

Responsibility After Revival

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Revival in God's mind was *intended* to be poured out *once* (for all time) to enable His people to move on into the establishment of His Kingdom. His intent never was to have many outpourings in different generations, but a single one that lasted forever. If we had understood this truth better in the last outpouring, which we speak of as the Charismatic Renewal, we would not have brought it to a close as we did. Let us realize that it is we, "man," who brings His moves to cessation, not God. What happened, as with the outpourings before this one, was for it to climb to the highest peak of emotional response, to a crescendo, then begin to diminish a little, and we said, "Well, that's over, wasn't it glorious?" We tend to focus on the main accomplishment in a Revival and think that was all God had in mind for that season.

We look back on the Charismatic Revival and say, "What God did in that Revival was to bring the Catholics to an awareness that the Word is alive today, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2 and 4. That paved the way for them to come into fellowship with Protestants." That is all true. But that was not the Revival.

The Revival was God's way of saying, "I am the Lord thy God. Is there anything I cannot do?" If we (all-knowing ones ☺) had been asked that question ahead of His move, we'd have said, "Yes, there is something – You can't bring the Catholics into the fullness of Your Spirit. You can't stir *them*. You'll never get to the Catholics. Lord, they've got the whole thing all figured out, You'll never move on them. They don't believe in this and that and the other. Besides that, we vote 'no' on them." ☺

How many know that's true? We, especially "old-time Pentecostals," had an attitude about Roman Catholics that was worse than theirs about us. And God said, "Let Me show you something. I can do exceeding abundantly above all you ask or think according to the power than worketh in you (Eph.3:20). *But if the power that worketh in you isn't great enough to do anything above what you can ask or think, I'll do it without you.*"

We think we're something! No wonder we spend so little time saying, "Thank you, Lord, for using me." We think He's fortunate to have us! Remember the old song? "I've sacrificed a lot of things to walk this narrow way. I gave up fame and fortune; I'm worth a lot to Thee." Unfortunately, that, by and large, is still our attitude! But the song writer continues: "And then I heard Him gently say to me, '*I left a throne in glory!*'"

For years I felt I had my head on a block, offering it to the Lord day by day, and feeling very pure about it. "Lord, you know I didn't want to preach. You know how I feel about women preachers. And You know how *they* feel about women preachers. I don't want to preach because they're going to vote 'no' on me too. I don't want to do this *but I'll do it for You, Lord, just for You.*" And I sincerely but mistakenly believed myself to be humble. Aren't you glad I'm using me as the example instead of you? It makes it so much easier for you to say "Amen."

I honestly believed that it was an ultimate, supreme sacrifice for me to be willing to be the very thing I didn't like and to give up my life for "ministry." Then one day, as I was reading Scripture, I read from the great apostle, Paul, who said, "I thank God that He has called me worthy enough to be a minister!" (see 1Tim.1:12).

Now Church, I truly believe that the next move of God is not only going to hit the pulpit, but He also will pour out powerfully of His Spirit in the pews. And God is calling you to be "ministers." You ought to be whooping and hollering, responding with a resounding, "Yes!" "Yes, Lord! I want to be used by You!" Or do we, really? Do we honestly want to be *used* (note the word!) of God? If that is true, then we have to change our thinking and bring it into agreement – accord, correlation, conformity, alignment – with the Holy Spirit Who wrote the Book.

The truth is it is such a *privilege* to be used by God! Ask someone who once was in “real ministry” and for some particular reason is not ministering today. Notice their lack of joy. Some of you are in deep depression today. The best way I know to tell you to be able to get out of that condition is to begin to minister to someone else. Why? What you’ve actually done, even inadvertently, is to clog up the dam. Depression is a result of turning inward and a rejection of one’s circumstances that *seem* to be out of your own control. The scripture says there’s a *river of life* flowing in me (Jn.7:38). Jesus said, “I’ll put a well inside of you, a deep well” (see Num.21:14-17; Isa.12:3; Jn.4:14; Rev.22:17). I say, “Do it, Lord.” His response is: “I did! Let the lid off! Stop clogging up the flow!”

When the Church meets together, there is enough concentrated power in that room at that time – honestly, there’s enough divine, heavenly power in the room – to accomplish *anything* that needs to be done. Anything! But we are trained to be pulpit-centered. If a church or ministry would bring in a certain person or persons and announce them as “miracle workers,” we’d feel “Ebenezer” again – “the Lord hath helped us!”(see 1Sam.7:12ff). We’d go to those meetings out of curiosity, not from faith. “Oh, I want to see this!” That attitude is what occurs to stop the flow of Revival. It is never God that brings an end to Revival. It’s the *people* of God. God intends for Revival to be eternal – on-going – forever. If you *don’t* believe it, that’s why it never is!

This is what happens: a new generation arises. God brings them a leader, a deliverer, who sets them free, who brings them “out of Egypt” so to speak. They know the miracle-working power of God. Everything is wonderful! They have supernatural happenings throughout their lives, at least for that season of time. Then God says, “Now I want to give you the next step after miracles. The next step is *obedience*. Here are My laws.” But they say, “We need a god we can handle. Let’s create one.”

Are you there, Church? Are you hearing this truth? God says, “Therein is where the people have made a decision *not* to let the Revival go on. They really don’t want the mighty works. They don’t want the demonstration of My power. They don’t want *Me*. They don’t want to live according to the ways I have declared to be right. They don’t want the “confinement of obedience.” I showed up once and the only one who dared to come up on the mountain was Moses.” The people said, “That is frightening!” But Moses said, “Ohhhh, I love it!”

Now Church, Revival is on the very horizon – the next move of God! It’s like we have our fingertips on it! I can sense it in my spirit, can you? It’s so close! For some years I’ve been saying there will be many people praying for Revival to come – and continue praying all the way through it – but missing the whole thing because it may not come through the people they decided it should come through. It just may not be limited to the denomination they voted “yes” on. *It just may be that God will be God. And He will pour out His Spirit wherever there are channels and vessels open to receive Him.* He will do exceedingly marvelous things! After that first dynamic – it’s always dynamic when God moves, it’s supernatural – after that first dynamic, I can tell you what will happen. Churches, some mega-churches, will declare how they got it to come. ☺ That has happened in our recent history.

