

Direct Communication

3/20/18

Note: I am just now writing down what I have heard from God about the Trump presidency -- partly because I was so busy when these things happened. Also, partly because I did not know what to do with what I was hearing. However, I am sensing that some of those things seem to be manifesting.

My goal here is to keep what I write down as accurate as possible since the scene is still unfolding. I don't want to mix my own opinions, thoughts, feelings, and expectations with it. So, I want to keep my interpretations down to a minimum. I will only write down my impressions where I feel they are strong and relevant.

The following is what I heard and when:

11/8/16: I was a poll worker on election day, so I did not have a chance to see what was going on until later that night. By the time I got home, it was becoming very clear that Donald Trump was going to win. This was a total shock to everyone – including me. I watched the news that night long enough to see Clinton send her congratulatory message and his acceptance speech. Then I went to bed.

11/9/16:

As he sometimes does, God spoke to me while I was sleeping. I was still asking “why?”. His response was, “Like with King Saul, this is what they asked for.” He also said, “They are putting their faith in man – not God.”

Note: He reminded me that I had sometime earlier seen a video on a prophetic community page on Facebook that showed hundreds of people prostrating themselves on the floor of a church begging and pleading with all their might in prayer that ‘Donald Trump be elected.’

I later read through 1 & 2 Samuel to remind myself of the story of Saul. A few points stood out:

1. Despite being warned against it, the people of Israel asked for a king because they did not want to depend on God to take care of them.
2. God anointed Saul. God instructed Saul how to lead, but Saul took it upon himself to only partially obey God's instructions, so God left him.
3. Saul became insanely jealous of David when he could see David's anointing. He set out to destroy David as a result of his burning jealousy.
4. In the end Saul died alone in battle – having been left or deserted by everyone.

A few days later:

A few days later, God told me “I'm going to get them to fight each other.” I repeatedly ask, “Ok, I trust that you have good purposes for this. However, so I can know how to pray your will, I

need to ask, ‘to what end????’ Why do you want them to fight against each other? And to whom are you referring?”

To date, I have yet to receive a direct response to that question. However, every time I think about this, it reminds me of a dream I recorded a few years ago where he said he was going to have a ‘Canadian’ and a ‘Mexican’ fight each other to the death – until one of them wins.” [7/15/18 Note: *Canadian and Mexican are symbolic – not literal. I eventually came to make two connections to Canadian vs. Mexican analogy: 1) One is to the north and one is to the south. 2) In prior situations I used the phrase ‘go north’ as symbolic of heading towards your calling.*] Increasingly I am sensing that perhaps that may relate to this word, but in all candor, I have not yet had a formal confirmation of this. What has been going on since the election is that the Democrats and Republicans and the rest of the nation are becoming increasingly polarized and they are fighting each other for power and control.

This also reminds me of something that happened in 2013. Congress was fighting because they were in the middle of a government shutdown. Everyone was just standing around, and CSPAN was recording the whole thing. Then to everyone’s surprise, the court stenographer walked up to the microphone and began to proclaim “A nation divided will not stand.” This woman was all over the news for a few days. She was interviewed on the news and said she felt God prompting her to do that. ... I am sensing this may be why we are seeing this conflict right now – our nation needs to find clarity.

Not sure when this occurred, but it was early on:

When noticing how ugly things seemed to be, he said, ‘it will get worse’. I believe (but not positive) that he said it would get progressively worse.

Also, early on:

When watching and reflecting on the fighting and political tension, I was asking how I should be praying for the situation. He told me to pray that they can find ‘common ground.’

This made me remember a time when God gave a confirmation to another unrelated issue about 10 years ago. I was watching one of the final scenes from the movie: “Spanglish”. The daughter was narrating and talking about her mother. She said, “In the middle of conflict, she found clarity.” I felt God’s confirming presence for another issue at that point. I am sensing that he wants me to pray that our nation can find clarity and common ground as a result of the polarization and conflict we are experiencing right now. I have not yet received confirmation that this is the proper understanding.

May-Jul 2017????

I don’t remember when I heard this, but I do believe it was after James Comey had been fired (5/9/17). God told me that Trump ‘was going to do something really stupid.’ I distinctly remember that it was said in the future tense, which lead me to believe that it was something that had not yet happened. If so, he was not referring the act of firing Comey.

At this point, I don’t know what that means.

Approximately June 2017?:

Jay Sekulow, a well-known Christian attorney who takes on high-profile civil rights cases for Christian causes, was announced as joining Trump's legal team. I was surprised to hear this, because I didn't think he would do something like that. My gut was that perhaps he sought out Trump instead of the other way around. However, I have no personal knowledge about this so I am not stating this as fact. However, as I pondered this situation, and asked God why this attorney would agree to represent Trump, God said, 'they do this because of their own personal ambition.'

3/18/18:

Looking at the news website (either CNN or MSNBC?). Two headlines – one on top of the other: (these are paraphrases):

1. Will the Republicans let Trump fire Mueller?
2. Will Trump try to fire Mueller(?) – not sure about this one.

As I was looking at the two headlines together, I received what I believe was a confirmation from God, indicating the answer is "Yes". However, I am not sure to which headline (or both) it was referring.

Again, time will tell.

