

Jim Martin
P.O. Box 291962
Dayton OH 45429

February 2021 "GENUINE REVIVAL AND WEALTH"

Dear Friends,

We are living in a most unique period of human history. The Body of Christ is experiencing a great separation.

The faith and commitment to God many have professed is now being revealed as not much more than rehearsed religious repetition, something they have been trained to say while listening to a myriad of sermons year after year. Recent events in the political arena seem to have filled their hearts with fear, anxiety, despair, confusion, and a sense of hopelessness. It reveals that they have gotten their eyes off God and on to politicians and political parties and promises. Their faith has been resting on a world system built on a foundation of shifting sand instead of the immovable rock of God's Word.

At the same time, a remnant of Christians, including many standing behind pulpits, have been sounding the battle cry of spiritual warfare, repentance, holiness, prayer, fasting, worship and the Sword of the Spirit, which is God's Word. Without consulting with one another, they are in unison declaring the advent of the greatest revival ever seen since the resurrection of Jesus. It is what many call the Last Days Revival that will sweep through the world prior to the return of Jesus. This unified message is coming forth as a result of their own years of prayer and seeking God: He has been preparing in them the message of this season and the time has come to shout it from the mountain tops.

I am among those who are convinced that this revival which will harvest a massive number of souls into the Kingdom has already begun. As I see it, this revival is like a very tiny trickle of water slowly flowing through the wall of a dam of spiritual darkness and religious bondage. But this trickle is gradually breaking away small bits and pieces of that dam, and the flow is increasing. The day is coming when the force of revival's water is going to blast a hole through that dam with an explosion of glory, releasing a flood of anointing, power, conviction, and truth that will wash over millions...and **NOTHING** the devil or any political system does will stop it!

But, are we ready for this revival? Consider what Jesus said in Luke 14:28-30,

²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? ²⁹Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, ³⁰Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.

I realize Jesus was not speaking specifically about revival in the above verses. Even so, there is a strong message in His words we should consider. It has to do with preparation for an anticipated event. I'll explain what I mean.

Right before Jesus ascended back to Heaven, He gave these instructions:

¹⁹Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matthew 28:19-20)

Stated differently, He was telling them to preach the gospel of salvation, then disciple those who accepted their message and became born again. I have heard a lot of preachers and lay Christians talk about healings, miracles, and the multitude of salvations that will be a part of this revival; in other words, there is much talk about building the tower of revival. But what I have heard very little about is the cost of finishing the tower, which is the discipleship of the new converts, restored backsliders, and edification of Believers coming out of churches with solid, yet shallow doctrine.

Consider what happened in the second chapter of Acts. As revealed in Acts 2:5-11, Jews from all over the Middle East had traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Pentecost. On the Day of Pentecost, about 120 followers of Jesus were gathered in an upper room. Four things happened to those in that upper room: (1) there was a sound like a rushing, mighty wind, (2) cloven tongues like fire sat upon them all, (3) they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and (4) they all began to speak in tongues. An untold number of Jews gathered at the place of that upper room and the Apostle Peter began to preach. As a result of his sermon, about 3,000 people accepted Jesus as Savior...*all on that one day!* Talk about revival!

This was the first outbreak of revival. But note that there were no healings, physical miracles (maimed made whole, etc) or devils cast out: there was only the sound of a rushing, mighty wind, the sight of cloven tongues like as fire, and the speaking in tongues. Something about this was so spectacular that it drew thousands to the building wherein was the upper room. Did people hear the sound and follow it to its point of origin, like a trumpet call? Did they see flames shooting out from the windows, yet feel no incendiary heat? Regardless, a massive number of people went to that location, Peter preached, and thousands were born again, filled with the Holy Spirit, and baptized in water. Notice what was done with these new Christians,

⁴¹Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. ⁴²And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. ⁴⁶And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, ⁴⁷Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. (Acts 2:41-42, 46-47)

Here we see the discipling aspect of revival. The new Believers in Christ continued steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine. The phrase "continued steadfastly" comes from the Greek word "proskartereō" and it means, "to endure; to tarry, remain somewhere; cleave faithfully; referring to those who continually insist on something or stay close to someone." To put it in terms we might use, the new converts were encouraged to attend the original Christian University to learn the principles of Kingdom living. The word "proskartereō" indicates they did this willingly and with great enthusiasm, event to the point of expecting the Apostles to teach them.

But where did this teaching take place, and were the Apostles the only ones doing the teaching? After all, when you suddenly have around 3,000 new students, you're facing a monumental task

in trying to teach all of them. This was especially challenging if you keep in mind that there were no church buildings at that time. To know where the discipling took place, we need to look no further than Acts 2:46, ***And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart.*** The 3,000 new converts did not all gather in the same place. Some met in an outer court area at the temple, while the majority met in homes.

But who did the teaching? Acts 2:42 tells us they continued steadfastly in the Apostles doctrine, but does that mean the Apostles were the only ones teaching? Let's do the math: if 1,000 gathered at the temple for teaching, that leaves 2,000 to meet in houses. In those days, houses were nowhere near the size of what we so often see throughout the United States. But let's imagine it was possible to get 100 people at a home meeting; that would require 20 houses. There were only 12 Apostles, so who helped teach? It would have been the non-Apostles, particularly those among the 120 in the upper room on the Day of Pentecost.

What many Christians seem to forget is that a lot of people followed Jesus during His earthly ministry, it wasn't just the Apostles. Therefore, many would have heard His teachings that are recorded in the four Gospels. Jesus and His teachings were the cornerstone, and the Apostles were a part of the foundation...as were the prophets (Ephesians 2:19-22). The prophets in this passage were not people who went about foretelling future events; they were those who delivered the same teachings Jesus had taught them.

