

## THE WAY TO TRUE SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

by Carter Conlon

We need a spiritual awakening! So many have lost their way in their walk with the Lord that they are no longer aware of what God can do in their lives.

### ■ TRUE SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

What is a true spiritual awakening? It is when God has free course to speak into your life and there is no resistance to His voice. Take a look at Genesis. In the beginning, there was nothing, just an empty void. The Spirit of God moved on the face of the waters and He spoke to everything that existed at that time and there was no opposition to Him. As He spoke, light was created and was divided from the darkness, while dry land was divided from the waters. Living things—fish and birds and creatures—were commanded to come to life and they began to live. Nothing could resist the voice of God. Then ultimately God spoke to the dust and breathed life into man whom He created in His own image.

Would you be surprised to learn that God still works in this same way? When His Word is spoken and there is a heart open to Him without doubting and resistance, the miraculous begins to happen. Life comes into being where once there was only death.

### ■ INTELLIGENT SPEECH

In John 1:1–4, John writes about the way to true spiritual awakening: *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was*

*not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men."* John knew Jesus and walked with Him. He had opened his heart to the love of God and described himself as the disciple whom Jesus loved. John's openness to God's love broke all resistance in his spirit and mind and he was able to receive revelation about God. There are so few in any generation who can even begin to understand this, but John saw that in Jesus Christ was the totality and fullness of God. This same disciple wrote the Gospel of John, and stated, *"In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God."* The meaning of "Word" in the Greek New Testament is *logos*, or intelligent speech. In the beginning was intelligent speech. Not only intelligent speech, not only speech possessing all knowledge, but in verse 3, Scripture says, *"All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made."* He not only possessed intelligent speech, but God had the power to create all things. Hebrews 11:3 says, *"Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear."*

### ■ UNINTELLIGENT SPEECH

Unintelligent speech came from Satan, and it was first introduced in the Garden of Eden. It is the speech of a God-created being who had exalted himself above the knowledge of God and began to resist what had been spoken.

"What has God really said? Does He really mean this? Is God really the last authority? Is there not another way, a better way? Can we not be as God?" This unintelligent speech was ultimately transferred to man when he chose to believe Satan and sin against God.

**In the last days people will be captivated by the empty words of those who want their money and their admiration.**

Today, there is no limit to the unintelligent speech going on in our society. The Bible says the last days are going to be characterized by fleshly wise, but spiritually unintelligent, speech. The Scripture bears witness to this: *"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not"* (2 Peter 2:1–3).

There are teachers throughout history and in our generation who cast off the absolute right of Christ to have complete ownership of those who are

rightfully His. In other words, teachers who would deny the Lord that bought them. Oh, they might profess His Name, but they will deny His Lordship. They will deny the fact that Jesus Christ has the sole authority to speak into their lives and govern them. If we are truly His, we do not resist what He speaks into our hearts, but we embrace it as the highest way of life. These teachers will emphasize another way, as Satan did, above the ways of God. They will teach another way to be godly; another way to achieve what only God can do in a person's life; another way to find happiness; another way to be healthy; another way to be holy, other than the way prescribed through the Word of God.

In the last days people will be captivated by the empty words of those who want their money and their admiration. In 2 Peter 2:19, the Bible warns that under their influence, people will become servants of their own inner corruption. 2 Timothy 3:5 clearly states that they will take on a form of lifeless, outer religiousness, that has no true inner changing power. A religion of self will be the religion of the last day. It will not be the voice of God, but rather, unintelligent speech. Paul says they will be turned from truth and toward fables, stories, and words of no profit. All these words can do is cause man to try to form himself into something that looks like God. There will be no power to change, because only where the voice of God speaks, is there creative power.

**Only man was created with a will to resist God.**

#### ■ THE WORD OF GOD GIVES LIFE

The Apostle Paul says that if any man is in Christ, he is a new creation, filled with new life.

