
New Horizons Newsletter

Director

Pierre J. Samaan, Ph.D.
*Bringing 30 years of Clinical Pastoral
 Counseling experience into each session.*



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New Horizons Institute of Counseling
 A Pastoral Counseling Domestic Mission of
 The United Brethren In Christ

Phone: 678.348.6442
 Toll Free: 888.760.0445
 Fax: 770.271.220
 SKYPE: dr.pierrej.samaan

www.newhorizonscounseling.com
healing@newhorizonscounseling.com

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*"May the LORD show you
 His favor and give you
 peace." (Nu. 6:26)*

[Read: Philipians 3:12-16; Ephesians 3](#)

I PRESS ON

By Dr. Pierre J. Samaan

What a magnificent time we live in! There are significant periods in history that we have been made to study in school. Perhaps, one day, they will be studying in schools this generation. So much is happening, so quickly! Each day brings new events, with some events that take our breath away. Sometimes, it feels like we are watching a movie unfolding right before our eyes. Hollywood is having a field day putting to script what we are experiencing during this time period.

There are many who are able to pay attention to world events, becoming anxious and fearful, while those who choose otherwise will become fearful and panicked when the reality of prophetic events catches them unprepared.

Since Israel became a nation in 1948-49, we have seen prophetic events accelerate. I believe that within the next two years, more events will unfold that will catch every ones attention. I cannot say exactly what, for it is more of an impression that is based upon much prayer, bible reading, and world events.

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New Horizons Institute of Counseling, 970 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Suite 100, Suwanee, GA 30024

678.348.6442; Toll Free 888.760.0445

SKYPE: dr.pierrej.samaan

Suffice to say, that it is an advisable time to gather together, encourage one another, and be encouraged (This is not going to be a good period of time to be a loner). We will need each other more than ever before. As in the days of the New Testament Book of Acts, believers in Jesus Christ will need to help each other. Churches must put aside doctrinal differences to help and support each other. The Body of Christ (church) will be stronger working together.

I once published an article with the Enrichment Journal titled, *When Disaster Strikes – An Action Plan To Prepare Your Church*.¹ The Journal Editor asked me to write the article to help church pastors begin to develop a *Disaster Plan* for their church, church members, and community. With Christ as our bond, devoted Christians can and will endure, even the worst of times.

This was one of the purposes of Paul's words in Ephesians 3, after arriving in Rome in 60 AD. He was saying that together we are strengthened in Christ Jesus through God's unmerited favor, Grace. From the beginning, God kept His plan for His consecrated people a secret. What was once a secret, is no longer unknown. Through Jesus Christ, God's secret plan for our redemption became enlightened to all men and women. But, why you may ask, did the all-knowing and all powerful God have to keep it a secret?

¹⁰*[The purpose is] that through the church the complicated, many-sided wisdom of God in all its infinite variety and innumerable aspects might now be made known to the angelic rulers and authorities (principalities and powers) in the heavenly sphere. (Ephesians 3:10 Amplified)*

Principalities and powers are not the good guys! God in His infinite wisdom, was keeping the secret from Satan and the fallen Angels. God gave us prophetic hints in the Old Testament of His secret plan of restoration from the fallen state of mankind. Our Father God, gave us an unrestrained access to Himself through the life, death, and resurrection of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, our Messiah.

Satan's plan to corrupt the seed of mankind through his factions of fallen Angels, failed with the flood and again with the resurrection, for which we celebrate Easter. Yet, Satan does not have the immeasurable mind of God to develop new ideas. The evil one is sticking by his combat strategy of corrupting mankind's seed (DNA). Through deception and distractions (Hollywood, sports, weather, disasters, wars and rumors of wars) the unprepared are made vulnerable and may miss the Bridegroom's returning for the Bride – His church of Believers.

The Apostle Paul was asking the church, not to lose heart or become discouraged when they see others going through tough times. Paul is encouraging us when he says "...I press on..." With courage and confidence, we must "press on" during these next two years, because we have direct access to God through the resurrection of Christ and the indwelling Holy Spirit. Don't obsess with what is behind (bad events and losses), but reach forward to those promises that are ahead.

If you feel you are being held back by past events and losses, seek help from your Pastor, Clinical Pastoral Counselor, or church Lay counselor. And remember, it is not by being a righteous person that makes you right with God, it is by your faith, belief in Jesus Christ as the Son of God. When you believe,

¹ Samaan, Pierre J., (2010), *When Disaster Strikes – An Action Plan To Prepare Your Church*, Enrichment Journal, Summer 2010/Volume 15/Number 3, pp 90-96, Springfield, MO.

God's Spirit enters/indwells your body (spirit, soul, & body). It is God's Spirit that compels you to keep trying to live in obedience to God and to keep pressing on.



Romans 1:20; 3:22-23; 5:12; 6:23; 5:8-10; 10:9-12

Watch this inspiring video and encourage each other whenever you are together:

<http://youtu.be/xDhReiOOEtg>



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