July/August, 2018

I was watching a news report that was talking about how evangelical Christians tolerate and support Trump despite his lack of character and the problems he brings because he promised to appoint conservative, pro-life judges. As far as they are concerned, if he is willing to give them what they want, they will tolerate his immorality. I responded, "Wow. They are willing to compromise everything they believe in just because they are hoping to have a pro-life judge. That means their pro-life agenda has become an idol." As I said that, I received confirmation that my interpretation was correct.

8/24/18:

In full disclosure, the following is what I am sensing, but have yet to receive a formal confirmation: I mentioned earlier that one of the points that stood out to me upon reading the story of King Saul was how his life ended: He died in battle alone, having been disserved by everyone. Since reading and seeing that, I have suspected that is what will eventually happen to Trump. To date, several of his allies/associates (Mike Flynn, George Papadopoulos, Rick Gates, Don McGahn, Michael Cohen, Allen Weisselberg, David Pecker – that are known, and Amarosa Managualt) have chosen to become cooperating witnesses after they discovered that they were facing serious legal jeopardy and/or saw their lives and reputations destroyed by their affiliation to him and decided they should look out for themselves. The Michael Cohen and David Pecker situations have been in just the past few days. It is highly likely that there are several others as well but are not yet known. Trump continues to do whatever he wants without regard for laws and how his actions hurt other people, so I suspect that everyone will eventually have their own breaking point when they decide that enough is enough. Again, time will tell.

10/5/18

Late August/Early September, 2018

I had a dream one night where God spoke to me. In the dream, I was standing around at work (a place I worked 30+ years ago. I was standing around chatting with my co-workers. All of the sudden, quick as a flash, something happened (I can't remember what) that had us all in shock. Next thing I know, I am standing there holding some legal document(s) (like a court subpoena or something) in my hand. I handed one of these documents to my co-workers who were standing there. They read them and walked away to go do something with them. As this dream was ending, God said to me, "I'm going to do something. When I do, I want you to give them the document." When I woke up, and for a couple of weeks afterwards, I kept asking, "What document?" It took a couple of weeks for me to continue to question what he was referring to. Eventually I started to suspect that God was referring to this document that lists the words he has given me regarding the Trump presidency. I asked if that is what he was referring to, and I received a confirmation response. It has only been in the last two days or so that it occurred to me that I should include this dream/instruction in this document. I am not sure of this, but I suspect that he will have me post this document to my website when it is time; but due to the controversial nature of some of the content, it is wise not to share it until the right time.

Note: He said he was going to do something. I don't know when or what, and I have learned to not assume. This Trump drama continues to unfold in some surprising ways. So, I will just need to wait and see and trust that he will help me register that moment.

9/10/18

Last night, I was watching news clips on the Internet about the latest drama in the Trump White House. Two things are dominating the news: 1) Bob Woodward's new book "Fear" and an op-ed article in the New York Times written by an anonymous 'senior WH official'. Both were very consistent with prior reports about how crazy of an environment it is, how his staff repeatedly says very derogatory things about him, some senior people reportedly work very hard to contain his worst impulses, and that some cabinet officials have discussed invoking the 25th Amendment because he was unfit. One interview with Mike Pence (see below) was one where he was trying to show his utter loyalty and devotion to Trump, and therefore there was no way he or his staff wrote the article.

During some of these news reports, and prior reporting, people who know Pence have claimed that he has been saying since he was in high school that God is going to make him president one day. I personally don't have much issue with Pence, and I would be inclined to think it is possible that God has indeed been preparing him for that since high school. However, as I watched the interview, I was reminded of the fact that he spends so much time trying to convey this 'good little Christian' brand and that he has utter and total devotion to Trump. This left me with a very uneasy feeling.

By the time I went to bed, and throughout the night during my sleep, I felt a burden to intercede for him that he needs to change his focus. If God has, indeed told him he would be president, it would most likely occur when Trump's presidency was to end unnaturally (death, impeachment, 25th Amendment, Indictment, etc.) In that case, he would suddenly be thrust into the role of

president when the country was deeply divided and probably in crisis. If this were to happen, having a reputation for being a Trump crony would not serve him well. People would never trust him, and he would likely lose a bid for re-election, just as Ford did after Nixon resigned. If the nation were at a point of crisis, we need a crisis leader – not a clone of the man who created the crisis in the first place. So instead of trying to prove to the world he is a Trump loyalist, he should focus on God and allowing God to prepare him to lead during turbulent times. I also had the thought that I should pray that he should take time to study the Ford presidency to find out what he can glean from that.

<https://www.cnn.com/2018/09/09/politics/mike-pence-25th-amendment/index.html>

9/26/18 (approximately 9/16/18)

Kavanaugh Sexual Allegations

The Republican-controlled Senate Judiciary committee has been in the process of trying to confirm Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court. The Democrats have been fighting this very strongly. At this point, they had a few concerns: 1) Senate Majority Leader McConnell refused to grant a hearing to President Obama's nominee when Scalia died almost a year before the next president would be sworn in, claiming that he was a lame duck. The Dems did not have too many objections to Neil Gorsuch, who was nominated by Trump. 2) They were denied access to thousands of records that Kavanaugh wrote while working for Bush. 3) They had serious concerns about his views on several things, including presidential power and Roe V. Wade. 4) Several of Dems believed he was not credible because they believe he was caught lying. (Note: I don't have enough information on that to have good understanding or opinion.) 5) The Republicans were determined to subvert all normal procedures, rush him through the process, and are determined to approve him no matter what – all because they are so determined to put a conservative on the Supreme Court. It appears as though the Republicans don't really care about character questions – they just want this win.

