



April 11, 2014

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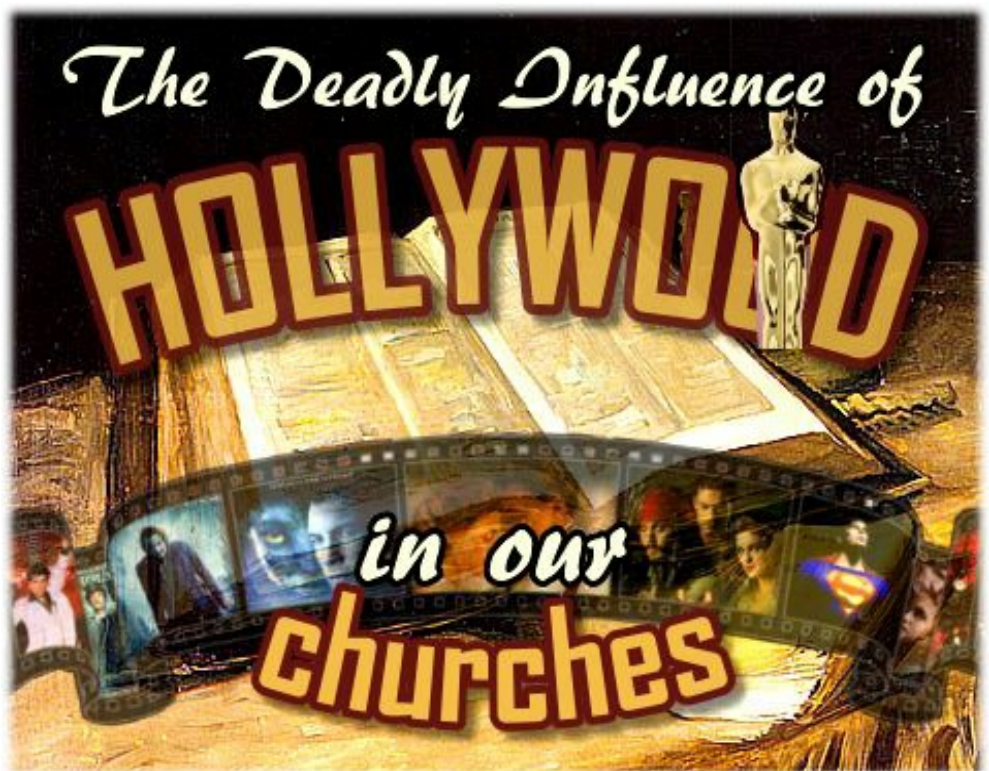
The Place of Chastening in Revival



"But the path of the just is as the shining light,
that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."
Proverbs 4:18

Heads Up!

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Roy _____ is a couple of years older than me. We grew up in the same church, but neither of us was saved at the time. He served in Viet Nam, and then became a state trooper for the state of Texas. We didn't see each other for almost ten years until we met again in McAllen, where I was pastoring Maranatha Baptist Church. I invited Roy to visit and he brought his wife, and was soon led to Christ by Bro. John Wilder. Roy rang me up one night and asked if I would like to ride with him in his police car. He said he had the radar car that night and he would see if we could catch a few speeders. I went with him several times and it was a real eye opener. One night he said to me, "We will go over to highway 83 and see what happens when the movie at the drive in theatre finishes." Roy told me we would probably catch a few speeders since the movie was a car racing film and the moviegoers would have to try out what they saw on the screen.

He was right.

We were waiting about a mile from the drive in movie theater, parked off the side of the road facing toward McAllen, with Roy watching his rear view mirror when he said, "Here they come!"

Three cars were racing side by side, filling the entire highway, when they passed us. Roy hit the accelerator and turned on the lights. He told me to write down the license plate number of the car at the back of the pack as we tore past it in pursuit of the next car. I suppose the driver we passed thought he was being let off and he darted down a side road, heading for home. Roy caught the second car and booked the driver for speeding, and then reached into the back seat and pulled up a thick book that listed the details of every licensed vehicle in the state. In a few seconds he had the name and address of the owner of the loser's car.

It was midnight when we pulled up in the driveway, and there was the loser's car. Roy left the red light on, and it was only half a minute until the whole family was standing on the doorstep. Roy asked, "Who owns this car?" A teenaged girl said, "I do." Roy asked, "Who was driving it tonight?" Her younger brother said, "I was." Roy said, "Let me see your license, please." The boy's dad said, "What did he do?" Roy said, "He went to the movie at the drive in, and that persuaded him to do some car racing." (If looks could kill...well, the boy would have been a goner for sure. The whole family gave him the evil eye.)

MOVIES MOLD MEN

When I was in the Civil Air Patrol as a young teen, we were shown lots of training films. I never thought about why until just recently when it dawned on me that the United States Air Force was molding our young minds and shaping us to enlist after we finished high school. Many of the boys in our squadron did exactly that and served in Viet Nam.

Movies are a powerful force for conditioning the minds and hearts of the viewers. Even if the viewer is totally unaware of it happening. Even if he does not discern that it is the purpose of the filmmakers.

Sometimes I think Christians are the most gullible people on planet earth. They watch the most violent, sexy, profane, deviant, immoral, and blasphemous movies on the market and then say, "It doesn't affect me at all. It doesn't cause me any harm, spiritually, mentally, or physically.

So, if that is the case, would you mind explaining to us old fashioned preachers just why there are so many big companies that are so willing to pay BIG money to persuade viewers to buy their product? Or do they spend all that money just to entertain sports addicts? Think about it. Big business does nothing for free. Neither do movie script writers, producers, directors, film crews, or actors. Or the Devil that inspires so much of the garbage

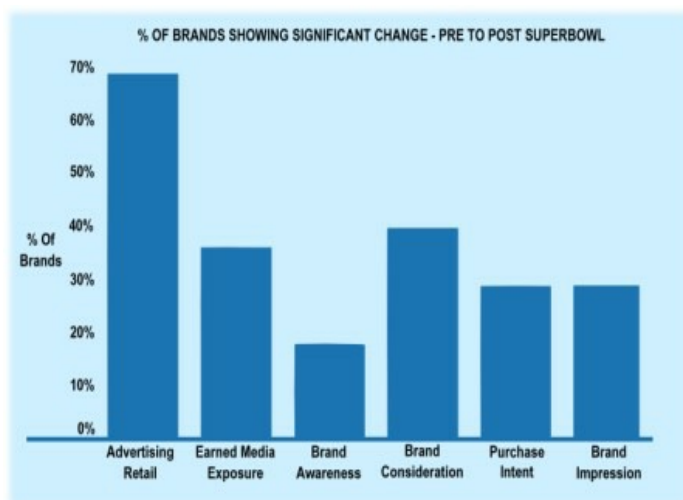
they sell to Christians. Their motives are not as pure as the suckers who watch them think.

