

REVIVAL

I'd like to share a few thoughts about Revival and the outpouring of God's spirit.

I'm not a firefighter, and I've never been one. But I have learned over the years that a fire requires three ingredients. There has to be oxygen, there has to be fuel, and there has to be heat. If any one of these three ingredients is missing there will be no fire.

Look with me for a minute at the first outpouring of God's spirit in the book of Acts chapter 1, verse 2 says;

"... HE HAD BY THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVEN ORDERS TO THE APOSTLES whom he had chosen. TO THESE HE ALSO PRESENTED HIMSELF ALIVE, after his suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of 40 days, and SPEAKING THE THINGS CONCERNING THE KINGDOM OF GOD. And gathering them together HE COMMANDED THEM NOT TO LEAVE JERUSALEM, BUT TO WAIT FOR WHAT THE FATHER HAD PROMISED, which he said, you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but you should be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.

Verse 8 says,

You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and even to the uttermost parts of the Earth.

1st Corinthians chapter 15.4 says;

He was buried, and he was raised on the third day according to the scriptures, and HE APPEARED TO CEPHAS (PETER) and THEN TO THE 12. After that HE APPEARED TO MORE THAN 500 BRETHREN AT ONE TIME most of whom remain until now but some have fallen asleep THEN HE APPEARED TO JAMES THEN TO ALL THE APOSTLES.....

Now we can't be completely sure how many people Jesus appeared to. The scripture said, he appeared to Peter, the 12, James, all the apostles, and over 500 brethren. Apostle in the Greek means "one who is sent".

Peter, James, the 12, and the 70 others that Jesus sent out, makes 84, and then the over 500, puts the total at roughly 600 people, that Jesus appeared to.

I'm sure they were extremely excited to see Jesus alive. They probably said, "What do you want us to do now Jesus?"

HE COMMANDED THEM to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the promise of the Holy Spirit to receive the Father's provision for the outpouring.

Take a look for a second at verse 15.

Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren, a gathering of about 120 people were there together.

Now I'm not any kind of a math wizard, but of the almost 600 people that THE RISEN KING OF KINGS COMMANDED to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit, only about 20% actually showed up. Roughly one out of five.

This is not some sort of a guilt trip to try to get bigger attendance at our meetings. It's only to show that, IF WE HEAR HIS VOICE AND DO WHAT HE SAYS, GOD WILL SUPPLY THE HEAT. FIRE HAPPENS WHEN ALL THE INGREDIENTS ARE PRESENT.

When we think of Revival and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit

We have to remember that this was not a natural event.

THIS WAS GOD DOING WHAT HE WANTED.

JESUS DIDN'T SAY, "BOYS, WE'RE GONNA HAVE A REVIVAL MEETING."

Peter, you handle the preaching, Andrew you take care of publicity and try to draw us a crowd, Mary you handle the prayer chain and bring some of that cool oil with you.

James and John, you mobilize the witnessing teams and do a couple of Jericho marches beforehand. Nathaniel see if you can set up that internet video streaming, and make sure it's a really first class production.

GOD IS NOT LOOKING FOR OUR BEST EFFORT. WE NEED HIS.

He can take a mere hundred and twenty people, light them on fire, and change the entire world. They heard His voice, they did what He said, and God did the rest.

God is amazing. He doesn't need much to accomplish his purposes. When he delivered the children of Israel from Egypt, he sent an 80 year old man with a walking stick, who had to ask God what his name was, because he had just met him. When he poured out his spirit in Samaria, all He sent was a soup server name Philip

Again, he didn't tell Philip to set up a prayer team for round-the-clock prayer. He didn't say find a big name Pastor that you can submit yourself to and get under his covering. He didn't ask him to send out an advance PR team to the churches to let him know about the big event. He just sent one guy, a soup server name Philip, and evangelized the entire region.

Here is the account in Acts 8.5.

Philip went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them. And the multitude with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing. For in the case of many who had unclean spirits, they were coming out of them shouting with a loud voice, and many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was much rejoicing in that city.

God found in Philip, a man who would hear his voice, do what he said, and let God bring the fire.

Afterwards, we don't see Philip giving himself the title of the Apostle or Pastor of the Samaritans. He didn't set himself up as the founder of Soup Servers International Ministries either.

He heard God's voice to take the desert road out of town, and share the gospel of the Kingdom with the Ethiopian eunuch.

Philip wasn't on an Evangelistic Crusade or trying to develop His own ministry. He was in a relationship with the Living God by the Holy Spirit.

He submitted to God, let God light him on fire with the Holy Spirit, and went about doing exactly what God was telling him to do.

All three ingredients were present and it started an amazing blaze. Revival is not a series of meetings to get people fired up to go do witnessing for God. IT'S ORDINARY PEOPLE ALLOWING GOD TO LIGHT THEM ON FIRE, AND MAKE THEM HIS WITNESSES.

LET'S ALLOW GOD TO DO EXCEEDINGLY, ABUNDANTLY, BEYOND ALL THAT WE COULD EVER ASK OR THINK, BY HIS POWER THAT WORKS IN US.

GOD BLESS YOU.

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