

HEAR THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

First Assembly of God

FREE

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Colmesneil, Texas

Colmesneil, P.O. Box 496 Texas 75938

Volume 17 Issue 4 "A Christian Newspaper"

The Mystery of Iniquity; Part II

Message by: Leroy Surface

Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, that ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

II Thessalonians 2:1-8

The Mystery of Iniquity Revealed

7. "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way." The "mystery of iniquity" is actually not such a great mystery. The easiest way to understand it is to see it as the counterpart of the "mystery of godliness," which is revealed in I Timothy 3:16; "God was manifest in the flesh," which speaks of Christ Jesus, as well as every child of God in whom Christ has His life. So it is with the "mystery of iniquity." In verses nine and ten of this same chapter (chapter 2), Paul will define the mystery as "the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders...in them that perish."

"...only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way." Again, the apostle is speaking of himself and the other apostles of Christ. They would hinder the working of the Satan in the churches as long as

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IS THERE ANY HOPE?

Message by: Kirbbie L. Cowart

First, the "Bad News"

I will tell you the things that I believe we will see more of this coming year if we don't see a move of God with men and women turning to Jesus Christ with all their hearts. We will see more drug and alcohol abuse, and we will see a rise in crime. There will be more government sponsored "end of life programs," which will be nothing more than "mercy killings," although they will not be called by that name. I believe we will see more civil unrest in this country than we have seen since the civil war. We could see food and gas shortages like we have never seen in our lifetime, and there will be more natural disasters, each of them taking billions of dollars out of the American economy.

The "Good News" for Those Who Repent

I do believe we could see the greatest year in the past sixty years if we will repent and return to our God, the Father of Jesus Christ, who has kept His hand on this nation. We as a nation must remember from where we have fallen and, from the least to the greatest of us, we must repent and turn from our sins. Repentance must begin in the "House of God" and continue until it reaches our town halls, our state houses, and all the way to the White House.

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they lived in the flesh. After they were gone, however, the apostles knew that the false teachers that were creeping into the churches would have fertile ground in which their apostate doctrines would flourish. The apostles were eventually *"taken out of the way"* by the hands of those who hated the truth of the gospel of Christ.

8. **"And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:"** This verse spans a time frame of at least two thousand years with *"many antichrists (I John 2:18)"* being revealed throughout the centuries of time. The words *"and then"* refers to immediately after Paul and the other apostles were *"taken out of the way."* The *"brightness of His coming"* refers to the second coming of Jesus Christ.

"...that Wicked (shall) be revealed..." Notice that Paul refers to *"that Wicked,"* and does not say *"that wicked one."* There are six places in the New Testament that speak of the *"wicked one,"* and in each instance it is a reference to Satan. In none of these places, however, is the word *"one"* found in the Greek text. The word *"wicked"* in these six verses is a noun, and in each of them it speaks of our adversary, the devil. It is an error to believe that a man called *"the antichrist"* is waiting to be revealed in the last days. It is a fable of religious tradition that says Satan is going to birth a son by a human mother who will be *"the antichrist."* Are we to believe there is going to be another *"virgin birth,"* this time with Satan as the father? Many people believe that it has already happened, and that *"the antichrist"* is ready to appear at any time. Almost everyone has their *"candidate"* for antichrist. We should understand that today, just as it was in the day the apostle John first spoke of antichrist, there are *"many antichrists."* The apostle John is the only one in the scriptures to speak of antichrist. He never uses the term *"the antichrist."* That term is not found in the KJV Bible even once. In **I John 4:3** the apostle speaks of *"the spirit of antichrist"* saying, *"even now already is it in the world."* In **I John 2:18** he tells us, *"even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time."* Did the apostle understand that the *"last times"* would continue for two thousand years? That is very doubtful. What he did understand, however, is that the *"spirit of antichrist"* was at work in his day, and that there were *"many antichrists."* These were the false teachers and false prophets that Satan could use to spread his lie. John never spoke of a world leader or a political figure as being *"the antichrist."* Instead, he identified those religious teachers who deny that *"Jesus is the Christ"* as being *"antichrist" (I John 2:18-22)*. In **I John 4:1-3**, he identifies the *"many false prophets"* as having the *"spirit of antichrist,"* and in **II John 1:7**, he says, *"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist."* These few verses in the first and second epistles of John are the sum total of everything the scripture has to say about antichrist. Everything else that people think they know about one called *"the antichrist"* was added by the traditions of men, and is not true.