I only watched short clips of his hearings. Since I am a Christian and have conservative values, I am not as opposed to Kavanaugh and his values as the Democrats are. However, watching his entry to the chambers and his opening statement, I got the impression that he was trying just a little too hard to come off as a 'squeaky-clean boy scout' type. I would assume that was so he could appeal the conservative Christian base. To me, it seemed inauthentic. I don't doubt that he is very conservative Catholic, with conservative values, now that he is in his 50s.

However, just before they were going to vote, news started to break about a woman who wrote a letter to her congress member, which was forwarded to the top-ranking Democrat on the committee, Diane Feinstein. Eventually the information came out in the open that this woman, Dr. Ford, accused Kavanaugh of trying to rape her when they were in high school at a party where he was so drunk, he could not control himself. That allegation was a shock to everyone. General responses were along the lines of, "Oh, he is such a fine, upstanding man. He would never do anything like that. If this were true, how did this not come to light earlier during his prior six FBI background checks? How come no one has ever reported this type of behavior before? That kind of behavior is just not consistent with his 'alter-boy' reputation."

I started to think about this apparent contradiction in character. I had been praying for clarity. At one point, I was reflecting on the idea that it is highly possible that he is now the person people described – especially now that he is in his 50s and married with two young daughters. But yet when he was in high school, he could have succumbed to peer pressure and therefore allowed himself to get involved in activities that he would not do now. As I pondered that possibility, I received a confirming presence. And as I am writing this down now, I received another one of those responses.

I'm going to leave this one here.

10/1/18

Last night as I was watching the continuing drama unfold about Kavanaugh, the sense I am getting is that at this point, yes, he is an upstanding citizen who tries to live a righteous life. Yet at the same time he did drink too much in high school and college and did act in belligerent ways. At this point, it is too soon to determine whether or not he did sexually assault these women, but it is likely that some of the allegations are at least partially true. The thing to know about aggressive and belligerent people is that they are usually completely oblivious to how their behavior negatively affects other people. Therefore, if you try to confront them years later, they will not be aware it, nor will they remember it. To them, it was no big deal. – Boys will be boys. But for the recipients of this behavior, it is often traumatizing and may leave an enduring memory and wounds.

Another thought I had about Kavanaugh is that, based on my professional knowledge, he most likely has an Idealist personality type (<http://www.dreams-goals.com/Wkshp-Assess-MBTI.html> - see Keirsey's 4 Temperaments). Normally, these people are very kind, gentle and idealistic. However, if you violate their values, they tend to turn from "Dr. Jekyll to Mr. Hyde" in an instant. Their congruence with their values is what drives them, and if they were to violate those values, they would experience extreme psychological discomfort. If it turns out that any of these allegations are remotely true, then he will experience severe cognitive dissonance (<http://www.dreams-goals.com/IndividualLessons-PowerPointFiles.html> -- "Effective Listing Skills"). At this point I sensed the typical confirming presence from God. This led me to feel a sense of compassion for what he is going through. I will pray that God is helping him face the truth, make peace with whatever he has done, and to accept responsibility for his actions.

For anyone who doubts the allegations, remember that he demonstrated on live tv his potential for belligerent behavior for the entire world to see. During his follow up testimony in front of the Judicial Committee – and supposedly in response to Dr. Ford's testimony. He admitted that he did not hear his accuser's testimony, so he does not know what she said. So, instead of taking the time to see the world through her eyes to understand how his behavior affected her, he bragged about his accomplishments and expressed his anger over having his reputation smeared – again very little regard for her. He became combative and arrogant with the senators when they were questioning him. This is precisely the kind of behavior that is consistent with the accusations against him when he was young, impulsive and drunk.

1/6/18:

I did not get enough sleep the night before, so I decided to go to be early – about 7:30pm. Just as I was about to settle in, I found myself almost dozing off before actually laying down to sleep. I was in that pre-sleep, trance-like state when all of the sudden a thought came to me out of nowhere. The thought was: “Like the women who went to prepare Jesus’s body for burial. They are so overwhelmed with 1) Grief and shock over the death of the person in whom they put their faith. 2) Stress from experiencing a paradigm shift because they did not expect him to die. 3) Worrying about him. Therefore, **that overwhelming stress causes them to experience ‘performance anxiety’ and thus will prevent them from doing what they are skilled and tasked to do.**” (*my emphasis*)

Reflections:

1. I was noticing the other day that I had not received any new words lately, so I asked to hear something. This came one to two days later.
2. By the time I wrote this down, I was having difficulty remembering the exact content, but what is listed here is the general idea.
3. I am still not certain this is related to the Trump presidency, but my intuition says so.
4. I don’t know who these women represent. However, they appear to be the people who were tasked with taking care of him. My first impression was the believers who will be shocked if and when he does ‘die in battle’ (metaphorically speaking) as mentioned above. I am beginning to believe it could be his staff and those around him.
5. I re-read the passages in all four gospels to see if there was any additional information about the women. Not much relevant information is mentioned. I also read the NIV Commentary. Again, not a lot, but it pointed out that the fact that since they were planning on embalming him, it meant that they either did not understand, believe, or remember that Jesus had said he would rise again. That means that they were not aware of what God was doing in front of their eyes.

