

### **Reasons We May Yet See Revival!**

I have arisen early on this Friday morning with continual thoughts of the results of the Teen Extreme youth camp here on the campus of Pensacola Christian College. We have seen young people saved in every invitation we have given this week, the one exception being the call for personal moral dedication -- a vow to keep themselves pure unto the Lord -- after my message on "Purity." One of the pastors told me last night that a girl they had brought was Muslim and she gave her heart to Christ this week. One young man came up to me after the service last night and asked if he could talk to me. He was an avowed agnostic who had run out of arguments and could not deny that it had to be God that was dealing with him and I had the privilege of seeing him, weeping like a baby, ask God to forgive him of his sins and accept the Lord Jesus Christ to save him. To top it off last night, I extended the invitation for young men who believe they have been called by our Lord to preach the Gospel and nine young men walked forward and took me by the hand to say they were surrendering to God's call to preach. There are 850 - 900 teens here this week and I keep seeing their hungry faces before me. Last night the front was so full of youth at the altar they were extended down all the aisles to nearly the center of this large auditorium. If some of my skeptical brothers and sisters in Christ who believe that we are not going to see revival in these last days before the coming of the Lord could see what we have seen this week, they would have to have second thoughts. Here are just a few reasons I believe we may yet witness a mighty move of God again:

#### **1. It is prophesied in Scripture.**

God promises in Acts 2:17, *"And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams."* This is the prophecy foretold by the prophet Joel in Joel 2:28. This week we have seen the Spirit of God poured out upon sons and daughters. As an older man, I have been seeing a fulfillment of some dreams. And young men have caught the vision to preach and be God's representatives in the next generation! As we come to the end of this week of camp, I am prepared to say again what was said in Acts 2:16, *"But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel."*

Technically the last days began on the day of Pentecost in the book of Acts, but as we get down to the "home stretch" and nearness of Christ's return, I believe we shall see an escalation and manifestation of the moving of the Holy Spirit. The Bible says, *"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from*

*such turn away*” (I Timothy 3: 1-5). Some say in light of this Scripture we can forget about God doing some great things in our midst. We cannot deny the sad fulfillment of the very things spoken of in these five verses in I Timothy, yet even as this strong manifestation of sin exists in the times we are living in, I am equally reminded of the Scripture that says, “... *But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound*” (Romans 5:20). So in the midst of sin abounding we claim the promise of the much more available grace of God to do a lasting work of God!

## **2. There is promised power when the Word is preached.**

Returning to the last verse we made reference of, in its entirety the verse reads, “*Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound*” (Romans 5:20). The law being referred to is the law of God, which is another way of saying, the Word of God. So what is being said is when the Bible is declared, it brings the exposure of sin as so well stated in Romans 7: 12, 13: “*Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.*” The exposure of sin by the Word exposes sin for what it really is, rebellion against God and even more “exceeding sinful.” The Word brings conviction of sin and with the conviction of sin comes repentance from sin and the acceptance of Jesus Christ as well as a consecrated dedication of one’s life to God.

Last night when talking to the former agnostic who confessed faith in Christ before the evening ended, I shared these verses with him from I Corinthians 1:18-21, “*For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.*” There is power in the preached Word of God on people’s lives. When we get the youth away from the influences of this world and then expose them to a few days of Bible preaching, souls are saved and lives are changed. “*So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it*” (Isaiah 55:11).

## **3. God answers prayer.**

I believe in the hope of revival because God has promised to answer prayer. He challenges us to believe Him when we pray. Mark 11: 22-24 says, “*And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.*”

*Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*” God is able to remove any mountain or barrier, if we pray. The Bible says, “...ye have not, because ye ask not” (James 4:2). Therefore let us pray the price!

#### **4. We have been eyewitnesses to what appears to be the precursor to revival.**

When Peter and the other disciples were commanded not to speak or teach in the name of Jesus, they replied, “*For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard*” (Acts 4:20). For all those who are unbelieving of God’s ability to do today those great and mighty things like He did in the past, I say with Peter, I cannot help but give witness to what I have seen and experienced.

Many years ago an old man was taking his grandson home in the wagon from a great revival meeting that lasted into the night. Under the starry night sky the grandson broke the pronounced silence by asking, “Grandpa, have you ever seen God?” The old man replied, “Son, on nights like tonight, He is all I can see.” I would have to say the same thing. This summer as we preach in youth camps and conferences around the country, all I am seeing is God being Himself, ruling and reigning in the hearts of surrendered people. I say with the song writer of one of our precious old hymns, “Oh, the cross has wondrous glory! Oft I’ve proved this to be true; When I’m in the way so narrow, I can see a pathway through; And how sweetly Jesus whispers: Take the cross, thou need’st not fear, For I’ve tried the way before thee, And the glory lingers near. Is not this the land of Beulah? Blessed, blessed land of light, Where the flowers bloom forever, And the sun is always bright!”

-Pastor Pope-