

# THE PENTECOST

ISSUE #93 April 2015



# THE PENTECOST



*Cover photo: Port Townsend, Washington*

*Above photo: Banff, Alberta*

Many today have not heard of the great revivals that have shaken our world throughout history. In this April, 2012, issue of *The Pentecost* we welcome you to explore the Hebrides Revival. May God stir, challenge and bless you as you open your heart to revival truth. God bless you.

**Shawn Stevens**

As long as you have breath there is still work to be done in God's kingdom. This may have been what two women (in their 80s) were thinking and why God used them mightily in the Hebrides Revival.

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## THE HEBRIDES REVIVAL

If Duncan Campbell was alive with us today, he would emphasize the importance of having a clear definition of revival. He would distinguish it from all of our best evangelistic efforts, from our missionary campaigns, and from all of our special services and programs. He would not necessarily criticize these engagements, but he would vehemently insist that they are not to be confused with revival. Revival is the highest plane of Christian experience. This term is to be reserved for those select periods in history when God has descended upon a community, bringing conviction of sin and hunger for Him, in very dramatic ways. It is also when this conviction and hunger translates into personal conversions and spiritual life. Campbell says, "Revival is a going of God among His people, and an awareness of God laying hold of the community . . . the fear of God lays hold upon the community, moving men and women, who until then had no concern for spiritual things, to seek after God."<sup>1</sup> Such an occurrence can fairly be called revival; such was the experience of Duncan Campbell and the inhabitants of the island of Lewis during the Hebrides Revival of 1949.<sup>2</sup>

The island of Lewis truly experienced an awakening out of spiritual darkness and depravity, into spiritual victory and life. In the years preceding the revival, the population of the island had digressed into either impiety or empty mechanical religion. Campbell says that "the stream of vital Christianity appeared to be running low."<sup>3</sup> Many pastors on the island were not unaware of the condition that the community had sunken into. They were pained by what seemed to be a hopeless situation. This pain resulted in a voiced concern as the Free Church Presbytery of Lewis published the following statement in the local paper:

*The Presbytery of Lewis having taken into consideration the low state of vital religion within their own bounds, and throughout the land generally, call upon their faithful people in all their congregations to take a serious view of the present dispensation of divine displeasure manifested, not only in the chaotic conditions of international politics and domestic economics and morality, but also, and especially, in the lack of spiritual power from Gospel Ordinances, and to realize that these things plainly indicate that the Most High has a controversy with the nation.<sup>4</sup>*

This challenge was left with the community with the sincere hope that spiritual recovery and restoration

would be known in Lewis.

This burden for spiritual recovery was especially held by two elderly women in the Parish of Barvas. These women, one eighty-two and the other eighty-four years of age, committed to pray two nights a week for revival. They began praying at 10:00 P.M. and would usually continue until three or four in the morning. One scripture that they especially clung to, and frequently quoted in their prayers was; "For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: . . ." (Isaiah 44.3). These women were thirsty for revival, and they would not let go of the hope for it, until it would be poured upon Lewis like a mighty flood. During this time, one of the women saw a vision in which the church of her father was packed with young people and a strange man was standing in the pulpit. She shared this vision with her pastor, insisting that he needed to act on it. She said to him, "You've tried missions. You've tried special evangelists. Mr. McKee, have you tried God?"<sup>5</sup> She requested that he, along with others, should gather to pray for revival. If not in the same home as theirs, at least they could meet at the same time.

The pastor took the women's request very seriously, and gathered others along with him to pray and wait on God. In one of these meetings a deacon spoke out, reading the following words from Psalms: "Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; . . ." (Psalm 24:3-4). Next, he exclaimed to the others with him, "It seems to me to be so much humbug to pray as we are praying, to wait as we are waiting, if we are not rightly related to God."<sup>6</sup> Then he cried out, "God, are my hands clean? Is my heart pure?"<sup>7</sup> He immediately fell onto his knees and went into a trance. Coinciding with this, Campbell says that the power of God swept in, and the community was gripped by an awareness of God.

This sweeping through of God's Spirit had a profound affect upon the community. Men and women began experiencing a spiritual hunger which expressed itself in many ways. Prayer meetings were held in churches and cottages, running until any hour of the night or following morning. There was a great impartation of faith, in which believers were gripped with the conviction that God was a covenant-keeping God, and that He must pour the water of His Spirit upon their

thirsty souls. They would be content with nothing less than a flood of revival. Campbell comments on this “spirit of expectancy” by saying, “Here I found a group of men who seemed to be living on the high plane of implicit confidence in God.”<sup>8</sup>

