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### **9-11-01, AMERICA'S WORST TRAGEDY AND WHAT DOES CHRISTIAN TELEVISION DO?**

Like the Invasion of Pearl Harbor is significant to my grandparents and the John F. Kennedy killing is significant to my parents, the terrorist destruction of the Pentagon and World Trade Center will be significant in my life. Like the day that lives in infamy and the day that started the conspiracy mentality in this nation, this is the day that America stopped briefly, but did not die. This is the day where the words man whose death influenced our parents resonated in the hearts of every American old enough to comprehend what happened. Many Americans are "not asking what the country can do for them", but are asking "what can they do for their country". As the technological advancement of satellites, recording media, and the Internet brought this tragedy to millions of televisions and computers seconds after it happened, our hearts cried out in sympathy for the families who lost a sibling, spouse, child, relative, and friend. Our hearts cried out in anger towards the gutless cowards who implemented this sick act. Our hearts cried out in vengeance for swift justice against the ones who committed the crime and the nations who harbor the criminals. America stood still, temporarily. Now America is responding, generously.

I, like every other American will remember where I was at when this travesty took place. I was in my office at work like many other Americans when a friend came into my office and told me the news. I, being curious to see which news network had the best television and Internet coverage, began hunting down a TV and began surfing the Internet news sites. I found the TV and because I was in a shielded building made with steel framing, I could not get decent reception to tune in the channels which already went into "special report" mode. I then went online. I was able to go online, but the Internet was very slow to the point of crawling and all the major news sites could not be accessed. I called business contacts nationwide to find out that the long distance services were now affected by the happenings. It took me three hours to finally get CNN.com but there was only one page there with very little links to further news. It was 12:30 and I finally decided to take a lunch break.

Since I live five minutes from my job, I decided to go home and watch the events unfurl in front of my eyes live on television. I ate lunch while watching the television and then called my mom at home. I was able to talk to her as she explained what had happened as I watched it for the first time on replay on the television at home since I had decent reception. After being briefed by mom, I flipped the television channels and almost every channel had coverage of the events. I was surprised that PAX had coverage by NBC, TNT and TBS had CNN coverage, TLC had the BBC, C-SPAN2 had the coverage from the CBC (Canada), Many television networks pre-empted their programming and set up

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live shows where they watched TV to talk about the tragedy. Even the home shopping channels had the decency to quit selling clothes, exercise equipment, jewelry, and makeup lines endorsed by washed up 1970's TV sitcom actresses to post ads, webpage addresses, and telephone numbers for the Red Cross, FBI, and Salvation Army, etc. and help people by providing the names of relief organizations to those who wanted to give blood or donations.

However, I got to the two religion networks available on my particular cable system (TBN and ISPN) and what I saw grieved me. The rest of the media world was covering this tragedy and providing their analysis of the tragedy. What did these two religious networks show on TV? I turned it over to TBN and saw their Southern Gospel singings and on the INSP network, Creflo Dollar begging for more dollars and teaching you how to get more dollars to give him more dollars. I flipped the channels between the two religion networks and the Fox News network to see if the religion networks would at least talk about this tragedy, and especially during the breaks between shows. During my lunch hour, I saw no news reports from the religion networks, no chyron asking for urgent prayer, nothing to tell the viewing audience that this tragedy had happened. I was very grieved in my spirit. If the major networks and the cable television networks could interrupt their regularly scheduled programming, why did the two major religion networks choose not to interrupt their normally scheduled programming? Why did the majority of Christian TV networks not devote any time until many hours after lives were lost, people needing counseling grieving their loved ones, and trying to offer assistance or assist relief organizations already set up? In fact, some friends of mine e-mailed me when I asked the question about religion networks covering this tragedy and I was told that many of the networks on Sky Angel failed to cover the events also instead, giving us the same old religious programming.

