

“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

Galatians 5:13

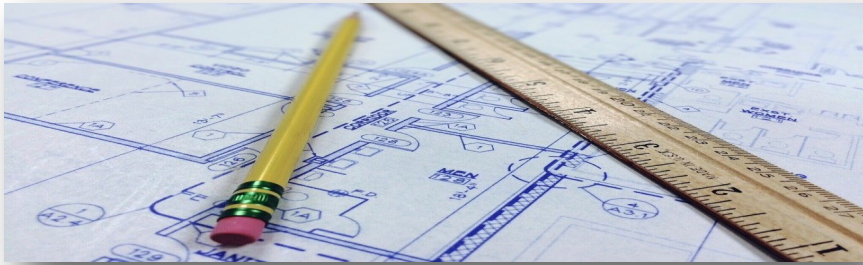


BLUEPRINTS

Reflecting God's Image Outside of Eden

July 2023





Blueprints

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Blueprints offers a bold message of original intent, which is that plan, purpose, and design God has inscribed into the heart of His men and women.

Credits

President & Managing Editor: Ruben Constante, Jr.

Layout & Design: Ruben Constante, Jr.

Staff Writers: Ruben Constante, Jr., Guillermo Quinones, Jr., Joe Carrillo

Contributing Writers: Steven Cervera, Brittany Gray, Jason Cole, Adrian Pasillas, Josh Okoye, Angel Price, Arthur Garcia, Eriac Corley

Blueprints for Living Ministries, Inc.

Ruben Constante, Jr.
P.O. Box 1465
San Marcos, TX 78667

Guillermo Quinones, Jr.
P.O. Box 180642
Dallas, TX 75218

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In her typical manner, Sister Brittany shares an experience she had at a new church she visited last month, and it really hits home!

“Unrecognizable Language” by Israel Noe Garza (p. 16)

Brother Israel has never been one to shy away from confrontation, and in this month’s piece he draws to our attention how badly many pastors have become when it comes to compromise.

“Kidnapping the Truth” by Ruben Constante, Jr. (p. 20)

Jesus was hated for several things, but in the text Brother Ruben mentions in this piece, we see that sometimes hatred, envy, jealousy, and insecurity often...have folks to some very unkind things.” Read this article to see why!

“Torres Reunion Take Away” by Jason Cole (p. 22)

Brother Jason has served as an inspiration to thousands of people, and in this piece he talks about how we all fall and mess up. He and other brothers whom he served with at the Torres unit gathered to meet and share raw stories of setbacks, but in the end God wins.

This publication is sponsored by:





From the Desk of Ruben

We're halfway through 2023, and I can't help but wonder how your New Year's Resolutions have turned out.

I personally am not in the habit of making those type of promises, but I do make it my aim to be better than I was yesterday, or at the very least keep striving to reflect God's image as best I can. Sometimes I do good; sometimes I don't. The one thing I *don't* do is condemn myself.

What about you? Do you kick yourself while you're down? Do you treat yourself worse than your enemies do? Do you truly think that nothing you can ever do will make a difference for yourself?

Well, let me tell you that all that stuff is working for your good. If you are the road of sanctification, then you are daily being stripped of any fleshly things. And those circumstances that you think are trying to destroy you are God's way of making you more like Jesus.

As we enter the month of July, the month we celebrate American independence, think about the freedom God has given you from those things that once held you down. Think about how far you've come, and if you think about quitting just remember you why started in the first place!

Ruben Constante Jr.



Where Is Your Ego Getting In The Way?

DAILY DAD EMAILS

DVIFA DVD EPIVIF?

We live in a world awash with ego. We see it every day. We can see the ego of our boss, and how it has turned the office against them. We can see ego in politicians and professional athletes. We can see it in our kid's teacher, perhaps, when they get in some pissing match with another parent or are threatened by a precious student. As they get older, we can even see ego in our own kids—thinking they can ace a test without studying or advance in sports without practicing.

The laundry list of out of control egos is easy to write. But it's interesting to think that putting it together may in fact be our own ego distracting us from ourselves. Because by focusing on the problems other people's egos are causing we excuse ourselves from looking in the mirror at our own.

