

The Pastor and Revival

"There is more moral persuasion in a good man's life than in the highest efforts of an orator's genius."—Thomas Chalmers

"All ministers should be revival ministers, and all preaching should be revival preaching."—C. G. Finney

"A man set on fire is an apostle of his age...Tell me, is your ministry a burning and shining light, or a smoking wick, slowly dying out to ashes? ...It is a strange custom that we should supply a minister with a glass of water; if only we could supply him with a bonfire in the pulpit, a spiritual bonfire. We need the dynamic of a flaming ministry that will set the Church on fire."—Samuel M. Zwemer

"Revivals are among the charter rights of the Church...A revival means a heartbroken pastor. A revival means a church on its knees confessing its sins—the sins of the individual and the Church—confessing the sins of the times and of the community."—E. M. Bounds

Godliness with contentment is great gain, but contentment apart from an obvious sense of God's presence is a tragedy! As ministers we must do more than put in time. More than put out fires. More than get by. More than maintain. More than make a fair show in the flesh. More than hang on until retirement.

Every pastor has a variety of duties to which he must be faithful. Chief among these are prayer and the ministry of the Word (Acts 6:4). But your primary task is your own holiness. Walking in step with the Spirit is the prerequisite for experiencing the power of God. As you commune with God, pay attention to your sanctified desires. "Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart" (Ps. 37:4). When you are filled with the Spirit, the things you want are what God wants. God gives direction to His servants through holy longings and aspirations.

Leadership is Influence

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***"God wants us to be victors, not victims; to grow, not grovel; to soar, not sink; to overcome, not to be overwhelmed"*—William A. Ward**

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As an under shepherd, you are not called merely to “wait on your congregation,” you must lead them. Too often the shepherds are following the sheep instead of the sheep following the shepherd. It is a serious and awesome obligation to be responsible for a group of people. Leadership is influence, and people are influenced more by passion than position. Your personal passion is your greatest resource in ministry. In order to impact people leaders employ messages, modeling, motivation, and mentoring. These are the tools every shepherd utilizes to equip the saints for ministry. Built into these items are the vital elements of instruction, inspection, and inspiration. These ingredients, coupled with the blasting cap of the Holy Spirit, can ignite the dynamite power of God in your midst.

The pastor is responsible to set the tone and cast the vision for the sheep. It has been said, “Sight is a function of the eyes, but vision is a function of the heart.” God’s man must discover, embrace, and implement the God-given vision for the church he shepherds. Leadership styles will vary, but above all pastors must LEAD! Like the Children of Issachar, the man of God must understand the times and know what Israel ought to do (See 1 Chron. 12:32).

Every church goes through “seasons,” and we are commanded to be “instant in season, out of season” (2 Tim. 4:2). A living church moves through periods which stress different emphases. In-reach (cleansing), side-reach (fellowship), on-reach (discipleship), up-reach (prayer), and outreach (evangelism) are all part of the mission of the local church. Of course all these are taking place simultaneously to some extent in a vibrant congregation. But there are seasons of emphasis that a sensitive shepherd will instinctively recognize and accentuate.

The Pastor Must Hear from God

When the early churches in Asia Minor strayed, God sent personal letters to the angels (messengers or pastors) of those churches. He spoke directly to the pastors and urged them to address and rectify the problems in each of those local churches. I believe there are “key situations” in most churches that merit immediate attention. As leaders take action upon these crucial matters, it frees up the atmosphere for the Holy Spirit to work powerfully. How many churches are waiting for God to move while God is waiting on those churches to obey? How many congregations could be in the throes of a mighty refreshing if only their leaders would prepare the way by obeying the Word of God?

A pastor called from the northwestern United States. In the

Our Schedule

- August 3-5
Student Prayer Advance
Appalachian Bible College
Beckley, WV
- August 27
Sunday AM & PM
First Bapt. Ch. Of Kingstowne
Alexandria, VA
- September 11
Chapel
Appalachian Bible College
Beckley, WV
- September 14-17
Rocky Mtn. Men's Advance
Woodside Baptist Church
Denver, CO
- September 24-27
Revival Summit
Grace Baptist Church
Eaton Rapids, MI
- September 29 - October 1
Prayer Summit
Hope's Point Baptist Church
Shelbyville, IN
- October 8-11
Prayer Summit
Friendship Baptist Church
Huntsville, AL
- October 15-18
Revival Summit
Gospel Light Baptist Church
Roanoke, VA
- October 27-28
Oct. 26 - Optional Session
Couples' Advance
Holiday Inn Tanglewood
Roanoke, VA

Prayer Advance Testimonies

"I thought you would be encouraged to hear a few testimonies from the MPA. No doubt many have been severely tested while facing giants. Be encouraged that grace means innumerable second chances!"

