

News and Current Events :: Will God Send Another Great Awakening?

Will God Send Another Great Awakening? - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2010/4/13 12:15

Will God Send Another Great Awakening?

The Church needs something different. Something that brings the body of Christ back to God in a simple yet effective way.

by Daina Doucet

What is the greatest need in the Church today?

"I think it's to realize the absolute desperate need for God to bring revival," says Greg Gordon, founder of (<http://www.sermonindex.net>) <http://www.sermonindex.net> and the current intern executive director of the Canadian Revival Fellowship (<http://www.revivalfellowship.com>) <http://www.revivalfellowship.com>. "Also for churches to rely again on prayer," he adds. "That need is beyond desperate. So few churches dedicate meetings to prayer and intercession these days. Anyone can talk about what's wrong with the Church, but someone's got to bring a solution."

For the past three years, Gordon has been trying to bring a solution. Something "different." He has organized seven Revival Conferences with an "emphasis on revival without entertainment and commercialism" in the USA, Wales, Ireland, Nepal and now Canada. The first of this year's Revival Conferences will be in Victoria, British Columbia, at the Victoria First Church of the Nazarene, from Tuesday June 8 to Thursday June 10 with a preceding all-day prayer event on June 7, "especially so ministry leaders and pastors can attend."

With Christendom inundated with more than 10,000 conferences a year world-wide, how is another conference "different?" There is no cost to attend. No materials will be sold. No big bands. No emphasis on money. "The conference will focus on glorifying God. The speakers will come on their own accord trusting God for provision. The event will be simple, apostolic - yearning for a genuine biblical revival in our day."

So far Revival Conferences have attracted as many as 1000 pastors and ministry leaders per event, many of whom are personally revived. "Sin is confessed, pride is humbled, hope is renewed, prayer is kindled. But also there is a great expectation of a divine visitation from God and that our prayers will ignite a larger work in Canada so many souls can come into His kingdom."

Speakers at the Victoria event will be from a broad Evangelical background. Charles Price, the keynote speaker, is a television host, and pastor of Peoples' Church in Toronto. Other speakers are Clayton Dougan, an evangelist with the Brethren churches, Don McClure of the Calvary Chapel movement, Richard Siple, a veteran team member with the Canadian Revival Fellowship, Mark Greening who emerged as "fruit" of the 1970 revival in Saskatoon and Andrew Strom, a representative of the prophetic movement from New Zealand.

"We hear much talk of revival and the excitement involved, but people who come to these conferences want to see a biblical, genuine revival come," says Gordon. "I believe these conferences will cause people to see that we must repent and come back to God. God will meet us and revive us!" It may seem impossible, he says, but he is hopeful. "We serve a God of impossibilities! We can have revival in Canada where millions come to Christ. And we can believe for it."

The Victoria Revival Conference will be held at the, "Victoria First Church Of The Nazarene" 4277 Quadra St, Victoria, BC and is open to everyone. Call to register freely and with questions: 1-800-273-7273

Daina Doucet is a writer and editor based in Hamilton, Ontario. She edits the website, [Christianity.ca](http://www.christianity.ca) (<http://www.christianity.ca>) for The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada.

Re: Will God Send Another Great Awakening?, on: 2010/4/13 13:43

God will send another "Great Awakening" when His people wake up to the uncleanness of their ways before him, some of which this very article reflects.

Quote:
-----"I think it's to realize the absolute desperate need for God to bring revival," says Greg Gordon, founder of <http://www.sermonindex.net> and the current intern executive director of the Canadian Revival Fellowship <http://www.revivalfellowship.com> .

When people are introduced along with things which act as qualifications or credentials, they demonstrate a type of pride which acts as a hinderance to the very thing which they are trying to see accomplished. A truly spiritual man or woman has no need for anyone to introduce them in such a way. A truly spiritual man/woman only wants to be known as a brother or sister and relies upon grace and truth to work for them. What this quote demonstrates is the need to promote the speaker, in this case Greg Gordon as someone to take seriously because he's the founder of sermonindex and the executive director of the Canadian Revival Fellowship.