Bleacherreport published the following article on Superbowl ads and what they cost:

According to Paul Farhi of The Washington Post, a 30-second spot will cost approximately \$4 million, right around the same price that CBS was charging to get some airtime during the Baltimore Ravens vs. San Francisco 49ers matchup last year. Anheuser-Busch InBev, Audi, CarMax, Chevrolet, Coca-Cola, Doritos, Go Daddy, M&M's, T-Mobile, Volkswagen and more will get a chance to try and recoup some of their expenses by swaying consumers with pitches that range from creative to serious, humorous to sexy and some that are just plain silly.

These mega-corporations are generally the only ones with a marketing budget large enough to absorb such a massive expenditure on self-promotion, but the return on investment could pay dividends due to a level of exposure unable to be obtained anywhere else.

However, there is significant risk when doling out such a large sum of cash to reach Super Bowl viewers. According to a study done by Crossmedia, an independent media agency, these advertisers can quickly suffer from diminishing returns.



As the graph indicates, only 70 percent of brands will even be remembered by viewers after the game and the numbers get worse from there.

Increases in purchase intent, one of the main reasons companies bother promoting their brand at all, occurred in just 30 percent of brands. However, increases in brand exposure and brand consideration took place for 40 percent of the companies advertising during this football frenzy.

Those are certainly respectable figures, but some might expect \$133,000 a second to resonate a bit more with viewers.

Either way, Super Bowl commercials are here to stay. It is a pop culture phenomenon that advertisers are going to continue to take advantage of and networks are going to continue charging beaucoup bucks for the right to do so.

<http://bleacherreport.com/articles/1945417-super-bowl-ad-costs-latest-info-on-cost-of-2014-super-bowl-commercials>

Here is an example that was in the news recently:

TEEN'S CONFESSION: HORROR FILM INSPIRED MURDER OF MOM, SISTER

By Scott Gordon, NBCDFW.com

A 17-year-old wrote in a confession released Thursday that the horror movie remake of "Halloween" gave him the idea to kill his mother and sister. Jake Evans is on trial for the Oct. 3 slayings of his 15-year-old sister, Mallory, and mother Jami in their upscale Aledo home. The confession was introduced as evidence. In a four-page written confession to police hours after his arrest, Evans said he had watched the remake of "Halloween" three times earlier that week.

The 2007 Rob Zombie film is about a 10-year-old boy who murders several people and kills a number of others 15 years later. While watching it, I was amazed at how at ease the boy was during the murders and how little remorse he had," Evans wrote. "Afterward, I was thinking to myself it would be the same for me when I kill someone." Later, as his mother and sister watched the presidential debate that night, he said he "just sat in the living room thinking about how I was going to kill my family."

He wrote that he got a knife. "I went back upstairs and kept pacing back and forth imagining killing Mallory," he said. "Thoughts of causing her pain kept entering my mind and were really bothering me. But then I'd think about the times she hurt my feelings." He later knocked on her bedroom door and asked her to watch the comedy movie "Water Boy."

Then he changed his plans. "After a while, I thought to myself that if I were to kill my mom and Mallory, I wouldn't want them to feel anything, so I decided to kill them both with the .22 revolver I stole from my Grandpa," he wrote.

He said he thought about it some more. "I then spent probably over an hour walking nervously around the house thinking how life will never be the same and how I would never see them again," he wrote. He said he knocked on sister's door again and told her their mother needed her. "She came out and out of the corner of her eye she saw me pointing the gun at her," he said. "She thought I was joking and told me that I was freaking her out. I shot her in the back and then the head."

DEACON TRUE SEZ -



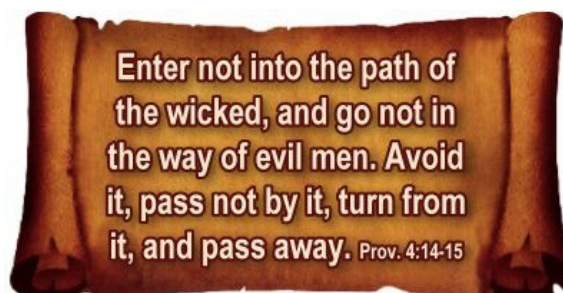
Ma teaches grade three boys in Sunday School. She told me yesterday that one little feller musta put his shoes on without looking because his left shoe was on his right foot and vice a versa. She told him, "Georgie boy, you got your shoes on the wrong feet." He looked down at his feet for a bit, and then said, "These're the only feet I got."

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LINKS IN THE MEDIA CHAIN -

- For all you people who wish you could whistle ~
<http://www.wimp.com/thinkwhistle/>
- Now we know what an expert is ~
<http://www.wimp.com/theexpert/>
- A volcano up close ~
<http://www.dump.com/dronevolcano/>

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'DREADFUL AND TERRIFYING'

He then went to the study and shot his mother three times. "In shock, I ran to my room and was screaming at the top of my lungs that I am really messed up and that I killed my mom and sister," he wrote. "As I emptied the shells on my bed, I heard noises (sic) and realized that Mallory was still alive," he said. "While I loaded the gun back up, I was shouting that I was sorry and then ran as fast as I could to kill her. I made sure my mom was dead and shot her again in the head."



Jake Evans with sister, Mallory. Inset: Jake's Mom.

He said he placed the gun on the counter and called 911. Sheriff's deputies found the bodies of his mother and sister and arrested him. In the last lines of his confession, he wrote: "I know now though that I'm done with killing. It's the most dreadful and terrifying thing I will ever experience. And what happened last night will haunt me forever."

<http://usnews.nbcnews.com/news/2013/01/25/16692073-teens-confession-horror-film-inspired-murder-of-mom-sister?lite>

I am nearing fifty years in the ministry. Some of my dearest preacher friends have been preaching longer than that. About 18 months ago I sent out a request to all the pastors I know and asked them for their comments on the harmful effects of movies on Christians. Most of them wrote back and I decided to use their insights to write a series of articles on the damage that movies do to God's people.

I know, the people who need to break their addiction to the cinema (should we change the spelling to "sin-ema?") will not read anything that criticizes Hollywood, but there may be somewhere a parent or a pastor who is already discerning what is happening to those they love and will have (or will grow?) the backbone needed to turn off the bilge pump.