How did Campbell come to Lewis to make this observation? Through the promptings of one of the two elderly women, the pastor of the church in Barvas sought to find the “strange man” who, in the vision, was seen standing in the pulpit. An invitation to Campbell was made which Campbell, due to other ministry commitments, apologetically declined. Upon hearing this, the elderly woman exclaimed, “That is what man is saying, but God has said otherwise.”<sup>9</sup> Remarkably, a series of unexpected circumstances developed, resulting in Campbell's ministry schedule being cleared up. He took this as a sign from God that he should accept the invitation, and proceeded to the island of Lewis. Upon arriving, an elder said to Campbell, “Mr. Campbell, I would like to ask you a question. Are you walking with God?”<sup>10</sup> Campbell, impacted by the seriousness of the question, humbly answered, “Well, I think I can say this, that I fear God.”<sup>11</sup>

The elder accepted Campbell's answer and asked him further if he would be willing to address a crowd of about three hundred persons who had gathered in the church that evening. Campbell agreed and they proceeded to the meeting. Campbell was also experiencing the same spiritual hunger that the inhabitants of Lewis so deeply felt. He cried out to the congregation:

*'What shall I do?' The history of man is the history of enquiry. Man down through the ages has been out on a great quest, the sum of which is to know God. Away back in the distant past Job cried: 'Oh, that I knew where I might find Him, that I might come to His seat!' (Job 23.3). I would go as far as to say that the initiative of the honest soul is not towards self-realization but toward God-realization, and in this verse of Scripture we have the language of a young man in search of reality. He is tired of the tinsel and toy of earth's vain show.*<sup>12</sup>

Campbell, after his closing address, proceeded down the aisle. However, at least one young attendee was not ready to leave the meeting. He looked up to God and prayed aloud, “God, You can't fail us. God, You can't fail us. You promised to pour out water on the thirsty

and floods upon the dry ground. You can't fail us.”<sup>13</sup>

The young man then dropped to his knees and fell into a trance. Campbell was impacted by the unusual events which were beginning to happen. Standing just outside the front doors of the church was a crowd of about six hundred people. Why were they there? They had come up from the community after, somehow, being struck with a deep awareness of their need for God. A hundred of them were young people who had been attending a dance that evening; they left the dance under a strong compulsion that they needed to get their lives right with God. They saw the lights on in the church and moved towards it, until they reached its doorway. Everyone was ushered inside, the meeting was resumed, and they continued until 4.00 A.M. An intense awareness of personal sin was felt by attendees and they began crying to God for mercy. One young woman, who was a teacher in the community, lay prostrate on the floor, crying to God, “Oh God, is there mercy for me?”<sup>14</sup>

What was happening in the parish of Barvas? It would be better to ask, “What was happening in Lewis?” A move of God was sweeping through the island, and scenes like the one above were occurring in other parishes as well. Souls were experiencing both conviction and relief and Campbell comments on one such meeting:

*There was a moving scene, some weeping in sorrow and distress, others, with joy and love filling their hearts, falling upon their knees, conscious only of the presence and power of God [W]ho had come in revival blessing. Within a matter of days the whole parish was in the grip of a spiritual awakening. Churches became crowded with services continuing until three o'clock in the morning. Work was largely put aside, as young and old were made to face eternal realities.*<sup>15</sup>

Revival was here, and awakened men and women were moving with it.

On one evening, a group of between two and three hundred persons, pressed with this awareness of eternal realities, journeyed to the police station in town.<sup>16</sup> They had to find relief from the internal strain that they were experiencing and they knew that there was a policeman there who was a strong, committed Christian. Campbell was informed of this gathering, and proceeded there himself. On the way, he continued to witness unusual scenes, one being of four men praying by the roadside, overwhelmed with a sense of their need for God.

Arriving at the police station, Campbell could hear people crying to God for mercy. One man in the crowd, seeing his wretched condition, repeatedly exclaimed, "Hell is too good for me."<sup>17</sup> Another man was seen on his knees, with his mother crying out beside him, "Willie, are you coming at last? Willie, are you coming at last?"<sup>18</sup> Campbell stood in awe at these scenes of such deep conviction.

People not only gathered in churches and at the police station but, on one occasion, a crowd of seekers was found waiting in a field. Campbell went to them and was moved to see two teenage girls, who had recently been converted, counseling a deeply distressed older man who was crying out to God in prayer. The man happened to be the school headmaster and the girls were encouraging him to persevere in his seeking for God.<sup>19</sup> One of them could be heard saying to the schoolmaster, "The Jesus that saved us last night can save you now."<sup>20</sup>

People from every walk of life, from a schoolmaster to farmers, were affected by the revival. A certain farmer, Donald McLeod, who was apathetic to spiritual things and had not been to church for twelve years, told Campbell that he might come out sometime to one of the meetings. He did so, and because it was so crowded, McLeod had to sit on the steps to the pulpit, right where Campbell was preaching. He came under intense conviction of sin and left the meeting for home. McLeod had a godly wife and daughter and word was brought to Campbell that McLeod was in great distress of soul. Campbell came to the farmhouse and found a number of others there praying for the farmer. They were worried that if he did not find relief, he would go insane. His wife exclaimed, "Oh, may God have mercy on the mighty sinner."<sup>21</sup> Campbell found him in a room and heard him praying, "God, can You have mercy on me? God, can You have mercy on me?"<sup>22</sup> McLeod, not receiving relief that night, called for a prayer meeting for the next evening and, on the morning following, he experienced a glorious conversion.