A second point which must be pointed out is that whenever men take to forming their own organizations and attaching their own particular franchise name to it, for instance the "Canadian Revival Fellowship", they can't possibly expect to receive God's full blessing because they're demonstrating an aspect of the very same spirit which the institutionalized system demonstrates.

Quote:
-----For the past three years, Gordon has been trying to bring a solution. Something "different." He has organized seven Revival Conferences with an "emphasis on revival without entertainment and commercialism" in the USA, Wales, Ireland, Nepal and now Canada. The first of this year's Revival Conferences will be in Victoria, British Columbia, at the Victoria First Church of the Nazarene, from Tuesday June 8 to Thursday June 10 with a preceding all-day prayer event on June 7, "especially so ministry leaders and pastors can attend."

Quote:
-----With Christendom inundated with more than 10,000 conferences a year world-wide, how is another conference "different?" There is no cost to attend. No materials will be sold. No big bands. No emphasis on money. "The conference will focus on glorifying God. The speakers will come on their own accord trusting God for provision. The event will be simple, apostolic - yearning for a genuine biblical revival in our day."

How can one bring something which one doesn't have or in this case fully comprehend? Did God bring change through specially organized conferences?

What many people don't understand is that charging for admission, materials, large bands, and the like are only symptoms of an underlying spiritual problem. If one takes away the symptoms but the disease stills remains, the end result will still be death.

Quote:
-----So far Revival Conferences have attracted as many as 1000 pastors and ministry leaders per event, many of whom are personally revived. "Sin is confessed, pride is humbled, hope is renewed, prayer is kindled. But also there is a great expectation of a divine visitation from God and that our prayers will ignite a larger work in Canada so many souls can come into His kingdom."

And still there has been no change. Why is that? Could it be that these people are only superficially 'revived'? Could it be these people have only been superficially 'humbled'? Could it be that these people's prayers are being hindered by their own sins, (unintentional as they may be) and unknowing allegiances to the same spiritual corruption which they are trying to overcome?

Quote:
-----Speakers at the Victoria event will be from a broad Evangelical background. Charles Price, the keynote speaker, is a television host, and pastor of Peoples' Church in Toronto. Other speakers are Clayton Dougan, an evangelist with the Brethren churches, Don McClure of the Calvary Chapel movement, Richard Siple a veteran team member with the Canadian Revival Fellowship, Mark Greening who emerged as "fruit" of the 1970 revival in Saskatoon and Andrew Strom, a representative of the prophetic movement from New Zealand.

Any gathering which feels the need to invite 'special guest speakers' demonstrates the need to give itself respectability, as well as demonstrating carnal thinking. Furthermore, each and everyone of these guest speakers are actually representatives of the very things which the Lord finds to be unclean; sectarianism, control, spiritual pride, and hypocrisy. Not one of these people, not one, are right before the Lord. Can't any of you see why?

Quote:
-----"We hear much talk of revival and the excitement involved, but people who come to these conferences want to see a biblical, genuine revival come," says Gordon. "I believe these conferences will cause people to see that we must repent and come back to God. God will meet us and revive us!" It may seem impossible, he says, but he is hopeful. "We serve a God of impossibilities! We can have revival in Canada where millions come to Christ. And we can believe for it."

These 'conferences' will never cause people to repent until these people actually understand what it is they need to repent of themselves. These people have already met God, but for one reason or another have strayed away from Him in various ways. He will never, never be able to use people such as these while they are walking according to their own ways. There may be lots of emotional hype surrounding these meetings, but no real change will come out of them until the participants become willing to leave all of their dross behind.

What is truly needed in order for a "Great Awakening" to occur is for people who have been truly chosen, trained, matured, equipped, and sent for this very thing to be revealed and recognized.

My sincerest hope is that what I've shared will be unbiasedly examined and the truth will be applied.

Mark Green's Church - posted by dan1el, on: 2010/4/13 14:20

Does anyone know where Mark Green's Church is located? I need to visit it...

Re: - posted by osandoval, on: 2010/4/13 18:47

Quote:
-----These 'conferences' will never cause people to repent until these people actually understand what it is they need to repent of themselves. These people have already met God, but for one reason or another have strayed away from Him in various ways. He will never, never be able to use people such as these while they are walking according to their own ways. There may be lots of emotional hype surrounding these meetings, but no real change will come out of them until the participants become willing to leave all of their dross behind.