Those who do not recognize, who do not hear the prophetic – those who miss God because they are not in tune and do not have keen discernment – those whose discernment is stupefied by the input of man, will believe that erroneous declaration of ownership. Pastors who do not have what I just described of discernment will begin to copy what these people say they did to bring the move of God. And when the others copy it, they will immediately become a part of the *counterfeit*! Let the people of God hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Now, that situation would be bad news – unless there are the people of God who are *ravens*, if you will. Remember when God sent Elijah to the brook? (1Kngs.17:4). God said, “You need bread every day, fresh bread, fresh nourishment, and I’m going to send it to you – by *ravens*.”

How do you think Elijah felt about that? A raven was an *unclean bird*. I wonder if he didn't feel a bit like Peter when the Lord invited Peter to a picnic. Remember that? (Ac.10) It was the vision Peter had of the tablecloth filled with all sorts of things to "eat." The Lord says, "Peter, let's go on a picnic. I'll bring the food." They got up on the housetop (vs.9ff). It was right at noon. The sun was shining. It was a great day! Peter was fellowshiping with his Lord. The Lord says, "Well, there it is – lunch." Peter is shocked and says, "Lord. You need to know something about me. There's not one thing on that table I'm going to eat because I'm – *holy*. And everything I see there is *unclean*." And what did the Lord say to him? "Not if I call it clean!"

Can you hear Elijah saying, "I'm not eating from *ravens*!" "Well fine, Elijah. You are going to get very hungry!" Or maybe the Lord said, "Don't be stupid! I didn't ask you to eat the raven!" Listen – there are a lot of us ravens. In the eyes of man, we're the unclean bird. The Lord doesn't ask them to swallow us at all! He says, "Just take the fresh bread – take the fresh *meat* that I put in the mouth, in the beak. And I'll fly them in according to your need."

If there are enough of us in the Body of Christ, who are so attuned to the Holy Spirit of God that we *see the counterfeit and deny it* saying, "I will not be a part of these gimmicks and all of these other things. I want the Spirit of Truth and the revelation of Life and for *that* Life to go on flowing." If you are that tuned-in person, God will begin to flow through you.

You see, the sun rises on the just and the unjust (see Mt.5:45). Does that make sense to you? Revival is going to fall on all in the Body of Christ. It surely is! It's going to hit the big churches and the little churches. It will hit those that have been walking in holiness as well as those that have been walking the fine line of "How much can I get by with – how can I get by with this and still go to heaven?" Those are people I describe as having just bought their spiritual fire insurance. They are "saved" and going to heaven, but that is it. Don't demand anything further from them. When God pours out His Spirit, He's going to pour it out everywhere, on the whole universal church. Of course there will be forerunners who recognize it early – while many others are still praying for Revival to come, we'll already be enjoying it!

At "noonday," at the height, the peak of its shine, every believer will recognize Revival. They will. I know this may seem radical to some of you. One lady said to me, "You are absolutely stretching my doctrine!" I said, "We're not trying to stretch it. We're trying to kill it!" When what we believe is contrary to or a misrepresentation of the Word of God, we need to just let it go.

I'm so sick of the word "rebellion." I really am. God's people who are serving God, loving Him and worshipping Him, who want the new (as in fresh) and the vital, aren't being "rebellious." That's not rebellion. Don't you swallow that when you hear it. It's a "bone" – spit it out. Historically, it has always been those who were dissatisfied with what was called "the norm" that first saw the power of God moving in a fresh way. Hallelujah!

We're going to be a part of that move, if we truly want to be, and if we keep our eyes and ears attuned to His Spirit. But we must recall that when it gets to "noonday" (the peak of spiritual emotion in the outpouring – not flesh) and everyone is basking in the glory, we're to rejoice with them, but remain closer to the Lord than we've ever been before – *ravens*! Because when they get through with that high level, when it seems to diminish a bit, they're going to try and corral it. Do you understand that statement? When they get through with it, they're going to try to capture it at the moment. And then they'll say, "We'll take this much of it – what we have now. This is so good. We're very happy. Our church is full now. Our budget's in the black – at long last. And praise God! He did a good thing!"

And it is at that moment that God will say, "Alright ravens! Go get 'em!" ☺ "You have the fresh bread and there are hundreds of thousands of people out there who have had just enough taste during the noonday that they are now hungering and thirsting after righteousness. Don't make Me have to kill them off in the wilderness and raise up a whole new generation (see Num.14:20ff). You keep the thing going!"

Bring your children into it. Bring your young people into this move of God. It is *not* over. Teach them how to flow and minister in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. It's time for that!"

If you have to say, "Well, our church doesn't do it like that," that's okay. Do it in your own home! It's time for us to quit relying so heavily on the church to provide everything for us anyway. The "church" can be full of "programs" and lack the fresh move of His Spirit! But you keep going to church. Support it, and *pray fervently* that God will explode in *your* church (Jas.5:16b). If they're not feeding you and your children with fresh bread, that's no excuse for your children to go unfed and hungry, or for you either. Get *yourself* in the Word of God. Begin to ask God to flow within your own family. Take one evening a week and minister to one another. You'd be surprised what that will do for a family. Begin to let the gifts operate right there in your home. Look at your little ones, your teens, and say, "What's Jesus saying to you right now?" Teach them to expect to hear God's voice. Show them how to do that.

I was once ministering at a certain place quite a number of years ago now. It was a conference, sponsored by a local church – a Ministers' Conference where I was speaking at the evening sessions. Prior to this particular moment, we had a season of worship that was second to none. It was tremendous! We had reached extremely high levels of worship, the high praises of God! (Psa.149:6). Near the end of the worship season, as we were entering into some other elements of the service, a little boy made his way up to the pastor, tugged at her sleeve, and spoke to her privately. The pastor nodded, took the microphone out of its stand and handed it to this little boy. Everything in me cried out in my spirit, "Oh no. Please don't break this up now with something cute." We had been experiencing a holy, hallowed sense of the presence of God and I didn't want something cute or childish to be allowed to diminish that.

