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April 2019

# JUDE

*Inside Terry's Office:  
The Book of Jude—Lost People*

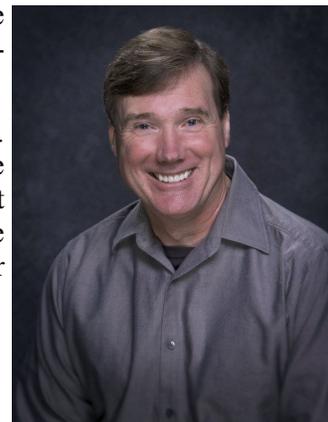
“Clouds without rain”, “wild waves of the sea”, and “wandering stars”; these are the analogies Jude uses for those who have abandoned orthodoxy. Among the Jewish Christians there was the temptation to embrace a salvation based upon works (legalism). Among the Gentile Christians the temptation was to justify sin by claiming that our physical bodies and what we do with them doesn't really matter. This apostasy was called Gnosticism. Instead, of embracing the revelation that Jesus was fully human and fully divine, this teaching claimed that he could only be one or the other. These apostasies have not been abandoned in the distant past of the church. There are various versions of these apostasies alive and well in the church today. They are seen in the conservative churches who get lost in performance-based discipleship and in the liberal churches who “pervert the grace of God into a license for immorality”.

I wish I could say that God has established a big theological barrier around these apostasies so that we can easily identify and avoid them within our own honest struggles with Him, ourselves, each other, and the world. I don't think that is true. I think we are all in constant tension with a God who is more fully human than we understand, and more distantly divine than we can comprehend. As a matter of fact, I believe that God would have to compromise some aspects of himself (which He clearly cannot do) in order to build the theological walls that would keep us safely within orthodoxy at all times. Instead, He allows us to struggle with Truth and find our way with Him.

You see, we are all beautiful clouds; sometimes with and sometimes without the promise of rain. We are all powerful waves of the sea; sometimes wild and destructive, sometimes moving in harmonies. We are all bright stars; sometimes lighting the way and sometimes losing our way. And ... as poetic as those thoughts may be, I get tired of the push and pull within my nature and am tempted to “give myself up to” one apostasy or the other. In this way, our relationship with God is no different than my relationship with my wife (and my kids, and my friends). I am committed to behaving in ways that she says communicates love to her, but I also want to be myself and still be loved by her ... which motivation should win? I want to know her in deep and profound ways, but I don't want to have to read her mind or anticipate her feelings ... which motivation should win? I want to be precious and valuable to her, but I don't want her to lose herself in pleasing me; which motivation should win? To use Jude's words; sometimes “I give myself over” to one or the other (temporarily - followed by repentance) and I get carried away on “the strength of my dreams” and “pollute my mind and body”, “reject authority”, and “heap abuse” on things I don't understand.

Lord, protect us from “giving ourselves over” to apostasies. Let us embrace the push and pull of the fullness of our Humanity and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit! May we be firmly established in Truth that is never-the-less bigger than our minds can categorize. May we believe in a love that is beyond our comprehension and wisdom greater than our understanding. May we embrace Jesus; fully human and fully divine!

In His Grip—TWE



ESTABLISHING A PLUMBLINE IN THE HEART OF GOD'S PEOPLE

# The Plumbline

# Camz Counsel

*April 2019*

## *The Book of Jude*

### *Stick to It!*

*Dearly loved friend, I was fully intending to write to you about our amazing salvation we all participate in, but felt the need instead to challenge you to **vigorously defend and contend for the beliefs that we cherish**. (Jude 3, TPT)*

The inspired Word of God traverses time. Just as in Jude's time there was a need to warn against false teachers, the same warning applies today. Jude laid aside the review of the gospel story to instead encourage believers to stand firm in the faith when the fear of failure lures you into a false paradigm. Stand firm in the inspired Word of God. Trust its truth.

There is a twisting of God's message through his redemption gift that if you sin then you are undeserving of God's love which propels us into an urgency to recreate another theological perspective. It's true that God hates sin and he does not excuse it but it's just as true he can forgive it. Romans 3:23, "for we all have sinned and are in need of the glory of God." Romans 3:24b, ". . . Jesus, the Anointed One, has liberated us from *the guilt, punishment, and power of sin!*" (TPT) This is the truth but the twisting causes us to distort the message of God to be one in which God's love comes through dismissal or overlooking of sin –be who you are and be your own god. Jude 4,

"There have been some who have sneaked in among you unnoticed. They are depraved people whose judgment was prophesied in Scripture a long time ago. They have **perverted the message of God's grace** into a license to commit immorality and turn against our only absolute Master, our Lord Jesus Christ."