I had to wonder how Christian television handled the tragedy because I know many Christian people in my part of the country who do not own that "evil eye box" nor a "evil squawk box" and many that do remove the knobs or lock out every channel but the Christian television and radio channels to "be ye separate and holy" and make sure the cassette deck in the "home school bus" have a Christian music tape playing at all times. They do not watch the nightly news nor subscribe to the newspapers and the news magazines. Many of these people are militant about their adamant refusal to watch the nightly news, to read the newspaper, and to listen to the radio for news. Many of these parents home school their children and therefore, the children do not know what is going on if the parents do not know what is going on. The main problem in many parts of the country is that there is no Christian news on the radio nor are there any Christian television news channels. Therefore, what they do find out is by word of mouth or a televangelist tells them what happened based on his opinion called God and they take his word for granted fearing to find out the whole story by the "lying

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devils" of secular media or they are in fear of "touching the anointed man of God".

Notice in reference to the Christian television networks, I said the word "many". I later learned that Moody Broadcasting devoted much radio time to covering the tragedy and pre-empted their scheduling programming. I also learned from a friend of mine in another state whose cable provider has EWTN twenty-four hours a day that EWTN, the Catholic network, had live programming all day - prayer vigils, counseling programs, call-in programs - all concerned with the tragedy. Canadians told me that the Miracle Life Network (a Christian TV network seen throughout Canada) had interruptions throughout the day with phone calls from a reporting crew who were there filming a documentary (but had no live way of transmitting coverage) about an influential Canadian Christian working in the financial sector of New York City. I was told that the 700 Club did take their hour and cover the tragedy live. To these religious networks and others not mentioned here, I want to say "Thank You" for contributing to society by showing concern and compassion and trying to reach people with Spiritual answers for this tragedy.

As I went back to work with the Internet still chugging along very slowly and the long distance telephone lines still inoperable, I thought about why the major Christian TV networks did not cover this tragedy. The more I thought about this, the more I was convinced that Christian television is less effective and further irrelevant to today's needs than I thought. Why? As I thought about this more, the angrier I became. I finally realized that it came down to these conclusions:

- The world covers tragedies, bless God, we are not of the world, we will cover the good news of Jesus Christ only.
- By not covering this tragedy, we show our non-allegiance to the one world antichrist system of thought.
- Maybe their heads are buried so much in the sand that they have no idea of what is happening in the real world.
- They are so obsessed with "be ye separate from the world" that they have to isolate themselves to the point of not being able to live, breathe, and communicate in the world.
- They really do not care about the world they claim to want to save from hell.
- We will not partake with that "Secular DEMONCRAT influenced evil lying biased anti-God news media." Therefore, we avoid the appearance of evil.



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she told me that her pastor told her that "Jesus Is Still On The Throne". I then prayed for her that God would move on her behalf. Another company I had to talk to and prayed for is located in New Jersey across the Hudson River from Manhattan, their office building faced the Hudson River and the World Trade Center and she saw the entire tragedy unveil before her eyes while taking a coffee break relaxing by looking at the "unusually beautiful" skyline from the windows of her office. In fact, her company had high tech equipment and advanced satellite telecommunications equipment co-located atop the World Trade Center that had to be re-installed and reconfigured in another city to restore telecommunications service. It took them an amazing six hours to reroute traffic and restore telecommunications to near capacity. I later spoke to her early the following week on a business call and she described to me the wreckage and how the smell of burnt plastics and burnt jet fuel captivated the air around their offices and had permeated in their offices via the air handler units. I loved her attitude when she told me that "These people may or may not see justice on earth, but one day, they will have to see justice when they cross over into the afterlife and meet God Almighty".

Wednesday evening came. It was the same thing, all the Christian television networks showed their regular programs while the other networks showed news coverage from the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. I did receive a e-mail from a friend in the Christian radio industry who received a fax from the National Religious Broadcasters calling all Christian media make sure "...today should not be "Christian TV as usual." It also said to avoid "Christian Lingo" and drop the Pat answers." Finally, a group of people saw this same thing happening and urged their members to be culturally current and open up ministry opportunities. I left the Television on overnight and when I woke up, more of the same thing. I came home for lunch to the same thing. I came home from work at the end of the day and saw the same thing again except my e-mail was starting to be filled with e-mails from different groups with different prophecies. One prophecy said gloom and doom while another said revival, and another prophecy said "attack on Israel". I find it interesting that the same prophets who prophesied that if we put "God's man" (Bush) in office, the "judgments" will be removed from America are now the same prophets that now say America is facing wrath and judgment and God's hand is off this nation.