"God worked in my life and showed me things that I really want to accomplish for Jesus. I have been very passive to my conviction. Four years ago, a pastor friend invited me to come and I have been attending every year. Praise God for HIS Grace in my life."

I will always remember my visit to the Ladies' Prayer Advance. I gave my life to Christ on March 13, 2008. Jesus loves me this I "know."

The MPA and LPA Audio from this year's Advances is now available on our website for your listening pleasure. **[CLICK HERE](#)** to go to our Audio page and scroll down the page to listen to these great sermons.

course of our conversation he spoke with enthusiasm about an event taking place within his church. A guest preacher was scheduled to speak on a Sunday, but that Sunday service had extended into fifteen days. People were being saved and unusual things were taking place. I asked what had preceded this deluge. He explained how they were compelled to bring church discipline on a member who was living in sin. This pastor led his congregation in complying with the clear-cut directives of scripture for dealing with brothers who are living immorally. While unpleasant and difficult, this was absolutely necessary. This church would have missed this time of refreshing if the preacher had disobeyed by delaying. It is always best to obey God fully.

Your "Life" is the Life of Your Ministry

Throughout history God has ordered human civilization through channels of authority. If you study church history you will find that God works through leadership. Pastor, the best thing you can do to promote revival in your church is to get revived personally. J.D. Drysdale said, "We accomplish more by our radiations than by our exhortations." I remember a prayer meeting where a brother prayed, "Lord, bless the preacher. Lord, bless the preacher. Because if You bless the pastor, we will get blessed too!" Life touches life.

Jonathan Edwards recorded these words as God was preparing him for the great revival of 1739, "I rode out into the wood and in a retired place dismounted. There I had a view of the glory of the Son of God—a view which continued for about an hour, which kept me for the greater part in tears. I felt an urgency of soul to be emptied, to lie at His feet; to be filled with Christ and Christ alone." Here was a man possessed with a consciousness of the divine that created within him a strong confidence in the power of God.

Our mission is to permeate the courts of time with the atmosphere of eternity. In order for this to happen we must operate under the potent anointing of the Holy Spirit. What happens "in" us determines what happens "through" us.

Away with the theology that puts God out of business! Away with the ministerial complacency that stirs no one to pursue God with intensity. Away with the all-too-common addiction to the mediocre!

Brother, look to the Lord in faith for a season of reawakening. Heaven's resources are waiting to be appropriated. You may have suffered a set-back. The devil may have launched an all

out attack on you, your family, and church. Maybe you are profoundly discouraged through your own failure or circumstances beyond your control. You don't have to remain under that Juniper tree! God's grace is greater than anything hell may throw at you. If you have been knocked down, don't stay down. Get on your knees: get clean, get filled, get up, and get going!

You can pray for, preach for, and prepare for the invasion of the Spirit both personally and corporately. Someone asked Alan Redpath if he thought the church was out of touch with people in his generation. He replied, "No, we are out of touch with our generation. Our problem is we are out of touch with God!" As you get in touch with God your heart will be quickened with promises from His Word. Lay hold on these promises in faith. Like Jacob, refuse to let go until you receive God's best.

From **"Revival in Our Time: Outside the Box—Inside the Book!"** (Chapter 12) By Harold Vaughan - [**CLICK HERE**](#) to order from our web-site.

Looking Ahead -

- **Blue Ridge Mountains Couples' Advance** — [**CLICK HERE**](#) to learn more and to register for the Couples' Advance at the Holiday Inn Tanglewood Conference Center Hotel in Roanoke, VA on October 27-28.
 - **Men's Prayer Advance** — [**CLICK HERE**](#) to learn more and to register for the Men's Prayer Advance at Shenandoah Baptist Church in Roanoke, VA on January 25-27, 2018.
 - **Ladies Prayer Advance** — [**CLICK HERE**](#) to learn more and to register for the Ladies' Prayer Advance at Shenandoah Baptist Church in Roanoke, VA on April 5-7, 2018.
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"Self-discipline is the ability to make yourself do what you should do, when you should do it, whether you feel like it or not."—Elbert Hubbard

Prayer & Praise

- Moving of God's Spirit at Student Prayer Advance
- Lynn, our office manager's bypass heart surgery
- Publication of the two new books
- Great Meetings this year!

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