Satan is *"that Wicked"* which John refers to. He is *"revealed"* when he finds human vessels to work through. Many theologians deny that Satan could be in more than one place, or work through more than one vessel at a time. Such thinking is truly ridiculous, because *"the spirit of antichrist,"* which is none other than the spirit of Satan, fills the world today. He sits in the seats of the governments of this world and he also, *"as God, sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God" (verse four)*. When the apostle Paul was alive and proclaiming the truth of Jesus Christ to the world, the *"temple"* was still standing and in daily use in Jerusalem. With that in mind, why did the apostle write these words to the Corinthians? *"Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, WHICH TEMPLE YE ARE" (I Corinthians 3:16-17)*. In **I Corinthians 6:19-20** he writes, *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and*

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IS THERE ANY HOPE?

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If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

II Chronicles 7:14

We as the citizens of this great country must run to our places of worship and fall on the altar asking for God forgiveness. **Yes!** We could see one of the greatest spiritual renewals in America history. **Yes!** We could see the greatest renewal of the family and family values in the history of America. **Yes!** It's not all *"gloom and doom"* in the future, **"IF"** and only **"IF"** we take the dust off of our *"Holy Bible"* and read it for our self to see what God is saying to us, and *do what he said to do* in his word. Don't just take my word for this; open your Holy Bible and do what Jesus has told us to do and be blessed; if not *"don't even look"* for the blessings of God to come upon you, because they will not.

I know that many people in the past have predicted the end of the world or the rapture of the church and nothing happened. This is because the scripture says no man knows *"the day or the hour."* **"Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh"** (Matthew 25:13).

We do not know the date or the time the Lord will come back because the scripture said so. **"Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh"** (Matthew 24:44). I know the word rapture is not in the Holy Bible but *"caught up"* is. **"I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words"** (I Thessalonians 4:13-18).

This is our HOPE!

Most people are not interested in knowing what the Holy Bible has to say about the end of time. All they are interested in is what is going on in their lives today. It is time to wake up out of our sleep because the storm clouds are getting darker and the ruin of America is upon us. Wake up, get up, take your family by the hand, and run for your lives ...to the rock of our salvation.

"He shall cry unto me, Thou art my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation" (Psalm 89:26). **"But the Lord is my defence; and my God is the rock of my refuge"** (Psalm 94:22). **"O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation"** (Psalm 95:1).

We here at First Assembly of God of Colmesneil would like to invite you and your family to come and worship with us. If you have ever asked yourself the question, *"Where can I go to hear the true gospel preached without it being watered down?"* ...**this is the place.**

Call us at: 409-837-5706 or 832-401-5773

The Mystery of Iniquity; Part II

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in your spirit, which are God's." And again in **II Corinthians 6:16**, "What agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." The young man Stephen, who was stoned to death because of his testimony of Jesus which he gave before the Sanhedrin court, said in his testimony, "...the Most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands" (**Acts 7:48**). Paul, when giving his testimony of Jesus before the scholars at Mars Hill in Athens, said, "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things" (**Acts 17:24-25**).

Paul went to great lengths to show that the temple at Jerusalem, even while it was yet standing and used daily as a place of worship, was not the Temple of God. He established that the church of Jesus Christ is the true "Temple of God," and that the bodies of the people are the "Temple of the Holy Ghost." Why would he teach the tradition that is believed by most people today, that almost two thousand years after the temple at Jerusalem was destroyed by Titus of Rome, in what Jesus Himself called "the days of vengeance" (**Luke 21:22**); why would Paul teach that a temple would have to be rebuilt in Jerusalem before "the man of sin, the son of perdition," whom Paul in this verse calls "that Wicked," could sit "in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God?" It is obvious, when we see what Paul knew the temple of God to be, that he speaks of a time after his departure when Satan, working through false teachers, would succeed in setting his seat in the house of God and be ignorantly worshiped by many in the church.