But one particular e-mail I received shocked me. I received a letter from a bothered individual stating that they could not believe the words that came out of the mouths of Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell this morning on the 700 Club. I watched the repeat 700 Club that night and I too was shocked. It was so shocking and so controversial that it was discussed in an article from the Washington Post the following day entitled "God Gave U.S. 'What We Deserve,' Falwell Says" where Falwell blamed the liberals, gays, the ACLU, feminists, and abortionists for this tragedy". Later on, both Falwell and Robertson "apologized"

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for the inappropriate comments and for broadcasting those comments. Falwell, to avoid a lawsuit called his statements "making a theological statement, not a legal statement." A White House official called the remarks "inappropriate" and added, "The president does not share those views." Good!

I want to make a stand right now and state that I personally believe that this tragedy is not because of God's judgment (America is in bad shape morally right now due to some past sins but this was not the cause) upon America, but instead because of our righteousness stance to maintain and preserve the Nation of Israel and to remain it's ally. It's plain and simple from a Biblical and history perspective. The Israelites and the Arabs have always been at war with each other over inheritances and birthrights from the days of Esau (whose descendants became Egypt) selling his birthright for a bowl of soup to Abraham sending Hagar and Ishamel (in the Koran, the father of the Muslim people) away (even though Ishmael was older) and keeping Sarah and Isaac and passing his inheritance through Isaac. It's that simple. It's a continuation of a war that has gone on for thousands of years. It does not take an armchair prophetic rocket scientist to figure this out. Even Francis Frangipane stated the same things I stated in his e-mail to his subscribers concerning this tragedy.

Thursday night was even worse. TBN had Hal Lindsey's program on and it started off with silence and a geographic picture of America with the words "America, July 4, 1776 - September 11, 2001" (like something had died) where Hal Lindsey told us it was gloom and doom. Before Hal's show, Paul Crouch and Clarence McClendon used this tragedy to promote the book and movie from TBN called "Megiddo" and promise to give away books to those who sent in money. Praise The Lord that night had more of their shows about the tragedy with Greg Laurie while promoting their new and new movie every hour. Early the next morning, Matt and Laurie (who is starting to look more like Jan every day) Crouch stated that it was God's will for this tragedy to happen near the release of their movie and their book Megiddo because this tragedy will pack people into the theaters and Megiddo will be more successful than The Omega Code. In other words, God specifically allowed this to happen to where the Crouch empire can sell more movies, books, and raise more money. How preposterous, illogical, tasteless, greedy, selfish, and insensitive you are!!!

The more I see the way the major Christian television networks handled this tragedy. The more I say **Shame on you!!! Shame on you major Christian television networks. The nation suffered and you continued in your programs of televangelists begging for dollars and agendas. People are dying, people are hurt, people are asking questions about spirituality and the afterlife in the midst of this tragedy, and how do you respond???** More culturally irrelevant programming about sheltered families with many homeschooled children raising up the future Republicans to do the job of

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**evangelism that God has called both you and I in our respective callings to do that gave ten dollars in hope of God giving a thousand dollars back to them. It is easy to see why Christian television is less effective and further irrelevant to today's needs than I thought. Go ahead, peddle your books and tapes and make your money. Peddle your end times movies and end times book that becomes obsolete and untrue when the next tragedy occurs and when the next leader of prominence steps up to the world scene. Go ahead, but for me. I am breaking out of the shell, stepping out of the river, going beyond the river and going out to reach people in need.**

As of the writing of this article, it has taken one major Christian network a week to gather the televangelists on a stage to have Robert Schuller state that "This was an attack of the Devil". And now, they talk of revival (I call VIVAL) in New York City and they want to take credit for it. Hmmmmmmmm. My hat is off to T.D. Jakes for telling it like it is in reference to both the attack by an enemy on this nation and seeing the unity of the country come forth along with the evangelism on the streets causing a new move of God.