The old things in him are dying off, passing away, and a new life is beginning to be formed within him. Darkness is passing away and light is coming. There is a division between things that used to be gray and foggy. Now he clearly understands what is of God and what is not. He begins to know the voice of God. Jesus said, *"My sheep know my voice and they will follow me, and no man will be able to pluck them out of my Father's hand"* (see John 10:27–29). John 1:4 says, *"In him was life and the life was the light of men."* The word "life"—*zoe*—means the highest and best, which is what Christ is. In Him is everything you will ever aspire to. You will not find it in religion, self effort, or in trying to prop yourself up as a better person. Everything you have ever longed for is found in Jesus Christ.

#### ■ ONLY MAN RESISTS GOD

John witnessed firsthand the power in the words Jesus spoke, when the disciples found themselves in the midst of a terrible storm on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus was asleep in the boat when they cried out to Him, "Master, don't you care that we are perishing?" According to the Scripture, Jesus rose up, stood in the face of that storm, and said three words, "Peace, be still." The wind immediately stopped and instantly the waves became calm. Then the disciples greatly feared and said, "What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?" (Mark 4:35–41).

Only man was created with a will to resist God. Nature cannot resist Him when He speaks; the wind had to be quiet and the waves had to be still at the voice of God. Think for a moment about Jesus' arrival at the tomb of Lazarus. Jesus stood on the mountainside, and in spite of all the unbelief that was going on around Him, He cried out, "Lazarus! Come forth!" The only one that couldn't

resist his voice was a dead man; isn't that ironic? Everyone else was full of unbelief and doubt, but it was a dead man who heard Him at that moment. God is the God of the impossible and He is able to change your life with just one word

**I've come to take away the poverty out of your thinking.**

#### ■ THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON YOU

In Luke 4:18, Jesus told those in the temple what the Father had sent Him to do. He took the book of the prophet Isaiah and read, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised."* In other words, "I have come for those who are spiritually poor, to open up the treasure of God's light to you; to take away the poverty out of your thinking and to take you out of a place where you believe nothing will ever change."

"I have come to heal the broken hearted—those who have had some kind of experience in their life that has damaged them, and who believe they are always going to be under the influence of that hurtful experience. I have come to speak to it and say, 'Peace, be still.' To stop the roaring of that thing in your life and stop those waves of sorrow rolling over and over in your mind. I have come to put an end to it if you will just listen to my voice."

"I have come to preach deliverance to the captives. To every sexually addicted person, every drug addict, every alcoholic, every immoral person, everyone captivated by something of

the flesh and of the mind. I have come to put a stop to those things that have dominated your life.”

“I have come to give sight to those who are spiritually blind. Those who are in darkness, just as it was at the time of creation before the voice of God began to speak. There was no light, no hope, just darkness upon the face of the deep. I have come to open your eyes to the reality that God has come and His mercy is now yours. The freedom of Christ can be obtained by faith, and you can be saved from your sin. The chains of hell can be broken from your life. You can be a new creation in Christ Jesus.”

“I have come to set at liberty those who have been bruised, those who feel their heart is so dark and so deep that they will never climb out of the pit they find themselves in. Jesus said I have come to show you a way out; I have come to stop these things that have governed your life for so long. I have come to tell you that this is the hour of your freedom and your deliverance.”

### ■ CALLED TO GLORY AND VIRTUE

*“According as his divine power has given to us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that has called us to glory and virtue” (2 Peter 1:3).*

The word “glory” means to be brought to the reputation where the testimony of Christ in you is seen by men. The Scripture says that by His power, He has given to us everything we need for life and godliness through the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord. God is saying, “I have not called you just to survive; I have called you to be a wonder in your generation, that men will look at you, and will have to acknowledge that I am alive.”

God also says, “I have called you to virtue.” The word “virtue” means

the excellency of God revealed in the work of salvation. God is saying, “I have called you to moral excellence and right standing. I have called you to be awakened to the fact that I am able to call you out of darkness and into the marvelous light of who I am. You will no longer walk around like the rest of society, dependent on their circumstances. You are called to a deeper life than that.”