Can you elaborate on this a little on this? Are you saying these men are not saved; you stated they "strayed away from Him." And what is it that these men need to repent of?

I understand and agree with your post brother/sister for the most part. Just trying to see if I'm misunderstanding. Thank you for the bold post. God bless.

Re: , on: 2010/4/13 20:33

I'm not saying that anyone of them aren't in the faith, but I am saying that at the very least they all have a mixture of carnality and even unclean allegiances in their walks.

What do they need to repent of? Pride, sectarianism, desire for the limelight, personal kingdom building, and hypocrisy. Now I'm sure that they all truly do desire to serve the Lord, but because they have such a mixture they don't really know how. If they did, there would be change, and such a change that it would be like wildfire burning across the globe.

Instead of praying for revival, what they need to be praying for is correction and cleansing. Then they will all be used in a much greater way.

Re: Will God Send Another Great Awakening?, on: 2010/4/13 20:39

Quote:

-----Will God Send Another Great Awakening?

Yes, He is. His people need to be corrected and taught in order to prepare for the times which are coming to the world.

Re: Will God Send Another Great Awakening? - posted by twayneb (), on: 2010/4/13 23:03

There have been several threads over the past year dealing with God sending revival or awakening or another great move of His Spirit. I have been mulling this over in my mind for several years now, and felt that i wanted to weigh in with perhaps another perspective.

There are as many different perspectives on what brings revival, it seems, as there are people who would like to see it come. If God's people would just cry out day and night and if we can get enough people interceding for revival and crying out, it will come. If God's people will begin to see their sin and repent then revival will come. If God's people will turn from prayerlessness and begin to pray more, then revival will come. If God sees fit to move in a sovereign way then revival will come. If.....

Now please don't misunderstand me. I am 100% for intercession, for prayer, for repentance. I am not belittling those things one iota. When a person, a local fellowship, a region sees a great move of God, repentance will be a very great part of it, and countless sinners and saints alike will have a great deal that they will be compelled to repent of. When there is a move of God people will begin to pray like never before. The word will become central in the lives of people. But I don't see those things as precipitating revival, but rather as a result.

If you look at the New Testament, you find that with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the move of God was the order of the day. God's desire is to see the manifestation of the son's of God all over the earth. He desires "revival" and "awakening" more than we can fathom desiring it. God desires to use us in the same way He has used great men and women of God who have seen the His power manifest in great ways in the past. But He works as His Holy Spirit moves through man. He uses us.

I believe great prayer and fasting lead to revival, not because it moves God to do anything He has not already done, but because they make us more useable. Through spending great time with the Lord, before His face, we are changed from glory to glory and we come to a place of hearing, faith, and obedience. He says, "Now go do this..." and we do it. We go out in the power of the Spirit and do the things He leads us to do.

When we do this, we soon have all the revival we can handle. God begins to move in a powerful way. I don't think we are waiting on God. I think He is waiting on us. I don't think we need to convince Him to do anything. He did it through Christ and through sending the comforter. I think He needs to convince us to lay before Him, allowing Him to change us and to make us more usable.

I believe the great awakening began on the day of pentecost and has never stopped.

Perhaps a different perspective.

Travis

Re: , on: 2010/4/14 2:20

Quote:
-----If you look at the New Testament, you find that with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the move of God was the order of the day.

Quote:
-----If you look at the New Testament, you find that with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the move of God was the order of the day.

But when one looks at the whole of Scripture, it becomes clear that only when the people put away their idols and turned back to God that He rewarded them with favor. The people then, as now, had to return to following Him as He commanded. But just as the people of Israel forgot the ways of the Lord, so to have His people of today lost much of the understanding of Him and His ways which were once known.

Quote:
-----God's desire is to see the manifestation of the son's of God all over the earth. He desires "revival" and "awakening" more than we can fathom desiring it. God desires to use us in the same way He has used great men and women of God who have seen His power manifest in great ways in the past. But He works as His Holy Spirit moves through man. He uses us.