Jude shares examples:

When God rescued his people from Egypt and they lost confidence in God and began to grumble. They stopped believing when hardships came. (v.5)

When the Angels became jealous of humans and cut ties to God (Genesis 6:1-4). Larry Crabb says, "What they got was a moment of pleasure and an eternity of misery. Had they stayed faithful to Me, their capacity for joy would have been filled to the brim in the day when I fully reveal My glory in the universe." (v.6)

When the citizens of Sodom and Gomorrah abandoned themselves to corrupt desires that they could satisfy without God. (v.7)

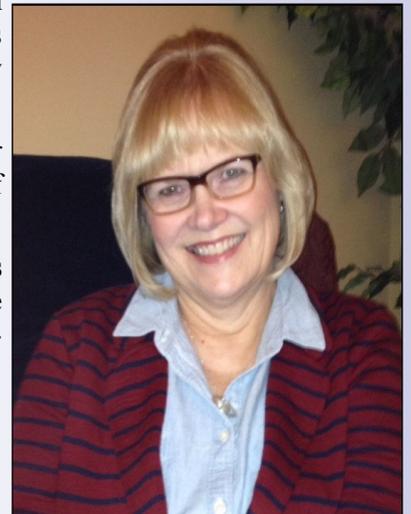
Last month I shared the Elisabeth Elliot quote, "The secret of life is Christ in me, not me in a different set of circumstances." Our false paradigms create a different set of circumstances in which we are in control and unruffled by the cares of this world. This is a lament I hear expressed in many different forms in my counseling office. For some it is guised in an expression of longing for heaven where heaven becomes the "different set of circumstances" focus. I hear things like, "I just wish the Lord would come back now" or even, "It would just be easier if I would die." Heaven becomes that place to escape temptations and trials. In Heaven one no longer has to make sense of how a good God would leave us in such difficult circumstances. For others the answer is in leaving one church and moving to another that embraces the lifestyle they've chosen or they leave church all together because it's full of hypocrites and judgmental people. Some Christians over spiritualize their circumstances in an attempt to create a different set of circumstances by making them something God is doing his magical work upon. In all these cases the focus is on changing the circumstances and away from the true secret of life, "Christ in me."

Jude would say these movements toward changing or manipulating our way out of our circumstances are motivated by ungodly desires (v.18). Then hear what the inspired Word of God says through Jude in v. 20-21:

**"But you, my delightfully loved friends, constantly and progressively build yourselves up on the foundation of your most holy faith by praying every moment in the Spirit. Fasten your hearts to the love of God and receive the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, who gives us eternal life."** (TPT)

That's the truth and we're sticking to it!!

*Carol Anne*





*After almost 25 years Plumblin is growing!*

*We have opened a midtown satellite location and you are cordially invited to come and celebrate with us!*

### ***Open House***

*Plumblin Ministries NEW Satellite Location*

*When: Sunday May 19th*

*2PM to 4PM*

*Where: 3904 East 31st Street South*

*Tulsa, Oklahoma 74135-1509*

*We are hosting a come and go reception to view our beautiful new facility. We invite you to join our staff and board members for light refreshments and celebrate what God is doing at Plumblin Ministries!*

### ***How Can You Help?***

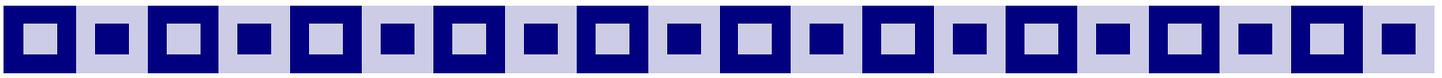
*We have established a Gift Registry to request your help with furnishing our new facility and filling in a couple of gaps in our current facility. Please take a look at our Gift Registry at the following link if you would like to help.*

*<https://myregistry.com/>*

*Add Plumblin Ministries in the “find a Registry” option and follow the prompts.*

*Contact Liz Merrill at Plumblin if you have any questions.*

*Cell: 918-853-4653.*



## **NEW CLASS!!**

### **TRUST BUILDING/RECOVERY WORKSHOP**

From the boardroom to the bedroom, trust effects us all. It is not for the faint of heart. It is perhaps the most high risk, high reward endeavor we will pursue for it requires us to be vulnerable.