Campbell found himself ushered from churches, to a police station, to a field, to farm houses and other places, almost continuously. On one occasion, Campbell was asked to speak at another parish. He was already committed to speaking elsewhere on Lewis, but said that this parish could have him between one and two o'clock in the morning. Upon arriving there, he

found the church crowded to capacity, with many persons standing outside. He ministered a word to the congregation and, as he left, he heard behind him hundreds crying out to God.<sup>23</sup>

While some were calling for Campbell to come to their parish, others were telling him to go further afield. The elderly woman, mentioned above, told Campbell that he needed to go to a certain island and minister there. Campbell declined, being unsure that it was the Lord's direction. The woman responded, "Mr. Campbell, if you were living as near to God as you ought to be, He would reveal His secrets to you also."<sup>24</sup> Not offended by these words, Campbell asked to spend time in prayer with the woman the next morning. She agreed, and in that meeting she prayed these words, "Lord, You remember the conversation that we had this morning at 2 o'clock, and You told me that You were going to visit this part of the parish with revival, and I've just spoken to Mr. Campbell about it and he's not prepared to think of it. You'd better give him wisdom, because the man badly needs it."<sup>25</sup> Campbell responded by going to the island and there he found five ministers and a large crowd of between three and four hundred gathered around a house. Almost everyone packed inside the house and he proceeded to minister.

On another occasion, fourteen men were discussing how much beer they should purchase for their next Friday together. After a moment, one of the men exclaimed that this might be the last time that beer would come to this parish. One of the others asked him whether he meant that revival was going to come there. The first man answered back, "I cannot say what is going to happen or what is going to come, but something is happening to me."<sup>26</sup> All fourteen men became very uncomfortable and fell to their knees. Remaining on the ground for over an hour, all of them experienced a glorious conversion. Eleven of the fourteen went on to be office-bearers in the church.

As a result of many glorious conversions, such as these, prayer meetings on the island became packed. One local paper announced that there were more people attending prayer meetings during the revival, than attended public worship on a Communion Sunday.<sup>27</sup>

Another island community which was swept by the revival was that of Uig. Of one meeting, Campbell comments in these words:

*I wish I could describe the scene, and impart something of the overwhelming sense of the subduing Spirit of God on the night that the windows of heaven opened. The parish minister, the Rev. Angus MacFarlane, was in his own pulpit and was leading in prayer, when suddenly a consciousness of God came over the congregation, and we were lifted out of the realm of the ordinary, to realize a spiritual impact that could not be explained from any human point of view: revival had come.* <sup>28</sup>

While revival had come to Uig, it also came to Uig's neighboring village that very night. To journey to the meeting in the church there:

*All lorries and vans available were put into service to convey the people to the place of worship, yet many were forced to walk miles; but distance did not matter, and at any rate they knew that the meetings would continue: if they were not in time for the first, they were sure of getting the second or the third. So they came across the moors and over the hills, young men and maidens, their torches flashing in the darkness, intent upon one thing, to get peace from a guilty conscience, and refuge from the storm in their bosom, in the shelter in the rock of ages.* <sup>29</sup>

This great desire was satisfied in the lives of many seekers and Campbell comments that, even after the events of this revival, this church continued to be “throbbing with young life.” <sup>30</sup>

The Hebrides Revival was truly a spiritual awakening which superseded ordinary evangelistic, missionary and religious activity. The vision of the elderly woman found a glorious fulfillment and multitudes of souls were brought under conviction and ushered into spiritual release and spiritual life. The serious prayers of desperate men and women rose up to God. They wanted clean hands and pure hearts. The intensity of this desire drove them to seek for God until they found Him. God had promised to pour out water on the thirsty and they expected the flood. They left their homes, their streets and their dance halls in search of something higher and greater, knowing that their only deliverance from the misery of a life of sin was genuine Christian conversion and surrender to God. Many found both conversion and deliverance and could be heard joyfully singing, “When Zion's bondage God turned back, As men that dreamed were we, Then filled with laughter was our mouth, Our tongue with melody.” <sup>31</sup> They had been given the spiritual freedom of revival and were forever marked by the experience.