The small child took the microphone and said something like this, "the Lord would say to His people..." and continued, "When I got up, God said not to look for what you think you came for. God's going to do something different. So, open your ears and listen because the Spirit of God is going to talk to you." I get Holy Spirit goose bumps when I think about it. After the service, when I had occasion to be alone with the pastor, I said, "How old is that boy?" "Three." Then she corrected that, "Oh no, he just had his fourth birthday."

Listen, now! I went to the service the next evening and a little girl about seven years of age made her way to the front. I was sitting on the aisle ready to speak again that night. She came during the worship service and said to me, "Sister Tompkins, could I pray for you?" I said, "Sure, Honey. Bless your heart." She laid hands on me and said, "God, in the name of Jesus, let the anointing that is within this Thy vessel, rise and come forth. Open hearts to understand!"

When I went out with the pastors following the service, I said, "Talk to me about this!" Pastor said, "Can you give us one evening? I'll show it to you. We call it 'family prayer meeting' and have it twice a week." The next evening, I went into a specific room in the church. As I walked in Pastor said, "Just sit there. I want you simply to observe."

There were no chairs in the room but mine. Everyone was on the floor seated in circles. The separate families were all throughout the room, just families. From infants on blankets to teenagers, fathers and mothers, all praising the Lord; all praising the Lord corporately as we would in any church service where the Spirit was present. Once in awhile I'd see a little one become fidgety because of a shorter attention span. The father would look over and smile, put his hand on the child, pray in the Spirit, and continue, "We praise You, Jesus." Pretty soon that youngster would come right back into praise. O occasion, I'd see a father lean down, the youngster would nod, and then there would be an opportunity given for that child to sing praise unto God according to what was in him. Oh, it wasn't by chance these young children were filled with the power of God. It was by opportunity and training.

I am amazed at what the typical local church calls "Sunday School" these days. It's time for us to get serious about an on-going Revival and begin to train our boys and girls *how to move in God*. We need to

teach them how to “hold fast” in the hard times of the world in which we live. There’s not much to hold fast to right now.

I’ll tell you what we teach for “commitment” – we teach “church loyalty.” And there’s a difference! Please make no mistake in what you’re hearing me say. I believe in the local church. There is no one more adamant about church involvement. But I don’t believe that you ought to go to a local church that doesn’t feed you, and then remain hungry. If God put you in a local church that doesn’t feed you the way you need it, you start feeding them! “Oh, well, I can’t, you see. I’m not appointed.” Are you anointed by God or not? *The anointing makes the appointing.* God has a reason for you to be in that place at this time. We must learn to be attentive to His purposes in our everyday lives. Nothing is by accident. God intends for our various relationships to bear fruit in His Kingdom!

We each must answer this question: “*Do I want to be useful or important?*” If you want to be *important*, you will think you need a title – Reverend Who? Or, “Chief Volunteer in charge of...” But if you simply want to be *useful*, you need only enough of the Spirit of God within you, to the point you can minister to individuals right there in your pew. So many people sitting in the congregation will never be able to be touched personally by the preachers or the ministerial staff. We have missed so many opportunities in this year alone. Think about this: you have sat in church every Sunday beside people who needed, desperately needed, what you have had resident within you. It takes so little to “minister” in the name and love of Jesus! I really believe this is valid, and know its extreme, but then everything I believe is pretty extreme! That’s why I’m so wonderful! ☺

Here’s the truth: I think that every believer ought to take charge of the pew where they sit! I really do. When I go into a church – I don’t care if it’s mine or someone else’s – when I am just another worshipper and not the speaker that day, when I’m there as a layman, I go to the pew and take charge the minute I arrive. I look up and down the row to find out who is there that day. Now there are acceptable ways to do that without embarrassing anyone. You can make sure they all have a bulletin if those are available or, tissues if they need them or whatever may seem appropriate. I dare you to reach out to the people sitting near you! But we seldom do that. We go in and sit in our little pew – we might as well be wearing blinders. And yet, we still sing: “Holy, holy, holy!” Very pious. ☺

Please see this: I want to shake you up a little, so you will recognize that we have opportunities before, during, and after a service. I feel strongly about this because I’d like to see “church” carried on as God intended. We are to minister one to another. The same thing is true if your youngsters are sitting with you. Teach them how to be involved. Don’t just keep them quiet! When they ask you a question, don’t just say, “Shhhh!” It might be an inquiry about the church or the service or God or what’s going on inside them. Encourage responses from them. “Well, what will people think?” They’ll probably think all the wrong things. Jesus warned us there *will* be persecution (Mt.5:11,12; 1Cor.4:12;2Tim.3:12). What is more important to you?

Young people today? No wonder they don’t want to go to church! Church bores them. We try to do some of the activities we see done in the world, only we do it poorly. Really. If you want to get kids excited about going to church let the Spirit of God flow through them! Teach them and train them to hear His prophetic voice, to sense His presence, to move under His anointing, to discern what the Spirit saith to the Church! Teach them Who it is that we worship, and why we raise our hands and hearts in adoration and praise! You won’t be able to keep them from attending then. “You know what, Mom. I was used of God today! Really, Mom, I was. There was this person...” That’s where the joy is! Knowing our God and working with Him as He ministers to the people. Amen.

In days gone by, recent days gone by, we’ve locked the Holy Spirit out of our churches because He didn’t flow within our time schedules. He was always going over the time allotted. ☺ So, we felt we had to attend to the various needs and time pressures of the people and said, “Alright, Holy Spirit, this is the last time You’re coming! We’ve got a schedule to keep! We have busy people here. And we have to be prudent in what we’re doing. We just don’t have time for all this...”