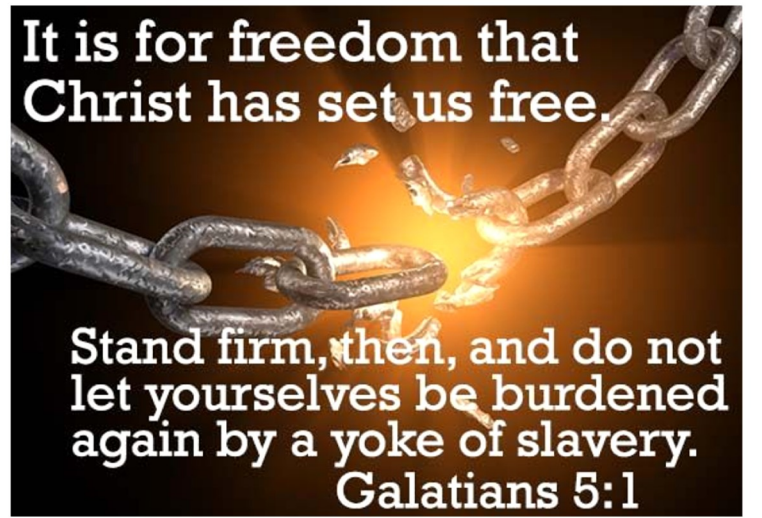
Today and every day, dads should take a moment to just think about where ego is holding them back. Is the power struggle with your teenager actually over anything important or is this just you demanding to be in control? "You can't learn that which you think you already know," Epictetus once said.

The Blueprints classes are growing more in size and in frequency.

Men are starting to learn that they were created in a specific image and for a unique purpose.

And the more they learn about this design, the more they are empowered to set aside the destructive thinking patterns that enslaved them for so long.

These men are being set free from the lies of the Enemy and are being equipped with the Truth of God's word.



**It is for freedom that
Christ has set us free.**

**Stand firm, then, and do not
let yourselves be burdened
again by a yoke of slavery.
Galatians 5:1**



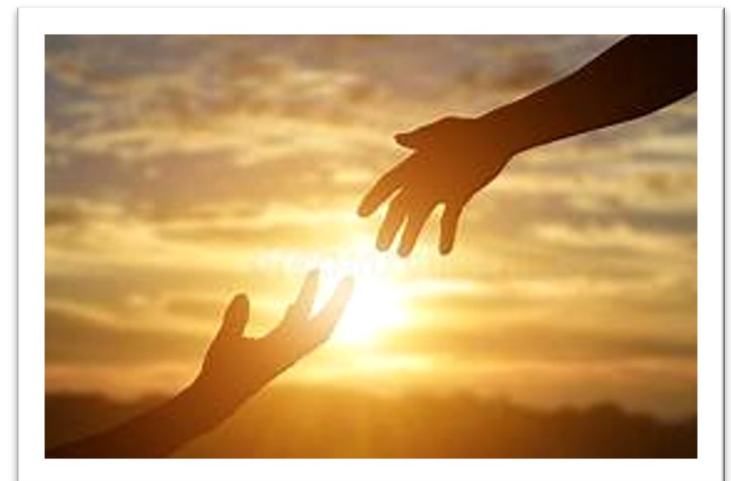
**Don't force
yourself to fit in
somewhere you
don't belong.**

Well, what things are you holding yourself back from learning because you're a know-it-all? The pissing contest *you* got into with a teacher? The pissing contest you're still in with your dad? The hours you work, the money you spend, the car you drive—is there ego tied up in any of these? Any chance it's warping your priorities? Any chance it's getting you into trouble?

Ego is the enemy. Always. Of everything, but especially of the things that really matter in this life: happiness, a family that gets along, improving, contentment, forgiveness, *stillness*.

You know it. So stop thinking about other people and work on yourself.

Taken from Daily Dad: Every Dad Needs a Little Help



10 Reasons Why Integrity Matters


1. *You become reliable.* When you have integrity, people trust and rely on you more.
2. *You become better.* Integrity generally makes you a better person, improving your overall potential.
3. *You have a good reputation.* A lack of integrity means that people may or may not trust your reputation.
4. *You feel at peace.* It's extremely exhausting to compromise your morals just to fit in with the crowd.
5. *You become confident.* Integrity makes you secure and confident in who you are as a person.
6. *You have good relationships.* When you have integrity, all your relationships will follow your good morals.
7. *You sleep well.* Being dishonest can make you feel uneasy, which may lead you to overthink at night.
8. *You become admirable.* There's something to be said about someone who chooses to stick to their morals, no matter how much others pressure them to break.
9. *You become a natural leader.* When integrity is present in your life, leadership potential automatically follows.
10. *You inspire others.* Being a person of integrity inspires those around you to want to be better.



