

CHARLES PRETLOW

Pastor, Author, Speaker — as a Bondservant of Jesus Christ

Speaking Topics Overview

The following 18 overviews describe each speaking topic. These topics have been chosen because they represent the most difficult issues to overcome for the last days Christian. The basics for each topic can be delivered in a one-hour presentation. It is recommended that at least an additional 30 to 45 minutes be set aside after the presentation for questions and answers.

For a more in-depth delivery of a specific topic, a workshop approach is appropriate, where the topic's Biblical principles can be laid out with associated ministry examples. This longer version of a topic usually runs three hours, with breaks. Two sessions in the morning, a lunch break, then an hour-long question and answer session to finish up. Again, these topics hit hard on the end-of-this-age issues that Christians are already beginning to face. Our ministry goal is to equip Christians so that they learn how to become tribulation proof and rapture ready.

Midnight Cry Awakening (How to Prepare): Jesus warns in the parable of the Ten Virgins that followers of Christ will become drowsy and fall asleep at the darkest hour at the end-of-this-age. A sudden awakening is on the horizon. There is now forming a perfect storm of trouble, shortly followed by the voice of true servants of Christ proclaiming, *“Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him”* (Matthew 25:6). This causes all the virgins (Christians) to wake up.

Unfortunately, in Christ's parable five of those virgins were labeled as foolish. They did not have extra oil to trim their lamps to see in the last dark moments just prior to Christ appearance and the rapture of the saints.

The foolish (unprepared Christian) will be locked out of the wedding feast, just as Christ warned: *“And those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour”* (Matthew 25:10-13).

Pastor Pretlow holds nothing back in warning and teaching on how the end-of-this-age will really end and how to stay awake and become ready. The need to develop a true relationship with Christ is now paramount. Foolish Christians have learned to develop an outer Christian personality, avoiding the hard path of Christlike character development by embracing the discipline of the Lord. Many believers know of Christ and follow his name by attending church, but in the end, Christ will reject them saying, *“I do not know you.”*

Those attending this topic event will learn how to work out their own salvation by waking up, working out their salvation and growing up into Christ, becoming personally transformed by Christ.

Holy Spirit Led Counseling and the Gift of Prophecy: The Apostle Paul laid out guidelines concerning the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how they should be practiced. Unfortunately, many Evangelical, Charismatic, and Pentecostal denominations and fellowships become obsessed with practicing the gift of tongues, which only builds up one's self (this often leads to deception and

addiction to a false tongue producing counterfeit feel-good carnal spiritualism). Paul explains that the believer who prophesies builds up the church (others) through encouragement and consolation (comfort). The Apostle Paul goes on to explain that: *“If all prophesy, and an unbeliever or outsider enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all, the secrets of his heart are disclosed, and so, falling on his face, he will worship God and declare that God is really among you”* (1 Corinthians 14:24-25).

When the core of disciples within fellowship learn to prophesy, not only are they used of God to encourage and comfort (where Holy Spirit can expose hidden/forgotten trauma and past defilement), but also expose secret issues, secret sins, past wounds and defilements to one’s personal spirit. When these secrets issues of the heart and spirit are exposed—then the fellowship becomes a place of godly counsel, healing and recovery for God’s wounded.

With over thirty-years’ experience in pastoral counseling incorporating the gift of prophesy, Pastor Pretlow explains how to become mature and learn to counsel with the gift of prophesy. When these biblical principles are properly applied, Christlike transformation can take place exposing hidden issues that hold back growth in Christ. This is vital in laying a foundation for a true move of God. Leadership will have a good understanding of the pitfalls and the backlash that comes when the Holy Spirit can work through disciples walking in the true gift of prophesy in fellowship.

Preparing to Walk in a True Prophetic Ministry: The work of equipping leaders to properly equip the saints for the work of ministry has been taken up by a myriad of ministry and leadership schools. These schools compete pridefully with each other on how best to teach potential leaders on filling the office of an apostle or a prophet. Unfortunately, Bible colleges, schools for the prophets and apostles completely miss the target. Few, if any teach on how to successfully graduate from Christ’s school of ministry.