I guess when late September comes or early October comes (when the programming taped in early September is shown), we will see programs on Christian TV with explanations such as:

- More prophecies for the gloom and doom of America
- America, modern day Babylon and Sodom
- The hindsight prophecies and testimonies of those who "knew" today's tragedy would happen... from people never seen or heard of before who claimed that they warned everyone but no one listened and because no one listened everyone suffered from the actions of someone and their sick acts performed on anyone around the Pentagon and the World Trade Center.
- If only Christians had prayed "more", repented "more", and sent in more money to my ministry, this would never have occurred
- The Bible codes specifically spelled this terrorism out, it even says "New York City"
- We deserved this because we chose eight years of Clinton and the "DEMONcrats"
- God and I can fight terrorism and spiritually map this terrorism and wickedness in low places, but I need lots of money to do it and I will give you my anointed fountain pen (to help write me future checks) if you send money.
- Bin Laden, antichrist of the week. Send money to receive my movie or my book "Why Bin Laden is the Antichrist".

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It now appears that Christian TV is so worried about being separate from the world that they could not live in the real world nor minister to the real world. The lack of compassion will turn off even more people to Christian television and Christian television becomes more irrelevant to the needs of society. Christian television has instead decided to perform the Great Decommission and concentrate on the segmented demographics of those already saved instead on those who needed Jesus most. It appears that this tragedy put many of the Y2Kooks back in business with their drivel and their continued quest for the AntiChrist. I find it amazing how people with a 0.00 percent success rate of predicting the AntiChrist can still continue their ministries to this very day. If I had a 0.00 percent success rate in accomplishing the tasks on my job everyday, I would probably be fired from my job.

All this time, Christian television failed to figure out that it was not America who died on September 11, 2001. Instead, the impact of Christian television died and the renewal began to shift to the VIVAL. The stations will stay on the air, but the impact died. Now is not the time to rewrite hindsight nor is it the time to rewrite Don McLean's song "American Pie". It's the time to see what was born on September 11, 2001. VIVAL.

America woke up as a nation. The nation divided last November by politics became re-united this September. We saw people come together on the streets comforting people they never knew or people they probably would have never met. We saw a nation began to become more patriotic again as our Congressmen sang "God Bless America" on the Capital steps. Many began to re-question their lives and their Spirituality as they looked for solace and comfort in the midst of their tragedy. We saw the Vival take place and being birthed live on national television (especially Fox News), not Christian television as The Salvation Army and Larry Jones' "Feed The Children" trucks appeared on the street corners close to the rubble of steel and mortar offering food, clothing, nourishment, and Spiritual counseling to those who had lost loved ones and to those brave Policemen and Firefighters who risked their lives to rescue, serve, and protect us. We saw the pleas of families who had missing friends and relatives call out for someone or something to give them hope to deal with the crisis. We saw on television people holding on to their faith in God and Jesus that no matter what happened, "All things were going to work out to the good". We saw Priests, Friars, and local ministers come out of their four walled buildings called a church and go out to these needy people and became the church.

As the secular news televised the prayer services from Washington DC and New York, people filled the sanctuaries and when filled up, stood outside to listen to a message of hope while they were comforted. We saw our President, our Congressmen, and the ministers on 'ground zero' pray to God. Since our leaders have now set the example of asking God to guide us via their prayers

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from their work and living environments, can our nation turn the tide in this chaos and re-allow our schoolchildren to pray to God in their environment called school? I pray so.

