

REVIVAL FIRES

The purifying flame of revival fires is needed in every church, every community, and in the heart and life of every individual Christian. The periods of special refreshing are needed from the Lord.

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Pentecost culminated in special period of tarrying and waiting in the presence of the Lord for the divine manifestation in the coming of the Holy Spirit which has been promised by Jesus. Jesus commanded his disciples to observe this special period before he left the world.

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Under the impetus of the revival at Pentecost a new era was ushered in. The world was made conscious of a dynamic church. It was the beginning of a trail of conquest in spiritual things, the like of which the world had never known. The phenomenal manifestations at Pentecost were so marked and overwhelming that men could not resist making the query: "What meaneth this?"

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Conviction for sin came upon men of the world, when the disciples became a flame with the divine glory. The victory and triumph which men of the world saw manifest in the disciples, so magnified their own defeat and bondage in sin, that they could not refrain from making inquiry concerning the way of eternal life: "Men and brethren, what must we do?"

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A revival awakens from lethargy and indifference. It arouses to a new sense of responsibility. It uplifts the feeble hands that hang low. It breaks up the fallow ground. It releases arrows of conviction which pierce the hearts of unsaved men until it may be said as of the men at Pentecost: "They were pricked in their heart."

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Revivals do not come by accident or chance. The fundamental laws which govern the manifestations of revival power are as binding and as unchangeable as the law of gravitation. When these laws are ignored, the revival power of Pentecost will not be manifest. The laws of revival are as dependable and as unchangeable as are the laws of sowing and reaping for the farmer.

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Pentecost could not be realized until certain conditions had been fulfilled on the part of the disciples. If they had failed to obey the command of Jesus to "tarry," the comforter would not have come. God is no respecter of persons or places in regard to those who may meet the conditions and obtain the benefits of his revival power in the Holy Spirit.

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The Gentiles later received the Holy Ghost, even as did the disciples at Pentecost, to which Peter makes reference: "And God . . . giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; and put no difference between us and them." God has made the laws governing revival power accessible and available unto all who will lay hold and appropriate them. The early disciples of Jesus were lacking in rank and worldly position, but revival power in the Holy Ghost was mightily manifest through them.

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The laws of the revival are clearly revealed in connection with Pentecost. Jesus commanded his disciples: "Tarry ye at Jerusalem

until ye be endued with power from on high." The time during which the disciples tarried extended over a period of ten days. There can be no manifestations of revival power without prayer as a strong supporting factor. Those who seek the manifestations of God's grace in revival power, must give much time to earnest, persistent, prevailing prayer.

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The channel for mediating revival power is the word of truth as revealed in the word of God. Jesus prayed for his disciples: "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." There is an effectual working in the word of God as is expressed in the words of the apostle: "The word of God, which effectually worketh." Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost was prefaced with the words: "But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel." There must be a firm and bold proclamation of "Thus saith the Lord" as the only sure foundation for any genuine revival.

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The Holy Ghost must be honored and recognized as the divine agent for the conviction of sin, saving the lost, and sanctifying believers. The extent of the revival in dynamic power for the total soul needs of men may be measured by the extent to which the Holy Ghost is relied upon for the fulfillment of all the provisions of divine grace. If we fail to honor the Holy Ghost in executing the provisions of grace for sanctifying power, the revival will be curtailed at this point. The revival at Pentecost was a full-orbed revival and this same type of revival is needed today.

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Christ must be exalted as the center and source of the revival. Jesus said: "If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." Jesus is the divine magnet of attraction. His attraction is the compulsion of infinite love for the lost. "God commendeth his love toward us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Jesus is "the lily of the valley," "the bright and morning star," "the fairest of ten thousand," "the one altogether lovely." There is none like unto him either in heaven or in earth. He is above all and over all and is the only Saviour for the souls of men.

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The law of witnessing was manifest at Pentecost—"they . . . began to speak"; "every man heard them speak"; "they continuing in the temple . . . and . . . from house to house." The revival at Pentecost centered about a place of worship—"an upper room"; "the temple" and "from house to house." The background of Peter's sermon was the witnessing of Spirit-filled disciples on the streets in the homes, in fact everywhere, to the saving power of Christ. The result of the observance of these fundamental revival laws will still bring revivals in our churches, communities, and camp meetings.—Pentecostal Herald.

PATIENCE

Be patient and long-suffering toward sinners. Such is the value of one soul that it is worth waiting all your days to save it. * * * * * The Lord waits with patience upon sinners, and well may you. Consider yourselves how long God was entreating with you ere you were won to Him. Be not discouraged if your success presently answers not your expectation.—Flavel.

INFINITUDE INCARNATE

John 1:14

Introduction: The incarnation of infinitude gives us the infinite God in the form of finite man. Jesus Christ is the God-man, which means God and man combined in one being. The incarnation is a great mystery to the world and a great marvel to the Christian.

I. Preincarnation State of Christ.

1. The seed royal (Gal. 3:16).

2. The Son beloved (Mark 9:7; John 17:5).

II. Predictions of the Incarnation.

1. Through the nation of Israel (Gen. 3:15; 12:1-3; 28:13-15).

2. Through the house of David (2 Sam. 7:16; Rom. 1:3).

III. Preparations for the Incarnation.

1. A body of habitation (Heb. 10:5).

2. Himself in humility (Phil. 2:6, 7).

3. An angel to bear the tidings (Luke 1:26-29).

4. A woman to bear the child (Luke 1:30-38).

IV. Purpose of the Incarnation.

1. Manifestation of God to man (I. Tim. 3:16; I. John 3:5-8).

2. Redemption of man to God (Gal. 4:4, 5).

3. Reconciliation of the world unto God (2 Cor. 5:17-21).

—Paul M. Tharp

HOW ABOUT USHERS FOR YOUR MEETING?

Ushers who look pleasing, feel pleasing, and are pleasing.

Ushers who will not seat people during prayer, Scripture reading, the offering, or other important parts of the service (if it can be avoided).

Ushers who know how to shake hands and make people welcome without being affected.

Ushers who will fill the front seats first.

Ushers who will please, so far as possible, making all feel comfortable.

Ushers who are acquainted and will be on the alert to make others so.

Ushers who are quiet, willing, tactful, and "kindly affectioned."

Ushers who are thankful and prayerful; who, like the Psalmist, can say, "I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness."—H. K. Sheets.

PASTORS I HAVE HEARD

Con

"I'm tired of these endless appeals for help," complained Pastor Doolittle, after having gone through his morning mail. "Here is a mission in Latin America, one in Africa, one in China—and all of them need help. Each seems to think its need is urgent. I wonder how we would ever pay our bills if we paid attention to all these needs. It looks to me as though missions is becoming a racket."

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"I've just received news from six mission fields informing me of their work. That really makes me happy. The gospel is being spread. I can't go into all of these places, but I'm going to pray for them all. I'll give as I am able, and then pray that the support of each mission may be fully met," said Pastor Faithful, joyously. "I'm going to get information about the progress and needs of other missions."—Selected.