the lines that were destroyed and things that took place, we've got to get them going again. This is killing us. This is hurting our industry. It's hurting our own private lives. We're cold." Anyway, it does something to the mind if you have to suffer for a while. And so, they've suffered enough, they feel. They want to have this, a better relationship. Because the feeling is, things were better with Russia, it was going pretty good until all these stipulations from the United States began to come in, because that's what happened. "You have to do this, you have to..." Anyway, people are being tired of told what to do. He says, "We will put Nord Stream back into operation, you can count on it." Awesome! You think, "You're starting to change your attitude." See, this is this is an attitude as well. I hope we understand, against the United States. A desire to go against the United States to make a relationship better with Russia.

Another article here, **“Zelensky, A Beggar And Blackmailer - EU States PM.”**³ “Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico has lashed out at Vladimir Zelensky, declaring that the Ukrainian leader’s ‘begging and blackmailing’ needs ‘to stop.’ Relations between Bratislava and Kiev soured when Ukraine cut off the flow of Russian gas earlier this month.” So add to the other pipeline, this one here now, that Ukraine stopped the gas coming in, it’s like, “You've gone too far. We've been giving you all this help, and now you're cutting off our supply because you want to punish Russia? You're punishing us!” There are these attitudes that are changing quite quickly.

He went on to say, “‘I'm not here to hold hands with Zelensky, and I'll admit, I'm sick of him sometimes.’” See, a huge swing here, of attitudes toward Ukraine now. About the only one that's really standing up for them, which is a little mind-boggling at times, is the UK. They're just getting stronger and stronger in their support. So, “Fico said at a meeting of the Slovak parliament’s foreign affairs committee on Friday.” This is another quote from him, “‘He roams Europe begging and blackmailing, asking others for money,’ Fico continued, adding: ‘This needs to stop.’” So just repeating it.

Another article here. We have to understand that these things that are happening between nations over there right now, they're changing their attitude in their mind, primarily toward this country, but also toward themselves. They recognize they need to stand together to fulfill and accomplish some of the things that we know are going to come to pass in time here, but how they do it, they don't even know. But another one here, **“The Political Crisis In France Is About To Get Much Worse.”**⁴ “The entire,” amazing to read stuff like this, “The entire Eurozone is in shambles, and Trump's demands will accelerate the crisis.”

You think that's going to make them happier? If what he decides, what he does makes, in their minds, their dilemma even worse? Because they want, they want a union. There are people there that want the union to succeed. They want the euro to succeed and yet the euro just keeps dropping. And you think, sooner or later things come to a point where they're not going to continue the way they are. That's what they're being pushed into. “One seriously must wonder if that is his real goal. The technocrat French Prime Minister proposes the same budget that collapsed the prior French government. How is that supposed to work?” Anyway, they’re having their problems over there, economically and everything else, but it’s changing their attitude and their spirit, their thinking amongst themselves, as well as towards other countries.

³ World News (2025 January 11), [Zelensky ‘a beggar and blackmailer’ – EU state’s PM — RT World News](#)

⁴ Durden, Tyler, Authored by Mike Shedlock via MishTalk.com (2025 January 12), [The Political Crisis In France Is About to Get Much Worse | ZeroHedge](#)

AfD again here, this Alternative for Deutschland, **“AfD Delegates Reject Motion Condemning Putin.”**⁵ Amazing, they're not going to condemn him. “Known for its anti-immigration stance, the AfD is the second most popular party in Germany, according to polls. The party has often been accused of parroting Russian narratives about the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.”

So there's a lot of conflict. Who's at fault? Who's really at fault in some of these things? And sadly, when you get into some of it, there have been a lot of shenanigans, even within this country, to realize what's actually happening over there in the Ukraine, and it's a mess. It really is, nobody can fix it. “The party has rejected the ‘pro-Russian’ label, insisting that continuing military support for Kiev and sanctions on Russia, trade and energy exports are counter to German national interests.”

