



“...the ministry of the Word” - Acts 6:4

Special Edition

Dayspring Newsletter

Dayspring Discipleship Institute

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Teaching – Equipping – Training – Ministering

Brenda Cox, Executive Director

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“...the Dayspring from on high has come to give light to those that sit in darkness...” --Luke 1:78-79

Newsletter

From Brenda:

Well...it is here. And each of us now must decide what we will do about it.

For several years I've written of the peril of scuttling our discernment and failing to test the spirit of those we listen to or follow; of letting our focus on Christ drift to human surrogates. I've lamented the loss of Christian gentleness and have been bewildered at what verges on hostility toward the poor in some circles. I've not understood where this spirit in us has come from, fearing we have been lured by some beguiling “pied piper” to the destruction of our witness and the loss of our “salt-ness.” As the rancor has increased, I've found myself dismayed at the absence in our Christian community of a softening agent, even adding to the harshness as we label those on the other side of the political spectrum as “evil.” I've been at a loss to know where that came from since there is no allowance for that in either the word of God or the person of Christ. Yet we have behaved thus *in the name of God*.

It is only now that the puzzle pieces have come together. And it signals a crisis in our community of faith. Not liberals, but conservative, fundamental Christians, not out there but here, in this community and in this nation. It is a crisis no longer to be warned of, but one that is here. It is a crisis I cannot keep silent about because it threatens the fabric of who we are as a people and of the legacy we leave.

Little did I know that the “pied piper” would be Ayn Rand.

Her name has been popping up recently especially in conservative circles, specifically, Congressman Paul Ryan of Wisconsin. He credits her for his entry into politics saying, “more than anyone else Ayn Rand did a fantastic job of explaining the *morality of capitalism* and the *morality of the individual*. It's that kind of thinking...that is sorely needed right now.” Ryan authored the Republican budget proposal and Rand authored *The Fountainhead* and *Atlas Shrugged*, oracles of her philosophy. I was vaguely aware of her in college but had thought her to be an atheist. So I decided to check things out, and what I've found is very troubling. The bewildering harshness in Christian circles seems but an echo of another voice.

Were she simply an unbeliever, that would be one thing, but she is a hostile force, *confirming* in a 1959 Mike Wallace interview that she was “out to destroy almost every edifice in the contemporary American way of life” (including Christianity) which was based on service to others or to “ghosts in heaven.” “I am the creator of a new code of morality not based upon faith” but upon reason. There could be no co-mingling of these. “It must be either faith or reason;” to elevate faith above reason was “evil.” She once declared Christianity to be for “losers” and called it the “kindergarten of communism.”

Yet two aspects of her new morality are what Congressman Ryan referenced, that of **capitalism** and of the **individual**. So what *is* her “kind of thinking” in these “moralities” Rep. Ryan says we are sorely in need of? Human worth is measured by competence and money. “*The only measure of human value is how well you do your work. The greatest virtue of all is to make money... money is the measure of a society's virtue.*” A person who needs others is a parasite. One is therefore not worthy to be loved unless he has earned it by what he has made of himself. “To love people indiscriminately ... without any standard ... regardless of whether they have any value or virtue” is “immoral.” So if a man or woman is weak? “He certainly does not deserve” love. Nor does he deserve help... “I know no worse injustice than the giving of the undeserved,” Rand states. “Only the man who does not need it, is fit to inherit wealth.”

Were she simply an obscure author, that would be one thing...but she is not. Her morality, *intended to replace Judeo-Christian morality*, has found a footing in Washington and in the attitudes of many whom we follow in our faith community. Her devotees range from Alan Greenspan and the Reagan administration to Clarence Thomas who requires his clerks to watch *The Fountainhead* movie, to Rep. Ryan who gives *Atlas Shrugged* as Christmas gifts and requires his interns to read it, to Ron Paul and Rand Paul, to Dick Arme and Fox Network who aggressively promoted the *Atlas Shrugged* movie (released in April), calling it a “victory of capitalism,” to Glenn Beck who says, “You gotta love Ayn Rand. She's great.”

This is a staggering list of conservatives, many of them professed Christians, who are promotional agents

of a person and philosophy that declares you can't have it both ways. This merger of Ayn Rand with Christ and the planting of her atheistic "objectivism" within the ranks of those *most passionate for the Lord* is a move only Satan could orchestrate. Yes, liberals and others have *their* issues, but they do not claim to present Christ to the world nor to *represent* Him. We do.