1/13/19 (approximate):

I was reviewing the news headlines of the day. They talked about a few stories that were circulating that reflect really bad on Trump and public perception that must somehow be compromised by Putin and Russia: 1) Trump went to great lengths to conceal 5 prior meetings with Putin, which means that the U.S. (including his cabinet/staff) have no idea what he discussed. <https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/12/politics/trump-putin-meetings-no-records/index.html> 2) The FBI had opened a counter intelligence investigation into Trump to find out if he was working for Russia after he fired Comey because they were so concerned that he had potentially been compromised due to his odd behavior. 3) He suddenly and unexpectedly announced that he would pull all US troops out of Syria without discussing this with his staff. Speculation is that he did that because Turkey’s president asked him to. 4) We are now in the middle of the longest-running government shut down in history. Federal employees are expected to work even though they are not getting paychecks. This was after he had proudly announced on live TV that he would be proud to shut down the government. Now the majority of the country blames him for it. 5) Of course the Russia investigation continues to close in on him.

As I was watching all this ridiculousness, I kept wondering (like everyone else) what is motivating him to behave in such a questionable way, and have such utter disregard for how his behavior just invites further scrutiny. Does he not realize (or care) that his behavior is going to cause more people to question his motives, and thus investigate him further? Then a thought occurred to me: He is either doing this due to some hidden motivation, or **he is so incompetent and unfit for the position, that he does not know what he is doing.** As I thought the second part about him being incompetent, I received a confirmation. So, I asked, “Are you telling me that this is because of his incompetence?” I received another confirmation.

Reflection: This reminds me of the theory “Conscious Competence” model, which has four levels of consciousness of competence. The first level– Unconsciously Unskilled is the person who is ‘blissfully ignorant’ – in other words, incompetent and does not know it. “we don't know that we don't have this skill, or that we need to learn it.” So much damage can be done by a person at this level. That is what we are seeing happening. The fact that the federal workers (i.e. Coast Guard, FBI, TSA, etc.) who are expected to keep the nation safe, are expected to work without being paid. This is an excellent way to compromise them in their dangerous jobs.

https://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/newISS_96.htm

Connection to Larger Picture

Just before Easter, 2018:

I was attending a bible study group at church that was studying the storyline of the bible and the major eras of the works of God. We were reading and talking about the crucifixion of Jesus. We were asked to share our thoughts and responses. The one thing that really struck me in this story was that God clearly had a plan and a reason for Jesus to suffer at the cross. Yet God's own people were completely clueless about what was happening right in front of their own eyes. So, they tried to take matters into their own hands and thus were actually going against what God was actually doing. I was also struck by how much that lack of awareness can be seen in today's world as well.

7/15/18

On Thursday evening (7/12/18 about 8:15 pm), I was getting ready to leave work for the evening. As usual, I stopped to go to the restroom on my way out the door. At that point, a thought had been developing in me and it suddenly became clear at this point:

On the night of the election spoke to me in a dream saying, "Just like with King Saul, they have put their faith in man – not God." The new thought was "The people of King Saul's day and the people of today have something else in common: They are a generation that is about to experience a transition from one era to another."

Those transitions can be unfamiliar and scary to experience and thus the people need to depend on God to navigate the unknown. They are also often brought on through upheaval and chaos.

This also reminded me of ideas that help explain this transition into a new era. One was written by a prophetic friend, Marc Thomase (given to me in 2005), and the other was a term paper, "Sermon on the Mount – Salt and Light", I wrote while a student at Fuller Seminary in 2003. (<http://www.dreams-goals.com/Documents/FaithBased/SermonontheMount.pdf>)

Here is the information Marc gave me relating to this. I used this for the Understanding God's Masterpiece class curriculum in 2005:

History teaches that roughly every 500 years there is a major change in society's worldview that completely upsets everything that went before it.

Date	Event & Effects
c. 1500 BC	<u>Moses leads the Children of Israel out of Egypt</u> Birth of Judaism Indo-Europeans people Europe and India
c. 1000 BC	<u>David reigns in Israel</u> <u>Beginnings of Greek civilization</u>
c. 500 BC	<u>Rise of ethical religions worldwide</u> Hebrew prophets Buddha, Confucius, Lao-tze Golden Age of Greece Roman Republic founded
c. 1 AD	<u>Life of Christ</u> Rise of Christianity Roman Empire at its peak Christianity spreads throughout known world
c. 500 AD	<u>Fall of Rome</u> Beginning of “Dark Ages” Rise of Islam Modern Hinduism formed
c. 1000 AD	European Economic Recovery
c. 1500 AD	<u>Renaissance</u> Reformation Discovery of New World
c. 2000 AD – (Approximately)	<u>Western Civilization at its Peak</u> We are presently on the verge of, or perhaps in the midst of, a change that is so vast that it will render everything that we have known for the last 500 years to be obsolete. God is doing a new thing! Those who are prepared and are observing the signs of the times and listening to God will be able to thrive and accomplish much for the Kingdom of God.

