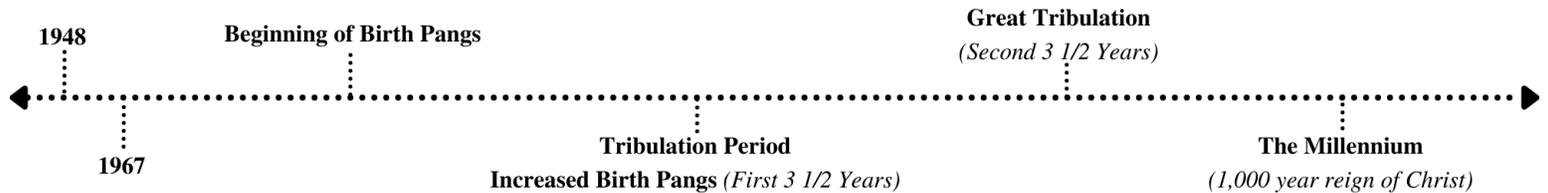


## ***Positive Spiritual Sign Trends in the Church at the End of the Age***

### **I. Review**

- a. The Bible categorizes 4 main distinct time frames or “seasons” related to the end times. The last 7 years of this age is made up of 2 distinct time periods that each last 3 1/2 years. Each season has signs that serve as indicators of that time period.



- i. **The Beginning of Birth Pangs (The Beginning of Sorrows)** –Several decades.
- ii. **Tribulation, The Increased Birth Pangs (The First 3 1/2 Years)** – Counterfeit world peace & safety
- iii. **The Great Tribulation (The Second 3 1/2 Years)** - Unprecedented Destruction
- iv. **The Millennium (1,000 year reign of Christ)**

### **II. The Global Church Having Conviction They Are the Generation That Will See His Return**

- a. It is a common misconception that every generation since the ascension of Jesus has believed that they are in the generation of Christ’s return. The documentation of church history through writings, sermons, songs, and practices show that throughout history, the return of Jesus was not even a primary focus of the Church. Before the early 1900’s (Maybe even as late at 1948), only the 1<sup>st</sup> century Church had believed they were living in the generation of His return.
- b. God promised make known His return to His people ahead of time so that they could be prepared for unprecedented shaking, and participate in His glorious end time plans. This is the main reason for the “signs of the times”; signs are given to point to something more impactful than the sign itself. The fact that there is so much interested in the return of Jesus (and the “end of the world”) in this generation is a major sign of the times.

***(Amos 3:7 NASB), “Certainly the Lord God does nothing Unless He reveals His secret plan To His servants the prophets.”***

***(Jeremiah 23:20 NASB), “The anger of the Lord will not turn back Until He has performed and carried out the purposes of His heart; In the last days you will clearly understand it.”***

***(Daniel 12:4,9 NASB), “But as for you, Daniel, keep these words secret and seal up the book until the end of time; many will roam about, and knowledge will increase. 9 And he said, “Go your way, Daniel, for these words will be kept secret and sealed up until the end time.”***

- c. As the end of the age draws near, God promised to release and increased understanding of His end time plans. He is raising up a people of skillful understanding that will operate as forerunner messengers instructing others about what God is doing (about to do) on the earth (*Isaiah 62:10-13; Jeremiah 23:20; 30:24; Daniel 11:33; 12:10; Malachi 4:5; Acts 2:17-21; Revelation 11:3-6; 13:18:17:9).*

### III. Unity in the Church

- a. The unity of the Church at the end of the age will be one of the most effective means to spreading a hope to the world. Jesus prayed for perfect unity among within the Church that would lead to a global witness of the gospel. The Church will be most effective when she is functioning in Biblical unity under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

***(Romans 15:5-6;13 NASB), “Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another, according to Christ Jesus, 6 so that with one purpose and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. 13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”***

***(John 17:22-23 NASB), “The glory which You have given Me I also have given to them, so that they may be one, just as We are one; 23 I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and You loved them, just as You loved Me.”***

- b. Unity is not an exclusive end time trend, but has been God’s desire for His church since it’s inception. In fact, unity is an eternal and heavenly reality that we are called to pray for, fight for, and walk out in this current age. Despite the increase of offense at the end of the age, the Church will operate in highest degree of unity in history, and become a beacon of hope in a darkened world.

***(1 Thessalonians 4:9 NASB), “Now as to the love of the brothers and sisters, you have no need for anyone to write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another”***

***(1 Peter 4:8 NASB), “Above all, keep fervent in your love for one another, because love covers a multitude of sins.”***

***(Ephesians 4:11-13 NASB), “And He gave some as apostles, some as prophets, some as evangelists, some as pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ; 13 until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.”***

- c. Intergenerational unity is a distinct sign of the times. Generations will embrace each other and function together despite their differences. Malachi prophesied of the “spirit of Elijah” that would turn the hearts of fathers to the children (including: pro-life movements, adoption movements, etc.) and the hearts of children to the fathers.