This is truth. He has always desired for us to walk in Him. Not just for periods of time, but a sustained walk as an example to the world around us. It wasn't He who withdrew from us, it was us who withdrew from Him; His ways, His commands, His examples. He can't and won't dwell in the midst of a people who are unclean, whether through ignorance or rebellion.

Quote:
-----I don't think we are waiting on God. I think He is waiting on us. I don't think we need to convince Him to do anything. I don't think we need to convince Him to do anything. He did it through Christ and through sending the comforter.

In a fashion you're correct. We have been shown the Way through His Son and through His Holy Spirit, but as His people of old, quickly after the apostles died, people started twisting and changing things until we have what we see today. He is waiting on us, but at the same time He has a plan for this hour which He's unfolding, too. Many have recognized the birth pangs of it already, yet still don't recognize the magnitude of what He's going to do. He knows that His people don't understand or fully recognize what it is that they're doing wrong. In His mercy and grace, He will show us. In fact, He has already shown us much of what displeases Him. But it's His people who've refused to change. When we move towards Him, He moves towards us.

Quote:
-----I think He needs to convince us to lay before Him, allowing Him to change us and to make us more usable.

This is definitely a part of it.

Great post, Travis. You're on the right track.

Blessings and hugs.

Re: , on: 2010/4/14 4:21

Ezra 8:21,22

Re: - posted by live4jc, on: 2010/4/14 21:44

Quote:
-----I believe great prayer and fasting lead to revival, not because it moves God to do anything He has not already done, but because they make us more useable. Through spending great time with the Lord, before His face, we are changed from glory to glory and we come to a place of hearing, faith, and obedience. He says, "Now go do this..." and we do it. We go out in the power of the Spirit and do the things He leads us to do.

Hi Travis,

I can see where you're coming from with this. If we draw an analogy between 'Revival' and 'The birth of a child', after a child is born....there needs to be a loving mother present, to care for the baby and keep it alive. Similarly, with Revival, God knows there needs to be Spirit filled Christians, whose hearts are fully dependent upon Him. These are people He uses to nurture a Revival fire, once it's been lit. The prayer and travail, and the work of brokenness that God does in hearts prior to revival, is really what paves the way for the revival. In most revivals this seems to be the pattern God uses. However, if God sends revival fire and no one is 'ready for it'...then who will tend to the fire ?

In Jesus,
John

Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2010/4/15 7:06

John: I think you are seeing what I was trying to say. A little clarification. The Holy Spirit was poured out on the day of pentecost and He has never been retracted. God's desire to see people come to Him and to see His people's hearts on fire for Him never varies or wanes. If that be the case, then we are the limiting factor, not God. So to cry out to Him to send another great awakening, to me, is not scriptural. To cry out for Him to do a work in me so that I can be a usable conduit through which the power of His Holy Spirit can flow to minister, to cry out that I might be on fire, to repent where I need to and run to Him is what needs to happen. This is not because He somehow sees the gesture and when it is sufficient pours out, but rather because His Holy Spirit can now flow through me more freely.

I do think that there are times when God does move in a special way on a place or a people, but the same principle applies, and you made the point in the last sentence of your post. Will we be ready to carry it, to tend it????

In pursuit of Him
Travis

Re: - posted by osandoval, on: 2010/4/15 11:13

twayneb you are spot on. It has to be an emphasis on an individual basis more than a corporate thing. Each one of us is responsible to live in a revived state or condition. We must each ask ourselves, "Is there anything that is hindering me from living in that state in fullness?" "Are there any distractions or weights or sins I need to repent of and forsake?" I remember vaguely a quote from D.L. Moody, something like, "The world has yet to see what God will do through a man who gives himself completely to Him."

Re: , on: 2010/4/15 13:48

Quote:
-----The Holy Spirit was poured out on the day of pentecost and He has never been retracted. God's desire to see people come to Him and to see His people's hearts on fire for Him never varies or wanes. If that be the case, then we are the limiting factor, not God. So to cry out to Him to send another great awakening, to me, is not scriptural. To cry out for Him to do a work in me so that I can be a usable conduit through which the power of His Holy Spirit can flow to minister, to cry out that I might be on fire, to repent where I need to and run to Him is what needs to happen. This is not because He somehow sees the gesture and when it is sufficient pours out, but rather because His Holy Spirit can now flow through me more freely.

