

## Reader Response to Kingdom Now: Orthodoxy or Heresy

Response # 1 from Missionary Evangelist Andrew Gackle

Dear Mary,

I just had the pleasure of sitting and reading your article in one sitting! Great stuff! Your article is very easy to read and very interesting. I am in complete agreement with you on the general premise of your article, which is the need for all of us to rightly divide the Word of Truth and not elevate experience above Scripture, particularly when the experience is contrary to the message of the written Word (your article encompasses much more than that, but if I were to take one key theme of it, that would be it). Of all the men you mentioned in your article, I am most familiar with Rick Joyner (I've read all of his books and all of his MorningStar Journals), Mike Bickle (from personal observation and reading some of his books), and Paul Cain to a lesser degree. I don't believe either Joyner nor Bickle, (and I would hope Cain) would disagree with what you wrote as well (as far as measuring everything against Scripture and needing a right attitude toward others in the body of Christ, and other things). As with anything, there are non-negotiable issues on the table (i.e. (1) all experiences, voices, etc., must be tested against Scripture, (2) elitism is "garbage", (3) control of others is unacceptable). There will always be honest differences of opinion of meanings of some Scriptural teachings. I believe that in the living out of the Spirit-filled life, there will always be a "fine line" between allowing the Kingdom of God to be extended through us to a hurt and dying world, and getting so caught up with ourselves in the midst of that (pride) that we end up going off on tangents. Bottom line: however the Lord chooses to manifest His kingdom through His children here (whether gold dust, signs, wonders, miracles, etc.), Jesus must be lifted up so that all may come to HIM!!!!

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Your statement early on is priceless: "In Christianity, one experiences it before full understanding comes." (that's not verbatim, but close) That is POWERFUL AND TRUE!! You're also so right that the authority we receive is over evil and not over each other!!!!!! On the issue of "dominion", I know that can be taken in different ways; the key to knowing where we are on that is to judge the fruit of our life (making disciples as Jesus commanded us to do, and the fruit of the Spirit) and our attitude (are we full of pride and judgmentalism of others that we don't think are "measuring up" to our spiritual ideals?). If someone speaks of "dominion" and walks in pride and arrogance, they are not impressing me with their "doctrine" one bit (nor would the Lord be impressed, I would say). As for the rapture, I will not break fellowship with someone who disagrees with me on when the rapture will occur, but I see no reason at all to make 1 Thess. 4:16-17 and 1 Cor. 15:50-53 into an allegory and not see the "catching away of the saints" as a literal event. Replacement theology is from the pit of hell and I know that Mike Bickle and Rick Joyner strongly oppose it. The others I cannot speak for.

That's interesting that some of these folks also want to make the "day of the Lord" into a symbolic, allegorical way of describing a work of the Lord in us rather than just taking it as a literal day that is spoken of repeatedly in the Old Testament in particular (to the extent of speaking of how cloudy and dark it will be on that day; how do you extrapolate an inner work of the Lord in us from

Jesus said that unless we become as children, we won't enter into the kingdom of God. For me, any "doctrine" that people bring will first be judged by the Scriptures. After that, I want to know their attitude and their character (being a child means humble and teachable). After observing Joyner and

Bickle for more than 20 years now, I believe they are humble servants of the Lord. Perfect, no, as none of us are yet. But they love Jesus and want Him to be lifted up. However, I have seen and observed some grievous examples of pride, arrogance, and control in certain folks in the body of Christ. May the Lord have mercy! Oh, I do believe in the 5-fold ministry and believe that it must be restored properly for the body of Christ to effectively function, as Paul writes in Ephesians 4. To be sure, there will be folks that get into this and get caught up with "titles", dividing up people, and making an absolute MESS OF THINGS as they go along. Such error will not discourage me from believing for the real thing to come forth. The Church is not at the point to be free from error yet. We'll do our best to not throw out the baby with the bathwater, and yet staying vigilant in rightly dividing the Word of Truth, calling things for what they are, and encouraging brothers and sisters in Christ to dine at the green pasture, Who is Jesus Himself. That's what you're doing, Mary. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!! God bless you!

Your brother, Andrew