In this series of articles we will deal with the following problems:

- The Morality Crisis of watching movies
- The Money Crisis
- Redeeming the time
- The damage done to compassion
- Spectating or Participating?
- A generation that can no longer read and why
- The support of Sodom
- The Music of the Fertility Cults - From Babylon to Hillsong!
- What about television, computers, smart phones, and DVD's?
- The Hardening of the Heart - Why we do not witness
- Humanism, Evolution and Atheism - The Idols of Hollywood
- Teaching Christian children to swear
- Lust Makes the world go 'round
- The overthrow of the Christian home
- When Movies come in the door Revival goes out
- Why the fixation on aliens?
- Friendship with the world/ Enmity with God
- Why filmmakers hate the Bible
- Grafting the Word, or the world?
- Reinforcing the flesh in order to serve God?
- The Pornification of the Christian mind
- Movies and third world missions - the devastation missionaries bring
- Counsel from Gehenna
- Earning a degree in artificiality and pretence
- Rambo, Die Hard, and violence in the home
- Prostitution via YouTube
- Teaching women how to be the aggressors
- Occultic superheroes
- Breeding Dissatisfaction at the Movies/ Going cold on real life
- The Vanishing of ethics

I want to include at the end of each article a quote from one of the pastors who replied to my query.

"Certainly no discerning Christian would ever pose the question, 'What's wrong with the movies?' Such a question would be tantamount to asking, 'What's wrong with nudity, sensual hilarity, passionate public love-making, illicit sex, unfaithfulness to holy vows, divorce, blatant immorality, sadistic violence, ad nauseam.'" ~ Missionary Richard Hester

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I am not much of a gardener, being more of a part-time potterer, but in our yard I have seen some events occur that made me think of some spiritual parallels.

When we first moved into our house it boasted two sweet little hedges, surrounding garden beds. I noticed that there was some type of little vine growing through one of the hedges. I spent a good hour looking for the root of this vine, searching through all the base of the hedge. I couldn't find it anywhere, which seemed very strange. Then I tried just pulling the vine off the hedge, but in spite of my efforts, the vine seemed to gain strength from my attack, and finally ended up covering the entire hedge.

One day when I was tugging more of the vine off, I noticed something very odd. Part of the vine had been twisted around a branch of the hedge, and as I pulled it away I realized that the vine had tiny suckers on it. This gave me the clue I needed, and after researching via Google, I found that this was a parasitic vine.

It was called Golden Dodder, and was pretty much the kiss of death to any plant. One thing I found intriguing was that when the seed in the soil sprang up, the tiny plant searched around for a host. Once it had attached

itself to a plant, its root would disappear, and it would be completely attached to the host plant.

Isn't this little vine a lot like sin? Its seeds are so small, and yet there is so much destruction in its wake. Sin, like this vine, can start off appearing so harmless and tiny. Sin attaches itself to us, or maybe we attach ourselves to it.

We make a habit out of 'little' iniquities. In fact, as long as we can see the 'root' of the sin, we feel sure we'll be able to get rid of it, if it looks like it is taking over.

Sin is a deceiver. We get comfortable with it, and then the root disappears. Sometimes when we indulge in sin, we find ourselves branching out in sins in other areas that are seemingly unrelated to the sin that began it. Because the root has disappeared, we wonder how we fell into these sins, but the cause was the small root at the beginning. The root is gone but the vine is climbing up and through the hedge.

One thing I can't understand about this parasitic vine is, Why does it kill its host? Why can't it just take what it needs and leave enough for the host plant, and they can both live in a semi-happy symbiotic relationship? I guess this has a lot to do with the fall of man because there is no way that this vine is going to stop until it has drained the last drop of life from the plant.

Sin is the same. There is no symbiotic relationship possible here. It will entwine and entangle, and suck the life out of us. There is no comfortable compromise. We can't play footsies with it, or hope for a happy ending with it. When I researched getting rid of this vine, all the sites I googled started with..."Dig out infected plants and burn with diesel."

Romans 8:13 has the same advice for the vine of Sin, "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify (or destroy) the deeds of the body, ye shall live." Colossians 3:5 gives further instruction, "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry," verses 8 and 9 go on, "But now ye also put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another..."

Our hedge is now dead, and the vine has spread to one of the topiary bushes inside the hedge. All I can do is try to keep it from going anywhere else. Due to the fact that the real estate agent/owners don't see the seriousness of the situation, our only hope is to try to contain it.

How is your garden growing?

Do you need to dig out your infected plants, and destroy them? You can't in good faith share them. I tried to dig out our hedge, but before I began I went and spoke to the Council to see if they had a policy for destroying this plant, which is listed as a noxious weed in three other states. They got back to me with, "Just take it down to the Council dump to be mulched." So I could share all its sweet little seeds with every other gardener in town? I don't think so!

Don't share your sin, destroy it! Don't pass on those CD's or DVD's you feel convicted about! Don't take those books to the op shop! If they're no good for you, why would they be ok for someone else? How about attitudes? They are pretty easy to pass on...Hebrews

13:15 tells us about another killer vine. "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God: lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled." Don't share your bad attitudes either, take them to the Lord and get them cleared up. You don't want to be the kiss of death to someone's walk with the Lord.

Remember my garden, and the poor hedge that had its life sucked slowly and inexorably away by something that started so small and that became all consuming. How does your garden grow?

"....and their soul shall be as a watered garden; and they shall not sorrow any more at all." Jeremiah 31:12

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HOW LONG TILL HILLSONG? – By Buddy Smith



An Independent Baptist Pastor here in Australia openly stated recently that his church is "going Hillsong." Time will tell what he means by that.

Hillsong's Music will not come by itself. The nose of the camel cannot be separated from its head, hair, hooves, and humps. Music goes with the Man, in this case, the pastor. And the Man will not stand alone. He is part of a Movement. Take note who speaks at his conferences and who attends. The Movement also has a Message. It can be summed up, "Whatever it takes to draw a crowd is what we will do." And there is a particular Morality that goes with Hillsong's Music. Watch this space.

Jeff Royal sent the following a few days ago:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lobYx2EIEhM>- Video promo of Hillsong's Crazy Noise for Kids. They are starting them out earlier and earlier in the mystical world of contemporary praise & worship'

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQGJdTpMUcU&list=PL81CB5A6A7DC8A13E>- The kids worship indoctrination no doubt will lead to what you see of this video. Darlene Zschech and Brooke Fraser of Hillsong lead in the mystical, repetitive supposed songs of worship.