And not only the time element, He continually used the wrong people! “When He uses Sister So-and-So, everyone gets upset and we just cannot take that chance again.” We felt we had to monitor what went on in the services and almost screen the participants. Now, we’ve developed home groups for that kind of ministry, but not in the main service. “The main service is for…”

I am fully aware of what’s happening in churches today, and understand all the intricate workings as well as the “politics.” And pastors know I love them. I’ve dedicated many years to making a difference in the lives of pastors. There are so many outside pressures coming to bear on our leaders today. But you, we in the pews, have to grow up too. We need to be out there and visible, encouraging our pastors to reach out for even more of God than they already have. We should be saying, “We’re not going to settle for this anymore: No more shallowness. No more foolishness. No more competition for attention. No more ignoring the ways of God. This is His house. We need to meet Him here!”

I believe if Jesus came to earth at this time, He wouldn’t be able to accomplish much if He spent only 33 years – it wouldn’t be sufficient time to make enough whips to clean out all the places that need to be cleaned out. It is written, “My house shall be Mine. It shall be called a house of prayer (Isa.56:7; Mt.21:13; Mk.11:17; Lk.19:46; Jer.7:3-11). *It’s where I’m in charge.*” Aren’t you hungry for that purity? It’s coming back, my friends.

I want us to look at **four responsibilities following Revival** we have as individuals in the Body of Christ.

1. The first point is, **hold fast to everything true you’ve found in God.**

We don’t necessarily lose anything, but too often, we fail to act on whatever new revelation we’ve discovered. People have said to me, “Oh, I look forward to coming to a conference when you’re going to be the speaker. The message is so freeing.” One lady said something that revealed a great deal about the Body of Christ – and oh, it hurt me so deeply. First, she said something to me that was specific and confidential for me – and then she said, “Do you receive that?” And I said, “Oh, I certainly do.” Her reply was the “kicker.” “Oh, thank you so much, I’ve been made fun of so much in the church.” I ached at how we have treated one another in the Church.

I wonder how many have been made fun of in the church. Don’t be ashamed to admit it to yourself and to the Lord. He already knows the truth of it. “In Jesus name, I’m asking, God, for a healing to come right now to each of these people who have responded to this thought. Lord, we forgive those who have hurt us. We really do, in the name of Jesus. And I pray the healing balm of Gilead to come now, in Jesus’ name, and loose these people from that hurtful memory. Set them free, Lord.” Hallelujah!

This would be a good moment to get back to the basics. Perhaps we also need to ask God for the wisdom that we didn’t have before, but that would have made it safer to express His anointing. Maybe we need Him to restore the direction that we surrendered in the fear of being hurt again. Let me show you something in Isaiah 40. This is an aside, really, but important for this subject. This is such a prophetic word and so needed today.

Pastors especially, I pray you are getting this deep into your spirits, because if you can build this kind of a church, where people are encouraged to grow in God and are covered when they make silly mistakes, you will not have a church building big enough to hold all the people. Now, when you begin to allow the Holy Spirit to flow through people, you *are* going to see some crazy things. You will see *flesh* in operation. But, don’t be afraid of flesh. Flesh is easily controlled. You basically say, “Sit down and hold your tongue!” ☺ It’s really not hard to control that if you offer some instruction as well.

There is another sort of “wild element” we fear in the congregation. But, again, if you have spiritual discernment, you don’t have to worry about a satanic influence either. You will be able to spot it

instantly and know how to handle that too. You say, “In the name of Jesus I take authority over that spirit.” We tend to just be afraid. The enemy is good at that! We need to grow up. Become more certain about *who you are in God* so you can let some of these things happen, correct them, and not be threatened. We have to *practice* some things so that we all may learn. It’s alright to take some of those people, who are moving more in the flesh than in the spirit, into home groups for training and instruction. Say to them, “Now every little thought that comes into your head – don’t blame it on God.” ☺ Teach them that just because a thought comes, it doesn’t mean it has to escape from the opening in front of the face! ☺ There are valuable, deep spiritual truths about discerning God, and the timing and order in the service that we simply have to teach.

Isaiah 40:1. “Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.” That’s a command. This is a prophetic word for the day of restoration. This entire chapter is on restoration. You can go through it and discover that it actually fit a particular period of ancient history, and it fit a particular nation (Israel), but it also relates to the New Testament believers who have been grafted in (Rom.11:17ff), and to any day of restoration including today. I hope you can see that *timelessness and universality about God’s Word*. If you do, then you can also see the relevance for us currently in another time and another culture.

Everything that is instructive there and then is relevant for us today. The Word says, “Comfort ye my people, saith your God.” Comfort, here, from the Hebrew, means, “cause to breathe again.” Hallelujah! “Cause My people to breathe again.” Oh, I want to be able to be a part of that, don’t you? I really do. I want to be an instrument to cause God’s people once again to be able to breathe. Sometimes we just hold our breath – waiting for something more to happen – and we need to breathe again. Sometimes we feel our breath has been “taken away” by unexpected events taking place, or by “bad news.”

That time of bringing comfort is going to follow Revival. True, it’s a part of ministry right now, preceding Revival, and it certainly will be a part of it in the “noonday,” at the apex. But it’ll have to follow as well. You see, there are going to be people that will be in churches that will be told the move is over, it’s accomplished, it’s ended, and now we just have a new *burden* to pray and seek and worry about getting another move. And they’re going to suck their breath in, hold it, and be unable to breathe. And God says, “Now I want you to go out there and cause My people to breathe again. Comfort them.”

How do you do that? By encouraging them to *do*, to live out the wonderful thing – the truth, the liberty, the healing, the anointing – that God brought into their lives during the noonday of the Revival. We need to ask ourselves these questions: What is the on-going revelation? How do I see God? What’s new about God? What do I know today that I didn’t know yesterday? What do I know in the Revival that I didn’t know before the Revival? Then, we must embrace those revelations, and as we move on in God, as we grow in the Spirit and in our spirits, the ministry will heighten – your ministry – their ministry – our ministry. And we will begin to see children who don’t just sing “Jesus loves you,” but children who can stand up and say, “Thus saith the Lord, God, Almighty!”