From “Understanding God’s Masterpiece – Personality and Today’s World” curriculum

Every distinctive period of time is based on a set of unquestioned assumptions the people of the time hold about themselves and about the natural world.

The worldview of the past 500 years was Modernism:

Modernity Definition: The Modern era believed in progress, universality, and regularity

Yet at the beginning of the 21st Century, we are seeing the Modern worldview is rapidly coming to an end.

Today’s world can presently be described of one of a constant and a rapid-paced change. Where these changes will lead is unknown at this point.

Notice how Marc’s information includes the era of the Kingdom of Israel. According to my bible (NASB Ryre Study Bible introduction to 1Samuel). Saul was born in 1080, and in 1003 BC Saul died and David becomes king of Israel.

So yes, Saul is part of one of the transition eras mentioned here.

Another note of significance: Marc pointed out to me something that happens every time humanity goes through one of these transitions: The emerging leadership faces tremendous backlash and fighting from those who are currently in power (legal or social). The assumption is that the current leadership/power base feels threatened by this transition because they don't want to lose power and control. Political and church history is full of stories of these power struggles. Saul and David are a perfect example of this predictable phenomenon.

Another reflection: I reread the Sermon on the Mount document. When I encountered the following part, which was a summary of the class textbooks, I felt a confirming presence:

So much of present-day church programming revolves around meeting the needs of the congregation members, **trying to be the moral police of the culture**, and engaging in marketing-style “recruitment” of new members.

<http://www.dreams-goals.com/Documents/FaithBased/SermonontheMount.pdf>

Note the highlighted text above “trying to be the moral police of the culture”. When Trump talks about ‘Making America Great Again’, I believe that is why so many Christians get so excited – they think he is going to restore the church to the place of being the ‘moral police of culture’. However, according to everything in this section, they are wrong. They are going backwards (i.e. south) and God is going forward (i.e. north) – to a new day and new era.

I have suspected since I heard God say that he was going to get them to fight each other, that he was referring to this dawning of a new era: One group is going against his will, and the other is the vehicle for it. However, I can see how both Democrats and Republicans are far from moral or spiritual perfection. So, it is a mistake to assume that one ‘holds the cards’ on doing God’s will. I believe I just need to continue to watch things unfold and wait for his clarification of what he is doing.

My Personal Opinions

8/24/18:

I tried to keep the words listed above to what I know to be God's speaking to me. I don't want to project my preferences and expectations onto him, and thus cloud his intentions. However, I also feel compelled to share my own thoughts on this subject. So, the following is my own personal response to what I have observed. Surprisingly, this section has been the hardest to write because I have so much to say that I probably could write a book.

Much of what I have to say is a result of my life experience. I come from a white, middle-class, conservative, baby boomer perspective. I come from a family that did truly love me and my siblings, but was very dysfunctional. That dysfunction, combined with environmental issues, meant I was what could be described as a 'late bloomer'. I was not raised in the church, nor did I have any kind of religious upbringing. However, I did have enough Christians in my life to have a general understanding of what they believed. I became a believer at the age of 32. That late acceptance of the Lord, and development of a Christian world view, allows me to not only think like a Christian, but also remember how unbelievers think and how they perceive the world around them. I think a few of the biggest differences in my perspective on life now that I am a believer includes more humility and less self-righteousness. It also includes less of need to 'carry the weight of the world on my shoulders,' to recognize what I can control, and what I can't control and to give it to God. I have also come to see how everything I have experienced in my life (including dysfunctional childhood) has been a vital and necessary preparation for what he has called me to do. In fact, God told me in 2004 that by engaging in my life's journey I was serving him. Around that same time, I also had my home group leader, who has a strong prophetic gift, announce to me that I "was not to sit under the teaching of anyone." I was rather surprised by that. I still go to church and engage in the typical activities, but I don't really have any specific person telling me what I am supposed to think. Now I can see how it has affected my worldview.

I surrendered my life to God in 1997 and haven't looked back. His journey for my life has been challenging, but I understand why so I just continue to press on. However, I find that at this point in my life, it is hard for me to relate to many believers because everything they live for is everything I have sacrificed (family, financial/job/housing security, vacations, personal free time, etc.). In addition to that, many Christians want to live in what I refer to as a 'holy huddle' where they don't have to engage with the outside world. Yet his call on my life has me doing just that. So, people who come from a world of having lived a sheltered life, don't understand or appreciate what I struggle with on a daily basis. These things sometimes tend to make me feel like an outsider in my own church. Before this controversy came up, I was already struggling with feeling like I often don't fit in with church. I remember about five years ago thinking that the church was so busy 'doing church' that it did not have time to **BE** a church.

