

*And she named the child **Ichabod**, saying, The glory is departed from Israel: because the ark of God was taken.*

- 1 Samuel 4:21

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Desiring REVIVAL

"By Revival we mean those special seasons of divine visitation when God the Holy Spirit quickens and stirs the slumbering church of God. Believers are set ablaze for Christ, and the power of God is so noticeable in prevailing prayer and anointed preaching that the most hardened and skeptical unbelievers are brought under great conviction of sin. In turn, they come to genuine repentance and faith in Jesus."

- M. Sprenger



from Desiring Revival

In Hosea 5:15 God declares, "I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me early." In considering 2024 and what it holds for us as a Nation, we see the implosion of America from what it once stood for. We are faced with two major wars, our colleges have shown their true colors in being indoctrinated with falsehood and supporting terrorists, those who hate God have been our teachers and counsellors, our borders are seeing an influx of people to the number of 10,000 per day. Our leaders are lacking wisdom and basic common-sense in stemming the decay, while man's lusts are allowed to be legalized and promoted in public, in music, and in Hollywood that Christians enjoy watching, and our churches are sleeping. As I was grieving over our Nation, I was brought to this truth impressed upon me that God is allowing America to be destroyed from within. It is not that God is withdrawing His presence, which He has already done, but He is fighting against us (Isaiah 63:10), for He is holy and hates iniquity.

The need we have is not a political one, but a spiritual need, and a new president is not going to solve anything. Our bankrupt churches are the cause of why America is where she is, and the moral decay is just the symptom. We seem too smug about how many "decisions" were made, maybe enough to call everyone in America a "Christian" but we have never been so spiritually anemic as we are now. Someone may say that we need to PRAY for Revival. While that is an easy outlet to pat ourselves on our backs, the true need is much deeper. The need we have now is REPENTANCE IN THE CHURCH. In Hosea God refuses to respond until "they acknowledge their offence" and then "seek my face." I hear a lot about praying for revival and people organizing prayer meetings etc. While that has

its place, that is not the need we have now. We need to get back to what Elijah did, to first repair the altar and put the wood in order before he laid the sacrifice and the rest before he called out to God to answer by fire.

All we have today is a "form of godliness" with no power. When will we wake up? When will we believe the Bible and follow God's remedy? Unless we humble ourselves in sackcloth and ashes there is no point in praying. We have accepted shallow views of God and spurious "decisions" where many of our Pastors are not regenerated themselves and produce unregenerate church members. God have mercy on us. We need to go back to fundamentals such as, the holiness of God, depravity of man, sinfulness of sin, the wrath of God, godly sorrow, fruits meet for repentance, being born-again, submission to the Lordship of Christ, works that follow those who profess to believe on Christ, and so forth. Will God judge America? He is already doing so. I don't see any conviction like we read in the book of Acts on those who come forward, which can only be produced by the Holy Spirit; I don't see experimental Christianity displayed, instead it is just words and clouds without water; I don't see all-nights of agonizing prayer, we just idolize prayer and not really have any liberty in our prayers to storm heaven; I don't see the world stopping to look at the power of the church, instead they are asking "Where is their God?"

Hosea does not end there, the very next verse begins with, "Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up." - Hosea 6:1. And no amount of prayer, doing good works, conferences, soul-winning, big buildings are going to change the fact that God will not hear our prayers, instead He is looking for the precious fruit of repentance.



Encountering God

When Isaiah encountered God he uttered, "Woe is me! for I am undone," when Job, the most holy man, encountered God he uttered, "I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes," when Jacob encountered God he was afraid, and said, "How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." In our churches that are filled with fun, stories, and frolic, when was the last time you tip-toed out of the sanctuary in awe and wonder with deep conviction and uttered such solemn expressions?

A Hymn of Consecration by Frances Havergal

David Morgan Enduement of Power for Service (The Baptism of the Holy Spirit)

"He went to bed "a lamb" and woke up "a lion" and felt great power."

from: www.1859.org.uk

Dafydd Morgan (1814-1883) was a Welsh Calvinistic Methodist pastor who was used greatly in the Welsh revival of 1858-1860. He began to preach in 1842 and was ordained in 1857. In the following year he came into contact with Humphrey Jones who had just returned from America, having been greatly influenced by the revival that was then sweeping that country. This had a very marked effect on Morgan who went to bed one night in October 1858 and when he woke up he realised that something dramatic had happened to him. He went to bed "a lamb" and woke up "a lion" and felt great power. Over the next two years or so he journeyed through every part of Wales, preaching the Gospel, often holding three or four services a day and in the process saw a multitude of people come to Christ. Somewhere in the region of 100,000 people were brought to Christ during the revival in Wales.

