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Every Sabbath



Keep Tsiyon Road  
on the air.



The Coming of  
the Son of Man -

Be Watchful!

LUKE 21:25-38

TSIYON.ORG

Join us for this special program tonight at [Tsiyon.Net](http://Tsiyon.Net) 8 pm cst.

*"Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of YHWH is risen on you.  
For, behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the peoples;  
but YHWH will arise on you, and his glory shall be seen on you." Isaiah 60:1, 2*

Time Left to Prepare for  
the Remnant Exodus:

**42 Months**

Take action today!

Tsiyon Partner Action Points:

- [Module 12: Unit 5-10](#)
- and/or listen to [#34 Jacobs Trouble](#)
- [Read Luke Luke 21:25-38](#)
- [Attend Sabbath](#)

**Become a Tsiyon Partner!** - Free Tsiyon members can become Tsiyon Partners by signing up at any level of support, even the lowest level, to gain access to all of our live meetings and video recordings of same. Choose your Tsiyon Partner level here: <http://tsiyon.net/membership-options/> . Also, you can choose a Tsiyon Partner level using a button in the footer of any page at the Tsiyon.Net site.

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From Eliyahu:

Shalom friends,

We are living in the very time when Yeshua said we need to be watchful, because the end of this age is nearly upon us, and the Son of Man will be returning soon. You would think with so many signs of the times in evidence that there would be increasing interest and concern for spiritual matters, to be ready for His return. But no, quite the opposite is true. What we are seeing as we consider the attitudes of those around us matches the prediction of the Scriptures for these times to a remarkable degree, as if the Bible writers had traveled forward in time and actually had seen our world today! For example, there's this:



But know this, that in the last days, grievous times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, fierce, no lovers of good, traitors, headstrong, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; holding a form of godliness, but having denied its power. Turn away from these, also. 2 Timothy 3:1-5

Indeed, the vast majority are so completely driven by the attitudes listed above for these last days that they have little time or concern for their spiritual lives at all, let alone being watchful for the soon return of the Messiah. Sadly, this seems to be true for professed believers as well as for those who profess little or no faith whatsoever. Statistics show that 70% of the population in the USA claim to be "Christian." Based on that figure alone one would expect a significant amount of conversation about spiritual matters here in America. Yet, according to a recent social study report in the New York Times, and reprinted below, only 7% of Americans talk about spiritual matters on a regular basis. That, of course, means that 93% of Americans do not talk about spiritual matters as a part of their regular conversation!



So what are Americans talking about?

Well, it turns out that men and women talk about different things, and God is not listed.

We are told that men talk about 4 things:

Sex  
Sports / Hobbies  
Maybe their jobs  
And dirty jokes

We are told that women have a variety of things they talk about:

Relationships & Sex  
Celebrity gossip and news; also general gossip in their lives  
Being updated with their friends and their stores (i.e. So how did the date go with so and so? Did you ever find that gift for your boyfriend?)  
Their boyfriends or husbands  
Personal things concerning themselves  
And on and on .. etc. etc. ...

[Source: griffith055.wordpress[dot]com/2007/05/18/what-men-talk-about-vs-what-women-talk-about/]

Forgive me if this sounds judgmental, but wow! Is this picture shallow or what? Now, measure that in the light of Yeshua's words:

"The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings out that which is good, and the evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings out that which is evil, for out of the abundance of the heart, his mouth speaks." Luke 6:45

In other words, what you talk about (or fail to talk about) is a pretty good indication of who and what you are on the inside. Based on what the vast majority of people talk about, it becomes clear that they are mostly concerned with selfish and shallow pursuits, and are very rarely, if ever, talking about their Creator or their spiritual obligations to Him. We might expect this from people who are unbelievers, but what about the majority religion in America - Christians? This is a real shocker, but only 13% of church-going Christians claim to have a spiritual conversation even once per week! This is proof positive that the Christian Church system has failed both God, and His people. This doesn't mean the Scriptures have failed, that God has failed, or that His Son has failed. It means that real believers need to start earnestly seeking after the authentic faith, or be swept away with the lukewarm church. That's why we're here - and why you are reading this newsletter.