We saw the Great Commission in action, We saw the Sermon on The Mount (especially the Beattitudes) in action before our eyes, on secular television. I even saw the "Operation Blessing" truck near the World Trade Center as I wondered why Pat Robertson who claimed we deserved this tragedy wanted to minister to the ones who he felt "deserved the tragedy" before his apology to America? After reading his apology, I am convinced that he was truly remorseful for his actions and shares the same grief, sorrows, and patriotism many Americans do. Our nation saw a rising of Spirituality on secular television. Our churches were filled up on Sunday morning (especially mine. I got there five minutes early and barely found a seat) with both churchgoers and people safe, but affected by the tragedy seeking answers as to why did it happen, getting right with God, and returning to the ways they were trained up as a child by their Christian parents. (A week later, my church was filled up again with more people coming for answers to their questions) It was this tragedy, televised by "that evil anti-Christian liberal news media" that helped us wake up and smell the smoke.

Vival did not happen on Christian television. We watched it being born on the nightly news. Vival did not happen with a big name evangelist in a football stadium, it happened in a disaster zone on "ground zero". Vival was not started by pastors turned politicians, it was started when ordinary common people and some true Christian relief agencies who loved Christ fulfilled the Great Commission and went to the scene of the crime instead of trying to dictate the Crime story from an "official Christian perspective" from an ivory tower or a mansion enlaced with gold. The Christian television networks failed to see the opportunity to share the Gospel to those in need. Many churches experiencing "the river of renewal" failed to fulfill the main purpose of the renewal of taking the blessings of God and giving them away to the ones in need. It was people from different denominations, races, and cultures that came together to shun their theology differences and did what was more important.

These people on the frontlines of the grassroots went from their comfort zones to an uncomfortable surrounding "seizing the moment". Instead of asking "What would Jesus Do?", they chose to "Do What Jesus Did". Instead of "Chasing God", these people "Demonstrated God". These temples of the Holy Spirit went beyond the river and provided a real answer to this real life tragedy by letting these people know "they were Christians by their love". Love won out. Love conquered totems, taboos, transgressions, and temptations. Love witnessed and brought people to a new relationship in Christ. T-shirt theology and political diatribe did not change people's hearts. Jesus changed their hearts. Instead of waiting for the people to come to church, they took the church to the people. Love ministered and conquered the fears to provide comfort, assurance, and ministry, not prey on fear and paranoia to scare people to Jesus.

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In summary, the VIVAL now birthed was birthed out the gifting of fulfilling the Great Commission. These people, whether it was on ground zero, met people during their daily walk and business, or people who met survivors and / or families needing hope online in Internet chat rooms, did what was the core purpose of the church, evangelize, meet needs, and more importantly, relate. It was through the forming of relationships and bringing the Bible into the relationships, (not bringing the Bible to belt people into a relationship), that opened the doors to the Vival we are seeing right now. As corporate Christianity stood behind and tried to dictate the "official repentance service", the "official Christian network of the tragedy", the "official Christian response" to the tragedy, the "official Christian funeral service" of the tragedy (sounds very Olympic in mentality) in the name of the "official Christian perspective", people who saw the needs around them went forth.

We saw the parallel beginnings of the church of Acts on secular television during the constant coverage and during the nightly news. We saw people flow in anointing by being supernaturally natural and not 'holier than thou'. We saw people be people in the midst of the neighborhoods and the marketplace, not Christian clones locked up in their homes. The tide did turn, not because of the words of a pastor turned politician, not because of a televangelist filling a convention center, not because the right man was ruled by the Supreme Court to be the President last November, and not because of a Christian TV network too busy convincing everyone that this tragedy occurred to help them promote a movie called Megiddo. The reason is very simple. Vival occurred because of a peculiar group of individuals who saw outside the paradigms and outside their boxes, chose to become the "my people, who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and heal their land. I will listen to every prayer made in this place for I have chosen this Temple and set it apart to be my home forever. My eyes and my heart will always be here" before this tragedy took place in order to be servants in the tragedy by being "pure in heart for they shall see God".

Lord Jesus, I come before you in your precious name asking that the Vival started on September 11, 2001 will be done in accordance to your will. I ask that you continue to send out the grace and mercy to the people in need. I also ask that you would give strength to the weary, give comfort to those who mourn, and bring us to the places we needed to be. I pray that more and more people will see that we are the church, not a four walled building and not a corporate entity. Provide us with your providence and once again "God Bless America". In Jesus name I pray, AMEN!!