Both Paul and Peter died a martyr's death at Rome during Nero's persecution of the church. Before their "departure" they had both warned against the false teachers and false apostles that would creep into the churches in the absence of them and the other apostles. All the other apostles, with the exception of John, were martyred during the same time period. Satan was "standing in the wings," waiting for the apostles to be "taken out of the way" so they could no longer hinder him in his ambition to be "god" in the church. In **Isaiah 14:13-14**, Lucifer's (Satan's) ambition is revealed; "For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will BE LIKE the most High." Satan's "plan a" was to ascend into heaven and take the place of God on the throne; however, because of Jesus Christ, his "plan a" failed completely. In **Hebrews 2:14** Paul speaks of Jesus, saying, "...through death, He (Jesus, for the true believer) destroyed he that had the power of death, that is, the devil." Satan was cast out of heaven when the blood of Christ was shed at Calvary. It took the blood of the Son of God to defeat Satan in heaven, and it takes that same blood to defeat him on earth. "And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death" (**Revelation 12:11**).

Satan's "plan b" is revealed in the words I have highlighted at the top of the above paragraph; "I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north." These words define the location of Solomon's temple in Jerusalem, which was still standing in the days of Isaiah. Satan succeeded in establishing his throne in that temple. The proof of this was seen by the prophet Ezekiel when God took him in a vision to the temple in Jerusalem to show him why the presence of God was departed from the temple, and why Jerusalem and the temple must be destroyed. The first abomination was an idol, which God called an "image of jealousy," which stood in the entry gate to the altar. The second abomination was the discovery of a "secret chamber" in which the seventy elders of Israel offered incense to images of creeping creatures and abominable beasts that were portrayed on the walls. Next, he found the women of Jerusalem, sitting in the northern door of the temple, worshiping Tammuz, the god of flocks. Last, but not least, he found the young men in the temple, between the porch and the altar, facing the east and wor-

shipping the rising sun. God's Spirit had long since departed from the temple, and Satan had succeeded in his ambition to "sit" in it.

Since the time Christ redeemed His church at Calvary and God poured His Spirit into it on the Day of Pentecost, the church of Jesus Christ has been the "Temple of God." Never again will there be a building that qualifies to be called the Temple of God. When John saw the vision of the holy Jerusalem in **Revelation 21:22**, he wrote, "I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it." It is in this interim period of time (almost two thousand years from then until now) that Satan has worked continuously to show himself to be god, even in the church which is called by the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"...whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth..." Immediately after the deaths of the apostles, even before the first century of the church had passed, the "church" began its rapid slide into the dark ages of apostasy. Within the third century, the slide was complete when Constantine, the emperor of Rome, took up the banner of the cross to make war against the pagan nations and force them into "Christian" baptism at the point of the sword. The pope in Rome declared himself to be infallible, and began a reign of terror over the consciences of men that continued for over twelve hundred years until the times of the reformation of the sixteenth century. The sword of man had never succeeded against the apostate church, but "the spirit of His mouth" did. When men like Martin Luther began to stand boldly against the errors of the church with the truth of God on their lips, the apostate church, that first deadly "beast" of the **thirteenth chapter of Revelation**, received a deadly wound in one of its heads. The "truth" that Luther preached was simply this, "the just shall live by faith." No longer could the "fear of death" hold the entire world in bondage to a man who declared himself to be the "vicar of Christ," because they could have "life" through trusting in Christ, who "loved us and gave Himself for us" (**Galatians 2:20**). Were the popes of the Dark Age's antichrist? Yes, they were, because it was the "spirit of antichrist" that worked in them. Sadly, however, the reformation was not the end of the apostate church. It did, however, give a "deadly wound" to its head, but the scripture tells us that the "wound" was healed. Martin Luther, John Calvin, and other reformation ministers sought only to "reform" an apostate church, when they should have totally abandoned its doctrines and sought out the original foundation of the church as laid by the apostles of Jesus Christ. The truth is, they loved the apostate church. They made the same mistake the children Israel made after the seventy years of Babylonian captivity. Even in their captivity, they learned to love their captors. The prophet Jeremiah records, "We would have healed Babylon, but she is not healed: FORSAKE HER, and let us go every one into his own country: for her judgment reacheth unto heaven, and is lifted up even to the skies" (**Jeremiah 51:9**). Martin Luther had no intention of destroying the Catholic Church. He sought only to correct a few of its errors. He did not forsake the church; instead, the "church" forsook him. It excommunicated him and condemned him to death with a decree that anyone could slay him at any time in any place with the sanction of the church. Luther and the other reformers truly dealt the "beast" a deadly wound to the head, but contained in their "reform doctrines" was the seed of the next apostasy, which would not be seen in its fullness until many years later.