<http://us.hillsongmusic.com/crazy-noise/>

For the first time ever Hillsong Kids presents an album especially for preschoolers and early school age children. 'Crazy Noise' is an album full of catchy new songs for fans of The Wiggles and Yo Gabba Gabba. A couple of Hillsong Kids' favourite songs and an appearance from JD, lead singer of 'Hillsong United', are also added into the mix to complete this wonderful collection.

Hillsong Children's Pastor Dave Wakerley says "For a long time we have wanted to create an album for this age group and we are so excited about producing this album for the preschooler. 'Crazy Noise' is full of brand new songs that your little ones will enjoy singing, dancing, and praising God to."

I stumbled across this interesting video this week, showing the new interactive gloves that are being developed and marketed by Imogen Heap. <http://www.dump.com/gloves/music/>

So how long will be until rock musicians at Hillsong (and in IB churches that follow its lead) are using the technology that allows them to leave their guitars, drum kits, and keyboards at home? I fully expect this technology to make way for performers to increase the sensuality of their fertility cult music through dance.

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If It Was Retroactive, Then Adam and Eve Would Have Been In Trouble.

THE TOTALITARIAN INSTINCTS OF THE LEFT **Andrew Bolt APRIL 09 2014**

Charles Krauthammer on Mozilla's sacking of its chief executive for having six years earlier donated \$1000 to a lobby group against same-sex marriage:

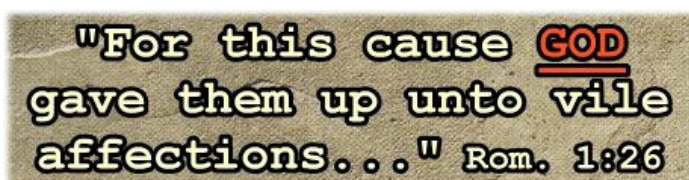
This is the culture of the left not being satisfied with making an argument or even prevailing in an argument, but in destroying personally and marginalizing people who oppose it...

(P)eople are now declaring the national debate we have had for a decade or two on gay marriage is closed, and anybody who opposes gay marriage is a bigot and should be written out of polite society, ostracized and lose their jobs...

Andrew Sullivan, who not only is a gay activist but is the intellectual father of gay marriage ... calls [the targeting of Eich] disgusting. He's absolutely right. This is totalitarian discourse, and it shows a level of intolerance, it should be unacceptable.

http://blogs.news.com.au/heraldsun/andrewbolt/index.php/heraldsun/comments/the_totalitarian_instincts_of_the_left1/

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THERAPY FOR THE FUNNY BONE -

The evangelist stood with the pastor at the door of the church shaking hands with the members as they departed. One elderly lady motioned to the evangelist to bend down so she could tell him something. She whispered in his ear, "Preacher, I want you to know that your sermons were absolutely the worst preaching I ever heard." When he drew back in surprise she looked him straight in the eyes, nodded her head once and walked away. The pastor asked him, "What did she say?" When the evangelist repeated her words he added, "That's a bit hard to take!" The pastor laughed and replied, "Don't worry about it. She just repeats what everybody else is saying."

Brother Sam and Bro. Joe had been close friends ever since they met at Bible college. It seemed that every time one of them was called to a new church, the other was soon called to a church nearby, so they spent a lot of time together. Poor Bro. Joe had an awful tendency to exaggerate whenever he got around a bunch of preachers, so Bro. Sam finally told him, "Listen here, Joe, I've just about had it with you telling tall tales to our preacher friends. From now on I'm going to sit by you when we go out to eat together, and if you start exaggerating, I am going to kick you real hard under the table. Joe said, "I know, I've cried a thousand buckets of tears over that." Sure enough, the next pastor's fellowship a bunch of preachers went out for lunch, and Joe could hardly wait to tell them, "The last church I pastored was three blocks long, and (KICK!!!!) and half an inch wide."

Mark Twain once told of a sermon he heard from a longwinded preacher trying to raise money for an orphanage. After the preacher spoke for ten minutes, Twain said he was so moved that he planned to contribute \$50. By the time half an hour had passed he had cut his intended gift to \$10, but when the preacher finished an hour and a half later, he took \$5 out of the plate when it passed by him.

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I suppose most missionaries are looking for an Elisha, some man to pick up their mantle and ministry when they have finished their work. Elisha followed Elijah, and at the right time the mantle fell, was taken up and the ministry went on. What we first need to ask is, "What kind of a man was it who dropped the mantle?" Perhaps before looking for an Elisha a missionary should aspire to be an Elijah. Are my footsteps worth following from Gilgal to the other side of Jordan.

Second Kings 1 reveals several character traits of Elijah that a missionary would do well to mimic.

We first see that he was **OBEДИENT** to the Lord. Verses 3, 4 & 15 say, *"But the angel of the LORD said to Elijah the Tishbite, Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Samaria, and say unto them, Is it not because there is not a God in Israel, that ye go to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron? Now therefore thus saith the LORD, Thou shalt not come down from that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die. And Elijah departed. And the angel of the LORD said unto Elijah, Go down with him: be not afraid of him. And he arose, and went down with him unto the king."* This is the starting place. Am I obedient to God?

Then we note that he was **DIFFERENT** from the world about him. Note verse 8, *"And they answered him, He was an hairy man, and girt with a girdle of leather about his loins. And he said, It is Elijah the Tishbite."* Am I different from the world around me?

Thirdly, it can be seen that he was **CONFIDENT**. Verses 9-12 proclaim, *"Then the king sent unto him a captain of fifty with his fifty. And he went up to him: and, behold, he sat on the top of an hill. And he spake unto him, Thou man of God, the king hath said, Come down. And Elijah answered and said to the captain of fifty, If I be a man of God, then let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And there came down fire from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty. Again also he sent unto him another captain of fifty with his fifty. And he answered and said unto him, O man of God, thus hath the king said, Come down quickly. And Elijah answered and said unto them, If I be a man of God, let fire come down from heaven, and consume thee and thy fifty. And the fire of God came down from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty."* Am I certain that I am God's man in God's place?

In the same verses listed above Elijah was shown to be **RESILIENT**. No one was going to modify this man's manner, morals, methods, or message. Do I waffle in these areas?



The entire text reveals that the prophet was **VALIANT** in the cause. He was one bold man to stand against the monarch and the military. Though he was all alone, he really wasn't all alone, for God and he made a majority.

