

## The Greater Anointing

How many of you remember the story of the golden calf. This is the story where the Israelites who just were delivered from Egypt, lose patience waiting for Moses to come down from the mountain and fashion for themselves an idol.

### **Exodus 32**

#### The Golden Calf

**32** When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, “Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.”

**2** Aaron answered them, “Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me.” **3** So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. **4** He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, “These are your gods, Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.”

**5** When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, “Tomorrow there will be a festival to the Lord.” **6** So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.

**7** Then the Lord said to Moses, “Go down, because your people, whom you brought up out of Egypt, have become corrupt. **8** They have been quick to turn away from what I commanded them and have made themselves an idol cast in the shape of a calf.

#### Prayer

I think as we read this story and shake our heads at the behavior of the Israelites. How can they do such a thing. I mean they had just recently seen miraculous things.

\* Parting of the red sea, pillar by day, fire by night.

What happened? Why did they lose heart saying Moses was taking too long to return.

Moses wasn’t even gone very long, Moses departed to the mountain and stayed there for **40 days and nights**. He wasn’t gone for months on end.

Truth is...We are made to worship. It is literally in our very make up of who we are. Every human on this planet worships something.

While Moses was on the mountain visiting with God. The Israelites wanted to worship.

But, what they wanted to worship were gods that will go before them. Meaning gods they could see, gods they had created.

They knew the LORD led them out of Egypt and they knew the LORD God had revealed Himself at Mount Sinai. **Yet, somehow they were willing to trust a god they could make, to finish what the LORD began.**

I think we would all say, we would never do that. We would never serve an idol or make for ourselves our own god.

With this in mind I want us to take a look at our hearts.” And ask ourselves the question what god I’m I truly serving?

I want to show you a short video of Dr. Micheal Brown. He was the president of the bible college Josh and I attended. He’s being interviewed by a friend of ours that we attended bible college with. He’s the youth pastor at Bethel church in Retting, CA.

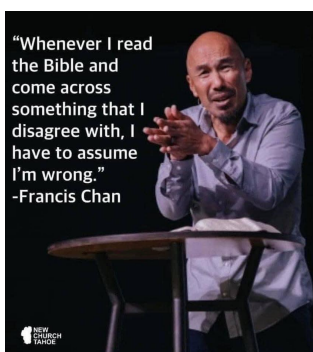
**The question he asks is, “ Why does preaching the gospel need to be central in Revival and what is the gospel.”** And I think his answer is very sobering.

## **Video**

Contemporary American gospel- this is who I am, this is how I feel, and God is here to please me.

Biblical Gospel is this is who God is, this is how He feels and we are here to please Him.

Francis Chan Meme



I posted this on Facebook and Pastor Josh used it in a sermon a few weeks ago. I couldn't agree more with this statement.

It actually stirred up a little controversy. It shocked me how could anyone disagree with this statement.

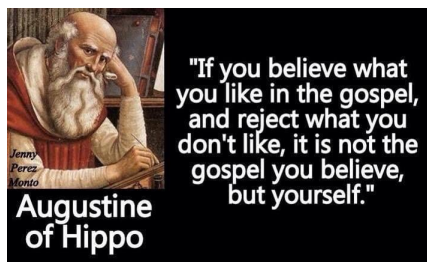
Who am I, to think that I know better than the creator of the universe.

Unless we have began to craft an idol. An idol of this is who I am, this is how I feel, and God is here to please me.

**John 1:1–3**: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, **and the Word was God**. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.”

If the word is God, how can we disagree?

But yet we see modern day Christianity omitting things that don't feel like they fit in our lives. Wether consciously or unconsciously.



My guess is you probably aren't familiar with Augustine of Hippo. So let me tell you a little bit about him.

From his birth in 354 BC in a small North African town, Augustine knew the religious differences overwhelming the Roman Empire: his father was a pagan who honored the old Punic gods; his mother was a zealous Christian. But the adolescent Augustine was less interested in religion and learning. And more interested in sex and high living—like joining with friends to steal pears from a neighbor's vineyard "not to eat them ourselves but simply to throw them to the pigs." He was basically known as a wild rebellious child.