### ■ HIS WORD HAS GREAT AND PRECIOUS PROMISES

Paul says in Ephesians 1:13 that after you trusted in Christ’s salvation, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. Peter says, *“Whereby are given to us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust” (2 Peter 1:4).* God has given you promises in His Word. Friend, you must know your Bible in this last hour of time. The Word of God is not something you open and read just to pass the time, or to fulfill some legal obligation for fifteen minutes in the morning. The words in the Bible are not just a historical account of God; it is your life, the voice of God speaking to you. Every word by the power of the Holy Spirit, is yours. With the power of Christ within you, you have the ability to receive these promises and to be changed into the very divine nature of God which is within you. The Holy Spirit is the evidence of God that every promise given to you in His Word will be made a reality in your life.

### ■ HE WILL SHOW YOU THINGS TO COME

Here is what Jesus said about the Holy Spirit in John 16:13: *“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, has come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things*

*to come.”* I began to read this Book, and God’s Holy Spirit started to show me things to come. I am not talking about future events for cities or countries, but things to be made a reality in me. You see, every promise in the Word can come true. God says, “I know it is not in you, but I speak about things that are not as if they are. I can create something out of nothing and these promises are for you.”

Understand that it is the work of the Holy Spirit to reveal His Word to you if you read it with an open and honest heart. It is His Word which is intelligent speech. What God speaks has the power to create and recreate life in you. When you do this, the Holy Spirit will show you things to come. In John 16:14 He said, *“He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it to you.”* The Holy Spirit understands everything Jesus won on Calvary. Through Christ, we have won the resources of heaven. In the life of the believer, the Holy Spirit makes this victory known, and says, “It is all yours; everything in this Book is yours.” Now you have a choice. You can either accept what God has spoken to you or you can resist and stay in your present condition.

**That’s how powerful God’s Word is. Only a whisper is necessary.**

### ■ THE WORD OF GOD HAS POWER

Do not live in spiritual poverty when you have the riches of Christ’s victory living inside of you. You are called to be a victorious testimony of Calvary. Just as the universe obeyed when God spoke, choose to believe and not resist the Word of the Lord. God is looking for an obedient heart.

Moses was sent on an impossible journey and by the Word of the



Lord, the journey was made possible. By the Word of the Lord, Gideon was brought out of weakness, and made a warrior. By the Word of the Lord, King David was shown how to walk righteously in terribly adverse situations.

It was only a whisper of His Word that brought Elijah out of thoughts of self-destruction, and into a place of a fulfilling life. That's how powerful God's Word is. Only a whisper is necessary. Only a sweet promise in the morning as you open His Book, can change the course of your life.

Peter the apostle found the direction he needed to guide him from impulsive spirituality to the rest which truth brings. The Apostle Paul was made into a completely different man by the Word. Hallelujah!

By the Word of God, the Apostle John found hope in the midst of his struggle, when he was in prison at the end of his days. *"I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse, and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he does judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood; and his name is called The Word of God"* (Revelation 19:11-13). John's hope was in the Word of God, this same Word that has the power to reshape a man and a woman into the very image of the Son of God.

### ■ YOU HAVE NOT BECAUSE YOU ASK NOT

If a son or daughter asks for bread, will his father give him a stone? If he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? He said, *"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to those who ask him?"* (Matthew 7:11).

Friend, you have not because you ask not—it is as simple as that. Come with a believing heart because it is impossible to please God without faith. The person who comes to God must believe He is whom he says that He is and that He rewards all those who diligently seek Him. However, when you are asking, ask for the purposes of God and His will for your life. He will come and speak into your situation, calming your storms and bringing death to life. This is a miraculous walk—it is a supernatural life. Christianity is not just a mental agreement with concepts in a book. You will have a powerful testimony of God's keeping and saving ability if you will simply ask Him.

Carter Conlon  
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Carter Conlon is senior pastor of Times Square Church, where he has been on the pastoral staff since 1994.

### TIMES SQUARE CHURCH

Times Square Church was founded in 1987 by Pastor David Wilkerson, author of "The Cross and the Switchblade." It is an interdenominational church located in the heart of New York City.

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### WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday	10:00AM	3:00PM	6:00PM
Tuesday	7:00PM	Church Service	
Thursday	7:00PM	Prayer Meeting	
Friday	7:00PM	Church Service	

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