

SPIRITUAL GOLD DOT ORG

...IT'S GOD'S WORD, YOU CAN COUNT ON IT...

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“My desire and hope is that Spiritual Gold will reach our world with the positive message that God is alive and has the answers for the problems facing us today. In his messages on the Spiritual Gold web site, my husband, Richard, takes the Scriptures and breaks them down so that we can understand and receive practical advice as we live one day at a time.” —Mary Strauss



Salty Christians

Jesus said we are to be like light that penetrates the darkness. Like salt that penetrates the meat. Are you penetrating the world with the good news of Christ?

Paul tells how to do that in 1 Cor 9:19-23 with three principles of evangelism:

v19: If you want to win the world, be a servant to the lost.

It doesn't mean preaching at them or getting down on them for their sinful lifestyles. It means we need to be sensitive to their needs so we can meet them. We might need to sacrifice our time and money to meet those needs. It might mean being there to listen. It might mean taking a meal to a neighbor when one of them is sick.

v20-23: If you want to win the world, be involved in their lives.

When you listen and get to know them, you'll be able to share the gospel in a custom way that makes sense to them. But don't look on them as a project. This is a way of life. A witness is not something you do. It's something you are. When we spend time with unbelievers, they should see His love, His joy, His faithfulness, His self-control. God's primary evangelistic strategy is to reproduce the character of Christ in us so the world can see what He's like.

v21: If you want to win the world, be consistent in your daily walk with God.

Don't yield to their sin. Always endeavor to please the Lord Jesus Christ. The most powerful hindrance to the spread of the gospel today is the low level of our Christian lives. We are to live holy lives

and at the same time love unbelievers. We cannot do this without living in the Spirit, without living in Christ, abiding in Him, enjoying His presence, saturating our minds with His word, sharing all of life with Him in prayer, accepting every circumstance as part of His plan to bring us to maturity in Him. That's abiding in Christ.

When we do that, we will be the salt of the earth, powerfully penetrating the world with the gospel. God give us a love for the lost.

Tell Two Friends

Dr. Strauss, in the midst of a sermon illustration, confessed that he sometimes asked, "God, why didn't You bring more people in to hear this sermon? It was a good one and they needed to hear it."

Nearly a generation later, we know now what God already knew. "Richard, don't worry. More people will hear this message than you can even imagine. In fact, some who aren't even born yet are going to listen to it. You see, Richard, there's this thing called the Internet..."

"What an amazing find!! I was talking to a nephew on the phone tonight and he mentioned to me about your web site and the availability of some of Doc's sermons. ...I have many, many of your dear Richard's tapes, but I will really enjoy this web site and will share it with my Pastor."

- C.S., Florence, OR

Help us share the good news of God's word. Please consider telling two friends about SpiritualGold.org. Or tell a few more by mentioning it in your Christmas newsletter!

Dear Spiritual Gold,

"I wanted to say thanks again for the blessing the website is to me and my ministry. The search feature is a tremendous asset. I have used it when looking for a particular text or subject that I was preparing to preach on. For instance, I was planning on preaching on some of the facets of God's grace last Sunday and found a message by Dr. Strauss (MS-004B) and it was a tremendous help. In fact, it spurred my study so much that I had to break it up into two messages!

"To all at SpiritualGold.org, thanks for making the ministry of Dr. Richard Strauss available to this generation. As a 30 year old pastor, I need to keep my spiritual tank filled and I feed off of Dr. Strauss' sermons constantly."

-K.W., Sacramento, CA

"I had attended Emanuel Faith back in 1970 to 1975. ...I was in my teens in the 70's and I can still remember those wonderful Sunday mornings in Escondido as I sat there and was ministered to by Pastor Strauss. I am filled with much happiness to have found Pastor Strauss' voice once again."

- R.F., San Ramon, CA

More Messages Online

Salty Christians is MS-177.mp3 online. You can find 1500 messages at <http://spiritualgold.org/pdf/sermoncatalog.pdf> Dr. Strauss' messages from 1974 to 1993 cover 23 books of the Bible and 52 topics, from Aging Gracefully to the Will of God.

Year-End Giving

This ministry operates solely on gifts. In fulfillment of our ministry's mission, our Board of Directors has also sought to strategically support pastoral training ministries here and around the world—including Africa and the Middle East.

If you'd like to make a donation, please send a check payable to Spiritual Gold, Inc., PO Box 2523, Escondido, CA 92033-2523. You may use a credit card online via PayPal (see <http://spiritualgold.org/gifts>). Spiritual Gold is a 501c3 not-for-profit organization. Your donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

Around the Globe

The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few. Evangelical Theological College of Ethiopia (one of the ministries supported by Spiritual Gold) is working to produce more laborers to go out to the nations, teach, and gather the harvest. ETC hosted the All Africa OCI leadership institute May 3-6, 2011. Theological school leaders from all over Africa gathered for this event in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Most ETC graduates are serving the Lord in Ethiopia, where 33% of the population is Muslim. Even though the need for Muslim evangelism in the country is very high, ETC has been offering only a few courses in this area since there were very few trained instructors in Muslim evangelism. Seeing the need for this area to be addressed, the ETC board of trustees has approved the launching of a pilot Christian-Muslim Relations Ministry major starting 2011. Please join us in praying for a bountiful harvest among the Muslims.

In the News

World Venture—Hear Dr. Hans Finzel, President of World Venture, a missionary-sending organization that works on helping nationals create their own mission-sending agencies. "My burden is the next generation of leaders rising up all over the world." In this video, Dr. Finzel tells how Dr. Strauss influenced him:
<http://www.dts.edu/supporters/emailvideos/fall2011video2>



Dr. Hans Finzel

ECS Ministries—ECS Ministries teaches and disseminates the Word of God through correspondence courses (consistent with the doctrinal statement of Emmaus Bible College) and other materials. Dr. Strauss' book, *Finding God's Will for Your Life*, will be republished in 2012: <http://www.ecsministries.org>

Bible.org—Two studies by Dr. Richard L. Strauss are on Bible.org:

- How to Really Know the Will of God, originally published in 1979 by Tyndale House as *Decisions! Decisions! How God Shows the Way*: <http://bible.org/series/how-really-know-will-god>
- He Will Be Our Guide: <http://bible.org/seriespage/he-will-be-our-guide>

Bible Broadcasting Network—Many churches now have more music and entertainment and less preaching. Bible Broadcasting Network, seeing a famine in the land for the Word of God, has developed a "Bible Institute Online" to help those who desire to learn the Bible. BBN's purpose is to get God's Word into the hearts and minds of people using the most efficient means at their disposal: radio and the Internet.

A new course was introduced this year for the Teen Studies track: 70800 - Who is Jesus?, where Dr. Richard Strauss "takes you on a sprint through the four Gospels in the New Testament. ...As you see each perspective you will better understand just who Jesus is and the difference this can make in your life. This study can help your faith to become more clear and contagious."

BBN also features two other courses by Dr. Strauss: 41300 - Lessons from the Life of David, and 20300 - Love in the Home. Learn more at: <http://www.bbnradio.org/wcm4/bbnbienglish>