This is very critical because it means not just those "in the pulpit" (the Apostles) were responsible for teaching new Christians, *other Believers bore the same responsibility*. A major problem in the Church today is the expectation that the pastor and church staff will do all the discipling, and that the rest of the congregation does not bear a similar responsibility. This is an extremely lazy approach to God's pattern for discipleship. It leads to church members shirking their responsibility to study God's Word (2 Timothy 2:15) and maturing to the ability to at least teach the very basics of Kingdom life (Hebrews 5:11-14).

One proof that many churches are ill prepared for revival is the way so many have canceled services. Mid-week services cease, Sunday night services are eliminated, *and I have never once heard of anyone from those churches complain!* What a travesty! Pastors are supposed to be teaching the meat of God's Word. If anything, Christians should raise their voice in protest if services are canceled. The problem is that too many Christians are happy with their salvation and have no genuine desire or diligence to go deeper into God. Hungry Christians show up for services (or watch via the internet if distance is a factor), they show up for prayer, they press into God for greater spiritual growth.

If there is no preparation for discipling, how can we truly have revival? Discipling is an inseparable part of revival. This preparation demands that ALL members of a church grow spiritually in anticipation of revival. All members of a church need to see themselves as bearing the same responsibility as the 120 in the upper room. Acts 2:46 reveals that there were discipleship meetings taking place *every day*.

According to recent statistics, 57% of all Protestant churches in the United States have less than 100 people attending each week, while only 11% of Protestant churches average about 250 (<https://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2019/march/lifeway-research-church-growth-attendance-size.html>). No doubt most of these churches would be totally unprepared if 300 new

converts suddenly showed up one Sunday, let alone 3,000 as on the day of Pentecost. To properly disciple that many people, most of those churches would need to hold classes throughout the week in mornings and evenings to facilitate those who work different shifts. There is no way the pastor and staff of churches that small can do it alone, the rest of the church family must be ready to help.

Another very important part of true revival is revealed in Acts chapters two and four,

⁴⁴And all that believed were together, and had all things common; ⁴⁵And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. (Acts 2:44-45)

³²And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. ³³And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, ³⁵And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need. (Acts 4:32-35)

These people experienced a major paradigm shift in their lifestyles. They absolutely had to alter their daily patterns, habits, and even work schedules as needed in order to disciple and be disciplined. Incomes would have been impacted. The very wealthy and the poor were all together for the same purpose: to learn more about Jesus, their born-again life, and their potential in Christ. Their perspective on the use of money drastically changed as they pursued those goals. They no longer saw their money and possessions as a means to a comfortable life; instead, those things were seen as tools to help propagate the Kingdom of God. Consider what is written in Deuteronomy 8:18,

But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

Many preachers have emphasized the power to get wealth but diminished the *reason* God wants us to have the wealth. They have also appeared to miss the extremely prophetic nature of this verse. The word “power” comes from the Hebrew word “koah” and means physical power to obtain a thing; but in Micah 3:8 it means an anointing of power from the Holy Spirit. The word “establish” is from the Hebrew word “qum” and in this verse it means, “make appear, make to stand, [an image of something firmly cemented in place]. The only covenant God has indicated will stand forever is the one that came through Jesus Christ.

God has given us the power to get wealth so that the covenant of the Kingdom Gospel can be delivered to the world and converts can be disciplined. In Acts chapters two and four we see this in action. Believers gave money to help support other Believers who had need, even if they had to sell some of their possessions to have money to give. The poor and struggling were helped; but not only that, the offerings given may have been used to help those who reduced their work hours – and income – in order to attend the teaching sessions. This is the attitude we must have in order to flow with God in this revival.

Consider what may be the plight of some new Christians in this revival: they desperately need to be discipled, but are we ready to help them get their car repaired so they can attend? Are we ready to help them financially so they don't have to work 60+ hours per week? Are we ready to provide childcare while they attend discipleship classes? Are we ready to 'downsize' our own standards in order to have a Book of Acts revival church? Honestly, I'm not sure enough Christians have reached this point. I personally believe this is an area in the lives of many Christians which needs greater mortification. Discipleship of new converts *must be a major priority in all churches praying for revival!*

Additionally, money will be needed for other purposes in order to maintain discipleship. We must be ready to baptize, which requires some means of baptism and the cost of the water to fill the baptistries. Bibles will need to be purchased and distributed. Notebooks & pens will need to be distributed. Lesson outlines and other materials such as prophecies will need to be printed and distributed, requiring paper, printers, ink and toner. Restrooms will need to be well stocked with paper towels, toilet paper and soap. The expenses of gas, electricity and water will increase. More cleaning and cleaning supplies will be required. Members of a church in revival must see themselves as a part of a family responsible for seeing these costs covered, which starts with operating out of the power God had given us to get wealth to establish His covenant.

In order to see everything I've mentioned in this letter take place, our first responsibility is to follow the pattern of the 120 in Acts chapters one and two: we prioritize gathering together in one accord for prayer and seeking God. We must also rearrange our lives so we can spend time with Him at home. We must get in the Bible and study to show ourselves approved unto God, ready to be used by Him to help disciple new Believers. The dam is about to break...revival is NOW!

May God's presence and peace fill your life,

Jim

P.S. – For more teaching on this subject, use the form below to order a CD of the sermon, *Getting Ready for Revival*.

- - - - -

☐

Please send me a CD of the sermon, *Getting Ready for Revival*.

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Country_____

Email address_____

Jim Martin Ministries • PO Box 291962 • Dayton OH 45429 USA