**Shawn Stevens**

## ENDNOTES

- 1 Duncan Campbell, *The Lewis Awakening* (Toronto: Evangelical Publishers, 1954), 14-15.
- 2 The Hebrides Revival is sometimes referred to as The Lewis Awakening.
- 3 Ibid., 11.
- 4 Ibid., 11.
- 5 Duncan Campbell, *When God Stepped Down From Heaven*, Audiocassette 6024.
- 6 Duncan Campbell, *The Lewis Awakening*, compact disc.
- 7 Ibid.
- 8 Duncan Campbell, *The Lewis Awakening*, 16.
- 9 Duncan Campbell, *The Lewis Awakening*, compact disc.
- 10 Ibid.
- 11 Ibid.
- 12 Duncan Campbell, *God's Answer* (Fort Washington: Christian Literature Crusade, 1967), 8.
- 13 Duncan Campbell, *The Lewis Awakening*, compact disc.
- 14 Ibid.
- 15 Duncan Campbell, *The Lewis Awakening*, 18.
- 16 Duncan Campbell, *When God Stepped Down From Heaven*, Audiocassette 6024.
- 17 Duncan Campbell, *The Lewis Awakening*, compact disc.
- 18 Duncan Campbell, *When God Stepped Down From Heaven*, Audiocassette 6024.
- 19 Duncan Campbell, *The Lewis Awakening*, compact disc.
- 20 Duncan Campbell, *When God Stepped Down From Heaven*, Audiocassette 6024.
- 21 Ibid.
- 22 Ibid.
- 23 Ibid.
- 24 Ibid.
- 25 Duncan Campbell, *When God Stepped Down From Heaven*, Audiocassette 6024.
- 26 Ibid.
- 27 Ibid.
- 28 Duncan Campbell, *The Lewis Awakening*, 27.
- 29 Ibid., 27.
- 30 Ibid., 28.
- 31 Duncan Campbell, *The Lewis Awakening*, compact disc. Scripture taken from the King James Version.

One thing that distressed Campbell in his later years was that someone had been spreading false information concerning the Hebrides Revival. For this reason, the research for this book was taken strictly from Duncan Campbell's own words. Also, the booklet, “The Lewis Awakening,” and the CD, by the same title, are not the same publication, despite the fact that they share the same title and Campbell as author.

**Shawn Stevens**

## COMING TO JESUS

*In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)* (John 7:37-39)

We often think of coming to Jesus as something converts do in the moment of their conversion; they come to Jesus in saving faith. While this is true, coming to Jesus is something that a Christian does at every stage of his spiritual walk, and hopefully does so daily. In fact, Jesus is calling for the thirsty ones to come to Him, not to a ceremony or a ritual or a philosophy, but to Him, personally. Isaiah 55:1 says:

*Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.*

This is one of the great “come” scriptures in the Bible. Similarly, Revelation 22:17 says:

*And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*

King David also thirsted for God, thinking of himself as a thirsty deer. He said:

*As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.*

*My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? Psalm 42: 1-2*

Compare this to Peter, the Lord's disciple. In Matthew's gospel we read of the disciples being out in a boat during a fierce storm. An amazing miracle is preformed as Jesus walks across the water towards them. The disciples see Jesus walking across the water and are afraid. Jesus speaks to them, telling them not to fear. Then we read, “And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.” (Matthew 14:28). Jesus did say “Come” and Peter, too, is miraculously enabled to walk on the water towards Jesus.

There are some things for us to see in this passage. Firstly, we see the spiritual thirst of Peter. When he heard the voice of Jesus, He immediately wanted to come to Him, even if that meant walking on water. He was the only disciple who responded in this way. It was not enough for him to wait in the boat, while Jesus was afar off walking. He had to be close to Jesus.

The second thing we can learn from this passage is that Peter was crying out for Jesus to call him to come. He seemed to want a special invitation. We can make allowances for Peter because one wrong move in a situation like this could mean sinking to the bottom of the sea. However, how many times have we, in a less threatening situation than this, been like Peter and asked for God to call us to come to Him before we will come ourselves. God has already called for us to come to Him. His Word is full of such calls. How many times are we still waiting for an extra special invitation and saying; “Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee ”.

Jesus has been calling for us to come to Him. The call has not been ignored by all. There are many thirsty ones who have come and are now drinking from Jesus.

Dear Jesus, we come to You today. We come to You not just when we are saved, or when we are in trouble. We come to You now, today, because we need You today. We need You, Yourself, not a ceremony, or a ritual or a philosophy; we need You. We thirst and come to the waters that we may drink of them freely. Even as a deer would come to the brook, so we come to appear before You. Lord, we have heard Your call for us to come. We have read it in Your Word. Now meet with us we pray. Amen.

**Shawn Stevens**

Scripture taken from the KJB

## JOSIAH

Under the rule of two wicked kings, Judah had drifted away from the LORD, her God, and was in spiritual ruin. She needed a leader who would bring her back to God. God provided a leader for Judah who had a tender heart to serve Him, King Josiah.