I believe that Martin Luther was a great man of God, at least in the early days of the reformation. He was willing to lay his life down for the truth that God had shined into his heart, and God preserved his life to fulfill the mission He had given him to do. Luther's revelation of justification by faith was only the first plank of the true foundation of the church, however. Others would follow who would receive even greater light of truth. The Moravian revival that began with the aid of Count Zinzendorf of Germany brought a greater insight into the truth than Luther understood. Their revelation was also very simple, which was expressed in these words, "Saving faith brings both holiness and happiness." John Wesley was brought to true salvation by the gospel preaching of Peter Bohler, a Moravian evangelist, and went on to impact the western world with his message of "sanctification by grace." Out of the sanctified revival came the Pentecostal revival of the early twentieth century. Each of these movements received more light from God than the one preceding, but

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sadly, as has been the case with every true move of God, the Pentecostal revival, which I am a product of, has also seen a "falling away," i.e., an "apostasy" among its ranks. This cycle of revival and falling away has repeated itself several times since the reformation, until, at this present time there is very little evidence in the world of a true move of God.

"...and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming." With these words, Paul lets it be known that the apostasy, which would come soon after the apostle's departure, would be in its fullest manifestation at the return of Jesus Christ to this earth. While the preaching of the truth of the gospel of Christ will hinder its flow in the world and destroy its working in those who receive the "love of the truth (verse ten)" and the "faith of Christ" (Galatians 2:16), only the soon coming of Jesus Christ will absolutely destroy the mystery of iniquity, when Satan is bound and cast into the bottomless pit for a thousand years (Revelation 20:2-3).

9. "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders..." The words "even him" are not found in the Greek text, but were added to indicate "that Wicked" whose coming is "after the manner of the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders." With these words, we understand that the "mystery of iniquity" is the working of Satan, the "antichrist spirit" in and through human vessels, in the exact manner that the Holy Spirit of God works in and through His ministers. The structure of this verse is very similar to Ephesians 1:19, which speaks of the working of the Holy Ghost both in Christ and in those who have received the Spirit of Christ; "...the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to (after the manner of) the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead...."

I received a vision from the Lord in July of the year 1969. I saw a spirit in the form of a bird come upon a woman who represented the church. My first thought was of the Holy Ghost that descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove (Matthew 3:16-17). I even heard a voice speaking to the woman, saying, "Thou art a son of God." I was amazed at the things I was seeing and hearing, and, at the first believed it to be a wonderful thing. It was not long, however, before the woman began to exalt herself, telling the people to "Look to me! I am the one the spirit came upon; Look to me! I am the one the voice spoke to." I wondered (in the vision), "how can she have a wrong spirit when I saw the Spirit come upon her exactly as it did Jesus?" It was at this point that God, in the vision, told me about a false spirit that was coming to the churches, and many of them would receive it as the Holy Ghost. He pointed out to me that I did not see a "dove," and I did not hear a "voice from heaven." He made me to know that, "As there are many birds, but only one dove, so are there many voices, but only one word of God, and, that there are many spirits, but only one Holy Ghost." As the Spirit lifted from me and I came out of the vision, I heard these words from Revelation 18:2: "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every UNCLEAN AND HATEFUL BIRD."