There’ll be a place made for children to minister. As the adults begin to see teenagers instructing the younger children, there’ll be a place made. When I declared this type of ministry through children once, the pastor challenged me. He said, “Alright. I’d like you to meet with our Sunday School teachers and I’d like *you*...” Literally, what he said was, “You think this will work? Sell my teachers on it!” I said, “Great! When?” We all met together and I shared about what I had seen in the other location.

Years ago, when I was in children’s work I learned that children are much easier to work with than adults. So I said, “How many of you would like to try this to see if it would work here?” A couple of the teachers were sincerely interested in the adventure. One taught the ten-year-olds and one taught the eight-year-olds. So, I said, “Let’s make ministers out of the ten-year-olds. I want you to teach them that they can lay hands on the sick and expect the sick to recover; they can lay hands on individuals who will receive the Holy Spirit; and they can lead others to Christ” – all things found in the Great Commission given to Jesus’ followers before He ascended to Heaven (Mk.16:15-18).

This teacher went back to her class where she had assistant teachers and a very large group of ten-year-olds, and they began to teach that faith level to the children. It wasn't very long, perhaps three weeks, when we took the ten-year-olds into the eight-year-old class and said, "Minister!" The kids went in there and laid hands on the younger ones. They all were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues. When the Sunday School hour was over they were still ministering under the anointing of God and in the power of the Holy Spirit with signs following (Mk.16:17).

Finally, from the main service the pastor sent for them. When the children came into the adult service, they looked like little light bulbs! I don't know who was more turned on, those who had done the ministering or those who had received the ministry! The kids lined up to testify and we had to shut them down! They took the mike in turn and simply testified: "Jesus filled me with His Holy Ghost." "John laid hands on me and told me just to trust Jesus." "Marion laid hands on me; I had this headache before..." And the miracles were flowing because they weren't smart enough to know it wasn't possible, or wasn't for today, or that the pastor didn't say the prayer himself!

You want revival started in your boys and girls? Start with it in your youth department. The Bible says, "Be not weary." Be not weary – what? In what? In good things. Don't just say, "Yeah, we know we get weary with sin; weary with the world in which we live and work." God says, "Don't get weary in well doing (Gal.6:9; 1Cor.15:58; 2Thes.3:13). Do the things that are good and don't stop. Keep it going."

2. Secondly, we have to have faith.

The first point was, **hold fast**. Second is, **have faith**. Faith for what? Faith for on-going revelation.

Following the last great move of God, it was as though He made a specific covenant with specific churches. One church was known for evangelism, another for healing, another for miracles, another for deliverance, and so on. Those were *corporate blessings*, or anointings, poured out upon certain churches. Those churches have been filled with individuals – hear me now – believing themselves to be as mature as the *corporate* blessing indicated. Let me illustrate: here's a person sitting in a specific church that has, let's say, the corporate blessing of evangelism. This person, therefore, believes *himself* to be a soul-winner, because every service he has attended, hundreds of people have been saved.

I know what I'm saying. Here's a personal example: I don't preach to "sinners," you know that. Sinners in my meetings sit there and say, "I have no idea what she is saying. What language is it?" God has called me to minister to the Church, the Body of Christ, and we all know that. But following my ministry in the church in our example above, not once, twice, but every time I've ever spoken in that church, the pastor gets up when I am finished, makes an altar call, and hundreds of people get saved. Every time! It is a *corporate blessing*. The people in that church think they are soul-winners because of that corporate blessing. That was for *then*...

But presently, we are in that moment between seasons, a moment of individualism, when the Lord is giving opportunity to *individuals* to see how mature or immature we really are. Some of us, He is leaving in the larger church setting. Some, He is removing from the corporate and sending us out as individuals. That's when you find out what you possess of God. You can no longer dial the phone and call on the leader of the corporate blessing to do whatever it is he does. Hello?

That's what God is doing today – He is moving in and through individuals. You'll discover that God just puts you in situations where He says, "What have you got?" "Oh, well, I could never... I mean... Not me..." I can just hear Him respond, "You better!" Friend, I'm talking about you! God wants each of us to actually live at the level of what we know about Him.

Now, in the next move of God, He is going to come, in all the fullness of His power, to individuals who have dealt with this revelation of themselves. Either we are willing to live by what we know or we are content merely to know great truths without practical lifestyle applications, and that's enough to satisfy

us. God will pour out His Spirit *then* on the ones who have proven, if you will, by their actions *now*, that they are truly hungry of what he has to offer. Those are going to be the only mature vessels that can handle this next move! “But, Iverna, you said that it will hit all the churches – all the mega-churches, all the little churches.” That’s right! Because there will be *individuals* in all of those churches, and in some of them it may seem like another corporate outpouring because there will be so many individuals, who during this moment of judgment – judgment begins where? – in this moment, today while God is judging *us... proving us...* You see, God judges His people much differently than He judges the godless.

He judges us by revelation of ourselves to ourselves. We might think of it as dramatic reality-checks. By the way, He judges us by the positives not the negatives. I remember when I was in this moment of revelation (evaluative judgment), when the Lord began to reveal all this to me. At three different locations, three different individuals came to me and said, “Iverna, the Lord would say to you that He’s well-pleased with you. And the reason He’s pleased...” and they went on with this tremendous thing in this certain area that I was doing right. And I felt so good about that. “Thank you. Praise the Lord. You’re right, you know!” ☺

Then through the second person, the same word came, “Iverna, the Lord would just encourage you and say that He is well-pleased with this and this and this.” I really felt better then. And by the third message, I was feeling very good about myself. Then it dawned on me (by *revelation?*) that on a scale of one to ten, I *missed* seven. Are you hearing truth? God doesn’t come to you and say, “You don’t do this, and you missed that, and you don’t do this, or that. And you’re not faithful in any of these!” He comes and says, “Let Me tell you about the good things I am seeing. Maybe you’re smart enough to figure out the rest.” Now that’s why we don’t go further faster, because we get so excited with any positive that God says about us, we don’t realize what He’s actually saying is there are other things we need to attend to, fix, correct. There’s more! There’s always more of God to be applied in our lives.