So how has this happened?

In reading over 600 excerpts from her works and interviews and viewing the '59 Wallace interview multiple times, I realize why Rush Limbaugh describes Rand as "brilliant." She is a breathtaking wordsmith and **if one does not understand the philosophy from which these words come or if they read only portions of her words, they will be smitten.** Her views of the individual carry concerns about government and warnings of its potential course that have resonated with conservative, libertarian and Tea Party philosophies.

The problem is her words often belie their true intent because they arise from a philosophy that is not apparent in selective excerpts. Freedom, for example, is foundational to her "morality," but what does she mean by it? *"To be free, a man must be free of his brothers...I owe nothing to my brothers...To earn my love, my brothers must do more than to have been born...The man who attempts to live for others is...a parasite in motive and makes parasites of those he serves..."* Defiance of evil is another Randian fundamental, but what is the evil she speaks of? Faith, altruism, and "loved ones or friends or business associates or political rulers" who may be "not merely mistaken, but evil... There are two sides to every issue: one side is right and the other is wrong, but the middle is always evil."

And "this kind of thinking" goes on and on.

So what would a culture under the influence of Randian morality look like? It would become increasingly uncompromising and insensitive, even hostile, to the poor and those who struggle, and increasingly benevolent to the rich, granting favors to them because they deserve it and withholding assistance to the "parasites." Since competency is the holy grail of Randism, the unemployed

are "losers"... unworthy of aid. There would be an increasing use of the "evil" label on leaders and others with whom we disagree.

William Buckley and other mainstream conservatives in the 60's fought hard to keep her on the fringe because of her atheism. While the Catholic community is confronting Ryan, a Catholic, about the incompatibility of Jesus and Rand, the silence from conservative Christian leadership is deafening and has created a vacuum that invites Randian "theology" to infiltrate the conservative Christian script in which Christ is clothed in unrecognizable garments and Rand wears counterfeit Christian attire. Both would be mortified. *This can only happen if we, individually and collectively, suspend our discernment.*

Chuck Colson is the lone conservative Protestant voice urging Christians to stay away from the film of Rand's book, *Atlas Shrugged*, and from anyone who watches the film: "I am no fan of big government," he states, "but there are far better ways to critique it than Rand's godless nonsense, especially for Christians"

"The real problem with Rand is the world view her novels and other writings sought to inculcate in her readers...it's hard to imagine a world view more antithetical to Christianity."

Chuck Colson

The degree to which we unquestioningly embrace those who profess Christ and yet espouse Rand's narcissism, is the degree to which we are lured unwittingly into a hybrid offshoot of authentic Christianity. As I have researched this topic, I have been struck by the bi-polar conservative media messaging, especially from Glenn Beck, who in one breath "calls us back to God" but in the other preaches Randism. (See Page 3). *Do I mean these are to be boycotted? No. I mean listen and watch with a discerning, truthful spirit, rejecting what is not of Christ.*

In googling Rand I came across this pagan blog:

From PANTHEON - the PAGAN BLOG

"...for Conservative Christians to embrace Objectivism is truly bizarre. It is so strange to see them suddenly espouse a philosophy more foreign to them than Satanism. At least Satanism leaves room for doubt and faith...In truth, Satanism is likely more sympathetic to Christianity than Rand's Objectivism."

"What I find amusing is that Christians, particularly those in public office, have begun espousing Rand, even though she is the closest thing to the Anti-Christ as has ever existed."

From ANTON LAVEY: Founder of SATANISM

"I give people Ayn Rand with trappings... Rand's philosophy with ceremony and ritual added."

LaVey has even been accused of **plagiarizing** part of his "Nine Satanic Statements" from the **John Galt** speech in Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*.

It is this book that Rep. Ryan gives as Christmas gifts and is required reading for his staff and which Wisconsin Senator Ron Johnson calls his "foundational book."