So how does my background relate to President Trump? It relates to whether or not his campaign promises resonated with me as a white, conservative, middle-class, baby-boomer, evangelical Christian: No, they don't because "Make America Great Again" does not resonate with what I have been hearing from God for a very long time. (See section: "Connection to

Larger Picture”). Also, I had three experiences in the past 10 years that have also shaped my perspective on how God wants me to respond to the political controversies of today:

1. A few years back, I had a student in one of my classes come to me after class and was rather hesitant to approach me about her concern. She was one of 30 students in a special program designed for ‘at-risk’ college students. These students took a few classes together and I was the teacher for one of those classes. She was a very sweet, polite and well-mannered, white, blond, Christian woman who had just graduated from a private Christian high school. She confessed that she felt so uncomfortable and out of place in this program that she just wanted to drop out of the program and school altogether. She felt like she couldn’t relate to her classmates (ethnically diverse and struggle with things she knew better than to do) or her other liberal professors. The only reason she felt comfortable approaching me was because she knew I was a Christian, so she thought I might be able to understand. We spent a few weeks with my mentoring her and helping her register that there were a lot more Christians on that campus than she realized. During one of our conversations, I was explaining to her why these special programs exist – to help those ‘at-risk’ students to acclimate to college life. Her response was, “I have never been a minority, so I don’t know what that is like.” My immediate response surprised me. I said, “You do now.” Eventually, she was able to register that she was in that program as a result of some prior life choices, and that she needed to make the best of the situation. So, she decided to find a bible study or something on campus where she could feel like she fit in. I later realized there was a profound lesson to be learned here: **Instead of getting angry, resentful, and playing the ‘victim card’ as an ‘out-numbered conservative white person’, take responsibility for your own life choices, and use this as an opportunity to learn to understand and empathize with others who do truly come from minority or ‘outsider’ backgrounds.** Then you will be able to do as 1Cor 1:3-5 says:

“³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.”

A seminary paper I wrote talks about having regard for the marginalized:

<http://www.dreams-goals.com/Documents/FaithBased/MulticulturalismPaper.pdf>

2. Somewhere around the same time, I was at a bible study from my church. I don’t remember the context of the conversation, but the topic of gay rights agenda becoming more powerful in our nation came up. Noticing how that movement had been gaining steam, I became curious as to what God thought of it. So, I prayed and asked, “How do you feel about this issue, God?” I received an immediate response: “I am not willing that any should perish.” (2Pet3:9) That was surprising and unexpected. Personally, I want what God wants. So, for me, this means that **I do not want to be a stumbling block to anyone that God would want to save. Therefore, I will not contribute to the stereotype that Christians hate the LGBTQ community and believe they could never be saved.**

3. This last incident was more recent – within the last two to three years or so. I was at my job, working as an instructor in a tutoring center, where my primary function was to tutor people who needed help with math. A male student, who was dressed and acting like a female, was standing in front of me. My thought was that this person was probably transgendered. This happened about the same time when there was a big controversy over allowing transgendered individuals to choose which bathroom they were to use. Seeing this person made me think about this controversy. So again, I became curious and decided to ask God what he thought of this controversy? Again, I received an immediate response: “What does that have to do with math?” I responded, “Nothing.” He then said, “A person’s spiritual growth and formation is long and complex and beyond your understanding. So why is this any of your business?” I responded, “You are right. It is not my business.”

I have no problem admitting that I have never taken a biology class, nor do I know the roots of what causes someone to become transgendered. So, I had no problem with God telling me I don’t know enough to judge. However, his response was surprising to me because I do have advanced understanding of the spiritual formation process. I have a Bachelor’s degree in communication, and master’s degree and over 120 graduate units in education, theology, counseling and additional graduate-level training and certifications in career development, personality development and spiritual direction.

<http://www.dreams-goals.com/about/> *(My seminary final paper for my Adult Formation class at seminary. The professor was so impressed with that understanding that she asked if she could use my paper as a model for future students: <http://www.dreams-goals.com/Documents/FaithBased/FinalProject-AdultFormation.pdf>*

Yet despite all that training, God is still telling me that I still don’t know enough to understand what is going on with a person’s spiritual journey? Wow. I guess this is a perfect example of the fact that he is God and we are not.

This situation served as a reminder that even if I have a curiosity or an opinion about someone else, that does not mean that I know what is going on with them, or that it is any of my business what they are dealing with, and therefore not to judge them for not living up to society’s expectations.

These prior experiences have contributed to my not necessarily agreeing with either side on many of the most hot-button political issues of today. Yet due to my biblical foundation and life experience, I am able to understand how both sides of each of the following controversies feel and what they believe: LGBTQ rights, taking a knee to the national anthem, Abortion rights, child separations of illegal immigrants, and engaging with the secular world. All of these things are relevant to the Trump presidency because our nation is becoming increasingly polarized in predictable ways on these issues: Trump supporters vs. the rest of the world. (I believe this is what God intended when he said he was going to have them fight each other.) For example, I have had situations where a Christian would just assume or expect that I would want to join them while they go out and engage in some pro-life fight, and assumed I would want to join them. I

can certainly understand and appreciate why many Christians believe abortion is the killing of innocent lives. However, I have never personally had God burden me to go out and fight this fight. So, any potential involvement in this would be based on peer pressure from other Christians -- not personal conviction from God. What I have said before, is that if I were to get involved in this issue, it would be to advocate and encourage women not to put themselves in a position where they need to consider having an abortion in the first place.

