

THE PENTECOST

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Cover photo: Abbotsford, BC

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Hello and welcome to Issue 102. This month we are visiting two revivals, the revival of Columbia of in the 1990's and the revival of Korea in the early 20th century. We will continue our studies in Ephesians as well. God bless you!

Shawn Stevens

Can a nation be changed? Yes through the power of Jesus Christ! He changed Colombia and Korea. He brought peace to the hearts of those full of pain. I trust you'll be encouraged as you read these accounts below. Also we looking in the book of Ephesians chapter 3 and 4. In it are some practical guidelines to help us in the struggles of daily life. God bless you.

Ramona Stevens

REVIVAL COMES TO CALI, COLOMBIA

In the 1980s, Cali had a bad name. Colombia was the drug capital of the world. The drug cartel exerted enormous influence over the country as a whole and Colombia's citizens lived in fear. A thousand tons of cocaine per year was leaving Colombia for Europe and the United States. Killings were frequent and terror prevailed on the streets of Cali.

In 1978, Huleo and Ruth Roybal came to Cali as missionaries. Huleo worked hard at trying to bring together the city's churches. Initially, he was discouraged in his attempts. He even pulled out of the pastor's association that he was a part of. He did not have peace over doing this and later returned to the association, asking the other pastors to forgive him. Good things began happening. Christian groups began meeting together for prayer meetings and, in 1995, a large all-night prayer meeting was held jointly in Cali. The mayor of Cali also attended that meeting, spoke to those gathered, and boldly announced that Cali belonged to Jesus Christ. News came out that for the next forty-eight hours there were no homicides in Cali. This was the first time for as long as many could remember that the city had gone a weekend without a killing.

There would be more jointly-held prayer meetings. Cali's 55,000-seat soccer stadium was rented and more than 60,000 came for an evening of prayer. That year of 1995 saw significant breakthroughs in Cali. The government launched an all-out war on the cartels.

During this season of prayer, six of the seven top drug lords fell.

Amidst these victories, a painful tragedy was around the corner. Huleo was killed by two hit men over a property dispute. Ruth and their two daughters grieved his loss. The church in Cali was also in shock. Huleo had been such a strong leader amongst them and he had played such a large role in bringing the churches in Cali together for prayer. At his funeral, church leaders came together and covenanted for greater unity. Ruth and her daughters continued on in faith.

The Cali Revival that Huleo had prophesied saw great fruit. Many citizens opened their hearts to the Lord. City officials, seeing the positive effect that the revival was having, decided to allow the church use of a 22,000-seat building for a meeting, free of charge. The Cali Church has seen explosive growth and it has even been reported that there is one church of 35,000 persons which holds seven services on Sunday.

The revival in Cali shows what can be accomplished and what victories can be won through concentrated, united, corporate prayer.

Shawn Stevens

Reference :

Otis, George. *Transformations*. The Sentinel Group. Videocassette, 1999.

KOREA : REVIVED BY GOD'S SPIRIT

In 1907, a great revival came to the country of Korea. The story of it should be told everywhere and it is now my privilege to share it with you. In 1906, a number of humble missionaries and church leaders met to hear Dr. Howard

Agnew Johnson tell of a revival in India that had begun in 1905 and stretched into 1906. Many were moved and stirred by the report. A group from Ping Yang determined that they would seek God in prayer until He sent a revival to their country. After a month of concentrated prayer for revival, the group had not seen any results. Someone suggested that they should give up praying. Instead of giving up, they began praying even more than before. After about four months of prayer, unusual things began to happen. A Mr. Swallen held a service at a Korean out-station. While he attempted to conduct the service, something was going on in the congregation. There was a great release of emotion and people were weeping and confessing sins. Swallen attempted to move the meeting along by calling for everyone to sing a hymn but soon realized that the meeting was out of his control, as the congregation was spontaneously crying out to God.

There would be more unusual and wonderful meetings. In January of 1907, many had gathered for a week of united prayer. On the final evening of that week, fifteen hundred were assembled in a local Presbyterian church. Nothing spectacular had yet happened. All of a sudden, an elder stood up and announced that he was an "Achan." He explained that his sin was holding them all back. About a year earlier, a dying man had asked him to manage his affairs. After the man died, the elder managed this man's estate but also pocketed a hundred dollars of the money. Now, under great conviction, he confessed this sin to the others gathered and declared that he would pay this money back to the widow the following

morning. The conviction that was affecting him was also powerfully at work on others in the room. Many began confessing sins. The meeting, which began at 7.00 o'clock, did not end until 2.00 A.M. the next morning.

Some of the confessions, and subsequent acts of repentance, were amazing. A certain doctor had bragged that his cook was one of the most honest cooks in Korea. However, this cook came under conviction and confessed that he had been cheating the doctor for a long time and, as a result, had obtained enough money to secure a house and a lot. He subsequently sold his home and paid back all of the money to the doctor. A woman, under terrible agony of conscience, confessed openly to committing adultery. The missionary conducting the meeting was worried for her because, under Korean law at that time, her husband would be allowed to kill her. Her husband heard her confession and tearfully forgave her. Another man, who had come to the meeting out of curiosity, was guilty of robbery. He was both convicted and converted at the meeting and, subsequently, went to the magistrate and turned himself in.