<p>The Poor/Lower Income: “The man at the top of the intellectual pyramid contributes the most to all those below him, but gets nothing...from others to add to the value of his time. The man at the bottom who, left to himself, would starve in his hopeless ineptitude, contributes nothing to those above him, but receives the bonus of all of their brains.” Ayn Rand via John Galt in <i>Atlas Shrugged</i></p>	
<p>“The middle class, coupled with the rich, make this country work. Those two groups working together in unison are what make this country work. Now, what’s slowing this country down? The poor. The poor and lower classes of this country have gotten a free ride... They contribute nothing to this country. They do nothing but take from it.” Glenn Beck</p> <p>“If people can’t even feed and clothe themselves, should they be allowed to vote?” R. Limbaugh</p>	<p><i>“Then [the King] will say unto them...Depart from me...for I was hungry, and you gave me no meat. I was thirsty, and you gave me no drink. I was a stranger, and you took me not in; naked, and you clothed me not; sick, and in prison, and you visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto you? Then shall he answer them, Inasmuch as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.”</i> Jesus Christ</p>

<p>Compassion: " For centuries, the battle of morality was fought between those who claimed that your life belongs to God and those who claimed that it belongs to your neighbors - between those who preached that the good is self-sacrifice for the sake of ghosts in heaven and those who preached that the good is self-sacrifice for the sake of incompetents on earth...The world is perishing from an orgy of self-sacrificing... It is immoral to love someone above one’s self...Man’s first duty is to himself.” Ayn Rand</p>	
<p>“When you vote for politicians who take from your back pocket to give to others, you think it's compassionate, you think it's caring? It's not. It's depriving the recipient of his own quest for self-interest.” Rush Limbaugh</p> <p>"The only [Katrina victims] we're seeing on television are the scumbags." –The Glenn Beck Program 9/9/05</p> <p>“Can you spare some change?’ Have you ever been asked this by some random panhandler? A good response is ‘Sorry, I only carry hundreds.’ It gets em every time.” G.Beck - November 24, 2009 Daily Newsletter</p> <p>“If anyone doesn’t know what shared sacrifice means, it’s the poor because they are never asked to pay for anything.” G.B. 11/24/09 Daily Newsletter</p>	<p><i>“Love those who hate you...go the second mile.”</i></p> <p><i>“Give to those who ask of you, and do not refuse...With what measure you give, it shall be given.”</i></p> <p><i>“Woe to you...hypocrites, for you put burdens on people grievous to be borne but you do not enter into them yourselves.”</i> Jesus Christ</p> <p><i>“...This is the law of Christ...that you bear one another’s burdens.”</i> Paul, the Apostle</p> <p><i>“Put on, therefore, bowels of mercy...Blessed are the merciful for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.”</i> Jesus Christ</p> <p><i>“Be tenderhearted one to another.”</i></p> <p><i>“He who is first will be last...”</i></p> <p><i>“Come unto me all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”</i> Jesus Christ</p>

<p>Miscellaneous:</p> <p>“I’m a guy who has always believed we’ve had good presidents and bad presidents...and that may remain true...[but] we have had out and out evil presidents. Andrew Jackson, Woodrow Wilson...Barack Obama may be the worst of them all.” “FDR was one evil S.O.B.” Glenn Beck</p> <p>Also labeled as evil: Al Gore, George Bernard Shaw, Hillary Clinton</p>	<p>“There is none good...no not one...If you [man], being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more does your heavenly father know how to give gifts...” Jesus Christ</p> <p>“Judge not...if you are judging, you are not in obedience.” Jesus and His brother, James.</p> <p>“Let your communication be ‘yes or no,’ anything more than this comes of evil.” Jesus Christ</p>
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WHY AM I REFRENCING GLENN BECK?

Several months ago 3 friends separately asked me what I thought of Glenn Beck. I told them I didn't watch him because what I had seen from occasional clips was not impressive. All encouraged me to watch more of him because they were certain that if I did my view of him would change. I went on-line and watched large clips from many different Beck television and radio programs. The result was no better. The reason? **There seems to be two Glenn Becks.** One, is soft-spoken, the other is over the top at times. One is seemingly thoughtful and the other seems to shoot from the hip with manic bullets of inaccuracy and anger. One frequently talks of God and Christ; the other carries no resemblance to Him in attitude, behavior or words. **So who is the real Glenn Beck?**

The problem is... Glenn Beck is seen by many in our community as a *spiritual* leader rather than a media personality due, in part, to the way he presents himself. Though Rush Limbaugh is much more vitriolic, he doesn't espouse Christ as Beck does. Both authenticity and the integrity of God among men, demand we "test the spirit" of one who purports Christ as he does. We are to be barometers in our culture for what aligns with God and what doesn't. A person or cause should never cause us to round the sharp corners of truth "for the sake of the cause."