Our increasingly Pro-Trump vs. Anti-Trump world reminds me of a few scriptures:

Scriptures:

- **He has shown utter disregard for rules and laws:** Just since his campaign, it has become clear that he has zero regard for rules, laws, or traditions that are in place to avoid problems down the road. As more information comes to light, it is apparent he has lived his entire life like this. God calls us (and him) to obey the laws of the land and as far as possible, be at peace with others. The chaos in his presidency can be attributed to his lack of regard for those rules and laws.

<https://www.cnn.com/2017/03/02/politics/white-house-ethics-training/index.html>

¹⁰ *“He who is faithful in a very little thing is faithful also in much; and he who is unrighteous in a very little thing is unrighteous also in much. (Luke 16:10)*
- **He has a history of associating with questionable characters:** To date, at least six of Trump’s associates have been convicted and/or pleaded guilty to various crimes. He allowed these people into his orbit, had them on his staff, and gave them responsibility in his world. At a minimum, that says something about him based on the company he keeps.

³³ *Do not be deceived: “Bad company corrupts good morals.” (1Cor 15:33)*
- **Trump refuses to accept responsibility for his life choices, and instead tries to play the victim.** He works very hard to convince his supporters that the liberals, media, and “deep state” is out to get him. What most amazes those who can see through him is that his supporters don’t see this. All the drama related to campaign violations to pay off a porn star so she would not tell about her affair with him is a perfect example. If he had bothered to keep his pants zipped up in the first place, none of those other issues would have come to fruition.

⁷ *Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. ⁸ For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. (Gal 6:7-8)*
- **Trump is divisive and intentionally exploits:** As mentioned above, instead of exercising self-control, and taking responsibility for his own choices and actions, he tries to get his base riled up by exploiting their fears and frustrations, then tells them that they are victims as well. The Russia investigation is an example of him not accepting responsibility and blaming others. Just based on what is publicly known, this investigation was justified. Firing Comey, at a minimum, was suspicious. He admitted on

live TV that he was thinking about the Russia issue when he decided to do it. Then over a year later, he tries to claim that he did not say that.

Like charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire, So is a contentious man to kindle strife. (Prov 26:21)

- **He has been a driving force behind the political polarization and meanness in our nation.** He did not create the political division, but he certainly exploited it to serve his own purposes.

¹⁵ “Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they? ¹⁷ So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ So then, you will know them by their fruits. Matt 7:15-23

- **He is mean-spirited, vindictive, and careless in his speech.** He publicly mocks people, fires people by tweet, and insults even his own staff. The way he publicly humiliates his own staff makes me wonder why anyone would want to work for him?
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_nicknames_used_by_Donald_Trump

9 This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; 20 for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God. 21 Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls. 22 But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves. 23 For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror; 24 for once he has looked at himself and gone away, he has immediately forgotten what kind of person he was. 25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does. 26 If anyone thinks himself to be religious, and yet does not bridle his tongue but deceives his own heart, this man’s religion is worthless. 27 Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world. (James 1:19)

- **He is causing division in the church. This political polarization is not limited to government.** It is occurring in the church as well. While my personal relationship with

God has not changed, I am finding it increasingly difficult to spend any meaningful time with believers who wholeheartedly embrace Trump and his ways. All I can think about when I listen to them talk is, “If you believe Trump represents God, what does that say about your theology? I can’t take anything you say seriously.” I know I am not alone. There are many people who are dealing with serious paradigm shifts as a result of this division. <http://www.dreams-goals.com/Documents/SelfAwareness/ParadigmShifts.pdf>

10 Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment. (1 Cor 1:10)

- **He destroys lives and just does not care.** The following is a list of people whose lives, careers, and/or reputations were harmed or turned upside down, and/or faced legal challenges due to their association with President Trump. This list will continue to grow by the day due to his constant mean, narcissistic, vindictive, fractious spirit and careless disregard of the law.

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|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Several of his sexual assault accusers (16) | 22. McFarland, KC |
| 2. The entire staff of US attorneys (46) | 23. McGahn, Don |
| 3. Furloughed federal employees (2000+) | 24. McMaster, H.R. |
| 4. Bornstein, Dr. Harold | 25. Nielsen, Kirstjen |
| 5. Bush, Billy – Access Hollywood tape | 26. Ohr, Bruce |
| 6. Cobb, Ty | 27. Page, Lisa |
| 7. Cohn, Gary | 28. Patton, Sam |
| 8. Comey, James | 29. Papadopoulos, George |
| 9. Conway, Kellyanne | 30. Porter, Rob |
| 10. Corsey, Jerome | 31. Price, Tom |
| 11. Dowd, John | 32. Priebus, Reince |
| 12. Flynn, Michael | 33. Pruitt, Scott |
| 13. Gates, Rick | 34. Sanders, Sarah |
| 14. Giuliani, Rudy | 35. Scaramucci, Anthony |
| 15. Hicks, Hope | 36. Sessions, Jeff |
| 16. Jackson, Dr. Rony | 37. Shulkin, David |
| 17. Kavanaugh, Brett | 38. Spicer, Sean |
| 18. Kelly, John | 39. Stone, Roger |
| 19. Manafort, Paul | 40. Strzok, Peter |
| 20. Mattis, John | 41. Tillerson, Rex |
| 21. McCabe, Andrew | 42. Trump-Barry, Maryanne |
| | 43. van der Zwaan, Alex |
| | 44. Whitaker, Matthew |
| | 45. Yates, Sally |

