

# Truth and Spirit Ministries

## Progressing In God's Kingdom July 2008

By Terry Bostic

God gives the Church *progressive* revelation knowledge concerning His Kingdom. We must be open to receive God's revealed knowledge and truths that He is restoring to the Body of Christ in our generation so that we may be all that He is calling us to be in this hour. We should not only be receiving, but also *cooperating* with God by *applying* and *practicing* these restored truths so that we may be consistently moving in a forward direction and advancing in the things of the Kingdom of God.

To *progress* means to move forward, advance, grow or improve. Just as man progresses in the natural, so God's people must progress in the Spirit. Over the centuries man has made advancements through inventions, industrialization and technologies. For example, today we no longer use the horse and buggy for transportation or use oil lamps to light our homes but instead have progressed to driving automobiles and using electricity as a major source of power. Just as modern man does not move in a backward direction, but is always forging ahead, so the Church must also be continually moving forward, growing and advancing in the things of God's Kingdom.

The Church needs to be evolving (progressing and developing gradually) into what God wants her to be. Unfortunately, some Churches have stopped progressing and have become stagnant or are stuck in a time warp. The Body of Christ needs to be current with what God is revealing to us presently in order to reach spiritual maturity and our maximum potential in fulfilling the Great Commission in the earth today.

Society has changed a lot in the last century and continues to change today at a rapid pace. The Church must minister in a way in which we can connect with others in order to reach souls for Christ. Those things that God told you to do a year, two years or ten years ago in many instances are not conducive to what is going on today. The Church must rely on the Holy Spirit to provide a fresh anointing, insight and plan to reach people in this present generation with the Gospel of Christ. The message has not changed, but the way that it is presented must be made relevant to those in our society.

The Church must keep up with God's evolution process and adapt in order to mature spiritually and to reach the lost souls that God wants us to. The Lord wants to reach people *on their own level* and take them to a higher or better way of life. This applies to those who are lost and also to those new converts who have already come into the Church.

Churches don't need to be "hung up" on the packages of outward appearances or what others look like. God does not want His leaders or people to judge others by *outward* appearances. Some Churches are only looking for their own reflection i.e., those who look exactly like them, hold their religious values and traditions, speak their own language or talk as they do, but God is interested in what is on the *inside* of people. He is looking for those who will receive His Son and that have a heart to want to grow up to become like Him.

Once new converts come into God's Kingdom and into the Church, the Lord wants us to nurture them with love and patience. Newborn babes must wear diapers and they make messes, but we cannot "throw the baby out with the dirty diapers" We must give them a clean diaper, help them to grow and eventually they will keep themselves clean. New converts must learn what to do and what not to do and this take *time*. We do not want to push or drive them away from the Body of Christ because we do not want to take the time or have the patience to teach them or help them

to grow and mature. They must be allowed to make and work out their mistakes. They must be taught and trained so that they may become rooted and grounded in the faith and love of God.

God wants the Church to grow spiritually and in numbers. In order for us to reach the people of our generation, we must hear and be led by the Holy Spirit, receive and use the revelation of God's word in order to be successful in preaching the Gospel with power today. When we rely on and trust in God, He will take us to where He wants us to be.