"Let no man deceive you...Test the spirit of every man to see what sort it is."

The first part of this scripture is one I've used many times over 35 years of Bible teaching telling my classes, "That includes me. Don't *automatically* accept everything I say. Let the Holy Spirit be your filter. If there is something scripturally I've said that you remain uncomfortable with, *you have a duty to talk with me about it. If I am wrong about something, I need to know about it.*" We must be purveyors of Truth – **not** our version of truth.

SO HOW DO WE "TEST THE SPIRIT"?

1. **Don't swallow everything "hook, line and sinker."** If something doesn't sound right...check it out. *When researching Beck I ran across a quote that cast him in a negative light, but it somehow didn't ring true. So I spent almost 2 hours running down the speech from which that quote was extracted. In context, his quote was very legitimate and positive with none of the negative connotations someone was seeking to attach to it.*
On another occasion on one of Beck's video clips, he was writing statistics on his board from a page of notes regarding the income poverty level in the U.S. For a family of four he recorded the poverty income level at \$44,000. "And this is poor?!" he intoned. That figure didn't sound right, so a 10 minute google search revealed in multiple sources the 2010 poverty income level for a family of four to be \$21,000...a huge difference that leaves a decidedly different impression.
2. **There is a reason Scripture requires 2 witnesses. Use more than one source** for your news or other information. Add one of the major network newscasts, PBS News Hour, or CNN as a balance to your primary source of news. Listen with discernment to both...look for truth wherever it lies. It won't be entirely in either place.
3. **Check for a Double Standard – Hypocrisy must be nailed.** It is the single most egregious target Christ confronted. If I get more angry at "them" than I do at "us," for the same affront it means I'm not pursuing truth, only *my version* of it. The Pharisees were the only persons Christ condemned. The "leaven of the Pharisees" was hypocrisy. It is deadly to the Spirit. It obliterates our witness. The world will see it long before we do.
4. **Look for Flags that will alert you to a false spirit in one who professes to be of God.** Words of ridicule or personal attack. A spirit of anger or vitriol. Labels that signal judgment of the person. Use of the word "evil" against a *person* signals a misunderstanding of the human condition which a spiritual leader should know. Words or behaviors that signal a lack of humility. Look for patterns and not just occasional lapses. Do their words match their behaviors?

The Difficulty for us is determining what is legitimate conservative philosophy and what has been tainted by Randian "theology." Because so many media voices have vigorously espoused this hybrid mix, it is likely our views are contaminated. Measuring our political paradigm against the person and teachings of Christ is the only sword sharp enough to divide the spirit (of Truth) from the soul (of deception).

It is here. And each of us now must decide what we will do about it.

Ministry Update Special July Insert

Book of Galatians

New Sunday Morning Chapel Study

Our year long study of “Christ, the Revolutionary” and the follow-up study of “The Revolutionaries” has concluded. Our new study of Galatians will begin Sunday, July 10. Galatians is a masterful book on two great twin themes: Grace and Freedom. Brenda reflects on these two themes:

“These are the keys to the life of power and peace not only promised to us but required of us if we are to be change agents in this world. ‘The glorious liberty of the children of God,’ mentioned in Romans 8 is about the grace of Galatians. Learning what grace really is, and how it is appropriated in our lives is what awaits us as we open our Bibles and our hearts to Paul’s epistle to the Galatians.”

At least fifteen men and women faithfully attend on Sunday mornings. There is a great spirit of love and community in those who gather. Please join us Sunday mornings at 8:00 beginning July 10 and go on to church afterwards.

There is no Sunday morning chapel study on major holidays.

Teaching Tour of Israel Registration Nears End

We are nearing the deadline for final registration for the teaching tour Brenda will be leading in Israel. **As of now** the minimum number of 10 required for the trip to make has been met. We won’t know for sure until full payments are made.

Full payment is due in the Dayspring office by close of business day Friday, July 15. ***Please let us know as soon as possible if you are interested and have not yet contacted us.***

Tour Date: November 5 – 15

Dayspring Discipleship Institute

Is a Non-Profit Organization wholly supported by your gifts and contributions which are tax deductible. Thank you for supporting the ministries of Dayspring and the teaching ministry of Brenda Cox.



