

# Mrs. Smith and Other Inconvenient Truths About the Modern Church

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July 9, 2012  
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“But mark this: There will be terrible times in the  
Last days. People will be lovers of themselves,  
Lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient  
To their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love,  
Unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal,  
Not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited,  
Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a  
Form of godliness but denying the power. Have nothing  
To do with them.” ■ 2 Timothy 3:1-5 NIV

Do you know Mrs. Smith? I'm quite confident that she attends your church because I've attended and preached at many churches just like yours. In fact, if your church attendance is larger than 300 there are probably several Mrs. Smiths that you see each Sunday, although sometimes Mrs. Smith may be Mr. Smith. Who is Mrs. Smith? She is a pseudonym I use for a person in your church who is confined to a wheel chair that is wheeled in each Sunday for service and then is wheeled out again when the service is over. Perhaps Mrs. Smith is not confined to a wheel chair. Maybe she is crippled and walks with a walker or maybe she is blind or deaf. Now do you recognize her in your congregation?

Now let me ask you a question. Why is Mrs. Smith wheeled in each Sunday and wheeled out again with no change in her physical condition? Why has she attended that Pentecostal church that claims to believe in healing and

miracles for 30 years yet she's still confined to that wheelchair and nobody does anything about it.

Now, let me ask you another question. Do you think she would remain in that condition if Jesus was the pastor or another Five-fold elder in leadership at your church? I believe that's a rhetorical question. But, in fact, if your pastor is truly anointed as a Five-fold minister then he/she *is* an extension of Jesus Christ to His Church and ministers as Jesus to the flock as the Lord's under shepherd. And because Jesus is "the same yesterday, today and forever" (Heb. 13:8) that same healing and miracle anointing should flow from Jesus through the Five-fold leadership of your church. So why isn't it? Why is there no change in Mrs. Smith's condition and yet nobody seems to care?

I believe the great revelator, the Apostle Paul, prophesied why in the above Scriptures from 2 Timothy. In fact, I'm quite confident of it because the Lord awakened me with 2 Timothy 3, v. 5 very strongly in my spirit this morning as I've been meditating on Mrs. Smith's plight for several days: "having a form of godliness but denying its power."

Now the Greek word for power is δύναντιν (pronounced dunamis) which refers to God's almighty power. This power flows *from* the Holy Spirit out of a believer's spirit to a person being ministered to just like Jesus did—it's the same Spirit and the same power, just a different vessel than Jesus when the Spirit flows this power through you.

The Lord gave me a message that I preached in the Washington, D.C., area back in 2008 titled: "Another Spirit, Another Jesus." Paul wrote much to counteract false teachers who were preaching "another gospel" and "another spirit" and "another Jesus." I submit that most churches today preach "another Jesus." Who is this *other* Jesus? He is a different Jesus than the Jesus of the Scriptures—a Jesus who no longer performs miracles or works of power.

Now this problem used to be confined only to the Catholic and denominational churches, especially after the Lord has continually sent a series of healing revivals through men like John G. Lake, Alexander Dowie, William Branham, Oral Roberts and many others. Yet today we normally find the same problem in Pentecostal churches who claim to believe in divine healing and miracles. Why has this occurred? Why do we claim to believe in something yet never witness it occurring in our church on any Sunday?

The fact is that there are many different scriptural ways for Mrs. Smith to receive healing or a miracle. But perhaps nobody in the church has demonstrated love (as prophesied by Paul, this lack of love clearly differentiates most churches today from the Church of Acts) toward Mrs. Smith or a desire to help her—we're more comfortable with the status quo and it doesn't require any action or effort on our part (selfishness, another sign of the times).

But is it the will of God for Mrs. Smith to remain in that condition? If not, then who is going to do something about it? Who is going to preach the real gospel to encourage Mrs. Smith and stand with her to remove the works of the devil from her life? Consider the following verses of Scripture:

“On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the  
Synagogues and a woman was there who had been Crippled by a spirit for  
eighteen years. She was bent Over and could not straighten up at all.”