***(Malachi 4:5-6 NASB), “Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord. 6 He will turn the hearts of the fathers back to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and strike the land with complete destruction.”***

### IV. The Embrace of the Bridal Paradigm

- a. Revelation 22 prophesies of a global bride crying out, in unity with the Spirit, for the return of the Bridegroom (Jesus). Before the return of Jesus, the global church will embrace and function in her eternal identity as His Bride. The Bridal paradigm speaks of our intimacy with Jesus, and positional authority that we have because of intimacy with Him. The bridal paradigm has been a constant theme throughout scripture (*The Song of Solomon; Isaiah 62:5-7; Hosea 2:18-20; Matthew 25:1-13; Mark 2:19-20; John 3:27-30*) and is being embraced more and more by the global Church.

***(Revelation 22:17 NASB), “The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.” And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires, take the water of life without cost.”***

- b. One of the most exciting realities currently taking place that shows the church’s embrace of the Bridal Paradigm is the Global Bridegroom Fast (GBF). 10’s of thousands across the globe participate in the GBF each month. The GBF is centered on mourning for the return of the Bridegroom. It is a glorious privilege

of this age to fast for the return of Jesus and the advancement of His will on earth. The GBF is literally **Revelation 22:17** in action.

#### V. The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

- a. In the last days God promises to pour out His Spirit on all believers in an increased measure. The Church will operate in an unprecedented spirit of prophecy where prophetic activity such as dreams and visions will increase. Signs and wonders will increase in the sky and on the earth as a testimony of God's authority over His creation. Believers will walk in whole-hearted partnership with the Holy Spirit to extend His end time outpouring.

***(Acts 2:17-21 NASB), “And it shall be in the last days,’ God says, ‘That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and your daughters will prophesy, And your young men will see visions, And your old men will have dreams; 18 And even on My male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days, And they will prophesy. 19 And I will display wonders in the sky above And signs on the earth below, Blood, fire, and vapor of smoke. 20 The sun will be turned into darkness And the moon into blood, Before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes. 21 And it shall be that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”***

- b. In the early 1900's there was only around 1 million charismatic believers. Today it's estimated that there's around 600 million charismatic believers. Imagine *the entire Church* at the end of the age praying in the spirit regularly, get prophetic downloads from God, and functioning in signs and wonders on a daily basis.

#### VI. Night & Day Worship & Prayer Movement

- a. Before His second coming, God will raise up the greatest night and day worship and prayer movement the world has ever seen. It will touch every nation across the earth. The global singing and praying church will arouse Jesus to come back and establish His kingdom upon the earth. There are many scriptures that speak about the end time prayer movement, here are a few: ***2 Chronicles 7:14; Psalm 2:8; 10:17-18; 72:12-15; 91; 96; 98; 102:15-22; 149; Isaiah 19:20-22 (Egypt Specifically); 24:14-16; 25:1-9; 26; 27:13; 30:19,29,32; 35:10; 40:29-31; 42; 43:26; 51:11; 52:8-9; 56:7; 61:11; 64:4; 62:6-7; Jeremiah 31:4, 6-7; Joel 2:12-17,32; Amos 9:11; Zephaniah 2:1-13; Zechariah 8:20-23; 10:1; 12:10; 13:9; Matthew 21:13; Luke 18:7-8; 1 Peter 4:7; Revelation 5:8; 8:3-5; 16:7; 22:17.***

***(Luke 18:7-8 NASB), “Now, will God not bring about justice for His elect who cry out to Him day and night, and will He delay long for them? 8 I tell you that He will bring about justice for them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?”***

- b. There are over 10,000 houses of prayer and praying churches throughout the nations. Night and day worship and prayer is advancing throughout the earth unlike ever before. Global night and day worship and prayer is a major sign of the times. *The house of prayer is God's primary strategy to bring about the restoration of all things.* He's looking for a Church that is unified and in agreement with what He's about to do in the earth. *Our one-hour Restless Ones commitment in the prayer room actually matters more than we realize.*
- c. Worship and prayer that takes place in cities and regions across the earth has more impact than just in the lives of the individual believers who attend those prayer meetings. Thousands of “mostly empty prayer rooms” across the earth are provoking and hastening the return of Jesus through faith-filled songs of agreement. Through night and day worship and prayer, God is raising up an international family of affection that will cry out in unity for the King and His Kingdom to come; and surely He will come.

**Questions For Discussion**

1. What is the most exciting thing that sticks out to you about these positive sign trends in the Church at the end of the age?
2. What is something new that you learned about the Church at the end of the age?
3. Does this teaching inform your understanding of the importance of night and day prayer? Does it inspire you to continue (or start) your weekly Restless Ones commitment?