

THE HIGH HORSE & THE HOLY ONE

A Call to the Church in a Time of Falling Away

There is a spirit that has overtaken the people of God today. A spirit that has misplaced, lost, set aside, and surrendered our relationship with God. The Bible calls it *the falling away*, and while theologians debate its timing, the symptoms are clearly visible in the hearts of most who are reading this. 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 puts it this way: Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together to 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;

At the center of this departure is not a lack of activity, passion, or giftedness. It is something far simpler, far older, and far more dangerous: pride.

When the apostle Paul writes, “*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus*” (Philippians 2:5), he is not offering a suggestion. He is issuing a rescue rope; because the mind of Jesus is the solution to the disease that has infected the modern church.

We live as if we have the right to be exalted before we are humbled. (1 Timothy 3:6) We are to be like Jesus who “made himself of no reputation... and humbled himself.” We too often make ourselves of many reputations—and defend them fiercely.

Pride always wants to be somebody when we must first learn to be servants. From the beginning of our Christian faith, we are encouraged to find our ministry. When we put our hands to the plow, that’s when pride takes over and we ride upon a high horse thinking we are of some importance.

LET’S TAKE A LOOK AT THIS HIGH HORSE WE’VE SADDLED.

The modern church has not rejected God outright. Instead, we have climbed onto subtle, polished, spiritual saddles—behaviors that look religious but smell of self. Here are a few that have galloped into our spirits:

1. Commanding Satan while ignoring submission

We shout, “Devil, flee! I command you.” But the Bible whispers, “*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*” (James 4:7) We want authority without surrender, victory without obedience.

2. Practicing a faith that bends reality instead of bowing to God

We try to speak things into existence that God never promised—that’s practicing the black arts. Biblical faith is not a magic wand—it is a willingness to endure hardship while fixing our eyes on the unseen promises of God. (Hebrews 11:1-40)

3. Correcting others while refusing correction ourselves

We speak as though we are the Holy Spirit, yet bristle, even get angry, when anyone speaks truth to us. Proverbs remind us: “*When pride comes, then comes shame.*” (Proverbs 11:2; Matthew 7:5) The modern church is drowning in opinions and doctrines but starving for holiness, righteousness.

4. Treating gifts as badges instead of tools

We forget that gifts are not medals of honor but instruments of service. Paul warns us not to think of ourselves “more highly than we ought.” (Romans 12:3) Yet many ministries today are built on charisma rather than character.

5. Turning ministry into a stage instead of a towel

Jesus washed feet. We build platforms. He said the greatest must be “servant of all.” (Mark 10:44; 2 Timothy 3:5) We often prefer to be seen rather than poured out. We strive for that celebrity status and thousands of social media likes.

6. Believing God needs us

We act as though God is codependent on our brilliance, our strategies, our influence; but the Bible is clear that God *resists* the proud and gives grace to the humble. (1 Peter 5:5) He chooses the lowly—not because they are impressive, but because they are available. (Isaiah 40:29)

WE ARE A PEOPLE AT A CROSSROADS

The great falling away does not begin with heresy. It begins with self-importance. It begins when we stop descending.

Jesus descended into humility, servanthood, obedience, and even death. We often ascend into visibility, applause, and self-assurance. We forget that revival never begins on a mountaintop of stimulation. It begins on a quiet knee of submission and surrender.

If you—the individual—is to stand in this hour of deception and darkness, you must first kneel. If you are to shine with the light and fire of the Holy Spirit, you must first kneel. If you are to speak with authority and power, you must first kneel.

The church does not need more giftedness, more education, more music, more stimulation. It needs more lowliness, more quietness so that God’s presence may be felt and God’s voice may be heard. It needs more people willing to descend to knee level; the lower we go, the clearer God is seen. That is the hope in these dark days. God is calling a people who will rise again, not by climbing higher, but by bowing lower...and it all begins when you—the individual, when you...

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