Exactly! But then the question remains, what are the things which His people are doing which are impeding the flow of H

is Holy Spirit, what sins are His people walking in? Obviously, there is much which must be corrected and restored so instead of a great awakening or revival shouldn't they be praying for correction and restoration and be willing to receive it?

Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2010/4/15 15:33

There are many who are trying to somehow get revival through working any of many formulas, as though God somehow responds to the correct formula and it is up to us to somehow discover that formula. To some the formula is hour after hour of "intercession" where they beg God to rend the heavens and come down. To others it is lengthy lists of sins and hour after hour of repentance on their face before God in tears. To others it is marathon services where they meet five or six nights a week until the late hours of the night. To others.....you get the picture.

Obviously there are many things that can hinder the moving of the Holy Spirit individually as well as corporately. Sins are obviously one of them. Wrong knowledge is another. This can be wrong doctrine or wrong understanding of the right doctrine. Both are damaging to our faith and our ability to receive as we base faith on what we know and understand about what God said. Prayerlessness is another. Preoccupation with the cares of this life are another. Adherence to man's systems at the expense of God's leading is another...and the list could go on and on.

I think it much more simple than that. "Revival" or "awakening" or whatever term you wish to use is simply the power of the Holy Spirit being manifested through the children of God. It might have been Duncan Campbell who said, "revival is the going of God among His people." The Holy Spirit was poured out on the day of Pentecost. God dwells in His people through the person of the Holy Spirit. John 14 tells us that through the power of the Holy Spirit we can do the things that Jesus did and greater. See a few people healed and raised from the dead and you will have people flocking to see what is going on. It is all about a life surrendered to God, filled with the Spirit, and in constant communion with Him.

So I don't think we need to "do" anything to "bring" revival. We need to be in constant pursuit of Him. We need to have lives that are all about relationship with God through Jesus Christ and empowered by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. As my passionate pursuit is Him, I will be brought to a place of revival personally and prepared for revival corporately. As I pursue Him, He will deal with sin in my life by bringing it to my attention and prompting me to repent. I don't need to agonize over it. It is His kindness to do so, and I need to agree with Him, receive His forgiveness, and turn from it. It is as simple as that. As I pursue Him, He will reveal truth to me through His Word. I need to value that over all of man's denominational doctrines regardless of how deeply or passionately I have held onto them in the past. As I pursue Him, He will prompt me to spend time in His presence. I need to do that. As I pursue Him, He will reveal to me where material or carnal pursuit is hijacking my attentions and energies and He will prompt me to lay them aside. I need to be obedient.

All of these things are ways that God works out of us the stuff that is a hinderance, and into us the things that He desires for us. All of this works together to bring us to a place of personal awakening and readiness to be used of His Holy Spirit.

Revival is not an event that we cause to come, it is a lifestyle of passionate pursuit of God.

Believe me, as we do this, God will begin to use us in powerful ways that we could never have imagined before, and our own lives and those of people around us will be transformed. And when there is a move of His Spirit in a community, we will be prepared to flow with it and see great things happen.

Hope that helps
Travis

Re: - posted by live4jc, on: 2010/4/15 16:57

Hi Travis,

I appreciate your thoughtful response. Here's something which I have to confess puzzles me. When I look at the life of George Muller, I see personal revival throughout the course of his life. This is both because Muller's life was one which was sold out to God, and also because it bore many of the characteristics seen in the lives of the apostles. For example, Muller's prayers were constantly answered on a daily basis. When I said there was something that puzzles me, it's this. I k

now of a wonderful Christian lady, whose life is consecrated to God, just as Muller's was, and yet she confesses that she is not seeing ongoing answers to prayers, in many of the things she is praying for. This lady literally 'prays without ceasing' and also evidences the cross filled life, in her life.

