

# LIFEPOINTE RECOMMENDED BIBLE TEACHERS

Taken from Growth Life 201 Class Notes

## **IMMERSE IN LIFE-GIVING TEACHINGS AND SYSTEMS**

**Colossians 1:9-10** *For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding. 10 And we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.*

**System** - Derived from the verb sunístemi, uniting or putting together. Described as an ordered and comprehensive assemblage of facts, principles, doctrines, and paradigms in a particular field of knowledge or thought.

### **Systems in Professional Sports**

In professional sports each franchise approaches their sport in a uniquely systematic way. That means that every play, coaching decision, schematic, strategy and player is “unified” with no contradictions or gaps in systematic philosophy of the game. Gaps in systems within professional sports can cost a franchise millions of dollars. What is amazing is that each franchise has a different system that is built from the ground up to insure integrity throughout their style of playing the game. Though each coach and player (even superstars) has studied their sport for decades, they still have to become educated in their individual team’s system.

### **Systems in Christianity**

While all evangelical/orthodox Christian groups believe the same in what is known as the “essential doctrines” of the Christian faith, there are variations of personality, life-application and style of living that are in the “non-essentials.” In Christianity there are very different systems of thought to live out this Christian faith. Sometimes those systems of thought, doctrine and paradigms are very different, even directly opposing other systems within Christianity. These systems of Scripture interpretation, and the way the systems are expressed in every day life, can lead to a very big difference in the way we experience radical, abundant life.

Different systems of thought within Christianity may not, in themselves, produce a greater disciple/lover of God, or even a more mature Christian. But clearly, a Christian’s system of interpretation, what is believed, attitudes developed and ways of living can have a drastic difference on the outcomes of life.

While Christian systems are seen within the denominations (Baptist, Methodist, Assembly of God, etc.), it isn’t limited to a denomination either. There are as many systematic approaches in churches as there are distinct systematic approaches to families. Every family has there own unique system, culture and really “best practice” beliefs. So it is with Churches. Many have never spoken or defined their system; but the system exists non-the-less.

### **Why Does this Matter?**

So why is this immersion into *systematic* beliefs important? Take the example below and assume you are the Father of a young child who has been diagnosed with an unusual, but not life-threatening, condition. Below I give two different belief “systems” and how the distinctions can play out in practical life. This example gives conviction as to why a system matters.

## Example:

- **System #1 - No Influence on Miracles** - Some Christian leaders believe modern Christians can have **NO** influence on ministering, praying or receiving a bona fide miracle. (They believe that type system passed away when the last apostle died, and/or when Scripture was printed/distributed)
- **System #2 - Faith Has Influence on Miracles** - Some Christians believe, literally and presently, that Mark 11:24 should be a part of the way we think, feel, believe and act as Christians. (*“Therefore I say unto you, All things whatsoever ye pray and ask for, believe that ye have received them, and ye shall have them.”* Mark 11:24). They believe Christians can pray a prayer of faith and have direct influence on ministering and/or receiving a bona fide miracle.
- **Outcome - Beliefs Can Make a Difference** - Because Mark 11:24 dictates that “believing” you “have received” is required when praying, the first system above (and the consequential attitudes/beliefs) would undermine this personal conviction and experience; for even the most spiritually mature and lovely Christian.
- **Caveat – Bigger Picture Issues** – In System #2 we realize that when someone prays for a healing and experience subsequent delay there are systematic considerations where the gap can be analyzed. A delayed miracle has depth in systematic consideration than just focusing on authenticity or sincerity of their faith. The system addresses issues and gives solutions to take greater faith steps, even in the face of a circumstantial stonewall. Because of the system the person’s prayers are now growing with courage, hope and faith for a miracle. In this system attitudes are galvanized and emotions are managed differently. This system puts a person on the “fight of faith” disposition rather than the “whatever happens is the will of God” approach. Both systems have wonderful Christian’s that adopt them. But one system can logically have a different outcome than the other.

## Should I Avoid Other Bible Teachers?

No; at least not necessarily. There are large numbers of scholars and modern Bible teachers/pastors that I (Patrick) deeply respect and have personally derived enormous spiritual benefit from. Yet, even though I have high regard in some areas of Scriptural interpretation and personal virtues, I disagree with them dramatically on other areas of major importance (though still categorically a “non-essential” doctrine). Some of their teachings on significant life-application issues can be contradictory to what Christ has formed in my heart as my “franchise system.”

Through the ministries of many of these teachers/pastors I am provoked to loving God in richer, deeper and more unique ways than what I had previously known. I thank God for their spiritual maturity, commitment to Christ and the virtuous qualities that are in their walk with Christ. I celebrate that reality. But I also recognize when there is a conflict between their statements, and my own understanding and system of doctrine. To not be aware of these distinctions could put at risk my attitudes, emotions, spiritual integrity for applications in my marriage, parenting, ministry as a Christian, boldness as a pastor, as well as about a thousand other applications in life.