Nursing Home “Touch Ministry”



Tuesday Visits. Our original four foot-soldiers have grown to six women who visit several residents every Tuesday. They continue to deliver birthday

baskets created by Linda Loveless and cards made by Terry Lancaster and the activities director at the Senior Care Center of Lake Pointe continues to express the sentiments of those we visit, “you make their day!” Of course, they make our day as well.

Monday Morning Art Class. Several ladies assist Elaine Souder in conducting art classes at the home. “It is just amazing how they are responding. You need to come see what is happening,” Elaine told Brenda recently. “It’s not just crafts, many are doing real art and I’m going to have to get better quality water colors because of their skill.”

Elaine pays for all the supplies out of her own pocket with some help from her art workshop students. *If you would like to help defray some of these expenses, please let us know.*

Popcorn Social. Caroline Doyle continues to coordinate the music for the social time with a variety of offerings ranging from old hymns and to swing songs which they enjoy singing along with Melvin and others who lead. Most recently, we provided a patriotic, early July 4 program. The Dayspring “One Heart” Singers was a key part of the program. It is made up of Gay Bostick, Anne Morton, Patty Stefani and Karen Rash, who is the coordinator.

Twelve year old **Elizabeth Barbee**, who has only taken lessons for 6 or 7 months, wowed everyone at the piano as she played a classical medley like she had been playing for years. What an amazing talent!

Our next “touch” outreach to these wonderful people is to record their memoirs. Elizabeth Moses and Judy Adams will be teaming for that and welcome anyone else who would like to participate.

Teresa Box, coordinator for this ministry, has been purchasing inexpensive costume jewelry for the ladies in the home. They sort of go crazy over it. ***If you would like to help with this small effort, please let us know.***

Stories from the Home

“MS is the Best thing that ever happened to me”

I liked Barbara the very first time I walked in her room as she gave Teresa, Elizabeth and me a smile that lit up the room. Her sparkling personality radiates from her motionless body that has been stricken by multiple sclerosis, leaving her only the use of her right arm and about half the use of her left arm. She is definitely the “Queen” of her room where she “holds court” every time we visit and entertains us with her quick wit and wonderful stories of the life she used to live with her husband and children. We all became quick friends as she showed us a sampling of her delightful scrapbooks that she creates with painstaking labor – pasting in photos of her family, pictures of birds, flowers, along with other favorite items that she likes.

Barbara told us two things that have made a deep impression on all of us. She told us a few weeks ago that she had an experience a few years ago that changed her life and she has never been the same. When she was in a church service with her husband one Sunday, they were talking to the priest and she had her rosary in her hand. When the priest put his hand over hers to pray, she felt a jolt like electricity from the Holy Spirit that ignited a fire inside her! She said it created such a desire for the Lord that she began to read the Bible and pray with a hunger that she had never experienced before. She continues to tell us how good the Lord is to her and how much she loves Him.

And then she told us that getting MS was the best thing that ever happened to her! I asked her how on earth could she say that? She explained that before she had MS, she used to be irritable, snippy, anxious, stressed out, and was running around being way too busy “doing” things. MS caused her to be a “better” person because it forced her to slow down – losing the anxiety as peace took over her body and she began to be kinder to other people and focus more on the Lord. How amazing to hear these words from someone who in the natural realm would most likely be bitter and resentful as her body wastes away – totally dependent on others to care for her most basic needs!

Her remarkable testimony reminds me of what Watchman Nee said in his book, *Release of the Spirit*, when he talked about doing “the thing at hand” that keeps us from walking in the Spirit. But when we abandon ourselves to Him, He draws us to Himself – putting to death our desires for lesser things and creates a desire for things of the Spirit. He then causes a contentment and peace in our life unlike anything else we’ve ever experienced.

Barbara shows us what true joy in the Lord looks like when a life is abandoned to Him – allowing Him to work His will no matter what the circumstances.

-- Caroline Doyle

Prayer Garden

Despite the heat, the garden seems particularly beautiful this year. Your donations for the added summer needs has made possible our purchase of enough mulch to cover all areas. Your total giving came within \$5.00 of our target amount!

We continue to transition Riley’s Berm into a southwest habitat with succulent ground cover.

Two people have volunteered their help with hand watering and one man has offered to be our “gofer” service. One long time “friend of the garden” worked 12 hours in the garden the first of June!

We are so grateful for all who have been so generous in your time and money.



***He
gave Himself for us
that we might be
an
extraordinary people
zealous of good works***

Titus 2:14