Finally, Elisha was **INNOCENT**. *"And he said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Forasmuch as thou hast sent messengers to enquire of Baalzebub the god of Ekron, is it not because there is no God in Israel to enquire of his word? therefore thou shalt not come down off that bed on which thou art gone up, but shalt surely die. So he died according to the word of the LORD which Elijah had spoken. And Jehoram reigned in his stead in the second year of Jehoram the son of Jehoshaphat king of Judah; because he had no son."* He spoke the truth even though it was bad news for the listener. Am I willing to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth? Missionaries of the mantle will.

Are you a man of the mantle? Am I a man of the mantle? Are we men of the mantle? Are we training up our boys to be men of the mantle? Are we discipling others to be men of the mantle? Will those following our footsteps have a mantle to pick up? Will it be worth picking up? Or will it be dust covered, ignored and moth eaten because it was of no real value to the next generation of prophets?

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The word HYPOCRITE comes from at least four different words as it is used in the New Testament: [HUPOKRINOMAI](#), [SUNUPOKRINOMAI](#), [HUPOKRISIS](#) and [HUPOKRITES](#).

Two of the words are more commonly used, which are [HUPOKRISIS](#) and [HUPOKRITES](#). Technically, the very word HYPOCRITE is a transliterated word directly from the Greek. When we say it is a transliterated word, that means that it is almost letter for letter the same as the Greek word. It is like the word for [BAPTIZE](#), which is the Greek word [BAPTIZO](#).

These two words had the original meaning of “to explain” or “to interpret.” Often, these were used in speaking about those who interpreted dreams, and instructions. Often, in secular Greek, the word meant “to answer.” One of the most fascinating things about these two words is the fact that they were not used in a bad sense.

There were three professions that used these words to describe the work in which they were involved, other than the one who was a professional interpreter of dreams. The orator was often called a [HUPOKRITES](#), and was considered to be most gifted and talented in speaking. A reader of poetry was also considered to be a hypocrite, as he would often recite from memory and with inflection, repeat different poems. That naturally led to a third profession of which most of us are probably more familiar – the actor. An actor was described as a [HYPOKRITES](#), or the “answerer.” The answerer soon gained a bad connotation and it came to mean a “dissembler” or one who is playing a part. We would say that this one is putting on an act.

When the word came to be used in the Bible, it was considered to be a bad word. As we see the word used in the New Testament, it speaks of one that is involved with a continued or active sort of evil. It soon carried the connotations of evil, godless, and lawless. Christ condemned hypocrisy constantly during His sojourn on the earth. Consider a few examples of these words and how they describe those who are hypocrites.

In [Matthew 6:2](#), Jesus said, *“Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.”* Here is the case of one that is play acting, and by that play acting, he is showing himself to be good. He is doing it so as to be seen that he is praying. That also fits in v. 16 with fasting. He is interested in getting for himself the credit. He is an active stealer of God’s glory by calling attention to himself, he is only putting on an act.

In [Mark 12:15](#), the Herodians and Pharisees came tempting Jesus and said concerning taxes, *“Shall we give, or shall we not give? But he, knowing their hypocrisy, said unto them,*



Why tempt ye me? bring me a penny, that I may see it.” They were not interested in what the Scriptures said. They were only using this ploy as a cloak, to hide the real reason that they came to Christ. They were scheming to harm with lying words.

In His stinging rebuke of hypocrisy found in the entire 23rd chapter of Matthew, we read in verse 28 *“Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.”* They were hiding an evil heart with their works, which appeared to be righteous. This one goes through the motions of being godly, but inside, he is full of pride and hatred.

In [Luke 12:56](#), Jesus said, *“Ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern this time?”* Such a one is really blind, in that he cannot discern the things of God, but can the things of the flesh.

The hypocrite is the one who is under God’s condemnation ([Matthew 24:51](#)). We must be cautious concerning this sin, because it is one of the easier ones in which all of us can fall.

Jesus warned His own in [Luke 12:1](#), *“Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.”* May we all take heed, lest we fall and gain the title “[HYPOKRITES](#)” or hypocrite.

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MALACHI 3:13-18

13 Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against thee? 14 Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts? 15 And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered.

16 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. 17 And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. 18 Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.



NOTABLE QUOTES AND QUOTABLE NOTES -

This was sent to me by a fellow missionary Jeremy Johnson, that I just had to pass on..."So tonight I'm gone, acting as a substitute father at a high school helping some of our youth fetch reports. When I came home, my wife informed me of a conversation with our son Tanner (4). He was sitting in the living room tonight colouring, when he stopped and as serious as could be turned to my wife and said, 'Mom, I hear a drilling and buzzing noise in my shoulder... uh, is that God working on me?'

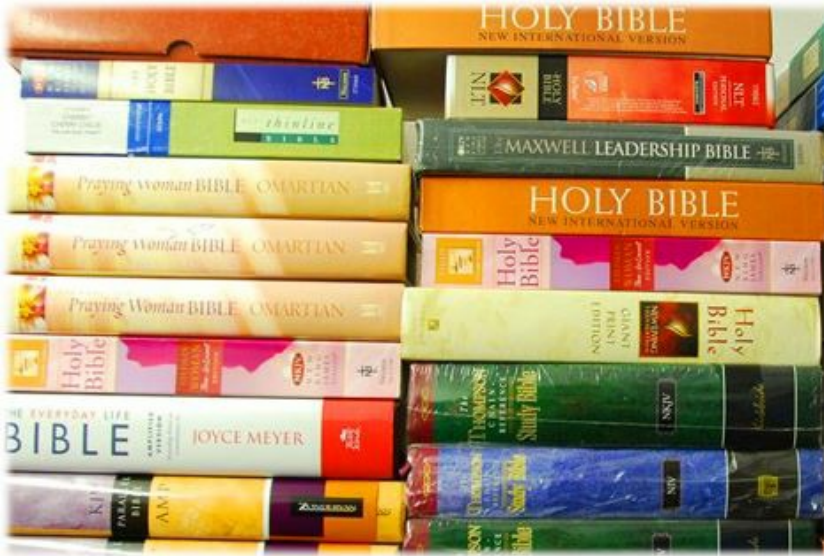
Turned out to be just a mosquito flying around, but praise the Lord, he was expecting God to keep working on Him, Literally! Oh for the faith of a child." Couldn't we be a little more sensitive to God working on us??? Thanks, Tanner, for reminding us to listen for God's working on us! ~ Bro. Jerry Wilhite

J. O. Fraser said,

"I cannot insist too strongly on my own helplessness among these people apart from the grace of God. Although I have been now ten years in China and have had considerable experience with both Chinese and Lisu, I find myself able to do little or nothing apart from God's going before me and working among them. Without this I feel like a man who has his boat grounded in shallow water. Pull or push as he may, he will not be able to move more than a few inches. But let the tide come in and lift his boat off the bottom – then he will be able to move it as far as he pleases, quite easily and without friction. It is indeed necessary for me to go around among our Lisu, preaching, teaching, exhorting, rebuking, but the amount of progress made thereby depends almost entirely on the state of the Spiritual Tide in the village – a condition which you can control upon your knees as well as I. Sometimes I feel that a village is 'grounded' – I do not mean in the sense of 'rooted and grounded' but in the sense of a boat grounded at low water! In such a case one can no more get the people together – i.e. to hold together and strengthen each other – than one could roll dry sand into a ball. They will be cold and unresponsive, and weeks or even months of teaching will not do much for them. Their 'prayers' are not answered as when the power of the Holy Spirit is with them. I repeat: one feels powerless to help in such cases, except to do all that is possible and then commit them to God.