This doesn’t mean that these leaders have weak marriages or are inadequate parents, etc. It means they have adopted a belief system that isn’t self-contradictory for them. Their system is producing fruit for Christ and for their families. The point here is that not all systems are the same. And just as in

professional sports, if you want to succeed in your franchise you really should be able to distinguish what the foundational system is. From there, contradictions, gaps and inconsistencies are recognized and appreciated.

### **So What Is the Concern?**

Sometimes people open their beliefs to a conglomeration of multiple systems of interpretation within authentic Christianity. Practically, anybody on the radio, TV or in book teachings are embraced by folks with equal adoption and trust. Unfortunately these folks don't seem to realize they have embraced contradictions to their system, which invalidates their foundation. On the other hand being established in a healthy system of doctrine creates a filter that we are able to distinguish and judge all other thoughts by. Establishing a healthy system sets a baseline. From there we can richly learn and be greatly blessed by other Christian leaders, leaders we would disagree with on other significant, non-essential topics.

For further areas of consideration I have given topical and systematic examples below.

### **Further Examples:**

- **Sovereignty of God** – Is God's character dominant over the human will, or is free will a by-product of the Sovereignty of God?
- **Gifts of the Holy Spirit** (1 Cor 12:7-11; 1 Cor 12:31 "*Covet earnestly the best gifts...*") – Do we discount the gifts of the Holy Spirit and thereby fail to experience the blessings in them, or do we earnestly desire them and have their supernatural benefit in our lives?
- **Imparting a Spiritual Endowment** (Rom 1:11) – Are supernatural endowments from Christian speakers a reference to historical apostleship, or is it possible today to be established and strengthened in a way that effects my marriage, parenting, business, etc.?
- **Tithing** (Mal 3:10; 2 Cor 9:6-8) – If I don't believe in it I won't tithe and I won't have the supernatural blessings as a result. If I do believe and practice it, grace is multiplied that impacts every area of my life. What I believe systematically can have a profound effect on my life on earth.
- **Parenting** (Prov 22:6 "*train up a child...he won't depart*") – If I systematically believe in Scriptural concepts of parenting I will lead with control early and teach in the teenage years. Many Christians believe the Scripturally literal model is outdated and has no positive impact on the spiritual outcome of their children. What I believe systematically can have a profound effect on my life on earth.
- **Healing/Wholeness** (1 Pet 2:24 "*by his stripes you were healed*" versus alternate interpretations of "*Paul's thorn in the flesh*", "*Job's boils*" and "*Timothy's stomach ailments*") – Is it God's will to heal me when I am sick? What about when I am disobedient? What about if God wants to teach me something? How your system of belief promotes and interprets these questions will have a profound effect on your life, marriage and parenting.

These are just a sampling of many, many more topics. The point is, what your belief system sequentially promotes and allows for makes a huge difference in your life. LifePointe has a system of

belief that every member should become immersed in and fully explore. After due diligence of living, playing and experiencing what life can be in our system, it is a maturing thing to decide the parts that fit with your own Biblical system.

We aren't trying to make robotic disciples, but a true disciple will adapt to their leaders in seasons of spiritual formation. We believe that the journey will be amazing, to the point that we have had many who have said, "I grew up in church and been faithful my whole life. I never knew that life and Christianity could be this way. I thank God for what I have learned to apply to my life. It has made all the difference in the world!"

### **So Are There Other Teachers/Leaders That Can Support My Growth In This LifePointe System?**

Our encouragement is that LifePointe attenders would pursue understanding of our "franchise system." This is the same way that a professional star in the NFL, an All-Pro quarterback being traded to the KC Chiefs, would have to learn a brand new system to excel in his position. While both teams, his former team and the new team, are based on football, they clearly approach the game in distinct ways. Our goal is to maximize each believer at LifePointe as they learn our system of Bible application so they can excel in their calling, marriage, parenting, business, etc.

A few of the people that I recommend are bulleted below with an appendix of free resources.

- **Patrick Norris**
- **Keith Moore**
- **Casey Treat**
- **Willie George**
- **Brian Houston**
- **Joe Cameneti**
- **Andrew Womack**
- **Jeff and Beth Jones**

**Recommended LifePointe franchise SYSTEM resources – SATURATE in them!**  
**See Appendix for recommended resources to immerse in.**

**IMMERSION is about revelation and mind renewal; more than an academic knowledge.**

- Listen multiple times...over and over again!
- Expect your mind to be reprogrammed (Rom 12:1-2 "renewed")

## APPENDIX #1

### IMMERSE IN TEACHING – SUGGESTED LIFEPOINTE SYSTEM RESOURCES

If you don't have an mp3 player I would highly recommend that you get one, preferably an ipod, and become acquainted with itunes. Whether at home or on the go, you can access the latest and greatest teachings from these ministries through what is called a podcast. All you have to do is subscribe in order to get the current weekend and Wednesday messages delivered to your iTunes account. It's as easy as 1-2-3.