Why do we spend a whole year bragging on how God used us in a life? That ought to be between twelve and one o’clock – during our lunch time – every day – that God uses us in someone else’s life! But no. When He uses us in just one life, we feel we qualify to get on the speaking circuit! “Yes, you see I’m the one that laid hands on so-and-so and they were absolutely set free, immediately released from drugs and alcohol.” It is a tremendous thing when God uses us, but our response so often is, “I can speak, let’s see, next June.” That is pride.

God says, “That sort of ministry is to be *normal Christian living!*” At least it should be! Church, we are so far from that! “God, I’m asking in Jesus’ name that You will bring us back to what You say is ‘normal Christian living.’ I pray that You will give insight and revelation and knowledge and boldness for Your people, especially Your pastor-shepherds, to stand and declare ‘This is God’s way.’ We will train up our children (Pr.22:6) and we will encourage God’s people (1Cor.14:3,12) and we will comfort them (Isa.40:1) and we will prepare vessels” (Mt.28:20; Lk.1:17c).

Have Faith. *We have to have faith to go from strength to strength.* You say, “Ohhh, ‘glory.’ Yes! ‘From glory to glory’ (2Cor.3:18), that’s wonderful! We’ve done that!” No, we haven’t! We’ve gone from weakness to strength to weakness to strength. But the Bible says we should go from what? Strength to strength. *We need faith to go from glory to glory.*

What is glory? Light, illumination, revelation. Sadly, we don’t go from glory to glory! We don’t go from light to light! If we get one revelation in a lifetime, we camp on it! We become the expert on that truth. “That’s the one that had the revelation about...” and on and on.... Oh, really? I’d like to talk to him. From glory to glory, we’re *changed*. From revelation to revelation. I am personally excited about this revelation I’m sharing with you, but I’m not going to be that excited about it a year from now. “Okay. I got that, Lord, now what else?” Can you understand that? It’s not that an earlier revelation is no longer active, valid or true, but we must be changing, always growing, strengthening – from glorious revelation to glorious revelation. I want you to be able to say the same: “I got that. I’m moving in that. I’m embracing it. Now what’s next, Lord?”

If you want people to be excited about attending your churches, begin to give them a revelation instead of sermons that bring only exhortations. Bring them light – greater understanding. “Well, I would if I had it!” If you don’t feel you have that fresh revelation, then you need to press into God until you get it! He will oblige your request because His desire is to feed His children with fresh bread!

Here’s another deep truth: *we need to have faith to go from fear to love*. I believe the Lord showed me something and I’m going to share it with you. The Lord said, “One of the great **lacks** in the last move of God was an absence of the fear of the Lord.” It didn’t come with the last move – it wasn’t taught and it wasn’t demonstrated by the leadership.

In the circles where God began to move, the people of God took hold of *faith* in a fresh way, and beautifully so. I thank God for that truth and the message that came to us. We desperately needed it. But there was very little fear of the Lord in that message. The attitude was, I am His vessel and He’s come to me. I am His child and because of that I will do what I will do. We found privilege and liberty in that revelation. *No wonder when we finally learned to give thanks and praise, we could not come into worship!* There was no fear – no *awe* of Who our God is. Are you hearing this carefully?

It is hard to worship something you feel is equal with yourself. So I said, “Lord, why did You do that? Why did You bring this great manifestation of Your Spirit and not couple it with the fear of the Lord. He responded like this: “Because I brought *the higher way*. I brought the message of *love*.” I said, “Love? Love and fear? Fear and love? Love and fear coupled together?” “Oh, yes!” He said. But we failed to understand fully what God was revealing of Himself.

In the Charismatic Renewal, there was a man who became known as the “apostle of love.” He was a concert pianist and very popular in certain circles. In this great move, God absolutely apprehended this man and said, “Let Me tell you about love.” A great explosion of the revelation of love came to him and for awhile, in the early Charismatic days, he was a much sought-after speaker. He wrote a book or two and spoke at every Charismatic Clinic that was being held throughout this nation. He was so popular, for awhile. And then, it got to be almost a joke. You’d say his name and someone would say, “Oh, yeah, isn’t he sweet. Just the ‘apostle of love.’” And God said to me, “*My Body refused the revelation of love because they thought they already knew it!*” When they wanted “deeper” teaching, they brought in someone else, because “*All he knows about is love.*” All he knows! What more inexhaustible subject could there be? Love. God’s kind of love.

Now the Lord said to me, I believe this with all my heart, “*Because they refused that message, I am going to return them to law.*” I said, “Law?” “Oh, yes!” He said. “Fear is law!” That’s why you find so much about the fear of the Lord in the Old Testament and so very little about it in the New. Where did the fear of the Lord come? From the Law. The Lord says, “I’m going to bring them back to law.” I inquired, “How are You going to do it?” He said, “How’d I do it with Peter?” Do you remember the story of Ananias and Sapphira (Ac.5)? God says, “I’m going to have to *scare* My people into proper worship. You’re going to see some things you haven’t seen before.”

Oh, we’ve gotten by with things – too many things. We make statements like, “I’m just plain mad at God. I know I shouldn’t say that, but I don’t care. I’m just mad at God, I tell you. It doesn’t seem *fair* the things I’ve had to go through. I’m just mad at God.” That’s how far *beneath* the fear of the Lord we have come! We dare to argue with Him! Have you ever heard someone say, “Just pray for me. The Lord’s asked me to do something and I just can’t do it!” Where’s the fear of the Lord? There’s no fear, no reverence for Who God is in that! “I’m not sure I’m going to do what You’ve asked me to do, God!” We have become very careless, my friends. We have forgotten or neglected to highly esteem this God we serve – the God Who loved us first (1Jn.4:19; Jn.15:16) and gave His Son to make that way for us to have fellowship with Him at all! (Jn.3:16,17; Rom.5:1-11).