On the last day of 1858 he had been preaching at a remote chapel in the hills above Tregaron and afterwards spent several hours on the mountain experiencing something he described as so glorious that he wasn't sure whether he was in the body or out of it. When he returned home he was hardly recognisable with his clothes dishevelled and an unusual expression on his face. When asked what had happened he simply replied that he had wrestled for a blessing and had received it. When he preached the next day it was said that his words were so like fire as to create terrible convictions.

After the crest of the revival had passed, he returned to normal pastoral duties again. He went to bed one night and "the lion" became "a lamb" once again. It was, he said, as if his locks had been shaven, although in his case there was no Delilah in his life! He continued for fifteen more years as a faithful preacher of the gospel.



The Power of Pentecost

Every move of God that has made an impact has always been preceded with those whom God has raised up and Baptized with His Holy Spirit just as He did in the Book of Acts (Acts 4:8,31,7:55,13:9,13:52,19:2-6). This was a definite and a separate event, at times, years after their conversion. They knew when they had it and others knew it as well because of the impact this made. It was not a gradual yielding but a coming "upon" similar to Samson and his exploits. Something they did not possess before.

1 Take my life and let it be
consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
let them flow in endless praise,
let them flow in endless praise.

2 Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.

3 Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.

4 Take my silver and my gold;
not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.

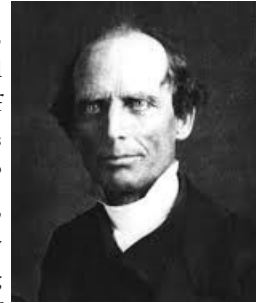
6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.



The Holy Spirit is a Spirit of fire. The world is going to hell fire because the church has lost Holy Ghost fire, it's as simple as that. - Leonard Ravenhill

Charles G. Finney and the Tragedy of "Scheduled Revivals"

Charles G. Finney had the wrong understanding of being able to produce "revivals" using the proper means instead of Revival being a Sovereign act of God to a prepared people. He stated in Lectures on Revival, "A revival of religion is not a miracle, nor dependent on a miracle in any sense. It is a purely philosophical result of the right use of the constituted means--as much so as any other effect produced by the application of means." This is something that was unknown in history past from the Evangelical Awakenings to the Lewis Awakening among others. Do opponents of this new theology believe in being idle and just "wait" upon God? The proper context would be that people are awakened to the need around them of the apathy in the Church, the powerlessness of God's people, the explosion of sin and their inability to stem its tide, are all reasons why the church would hold meetings in the past (such as the Hebrides Revival with Duncan Campbell) on seeking the Lord for a fresh outpouring of His Spirit. They realize that they need a Divine Intervention, and instead of working up means to "make it happen" (which we have been trying to do every year with our scheduled Revival meetings) the need was that judgment would begin in the house of God (1 Peter 4:17) and repentance in the church was the means needed to see why God had withdrawn His Spirit. Thus was the cause with Elijah at Mt. Carmel or at Pentecost when they were in one Accord before the glory of Lord filled the place. It was not an assumption, rather a manifestation of God in His time to a prepared people "being in the way" (Genesis 24:27) when God sends times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord (Acts 3:19).



Today in mainstream Christianity we have come to the apathetic place of being able to hold revival meetings that never affect the community and go on our way self-content that we have "seen" revival because a big-shot speaker came and preached. And our young people go home thinking there is nothing more to Christianity or anything supernatural that happened in the services. They see no difference between what happens in their "prayer" meetings as compared to when they go to a lecture at their secular college.

While God used Finney in response to the need of his day, building a doctrine and church practice based on incidentals is dangerous and over a period of time it becomes idolatry in following a pattern in mechanical repetition. We see similar frills in practices such as the sinners prayer, Romans road, "decisions," Altar calls, etc. There is no Biblical example or practice that has even a hint of such methods. Now we are reaping the fruits of it with the Spirit grieved and a Nation in peril.

Repentance Essential

Jesus did not say believe or perish, instead He said repent or perish (Luke 13:3,5). Only those who are willing to repent (because they have been convicted of sin and have a godly sorrow for their sin) are ready to believe. You don't repent to show you are sorry, you repent because you are sorry and take sides with God against your sin. And a repentance that does not show itself in the fruit of active obedience toward God is good for nothing. When we follow the harmony of the Scriptures and the nature of man, who is dead and loves his sin, the call to believe always has in it the pre-requisite to repent. The active nature of salvation that is placed upon man is repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21).