Judah had seen some good days under the rule of King Hezekiah but Hezekiah was succeeded by a wicked king, Manasseh. Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king and he reigned for fifty-five years. He did not do good; “ But did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, like unto the abominations of the heathen, whom the Lord had cast out before the children of Israel.” (2 Chronicles 33:2). Manasseh rebuilt the places of worship to foreign gods. He even sacrificed some of his children in ritual sacrifices to those gods. He consulted mediums and practiced witchcraft and sorcery. It is believed that he had the prophet Isaiah executed. He even set up an idol in the temple of God. By all of Manasseh's evil deeds, he led Judah into sin. We read; “So Manasseh made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to err, and to do worse than the heathen, whom the Lord had destroyed before the children of Israel.” (2 Chronicles 33:9).

Was Manasseh's and Judah's backsliding as a result of

God ignoring her? No. We read; “And the Lord spake to Manasseh, and to his people: but they would not hearken.” (2 Chronicles 33:10). Because Manasseh and the people would not listen, God raised up Assyria and enabled her to capture the city of Jerusalem and take its population captive.

When Manasseh lost Jerusalem he was greatly humbled and prayed to God. God mercifully returned him to Jerusalem and let him rule again. He did repent and led a weak reform, but he did not live long enough to correct all of the wickedness which he had committed and led Judah into. He was succeeded by his son, Amon. Of Amon, we read;

“But he did that which was evil in the sight of the Lord, as did Manasseh his father: for Amon sacrificed unto all the carved images which Manasseh his father had made, and served them;” (2 Chronicles 33:22). The wicked life-style of Amon even offended his own servants and they killed him.

Amon was succeeded by eight-year-old Josiah around 642 B.C. Josiah would still be a youth when he began his reforms and he was like a breath of fresh air to Judah. His heart was for the LORD and we read; “And he did that which was right in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the ways of David his father, and declined neither to the right hand, nor to the left.” (2 Chronicles 34:2). Josiah walked straight. He walked straight towards the Lord and led his people with him. The first two things that we read of him doing was that he began to seek God and began to destroy Judah's idols. We read; “For in the eighth year of his reign, while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of David his father: and in the twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem from the high places, and the groves, and the carved images, and the molten images.” (2 Chronicles 34:3).

How thoroughly did Josiah destroy these articles of false worship? We read; “And when he had broken down the altars and the groves, and had beaten the graven images into powder, and cut down all the idols throughout all the land of Israel, he returned to Jerusalem.” (2 Chronicles 34:7). Not only did Josiah begin to seek God and begin to destroy idolatry in Judah, he also restored and repaired the house of the LORD. The temple had been destroyed by Judah's earlier kings and had not been used for probably about seventy-five years. Under Josiah, God's house would again be used for the service and worship of God.

While the temple was being repaired for the worship and service of God, a copy of the Scriptures was found inside of it. This was brought to the King and he had it read to him. What was his response? When Josiah heard the righteous standards of God read to him, and when he reflected on how far they had fallen below God's

standard, and how badly they had forsaken the LORD, he tore his clothing as a sign of grief. He was filled with a realization of how far they had strayed from the LORD. It was not until he heard the words of the Law read that he saw their sin for all of its ugliness. He was humble. Josiah had a humble heart. He was repentant, not resentful.

When Josiah learned how far his people had strayed from God, he was determined to bring them back. He gathered the elders, together with the common people, and he read the Scriptures to them. Next he made “And the king stood in his place, and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord, and to keep his commandments, and his testimonies, and his statutes, with all his heart, and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant which are written in this book.” (2 Chronicles 34:31). Not only did Josiah covenant with God for himself, but he led the people in covenanting with God. This commitment was to both moral and civil restraints in honour of the LORD. Together, they took a stand for the LORD. This verse describes Josiah's legacy;

“And like unto him was there no king before him, that turned to the Lord with all his heart, and with all his soul, and with all his might, according to all the law of Moses; neither after him arose there any like him.” (2 Kings 23:25).

Josiah was a child when he came to power and a youth when he began his reforms, but he did not let his age intimidate him from implementing the major decisions and actions needed to bring the people back to God. God had tried to correct Manasseh, gently at first, but he would not listen. He would not listen until strong chastisement was brought upon him. Then he heard and began making some reforms. However, he had spent his life and did not get to make a full reformation. Josiah decided early on that he was going to follow the LORD. He didn't know what all of that would entail, but he began walking in the light which he had. He began seeking the LORD, tearing down idols and rebuilding God's house. In the process, the Word of God was found and he learned more of God's ways. What he learned was humbling and he was repentant, not resentful. Friend, how about you? How about me? Are we a “Josiah?” Are we humble and poor in spirit? Are our lives like a breath of fresh air to the godly? Let us stand together for the Lord in a place of commitment to Him.

Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, we have been like the people of Judah. We have served other gods and have done what is evil in Your sight. All the while You have not been ignoring us. You have been calling us back. Your Word had been there as a light and a lamp all along. With Your Word



has been Your Spirit calling, calling, calling us. Like in the life of Manasseh, much time has been wasted by us and, yet, there is still time for us to throw ourselves upon Your mercy. We do so now. Forgive us our sins and our running from You. We relinquish our pride. We tear our hearts and not our clothing. Lord, in the time remaining, let there be a great reform of Your Church. Let us walk straight after You and not turn to the right or to the left. We had offered You a bit. You have wanted all. Now we give You all of ourselves. We seek You now. We tear down our idols. We want to do what is right in Your sight. Lord, Your people are Your temple, Your house. Just like the temple in Josiah's day, we are in need of repair, restoration and revival. Turn to us and touch us. As in the other temple, as You are restoring us, may it be that Your Word is found in us. Quicken it to us. Enliven it to our hearts and consciences. We want to be used for Your worship and service, Lord. We want to follow You with all of our heart and with all of our soul. We now trust in Your grace. Amen.

**Shawn Stevens**

Scripture taken from the KJB

*The following are tracts that I have written for children. If there are children in your life I invite you to read these to them.*

## **NEVER ALONE**

Have you ever felt lonely? Maybe your family had to move or you visited a place where you didn't know anyone. Did you know that there is a person that is every where and loves everyone and wants to be your friend? His name is Jesus. Jesus is God and because He is God He can be everywhere at once. He made the world and all people so He loves us very much and wants to be our friend. He spoke to people about Himself and asked them to write it down in a book called The Bible. In the Bible it tells us that God made the earth and all that is on the earth including people. You can read about it in the Bible in Genesis 1: 1-31.

You may have heard in school that we came from monkeys but that's not true. Have you seen a monkey turn into a human? Do you have brothers or sisters? Did your mother give birth to a monkey or a human? Some people say that people came from monkeys because they don't want to believe in God. God is real and in His word the Bible, you can find answers to many of your questions.

You may wonder why did God create things like mosquitos, that bite us and poisonous snakes or scorpions? Well when God created the world everything was good. Mosquitoes probably didn't bite and snakes didn't hurt people with poison. So what happened?

Well after God made all the animals He made people starting with one man, Adam and one woman, Eve, and He gave them the ability to make their own choices. He told them they could eat of all the fruit trees He had made except from one particular tree and if they did eat of that tree they would die. One day Satan came and lied to them saying that they wouldn't die if they ate of the tree but that their eyes would be opened. So Eve ate first and then Adam ate also of that tree. They disobeyed God and that is called "sin". After they sinned everything changed. They couldn't live in the perfect garden God made for them. Weeds started to grow and they had to work now to get food. The animals changed too, some became dangerous to people like poisonous snakes.

God forgave Adam and Eve but their lives were harder now because of sin. Adam and Eve's bodies didn't die right away, that came later; but they did die spiritually. What does that mean to die spiritually? God is spirit and He is perfect so when Adam and Eve sinned, God no longer walked and talked with them in the same way that He had in the perfect garden. God still loved them and wanted to be their friend but now He would watch them from above?

In the past when people sinned or their children sinned, to obey God they would have to have an animal killed as a sacrifice. So why don't we kill animals today when we sin, or do wrong? Well God loves us so much that about 2000 years ago He sent His son Jesus to earth as a human baby. Jesus grew up in a family and lived a perfect life.

Satan talked to Jesus and tried to get Him to sin, but Jesus never did, not even once!

When Jesus was 33 years old, after He had talked to many people about who He is and Who His Father is, God and after He healed many people, there were lots of people who still didn't believe Jesus. Jesus is God, but many people wanted to kill Him.

He let them kill Him so that He would be the sacrifice for all the sins of the whole world even sins that we had not done yet. How could Jesus do this? Because He is the Son of God, He loves people so much and because He lived a perfect life without sin. His death was the perfect sacrifice, the only one that can cleanse sin away. Jesus rose to life three days after He died.

If you have not done so already, ask Jesus to be your king. Commit to following Him for the rest of your life and beyond. When we sin we need to repent and tell Jesus that we are sorry. Ask Him to forgive us. Then we should ask Jesus to help us not to do that wrong thing again. God bless you.

**Shawn Stevens**

## IF YOU ARE AFRAID

Have you ever been afraid of something spooky? Have you ever thought that something or someone evil was trying to get you? Have you ever watched something on t.v. that stuck in your mind and made you afraid for a long time?

Why do people make t.v. shows and stories to scare people? Some people do it because they think it is fun to scare other people. Some people do scary things today that they copied from people who lived hundreds of years ago. Just like there are people who are afraid of the dark and afraid of scary things around them today, there were also people long ago that were afraid of these same kinds of things.