We need to understand the God we serve. He prefers for us to enter into a *love-relationship* with Him that reveals our heart: “God, I love you so completely I want to please You in every thought and word and deed of my life!” But we wouldn’t take the love. I said, “Oh, God. Is there any other way? Do you really have to reduce us and return us to fear?” He said, “Yes, but it will be a short lesson, for My people in My next revelation to them, are going to embrace the revelation of love. And I will have a people who live in contrast to worldly lusts” (1Jn.2:15-17).

That’s one reason why God is dealing with you about your marriages. He wants to set the *pattern* – the place where the purity of God exists – where love is love. That’s why He wants to teach men to love their wives (Eph.5:26; 5:2) and wives to love their husbands (Eph.5:22) and parents to love their children (Eph.6:4; Lk.1:17) – so that there is that right focus for the on-going, in-depth revelation of the pure love of God. Oh Church, that’s what’s going to win the world! It will be the revelation of His incredible love for mankind!

The fear of the Lord isn’t for the *unbeliever*. *The fear of the Lord causes the unbeliever to run in fear, but it causes the believer to bow in adoration*. Every knee *shall* bow (Isa.45:22,23; Rom.14:11; Phil.2:10,11) – when we proclaim a loving, loving Lord. We’re to hold fast to His truth, and have faith.

3. Thirdly, we’re to help those who labor.

Even though we believe that God is going to move through the individual believer in the next move, it is still His plan for us to be anchored in the local church. I do not believe that He will allow anyone of us to function very long if we have removed ourselves from under (in submission to) a local church. You say, “Well, that just belies everything you just said!” No it doesn’t. It brings everything into proper perspective. We are not to be in bondage to that local church, but we are to be dedicated there, because *that’s God’s way*. And God put you there to be a support for that Body, not a part of the problem. “Well, but I see these things that are ‘wrong.’ It’s just not right.” Then, hit your knees! You’d be surprised what God can do when we live according to His plan. And, you’d be surprised at the changes that can come in response to our intercession on behalf of others. It doesn’t take very many people praying. He says, “I get two or three together in My name, I’ll show up!” (Mt.18:20) Hallelujah!

What I’m trying to challenge you to do is to *affect a change in your church*. That must begin in you. You be the change, the example, the pattern – and then you effect, or work that change into others. It doesn’t happen by you having a consultation with the pastor and setting up a “program.” “Now, Pastor, what you need to do from this point on is...” Have your appointment with the Father and say, “Father, when my pastor opens the Word this week to get a message for the Body, explode it to him. Oh, God, bring the revelation to his spirit. Bring that fresh bread of life for Your people to feed on. God, when he prays a prayer he has memorized, somehow indelibly imprint every word of it in his being. When he says, ‘Our Father,’ be that to him. Oh, God, become a greater reality in his life.” And then when God explodes that church wide open and Revival begins to come and the flow of the Holy Spirit comes – take full credit for it! You *prayed* it in!

Let’s consider the story in Acts chapter 6 to discover how the local church needs individuals to support the on-going work it is called to fulfill. In this context, the “noonday” of chapters 2-4 has ended. Now they’re “on-going” and they recognize that the preachers have to give themselves to study, prayer and the preaching of the Word. There’s only one way a preacher can do that – and that’s if he has anointed laity to do everything else administratively in the church. Do you see it there in chapter 6? In verse 2 it says, “Then the twelve called the *multitude of the disciples* unto them, and said, ‘It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. So, brothers, look out among you for seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this *business*. But we’ll give *ourselves* continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word” (italics added).

Oh, how our churches would change if we would get hold of this truth! If we would take the burden of administration away from the pastors, and everything else temporal that pastors worry about, and say,

“Pastor, just pray and study. We’re so hungry for revelation from God’s Word.” Hallelujah! “Well, they could do that. There are plenty of people in the church.” Oh, yes! Having been a pastor, I know how they feel – there surely are plenty of people in the church, who have plenty of *personal* ideas (agendas). Not very many who are full of faith and the Holy Ghost! “God, give us some Stephens and some Philips and some Phoebes and some Priscillas. Oh, God, give us some Marys. Give us some people in the church who stay so filled up with Your Holy Spirit that they don’t see any duties in the church and evaluate them as high or low, important or unimportant.”

I believe we are all going to be surprised when the rewards are passed out in Heaven. When they call my name, “Iverna Mary Cornwall Tompkins,” you’re going to hear a multitude hit their feet. Thousands! Responding for “my” reward! I actually saw that in a vision. I know it’s true. My name was called in this vision of “Heaven’s Reward Banquet,” and I heard these multitudes stand in response. I said, “Well that’s ridiculous! There’s only three Ivernas I know of, and I’m related to both of the others!” I looked out on this multitude and saw the people who have supported me financially and in prayer, as well as those who have received the Word as I preached it. Did you know that’s a ministry? Do you know it’s a ministry to *receive the Word* of the speaker?

I saw them in the vision: a multitude of people, hundreds, probably thousands of people, standing on their feet. “Great!” I thought. “I know my crown’s not that big! How am I going to share a piece with each of these people?” And then I began to see the angels fly in. They carried identical crowns for each person. Everyone received their own. Mine wasn’t any bigger or brighter than the others. Do you understand what I’m saying? *We’re* the ones who put “high” and “low” labels on various types of ministry. “Oh, she’s so used of God! You know she speaks all over the world.” Big deal! I couldn’t make it without them. I’m totally serious. There’s no way I could make it, or be the least bit “successful” if I didn’t have an army of prayer warriors staying on their knees at home while I’m out there traveling and speaking.