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THE MOST POPULAR AND FASTEST GROWING BIBLE TRANSLATION -



The Most Popular and Fastest Growing Bible Translation Isn't What You Think It Is

NIV vs. KJV: Surveys and searches suggest the translation that most Americans are reading is actually not the bookstore bestseller. When Americans reach for their Bibles, more than half of them pick up a King James Version (KJV), according to a new study advised by respected historian Mark Noll.

The 55 percent who read the KJV easily outnumber the 19 percent who read the New International Version (NIV). And the percentages drop into the single digits for competitors such as the New Revised Standard Version, New America Bible, and the Living Bible. So concludes "The Bible in American Life," a lengthy report by the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture at Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). Funded by the Lilly Foundation, researchers asked questions on what David Briggs of the ARDA, which first reported the results, calls "two of the most highly respected data sources for American religion"—the General Social Survey and the National Congregations Study.

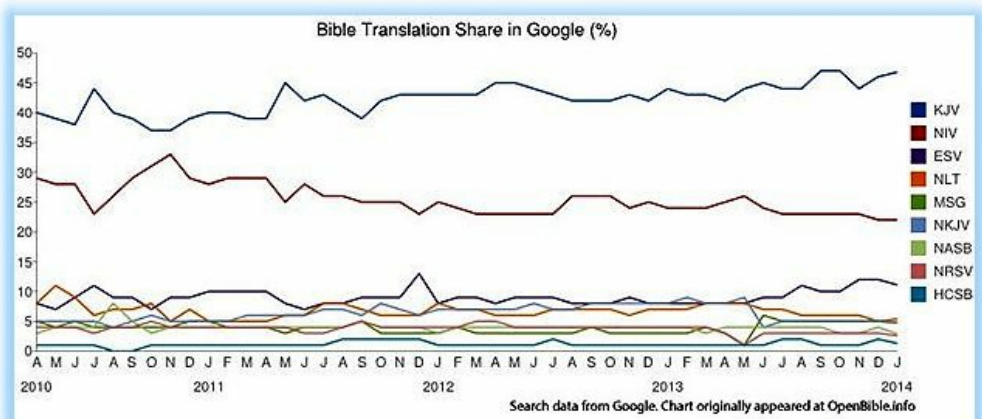
The numbers are surprising, given the strong sales of NIV translations in bookstores. The NIV has topped the CBA's bestselling Bible translation list for decades, and continued to sell robustly in 2013. The high numbers of KJV readers confirm the findings of last year's American Bible Society (ABS) State of the Bible report. On behalf of ABS, Barna Group found

that 52 percent of Americans read the King James or the New King James Version, compared with 11 percent who read the NIV.

The KJV also received almost 45 percent of the Bible translation-related searches on Google, compared with almost 24 percent for the NIV, according to Bible Gateway's Stephen Smith. In fact, searches for the KJV seem to be rising distinctly since 2005, while most other English translations are staying flat or are declining, according to Smith's Google research.

Smith, whose research on how technology is shaping Bible use is profiled in this month's CT cover story, blended data from Google Trends and the Google Keyword Tool to see how English Bible translations compare in search terms. Bible translation searches may not necessarily be an indicator of Bible translation usage—a Bible Gateway study earlier this year found dramatic differences between the cities most likely to search for Bible verses and the American Bible Society's list of top "Bible-minded" cities. Nevertheless, other studies also indicate that the KJV remains the translation powerhouse. A 2011 Lifeway study, for example, found that 62 percent of Americans—and 82 percent of Americans who regularly read the Bible—own a copy of the KJV.

"Although the bookstores are now crowded with alternative versions, and although several different translations are now widely used in church services and for preaching, the large presence of the KJV testifies to the extraordinary power of this one classic English text," Noll commented in the IUPUI report. "It also raises most interesting questions about the role of religious and linguistic tradition in the makeup of contemporary American culture." Noll, a leading evangelical scholar, wrote a cover story for CT on where the world would be without the KJV.



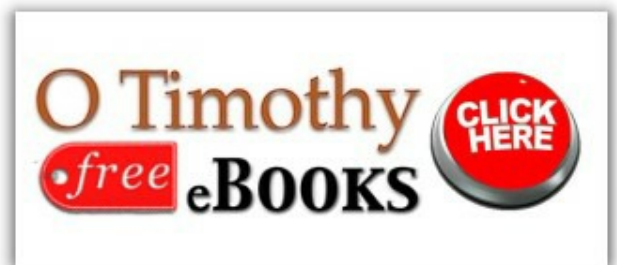
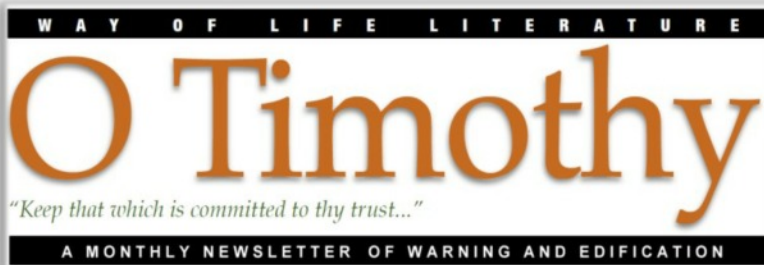
The study from IUPUI in some ways paints a more religious picture of Americans than the ABS/Barna study, recording that 78 percent read their Bibles monthly, compared with the 41 percent found by Barna and the 53 percent found by Lifeway. But IUPUI also found that fewer Americans read their Bibles every day—just 9 percent, less than the 13 percent recorded by Barna and half of the 18 percent found by Lifeway. IUPUI also noted several main tells: You're more likely to read the Bible if you're female (56 percent compared with 39 percent of men), African American (70 percent read at least once a year, compared with 46 percent of Hispanics and 44 percent of whites), and older (56 percent of those over 70 years old, compared with 44 percent of those between 18 and 29). You're also more likely to read the Bible if you live in the South (61 percent) rather than the Northeast (36 percent). While IUPUI found that readers name Psalm 23 as their favorite scripture, followed by John 3:16, Barna found that more people liked John 3:16

the best, followed by Psalm 23. (CT covered the 10 most-searched Bible verses of 2013.) CT has reported on ABS's State of the Bible reports, including how the Bible gained 6 million new antagonists in 2013. CT's previous coverage of the KJV includes a history of the translation, its influence, and how the KJV compares to other translations. CT's previous coverage of the NIV includes the Southern Baptist Convention's rejection of the 2011 version for avoiding male pronouns where both genders are intended and responses from Lifeway and CT.

