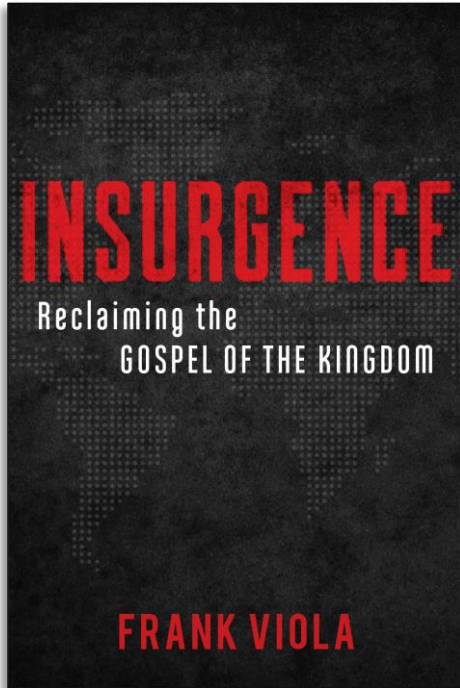




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## The Most Powerful Message in the New Testament is Being Restored - The Explosive Gospel of the Kingdom



Why does the allegiance that radical terrorists give to their false cause exceed the allegiance that most Christians today give to Jesus Christ? In his new book *Insurgence: Reclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom*, bestselling author Frank Viola presents a radical proposal for Christians. Namely, that we have lost the explosive, earthshaking gospel of the kingdom that Jesus, Paul, and the other apostles preached. Viola argues that we've lost this dynamic, titanic, living gospel and exchanged it for a gospel of religious duty or permissiveness and "easy believism."

"The call of the insurgence is to forsake all and follow the new King and His peaceable kingdom, which is here now but will come in full someday," writes Viola.

In today's politically charged era, Christians on the progressive left as well as the conservative right both equate their particular viewpoints with the kingdom of God. Viola challenges and dismantles these perspectives, offering a fresh and revolutionary look at the gospel of the kingdom.

With gripping power, Viola calls Christians to embrace an unparalleled allegiance to Jesus Christ and his kingdom. This high-octane message is being reclaimed today, launching a spiritual insurgence.

***Insurgence: Reclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom***

**by Frank Viola**

ISBN: 9780801077012 | 448 pages, paperback | \$17.99 | June 2018

### About the Author

**Frank Viola** has helped thousands of people around the world to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ and enter into a more vibrant and authentic experience of church. His mission is to help serious followers of Jesus know their Lord more deeply so they can experience real transformation and make a lasting impact. Viola has written many books on these themes, including *God's Favorite Place on Earth*, *From Eternity to Here*, and *Jesus Manifesto* (with Leonard Sweet). His blog, [frankviola.org](http://frankviola.org), is rated as one of the most popular in Christian circles today.

Baker Books has a vision for building up the body of Christ through books that are relevant, intelligent, and engaging. We publish titles for lay Christians on topics such as discipleship, apologetics, spirituality, relationships, marriage, parenting, and the intersection of Christianity and culture. We also publish books and ministry resources for pastors and church leaders, concentrating on topics such as preaching, worship, pastoral ministries, counseling, biblical reference, and leadership. Learn more at [www.BakerBooks.com](http://www.BakerBooks.com).



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## Suggested Interview Questions for Frank Viola

- 1) There have been many books written about the kingdom of God; why did you feel compelled to write another book about the topic?
- 2) What are some of the popular myths or misconceptions about the kingdom of God among Christians today?
- 3) What is the "insurgence" and when do you believe it began?
- 4) You do a lot of comparison with radical terrorist organizations in the book. Tell us about that.
- 5) Who will benefit the most from reading your book?
- 6) You share stories in the book about people who have joined the Insurgence. Can you tell us about a few?

## Praise for Frank Viola's Work

"Frank continues to challenge the church-at-large with a powerful mind, an impassioned voice, and a love for the Bride of Christ."

—Ed Stetzer, author and speaker

"Dissent is a gift to the church. It is the imagination of the prophets that continually calls us back to our identity as the peculiar people of God. May Viola's words challenge us to become the change that we want to see in the church."

—Shane Claiborne, author and activist

"We all long to lift the veil of history and catch a glimpse of the real story—the one that makes our hearts pound, our faith grow, and our lives change. You will never look at Scripture or God's work in your own heart the same way again after you close the final page."

—Holley Gerth, author

"Few authors challenge me in my faith like Frank Viola."

—Jeff Goins, author and blogger

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## Selected Excerpts from *Insurgence*

### **The Missing Ingredient (Pages 76-77)**

The problem with so much of today's preaching and teaching is that the stress is on obeying Jesus, submitting to Jesus, and "being radical" for Jesus without first unveiling how glorious, wonderful, and beautiful He is. Without this, we will try to obey out of duty, guilt, condemnation, fear, shame, or some earthly ambition (like impressing others or gaining recognition).

*In other words, we'll be operating out of legalism.*

The result is that we will eventually burn out from serving "the god" of serving God. Either that or our hearts will turn colder and more legalistic, spewing out judgments and venom on those who genuinely love the Lord but don't follow our religious playbook.

When Jesus preached the gospel of the kingdom, He did so to a people who saw Him in the flesh. They beheld His glory. They witnessed His compassion, His infinite wisdom, mercy, and love.

Later, Paul and the other apostles so vividly portrayed Christ in their preaching that it was as if Jesus had been crucified right before their eyes. Consider Paul's statement to the Galatian believers who lived hundreds of miles away from Jerusalem and never witnessed the crucifixion of Jesus.

You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. (Galatians 3:1 NIV)

The apostolic message of Century One was so powerful that it brought Christ and His love to life before its hearers. An unveiling of Christ to our hearts, then, is the necessary prerequisite to a genuine surrender to the Lord Jesus. It's the starting point of the *insurgence*.

### **Don't Invest in the World (Page 254)**

Suppose I told you that First Domestic Bank will sink six months from now and everyone who has money there is going to lose it. You would be very foolish to put your money in First Domestic, wouldn't you?

In the same way, the clock is ticking on the world system. One day it will pass away. And that's one of the greatest revelations you and I can have in terms of breaking loose from any attachment we have to it.

*The world system is doomed.*

Every kingdom within its grip—be it economic, political, educational, military, and even religious—has the word "dethroned" written upon it with the ink of heaven.

Keep that in mind as we continue to explore how much God hates the world system and how much of an enemy it is to your soul.

### **Seeking the Kingdom First (Pages 374-375)**

To seek first the kingdom means, among other things, to view everything in light of how they serve God's rule. It means that the interests of Christ become preeminent in our lives. It means we seek to possess the character of the King, a King who "shall reign in righteousness" (Isaiah 22:1 KJV).

The interests of Christ and His kingdom come before even our own interests. To seek first the kingdom—to seek the interests of Jesus Christ—is to seek the welfare of God's house, His people, His *ekklesia*. It means to care for His body, because caring for the Lord's body is caring for the King and His kingdom.

When we seek His kingdom first, our lives are arranged according to His interests. Therefore, God promises to look after our own interests in return. So the question before you and me in every decision we make is, How does this serve the interests of the sovereign rule of God?

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