A Church Cemented in Routine

A. W. Tozer

What is the worst enemy the church faces today? This is where a lot of unreality and unconscious hypocrisy enters. Many are ready to say, "The liberals are our worst enemy." But the simple fact is that the average evangelical church does not have too much trouble with liberalism. Nobody gets up in our churches and claims that the first five books of Moses are just myths. Nobody says that the story of creation is simply religious mythology. Nobody denies that Christ walked on the water or that He rose from the grave. Nobody gets up in our churches and claims that Jesus Christ is not the Son of God or that He isn't coming back again. Nobody denies the validity of the Scriptures. We just cannot hide behind liberalism and say that it is our worst enemy. We believe that evangelical Christians are trying to hold on to the truth given to us, the faith of our fathers, so the liberals are not our worst enemy. Neither do we have a problem with the government. People in our country can do just about whatever they please and the government pays no attention. We can hold prayer meetings all night if we want, and the government would never bother us or question us. There is no secret police breathing down our backs watching our every move. We live in a free land, and we ought to thank God every day for that privilege. The treacherous enemy facing the church of Jesus Christ today is the dictatorship of the routine, when the routine becomes "lord" in the life of the church. Programs are organized and the prevailing conditions are accepted as normal. Anyone can predict next Sunday's service and what will happen. This seems to be the most deadly threat in the church today. When we come to the place where everything can be predicted and nobody expects anything unusual from God, we are in a rut. The routine dictates, and we can tell not only what will happen next Sunday, but what will occur next month and, if things do not improve, what will take place next year. Then we have reached the place where what has been determines what is, and what is determines what will be.



Augustus Toplady

4 November 1740 – 11 August 1778



Toplady, Augustus Montague, the author of "Rock of Ages," was born at Farnham, Surrey, November 4, 1740. His father was an officer in the British army. His mother was a woman of remarkable piety. He prepared for the university at Westminster School, and subsequently was graduated at Trinity College, Dublin. While on a visit in Ireland in his sixteenth year he was awakened and converted at a service held in a barn in Codrington. The text was Ephesians ii. 13: "But now, in Christ Jesus, ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ." The preacher was an illiterate but warm-hearted layman named Morris. Concerning this experience Toplady wrote: "Strange that I, who had so long sat under the means of grace in England, should be brought nigh unto God in an

obscure part of Ireland, amidst a handful of God's people met together in a barn, and under the ministry of one who could hardly spell his name. Surely this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous."

A short time before his death he asked his physician what he thought. The reply was that his pulse showed that his heart was beating weaker every day. Toplady replied with a smile: "Why, that is a good sign that my death is fast approaching; and, blessed be God, I can add that my heart beats stronger and stronger every day for glory." To another friend he said: "O, my dear sir, I cannot tell you the comforts I feel in my soul; they are past expression. . . . My prayers are all converted into praise." He died of consumption (Tuberculosis) in August 11, 1778.

The Shantung Revival in China (1927-1937) - W. C. Culpepper

The Necessity of the New Birth Experience

The beginning of the new awakening started with a series of preparatory meetings during 1927 led by Miss Monsen. The Lord greatly used her in our mission during the following years. Her messages emphasized the seriousness of sin and the importance of the new birth and resulted in deep personal realization of sin, a search for a deeper spiritual life, prayer for revival for all China, a new respect for God's Word, and reconciliation and restitution among the believers. She visited mission stations and churches giving her testimony. After each service she greeted the Chinese and missionaries alike with the probing question, "Have you been born again?" The question insulted some and angered others. But she spared no one, asking preachers, deacons, missionaries and others the same question. When their anger subsided, the Holy Spirit began to search hearts. People discovered and admitted they had not been born again.

Many of them gave ridiculous answers to the searing question. One said, "I've preached for years." Another answered, "One cannot know until death." At one church she discovered that none of the deacons clearly understood the concept of the new birth. The revival, therefore, developed into an ingathering of those born again from among the church members as well as from outsiders....

A missionary nurse reported that she had tried to discover why she had never before known salvation. She had been reared under strict attention to religious duties, but was never conscious of depending on "works" rather than faith for her salvation. Her home religious training had been careful; she was taught about God and about the wickedness of sin. She had enjoyed church and memorizing Bible verses and had even received answers to prayer. She had heard the gospel preached since childhood and had even realized she had sinned. But up to that point she had never experienced true salvation. ... during the meeting Miss Monsen asked the missionaries to help her in personal witnessing by asking the Chinese if they were "born again." As the young nurse did this one morning, she choked as she spoke. She confessed, "My heart said, 'You are not born again yourself; how can you ask that question?'" By Wednesday she was miserable but tried to seem happy and kept singing. She consoled herself by thinking that singing the words meant she was saved. She intended to walk to the afternoon meeting with Miss Monsen in order to share her problem. When she spoke to Miss Monsen, the abrupt reply was, "No, I'm going with someone else."

The young nurse went home dejected, believing there was no help. She ate supper and then went to the hospital for prayers with the other nurses. When she returned home, she was alone in the big house; so she knelt by the bed and prayed, "Lord, I don't know whether I'm saved or not, but You know. I want to be right with You and with man. Please show me what is wrong." The darkness of her sins became apparent; and she cried, "What can I do?" Just then the weight was removed, and the peace of salvation became hers. Question-marks no longer surrounded her salvation experience.



Miss Marie Monsen
Norwegian Lutheran Missionary