These things were already beginning in the churches of that day, but the vision served to awaken me to see them and to warn, as many as would hear, of the things that were soon to come. The apostle John saw these same things in his vision, Revelation 13:11; "And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon." John's vision of the first beast, Revelation 13:1-10, was of the first apostate church, which exercised its great power from the third century until the sixteenth century. The second beast, which John saw in Revelation 13:11-18, is the apostasy that is still rising in the church of the twenty first century. It appears as a lamb, but its voice is the voice of the dragon as it teaches "doctrines of devils (I Timothy 4:1)" as the truth of God. It will continue to thrive in the world and come to its fullness until the day that it is "destroyed by the brightness of His coming." Come quickly, Lord Jesus.

I am Pentecostal in experience. I received the baptism of the Holy Ghost fifty five years ago on March 9, 1958. I began to speak in tongues "as

the Spirit of God gave the utterance" (Acts 2:4). Fifty five years later, I still speak in tongues, but only as "the Spirit of God gives the utterance." That was the way of the first century revival, and it was the way of the Pentecostal revival of the first half of the twentieth century. Once again, from the greatest move of God since the first century, there came a "falling away," and by the third generation, many began receiving "another spirit" which claimed to be the "holy Spirit." In the late fifties and the early sixties I began to hear reports of those ministers who were teaching the people how to "speak in tongues." In the late sixties, there were those who were teaching the people how to "be slain in the Spirit," and by the early eighties, those came who claimed they could teach anyone how to operate all nine of the spiritual gifts at will. To be in their services seemed to be a wonderful thing to those who were ignorant of the truth of the word of God and the working of the Holy Ghost, but to those of us who had received the Holy Ghost according to the scriptures, most of us knew that something was very wrong. It was all human activity at best and demonic activity at worst. Then came the laughing revival of the nineties, which was followed by the Todd Bentley phenomenon of the first decade of this century. The "revival" began to fall into disrepute because of the blatantly demonic activity, which had been there from the beginning, but was coming into its full manifestation.

I said that I am Pentecostal in experience. With that said, I must tell you of the first prophetic words I ever heard from the Spirit of God. It happened on June 21, 1965 as I was attending the wedding of a friend in a Catholic church. I was looking at the images lining both walls of the church. I studied the "stations of the cross" that were depicted on the upper walls. I noticed that the final station of the cross depicted Jesus' dead body being laid in the tomb. I searched for the resurrection scene, and there was none. I had a strong urge as a young indignant Pentecostal preacher to stand and shout, "don't you know that He is alive." I resisted the urge, and as I sat waiting for the wedding to begin, I was still indignant at the "ignorance" of these poor people, when the Holy Ghost spoke these words to me. "In the last days, a harlot will arise out of Pentecost that will be more vile in her affections than the Roman Catholic Church of the dark ages." I was shocked beyond belief. Today I realize that I have seen, not in true Pentecost, but in that which apostatized from it, the arising of the Lamb Beast of the thirteenth chapter of Revelation, and the worst is yet to come.

1 Only unbelief will stop you from doing the supernatural. You must deal with any area of unbelief by increasing your time with God in prayer. You must also fast or decrease your dependency on your flesh, worldly input, and sensory input. This kind of unbelief only comes out of your heart by prayer and fasting [Matthew 17:19-21, Mark 9:29].

2 You must recognize that even Jesus was limited by an environment of unbelief [Mark 6:6, Matthew 13:58, Mark 9:24, Mark 8:32].