So herein lies the source of my puzzlement (LOL). If God is always willing to pour out His Spirit, as He was at the beginning, and we remain the impediment to God working in a similar fashion today, then why is this lady not experiencing personal revival in the same way that Muller did? Or should we think of personal revival as necessarily including apostolic 'power' and 'results'? This is another thing I wonder about. It's often been said that a desire for 'power' in ministry is a wrong thing. It's a misguided desire. Instead, our desire should be for God Himself, and not for power. This was Simon the sorcerer's undoing. But is it always necessarily wrong to seek for God's power, if we seek it, not as an end to itself, but more for how it will benefit other people?

When I look at the praying of the people who banded to pray together before the Hebrides Revival, I see them seeking God as their chief possession. But in their prayers, they are dissatisfied until they see the fire of the Holy Spirit fall, which they know will lead to many people being transformed in a powerful and lasting way. The prayer that John (the local blacksmith) prayed just before the Hebrides Revival began, seems to represent a way of 'seeking God's power' which is a proper one, and which God evidently honored:

"Oh God, You made a promise to pour water upon him that is thirsty and floods upon the dry ground, and, Lord, it's not happening." He paused again and then continued: "Lord, I don't know how the others here stand in Your presence; I don't know how the ministers stand, but, Lord, if I know anything about my own heart I stand before Thee as an empty vessel, thirsting for Thee and for a manifestation of Thy power." He halted again and after a moment of tense silence cried: "Oh God, Your honor is at stake, and I now challenge You to fulfil your covenant engagement and do what you have promised to do." Many who were present witnessed that at that moment the house shook. Dishes rattled in the sideboard, as we were after wave of Divine power swept through the building. A minister standing beside Duncan turned and said: "Mr. Campbell, an earth tremor!" But Duncan's mind, however, was in the fourth chapter of Acts, where the early Christians were gathered in prayer and, we read: "When they had prayed the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost."

As you can see, I am grappling with how everything fits together. Thankfully God knows, and His plans for us are for good, and to give us a future and a hope. I appreciate the good discussion taking place, on this topic :)

In Jesus,
John

Re: - posted by twayneb (), on: 2010/4/15 18:06

John: I confess that I also have unanswered questions. But it is like a giant jigsaw puzzle. When a piece fits you know it and it brings you one step closer to seeing the whole picture. I guess in this analogy the whole picture will be in eternity. Until then we put pieces in place one by one and see in part.

With that caveat I will attempt a response. I never use another person's experience as a way of determining how God works. In fact, I try not to use my own. I have determined that the word of God is true whether I can experience it or not. I want to make sure I say this right, because I am in no way impugning this dear woman by the statements that follow. This woman, though she loves God, may not be praying in faith, she may be filled with doubt and unbelief, she may be.... I hope that does not offend. I say it only to make the point that what lies in myself is known only to me, and I can tell you of many times that my prayer was hindered because of me. I loved God with my whole heart, and earnestly besought Him, but was filled with unbelief just as the disciples who tried to cast out the demon and were unsuccessful.

Apostolic power is, I am assuming, in reference to the acts of the apostles. Divine power, miracle working power. It comes through being baptized in the Holy Spirit and doing what we do through the Spirit. This power does not come solely through prayer and a holy lifestyle. In fact, the source of much revelation of the Word, the source of a lifestyle of holiness, and the source of the operation of the gifts of the Spirit, and the manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit all have the same source, that being the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit and a revelation of how to walk in the Spirit. Actually Paul taught us to covet earnestly to be used in the gifts of the Spirit in ministry. It is through this power that we are effective. 1 Cor. chapter 2 is a great thesis on this. Paul points out that the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit is the source

of effective ministry, and that through this indwelling presence we can have the very mind of Christ.

Brother, I have grappled, grapple, and will grapple to some extent with all these things I am sure. But there are a few things I have come to understand and am seeing the fruit of it.

Lets continue to pursue Him and allow Him to work through us.

Travis

Re: Hart to Heart, on: 2010/4/15 20:12

Ps. 42:1-2

This thread has been watched from inception, usually in the Spirit, but always prayerfully.

Many good points are made, and it is hard to see how anything done Godward could be wrong, however, the state of the church-(that term is loosely applied)- in both continents of the Americas, for the most part, is heading in the wrong direction.

