



*Dr. Jan McNutt, D. Min.*

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## **Where Do You Stand?**

July 7, 2006

In prayer today the Lord began to show me the selfishness in my own heart. He showed me how desensitized I have become as an American Christian. I began to think about the level of passion I have for the lost and whether I truly am making a difference in my sphere of influence. Sure, I talk about Jesus all the time, but most of those conversations are with like minded believers (and I might add, the number is few). I'm not saying we don't love the Lord, but my few close friends are like me; we are waiting on Him to reveal His future plan for us. We know there is more for us to do and we know we want to make a difference!

The Lord also talked to me about the constant compromise in the Body of Christ. Although there are many groups of believers preaching the Word of God in power and in truth; still there are many American Churches diluting and compromising the Word because of the fear of losing members and finances. I don't want to come across as if I am criticizing, I only want to provoke each of us to good works and to encourage all of us to get back to the Great Commission and leave the place of the Great Compromise.

During this time of prayer and meditation, the Lord reminded me about some statements I had read from Michael L. Brown's book *How Saved Are We?* I want to share a few of his profound insights with you. He writes:

- "Why is it believers in other countries are willing to sacrifice everything, but we in America find it hard to sacrifice anything to preach the gospel?"
- "Why are we so comfortable in a fallen world?"
- "Can the world tell by your life what you stand for?"
- "Being saved means standing up and standing out."
- "For years we have preached a cheap gospel and peddled a soft Savior."
- "We have taught salvation without self-denial and the crown without the cross."
- "We have catered to the unsaved and compromised with the world."
- "Our faulty seed has produced a flaky harvest. "



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- “As Americans believers we:
  - spend hours watching TV but minutes in prayer.
  - are hungry for the sports page but have little taste for the Word.
  - spend more money on pet food than on foreign missions
  - love to feast but hate fast
  - welcome God’s blessings but we are wary of His burdens.”

I could continue on this subject for a while, but I will close with a couple of statements from Kathie Walter’s book, *Bright and Shining Revival (the Hebrides Revival 1948-1952)*:

- “The biggest hindrance to revival is not Communism or any other “ism”, but dead religion that gives people a substitute for the Presence of God”.
- “But, how can you have the demonstrations of God’s Spirit without sensational things happening? Jesus’ ministry was certainly sensational. How can you raise the dead, cast out devils, bring miracles of healing and turn the world upside down, and not disturb the world around you?”

Ms. Walter’s question is a valid one for this hour. So I ask you, where do you stand?

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