2 You must surround yourself with believers when you need to do the impossible [Luke 8:51]. You must deal with your unbelief [Mark 5:36, Luke 8:50]. You must remove the scoffers and the unbelievers as Jesus did [Mark 5:38-40, Matthew 9:24-25]. You must establish an environment of faith by removing the interior and exterior unbelief.

Read The "Shepherds Voice" on our church web-site,



www.colmesneilfirstaog.com

AG News

This Week in AG History — April 1, 1916

Mon, 01 Apr 2013 - 3:38 PM CST

Pandita Ramabai (1858-1922), widely regarded as one of India's most prominent female social reformers and educators, played a significant role in pioneering the Pentecostal movement in India. Pandita came from a privileged family, and she used her education and resources to help the underprivileged of her society.

Despite a cultural proscription on educating girls, Pandita's father, an educator and social reformer, taught her to read and write Sanskrit. By the age of 12, she memorized 18,000 verses of the Puranas, which were important Hindu religious texts. She became a noted Hindu scholar and was fluent in seven languages.

At a young age, Pandita devoted her life to helping widows and orphans, who were often despised and mistreated in her society. Pandita attended college in England, where she joined the Church of England. While traveling in the slums of London, she learned to distinguish between the institutional church and the "religion of Jesus Christ." She returned to India and established homes for dispossessed widows and children and also fought for social reform, including provision of quality healthcare and education.

Despite being marginalized by other social reformers who argued that her agenda was too radical, Pandita maintained her social vision for India, which was consistent with her Christian testimony. She weathered criticism and even became bolder in her efforts, founding additional orphanages and a home for prostitutes. Importantly, Pandita's social ministries cared for both the body and the soul. They sheltered, educated, and fed women and children, and they also taught Christian doctrine and nurtured a generation of new Christians.

Pandita realized that some things will only change through prayer. In January 1905, she issued a call to prayer, and 550 women began meeting twice daily for intercessory prayer. That summer, Pandita sent 30 young women out into the villages to preach the gospel. These young female preachers were successful, and on June 29, 1905, they reported

an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which included several being "slain in the Spirit" and experiencing a burning sensation. This Indian revival continued for several years. By 1906, participants were also began receiving the gift of speaking in tongues. According to Pandita, on a daily basis, the girls at the orphanage in Mukti prayed for more than 29,000 individuals to be baptized in the Holy Spirit so that they might become true and faithful Christian witnesses.

Pandita Ramabai and the revival at the Mukti mission played an important role in the story of the Pentecostal movement's origin in India. Alfred G. Garr, the first missionary sent by the Azusa Street Mission in Los Angeles, recounted his interactions with Pandita in a serialized history of the Pentecostal movement published in the April 1, 1916, issue of the *Pentecostal Evangel*.

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First Assembly of God of Colmesneil, Texas

It will more than just the old Sunday School as usual we are calling it "[Advance Chrisitan Development](#)". We will be addressing the proplem that the youth and young adult are facing today. It will be FUN! FUN! for the student to learn that there are answers too life issues.

[Our new 2013 classes will begin this month](#) with Brother Cowart teaching a class on divorce and marriage recovery and alcohol, drug recovery. It will not be a counseling program but a study right out of the Bible to show you that you can be made free from alcohol and drugs and you can be healed of a broken heart. It will be a [FUN TIME](#) with Brother Cowart. Remember from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm Call to register for these classes. [409-837-4496](tel:409-837-4496) or [832-401-5773](tel:832-401-5773) cell.

Our Sunday worship service will start at 10:30 am and end at 12:00 am. With we now have [CHILDREN CHURCH](#) at that time.

[Sunday Night starts at 6:00 pm](#)- We are believing for miracles and healing on Sunday night. If you need someone to pray for you come expecting a miracle.

**NEED A RIDE? WE ARE
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AG News

Evil or Benign? Video Games Need Parental Monitoring

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With a game controller in his hand, Johnny is blasting away at his opponent in *Call of Duty*, an intense video war game. Just as in other popular action video games such as *World of Warcraft*, *Halo* and *Grand Theft Auto*, it's kill or be killed.