Even as Judgement begins in the house of God, so the state of the nations indicates little of any revival consistent with prayers here.

Pockets of revival, even on a state or country wide scale is not the outpouring, i dare say, that any of what we who are praying for desire.

Talk with many believers here and abroad is indicative of that statement.

Personally, revival is looked at as "on a heart by heart basis" , eventually creating a cumulative effect. The scriptures state this plainly in the fact of "one shall put a thousand to flight, and two ten-thousand."

(It has been thought that this is the reason for the effectiveness of conferences, crusades, churches, etc...)

In regards to the idea of idolatry being the source of keynote speakers in conferences, it is possible, however this often is not usually the case, especially in settings where there is revelation towards repentance, prayer, and seeking God's face. (If an event/proceedings remain unannounced, there are very few who are spiritual enough to discern that God wants them to be at that a certain place at a certain time.)

This lack of discernment is what actually indicates idolatry.

(this has been a source of God's leadings for me to study of late. You might possibly note it's influence in the threads responded to by Phanetheus. Though all the ducks are not in a row yet, freely given is what God has revealed clearly.)

STUMBLING BLOCKS

Ezekiel 14:

3 Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them?

4 Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols;

5 That I may take the house of Israel in their own heart, because they are all estranged from me through their idols.

Stumblingblock is just another way of saying idol, and idolatry is the process by which this occurs.

This is the source of all iniquity, ie., disobeying God's teaching of the Law.
Mt. 7:22,23,24

The process by which this comes about is called wickedness, which comes basically from three Hebrew root words, explained as follows:

1)>(The blinding of the eyes)

Rationalization-considering what you think greater than God's will and ways... LEAD TO

2)>(the deafening of the ears)

Imagining-(according to those rationalizations)-develops feelings that cause us to think, creating intentions...LEADING TO

3)>(a hardening heart, eventually engrossed in fat)

Speaking and Doing (according to what is rationalized and imagined),

Gen. 6:5,6,7--in these verses we see the process where man abandons God, and judgement falls.

Brother Paul spoke plainly of this in the first chapter of Romans. (please note that even as wickedness is a three step process, so is judgement. Romans chapter one indicates the end result of this 3 step process in three statements that "God gave them up/over to" but all under God's wrath, mentioned at the onset of this fall into 'reprobation': Rom. 1:18,24,27,28:

vv.18-24 are step 1)

vv.25-27 are step 2)

vv.28-2:1 speak of step 3.) as a (being) set (in/) of a way established.

Step 1.) & 2.) comprise covetousness

Step 3.) is the outworking of the e(motionally)-vil(e) (to God and the godly).

These things happen first with the individual.

They then permeate the individual's sphere of influence.

They then travel and cover the land in which they live.

This is why any people, city, nation is judged and eventually obliterated.

For him who has eyes to see, read into this:

H onestly

O penly

T ransparently

The Lord told me to go talk to a brother here, whom He has put on my heart to pray in regards towards for quite some time-9 months. At the time the praying was instructed, I was asking the Lord "why, this guy's more solid than me."

The Spirit told me "do not let words fool you."

So both things have been done, as instructed.

In conversation, he talked about sin, and was trying to confess to me about it all...

(...long before he started blabbering tearfully, Lord had already shown me his sin, the root of the problem, and the solution.) My Brother was reminded that stealing a paperclip is as much of an abomination to God as even the most vile practice. Sin is sin, and that is between Jesus and him. I told him as well, "I am not your Priest!..much less, High Priest."

I talked with him about the work God wanted to do through him, and he told me he knew.

Then he again began weeping and an arm was put over his shoulder, and he was comforted with these words" _____ , you are no worse than any other human on the face of this earth. We all stand condemned before God, and only your relationship with Jesus can straighten that out.

He then started in,"if you only knew the..."

He was cut short per instruction with these words,

"You have not murdered anybody, but, you are destroying yourself, You ask God how can you do what he has called you to with that one certain sin in your life. Listen, sin is sin, and as long as we are in the flesh, sin is a law in our members . It's in your nature, Do you realize that by focusing on your sin, you are not even pointing out your own problem? You are committing idolatry by focusing on and praying to God about your sin. Brother, you must fix your sight on the author and finisher of our faith, specifically, when he cried out, "it is finished". You will not walk in the power of His Spirit until you do."

