

A Great need of Our Age

A short time back a young Christian told me that he needed to start living like he believed the Bible. This could be said of more than him alone. One of the greatest needs of our age is a spiritual revival. Not a revival in the emotional sense, but in the tradition of the Acts of the Apostles, a religious and spiritual revival unparalleled in the history of the world. Isaiah wrote, *“For thus sayeth the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones (Isa. 57:15).”* To be revived means to be brought back to life, or consciousness; to come back into use; to become effective or operative again.

There is one great characteristic which, if sought and developed, will help to effect a spiritual revival in our lives, bringing us closer to God, enabling us with greater understanding of His will, and integrating us more effectively into His service: That is to establish and cultivate a greater, more profound sense of respect and dependence upon God. No open minded person can read the Bible without being impressed that our Heavenly Father is the supreme and sovereign ruler of the universe, and that every good and perfect gift comes from Him (Jas. 1:17). Jesus taught that the Father’s will is paramount in importance in heaven and on earth (Mat. 6:10). Consequently, man’s will must always be lost in the will of God. To have less than this full submission to God is to be in opposition to His goal for all mankind and the single minded aim of the faithful, that the will of God be done on earth even as it is in heaven. Paul wrote of religious people who were so out of touch with God’s word and will that they behaved as if He did not exist, or had nothing to say in spiritual matters: *“They profess that they know God; but in works they deny Him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate (Tit. 1:16).”* In the past couple of decades there have been a flurry of preachers who professed that they no longer believed or taught what they previously held to regarding the distinctiveness of the church and the inherent authority of the scriptures. They speak their minds, with no reference to Bible teaching, saying that there is no perfect set of doctrine. This, in their minds, makes all doctrine (teaching) equal. Never mind that the inspired word (2 Tim. 3:16) declares its perfection (Jas. 1:25), and its ability to perfect and thoroughly equip the man of God for every good work (2 Tim. 3:17). The result of this unbelief is dead, useless, ineffective, superficial, human religion and churches of the same. All such works based upon the fallible intellect of man, no matter how popular, and not upon the word of God deny Him and His right to rule in the lives of all mankind.

Wherever in the church complacency, apathy and error exist, wherever all Christians are not faithfully and obediently active in godly service, revival is needed. Jesus intended for the great spiritual revival initiated in His Great Commission to continue to the end of the Christian age (Mat. 28:18-20). This means that you and I are intended to be a part of it. Where are we? God does exist and has much to say. Let us live and teach as if we believe it!

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