

When God Shows Up

SAVE THE WORLD

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This year is the 75th Anniversary of the end of World War II. It was the deadliest military conflict in human history. 3000 people died right here when the Japanese Empire attacked Pearl Harbor. 1,177 still lie entombed in the USS Arizona.

But on May 8, 1945, Germany surrendered and the war in Europe came to a dramatic end.

Hitler committed suicide. The Nazis were defeated.

Then on September 2 the Japanese surrendered here on the deck of the USS Missouri.

Roosevelt, Truman, Churchill, Eisenhower, MacArthur, Nimitz, and all the courageous men and women of the Allies--they saved the world.

75 years ago.

Although the Fascists, Nazis, and Imperialists were defeated in 1945, how many of us realize that their ideology is still alive and well? What is that ideology? Today we're going to remember why we fought World War II. You know the old saying: "Those who forget history... Go ahead, somebody say it--will be condemned to repeat it. For it is the doom of men that we forget. More on that later.

Today we wrap up our series, called "When God Shows Up."

After 20 plus years of doing church at New Hope Central Oahu, we've come to the conclusion that our highest core value is the real-time, detectable Presence of God with us every day.

We started our series on Easter Sunday--as the world was in quarantine--but we said that God refused to be socially distant, and instead "closed the distance" with us despite the fact that we had a disease called sin. Since that first Easter 2,000 years ago, the Church has been thriving and expanding because Jesus Himself, now the Holy Spirit, advances His Kingdom around the world.

Then the following week we learned that if we are to join Him in establishing His Kingdom on Earth as it is in Heaven, we must reject and renounce all "self-speak" and the lies and half-truths we think in our minds and speak over our lives and instead embrace "God-speak," the truth that we are so loved and valuable to the Father we are worth dying for.

Then on to week 3 where we learned that we are actually "born to bond" with the Father in an amazing, intimate relationship and if we bond instead to the things of the world that's called bond-age. So when God shows up we break addictions and bad habits and live in freedom to enjoy our relationship with Jesus.

In week 4 we discovered that When God Shows Up, He will bring people into our lives who are there to coach and mentor us, give us sage wisdom on how we too can be empowered to walk closely with our Father in Heaven.

In week 5 we learned our church's plan to bring you from being a spectator of what God is doing to a player, how to get you out of the bleachers and onto the field. How to "get in the game."

Then in week 5 we clearly defined for you what success looks like in following Christ and what failure looks like. And we explained following the Spirit versus following your flesh. That when you are tempted to backslide you must PAUSE what you are doing, PIVOT away from the flesh, and PURSUE Jesus, the love of our lives, once again.

In week 6 we said that you can't just hear about God's will, but like Moses, you will need to TAKE ACTION and DO what God is calling you to do.

One of the most un-happiest places to be in the Christian life is double-minded--where you do all these religious things (because you know you should) but in your secret life you are back in the world living for the flesh. This is so TOXIC to our brains! The stress, anxiety, guilt, and shame caused by this inner conflict means your brain is malfunctioning. Do you know why? It's because you have too much God to enjoy the world and you have too much world to enjoy God!

So as we conclude our series, "When God Shows Up," I need to say a few words about another massively HUGE core value of our Church--TRANSFORMATION. You may never be perfect this side of Heaven, but when God shows up, He will TRANSFORM you. And when God transforms you, the lives of people around you will be transformed because of the Presence of God in you. Everybody say, "Transformed lives, transform lives."

Parents, do you want your kids to be good? Then you must be transformed first.
Wives, do you want your husband to change? Stop trying to change him, and instead let God transform you.

You see, we can't change other people. Heck, we can't even change ourselves! That's why the Bible says, "Be transformed by the renewing of your thinking" (Romans 12:2). If you could change yourself then you wouldn't need Jesus. Instead, what we've been saying throughout this series is you're going to have a thought (like eat the whole bag of Oreos), but then the Spirit of God immediately jumps in to tell you the truth: You are too important and beautiful to trash yourself like that. That didn't come from you! That's God showing up. And if you will listen to the Spirit and do what He says, you will be transformed.

Let me begin by saying you will either be transformed or you will be transmitted. In other words, if you insist on living by the lies of your own self-speak instead of the truth of God-speak, then you will "transmit" a dark, selfish version of yourself onto the people around you. You will inflict pain, suffering, and cause a lot of hurt. "Transformed lives transform lives, but untransformed lives transmit lies." You never want to inflict yourself on others, instead you want influence others when they see Jesus through you.