From 1907 onward, church attendance began to soar. Large numbers were coming to Christ and being baptized. One man, having heard the gospel preached in a city meeting, returned to his district with a New Testament. He began reading it to his neighbours and more than fifty of them came to believe. They decided that they should form a church, even though they did not know how.

Again, in 1907, a remarkable revival broke out at a Ping Yang high school. A conviction of sin had settled on the school and the agonizing cries of students could be heard. The principal's room was filled with boys wanting spiritual help. School could not go on and the school was shut down for several days. During this time, a number of students had come to the Lord.

Prayer meetings began springing up everywhere. One pastor in Ping Yang announced that a prayer meeting would be held at 4.00 A.M. each morning. At 2.00 A.M. the next morning, 400 people had gathered outside of the church, waiting for the prayer meeting to begin. By 4.30 A.M., 600 were there and by the end of the week, 700 were participating.

In a place called Songdo, eight and nine-year-old schoolboys, who had been affected by the revival, would go into the streets after school and grab the shirtsleeves of those passing by and would plead with them to yield their lives to Jesus. Many of these pedestrians did come to Christ.

Many of those who came to the Lord in the revival were later persecuted for their choice. In the years that Japan ruled over Korea, many church leaders were put in prison and tortured. They endured painful mistreatment, which sometimes included being burned with hot irons. One man, after returning to his village and announcing his new faith in Christ, was expelled from his home. He did not retaliate but, instead, meekly lived with his villagers and preached Christ. Eventually, his whole clan was converted and his possessions were restored to him.

From Ping Yang to Songdu God was moving in Korea. Prayer meetings led to conviction of sin. Conviction of sin led to repentance. Repentance led to conversions. Conversions culminated in revival. Even children could not help but express their concern for souls. The work that God did would not be stomped out by persecution. Neither shall the story of it be silenced.

Shawn Stevens

Reference : Jonathan Goforth, When the Spirit's Fire Swept Korea. Elkhart: Strategic Press, n.d.

I'VE BEEN SET FREE

When I stop and think
How on the brink
My soul endangered so.
When I stop and think of the length it took,
And how His hand, it reached this low.
I start to sing to Christ my King.
My heart, it overflows.

Heavens work employed,
And the oil of joy,
And a life that never ends.
By faith I stand and in the inner man
I'm strengthened down within.
Alive to God and forgiven sin
And Christ enthroned within.

I've been set free.
Oh, don't you see
That I cannot hold this in.
I'm a whole new guy, like the butterfly.
He's changed me from within.
He is my Lord. He is my King.
I'm glad. That's why I sing.

Shawn Stevens

A Treatise On The Book Of Ephesians Part 2 (Chapters 3 and 4)

**GOD IS ACTIVELY WORKING WITH
US WHO ARE BEING
BUILT TOGETHER TO BECOME A
DWELLING IN WHICH HE LIVES BY
HIS SPIRIT.**

TEXT : EPHESIANS 3:1-21

*1 For this cause I Paul, the
prisoner of Jesus Christ for you*

Gentiles,

*2 If ye have heard of the
dispensation of the grace of
God which is given me to you-
ward:*

*3 How that by revelation he
made known unto me the
mystery; (as I wrote afore in few
words,*

*4 Whereby, when ye read, ye
may understand my knowledge
in the mystery of Christ)*

*5 Which in other ages was not
made known unto the sons of
men, as it is now revealed unto
his holy apostles and prophets
by the Spirit;*

*6 That the Gentiles should be
fellowheirs, and of the same
body, and partakers of his
promise in Christ by the gospel:*

*7 Whereof I was made a
minister, according to the gift of
the grace of God given unto me
by the effectual working of his
power.*

*8 Unto me, who am less than
the least of all saints, is this
grace given, that I should
preach among the Gentiles the
unsearchable riches of Christ;*

*9 And to make all men see what
is the fellowship of the mystery,
which from the beginning of the
world hath been hid in God, who
created all things by Jesus
Christ:*

10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

11 According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

12 In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

13 Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.

14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,

16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

TOPIC : LEARNING HOW TO OVERCOME THE TENDENCIES OF DISCOURAGEMENT

INTRODUCTION :

Notice what Paul says in

3:13 “Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.”

Did you know that at one time a person was court martialed and sentenced to a year's imprisonment for being a discourager?

Discouragement is one of the devil's best tools.

We need to learn how to overcome the tendencies of discouragement.

Paul suggests two ways we can overcome the tendencies of discouragement.

1. by focusing on our relationship to Jesus Christ

2. by focusing on our resources in Jesus Christ

We can overcome the tendencies of discouragement.

1. BY FOCUSING ON OUR RELATIONSHIP TO JESUS CHRIST (See 3:1-13)

We can have similar circumstances and interpret them quite differently. Why? Because we look at them from different perspectives.