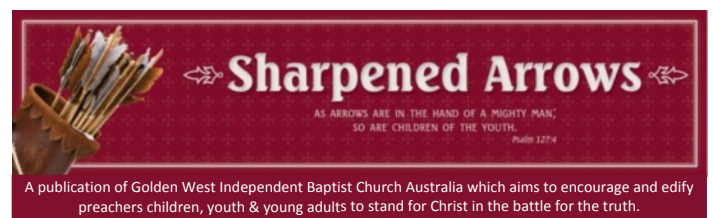
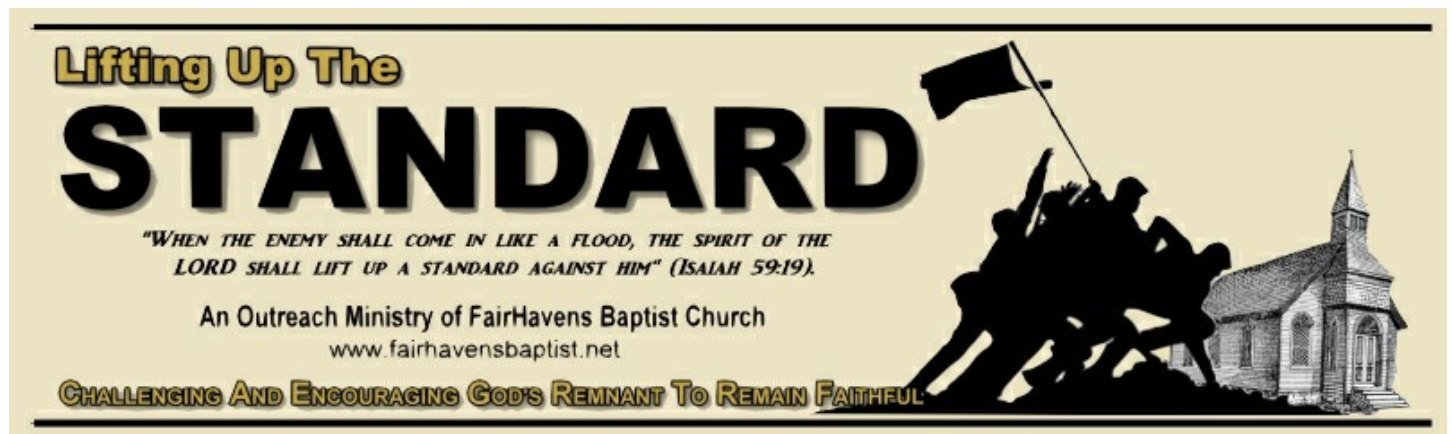
Sarah Eekhoff Zylstra

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/gleanings/2014/march/most-popular-and-fastest-growing-bible-translation-niv-kjv.html>

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HOW CAFFEINE CAN CRAMP CREATIVITY

Posted by Maria Konnikova *The New Yorker*

Honoré de Balzac is said to have consumed the equivalent of fifty cups of coffee a day at his peak. He did not drink coffee, though—he pulverized coffee beans into a fine dust and ingested the dry powder on an empty stomach. He described the approach as “horrible, rather brutal,” to be tried only by men of “excessive vigor.” He documented the effects of the process in his 1839 essay *“Traité des Excitants Modernes”* (*Treatise on Modern Stimulants*): “Sparks shoot all the way up to the brain” while “ideas quick-march into motion like battalions of a grand army to its legendary fighting ground, and the battle rages.”

Balzac’s novels and plays endure, but modern science is challenging his view of caffeine causing ideas to “quick-march into motion.” While caffeine has numerous benefits, it appears that the drug may undermine creativity more than it stimulates it.

When we drink a caffeinated beverage, the caffeine quickly crosses the blood-brain barrier—an interface of sorts between the brain and the body’s circulatory system, designed to protect the central nervous system from chemicals in the blood that might harm it—and proceeds to block the activity of a substance called adenosine. Normally, a central function of adenosine is to inhibit the release of various chemicals into the brain, lowering energy levels and

promoting sleep, among other regulatory bodily functions. When it’s blocked, we’re less likely to fall asleep on our desks or feel our focus drifting. According to a recent review of some hundred studies, caffeine has a number of distinct benefits. Chief among them are that it boosts energy and decreases fatigue; enhances physical, cognitive, and motor performance; and aids short-term memory, problem solving, decision making, and concentration.

But all of that comes at a cost. Science is only beginning to unravel the full complexity behind different forms of creative accomplishment; creativity is notoriously difficult to study in a laboratory setting, and the choice of one approach over another limits the way that creativity can be measured. Still, we do know that much of what we associate with creativity—whether writing a sonnet or a mathematical proof—has to do with the ability to link ideas, entities, and concepts in novel ways. This ability depends in part on the very thing that caffeine seeks to prevent: a wandering, unfocused mind.

Creative insights and imaginative solutions often occur when we stop working on a particular problem and let our mind move on to something unrelated. In one recent study, participants showed marked improvements on a task requiring creative thought—thinking of alternative uses for a common object, such as a newspaper—after they had engaged in a different, undemanding task that facilitated mind wandering. The more their mind wandered when they stepped away, the better they fared at being creative. In fact, the benefit was not seen at all when the subjects engaged in an unrelated but demanding task.

In other words, a break in intense concentration may increase unconscious associative processing. That, in turn, allows us to perceive connections that we would otherwise miss. Letting our minds wander may also increase communication between the brain’s default mode network—the parts of our brain that are more active when we’re at rest—and its

executive areas, which are used in so-called higher reasoning and decision-making functions. These two regions become activated right before we solve problems of insight. Caffeine prevents our focus from becoming too diffuse; it instead hones our attention in a hyper-vigilant fashion.

