

The Phenomena in Revival

“Man can no more organize revival than he can dictate to the wind.” —Author Unknown

*“How careful we should be lest we misrepresent a real work of grace because of some things which occasionally may accompany it! When Whitefield was once preaching in Boston, the place was so packed that the gallery was thought to be giving way, and there was a panic in which several persons were trampled to death. But it would be unfair and unreasonable to blame the revival for this ... We do not despise the great river because of the sticks and straws that may occasionally float on its surface.”
—William Alexander McKay*

“And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together.” (Acts 4:31)

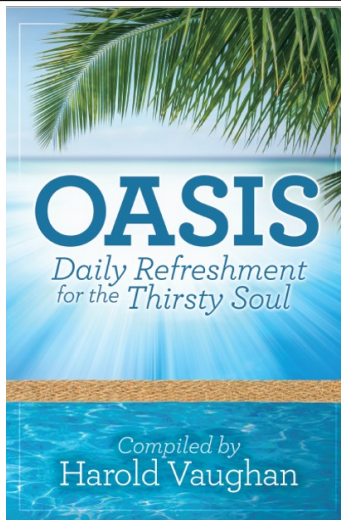
Two men were running down the street toward the church building which was on fire. One church member said to the atheist running beside him, “I’ve never seen you running to church before.” To which the atheist replied, “I have never seen the church on fire before either!” The flame of revival produces a drawing power that defies description.

An honest and fair assessment of any revival must acknowledge that things happen which defy human explanation. Conservative Christians are so afraid of “wild fire” that we seemingly content

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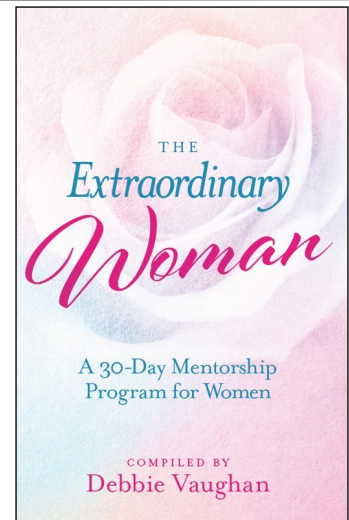
***“God wants us to be victors, not victims; to grow, not grovel; to soar, not sink; to overcome, not to be overwhelmed.”
—William A. Ward***



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ourselves with “no fire.” Our fear of the bizarre is greater than our disgust for the bland! Our purpose here is not to create a desire for the unusual, but simply to illustrate that days of heaven on earth possess a supernatural dimension. Jonathan Goforth wrote, “We cannot expect an abnormal inrush of Divine light and power, so profoundly affecting the emotions and changing the lives of men, without remarkable results.”

Historically, you will find the godly men and women who experienced the “ground zero” of revival never drew attention to the phenomena which invariably accompanied the movement. They were careful to magnify God’s character and holiness. Like Paul, who was reluctant to give the details of his trip to the third heaven—some things are too sacred to elaborate on (2 Cor. 12:4). To speak openly concerning these experiences would prostitute holy things. Nevertheless one must acknowledge that wherever God manifests His presence men are lifted to a heavenly plane of spiritual ecstasy. They are privileged to walk on “holy ground.” Moses was undoubtedly moved when he saw a bush ablaze, yet not consumed. So it is when heaven kisses earth in revival, there are happenings which defy human explanation.

The Canadian Revival

In 1971 God touched down in Saskatoon, Canada. These meetings continued unabated for eight weeks. Thousands of Christians met God. The impact was overwhelming. Scores were called into vocational ministry. Bible College enrollment skyrocketed. Churches were immersed in love as a result of this mighty outpouring. Hundreds found Christ as their Savior. After-glow meetings were conducted nightly. People who had been touched by God would testify in the Afterglow meetings how God had met them.

Some of these meetings lasted until seven o’clock the next morning. A woman who had severe emotional issues had found release from her tormenting thoughts. She called a taxi cab at two in the morning and said she wanted to go to church. The driver thought she was crazy. He thought it was ridiculous to go to church because nobody would be there. This woman excitedly told the driver how God was working in such an incredible way. The cab driver got so excited that he ran the taxi right up on the curb! He was shocked to find people at the church in the middle of the night.

Bill Mcleod, who saw amazing scenes in the aftermath of the mighty revival at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Saskatoon, relates some of the unusual things that took place in his meetings across Canada. While preaching at a local church in Regina, a certain man found himself jolted from sleep at 2:00 a.m. He said he was instructed to attend the church where the services were being held even though he had never attended there before. He came the following Sunday morning and got born again!

In Alberta a man was walking by the church where special meetings were being conducted. He said it felt as if “a hand pushed him through the door of the church.” It seemed he could not resist, so he went in, heard the gospel, and got saved.

Our Schedule

- October 8-11
Prayer Summit
Friendship Baptist Church
Huntsville, AL
- October 15-18
Revival Summit
Gospel Light Baptist Church
Roanoke, VA
- October 27-28
Couples’ Advance
(Optional Session - Oct. 26)
Holiday Inn Tanglewood
Roanoke, VA
- November 5-8
Revival Summit
First Baptist Church
New Castle, VA
- December 3-4
Revival Conference
Baptist Bible Temple
Clarksburg, WV
- December 8-10
Weekend Meeting
Emmanuel Baptist Church
Winchester, VA
- January 2-4, 2018
Core Conference
Beacon Baptist Church
Raleigh, NC

Couples’ Advance

October 26-28

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Prayer Advance Testimonies

"The Prayer Advance was an "indescribable" blessing to my life. God used His Word to impact me in the areas of unbelief like never before. The Men's Prayer Advance is a must for me and all the men in my church for years to come! I praise God for Christ Life Ministries and the extreme blessing they have been to me and my family."

