

Dear Friend,

I want to wish you and all your family the happiest new year ever. May the joy of the Lord truly become your strength in 2018. As dark as the days may seem, we are assured that in Christ a new dawn is just ahead.

At Times Square Church, we are continuing to pray as a congregation and believe that the mercy of God can usher us all into a new and fresh spiritual awakening for our families, our towns and cities, and our nation. We have confidence that God's desire to show mercy once again is leading us to believe for this moment.

As the newsletter states, we are pushing to the sidelines the voices which say it can't be done and choosing to believe that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. As He has awakened societies in the past and brought blessing out of ashes and ruin, so, too, He is able and willing to do the same for our time. I encourage you to join us in prayer and believe that the walls of opposition to a renewed blessing of God will fall as they once did in Jericho!

The best advice I can give you for 2018 is to open your Bible, read it and believe that every promise is still yours. Be a blessing in the place where you worship and walk in servanthood and unity, as much as is possible. Above all, I ask the Lord to give you a renewed sense of the joy of your salvation! May it renew your strength and give you a heart to believe that God is for you! We stand with you in love.

Till He comes,

Pastor Carter Conlon

HOW MANY CHRISTIANS WEEP ON SUNDAY NIGHT?

by Carter Conlon

In the book of Numbers, the Lord instructed Moses, "*Send men to spy out the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the children of Israel.*"... *Moses sent them from the Wilderness of Paran according to the command of the Lord, all of them men who were heads of the children of Israel*" (Numbers 13:2–3).

The passage goes on to say, "*Now they departed and came back to Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. Then they told him, and said: 'We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there... We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we.'* And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land" (Numbers 13:26–28, 31–32). The original King James Version calls it "*an evil report of the land.*"

The spies continued their report: "*There we saw the giants* (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); *and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight. So all the congregation lifted up their voices*

and cried, and the people wept that night" (Numbers 13:33–14:1).

After being in church on Sunday morning, how many go home hopeless—without faith for the future?

I cannot help but wonder how many Christians today weep on Sunday night. After being in church on Sunday morning, how many go home hopeless—without faith for the future or a belief that God is able to save their families? They are left with no ability to believe that God is able to take them out of their despair and give them joy, a new voice, a new purpose, and a new vision. And so they go home and cry on their beds on Sunday night because they know that Monday morning is coming, and all things will remain just as they always have been.

Note that these spies were leaders who had risen to reputation among their peers; they were not selected randomly. A multitude of people were traveling through the wilderness, and these men were among those who had risen to the top. They were perhaps recognized for their ability to lead people, for skills and giftings they had, for their natural strength.

The spies could claim to have knowledge of what was in this place of promise—but they could not cause the people to believe God.

■ FAITHLESS LEADERS

Surely these spies, whom I will call the faithless ten (for two of the twelve spies, Joshua and Caleb, were convinced that they could take the land) did not consider their report evil. The word “evil” in the original text means it was slander and defamation against the character of God Himself. However, I am sure they considered their report analytical, measured, and reasonable. Yet here was the problem with these ten: They could claim to have knowledge of what was in this place of promise; they could claim to have seen it for forty days; they could lay out all the fruit—but they could not cause the people to believe that in spite of their littleness, God was still willing and able to give them all that He promised.

Remember, leaders cannot lead people any farther than they have gone themselves. They simply cannot reproduce what is not there. Think about the history of these faithless ten. The supernatural power of God was all around them; they saw the plagues come down upon the nation of Egypt, and the Red Sea part right before their eyes. They knew what God was able to do, but they never really became partakers of it. They witnessed it but they themselves were not walking in the supernatural.

It is so critical today that you listen to the right voices, for we are living in a day of sorrows. As this world continues to spiral downward into

deeper confusion, distress, division, hatred, and war, you and I are called to be a supernatural testimony of who God is on the earth. We are called to stand with the strength that only He can give, to have wisdom that could come only from Him.

Now is not the time to be under the ministry of somebody who is not truly walking in the supernatural and instead has risen to their position merely by natural means—perhaps their gifted speaking ability or their great intellect. If you are listening to teaching that is not stirring your heart to believe God, you need to get out of that place. As brilliant as the report might be, the Bible calls it evil if it is not leading you into faith. If it is merely an exercise in intellect—a discovering and rediscovering of the fruit—but nothing in it leads you to believe that it can actually be yours, it is an evil report.

In fact, the apostle Paul gave us a warning regarding such leaders, saying, “[Pray] that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men; for not all have faith” (2 Thessalonians 3:2). In other words, not everyone who preaches the Word of God believes that He is still able to do the miraculous today. Therefore, you must pray to be delivered from unreasonable people whose theological focus is all in the natural.

■ ANOTHER KIND OF LEADER

In contrast to the ten spies, the apostle Paul said, “My speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God” (1 Corinthians 2:4–5). Now Paul was anything but a weak man in the natural. He was a leader among leaders. He even once declared that concerning the

works of the law, he was blameless (see Philippians 3:6).

Nevertheless, when Paul came to Christ, he said, “But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ” (Philippians 3:7–8). In other words, “I do not want any more of Paul; I want everything of Christ. I do not want anything left of natural wisdom. I would rather stand in weakness and trembling so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. I desire that the people I speak to would not be looking to a man but rather to Christ inside of me—as not only my hope, but as their hope as well.”