One day an expert in the Law of Moses asked Jesus, “What is the greatest commandment in the Bible?” You know what Jesus said. “Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength...and your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:37, 39). There you have it. God Himself says, “Here’s how you fulfill every law in the Bible and accomplish my will for your life on Earth--love Me with your whole being and love others as yourself.” Would you agree that if we get this right we are fulfilling the very essence of God’s will for our lives? Ok, so today, I want to show you a really cool way of looking at this that will change every relationship in your life. Notice that the will of God is all about RELATIONSHIP.

Everybody say, “GOD-I-YOU.” The greatest commandment of all says, “Love GOD and love your NEIGHBOR as who? YOURSELF. So obviously if I don’t love MYSELF then I cannot love YOU. So if my self-speak is full of self-rejection, self-neglect, self-abuse, then I am going to reject, neglect, and abuse YOU. If I don’t have a good relationship with MYSELF then I’m going to TRANSMIT that to everyone around me. So I need to break out of my small, isolated world somehow so I can have a better relationship with MYSELF. Can you see now why it is so POWERFUL that Jesus says, “For God so loved the world that He gave us His Son” (John 3:16). That’s how we break free! God shows up and breaks all the lies that I have spoken over MYSELF--that I’m abandoned, rejected, alone, and unloved. He draws me in and speaks a new reality over me and fills me with a love so powerful and so overwhelming it dispels all the toxicity in my brain--all the stress, anxiety, guilt, and shame that come from being disconnected from my Father in Heaven. Now we’re connected. GOD AND I live in this unbreakable bond that will last throughout eternity. Nothing in Heaven, Earth, or Hell can separate me from God. Now watch this: when my thoughts are constantly immersed in the love and acceptance of My Father, that is the absolute healthiest thing for my brain! I am secure, self-assured. My life is full of hope and joy and shalom peace as I live in the Presence of the Father 24/7. And here it is: I LOVE MYSELF. No, not in a weird way, and not in a self-centered way. I love MYSELF because the Father loves me. Does that make sense? Whatever God loves becomes instantly valuable. If He loves me enough to leave Heaven and come to Earth to die for me, then I must mean more to Him than I could possibly imagine. I must be important. This doesn’t come from my own imagination, it comes from my *connection* with my Father in Heaven. So now because I have this supernatural revelation about my own value, I choose to take care of MYSELF, to eat healthier, to exercise. I don’t have to work myself to death to prove anything to God or anyone else. I can take a Sabbath Day and just rest, enjoy my wife, my kids, and my grandkids. I love you guys and other people, so don’t take this the wrong way, but I frankly don’t care what other people think or say about me because in my heart there’s only one Person’s opinion that matters most to me and that’s my Father in Heaven. Of course I can be corrected. I need to be corrected, but when I’m connected with the Father, I am not offended when I’m corrected. I become unoffendable and unprovocable.

Loving MYSELF now gives me a totally different perspective on YOU. If God so loved the world then He also loves YOU. Remember, whatever God loves becomes instantly valuable. YOU are important to God. And because GOD AND I are connected, then YOU become important to me too. I see YOU through a very different lens than before. For example, because

of my connection with God, I pray, “Lord, how do you feel about my wife today? Would you feel that through me. What would you like to say to my wife today? Would you say it through me. What would you like to do for my wife today? Do it through me.” Can you see that when GOD shows up I am transformed first in my relationship with MYSELF and then subsequently in my relationship with YOU. From GOD to ME then to YOU. GOD - I - YOU.

Sadly, too many Christians do not live from their connection with God. Oh, you accepted Christ into your life, but you’re not living FROM your connection with God. Could this be you? Let’s call this the “severed life” or the “severed self.” You may be a Christian but you’re still living from your own thoughts and opinions. You don’t see other people the way God sees them. Why? Because you’re not listening to what He says about them. You see people how they are, not what they could be, so you write them off. You don’t trust anyone. You keep your distance. You’ve been hurt and burned too many times. Now you’ve stumbled onto a dark secret: **THE SEVERED SELF SEVERES**. So you don’t treat others as persons. The severed self is only interested in what he can get from others. The cashier at Walmart. The kid at the drive-thru at McDonald’s. Co-workers. Sadly, even family. Your spouse. They are only important to you inasmuch as they serve some purpose of yours. People are more like things to you than persons, kind of like your iPhone or your rice cooker. But perhaps the saddest thing of all: **THE SEVERED LIFE SEVERES YOU FROM YOURSELF**. You can’t really love others because you don’t love yourself. You’re severed from yourself. So you don’t take care of yourself. Stop this madness right now. God is here. In your heart tell Him you’re done living the severed life, that you want to be connected with Him. You and the Father together forever is what God wants more than anything in the world. Don’t spend another moment severed from your Father. Let Him SPEAK into your life right now just how much He loves you, how incredibly valuable you are to Him. Don’t let fear or shame keep you from Him. You say, “Mike, I’ve done this before, and I always backslide.” Well, that sounds like you’re giving up on yourself. Does that come from God or from you? Boo-yah! That’s your problem right there. Going forward, stop listening to yourself and let GOD SPEAK. Amen?