This is what more people in Germany are beginning to feel. So, what we need to see and understand is this swaying of the thinking, because Germany is always at the helm of these things, and will be at this one here, along with France, as a whole has been, but powerful. “During the recent conversation with tech billionaire Elon Musk, AfD co-leader Alice Weidel argued that the EU has abandoned diplomatic efforts in favor of dangerous confrontation with Russia.” See, they understand how close it's getting to Russia continually being pushed, that someday they can use a weapon in the Ukraine and then this puts them in a position far, far worse of what they may have to face then. So, for them their thinking is, “Push it farther away from us, instead of supporting it like we have been.” Anyway, that's why, when it comes down to, as an example, the Fifth Trumpet, they do what they do, because it's a matter of, “Where do you want the war?” and they do not want it on the European continent when you talk about nuclear weapons. They will make choices and decisions because of that. So again here, “AfD co-leader Alice Weidel argued that the EU has abandoned diplomatic efforts in favor of dangerous confrontation with Russia. The conflict ‘could escalate big time toward a nuclear exchange.’” So, they're fearful of that. Rightly so.

“German Chancellor Scholz Blocks €3 Billion Arms Package To Ukraine Ahead Of Election.”⁶ It's already starting, more and more. Another one here, **“Trump's Talk To Expansion Puts World Leaders On Alert.”**⁷ “President-elect Trump's talk of territorial expansion has rattled world leaders at an already precarious time in global politics. Trump doubled down last week on his suggestion that the U.S. buy Greenland, take control of Panama Canal and make Canada the 51st state.”

“He declined to rule out military or economic coercion against either Greenland or the canal. And he said he was open to using economic force on America's neighbor to the north.” Now, the thing is this, this affects other people's thinking in other countries and other parts of the world. It's not just about over

⁵ World News (2025 January 12), [AfD delegates reject motion condemning Putin — RT World News](#)

⁶ Durden, Tyler, Brooke, Thomas via Remix News (2025 January 13), [German Chancellor Scholz Blocks €3 Billion Arms Package To Ukraine Ahead Of Election | ZeroHedge](#)

⁷ Mueller, Julia (2025 January 12), [Trump's Talk of Greenland, Canada, Panama Expansion Rattles Leaders](#)

here, but things that are said that world leaders wonder what's next. So it forces them to think in a different pattern of what they're going to. "Leaders in the targeted regions and elsewhere have pushed back against the suggestions, even as experts are still largely undecided how much stock to put in Trump's threats. That kind of guessing game, experts say, isn't good for global security as Trump heads into his second term. Uncertainty is bad in international affairs." In this case, that's true. It's uncertainty in Europe, and it's causing them to think differently, being pushed into a corner. "You want to know that your allies are with you, and your enemies need to know that you're resolute against them."

Another article here, **"Urgent Warning To Americans As Key Economic Indicator Hits Highest Level Since 2008 Financial Crisis."**⁸ "U.S. corporate bankruptcies hit their highest level since the 2008 financial crisis as Americans tightened their belts. Companies have also increasingly been grappling with high rising debts - driven by high interest rates that caused borrowing costs to spike. At least 30 of the last year's bankruptcy filings involve firms with over \$1 billion in liabilities, underscoring the scale of the financial strain. The most high-profile bankruptcies have been among restaurants and retail chains - especially those with locations across America."

Another article, **"Hungary Brands Attempted Strike On Russian Gas Pipeline And Attack On Its Sovereignty."**⁹ They're saying the Ukraine has done this. So, it means they're against Ukraine. Scholz stopped that money going into Ukraine. Europe is starting to do this, all except for the UK, so they're pulling back more and more because they realize, "This has not been good to us, not helping us."

Another one here, **"China Constructing 'D-Day' Style Barges For Possible Taiwan Invasion."**¹⁰ "If these barges have their long roadway bridging systems on them that can go over the beaches to firmer land further back, this creates a new and interesting problem, said Eric Gomez, a senior fellow at the Cato Institute of International Security Think Tank. The areas of the Taiwanese military would be expected to suddenly become much more numerous. It could put a lot of stress on their defensive abilities." So, all over the world, people are preparing for war because they know it's coming. It's just a matter of time. It's not a matter of "if," it's a matter of "when." And so all these things are working together, understandably so, and God is going to bring it together His way in His timing, but that's why we can read news like this and realize this is all over the world, and when it's time, economic and everything else, it'll happen at the same time. Wham!