He said he knew; but, he never thought about the idolatry of it all. I told Him that God loves him so much and yet he is turning his attention to the evil that he does, still forgetting the source of the nature to do this, as well as the solution to the problem.

I told him i loved him, and that he could call me or come over any time. Any time he needs anything, it's his.

I walked away.

He was too shook up to say anything more at that point.

I asked the Lord if there was anything else, and was told to go.

i said, " DONE!" and walked home.

Since then, this brother and i will spend much time in bible study and prayer together. WE learn alot in cohesive entertainment of what God says. we continue to see great things God does from whenever we bow down worshipping Jesus together and prayer to our Heavenly Father.

It should not be said there is so much idolatry in any conference, church meeting, etc. as there is in our own hearts intentions and attitudes of "what's in it for me", "my sin", "that message did not speak to me" etc.

The passage quoted only in a previous post must not have been looked into completely, nor ramifications considered:

Ezra 8:

21 Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river of Ahava, that we might afflict ourselves before our God, to seek of him a right way for us, and for our little ones, and for all our substance.

22 For I was ashamed to require of the king a band of soldiers and horsemen to help us against the enemy in the way: because we had spoken unto the king, saying, The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but his power and his wrath is against all them that forsake him.

The questions could be asked:

Has whatever Christian meeting attended become a sorry substitute for daily communion with God?

A relationship is growing perpetual conversation-(in the widest sense of the word)-between to parties.

Are you doing all the praying and not listening to Him?

Are you in the scriptures yet not looking to Him for the answers?

Have you hardened your heart from hearing and seeing because you rationalize, "oh, i know what that means"?

Acts 2:

38 Then Peter Spoke to them, "Repent and be immersed in the purpose, work, and authority of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the (charity) gift of the Holy Spirit.

(transliterate from gk./ see english literature Acts 2:38

Nobody has any room to be critical of anybody's obedience to God in ministry.

Get a grip: Let go, and let God...

Words can be dirt cheap.

Fight like a man of faith:

Do something about the problems you see:

get on your knees and pray.

Don't critique unless God has revealed to you the true picture for the purpose of correcting the problem.

?Focusing on flaws and glorifying what's wrong?

Fault finding is just another form of idolatry.

Do you not know that by our own words we are justified or condemned. In the same way a person criticizes any God ordained ministry, the same way we shall be critiqued by God over our own service.

What is the work of God for each of us?

Jn. 6:27, 28, 29

Fasting and praying are not the answer (in themselves),
to the problem:

seeking God's face,

relating with Jesus,

on His terms,

is.

More later,
gotta go!

Agape,

g

I Tim. 1:5,6

Edited: for literary ideosyncracies

Re: - posted by live4jc, on: 2010/4/16 1:04

One thing I wanted to add to what I wrote earlier concerning a dear Christian lady. Had not meant in any way to demean this lady. Through her, I have seen God work in some amazing ways ! For example, one time she prayed for my dad. She asked that God would 'heal his emotions'. That very night he returned home with tears in his eyes, and said that while he was driving home from work he began to cry, for no apparent reason. I think he may have said that this was the first time he had ever cried in his life- which I think can be a valuable thing for us at times. This was God at work in a powerful way.

Thanks for your encouragement and admonishments, dear saints !

I am much in need of God's help at this time, due to a health condition I have which brings constant pain, and some sleepless nights. God has a purpose in our trials though (as 1 Peter puts it- the trial of our faith is more precious than gold that perishes)

(Don't mean to detract from the topic of this thread because it's a valuable one- yet felt compelled to add the above)

Love in Christ to all,

John

Re: , on: 2010/4/16 8:29

The admonition was given to me first, and not near as tenderly worded as written here. Yet, this straight forthright manner of rebuke was requested of God long ago. (Since answered, it has always brought me straight to Him: on my face. It has prevented countless woes of chastisement other believers receive. I also know that I know that He is always here with me, because in my flesh, I become a blundering idiot.)