What did some of these people do about their fears? Some of them made up superstitions or made up stories that they thought were true. Some of them even did things that were scary because they thought they could scare evil spirits away.

Some people did things like worship the sun, make grain and vegetable offerings, hike in graveyards and make jack-o-lanterns, celebrate Halloween, avoid black cats. Some people tried to contact other people who were dead. This is very foolish because no one who is dead can talk to us.

Other people played with ouija boards or did yoga and read zodiac symbols or played with crystals.

These things did not help people with their fears. In fact they made their fears worse. Why?

Because there is a devil who is evil and he lives to keep people scared and keep people unhappy. The devil is our enemy. The devil is God's enemy.

When someone plays with magic or with ouija boards, the devil or demons, who are his helpers, sometimes get involved. God doesn't want you to be involved with the devil or demons. God doesn't want you to be afraid.

God is much stronger than the devil. You can have God living inside of you to keep the devil away. How can you have God living inside of you? You first must understand that you have done things that are wrong and therefore you are a sinner. We have all sinned. Romans 3:23 says "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"

Sin is disobeying God. Sin brings fear into our hearts. Sin is something that God can forgive if we ask Him to. Why can God forgive your sins? Because of what Jesus, God's Son has done.

Jesus Christ was and is perfect. He never sinned. The devil does not want you to know about Jesus but we don't care what the devil wants. We care about what God wants.

Jesus Christ loves you and He decided to pay the price for your sins and for mine. Do you know what this meant? To do this He had to die a very painful death. Jesus died for all people on the earth. That means He died for you. Then He arose from the dead.

Some people think it is just a game to play with ouija boards, video games with dead people in them, or to read stories with magic like Harry Potter. It is not just a game or a story. These are like playing with the devil. Playing with the devil is like playing with a snake.

Friend will you run away from these things and come to Jesus. Turning away from these things means not playing with them any more. It also means giving your life to Jesus and committing to follow Him and His ways for the rest of your life. Jesus loves you and wants to take away your sins. He wants to take away your fears. How do you come to Jesus? You pray to Him. To pray means to talk to Jesus. Thank Jesus for dying for you. Tell him that you believe that He died for you and that He rose from the dead. Ask Jesus to forgive your sins and make you a new kind of boy or girl. Ask Him to make you into the type of boy or girl that follows Him. Tell him that you don't want to be afraid. Tell him that you want Him inside you. Tell Him that you want to turn away from sin and that you want to follow Him and His ways for the rest of your life. God bless you.

### Shawn Stevens

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Scripture quotations taken from the King James Version.  
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## LOST?

Have you ever lost something? Perhaps a stuffed animal, a book, a toy? Remember how you felt? Sad, lonely, anxious to find it? Maybe you asked your mom or dad to help you look for it. Remember how you felt when you found it again? Excited, happy, relieved, thankful.

Well God in His grace gave us a story or parable of a shepherd that lost one of his sheep. The shepherd had 100 sheep but one was missing. So you know what he did. First he made sure that the 99 were safe, then he went looking for the one sheep. He may have had to walk a long time, climb over rocks to find the sheep. When he found it what do you think he did? Yell at the sheep? Spank it? No, he gently put it on his shoulders and carried it back to where the 99 sheep were.

This is what Jesus does, He loves us so much that He doesn't forget us or leave us alone when we get lost or even when we sin, do wrong, because He loves us. When we sin He waits for us to tell Him we are sorry and ask Him to forgive us. Then we turn from sin and obey Him. This is called repentance. Then He calls us to follow Him again and He protects us, just like the shepherd did with the sheep.

### Shawn Stevens

## **JESUS ON A DONKEY**

Have you ever ridden on a horse or a pony? Was it fun? Did you know that Jesus Christ rode on a donkey once? Why was Jesus riding a donkey? He was on a very important mission.

Jesus and His disciples were coming towards Jerusalem when Jesus sent his disciples to do an important errand. He told them to get a certain donkey for Him. This donkey belonged to another man but permission was given for the disciples to take it. It was a great privilege to provide help for Jesus in this way.

Next the disciples brought the donkey to Jesus and laid some pieces of clothing on the donkey's back. They were making a comfortable place for Jesus to sit.

This donkey had never been ridden. Normally that would mean that it would resist having a person ride it. It was such a privilege to carry Jesus as Jesus entered Jerusalem on the donkey.

Was Jesus alone when He entered Jerusalem? No, there was a great crowd there watching him. What was the crowd doing? They were welcoming Jesus. They laid clothing on the road and they waved palm branches in the air. They shouted – Mathew 21:9, “And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.”