After the music stopped, the Word was over, and we were done praying, the stories began to spill out. Yes, there are many success stories, but I was humbled by the stories of “falling on our faces.” If some people heard the stories, they would call us hypocrites. They would talk about jail house religion. But I appreciated the stories and the honesty. I wish I heard stories like these in a Sunday service. What blessed me was that no matter how bad the stories were, these men have found their way back on the path. Still not perfect but doing their best to walk it out.

As much as I have loved Daniel 1:8 over the years of my studying and preaching, another verse has been more practical and applicable to what we see in everyday life of Christians out here. Proverbs 24:16 “For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again, but the wicked shall fall by calamity.” We aren’t limited to falling only seven times. As we follow Christ, we fall until we are matured and completed. You fall, and you’re going to fall. But what are you going to do after you fall?

Purpose in your heart to get back up again. 🖱



**Your children
don't belong to you.
You're on borrowed time
with them.**

Your mission,
should you choose to accept it,
is to build a better human being;
not to build a mini version of you and
all your deflated hopes and dreams.

Help them become the best THEM
not the best YOU.

— NEAUXNA | TheMindsJournal

THE MINDS JOURNAL

A Testimony from Jayden Besch

Hello, I'll start off by saying God is a miracle worker.

Two years ago, I never would've thought that I would become sober (willingly) for any amount of time. I loved any drug and all alcohol. That was my strongest desire: to be high all the time. My most favorable choice was shooting methamphetamine. It took me down quick. I became a thief too. I was addicted to petty theft. My family is a very loving one. They stuck by me through a lot. I put them through hell.

I believe the Lord put it on their hearts to not give up on me. I grew up going to church but, I didn't care about God or church or anything much except entertaining myself with media and drugs when I got to my preteen years.

Finally, after about 10 years of off and on legal trouble (probation terms, parole, rehab, sanctions, jail) over and over again, I decided something had to change. During my prison sentence I accepted Christ as my Savior, but I still tried to do it my way when I got paroled out.

In a matter of months, I relapsed and picked up a new charge. Then I repented of my relationship of drugs and alcohol. God intervened on my and my family's behalf. I only served nine months in SAFP at the Kyle unit. I should've been gone for the long haul, but by the grace of God I met Ruben and took his blueprint classes every chance I could get. There is

and be different. He said the reason that Daniel and his three friends were able to do so could be found in verse eight of Daniel chapter one. "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies..." Daniel *purposed* in his heart not to defile himself and that is what we must do as well.



I remember reading and studying that as I sat in the Torres prison unit doing my time. I was excited, encouraged, and felt as bold as Daniel. Many years later after leaving prison and joining the "free world," I found out just how hard it is to stick to that idea. I purpose in my mind not to defile myself, but I don't have the discipline to walk that out every day.

This past weekend, we had a Torres reunion. Many of the brothers who did time in Torres showed up to worship, hear the Word, eat, and fellowship. Man, it was so good to see the familiar faces. It was amazing to remember walking with them in a white jumpsuit and seeing them now in nice clothes. We remembered where we came from. We talked about all the things in prison we swore we'd never forget or take for granted. We laughed about how it takes about two weeks of freedom to forget all those very things!

Torres Reunion Take Aways

Jason Cole

Last week at church a special guest speaker came and preached the house down. His topic was on a subject that was one of my very first sermons, so I was anxious to hear what he had to say. He was preaching on Daniel and his three buddies. After they were taken captive as slaves, they were forced to learn the Babylonian culture, language, customs and even were told to eat their food.

Some of the Babylonian foods went against the law that Daniel lived under as a Hebrew. So, Daniel asked to be given a certain time frame to eat the way they were accustomed to and promised they would look better and be in better shape than the other men.

