

We Need An Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

Johannes Facius

In times of divine intervention and revival the Holy Spirit creates a spiritual hunger and thirst within men and women, an emptiness in their souls and a longing for peace and forgiveness. This was evidenced in the Welsh Revival of 1904-05 and in all historic revivals. When the Holy Spirit was poured out in Wales, within five weeks more than one hundred thousand people entered into the Kingdom of God. When multitudes seek out redemption and come to Christ, it is a work of the Holy Spirit. It's not something that can be produced by a good organization, by putting all the energy we have together, all the wisdom, or all the funds we have. Revival is something extraordinary and is evidence of an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It's beyond what we can even hope, think and imagine.

The key, of course, is prayer. Concerted, prevailing prayer is the force that will produce this spiritual breakthrough and outpouring. A Pentecost-type outpouring is necessary to empower believers to be "witnesses unto the ends of the earth" and fulfill the Great Commission. You can come up with all the dollars you have. You can produce all the literature you can produce. You can have all the satellites operating and videos, DVDs, CDs and MP3s, and I don't know what else, but we're not going to make it without the Holy Spirit.

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Isn't it amazing that the 12 apostles and 70 disciples had nothing of what we have today? They had no money. Jesus even said to them, "don't take your purse with you." (Luke 10:4) Interesting, they had no funds. They didn't have a New Testament to preach from; they only had Old Testament scrolls. They had no planes. They had no video cameras. They had no satellite television. They had nothing but the Holy Spirit and yet, within the first hundred years, the early church evangelized the whole known world! That's what we need. We need an intervention by God. We need the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

I'm not saying that technology and all these other things are not good; I'm just saying we're not go-

"Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; let those also who hate Him flee before Him. As smoke is driven away, so drive them away; as wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God. But let the righteous be glad; let them rejoice before God; yes, let them rejoice exceedingly." —Psalm 68:1-3

ing to make it unless we have an intervention by God and an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. These can only be brought about through the prayers of the Church. Psalm 68 (above) shows what we really need—that God will arise!

Some years ago I was invited to visit Wales. I had a wonderful time there with young people who were being trained to reach Muslims. I didn't realize I was in the city where the Holy Spirit was poured out in 1904. In a certain quarter of the city there is a little chapel where Evan Roberts and about 50 other Welsh coal miners had prayer meetings. Then at a particular time, the Holy Spirit fell, and the great Welsh revival started.

We visited the tiny chapel and were accompanied by a 96-year-old lady who was a young girl when the Welsh revivalists experienced the outpouring and went forth preaching the gospel. I had difficulty believing that the little chapel was the birthplace of one of the greatest revivals, at least in the 20th century. Later, I came to understand that this was a primary lesson the Lord was trying to bring home to me. Don't look for big places and big works when you are looking for revival.

This truth was so interesting that I went back and restudied the whole history of revival. I found out that almost every revival in the history of the church has started in a small and obscure place. I would have thought that God might have poured out the Holy Spirit on the Charles Spurgeon tabernacle in London, a glorious building, but He didn't.

And over here in Los Angeles, He poured out the Holy Spirit on a little house on Azusa Street, not a big cathedral. In 1956 the Indonesian

revival began in an obscure bible school on an obscure island. The Lord spoke to me that day in Wales that if we want to see Him work, we should not just go to the big places, we should not just go to the big conferences. He might very well initiate an outpouring in a small and nondescript place.

This changed my ministry so that I do not want to go to the big events. I am more and more convinced that the big events may not be the place where God will send forth his Spirit because of this one principle—when we are big and powerful and many, there is always the risk that we will steal God's glory. And His glory is something God is jealous about. I believe that if there is any danger that we will steal His glory, God keeps away.

I asked the 96-year-old Welsh lady what happened, what the secret was. What did they pray? She looked at me and said that when she had asked them the same question, they really didn't want to tell her. I questioned her again, and she repeated that they didn't sense to talk about it.

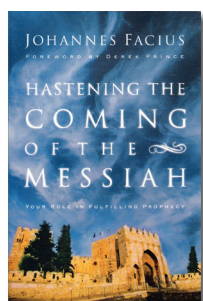
I commented to the lady that they must have shared something. "Yes," she said, "they did say one thing: 'We were a group of miserable men in there and we had come to the very end of ourselves. So we just opened our hearts and cried out to God for mercy.'"

"Until we become desperate after God, nothing much will happen."

I stood there and asked her if that was all? "Yes," she said, "that's it."

Traveling home in the car, the truth began to dawn upon me. I don't know what you think the prerequisite for revival is. I believe it is exactly this: until we become desperate after God, nothing much will happen. Until we become so desperate that we're willing, like those poor Welsh coal miners, to assemble in an obscure place and repent and pray until there is an outpouring, nothing much will happen.

It is significant that the history of revival shows that it is very seldom that rich communities experience dramatic interventions and outpourings of the Holy Spirit. The reason is that if we want to see God move we must need and desire it very, very badly.



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