In this speaking topic, Pastor Pretlow expounds on how Christ calls a potential prophet and leads him or her into a wilderness of everyday trials and struggles that shape and mold the true prophet. Those attending will learn to discern the false and carnal prophet from a true bondservant of Christ who has endured Christ’s baptism of fire.

Jesus warned that in the last days, *“And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray”* (Matthew 24:11). Most who claim to walk in a prophetic mantle fall into the trap of hearing from their own spirit and not from the Spirit of Christ. Like those in Ezekiel’s day: *“Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel, who are prophesying, and say to those who prophesy from their own hearts: ‘Hear the word of the LORD!’ Thus says the Lord GOD, Woe to the foolish prophets who follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing!”* (Ezekiel 13:2-3).

For those who believe they have a prophetic calling, who listen to this topic will learn what it means to enter Christ’s school for the prophet and how to endure Christ’s discipline: *“For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD”* (Malachi 3:2-3).

God’s Recovery Program – Introduction: Struggling Christians often give up hope, and many who minister to them through up their hands in frustration. Often the pastor or counselor is ill equipped in offering help in recovery for the wounded Christian. There is a great need among

God's people to learn how to overcome a wounded spirit and damaged emotions—God's way. Secular counseling ignores the proven principles of God's recovery program found in Scripture. Pastor Pretlow introduces sound Biblical principles garnered from over 32 years' experience in ministry and in counseling others, as well as from his own recovery. A Christ centered recovery ministry can be implemented to effectively facilitate true healing with permanent resolution of hidden issues within a believer's heart and spirit.

In the Power of His Might – effective spiritual warfare: How to contend for God's will and wrestle with the powers of darkness for the cause of Christ has been a hot topic for years, throughout the body of Christ. Spiritual warfare and intercessory prayer have been encapsulated, methodized, and trivialized. Often Satan and his demonic principalities are portrayed as mere defeated imps that quiver when any Christian comes against their agenda in the name of Christ. Few realize that the demonic often escapes detection and removal by playing possum because of naiveté and false teachings. Christians are led to believe they have authority in spiritual warfare, when in fact they have very little. Pastor Pretlow expounds upon Christ's words and the Apostle's writings that will bring those attending your event to a profound insight concerning the powers of darkness hiding in plain sight within family and fellowship. It is time to learn to walk in the power of God's might through the training and discipline of the Lord, walking in true discernment and hearing rightly to execute the power of His might in spiritual warfare.

Exposing Hidden Darkness in Fellowship. (This topic compliments *In the Power of His Might* topic and is often requested to be presented together.) True revival within fellowship becomes crushed time and again because of secret sin and undetected satanic strongholds within the lives of certain fellowship members. Understanding how to expose and deal with these false and carnal Christians is vital and is the Lord's top priority in developing a healthy fellowship that facilitates a true move of God. As the end-of-this-age races to its finality, learning to detect weeds planted by the enemy can no longer be tolerated.

Baptism of Fire and Character Transformation: Many misunderstand what John the Baptist meant about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire. When Christians give Christ permission to baptize them with fire, most who do so are stunned and dismayed with the non-stop challenges that are allowed by Christ. It is vital to learn how to allow the carnal chaff that surfaces from out old carnal nature under the divine pressure and burn. Pastor Pretlow explains how to work with the Lord when the baptism of fire does it work in exposing carnal root issues that are to be brought to death, so that more of the resurrected life in Christ grows within.

Strength to Escape and Stand: A great many believers are confused concerning the rapture of the Church; when it takes place, and who will be taken and who will be left behind. Christ's words concerning this future event are very specific, *“But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven”* (Mark 13:24-27). Since Christ taught that the rapture takes place *after that tribulation*, Christians must be prepared to withstand severe persecution and endure the coming Great Tribulation. Pastor Pretlow

explains in detail how to gain strength to endure to the end and stand before Christ when he appears. This speaking topic will shake awake Christians so that they learn to work with the Holy Spirit to become ready.