Without question, shoot-'em-up video games have caught the attention of today's youth. But the real question is not whether kids - especially boys - are playing. It's how do these violent video games affect how Johnny views himself and his world? Is Johnny, after shooting his way out of trouble in *Halo*, more likely to act out in frustration at school, punching someone in the hall when angered?

"The jury is still out," says Peg Achterman, communications professor at Northwest University(Assemblies of God) in Kirkland, Washington. "I grew up watching Road Runner, who dropped things on Wile E. Coyote's head all the time. Did it desensitize me? It's hard to say."

The concern isn't just whether someone is more likely to punch someone else, mimicking the violence of the video games.

"It's more whether or not your empathy is controlled," Achterman says.

Achterman argues that a person's ability to feel compassion is undermined by playing violent video games, where death is treated in such a casual manner as players rack up points for kills. There's concern that casual treatment of violence could desensitize people to real-life violence.

But Richard H. Clark, who plays, reviews and blogs about video games on a Christian website, doesn't think playing violent video games turns people into killers.

"It's possible to play almost anything and it not affect you as long as you are aware, vigilant and sober about what it is that you're playing," Clark says. He argues that kids playing the games are able to separate reality from fantasy.

"They see it almost as a sport," says Clark, who writes for the website ChristAndPopCulture.com.

Still, many people worry about a game's consequences.

The American Academy of Pediatrics, in testimony before Congress, concluded that exposure to media violence likely leads to viewing violence as a valid solution for a dispute. The organization also noted pretend violence leads to having a toned-down response to real-life violence, to seeing the world as a dangerous place, and to being more apt to engage in violence.

Clark concedes playing a violent video game such as *World of Warcraft*, where there's lots of role-playing is different. A gamer isn't just passively watching.

"With a video game, you are interacting with it," Clark says. "That fact does change the impact it has."

Nevertheless, video games have not led to an epidemic of youth violence. The rate of juvenile crime in the United States is at a 30-year low. It's true youths who have committed school shootings, big-profile events that have drawn national attention, have been video game players. But 90 percent of boys and 40 percent of girls play video games today.

According to a U.S. Surgeon General's report, the strongest risk factors for youths committing school shootings is related to mental stability and quality of home life, not exposure to video games.

Violence isn't the only concern. Japanese versions of violent video games have a reputation for being more sexual. Team Ninja, a Japanese video game producer, has made women characters in *Dead or Alive* suggestively full-figured, purported to meet the

requests of players.

Stacy Lynn Harp, who has a master's degree in psychology and is co-creator of Active Christian Media website, says games can promote the message of devaluing women - and girls.

"There are games where women are attacked," Harp says. "That can lead to violence against women."

Clark also sees a risk of gamers developing a twisted viewpoint about women by playing certain titles.

"The risks of males playing those kinds of games are that they see females as sex objects," Clark says. "That's a huge risk - viewing women as just to be used."

Experts agree parents play an important role in monitoring video games played by their children. Parents should screen the games, ensuring they are age appropriate (all games are rated). Parents also should further regulate usage by putting time limits on game playing.

Clark says parents can err in policing games by being too strict or too lenient. In their attempt to protect, parents can view video games as problematic and ban them completely. On the other hand, parents can place no restrictions on game usage and allow video games to become, in effect, a babysitter.

"Playing video games can be a valuable way of spending your time, depending on the game and person, especially if games are played with someone else," Clark says.

But there's another dark side to violent video games.

"They can be addictive," Harp says. As a former elementary schoolteacher, Harp saw how her students could be drawn to the games, especially *World of Warcraft*.

"The kids I talked to would spend eight to 10 hours a day playing if they could," Harp says. "Kids would say that in *World of Warcraft* they just had to get to the next level. They were obsessed with that."

Instead of doing homework or playing outside with friends, a youth ends up in front of the computer screen, playing a video game.