This workshop is intended for anyone who has experienced the pain of lost trust and is wanting to find help in learning how to trust again. It is also intended for those who have broken the trust of another and want to learn how to make amends. You may just want to learn how to deepen your capacity to trust. This is for you too!

**WHEN:** Saturday, May 4, 2019

**FROM:** 8:30 to 2:30

Registration opens at 8:00 A.M.

Teaching starts at 8:30.

We will break for lunch and end at 2:30

**Where:** Plumline Classroom

8222 East 103rd Street

Suite 127

**Cost:** \$75 per person.

#### **INTRODUCTORY SPECIAL!!**

Bring a friend and get 2 for \$100!

**Teacher/Facilitator:** Anthony Elliott

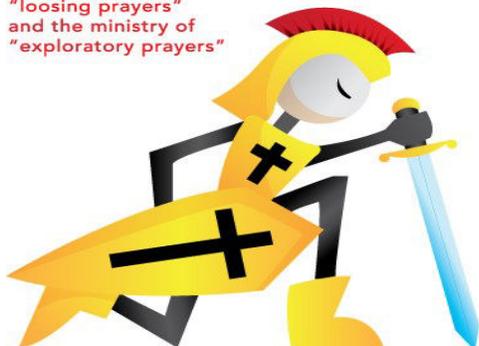


# Stickman's Prayers

Plumblin's newest book, *Stickman's Prayers* has been published and is now available at Plumblin!

## stickman's prayers

the everyday practice of  
"loosing prayers"  
and the ministry of  
"exploratory prayers"



Michelle Carpenter  
Terry Ewing  
Erin Garcia  
Margo Hanne  
Carolyn Knippers  
Carol McNamarra  
Sue Merrill

Would you be surprised to know that the "Prayer of Jabez" was a joke?

Would you be happy to know what kind of prayers are appropriate for you to pray for yourself and what kinds are meant for you to pray for others and others for you?

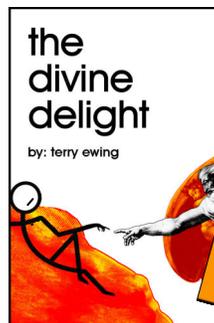
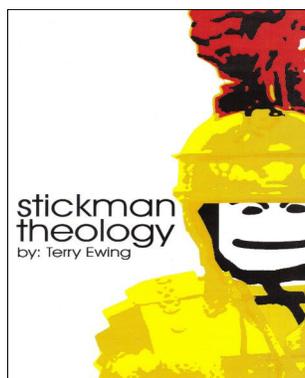
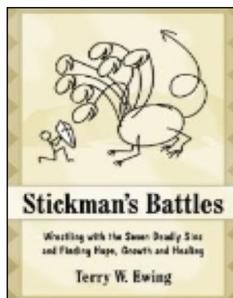
Would you like confidence and freedom to simply enjoy your personal and ministry prayers?

Praying is the most natural thing in the world for Christians; an on going conversation with our best friend, counselor, and confidant; gratitude to our Savior and provider; intercession on behalf of our friends; requests to our Creator. In this regard, a book on prayer may seem presumptuous. When you write a book on Prayer aren't you suggesting that some are praying wrongly, or, at least could be praying better?

That really is not the kind of message we look to promote. So...why the book?

The *Stickman's Prayers* serves two purposes. First, to challenge some ideas that other teaching and preaching concerning prayer has promoted. And, to offer simple encouragements to personal prayer and prayer ministries.

Available at Plumblin for a suggested donation of \$10.00 each



*Did you know you can download*

## Stickman Theology

**On your KINDLE?**

Did you know that when you shop on Amazon, you could be helping to financially support Plumblin? Through the Amazon smiles program, **Amazon will donate a portion of the sales to Plumblin.** All you need to do is go to [smiles.amazon.com](https://smiles.amazon.com), designate Plumblin Ministries, and start shopping! Amazon will then donate 0.5% of the total sales price to Plumblin. Please remember to bookmark that page and you can help us as you shop!

# PLUMBLINE

MINISTRIES

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