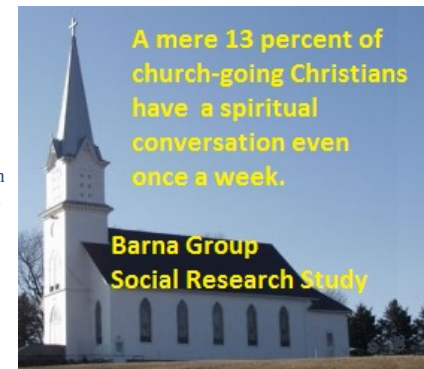
All of this apathy of believers is part of the sign that the Son of Man is at the doors. That you are reading this shows that you are different. You care about Him and you are on the watch for His return. Rejoice, He is coming soon!

Join me tonight, for our live video stream at [tsiyon.net](http://tsiyon.net), at 8 pm cst, as we consider the final portion of Luke 21, and the signs listed there of His soon return. Be on the watch!

Shalom,

Eliyahu  
[Tsiyon.Org](http://Tsiyon.Org)

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## It's Getting Harder to Talk About God

### The decline in our spiritual vocabulary has many real-world consequences.

Reprint: The New York Times | Jonathan Merritt | Oct. 13, 2018



More than 70 percent of Americans identify as Christian, but you wouldn't know it from listening to them. An overwhelming majority of people say that they don't feel comfortable speaking about faith, most of the time.

During the Great Depression, the playwright Thornton Wilder remarked, "The revival in religion will be a rhetorical problem — new persuasive words for defaced or degraded ones." Wilder knew that during times of rapid social change, God-talk is often difficult to muster.

We may have traded 1930s-level poverty and hunger for a resurgence in racism, sexism and environmental cataclysm, but our problems are no less serious — or spiritually disorienting. While many of our most visible leaders claim to be religious, their moral frameworks seem unrecognizable to masses of other believers. How do we speak about God in times like these when God is hard to spot?

As a student of American Christianity and the son of a prominent megachurch pastor, I've been sensing for some time that sacred speech and spiritual conversation are in decline. But this was only a hunch I had formed in response to anecdotal evidence and personal experience. I lacked the quantitative data needed to say for sure.

So last year, I enlisted the Barna Group, a social research firm focused on religion and public life, to conduct a survey of 1,000 American adults. This study revealed that most Americans — more than three-quarters, actually — do not often have spiritual or religious conversations.



More than one-fifth of respondents admit they have not had a spiritual conversation at all in the past year. Six in 10 say they had a spiritual conversation only on rare occasions — either “once or twice” (29 percent) or “several times” (29 percent) in the past year. A paltry 7 percent of Americans say they talk about spiritual matters regularly.

But here’s the real shocker: Practicing Christians who attend church regularly aren’t faring much better. A mere 13 percent had a spiritual conversation around once a week.

For those who practice Christianity, such trends are confounding. It is a religion that has always produced progeny through the combination of spiritual speech and good deeds. Nearly every New Testament author speaks about the power of spiritual speech, and Jesus final command to his disciples was to go into the world and spread his teachings. You cannot be a Christian in a vacuum.

And yet even someone like me who has spent his entire life using God-talk knows how hard it has become. Five years ago, I moved from the Bible Belt to New York City and ran headfirst into an unexpected language barrier. Sure, I could still speak English as well as I always had. But I could no longer “speak God.”

By this I mean that spiritual conversations, once a natural part of each day for me, suddenly became a struggle. Whether I spoke to a stranger or a friend, the exchange flowed freely so long as I stuck to small talk. But conversations stalled out the moment the subject turned spiritual.

Before relocating, I worked as a part-time minister at a suburban congregation outside of Atlanta. Before that, I had attended a Christian college and seminary. All my life, I used religious language daily in my home and community, rarely pausing to think about the meaning of my words. But I was not in Georgia anymore.

Whenever I used religious terms I considered common — like “gospel” and “saved” — my conversation partner often stopped me mid-thought to ask for a definition, please. I’d try to rephrase those words in ordinary vernacular, but I couldn’t seem to articulate their meanings. Some words, like “sin,” now felt so negative that they lodged in my throat. Others, like “grace,” I’d spoken so often that I no longer knew what they meant.

