

Cliff's Notes

Random Musings about 'What in the World is going On...?'

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GBF is now 6 months old! A growing baby. Some historic events transpired in February. Un-expectedly an opening in the morning became available, so now we meet at a traditional time after just 5 months—a huge answer to prayer. We have had 300 people come through our doors and we have had a 1st time visitor every week so far. We have averaged 70 people per Sunday. 3 dear saints have gone through the membership process and will be the first official new members to **GBF** since we started. Congrats to **Steve McCoy**, **Jane Schindler** and **Scott Snyder**! We are set to have more baptisms at the end of March. God is good as He continues to bless and build His Church.

Introducing: Joyce Meyer



Time Magazine (2-7-05) called Joyce Meyer one of the most influential Evangelicals in America. She's reputedly one of the most popular Bible teachers alive today, thanks to wide exposure through book sales of 6 million, a radio show that airs on more than 400 stations, her 15 annual conferences, her TV programs (on over 600 stations), with 16 satellite offices around the world—all operating under the auspices of *Joyce Meyer Ministries*, that employs over 900 people and is expected to exceed \$100 million in revenues this year. Influential?

Yes...very. Evangelical? Not really. Meyer has been teaching the Bible full time since 1980, reaching star status by the mid-90's. It is only within the last decade that she has been labeled—mistakenly—Evangelical. Prior to that she was characterized by the true theology she represents: word-faith, positive confession, hyper-charismatic, name it and claim it health, wealth & prosperity. She's a propagator of those who have gone before her...Kenneth Hagin, Kenneth Copeland, *et al.* She's highly educated, experienced, a refined public speaker, dogmatic, persuasive, black and white, bold, quit-witted and personable—all the prerequisite ingredients for a high-powered motivational speaker. And that is really what she is. Christians need to be aware of her many subtle, but dangerous distortions of biblical truth. She is incredibly difficult to critique because she comes across as being biblical—quoting the Bible, mentioning Jesus, reading from the Bible...but that is what makes her so dangerous. Volumes could be written on her wrong views of the Bible because she has amassed so much output over the years, having written over 70 books and produced thousands of audio sermons. There are many good resources exposing her folly like www.letusreason.org and 'The Bible Answer Man.' Let me highlight just 2 blatant violations of Scripture in her "ministry": **1)** She has a wrong view of sin. She says, "I didn't stop sinning until I finally got it through my thick head that I wasn't a sinner anymore...I am not a sinner" ('What Happened from the Cross to the Throne,' Audio). Contrast that with the Bible which says, "If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8). **2)** Meyer is a self-professed, ordained pastor/preacher. The Bible clearly delineates the qualifications of a teaching-pastor (1 Tim 3), one of which says the preacher must be "a man" (male) of God. Men and women are equally made in God's image, but God has clearly given them different functional roles in the church. Authoritative, formal teaching and preaching of God's Word is reserved for called, qualified men who serve as pastors/elders in the church. Women can be gifted to teach but not in that capacity. Scripture is clear: "do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet. For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve" (1 Tim 2:12-13; cf. 1 Cor 11:3-9; 14:34-36). There are many wonderful godly female teachers who have honored this basic biblical imperative while using their gift of teaching to full potential...women like Susanna Wesley, Edith Schaeffer, Elizabeth Elliot, Elizabeth George, Martha Peace, Patricia Ennis, Susan Hunt and countless more. Meyer has usurped the role of a man in clear defiance of Scripture. For further study on the proper role of men and women in ministry see *The Council for Biblical Manhood and Womanhood* at www.CBMW.org

A Must Read!

While the rest of the world gets saturated with the toxins of the latest scandals in the lives of Brittany Spears, Paris Hilton and Anna Nicole Smith, Christian women can edify their minds on wholesome quality books like *Raising Maidens of Virtue*. From the *Introduction* the author writes, "Do you want your daughter to cherish her purity and honor God by the chaste and lovely way she presents herself?" Then this book is for you—actually this book is a **MUST** for every Christian woman— young and old. It has 19 practical chapters, & then additional segments entitled "A Multi-Generational Project," "Memory Making Projects" and "A Literary Maiden Luncheon or Tea." By the editor-in-chief of Homeschooling Today and endorsed by R.C. Sproul, this tool is well worth the money and time.



March Madness? No, actually "**March Ministry Milestones**"—this month promises to be memorable for the ministry of **GBF** in three respects: **1)** The Advisory Council (Elders) of **GBF** will be heading to L.A. on 3-7 to spend 3 days at the Shepherd's Conference to be challenged by John MacArthur, John Piper, Al Mohler, Ligon Duncan, Mark Dever & several of Cliff's seminary profs, as well as spending quality time in fellowship, conversation and prayer with one another; Pastor Cliff's book, *Christian Living*, will be featured in their book store that week **2)** a group of our ladies will be attending the "Still Deeper" Women's Conference on 3-9, where they will be encouraged by Kay Arthur, Beth Moore and others, while they also will have special time set aside for fellowship, craft, prayer and intimate interaction; **3)** our **GBF** Home Bible Study ministry kicks off on Friday, March 16, from 7-9 pm at the Simpson's home—the Wongs will be leading us in a study of the powerful and practical little epistle of 1 John. Tim Wong recently taught of the biblical mandate of small group discipleship—this ministry fulfills that mandate—"from house to house, they kept teaching and preaching Jesus" (Acts 5:42).