Ministry to the Homeless and those in Crisis: Helping the homeless and those in financial crisis in your community and those coming to your fellowship seeking help can be very demanding. Well-meaning ministries often have their limited resources drained by those who are homeless by choice, robbing others who are legitimately in need of help. Pastor Pretlow poignantly shares his experience and training from managing a day center for the homeless and ministering in the local homeless shelter. Homelessness is rampantly increasing, even in small rural communities. If you or your ministry is considering helping the homeless, learning the dos and don'ts will make all the difference between helping the forced homeless get back up on their own feet, or enable the homeless by choice continue deceive and play the naïve enabler.

The Message of the Cross and a True Move of God. The Apostle Paul described the work of the cross within the believer's life the source of the power of God: *"For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God"* (1 Corinthians 1:18). Many preach on the cross, but few do so from a position of having embraced the work of the cross. Pastor Pretlow expounds by experience as to what it means to have the passions and desires of the flesh crucified. Most believers are taught to suppress the old carnal nature and its appetites. However, if a Christian wants to belong to Christ, he or she must avoid just becoming a follower of His name, for the Apostle Paul states that: *"Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires"* (Galatians 5:24). Those attending this speaking topic will learn firsthand what Christ meant when he taught: *"If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me"* (Luke 9:23). The message of the cross leads to death of the old self, so that the resurrected life in Christ may be manifest.

Gift, Gifts, Baptism and Fruit of the Holy Spirit: The work of the Holy Spirit is vital and should be a central focus in every fellowship. Without the Holy Spirit's leading, empowerment, inspiration, healing, giftings, and aid in following Christ to become like Him in character —being a Christian would be in vain. Confusion on the gift of the Holy Spirit, His Gifts and on how the Holy Spirit bears fruit of character transformation has allowed errant-carnal spiritualism and satanic counterfeiting to undermine the Holy Spirit's work in fellowship. In many cases, carnal spiritualism with ecstatic manifestations takes the place of the work of the Holy Spirit and the work of the cross in checking the indulgences of the flesh. Unfortunately, Christians are misinformed about the Holy Spirit's baptism of power. Pastor Pretlow delivers a power message, backed by sound doctrine and personal experience that sets the sincere believer on the right course to be filled with the Holy Spirit, the joy of the Lord, and what it means to be clothed with power from on high for ministry.

The Fulness of Christ and Christlike Character: This speaking topic can run back to back with the Gift, Gifts, Baptism and Fruit of the Holy Spirit topic. The Apostle Paul's statement: *"My little children, with whom I am again in travail until Christ be formed in you!"* (Galatians 4:19), indicates a process of becoming Christlike in nature. To dwell in the fulness of Christ's Spirit requires that we become changed or transformed within our inward being to become like Christ in character. This speaking topics highlights the important Biblical principles that a

believer must embrace to obtain, *“Mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”* (Ephesians 4:13).

Overcoming the John the Baptist Syndrome: Jesus said of John the Baptist, *“I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he”* (Luke 7:28). John the Baptist’s life and ministry prepared the way for Christ’s first coming and with John’s beheading by Herod ended the Old Covenant faith. Yet many teachers today continue to promote a John the Baptist approach in suppressing the old nature in following Christ. In this topic, Pastor Pretlow exposes popular teachings that nullifies God’s grace, minimizes Christ’s sacrifice, and bypasses the work of the cross within the believer’s life. Those following these errant teachings become trapped in a mind-over-flesh disorder, creating a life of disobedience by avoiding God’s rest. The Apostle Paul explains how these teachings are appealing, yet deceitful: *“These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh”* (Colossians 2:23).

Healing and Deliverance for Mental and Emotional Disorders: Most Christians who have been wounded, neglected, or defiled in life, especially during childhood can become diagnosed by secular psychology as having a mental illness. There are more than 300 different conditions in the DSM-5 manual referred to as a mental or emotional disorder or illness. When the Biblical definition of human psych (soul), spirit, and physical body are ignored, and Biblical principles of recovery and resisting demonic oppression are bypassed, few Christians diagnosed by secular psychology ever gain freedom and wholeness in Christ.