At age 17, Augustine set off to school in Carthage. There the underachiever became enraptured with his studies and started to make a name for himself. He eventually became a professor in Rome and Milan. In his society and time you could say he had arrived. He also had a concubine he deeply loved and who had given him a son, but he

would not marry her because it would have ruined him socially and politically. Augustine was struggling with himself. For years he had sought to overcome his fleshly passions and nothing seemed to help. Later, writing about the pear stealing of his youth, he reflected, "My real pleasure consisted in doing something that was forbidden. The evil in me was foul, but I loved it."

One afternoon, he wrestled anxiously about such matters while walking in his garden. Suddenly he heard a child's sing-song voice repeating, "Take up and read." On a table lay a collection of Paul's epistles he'd been reading; he picked it up and read the first thing he saw: **13** Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. **14** Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.(Romans 13:13–14).

He later wrote, "No further would I read; nor needed I: for instantly at the end of this sentence, by a light as it were of serenity infused into my heart, all the darkness of doubt vanished away."

Augustine had, had an encounter with the Lord.

Augustine's salvation was life changing. He wrestled and was unable to change himself until he encountered the Lord. But it wasn't easy, his new found faith ended up costing him a lot. He left his job, lost his Mom, son and close friend in death. But he chose to serve the Lord the rest of his life. Knowing that there was no god that could see him through the end but the true and living God. He died at the age of 76 from a fever contracted from ministering to refugees.

We all started on this faith Journey with an encounter. An encounter with the true and living God but along the way we will be tempted. Tempted to create a god that we feel best suits us in the moment. Best suits the society we live in. Best suits how we feel.

I guarantee Augustine was tempted and that is where his statement came from. "If you believe what you like in the gospel and reject what you don't like. It is not the gospel you believe but yourself."

We may not craft an idol out of gold. But we could be guilty of crafting the god of self.

Bill Johnson Pastor at Bethel Church in Redding, CA, recently lost his wife to cancer. And this is a quote from his sermon.

**“ God is not a vending machine that I get to put a quarter into and withdraw from Him what I want. He chooses what He gives. But it is the wicked at heart that say ‘God didn’t do what I wanted, He is a liar’. May I never be found critiquing God when things don’t go my way. May I always be found having a heart ready to be critiqued by Him. Is God my friend? He is. But he is my Lord first, and I will never have the pain I’m feeling right now in eternity, so in this moment it is a privilege to respond rightly to the Lord of my life with deeper trust and devotion. I will bow before the Lamb on the throne in awe, and worship Him forever, but never will I have the face to face chance to do that while I’m in pain, so in this moment I choose to do that. **When I said yes to Jesus, I gave up my right to fully understand or be in charge of my life.**”**

The enemy of our lives is clever. Satan will do everything in his power to get us to serve something other than Jesus.

He wants to convince us that somehow in 2022 we are enlightened and understand things better than they did when the bible was written. But this is not true.

Satan knows what his future holds and wants to take as many of us with him as possible. So he works tirelessly to blur the black and white truth of the Bible, to a grey mess, of choose what you want to believe. Do what feels right.

**Here is a few black and white scriptures I want to read to you.**

### **1 Corinthians 6:9–10**

English Standard Version

**9** Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: <sup>neither</sup> the sexually immoral (sex outside of marriage), nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor those who practice homosexuality, **10** nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers (someone who speaks abusively or contemptuously to or of another person or thing), nor swindlers (someone who gets money dishonestly by deceiving or cheating people) will not inherit the kingdom of God.

The scriptures are very clear on these topics yet the world challenges everyone of these.

I would go so far as to say all these things listed are considered normal or common.

