

# We Must Have a Revival NOW!

By Evangelist Morris Chalfant

A short while before Dr. J. B. Chapman passed away, he said, "We have reached the place where one man plays a handsaw and another gives a 'life story' gathering big crowds and we call that a revival. No, that is not a revival; that is a farce. Tears, sweat, and blood are the price of a revival, and some of us are not willing to pay the price."

A certain pastor wrote his presiding officer, asking him to come and hold a "Quiet Day." The presiding officer declined saying, "Your church doesn't need a 'Quiet Day'; it needs an earthquake." This could be said of many denominations, and multiplied other churches, and also hundreds of thousands of individuals.

We are praying for a spiritual awakening. It is heard on every hand: "Lord, send an awakening." Let this prayer be examined in the secret chamber of the soul. Are we ready to pay God's price for an awakening? Are we willing to be stripped of all but God in order to bring in the awakening?

It is apparent that our mechanical comforts have made us indulgent and spiritually flabby. Our concern for the well-being of the physical man has well-nigh obscured sainthood. We love effortless gratification. We demand ease. We are too flabby for a moral fight. The note of sharp urgency, of desperation, for the most part is gone from our praying. We are so enslaved to the clock that we have no time for strong crying and importunate praying.

In the ranks of our beloved Zion we have the name of power—holiness; but the power is absent. We go through the motions of leading a great orchestra, but there is no gladsome music and song. We decry the unspiritual drift, but continue mouthing our prayers, "God I thank thee, that I am not as other men," while our altars remain barren and the multitudes tramp by our doors to the places of amusement and to the doors of the cults.

There are those who affirm that we have been too narrow, that we should soften the message and lower the standards and thus appeal to people who are now alienated by our message and method. This much is certain—church history affirms it—whenever a movement begins to adapt itself to worldly practices and customs, it is soon absorbed by the world. We can measure our spiritual decay and defeat by our adaptation to the world.

Our trouble lies in our unwillingness to follow God's recipe for spiritual recovery and revival. We are too easy on ourselves. We are not ready to get on our knees and come clean with God. In short, we are not willing to "break up (y) our fallow ground," sow the seed of truth, and then let the great Lord of harvest "rain righteousness" upon us. We need seriously, from the top to the bottom, to face up to Hosea's message.

Too long we as holiness people have been content just to hang on, spiritually. Perhaps we yield to the temptation to gloss over our shortcomings, to refuse actually to face ourselves honestly. "Search me, O God, and know my heart," was the cry of David as he approached God in prayer. He followed that prayer with the bold invitation to the Lord, "Try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me" (Psalms 139: 23-24). David laid bare his soul in God's presence. This is what is meant by self-searching.

Genuine soul searching by God's people will always be followed by repentance and restitution. This repentance must begin in the house of God, at the very altars of the house of God. We may sing our psalms, pay our tithes,

# AN URGENT APPEAL

The response to our annual Easter Missionary offering was gratifying with an amount in excess of \$6000. having reached the Treasurer. However, a number of churches have yet to report — if your church hasn't cared for this most important matter, please do so immediately!

Even though the Easter offering returns were commendable, funds are urgently needed to keep salaries up to date, pay furlough expenses of missionaries coming home and others returning to the Field, and care for innumerable necessities required to keep the Mission program in operation. Another \$6000. is needed by Beulah time!

As you read this brief but imperative appeal, our prayer is that three things will happen: God will lay it upon individual hearts to send a special gift to the Foreign Mission's Treasury — and the individuals will obey; that churches will make a significant contribution toward their giving for the new church year we have now entered — may we begin the new year well; and, that churches which have been delinquent in forwarding their Easter offering will send it together with a sizable amount to be credited to the account of the new church year.

Victory climaxes continual co-operation!

H. R. Ingersoll

boast of our freedom from worldly practices and customs, sleep soundly, and commend ourselves that we are not like other men. But when we look into the clear eyes of the Christ and He asks what we did with our opportunities, we will be speechless.

Let us quit glossing over our prayerlessness, criticism, self-will, covetousness, envyings, backbitings, jealousies, gossip, and loveless lip service, and name them for what they are called in God's Word—"wicked ways." It might be hard on our theology to call these awful hindrances by such a name; but the sooner we learn that holiness is more than a doctrine, the sooner we will dig down and come up with the real thing. We need a revival of repentance—a godly sorrow for our coldness, for our fruitlessness for our self-righteousness. Too long we have been concerned about the externals of the life of the Christian and far too little concerned with the lostness of the lost, the despair of the godless, the shame of sin. We need to repent lest the Heavenly Bridegroom come and remove our candlestick.

Following the path of repentance must come a thorough, complete, and unreserved dedication. Entire surrender to Christ and His truth is the price of revival. "Choose you this day whom ye will serve"; "Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Joshua 24: 15; Matthew 6: 24).

We have tried about everything to improve conditions in our beloved Zion. Our only hope is a Heaven-sent, Holy Ghost revival. We have learned we cannot scare people into the Kingdom. We cannot educate people into an experience with God. We cannot talk them into conversion with God. Men must be brought to decisions; and before that can happen, the Church must make some decisions of her own. We must decide that our only hope as a church to survive as a spiritual force if Jesus tarries is a revival, and be willing to pay whatever price is necessary to attain it. "What shall it profit a man (or a church), if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Mark 8:36).

God's Word in all ages has been plain: "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:7). We must have a revival—now!

—Herald of Holiness

The King's Highway