"Tibet Hit By Two Powerful Aftershocks of Last Week's Earthquake."¹¹ Can't even find that in the news hardly. You try to find something, updates on it and it was like, "Who cares?" 7.1 that rocked there

⁸ Jones, Daniel (2025 January 12), [Urgent warning to Americans as key economic indicator hits highest level since 2008 financial crisis - NewsBreak](#)

⁹ Alunit, Mariel (2025 January 13), [Hungary brands attempted strike on Russian gas pipeline an attack on its sovereignty - Energy News Beat](#)

¹⁰ Smith, Benedict (2025 January 12), [China constructing 'D-Day style' barges for possible Taiwan invasion](#)

¹¹ Reuters Business/Environment (2025 January 13), [Tibet hit by two powerful aftershocks of last week's earthquake | Reuters](#)

and all the damage it was done, and it's like, "The world doesn't care." **"Virus Leads To 'Severe Pneumonia in Days' As People Claim 'It's Worse Than 2022.'"**¹² That's all we need, you know, something else coming on and sweeping again and people going nuts. Here's another article. **"Make Greenland Great Again': Trump's House GOP Allies Unveil Bill to Authorize Country's Purchase."**¹³ So these things you just look at and you don't know whether to laugh or cry.

Another article here. **"NATO Boss Warns Members to Start Learning Russian."**¹⁴ Crazy! "While two thirds of NATO members are now meeting the bloc's 2014 target of spending 2% on their gross domestic product (GDP) on the military, it is not enough to protect them from Moscow,' Rutte alleged. 'We are safe now, but not in 4-5 years,' Rutte said. 'So if you don't do it, get out your language courses or go to New Zealand. Or decide now to spend more. I just want to spend more money.' Rutte added. 'I'm not committed to a new number, just saying that 2% is not nearly enough.' The U.S. currently accounts for 60% of NATO's military spending at the moment. Without Washington, the European NATO members would need to boost their expenditures up to 10% of their GDP, which is unrealistic, Rutte acknowledged"

I mean, some of the stuff you read. So, do you think they feel caught between two wedges or a vice grip, if you will. Another one, **"Azerbaijan Signalled That It Might Be Preparing Its Own Special Operation Against Armenia."**¹⁵ This back and forth, all these countries around the world, they've all decided what they're going to do when the time comes. Another one here, **"Untangling The Transatlantic Knot: Germany, France And The United States."**¹⁶ It goes on to say here, this is the *German Marshall Fund of the United States*. "The re-election of Donald Trump forces Germany and France to rethink their respective transatlantic relations and Euro-American relations more generally. Berlin and Paris can together create a strong basis for a European transatlantic strategy. Europeanize NATO: There is no alternative to Europeanizing NATO. The new U.S. administration will be much more demanding when it comes to European defense spending and responsibility for European security. Europeans must take the military and strategic lead if they want to preserve NATO.

Reading through these fast, but that's the way they're starting to think. They understand this, that they can't depend, they can't rely, basically, on anything the United States does. They have to do their own thing. This is the very thing that leads into what we know is coming. "In Republican circles, the idea of a *'dormant NATO'* is gaining traction and members of the Democratic Party who see the Indo-Pacific as the

¹² Burleigh, Eleanor (2025 January 13), [Virus leads to 'severe pneumonia in days' as people claim 'it's worse than 2022' - World News - News - Daily Express US](#)

¹³ Elkind, Elizabeth (2025 January 13), ['Make Greenland Great Again': Trump's House GOP allies unveil bill to authorize country's purchase | Fox News](#)

¹⁴ World News (2025 January 13), [NATO boss warns members to start learning Russian — RT World News](#)

¹⁵ Korybko, Andrew (2025 January 13), [Azerbaijan Signalled That It Might Be Preparing Its Own Special Operation Against Armenia – Voice of East](#)

¹⁶ Weber, Gesine & Ross, Jacob (2025 January 13), [Untangling the Transatlantic Knot: Germany, France, and the United States | German Marshall Fund of the United States](#)

United States' foreign policy priority and are sympathetic to this idea. Instead of aiming for a full withdrawal of the United States from European security, this model implies that Washington contributes to European security via the nuclear umbrella and maritime capabilities, whereas Europeans manage logistics, weaponry, and infantry. France and Germany could contribute to designing the burden-sharing within the alliance in a way that makes continuous engagement an added value for Washington.”

So again here, all the struggle that's taking place. I'll stop there.