"I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for all the work that went into the Men's Prayer Advance. What a success! What a thrill! What a joy to be a part of this magnificent thing. I believe God was in it from start to finish and no doubt fruit is being produced as I write. The selection of the preachers, the majestic singing, the testimonies and the structure of the prayer times were all used to bless my soul beyond measure. Thank you, brother, for allowing yourself to be used by God in such a way to encourage a simple preacher of the gospel such as myself. Keep up what you are doing! This is definitely one of those conferences that each person needs to experience at least once in their life."

Brother McLeod was in Ontario holding a men's prayer meeting on a Saturday morning. One man requested prayer for his neighbor who was a cold, crusty elderly man. He got belligerent whenever anybody spoke to him about God. As the group was on their knees praying for this man, someone walked in the room and started hollering, "What's going on here?" The men were stunned because he was the man they were praying for! They told him they were calling out his name to God and asking God to have mercy on him. He told these men that he was sitting in his house and felt strongly impressed to go down to the church and see what was happening. Before he left, he had bowed his knee to the Savior!

The Turkey Creek Revival

God visited the Turkey Creek Baptist Church of Brevard, N.C. in 1963. Evangelist Percy Ray had a cancellation in his preaching schedule. He unsuccessfully called six pastors to fill the vacancy. Consequently, J. D. Brogden, pastor of Turkey Creek, gladly booked a meeting with him on the spur of the moment. A great spirit of excitement was already running through the congregation. Youth meetings were being conducted weekly and the church was full of contagious enthusiasm. Brother Ray arrived in town and began the meeting on Tuesday night. Several were saved that first night. This just added fuel to the flame that was already burning.

Before long fifteen hundred people were thronging a building that would seat less than four hundred people. People crammed in and filled every space. People were even standing in the baptistry. The entire campus was electrified with the power of God. All across the property individuals would gather so somebody could preach to them. Conversions occurred in the services, out of the services, in classrooms, and even in the parking lot. People would step out of their cars and come under deep conviction of sin. They would fall on their faces and beg God to have mercy on them and forgive their sin.

Two weeks into this they erected a giant tent to accommodate the crowds. Word spread and folks came from all over to see what was happening. The excitement among the students in the public high school disrupted the schedule to the point that the School Board blamed Pastor Brogden for the chaos. But the pastor did not cause it, and he could not stop it. Miracle after miracle was taking place. Though out of human control, this revival was under the direct control of God. Week after week this went on with phenomenal results. Fifty people a night were getting converted. The conviction of sin was so strong that people would stand for hours gripping the pew with their white-knuckled hands. There they would stand until they surrendered to Christ. If they refused to be saved then the conviction would dissipate and they would eventually leave. Christians went to all lengths to put things right with others. Nothing matters in revival except getting thoroughly right with God and man.

A Cry of Desperation

In 1946 Harold Sightler was pastoring two churches in South Carolina. One of these was Pelham Baptist Church. The church

baptized only three people that year so pastor Sightler called a week of nightly prayer meetings in early 1947. These nightly prayer meetings continued every night unabated for at least two months, perhaps as long as six months according to James Sightler. Revival and the salvation of souls was the focus of the meetings with no preaching or singing, only prayer. Dr. Sightler testified that it was during this time that he was “filled with the Holy Ghost.” By 1949 there were two Sunday evening services at Pelham Baptist because of the large crowds. The Sunday night prayer meeting continued to be held after the second service. The location for prayer moved to a pasture near the church where up to one hundred people would gather to call down the fire. Often these services lasted until one o’clock in the morning. One Sunday night in 1950 sixty four Baptist preachers were praying together in that field.

God was moving in Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee as well. Serious prayer meetings no doubt were taking place in various regions. Out of this movement the Tabernacle Baptist Church of Greenville, S.C. was born and organized in July 1952. The Sunday evening prayer meetings continued with remarkable results.

The Day of Power

What would prompt a man, who had burned down his house in order to collect the insurance, to confess to his insurance agent and make restitution?

Why would two churches (one of which existed because of an ugly split), take a full page ad in their local newspaper to ask the community to forgive them for their un-Christ-like behavior?

A woman breaks down in tears near the end of a church service and asked the church to pray for her. She is under deep conviction because of her disrespect toward her father during her teenage years. She leaves the service and immediately calls her father to ask his forgiveness. Her father breaks down in tears and tells her that he is afraid he is on his way to hell. She gives him the gospel and leads him to Christ.

An atheist attends a protracted meeting and is so overwhelmed that he says, “I will never be able to deny the reality of God again!”

Countless stories could be told of the amazing things which have occurred in revival. Without over-emphasizing the sensational, let’s “allow God to be God” by moving outside the box of our limited scope of reference.

“Revival in Our Time: Outside the Box—Inside the Book!” (Chapter 14) By Harold Vaughan - [CLICK HERE](#) to order from our web-site.

“No amount of activity in the King’s service will make up for the neglect of the King Himself.”—Robert Murray M’Cheyne

Prayer & Praise

- Our office manager, Lynn’s, great recovery from open heart surgery
- Publication of *“Oasis - Daily Refreshment for the Thirsty Soul”* book and *“The Extraordinary Woman”* book
- Moving of God in the meetings this fall

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