It’s the supernatural power of God that gives me strength to go and do, and that’s because they stay and pray and hold me up before His Throne of Grace. We must learn to help those who labor among us (1Thes.5:12; Heb.13:7,17) and simply release that problem that cries (whines?), “They don’t appreciate me!” Why should they? Unless, of course, you are doing what you’re doing for *them*. “Well, I wouldn’t mind doing it if they just appreciated it some!” Then I know who you work for, because you *know* the Lord appreciates everything we do, especially our obedience to what He has directed for each of us to do. Everything! No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly (Psa.84:11). He’s out to do you good and bless you, and bless you, and bless you some more.

Get involved in the local church and begin to move where you are presently standing. The early church selected Stephen (Ac.6:5) to be one of the worker-bees. And Stephen stood up, received the appointment, and said, “Fine, I’m glad to be a part of serving the tables.” Remember, these people were to carry out the more “menial” chores in the church. It wasn’t very long before Stephen was actually “ministering” much in the name of the Lord, while carrying out his temporal assignments. Miracles began to flow through Stephen (vs.8). The people in a certain place didn’t like it (vs.9). The report went to headquarters, not of the church, but politically (vs.12). He was called in to give account and his answer was one of the most dynamic sermons you can find in the Bible!

Expect persecution and reproach. Get ready! And get your sermon ready too! So they said to Stephen, “What is this you’re doing?” (Ac.7:1). “Why I appreciate your asking! You see...” and Stephen reviewed the history of the Israelites from the call of Abraham, which they could not deny, and revealed the miraculous hand of God in all of that history. He preached such a vibrant truth that the people were pricked in their hearts and consciences (Ac.7:54a). And when the people are pricked in their consciences by the Holy Spirit bringing that conviction (Jn.16:8,9), they make a decision against God, but they will take it out on you! Do not be surprised by that! “...and they gnashed on him with their teeth” (v.54b). Now, that’s being mad! They literally gnashed on him with their teeth. Acts chapter 7 tells the whole story.

Stephen stands there and looks at his persecutors. His memory triggers back to seeing Someone else, persecuted and crucified; One who didn't deserve it. He's not having a pity-party there as they stone him, he's connecting. "Lord – what shall I do now? What now? Oooohhh, yes. I remember what He said, 'Father, forgive them. Lay not this sin to their account'" (Ac.7:60). And as he made the decision to say that, forgiving and releasing them, he said, "I see the Lord. I see Him at the right hand of the Father" ((7:55-56). True, Stephen is standing there, being stoned by the mob. But he's already gone! He's already in another world! "I see You. I'm coming! Oh, hallelujah! It's been a joy to serve You here. It's a greater joy to come home to You! 'For me to live is grace, but to die is even better!'" (see Phil.1:21). He kept his eyes on Jesus (Heb.12:2).

And they stoned him to death (7:60-8:1). But the Revival didn't die because Philip was still alive (8:5). And then the Revival didn't die because of Saul of Tarsus – who dramatically met the Lord (Ac.9) and was also known as the Apostle Paul (13:9). And the Revival didn't die because Peter..." (9:31). And the Revival didn't die because John got a fresh revelation – Hallelujah! – John, the evangelist who wrote that marvelous account of Jesus' life (the Gospel). The same John comes back on the scene with an in-depth revelation of love in his Epistles (1, 2 and 3 of John). And then gave us this marvelous wrap-up Book – the Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ. That's the on-going revelation. *It was never intended to end*, my friend. It was intended to be eternal, to last from generation through generation. Rising, rising, rising – the people learning – embracing – seeing what God would show. I believe it still can happen!

4. The last of the points is: Hallow Father's name.

Hallow Father's name. You may be thinking, "We already talked about the fear of the Lord!" Well, I'm not just thinking on that level. The truth is we are the carriers of the name of the Lord. Jesus said, "Everything you see Me do, that's the Father. Everything you hear Me say, that's the Father. The words I speak, it's the Father. The actions I do, they're the Father's" (Jn.14:10f). And then He turned to the disciples and added, "Now the work that I've brought forth, I expect you to carry on from here!" (Jn.14:12; Jn.5:36). That's been an on-going thing and that's what the church has to rise to do now.

We are called Christ-ones – Christian (first in Antioch, Ac.11:26). What do people today think of Christ? Do they see Him as loving and forgiving, tender and kind and true, but firm and strong? Do they see Him as Holy and righteous, yet filled with mercy and longsuffering? Is that what *our* lives exemplify? Do they see joy and peace, hope, satisfaction, righteousness, upright living, integrity?

If not, then we lie when we pray, "Hallowed by thy name" (Mt.6:9; Lk.11:2). You are, perhaps, the only "Bible" some people ever will be exposed to. You are God's representative, His ambassador. I'm His representative. We are walking, living, breathing billboards for God. When people look at me and see only the negatives in my life, that's how they see my God. If I "hallow" Him and His Name (show great respect, awe and reverence, love and adoration), they will see that and be positively affected. If I display my lack of honor to the Lord through my attitudes and behavior, they will see that and be even more greatly affected by the negatives. Let us daily, no, moment by moment choose to be a demonstration of the love of God, the provision of God, the portion of God, the hand of God extended to minister to a hurting people, to a whole generation that has yet to hear..

Let me pray with you, even through the written word we can pray together. I know you've heard from God! And blessed are your hearts for they have heard some things that others have not heard. Precious are you, for you have received the Word. I don't know specifically what you've received as individuals. There are so many nuggets of truth included in this message that it would be impossible to make a blanket conclusion and expect that all have heard and understood the same truths. Our God is capable of ministering, of quickening, to each heart exactly what that heart needs to hear and embrace. *It is our response that matters at this point*. I pray that yours is: "I have absolutely, definitely heard from God. I *know* what He has said to my heart. I am saying, 'yes' to Him in those areas." "Father, I pray for these

your people who have heard and desire to walk more completely in Your ways. Help us, each one, to grasp what You have ministered in Truth and be determined to change what needs to be changed, and embrace what needs to be embraced, and adopt what needs to be adopted into our lives. We look to You, O God, for divine aid as we walk in fresh revelation, knowing what we need to do differently. Amen.”