1. DOWNLOAD ITUNES (<http://www.apple.com/itunes/download/>)
2. VISIT PODCAST LINK (In iTunes make sure you are in the iTunes store and then search for the name below.)
3. CLICK "SUBSCRIBE"

Every time you launch iTunes, the latest episode will automatically be added. You can then store and play these audio files using your iPod device, other portable MP3 player, mobile phone, or computer. Best of all, it's FREE!

#### Patrick Norris

Of course I'm going to recommend you feed spiritually on what God is doing here at LifePointe :o). This is where you are called by God, so obviously you will need to prioritize that. Audios/Videos of each teaching from our Sunday experiences are already being uploaded for you to download now. Check out our podcast by searching LifePointe Church or Patrick Norris.

#### Keith Moore

Keith is someone that I have great respect for and God has used to speak into my life. He is a friend, though we don't know each other intimately, we do know each other and show honor to one another. He has a more traditional model of ministry, which is a little entertaining sometimes to watch, but his heart is clean as anyone I have ever met. He delivers a kind of in your face approach that challenges you to rise up to new levels of faith and grace. I would say out of all the ministries below this is the one that has had the greater impact on my life. I listen and am fed by his gift on a weekly basis.

- Audio/Video – He has both available <http://archiveserver.morelifenow.org/archivesprev.php>
- Podcast  
[http://archiveserver.morelifenow.org/archives.php?archive\\_index=Podcasts.txt&filetype=vod&seriestitle=%3Cimg%20src=%22http://archiveserver.morelifenow.org/services/2009/test/Itunes-Blue.jpg%22%20width=%2250%22%20height=%2250%22%20border=%220%22%20align=%22middle%22%3E%3Cstyle=%22text-decoration:none%22%20C%20A0%3C/style%3EiTunes%20Users%20Click%20Here%20For%20Our%20Podcasts](http://archiveserver.morelifenow.org/archives.php?archive_index=Podcasts.txt&filetype=vod&seriestitle=%3Cimg%20src=%22http://archiveserver.morelifenow.org/services/2009/test/Itunes-Blue.jpg%22%20width=%2250%22%20height=%2250%22%20border=%220%22%20align=%22middle%22%3E%3Cstyle=%22text-decoration:none%22%20C%20A0%3C/style%3EiTunes%20Users%20Click%20Here%20For%20Our%20Podcasts)

#### Casey Treat

Casey is someone that I trust his doctrinal positions theologically and love his authenticity. I have never met Casey but have mutual friends with him and have read his books and listened to his teaching for over 20 years.

- Audio/Video – He has a TV program but his archives are only audio  
<http://www.caseytreat.com/audio.aspx?parentnavigationid=190>
- Podcast – type a search in itunes for Casey Treat

### **Willie George**

Willie is someone I have met and have great respect for. He has always been a progressive-thinking leader. His doctrine is very strong while embracing cultural relevance and authenticity.

- Audio/Video - <http://www.churchonthemove.com/service>
- Podcast - <http://www.churchonthemove.com/media>

### **Brian Houston**

Brian Houston pastors Hillsong Church in Australia. You may have heard of Hillsong, or Hillsong United, praise and worship bands...they are a part of this church. I have never met Brian, but have mutual friends. I love his heart, excellence and authenticity. I am pretty sure we agree on most things doctrinally and systematically, but not absolutely positive. I love his manner of life to the degree I am confident in recommending him.

- Audio/Video – Both <http://www2.hillsong.com/tv/home.asp>
- Podcast – type a search in itunes for Brian Houston Hillsong

### **Joe Cameneti**

Joe is a great guy with a solid church. I have ministered for him and know his doctrine and heart. He is relevant, authentic and brings a good perspective from the Word.

- Audio/Video – Both <http://www.bcfonline.com/services.php>

### **Andrew Womack**

I have never met Andrew but again have mutual friends that love him and speak highly of his personal character. I do enjoy his teaching and trust his doctrine. As far as I know we agree on most things doctrinally.

- Audio/Video – Both
- Podcast – Search Andrew Womack – he has both audio and video available.

### **Jeff and Beth Jones**

Jeff and Beth are two of my favorite friends who pastor a great church, Valley Family Church, in Kalamazoo, Michigan. I trust their doctrine and their manner of life. They are relevant, authentic, and challenging with God's Word.

- Audio/Video – Both
- Video - <http://valleyfamilychurch.org/mediaplayer>
- Podcast – They have two different podcasts. Search for Beth Jones and or Valley Family Church .

### **THOSE NOT LISTED:**

There are many others that aren't listed, only because their resources aren't free or readily available. As they come available I will update this list.