Later, in the book of Daniel we see Daniel's three friends being forced into the fiery furnace for not bowing down to the golden image of the king. God rescues them. Further into the book, Daniel is thrown into the



lion's den for praying to his God. God rescues him as well. The preacher last Sunday was talking to us about having the courage to stand out

so much power in how the Lord uses him. I thank God for the blessings he works through him. I have a year and six months sobriety. I haven't desired a single drug or drink since 11/26/21 (the day after my last arrest). If that's not a miracle I don't know what is. May God bless you and keep you.

Peace, Jayden Besch





When ~~Course~~ Corrections are Needed, God Speaks

Brittany Gray

“But the Lord said, “You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?””

Jonah 4:10-11 NIV

Tried a different church today with a new Pastor Matt Boschen and he spoke on Jonah. Wow! We are all Jonah. What a great reminder!

I don't know about you, but as the human I am—I have gotten—really comfortable with talking and hanging with people who are welcoming, fun, inspiring, and loving. After decades of rejection and being in rooms it was clear I never belonged in or was wanted, I have to admit it has felt

os and just go with the flow. Just like the religious leaders of Jesus' time who were afraid to lose their status before the Roman government due to God's power working in Him, so, too, can some people be so disturbed by God moving in and through a person that they will engage in various schemes to topple them. When a culture that is bent on denying the power of God and when a world of people who cannot stand when they are being overshadowed by the glory of Christ in their midst, bad things always follow.

We must be careful, though, because if we go with this flow and act like the band of brothers who kidnapped Joseph, we become much like a kidnapper of Truth. When we can't stand to see God moving in our midst through someone committed to His cause, we become like those who crucified the Lord of glory. And when we act like that, we are no longer thinking for ourselves but are enslaved to the power of lies and are being controlled by a hellish scheme to undermine the power of God in our midst.

You see, when someone is speaking truth, those in power who are doing the wrong will *always* silence the one speaking up. They did it to the prophets of old; they did it to Jesus; they do it in politics; they do it in churches; they do it in the workplace. They do it because they are wicked. They hate to see God strong, because it makes them look puny—and they don't want to lose their power over others. This was one of the main reasons why the wicked rulers crucified Jesus. His Truth was overshadowing their self-image and exposing their lie.

Let's *not* be like that.

Instead, let's celebrate God's power to heal hearts and change lives. Let's celebrate when people are being transformed by the Gospel. Because if we look more at the vessel that God uses to affect change in others, rather than at what God is doing through them, we are missing the entire of point of God choosing the foolish things of this world to do His work, because remember: God calls the *ugliest* people of this world to reach the *ugliest* people of this world. Let me say that again. God calls *the ugliest of this world* to reach *the ugliest of this world*.

He would have it no other way. 🌊

Kidnapping the Truth

Ruben Constante, Jr.

"Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him. But some of them went away to the Pharisees and told them the things Jesus did. Then the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered a council and said, 'What shall we do? For this Man works many signs. [Here it is, folks!] If we let Him alone like this, EVERYONE WILL BELIEVE IN HIM, AND THE ROMANS WILL COME AND TAKE AWAY BOTH OUR PLACE AND OUR NATION.'" (Jn. 11:45-48)

The idea presented in this true story is that wicked people will do anything to remain in power, and one of the best ways to achieve this is to SILENCE TRUTH. To ban it. To malign and discredit it. Jesus said of these folks: "And this is the condemnation, that light has come in the the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed" (Jn. 3:19, 20).

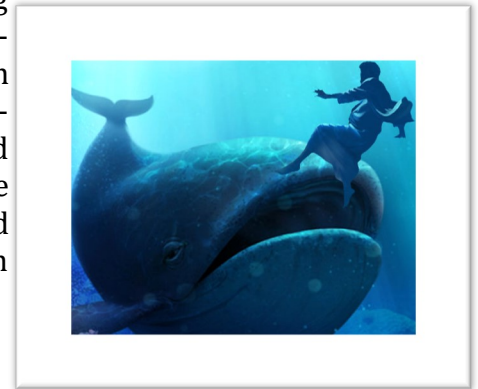
We must twice about who we believe is the "good guy" in a world governed by political, religious, and social discourse. For example, think about the story of Joseph (Genesis chapter 37 through 50), who was betrayed by his older brothers because they were envious of his status before their father. They hated that he was "dad's favorite", so they kidnapped him and sold him into slavery. Hatred, envy, jealousy, and insecurity often remain clustered together in a darkened and wounded heart and will have folks do some very unkind things.