Caffeine also inhibits another mental process that's necessary for creative thinking: sleep. A 2009 study showed that people who experienced REM sleep performed better on two tests of creative thinking than those who simply rested or napped without entering the REM cycle. During REM, their brains were able to integrate unassociated information so that, upon waking up, they were more adept at solving problems they had been primed with earlier. Without sound sleep, the effect dissipated.

Sleep deprivation has also been linked to negative effects on other elements associated with creativity and thought clarity: it diminishes emotional intelligence, constructive thinking, and the ability to cope with stress.

In one study, consuming two hundred milligrams of caffeine significantly increased the amount of time it took for people to fall asleep later that night. (An eight-ounce cup of brewed coffee contains ninety-five to two hundred milligrams of caffeine, according to the Mayo Clinic.) It also had a profound effect on the quality of that sleep: it lowered sleep efficiency; the duration of stage-two sleep (the point at which our bodies prepare to enter deep sleep); and the spectral power of delta-wave frequencies (which are closely associated with the depth and quality of sleep).

Other studies have linked caffeine to diminished sleep quality and efficiency, along with an increase in the number of times people wake during the night and how tired they feel in the morning.

It may be possible to reap the positive effects of caffeine without the creativity-diminishing side effects, however. Some research has found that attributes like increased alertness and focus can be replicated by the placebo effect.

In a 2011 study at the University of East London, a group of psychologists examined the effects of

caffeine on problem-solving ability and emotional responses.

In the double-blind study, eighty-eight habitual coffee drinkers were given cups of caffeinated and decaffeinated coffee at random. Half were told that they were receiving regular coffee, and half were informed that they were given decaf.

Each participant then completed tasks that measured things like reaction time, self-control, reward motivation, and mood.

In the Stroop task, which measures reaction time, improved accuracy was observed in subjects who believed they had ingested caffeinated coffee, even if they had only consumed decaf.

Subjects who received caffeine and were told they were drinking decaf did not show an improved reaction time. Likewise, in a measure of reward motivation, the Card Arranging Reward Responsivity Objective Test, the participants who believed they had consumed caffeine sorted the cards more quickly than those who believed they'd consumed decaf.

Balzac, then, may not have been personally quite as far off the mark as it seems. If he expected caffeine to have a certain effect, he may have been able to attain it simply by believing it, regardless of whether the caffeine itself was causing those effects.

And, ultimately, for the hours of research and focussed thinking that form the raw material of most any creative endeavor—in Balzac's case, the endless pages of plot and character development—an extremely caffeinated approach may be productive, as long as the mind is allowed to wander every now and again.

Maria Konnikova is the author of the New York Times best-seller "Mastermind: How to Think Like Sherlock Holmes." She has a Ph.D. in Psychology from Columbia University.

<http://www.newyorker.com/online/blogs/elements/2013/06/how-caffeine-short-circuits-creativity.html>

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A TIME OF REVIVING

Grace Baptist Church has been blest with a time of reviving recently. Bro. Randy Bane preached to us Monday to Wednesday last week. Since he was unable to get a flight from PNG on the Saturday beforehand, we asked Pastor Charlie Haddad (from [Grace Bible Baptist Church](#) in Newcastle, NSW) to come up to speak. He came on the Friday before and spoke to our teens at a Campout. Pastor James Herrington (from [Coastline Baptist Church](#) in Cairns) brought his teens as well.

All the sermons from both men were used of the Lord to bring conviction and the meetings were the largest we've ever had, with more visitors than we've seen before.

I really believe we saw God working and stirring hearts. We don't know yet the full results of the week of revival meetings. Both of our guest preachers gave God the glory, and we agree, but we do thank God for their willingness to be used of Him.



HOW IS YOUR CHURCH DOING?

I have been convicted recently over the tendency of pastors to boast of the numbers of people we have attending our churches. Pastors ask me many times how the church is doing. I get the impression they really have one thing in mind and that is an attendance report.

Sometimes I suspect they really want to boast how many more they are getting than we are. Maybe not, but it does seem to be the mindset in the pragmatic subculture of "fundamental" churches.

I have decided to do two things.

First, to tell them that I am not sure I am qualified to say how the church is doing. The One who walks in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks, whose eyes see the hearts of our people, whose feet burn like brass in the fire, and whose paps are girt about with a golden girdle, He and He alone is qualified to comment on the state of the church I pastor. At times I despair, and other times I glory, and I may be wrong in both cases.

And *second*, I have determined, if I am pressed to tell how many are attending at Grace Baptist Church, to give them the numbers at our prayer meetings on Wednesday nights. Those numbers are probably more indicative of the true state of the church than any others.



HAVE YOU NOTICED THE PLACE OF CHASTENING IN REVIVAL?

There has always been quite a bit of confusion, it seems, regarding the difference between revival and evangelism. We fundamentalists are pretty careless in our definitions of Bible words. I think it is lazy minds and slothful hearts that cause a lot of the confusion. "Revive" is a Bible word for the Lord's work of restoring a saved person to good, normal, spiritual fervor and zeal. The Lord sometimes calls it "visitation", "quickening", "renewing", "sanctifying", and "awakening." These are always for saved folks, not lost folks.

Evangelizing is what lost people need. You can't revive lost men. They need to have the gospel preached to them so that they can receive Christ. Even this biblical methodology has been streamlined and diluted. Most

pastors assume that a thirty second presentation of the Romans Road is all that is needed, and Presto! Change-O! the sinner is saved.

The use of the law of God, the convicting work of the Spirit, the necessity of repentance, the nature of saving faith, are all discarded (by most of us) in order to get a quick profession so we can get back to our idols, whatever they are.

And the place of chastening in the life of the believer in order to bring us to revival? Unheard of.

At least until we go back and read our Bibles.

Jonah was chastened by God in the ship, the sea, and the great fish's belly (read chapter 1). Only then was he revived (read the second chapter) so that he evangelized the Ninevites (read chapter 3).

CHASTENED, REVIVED, EVANGELIZING

It is usually when we are being chastened that we cry out to God, *"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me,*

and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

And *"When my soul fainted within me I remembered the LORD: and my prayer came in unto thee, into thine holy temple. They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy. But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of thanksgiving; I will pay that that I have vowed. Salvation is of the LORD."*

It is often the pathway to revival and from there to evangelism.

BAPTISMS ON THE LAST NIGHT OF THE REVIVAL MEETINGS -

One of the biggest blessings of the revival meetings was the baptismal service we had the last night after the meeting. Two dear brothers testified of the joy of their salvation and obeyed the Lord in believer's baptism.

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Heads Up!

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