■ Luke 13:10-11

Now let's see how Jesus dealt with Mrs. Smith at this church. Now we must understand that what the Bible says is true—Mrs. Smith's condition was caused by an evil spirit! The Holy Spirit didn't write that because He was “unenlightened” being from an unscientific society dated 2,000 years ago. A spirit caused this condition and I've both seen and dealt with this particular spirit—a spirit of infirmity that looks like a giant aardvark lying over the person's back causing them to walk with their upper body parallel to the floor.

When the Holy Spirit spoke to me in 2001 in Helena, Montana, and said that “the Church is ashamed of the gospel” I knew that one of the main parts of the Gospel of the Kingdom that Jesus preached that the Church of today is ashamed of was casting out demons. But why is it when we read Mark 16:15-18 that we omit the very first thing Jesus said would be a “sign” that would accompany believers? Why do we completely skip #1 (casting out demons) and always emphasize #2 (speaking in tongues) and #4 (laying hands on the sick so that they will recover)?

Jesus didn't do that. Look what He did in Luke 13 for that woman who was afflicted by an evil spirit for 18 years.

“...he called her forward and said to her, ‘Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.’ Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.”

Remember, you need to read the New Testament through a number of times and realize that the Kingdom of God cannot come upon the earth unless it can advance and conquer the works of the devil. That means confrontation! That means spiritual warfare! Yet most of the Church knows nothing about spiritual warfare or deliverance ministry so most of the “captives” remain captives when Jesus’ genuine Gospel of the Kingdom promises release of the captives. The very first thing Jesus did when He finished His desert temptations from Satan was confront the Dark Kingdom! And He did it in church!

“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”

#### ■ 1 John 3:8

What are the works of the devil? Sickness, disease, poverty, curses/covenants which often manifest in birth defects or crippling diseases such as MS or arthritis, etc. Yet the Bible says,

“Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us ...” (Gal. 3:13)

so why are so many today—daughters of Abraham just like the woman Jesus ministered to—still manifesting the curse of the law? Why haven’t these captives been freed? Well, they should be and if you’re a “believing one” then you can set them free just like Jesus did by obeying Mark 16:17 and setting them free “in the Name of Jesus.” Praise the Lord!

The scripture “restrained the prophet’s madness” (2 Pe. 2:16) comes to my mind often regarding so many false gospels and false Jesus’ being preached today by so many “false prophets” (2 Pe. 2:1).

But we do have a clear picture of the real Gospel from the Scriptures—Jesus preached it and was a demonstration of it. Paul preached it and was a demonstration of it. Peter preached it and was a demonstration of it.

Notice another “sign” of these last days that Paul prophesied in our key Scripture from 2 Timothy: “not lovers of the good.” A key element of all those from history who have been in covenant with God is that we are supposed to *love good and hate evil*. But in the last days this perversion of hating good actually permeates the Church because it has entered through false teachers in subtle ways.

Notice how the Scriptures described Jesus:

“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power (again, *dunamis*): who went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him.”

■ Acts 10:38

So, by not following Jesus’ example and “doing good” by healing and delivering “all who were oppressed of the devil” today we are actually hating good, aren’t we? And it thrills the devil because his kingdom is not threatened. As I shared on Christian television last year:

“With all these churches in \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the name of your town), how come the devil is still in control?”

I think the answer is obvious and the Lord is sick and tired of it. He died for a Church of power—a Church that the “gates of hell” could not stand against. And it’s time for us to come into the authority we have as the Body of Christ and allow the Holy Spirit to flow through us to heal and deliver the captives and be a true demonstration of the Gospel.

The Holy Spirit told me in 1997: “The world is waiting for a true demonstration of the Gospel.” They’ve heard the gospel but they don’t see the gospel in most of what’s called the Church or “Christian” television today. So let it begin with you. Do something to help Mrs. Smith next Sunday—exercise your kingly anointing and speak the word over her; lay hands on her and command her to walk in the Name of Jesus and keep doing it until she gets up out of that wheelchair and walks. Praise the Lord! Then write us with your testimony.



**2 Corinthians 4:7**