

Change

Everyone in the Christian world is looking for revival because they believe, quite rightly, that revival will bring change (sound familiar?). However, I believe the members of the body of Christ must change before there can be revival. In the political arena, the world looks to a leader to effect change, but, as with everything else in the Christian walk, true change must come from the inside out!

There is a sense of urgency in the world today - many people sense it whether Christian or not- and this urgency is simply a spiritual awakening to the fast approaching return of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Not only is there an escalation of activity within the Church but there is also escalating activity in the demonic realm. The demonic realm has launched a great assault even within the high ranks of the Church who are being deceived and caught in the trap, earnestly believing they are promoting the Gospel, but leading their congregations into a slow decline to complacency and compromise. The process is much like slowly killing a frog by gradually warming the water!

Jesus never told us to be purpose driven, The Word instructs us to be led by the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit never drives anyone. Sometimes His voice is so quiet you will miss hearing it if you are not in tune! Jesus never told us that the way to convert individuals who are serving other gods is by reading their religious books or embracing their customs, or receiving them into our circle of friends!

We are told to be in the world, but not of the world! Jesus told us to go into the world and make disciples of all men! He told us that the Gospel of the kingdom must be preached! He told us to use the authority He has given us in His name to cast out devils, to lay hands on the sick! He never told us to try to reason with the devil or those guided by him in order to convert them!

In general we have become a tolerant church. We are afraid of seeming too radical in our Christian walk. The spread of the Gospel in the beginning was due to the fire - not only the fire of the Holy Ghost, but the zeal of the founding members. They laid their lives down for the Gospel and were not afraid or ashamed to do so! In our quest for acceptance we have sacrificed our loyalty to the God whom we purport to be serving.

Leviticus 19:1-2 (CEV): ***The LORD told Moses ²to say to the community of Israel: I am the LORD your God. I am holy, and you must be holy too!***

1 Peter 1:15-17 (CEV)

Always live as God's holy people should, because God is the one who chose you, and he is holy. ¹⁶That's why the Scriptures say, "I am the holy God, and you must be holy too." ¹⁷You say that God is your Father, but God doesn't have favorites! He judges all people by what they do. So you must honor God while you live as strangers here on earth.

100% of Christians would say God is their Father - even some non-Christians claim that everyone is a child of God - yet are they being holy as God is holy?

What is holiness? To be holy is to be dedicated or set apart. One dictionary puts it this way: "*exclusively assigned or allocated for a particular purpose*" If a company has a computer or line dedicated for a particular purpose, no one can use it for anything else. If you have dedicated your life to God, why use your time for anything else? Your time is your life!

Your time on the job, on the street, or whatever you are doing should be dedicated to God. People should be able to look at you, the way you respond, the way you perform your duties and know that you are a Christian without your having spoken a word. Your life would be a sermon! Every word and action would be infused with the love and power of God!

The reason we cannot walk in the love and power of God is because we refuse to be holy. We refuse to set ourselves apart. We refuse to let go of the things and people we have known and loved in our past life. We refuse to make God the center of our conversation and our lives. We refuse to give Him first place. We refuse to make His Word and prayer a priority.

If only we could get a revelation of the truth! Whatever and whoever we give up for the sake of the Gospel, Jesus restores to us. We become so full of God, so on fire for Him that we do not even miss the old life. We may remember, but we do not yearn for it.

Church leaders long for revival, they long to see miracles, but it is all up to us. Jesus gave us the authority. Our sin consciousness will not allow us to hear from the Holy Spirit, to be at one with Him so we can perform the signs and wonders and miracles the early Church did. In our heart of hearts we are aware that we are not living in holiness.

There are two things I wish to make clear to you at this point.

- 1) Righteousness is not holiness - they are not synonymous.
- 2) You are already righteous if you are a born-again believer.

Righteous is what Jesus made you when you accepted Him. That is how God sees you - under the Blood of Jesus - washed clean and perfect. Righteous is your spiritual state of being as a born again child of God. As a born-again child of God you are not a sinner.

Holiness is a decision you make to dedicate yourself to God. He becomes just that - your God. The God of Heaven and earth becomes the focal point of your everyday life. Everything you do is centered on what you do for Him. The first entries in your appointment book are the times you have dedicated for prayer, Bible study and the things of God.

As a business person, you will have appointments - some more important than others. You prioritize these appointments, the less important giving way to the ones of high importance. My question to you is this - Is your daily appointment with God the immovable appointment - the highest priority?

Remember - He is the one who empowers you. He is the one who protects and establishes you. He is the one to whom you owe the greatest debt of all - not your banker nor your employer! The only one to whom to owe your life is GOD. He is the one capable of ensuring that every other appointment goes well for you - including your eternal appointment! Our allegiance to Him is of greater importance than our own agenda, emotions, or circumstance.

“Be ye holy as I am holy” has nothing to do with the way we dress, what car we drive, how many times we attend church, our denominational doctrine or the position we hold in church. To be holy as God is holy simply means to be as dedicated to God as He is to us. It means to keep our part of the New Covenant as He has kept His. What is our part of the New Covenant? In Jesus' own words it is: *And you shall love the Lord your God out of and with your whole heart and out of and with all your soul (your life) and out of and with all your mind (with your faculty of thought and your moral understanding) and out of and with all your strength. This is the first and principal commandment* ³¹*The second is like it and*

is this, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these. (Mark 12:30-31 Amplified)

Revival is already here but we Christians must change. `Revival' is another term for the manifestation of God's glory on, in and through man. As we look around the world, we see people (not only the five-fold ministry) walking in that glory - living in revival. They are performing miracles, signs and wonders through the mighty power of the Holy Spirit. They can be used mightily by God because they have determined to be holy.

In the sliver of time in which we are living before the return of Jesus, God is pouring His Spirit out in order to have a Church that is glorious and ready for Him. The Church is made up of individual members. God's Spirit will be poured out and will fall on everyone - the just and the unjust, however, only those who walk in holiness will consistently manifest the glory.

Do you want the glory of God to be consistently manifested in your life? Do you want revival? Do you want change? Then remove the false gods and put God in his rightful position. Become a vessel of honor - fit for His use. Be holy as He is holy.

What do you need to change in order to give God the position of honor in your life?

2 Timothy 2:20-21 (CEV) *In a large house some dishes are made of gold or silver, while others are made of wood or clay. Some of these are special, and others are not. ²¹That's also how it is with people. The ones who stop doing evil and make themselves pure will become special. Their lives will be holy and pleasing to their Master, and they will be able to do all kinds of good deeds.*