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/26/us/politics/trump-orbit-crash-landing.html>

<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/list-trumps-accusers-allegations-sexual-misconduct/story?id=51956410>

<https://www.cnn.com/2018/08/28/politics/trump-evangelicals-midterms/index.html?sr=twCNN082818trump-evangelicals-midterms0937PMVODtop>

The above listed people are the famous one's whose lives were impacted by Trump. However, there are unknown countless private citizens whose lives and mental health are negatively impacted by his presidency. For example, one former student told me that when he learned that he had the same personality type as Trump, and had people constantly comparing him to Trump, it eventually led him in to a major depression to think of Trump as a potential role model. I also know of several people whose families have been irreparably divided and harmed because of differences of political opinions on Trump. My own nephews won't talk to their own father because they assume he is a Trump supporter.

https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/delaware-boy-named-trump-will-be-going-different-name-after-n947051?cid=sm_npd_nn_fb_ma

Watching how most of the Evangelical community has chosen to embrace him and what he stands for had a serious affect on my perception of them, and caused me to become disillusioned with my former conservative identity. My relationship with God has not changed. I don't see God any different because of this, but I do now see conservative Christians differently. I now see that so many conservative Christians are filled with anger, resentment, bitterness and self-righteousness. They assume they have exclusive rights to knowing what is right, that many of them automatically tune out anything that does not fit into their current paradigm. Yet it seems that they have forgotten what Isaiah 55:8-9 says,

“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So, are My ways higher than your ways. And My thoughts than your thoughts.

I know my thoughts are not his thoughts. If it were up to me, we would not be dealing with this political polarization. As Americans, we would learn how to get along. Not projecting my expectations onto him means that I need to trust that he has good reasons for allowing this, and ask him to show me how I can pray for his will in spite of the situation that I don't like.

I was so put off by that self-righteousness, that I found I could not go back to the church I attended for 10 years after the election. It really wasn't the leadership, rather that most of the individuals I knew who were Trump supporters. I tried getting involved with another church, and stayed there for a year, but found myself dealing with the same issues. At this point, I am not attending church so that I can separate my thought life from what I was always told I was supposed to think as a Christian.

So many, who can see through all the lies, are astounded by how many Republicans just can't see what is going on. Unfortunately, though, this really does not surprise me. Human nature is such that people tend to hear what they want to hear despite what the facts tell them. My PowerPoint file on **effective listening skills** (<http://www.dreams-goals.com/resources/powerpoints/>) explains why.

So, at the end of all this, what do I have to say to people who believed that Trump was going to solve their problems?

Trump did do one thing right: He picked up on the fact that a certain population of Americans (mostly white, over 40, without a college education, and many Evangelicals) are uncomfortable with how much and how fast the world is changing, and how those changes affect their lives. He brought out the anger and resentment that these people feel, and it is now on full display for the world to see and analyze. Yet, as the fruits of his labor have revealed, he has not been able to deliver on his promise to make their world good again. The reason is because his message was wrong: **God is not going backwards – he is going forward.** The problem is that the way forward is rather scary because it entails letting go of what is known, and stepping out into the unknown based on faith. A good biblical analogy is when God led the Hebrews out of Egypt. Notice, that they did not go easily or voluntarily. They were pushed out by the impending Egyptian army. (Exod 14:10-16)

I don't know about you, but I certainly would not step in to a just parted sea without knowing where it was going, unless I had enemies behind me wanting to kill me. That is what they did. Also notice that once they crossed the sea, God closed the sea back up so they could not go back. Also notice how much the people grumbled about being in this predicament because they did not understand what was going on. (Exod 14: 11-12)

So, how does my life experience and calling relate to the Trump presidency? For over 20 years, God has been showing me how much and how fast the world is changing and the profound affects those changes would affect individuals' lives. He knew our generation would be dealing with this challenge from the beginning of time. God is a good and loving God who cares for people (<http://www.dreams-goals.com/Documents/FaithBased/NiebuhrPaper.pdf>) and always makes provisions for those who choose to listen to what he has to say. He has used my understanding of this problem to develop a sense of concern for individuals dealing with this challenge. Consequently, through my life experience, he has been having me create written materials that are designed to help people develop life and coping skills for this new era. I have been uploading these resources to my website for 10 years and they are available for others to read – this is my contribution to the world.

So, if you don't understand or like the changing world, then take the time to view my workshop, "Planning for an Unpredictable Future: How to Respond to a World of Constant Change". (There are both downloadable PowerPoints and handouts.) <http://www.dreams-goals.com/resources/workshops/wksh-unpredictable-future/>

If the change is too much and/or too fast for you to deal with, then view my workshop, "Managing Life's Transitions: Personal, Relationships, **Societal**, Education, Work, Military" (There are both downloadable PowerPoints and handouts.) <http://www.dreams-goals.com/resources/workshops/wkshp-lifes-transitions/>

I created (and have been updating) these resources several years ago – long before Trump decided to run for president. (You will see my conservative ideology in that I believe people need to take personal responsibility for dealing with the changing world.) My goal is to empower people with the information and resources they need to understand and navigate these days of constant change. My prayer is that those who need and want this information will find it.