Harp says that compulsion can be broken if the child is kept off the game for a couple of days and engages in other activities.

The idea of a dad sitting next to his son playing a video game can be a good idea, leading to some good-natured bonding. Harp says that's fine - as long as the dad isn't obsessed with playing.

"They have to be a good example," she says.

Harp has another suggestion.

"It would be cool if children and parents transitioned to board games, like *Life*, or *Chutes and Ladders*, or *Candyland*."

In those traditional board games, there's more communication and face-to-face time, opposed to screen-to-face time.

Ultimately, parents have the opportunity to have great input into shaping the behavior of their children.

"But if your babysitter is a machine, especially in your children's formative years, then they're going to be a lot like that machine," Harp warns.

Author: Gail Wood, *Pentecostal Evangel*

Proverbs 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

NEEDY PEOPLE ARE NEVER SATISFIED

People who haven't developed their identity become dependent on others to qualify them to feel accepted and needed. This attitude will always exhaust the other person in the relationship. No one is capable of supplying what you need every single day. If you're pretty ... that you're okay... that you're successful, and those you depended upon do not supply you with the confirmations or compliments you so need, you'll blame them for not making you feel good about yourself. No human was designed to supply the qualities of another person. That is a job for the Holy Spirit. God designed us to draw our strength, love, and acceptance from the Holy Spirit. He's the person who will never leave you. He's the person in your life who understands you and who would never expect from you what are unable to supply.

YOUR MIND IS YOUR WORLD

If you don't control your mind, you will never be able to build a healthy confidence. Think defeat, and you will be defeated. Think you're not worthy, and you will not be worthy. Someone once said; "If you think you can or you think you can't, your right!" Start thinking confident thoughts. When you begin to feel confident, you will start to sense a new power surging from your life. Let me stress that focusing on your self-worth must be preceded with focusing on the Lord. Don't attempt any self-focus without first acknowledging the Lord your God. A good self-confidence will aid in building your faith, and faith will recondition your attitude.

"As he thinks in his heart, so is he." Proverbs 23:7 NKJV

"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee." Proverbs 23:7 KJV

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:" Philip. 2:5 KJV

Begin to fill your mind with pleasant throughout your day. Stop feeding your pain. Stop feeding your wound. Allow your pain to create in you a passion to relieve others of their pain. Change your focus. Fill your mind with thoughts of faith, confidence, and security. This will begin to expel those negative and defeated thoughts.

YOU MUST FIGHT YOUR FEAR

Fear is the most deadly of all spirits. Fear will paralyze the greatest of men. Fear is the reason so many fail to change keeping them in their prison of doubt and low self-esteem. Emerson quoted: "Do the thing you fear and the death of fear is certain." Let me encourage you that fear will never leave. Fear can only be conquered. For fear to be conquered, it has to be faced. Stop allowing fear to stop your change. Stop allowing fear to control your life. Fear causes you not to step out... not to try... If you never try, you'll never know. I'd rather try and fail than never to have tried.

But when Jesus heard it, he answered him, saying, Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole. Luke 8:50

Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Luke 12:32

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. Romans 8:15

THE WHOLE DUTY OF MAN

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. Eccles. 12:13

Doing the Supernatural

By: K.L. Cowart

Matthew 17:20

And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Matthew 17:21

Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

- **What is Mustard Seed Faith?**
- **What is Mountain Moving Faith?**
- **Can I Increase My Faith?**
- **How Do I Get More Faith?**
- **How Do I Build My Faith?**
- **What's the Difference between Weak Faith - Little Faith - Strong Faith and Great Faith?**
- **How Come My Faith Doesn't Work?**
- **How Do I Know if My Faith is Working?**

These are the questions that so many Christians are asking? And, the answers are all found in the Word of God.

"For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." [Rom:12:3]

Only unbelief will stop you from doing the supernatural.

"Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief [apistia]: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, moved here to there; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind [of unbelief] goes not out but by prayer and fasting" [Matthew 17:19-21].

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Matthew 5:16

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