Check this out: How did God create the universe?

Did He have an Infinity Gauntlet with all the power stones?

Of course not.

The Bible says that God SPOKE: “Let there be light.” And there was light.

“Let there be the sun, moon, and stars.” Boom: sun, moon, and stars.

God spoke and the universe came into existence.

Now listen, you are His child. As His son or daughter, you are made in His image.

You’re NOT God, but in many ways you’re a lot like Him.

Similar to God your words are very powerful.

If you speak from your severed self, you can create darkness, division, and depression around you. How many of us know you can talk yourself into a depression? On the other hand, if you speak from your connection with the Father, you create joy, love, unity, and shalom around you.

This weekend is PENTECOST SUNDAY. 50 days after Easter the disciples were in the Upper Room when suddenly they heard a roar like a rushing wind. And the Holy Spirit filled them with power and boldness to take the Gospel of the Kingdom to the world. That was Jesus returning to Earth as the Holy Spirit and Peter, James, John, and the disciples were transformed. That's what we mean by Spiritual transformation. God shows up and His Spirit transforms first your relationship with yourself so you love, accept, and care for yourself. Then you love others with a supernatural love that doesn't come from this world.

Transformed lives transform lives.

Untransformed lives transmit lies.

75 years ago the deadliest military conflict in the history of mankind ended when the Empire of Japan surrendered to America and the Allies on this ship, the USS Missouri--the Mighty Mo. When the smoke cleared and the dust settled, 80 million people laid dead because of this war. Why did this happen? Why did the Japanese Empire try to take over Asia? Why did they bomb Pearl Harbor? Why did Mussolini's fascists and Hitler's Nazis try to take over Europe and Russia? Is there a common thread that runs through imperialism, Nazism, and fascism? There most certainly is. You can trace this ideology all the way back through history to the Caesars of Rome, to the Greeks and Alexander the Great, to Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians, to Nimrod and the Tower of Babel. You see when man is severed from his God, he not only commits sin against his own body, he could also be filled with an insatiable desire to control other people--to force others to do his bidding, to rally others to his side so that together they can force their collective will on others for their own selfish gain. And the severed self will not stop until he has complete control--total control. This is why we call it TOTALITARIANISM. What did imperial Japan, fascist Italy, and Nazi Germany all have in common? TOTALITARIANISM. You see the word TOTAL in there? Totalitarians want TOTAL control.

The men and women who fought in World War II won a stunning and decisive victory over totalitarianism 75 years ago. But how many of us know that even though the Japanese Empire no longer exists, and Mussolini and Hitler are dead, totalitarianism is still alive and well today. In America we call it socialism or communism, same thing.

I wasn't born in the United States.

I chose to become a US citizen when I was 13.

My mom and dad immigrated here from the Philippines.

My dad is a retired Navy Senior Chief who served this country with all his heart for 28 years.

My mom brought me to Hawaii in April of 1959--4 months before statehood.

Our family grew up in and around Navy bases like this our entire childhood.

We are proud of our country and proud citizens of this great nation.

Our youngest son, Caleb, is a Senior Airman in the Air Force. We're very proud of him and his service to God and country. When I became a citizen I swore an oath to defend America against all enemies foreign and domestic. Last weekend was Memorial Day. Think of all the Americans who died to defend our freedom against totalitarians. They didn't want to go to war but they had no choice. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Americans rose up to fight the enemies of freedom. But what about us today? I don't know if you've been keeping up with current events but America is under a full-scale, all-out war against our freedom. Totalitarians are at it again,

