

For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light.

Psalm 36:9

the LifeWord

with Michael Green



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Dear Friend:

THE KOOK FACTOR: Part 1

Jesus was not weird!

Children ran to meet Him, single ladies at wells weren't fearful of Him, rich people didn't look down on Him and an eclectic collection of fishermen, doctors and tax collectors adored Him so much that they left everything to follow Him for over three years. In fact, the only people who really didn't like Him and His message were the religious folks. Jesus was a magnet to those who had seeking hearts but He was a repellant to the religious and the demon possessed.

No, Jesus was not weird but, unfortunately, some of his children are.

Today, weird and kooky sometimes get looked at as anointed and spiritual. The bottom line is this; we've got some real problems in the "*Acting Weird and Blaming It on God*" department. The problem is clear, the lack of balance.

Successful life is all about balance. Whether you are checking the tires on your car, watching your diet, your spending habits or the little part in your brain that helps control your equilibrium, it is all about balance.

God is a great God of blessing and variety. He has given us great blessings and His people have rejoiced. He is also a "*Times and Seasons*" type God, emphasizing special gifts and outpourings for special, specific needs and sometimes just to bless a hungry soul.

Throughout history, this God has brought waves of blessing and renewal with fresh calls to holiness, new emphasis on the power of praise and worship, the importance of sound doctrine, the manifestation of joy and laughter, making disciples, an increase in prophetic ministry, the call to service, renewed call to faithful giving, to prayer and intercession and the most important, evangelistic call of salvation. Yes, He has poured out so much and all of these visitations are building blocks that were not meant to stand alone but, when fitted together, help to foster the objective, "*that the man of God may be thoroughly furnished.*"

Paul, in I Corinthians 4, had to deal with some folks who had gotten way out of balance, even kooky in their practices. He reminded them that the gifts they brandished about had been given to edify the church, not to play church. He cautioned them to remember that confusion, even religious confusion, was not from God and that everything done in His Name needed to be done decently and in order.

Jesus also had to deal with the same problem with a similar group of folks. In Matthew 23, He addressed the religious crowd who were arrogantly out of balance. They were hungry for power, fame, status and influence, always wanting the best seats and the star treatment. (Gee, I'm glad we don't have any of this going on today). Jesus even told the bystanders to listen to their words but don't act like them. How's that for out of balance?

Michael

NEXT WEEK: Part 2 featuring "7 Danger Signs"

The LifeGate

"Building Christ Into Every Life"