An Open Letter to American Independent Fundamental Baptist Churches, of which I am part, posted as of this day on March the 8th, 2022

shared from a heart of sorrow

While being extremely grateful for what God in His mercy has guided, taught, and helped in over two decades of learning truths such as the fundamental doctrines of the faith, separation, missions, ministries, music, and such, the greater danger of the sin of omission has been bearing upon me in recent years.

I must declare in humility and being aware of my own weaknesses that the Independent Fundamental Baptist movement of our generation and exemplified in our Churches has a form of godliness but denies the power thereof (2 Tim. 3:5). We preach a Gospel that does not impact lives in the way that it was promised by God, in pulling down strongholds (2 Cor. 10:4), sinners crying out for mercy during preaching (Acts 2:37), to the point where it causes the world to stop and take notice (Acts 4:13, 17:6); instead, sinners remain un-awakened to their need week after week, not having greater works or fruit that remain (John 14:12, 15:16). Yet we are unwilling to question our presentation of the Gospel and its entirety of conviction of sin, repentance toward God, faith, believe, regeneration by the Spirit, lifelong servitude in following Christ, etc., we are unwilling to honestly evaluate whether they are preached or presented in our printed Gospel materials. Instead, we preach portions of the Gospel such as sin, believe and heaven as being the entirety of the Gospel, while removing the reproach of the Gospel which crushes the pride of man before he is brought to the Saviour as a little child. Our lack of understanding to recognize the inability of the one preaching to convey supernatural truths, needing for the Spirit to come, is seen when we show it in practice by our rejection of consistent weekly nights of corporate prayer, outside of our mid-week services. Such lack of calling people to pray shows an underlying corruption of assuming certain truths such as God in our midst, Holy Spirit moving in power, and so forth which can only be wrought by public confession of our lack of power, desiring of Christ, holy living, and paying the price of travailing in prayer. I am convinced that such ideology of following the historic fundamentals of our faith in academia without the conviction of the historical teachings from the Scriptures regarding the high view of God, repentance, prevailing prayer, anointing of the Holy Spirit (enduement of power for service), etc., from those who have gone before us such as John R. Rice, R. A. Torrey, A. W. Tozer, and others have brought us to this place of dead orthodoxy.

The unbiblical and skewed view of the elevation of carnal man in making salvation for the happiness of man while portraying an impotent God who is subject to the whims of man is something that I am deeply grieved at. Our importance given to famous evangelists and preachers who have charisma and human fervor instead of Holy Spirit unction has our young people flocking to them for signing Bibles and wanting to be like the preacher instead of like the Saviour, and this I believe is the glorying of the flesh. Our lack of desire to instill solemn worship in realizing the magnitude of what it means to meet the God of the word and the casualness that permeates the congregation in jollity and fun is promoting a low view of God that is not worthy of Him. Our knowing the word of God but not knowing the God of the word has bred colleges, camps, and congregations that have no realization of the burning holiness of God and the wretched sinfulness of sin, the wrath of Almighty God and the eternal torments of hell for the damned, where we are found preaching another Christ. Such "worship" has produced a form that gets forgotten when we leave the church speaking of what's for lunch? or who will win the next Super Bowl. Our equating of blessing with
financial prosperity rather than the manifest presence of the eternal God in our midst has the heathen asking, "Where is their God?" Our handling the word of God as an end and never getting to the God of the word in experiential witness by the Spirit with the Person of Christ being revealed to the congregation has produced a famine of hearing the words of the Lord, such lack has the lost falsely convinced that they are saved and the saved confused regarding the truth. With intellectual assent and never expecting the supernatural in regeneration, though a person may believe like the devil and tremble, the Church has quenched the blessed Spirit of God who is the only one who can regenerate and bear that primary witness before assurance can be given from the word; not realizing that the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.

Our unwillingness to take a stand against the sins that are prevalent around us such as the LGBTQ+ movement, etc., from the pulpit to let the flock and the world know where the Church of Jesus Christ stands, has been a voice not clarified but rather has been an uncertain sound where the people are left to wonder regarding the truth, and where we really stand and why, exhibiting a fear of man rather than the fear of God. The lack of discernment between the light of the conscience, which can never bring anyone to Christ, as opposed to the light of the Spirit who draws and regenerates, has been the cause of aiding in the great falling away in Americanized Christianity. By using the light of conscience and showing verses from the Scripture to convince them that they are a sinner and never getting to the light of the Spirit and calling for "decisions", from kindergarten to adults, has produced a spurious wave of "converts" who show no interest in the things of God, neither bear His marks of holiness in their lives. The rejection of exhortation to "examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith" has produced a congregation of goats against a minority of sheep. Our desire to count the number of "decisions" and call them as converted while they remain reprobate, having never met the Person of Jesus Christ, is harming and defiling the purity of the Bride of Christ. Our desire for association with other ministries, evangelists, and Pastor's, who have promoted their message of salvation to "only believe" while preaching against true Biblical repentance and ignoring the truths of what a gospel witness produces in holy living, is evident by our desire for the approval of man rather than the approval of God. An unwillingness to reject and expose the sin in the camp has the anathema of God upon us. Such foundational shifts have forced the movement to change its position regarding the fruits of salvation, intellectual assent, false assurances, shallow evangelism, packaging so great salvation into a set of cookie cutter methods, and scheduled "revivals" that never impact the community; and these shifts have been detrimental to the cause of Jesus Christ bringing reproach to His name while incurring the judgement of God upon our beloved land that is groping in darkness, and a church that has lost her voice, being satisfied with looking to the government for approval, and lawyers for her survival.

While not ignoring the common good that is done in lives which have been impacted by a ministry, and being thankful for it to the sincere Pastor and to the church family, the error that the aforementioned leaven has bred and continues to grow is significant enough that radical decisions must be made for the preservation of the purity of the Gospel, for the edification of the saints, for our accountability to God for the families that He has given us, for the need to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. Serious enough to stop our services and programs, throw away materials that present a low view of the Gospel, and fall on our faces before God to fast and pray in repentance, tears, and brokenness, willing to obey, to restore us once again for experiencing the nearness of Christ, for the cry of the next generation, for the genuine work of the blessed Spirit of God, and for the glory of God.

*With sincerity and love, desiring God’s way,*
Desiring Revival Ministries,
Murfreesboro, TN

*They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace. - Jeremiah 6:14*
*Turn us again, O Lord God of hosts, cause thy face to shine; and we shall be saved. - Psalm 80:19*