But God always has a plan for those who remain submitted and surrendered to Him.

We must exercise caution when the power of God is suppressed and maligned, because it's easy for us to get swept away in a current of confusion and cha-



absolutely amazing being with a circle that is accepting and downright fun to be around. I mean seriously, who wants to spend their time around people who don't like them and don't want to see them succeed?



But guess what?

What good is a calling if you are only around those who have already been called and know where they are headed in life?

My entire life, my mom had me around believers. Since I was 5 years old and can remember, I wanted Jesus in my life. I felt so loved and connected to Him while the rest of the world seemed dark and dim. He was and is always my safe space. Because of that, in the seasons of my own darkness, though miserable at times, I was never truly alone. It isn't so for everyone, though. Some people don't know Him at all, which makes it even harder to see what those of us who do know Him see and feel without effort. Reluctantly, I have always been called to those who don't see Him. I can remember times I would be at the bar, and a complete stranger would come ask me about Jesus. I'm like, "Really dude? Not now." 🤔

But that's just it. WE ARE THE LIGHT. In everything we do and everywhere we go. We don't have to know exactly what to say. We don't have to know exactly who to talk to. We just need to go. And I can promise as someone who has been sober for six years, I'm way more at peace in my walks and talks with Jesus now. The more willing and prepared we are to let God speak and lead for us, the less difficult it is to be in those corners where we know we are less welcome. Some-

times we have to step out of our comfort not just to learn for ourselves, but there are many who might get to know Jesus by watching us stumble and get back up again.

So, if you're like me and in a season where people are watching and waiting for you to fail, if you'd rather tuck your head and walk the other way out of fear of saying or doing the wrong thing, THINK OF JONAH. Think of the whale or big fish that swallowed him when he ran. God already had the plans set, and at some point, Jonah said, "Send me, God. I'll go," but when he found out where he was getting sent, like a stubborn soldier, he no longer wanted to take on that battle even though God already knew the end victory!

If you fell down this week, I encourage you to get back up. If you didn't fall but instead ran out of the fear of failing, keep going. Take that leap. Not just for you, but for those who will be inspired by your strength when they see you continue onward.

Thank you, pastor, and family. Welcome to our community. I was going a completely different direction. Last night I prayed for alignment, and I truly believe your sermon showed me exactly where I needed to be today.

WALK IN THE LIGHT. 🕊️ 🙏

[#SilenceUnchained](#)