and they are in the media, our FBI, and they control the Democrat Party. Are there some good Democrats who are not totalitarians? Yes, but they are irrelevant because the extreme Left controls the Democrat Party now. Look what they did to Tulsi Gabbard. For 2 years these extremists tried to impeach President Trump on completely false charges. They went after Michael Flynn, a 3-star general and put him in jail. Fortunately for us we can fight back. I've been thinking and praying about this for decades now. But the Gospel of the Kingdom of God is NOT just about accepting Christ into your life so you can go to Heaven when you die. Wherever the Gospel of the Kingdom goes in this world it first transforms individual people, but then it transforms nations. Where do you think the United States of America came from? Most countries are formed around ethnic groups. Filipinos are from the Philippines. Japanese are from Japan. Germans are from Germany, and so forth. But America was formed in a completely different way. America is made up of people from just about every ethnicity in the world who came to this country because we all share common beliefs and values--truth, justice, equality, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. When we say we believe in American exceptionalism, we're not trying to say we're better than all the other countries. We're trying to say that among all the countries in the world, America is the exception. We didn't become a country because we all looked alike. We became a country because we all believed alike. Out of many ethnicities, one nation under God. America is a God Thing, and to me that's worth fighting for. Today we're not being asked to storm the beaches of Normandy or Iwo Jima. But we can VOTE. I honestly don't consider myself a Republican, but a vote today for *any* Democrat keeps their party in power, and for now the Democrat Party is controlled by totalitarians. I believe we could be one election away from losing our country. I've concluded that this is a HUGE part of the Gospel of the Kingdom. I see this as a critical conversation for the Church to have. It's ok if you don't agree with me, I will still love you and be your friend. I believe love and unity are more important than politics. But as I look back on history, I know the Christian Church in Germany wished it had spoken up earlier before Hitler took over. We're not going to let that happen in the United States. The Allies of World War II saved the world 75 years ago. Now it's our turn. I believe this is the fight of our generation. So get out there and pray earnestly as you vote this year. The world ain't saving itself. Jesus came to save the world and connect us with the Father. When we are connected with God, He transforms our heart, soul, mind, body, emotions, family, society, state, country--the world. At the center of God's will for you is for all your relationships to be transformed--starting with your relationship with yourself. Only then can you truly love others. Severed lives sever. Untransformed lives transmit lies. But transformed lives transform lives. Let's pray. Heavenly Father, thank you for Jesus. Jesus, thank you for your presence with us as the Holy Spirit. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Forgive us for living a severed life. We want Your Presence, God. We welcome You to continuously speak and our lives, our families, our country, and the world will be transformed. In Jesus' Name. Amen. Love you guys! Aloha!

Questions for Meditation & Discussion

1. By faith how would you summarize what the Lord said to you in this message?
2. What is the big 75th anniversary the world is celebrating this year?

3. Why is Pastor Mike standing in front of the USS Missouri which is right by the Arizona Memorial?
4. How would you summarize all the weekly messages of our “When God Shows Up” series? See if you can do this by telling a “story,” using yourself as the “hero” of the story. For example, “Once upon a time God showed up in my life at an Easter service years ago; called me to a totally different purpose I never imagined for myself; set me free from this crazy lifestyle I used to live so I could bond with Him; gave me a mentor at NHCO who, etc.”
5. Why is living a double-minded life toxic to our brains?
6. Explain the phrase, “Transformed lives transform lives.” Discuss.
7. What does this phrase mean: “Untransformed lives transmit lies?”
8. What is God’s greatest commandment that pretty much summarizes all of God’s will for us?
9. Explain “GOD - I - YOU” and what it has to do with the greatest commandment.
10. Why is it critical that I receive Christ’s love for me (and live in connection with Him) before I try to relate to others?
11. What is the “severed self” and how does that affect my relationship with others?
12. How did God create the universe and what does that have to do with how I speak (to myself and others)?
13. What is Pentecost and why is that important to believers? What happened as a result of Pentecost?
14. How and why did Pastor Mike tie this message in with the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II?
15. What is TOTALITARIANISM? How is totalitarianism related to the Japanese Empire, Nazi Germany, and the Fascist Party of Italy? What is the underlying spiritual root of totalitarianism?
16. Although the totalitarian enemies of freedom were defeated in World War II, does totalitarianism still exist today? Where? Can you identify the totalitarians in America today?
17. What can you do about the rise of socialism/communism in America today?
18. Do you believe the Christian Church should address this or remain silent? Explain.
19. Before World War II the Christian Church in Germany chose to be silent. In hindsight what do you think they wished they had done?
20. How do you think our Church can have civil, Spiritual, “God-I-You” conversations about this and avoid division between Christians so we can learn from the vital lessons of World War II?