- \* Sex before or outside of marriage -normal
- \* Idolatry, serve what you want - normal

- \* Adultery, still sad but it happens - common
- \* Homosexuality- its who you are- normal
- \* Theft -pretty common
- \* Greedy -normal
- \* Drunkards- weekend partier or alcoholic - normal
- \* Revilers- Someone who runs other down - normal/common
- \* Swindler- Scammers?- common

Satan has done a good job at deceiving us. And somehow we have made these truths of the Bible negotiable. Telling ourselves we serve the true and living God. When in reality we serve the god of self.

**Matt. 7:21** “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

Even the Israelites had convinced themselves they were serving the Lord. While they worshiped the golden calf.

**Ex.32:5** When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, “**Tomorrow there will be a festival to the Lord.**” **6** So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings.

Aaron didn't say come worship this idol the golden calf. No he said come worship the Lord.

I cannot begin to tell you how much it grieves me to see “Christians” saying they serve God but in reality serving themselves.

We cannot claim to be Christians and serve anything other than the God of the Bible. We cannot change, add or omit anything from His word. If we do we are in grave danger.

**James1:22** Do not deceive yourselves by just listening to his word; instead, put it into practice.

The truth is just like Augustine said he tried so hard to change himself but couldn't. We cannot change ourselves. God has given us the power of the holy spirit to do this in us.

**John 1:12** But as many as received him, to them gave he **power** to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.

God has an empowerment that he wants to give you and me. An empowerment that changes who we are to take on His likeness.

This terrifies the enemy.

If the enemy can keep us deceived into thinking God winks at our sin. Or that some how He can make an exception for our circumstances. Satan keeps us bound to idol worship.

Show me someone who claims to be Christian and yet walks in his own path and not Gods and ill show you a defeated, depressed, miserable person.

Show me someone who serves the Lord with everything they have, even if it cost them and ill show you a happy, fulfilled and purpose driven person.

There is a scripture that messes with me every time I read it.

**John 14:12-14**

**12** Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and **they will do even greater things than these**, because I am going to the Father.

I don't know about you but I'm ready for the greater. But we must first align ourselves with who and what we serve. We serve a jealous God. He will have no others before him and He is holy.

**Exodus 34:14**

**14** Do not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.

**1 Peter 1:16**

**16** for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy."

We pose biggest threat to the enemy when we understand the power He has given to us. He has given us his Holy Spirit to discern right from wrong, to live out the truth of His word, to walk in His power and then to do Greater!

I'm ready for greater. Its time we as christians quit letting the world tell us whats normal and so influence us in how we live. Leaving us powerless, defeated and ineffective. Unable to walk in 'the Greater Anointing'



And instead like warriors stand up in the face of the enemy and say I will no longer bow my knee to the idol of this world or of self.  
I will choose to serve the Lord.

Whether I'm in an impatient situation like the Israelites, A place like Augustine of Hippo that cost him everything, or in a position like Pastor Bill Johnson. Who in the world's eyes had every right to question God. I choose to serve the Lord.

The Greater Anointing terrifies the enemy. And he will do everything he can to keep us from walking in it.

**Hebrews 12:14** Without Holiness no one will see God.

**Acts 2:17**

“In the last days, God says,  
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.  
Your sons and daughters will prophesy,  
your young men will see visions,  
your old men will dream dreams

**2 Timothy 3:1-5** ESV

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people

We read this these verse and we think wow that's true of the world. But then at the end it says they will have the appearance of godliness but deny its power, avoid such people.

That's not the world that's people who call themselves christian. That's a person who has convinced themselves I can claim Jesus with my mouth but serve the Idol of my choice.

We started this walk of faith by a power encounter of the Holy Spirit. Don't forget that... He changed us and we must stay in step with the Holy Spirit. Because Satan is doing everything he can to deceive us, discourage us and wear us out.



But on the other hand Jesus is saying I want to pour out my spirit. I want to pour out the Greater Anointing. But I cannot pour out my spirit on anyone who serves anything but ME.

Do you desire the Greater Anointing?

The Lords desire is to pour this anointing out. But we must first purify our hearts repent of any idolatry. And you watch, God will pour out His Spirit.