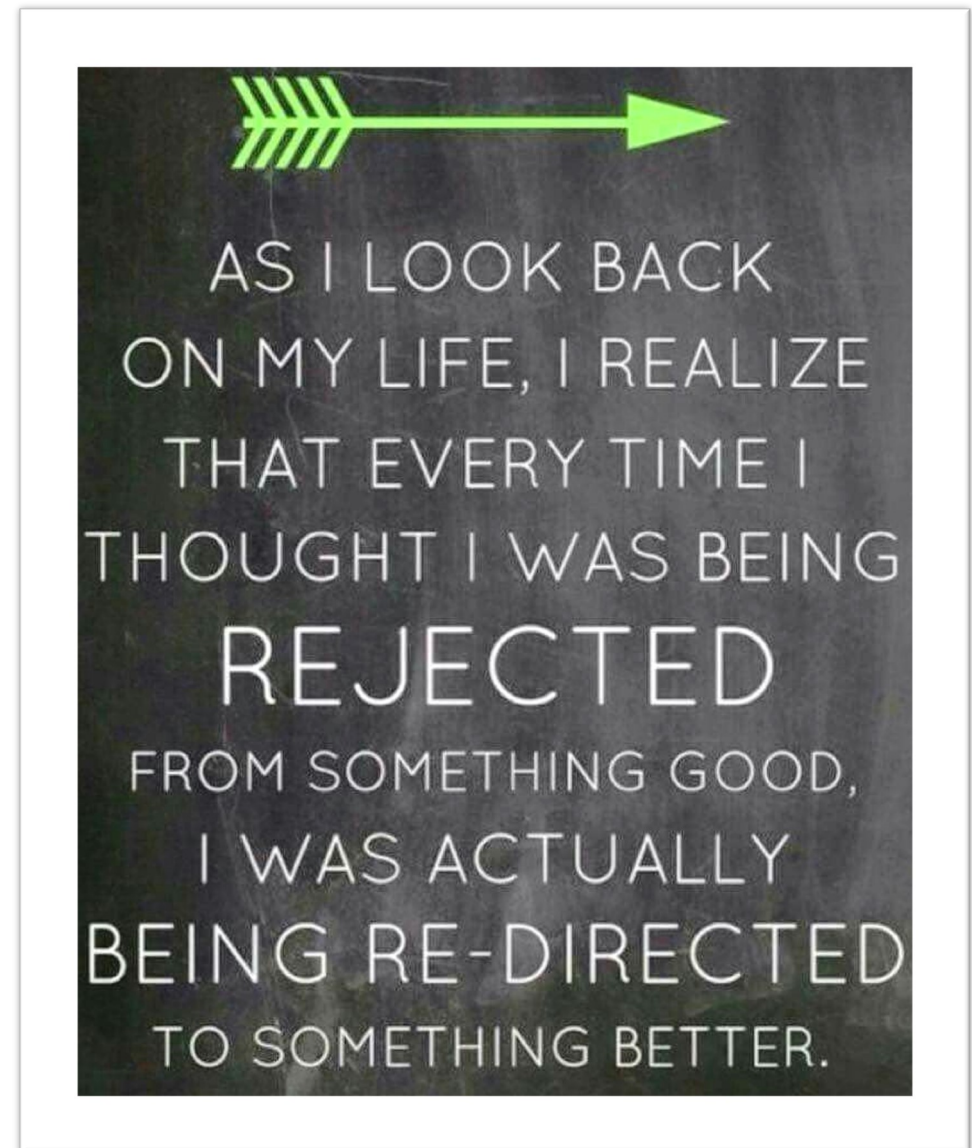


“Do not be deceived: Evil company corrupts good habits.”

1 Corinthians 15:33

“For thus says the High and Lofty One who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: ‘I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.’”

Isaiah 57:15



UNRECOGNIZABLE Language

Israel Noe Garza



“In those days I also saw that the Jews had married women from Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. As for Their children, half spoke in the language of Ashdod, and none of them was able to speak the language of Judah, but the language of his own people.” (Nehemiah 13:22,23 NASB)

Lately, I have had a heavy heart when it comes to so many of the pastors and speakers of the Christian faith. Too many have, “unrecognizable language,” that in part sounds biblical, and yet is so far from the Word of God.

As we read the Word from the book of Nehemiah let me make something clear; Nehemiah was a reformer, Nehemiah stated that his motive was placed in his heart by God. (7:5) What we also read is the obedience to God’s Word.

How many times do we hear pastors and so many others state, “God called me,” and yet stray far away from God’s truth. They overlook the Word of God and call sin a mental struggle, say that God still loves them as they are and even within the church, they do not follow the will and order of God. All because they feel they are called.

Nehemiah admonished the people, but they disobeyed the command to not mix in marriage, as so many churches are mixing the feelings of the world and the word of God. Hence, we are building a church that to God has an unrecognizable language. Too many are speaking a word that is compromised with the culture of their strange wives they have espoused and lead them to leave the language of God’s Word for a word that creates man into a god, to be a lover of self and money hungry. They teach a doctrine that is not biblical nor honoring God (1 Tim. 3:1-5). A word with no power, demanding and so-called creators of their own way (Prov. 3:5,6).

Nehemiah confronted the sin of the people as we are called to uphold the word of God, just as Nehemiah not only spoke God’s command, but the consequence of disobeying such command. Yet today we are almost afraid of doing so. We’d rather promote a God of blessings, of callings and of gifts. The world today is straying from the church, not because of God, but because of those that claim to be His ambassadors have created a worldly church. So, if the church is in the image of world, why would the world need that God? They are already of serving the god of this world.

What language do you speak?

What are those around you really hearing; are they hearing the word of God or a version that only has a sprinkle of God but more common with the world. Our words must not carry the culture, the likeness of worldly doctrine, or be encouraged to please the flesh. At the pulpit do they find a person speaking compromise or the standard of God? Do we see a pastor more in tune with his own opinions and beliefs or with the Holy Spirit and the leading of God’s Word.

May we be like Nehemiah and seek out the holiness and obedience that God requires of us. 🖼️