If the voices you are listening to today are not provoking you to faith, you will die in a spiritual wilderness.

I know that I would not want to listen to a preacher who has no personal testimony of the miraculous power of God at work in his or her life. I would much rather listen to somebody like Paul who stands in weakness and trembling—the kind of person you could look at and say, “There is a power touching my heart that I know cannot come from this physical vessel. It must be from the Spirit at work inside of this one who is speaking to me. Lord, let that be my portion in the days ahead!”

Unfortunately, listening to the voices of the ten spies ultimately caused the people to end up in a wilderness where they died. Likewise, if the voices you are listening to today are not provoking you to faith, you will die in a spiritual wilderness.

You will simply live through an endless succession of funerals, which was exactly what the Israelites experienced for forty years until eventually they all died and another generation arose.

As you are tempted to think of all the things you are fighting to get through, begin to think, instead, about all the things God has done.

■ HOW THE WALLS FALL

Finally, a new generation was about to go in and possess this Promised Land which the others had forfeited through their unbelief. This time, however, they were to go with the instruction that God gave to Joshua: “*See! I have given Jericho into your hand, its king, and the mighty men of valor. ... Now Joshua had commanded the people, saying, ‘You shall not shout or make any noise with your voice, nor shall a word proceed out of your mouth, until the day I say to you, ‘Shout!’ Then you shall shout’*” (Joshua 6:2, 10). In other words, “We are going to go in and take the land, but this time we are going to be quiet. We do not need to listen to any voices telling us how many giants are in the land!”

I am not listening to any voices anymore that say I am not strong enough.

Note that when they walked in and surrounded Jericho for seven days, they had no weaponry. In the natural, they were insufficient for the battle

before them. Nevertheless, they chose to simply obey God and be quiet. It was just as the Lord said in Isaiah 30:15, “*In quietness and confidence shall be your strength.*” One more time, walking around the city, they were quiet and confident—thinking about the promises of God, remembering the history of who God was—until that moment when an inner shout came into their hearts. I believe that by the time Joshua told them to shout, the people simply could not contain it any longer, for God had already convinced their hearts that they had the victory!

And so I challenge you today: As you go around about your city, as you are tempted to think of all the things that you are fighting to get through, begin to think, instead, about all the things that God has done. Meditate on His Word. If there is anything pure, anything lovely, anything of virtue, anything of a good report, think on these things, and the God of peace will be with you (see Philippians 4:8–9).

As we trust God in our own cities, I believe we are going to take with us into God’s Kingdom a multitude of people!

Suddenly, confidence will fill your heart. “God, I am going to trust You. I am going to believe You for my family. I am going to believe that You will heal the wounds of my past. I am going to trust You for my future. I am not listening to any voices anymore that say I am not smart enough or strong enough. Let the evil reporters die in the wilderness; I am going with You! I do not care what giants

I have to face, for You are going to take my life in its total nothingness and raise it up to be something that brings glory to Your name!”

Then one day, when you cannot contain it any longer, you are going to shout so loud that your whole neighborhood will hear! The Scripture tells us that when the Israelites shouted, the walls of Jericho fell, and every person went into that city and took the victory. Today, as we trust God in our own cities, I believe we are going to take with us into God’s Kingdom a multitude of people too numerous to count, and we are going to do it by the power of God!

Carter Conlon

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HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM SUMMIT!

A Note from our President

In a few days, students will be driving through our front gates, having freshly returned from spending Christmas with family and friends. Their smiles and laughter will light up the campus once again; it will be so nice to have them “home.” For the two academic years they are at Summit, it truly becomes a home away from home. It has been an honor for me to learn their faces, names and stories. Each one is unique and treasured by God. I know the Lord has amazing things planned in 2018 for this remarkable group of people.

If you are interested in visiting with our students and faculty, I would like to personally invite you to Summit’s “Revival Services” taking place February 8-9, 2018 on our beautiful campus. We would love to meet you, share a meal with you, and have you experience one of the most impactful times of the school year. (On-campus housing is available for potential students.)



I am blessed and honored to be part of what God is doing at Summit. I thank you for your continued support and prayers. May the Lord bless you and keep you this coming year.

Dr. Teresa Conlon
President

I have been personally so blessed to see what is happening at our Bible school. I hope you take the time to pray for Summit and come out to visit if you can. I will be speaking at the Revival Services at Summit this February and would love to see you there.

Just as a reminder, Summit is accepting applications for Fall 2018. Visit us online at summitpa.org to apply and to learn more about Simultaneous Enrollment, as well as our new post-graduate Ministry and Career program. God bless you, and have a blessed 2018! — **Pastor Carter Conlon**



CARTER CONLON

Carter Conlon is senior pastor of Times Square Church, where he has been on the pastoral staff since 1994.

TIMES SQUARE CHURCH

Times Square Church was founded in 1987 by Pastor David Wilkerson, author of “The Cross and the Switchblade.” It is an interdenominational church located in the heart of New York City.

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WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday 10AM | 1PM | 3PM | 6PM

Tuesday 7PM | Prayer Service

Friday 7:30PM | The Gate
2nd & 4th Fridays (ages 18-29)

*Youth and Young Adult Service

Live Webcast:

All our Sunday and Tuesday services can be watched live and replayed for seven days on our website.

tsc.nyc