Most stumble through life maintaining stability through medication and therapy that is hit and miss. However, God does provide recovery for Christians who still have true faith. Pastor Pretlow brings years of study, counseling experience, and his own recovery in this speaking topic. He expounds on God’s recovery program found in Scripture. In particular, the book of James where the Biblical term “Double-minded” in the original Greek is *dipsuchos*, when properly translated literally means “two-souled” or “twice a soul.” In our American vernacular, a “two-souled” condition would translate to be “split-personality” or “multiple personality.” This topic helps leadership build a foundation in developing a fellowship team that is taught and trained in ministering to those suffering from a “double-minded” condition.

Weeds Among the Wheat *Discerning Last Days Evil Disguised as Good*: In His parable of the weeds (Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43) Christ used the darnel weed in contrast to wheat. The darnel weed and wheat look almost identical until they mature. Upon maturity the kernel of the darnel weed turns black, but the wheat kernel turns white upon ripening. Eating the darnel weed by mistake causes severe side effects, in some cases death. Christ uses this analogy to demonstrate Satan’s last days work of implanting evil people amongst good hearted people throughout the world. Christian fellowships and ministries are not exempt from evil people coming to fellowship disguised as good Christians. The Apostle Paul warn of these people coming to fellowship and how to avoid them: *“For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive... be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil”* (Romans 16:18-19).

Apostle Peter describes this type of evil invasion in this description: *“They count it pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are blots and blemishes, reveling in their deceptions, while they feast with you. They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. They entice unsteady souls. They have hearts trained in greed. Accursed children! (2 Peter 2:13-14).*

Exposing and dealing with this last day satanic invasion of evil is one the most serious issues facing Christians and fellowship in these last days. Pastor Pretlow’s message on this important matter comes from of years of experience and training in discerning and confronting evil disguised as good. Understanding the Biblical principles of dealing with toxic weeds disguised as wheat will spare those in leadership and fellowship members a lot of pain and heartache.

Protecting the Ninety-Nine - *Special Two Topic Engagement*: Teachings on brining in the lost sheep abound but expounding upon Scripture that speaks to protecting God’s sheep from wolves sneaking into fellowship is rare. Pastor Pretlow, and Associate Minister Tim Fisher offer a special two session presentation on guarding and averting trouble and disaster perpetrated by toxic people claiming to be Christian or the unimaginable physical attack by the enraged and deranged. Pastor Pretlow and Minister Fisher bring their years of ministry, law enforcement and self-defense training and experience into a two-session engagement that will enlighten and prepare both leadership and the congregation on keeping the flock safe.

Beatitude Living and the Abundant Life (Zōē): Many misconstrue what Christ promised concerning the abundant life on Earth. Integrating Christ’s Sermon the Mount into daily living is key to following Christ victoriously. Christian Beatitude living cannot be mimicked or magically downloaded, rather obtained by entering God’s path that leads to the abundant life. This life Christ speaks of is the Greek word “zōē” meaning: Life as God has it, that which the Father has in Himself, and which He gave to the Incarnate Son manifested in the world, of which the Son declares to give to those who come to him (John 10:10). In stark contrast, Christ calls us to die to our own life, in order to receive life as the Father has it. Pastor Pretlow brings understanding to what the prosperous and fulfilled life in Christ looks like and how it is obtained.

Graduating from Christ’s School of Ministry: Christ taught and then trained His disciples for both ministry and life. Following Christ and rightly embracing his hand of training and discipline is key to living, leading, and ministering by example. Pastors, ministers, and leaders graduate from Bible School, Seminary, or a noted School of Ministry, only to find that their education fell short to prepare them for the rigors of ministry. Pastor Pretlow shares his journey that led him to graduate from Christ’s school of ministry.

Special Topic Request: Other specific topics can be requested. Each request will be evaluated as to its relevance to Pastor Pretlow’s mission and background experience. Your request will be considered prayerfully, looking to the Lord for his approval and leadership.