In New York — as in much of America, increasingly — religious fluency is not assumed. Work often takes precedence over worship, social lives are prioritized over spiritual disciplines and most people save their Sunday-best clothing for Monday through Friday. In pluralistic contexts, our neighbors don’t read from the same script or draw from a common spiritual vocabulary.

According to my survey, a range of internal conflicts is driving Americans from God-talk. Some said these types of conversations create tension or arguments (28 percent); others feel put off by how religion has been politicized (17 percent); others still report not wanting to appear religious (7 percent), sound weird (6 percent) or seem extremist (5 percent). Whatever the reason, for most of us in this majority-Christian nation, our conversations almost never address the spirituality we claim is important.

A deeper look reveals that the decline in sacred speech is not a recent trend, though we are only now becoming fully aware of it. By searching the Google Ngram corpus — a collection of millions of books, newspapers, webpages and speeches published between 1500 and 2008 — we can now determine the frequency of word usage over the centuries. This data shows that most religious and spiritual words have been declining in the English-speaking world since the early 20th century.

One might expect a meaty theological term like “salvation” to fade, but basic moral and religious words are also falling out of use. A study in The Journal of Positive Psychology analyzed 50 terms associated with moral virtue. Language about the virtues Christians call the fruit of the spirit — words like “love,” “patience,” “gentleness” and “faithfulness” — has become much rarer. Humility words, like “modesty,” fell by 52 percent. Compassion words, like “kindness,” dropped by 56 percent. Gratitude words, like “thankfulness,” declined by 49 percent.

A decline in religious language and a decrease in spiritual conversations does not necessarily mean that we are in crisis, of course. But when you combine the data about the decline in religious rhetoric with an emerging body of research that how much our linguistic landscape both reflects and affects our views, it provides ample cause for alarm.

There is also a practical reason we need a revival in God-talk, specifically at this time in American history. Many people now avoid religious and spiritual language because they don’t like the way it has been used, misused and abused by others. But when people stop speaking God because they don’t like what these words have come to mean and the way they’ve been used, those who are causing the problem get to hog the microphone.

That toothy televangelist keeps using spiritual language to call for donations to buy a second jet. The politician keeps using spiritual language to push unjust legislation. The street preacher keeps using spiritual language to peddle the fear of a fiery hell. They can dominate the conversation because we’ve stopped speaking God. In our effort to avoid contributing to the problem, we can actually worsen it.

Christians in 21st-century America now face our own serious “rhetorical problem.” We must work together to revive sacred speech and rekindle confidence in the vocabulary of faith. If we cannot rise to this occasion, sacred speech will continue its rapid decline — and the worst among us will continue to define what the word “Christian” means.


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Tsiyon Road Radio

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Have you seen this new video yet? - News Bytes



Emily Rose posts a new *NewsBytes* segment every week at our [Tsiyon Road Radio YouTube Channel](#). Emily makes these thought-provoking videos for everybody, but she especially wants to bring the same hope she has been blessed with to other young people through her NewsByte YouTube videos. If she was making videos about cooking, movies, kittens, or just about anything else, YouTube would be helping her to get her videos shown. However, since she is addressing topics of importance from a Biblical perspective, and she is not supporting the popular agenda, her video views are being suppressed on the platform. Pretty much all publishers classed as "conservatives" are experiencing this suppression throughout social media, including on YouTube - and this is also happening to Tsiyon. We need your help to spread the word about these videos. Please subscribe to our channel and watch these videos, then send the links to others, with an emphasis on young folks, so they will be exposed to this life-changing video series featuring Emily!

Here are Emily's latest videos, produced just this week!



Righteousness of Humanity



Israel's IQ - News Bytes

To see all of Emily's NewsBytes videos, and others that are coming out every week, click the Tsiyon graphic below, and please subscribe at YouTube to our channel. Together we can help Emily get these out to the people who need to see them!



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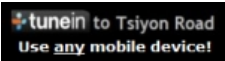
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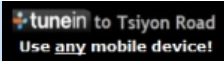
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