Therefore, we come to different

conclusions.

As we learn to focus on our relationship to Jesus Christ one of the first things we need to do is

1.1 AFFIRM THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST IN OUR LIVES

(See 3:1)

How do we do this?

Notice how Paul did it. He affirmed to himself, and to the Ephesians, that he was the prisoner of Jesus Christ for their sake. When actually he was chained to a Roman guard all the time while in prison.

When we interpret our circumstances we need to realize, as followers of Jesus Christ, that we will experience hardships for Christ's sake. We no longer are our own boss, but have submitted ourselves to Jesus Christ and we respond to what He wants us to do.

1.2 AFFIRM THE TASK JESUS HAS GIVEN YOU TO DO (See 3:2-7)

God had entrusted to Paul the task of administering God's grace for the Ephesians. That is, he was sharing the good news of salvation and saw many of them become converted.

What has the Lord entrusted to you to do for him? Do it heartily as unto the Lord.

1.3 AFFIRM THE RESULTS OF DOING GOD'S WILL (See 3:7-11)

Paul fully realized he had become a servant of Jesus Christ. Therefore, he

experienced His power to be an effective messenger of the gospel both to the Gentiles and the rulers and authorities in heavenly realms.

When you and I share the good news with others the enemy will do his best to disrupt or distract us.

1.4 AFFIRM THE WAY WE CAN COME TO FREEDOM AND CONFIDENCE (See 3:12-13)

In Jesus Christ, we can have faith and freedom, with confidence, and can approach God our heavenly Father. When, because of obedience to Jesus Christ, we experience difficulties, we need to remember the way to overcome discouragement is to draw upon our resources in Jesus Christ and God our Father. Moreover, we need to remind ourselves that He knows all about the trials and testings which we experience in serving Him. Therefore, keep interpreting your situations from God's perspective and not from your own.

2. FOCUS ON YOUR RESOURCES IN JESUS CHRIST (See 3:14-21)

As we grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ we also need to grow in our awareness of our resources in Him.

1. THE INDWELLING HOLY SPIRIT CAN STRENGTHEN US WITH HIS POWER IN OUR INNER BEING (See 3:16)

This means the Holy Spirit joins with our inner being, thus empowers us so that Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith. What does that mean?

Christ wants to feel at home in our hearts, thereby enabling us to please Him and enjoy doing what He desires us to do instead of we doing our own thing and asking Him to bless it.

2. WE NEED TO BE ROOTED

AND ESTABLISHED IN HIS LOVE (See 3:17-18)

Learning to grasp the different dimensions of His love, in all its compassion, revitalizes us in serving Him.

– **the breadth or width of His love (See vs 18).**

It is all-encompassing. Yes, it includes all mankind regardless of race, creed, colour, age, or profession.

– **the length of His love (See vs 18).**

It reaches throughout the whole human history on until Jesus Christ's return.

– **the height of His love (See vs 18).**

His love reaches from Earth to heaven. The enemy cannot conquer such love. It is far above all our circumstances.

– **the depth of His love (See vs 18).**

Jesus is able to save to the uttermost that come unto God by Him.

Hebrews 7.25 says:

"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."

Learning to grasp the fulness of His love will enable us to love one another as He loved us. Since God is for us, who can be against us?

CONCLUSION

It is a fact that each one of us faces discouragement sooner or later. We are tempted to become discouraged with our slow spiritual progress or our inability to live Spirit-controlled lives. What we need to practice regularly is to focus our attention on our living and growing relationship with Jesus Christ who indwells us by the Holy Spirit. and focus on our bountiful resources we have in Christ Jesus who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above anything

we can ask or think according to the power that is at work in us by the Holy Spirit.

2.5 REFRAIN FROM NEGATIVE ATTITUDES AND PRACTICE POSITIVE

ATTITUDES (See 4:31-32)

Negative attitudes:

- **bitterness** – Often is the result of harbouring anger or resentment about something or someone.
- The Scriptures warn us about harbouring a root of bitterness which gives the devil a foothold in our Christian lives.
- **rage** – Cutting remarks, back biting, and losing our temper
- **anger** – Negative and harmful speech, even resorting to cursing someone.

– **brawling and slander** – Abusive words against God and people.

– **every form of malice** – Enjoy inflicting hurt or injury on others.

PRACTICE THE POSITIVE ATTITUDES (See 4:32)

- Be kind and compassionate to one another.
- Speak with love and understanding about each other and show consideration and empathy for one another.

“AND BE YE KIND ONE TO ANOTHER, TENDERHEARTED, FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER, EVEN AS GOD FOR CHRIST’S SAKE HATH FORGIVEN YOU.” (EPHESIANS 4:32)

God set the example of how to freely forgive us who offended and resisted Him. Now we are to extend that same kind of forgiveness to one another.

Someone has said he who cannot forgive

others breaks the bridge over which he himself must pass.

Let’s continue to grow toward maturity, thereby honouring our Lord, and become meaningfully involved in ministering in compassion and love toward one another.

Jake Balzer

Scripture taken from King James Version