This crowd was welcoming and receiving Jesus as their King. Was everyone welcoming Jesus in this way? No. Certain religious people wanted Jesus to stop the crowd from worshiping Him in this way. It is the same way today. Some people want to worship Jesus and to have Jesus as their King. Other people do not want Jesus as their King and are unhappy when others are worshiping and serving Him. What did Jesus do? Did He stop everybody from worshiping Him? No. He said in Luke 19:40, “And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.”

What is worshipping Jesus? Worship is when a boy or girl, man or woman, recognizes who Jesus is and then responds with praise to Him. Jesus is the Son of God. He is perfect. He is all good. He understands all things. Jesus loves you and me. He wants us to follow Him. He is the King of Kings. When a boy or girl, man or woman realizes who Jesus is, and what

He is like, many times they fall down on their knees, ask Jesus to be their king, commit to following Him and praise and worship Him for who He is.

Do you want to have Jesus as your King? Do you want to know this Jesus who loves you? You can have Jesus as your King and you can know Him. To have Jesus as your King something has to change in you. What has to change? Your sins need to be forgiven and you need to let Jesus make you into a new kind of person.

What does it mean to have your sins forgiven and let Jesus make you into a new kind of person?

All of us, every boy or girl, man or woman has sinned. That means that we have done bad things that make God sad and make us feel guilty. The right thing to do is to tell Jesus about this and confess it to Him. The right thing to do is to ask Him to forgive you. The right thing to do is to ask Him to make you into a new kind of person. The right thing to do is to ask Him to be your King and to commit to following Him.

There is something that we have not yet talked about. Why was Jesus going to Jerusalem? Jesus was going there to die. Why was he going there to die? Jesus was going to Jerusalem to die because your sins and my sins needed to be forgiven. He had to pay a very great price. That price was His own life. Why did Jesus have to die? Because sin is like this. It always costs a great price. Either we pay the price of being punished and of being separated from God forever because of our sins, or Jesus pays the price of dying for our sins and forgives us. Jesus is all good. Jesus thought that it would be better to die for us so that we could be forgiven. The rulers and people of Jerusalem killed Jesus, but He did not stay dead. Three days later He rose back to life again and then later ascended into heaven.

Do you want to have Jesus Christ as your King? Do you want to have your sins forgiven? Do you want to have Jesus make you into a new kind of boy or girl? Do you want to worship Jesus? Are you willing to follow Him for the rest of your life?

If you are, then tell Him by praying to Him now. God loves you.

**Shawn Stevens**

### **References:**

Scripture quotations taken from the King James Version, The Life of Christ. Warrenton: Child Evangelism Fellowship, 2000.

## WHY IS THERE SADNESS?

Have you ever wondered why the world is such a dangerous place and why there are so many mean and angry people in it? It wasn't always this way. God made the world a good place. God made a peaceful world. However mankind made the world different. How did mankind make the world different? He disobeyed God and did his own thing. This made a change in the whole world.

But it wasn't always this way. God was happy to make man and women. He made a garden for them to live in. It was a peaceful place. They did not have to worry.

God brought all the animals to Adam, the first man God made. Adam named them one by one. The animals were all tame.

How did all of this change? One day a snake came to the woman. The woman was Eve. This snake could actually talk.

The snake asked Eve if God had said not to eat any fruit in the garden? God had only said not to eat one particular fruit and whoever ate it would die. Eve explained this to the snake. The snake told Eve that she would not die if she ate it and Eve chose to believe the snake instead of believing God. Eve broke God's rule. Then Adam did the same thing.

When you and I do what God says we should not do we are being like Adam and Eve. The Bible says in Romans 5:12 "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"

Sin is very serious because it changes our peace with God. Sin changes everything. Adam and Eve felt bad about what they had done and wished that they hadn't disobeyed God.

What can we do when we know that we have sinned and we are sorry?

At first Adam and Eve tried to hide from God. Do you think that anyone can really hide from God? God called them and they came out of hiding. They told God what they had done. That day was a sad day for God.

His man and woman who He loved had disobeyed Him. And now He would have to judge them. God did judge them but He also did something else that would make it possible for man and woman to be forgiven. What did God do?

The Bible says in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." God so loved this world. That means He loves you. He sent His Son Jesus to save you. How does that make you feel? What did Jesus do for you? The Bible says in John 15:13 "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Jesus here is saying what is the greatest thing a person can do for his friend. What is that? Jesus lay down His life and chose to die that you and I could be saved. Why did Jesus have to die to save you and I? The reason that Jesus had to die to save us is because we have sinned. We are like Adam and Eve in this way. Just like they had to die for their sin, we would have to die for our sins. Instead of us having to die Jesus chose to die for us. Jesus is the son of God and he had no sin of His own but He died for our sins. Later, Jesus rose from death and later ascended into heaven. Because of what Jesus has done we can be forgiven and we can belong to God's kingdom. Do you want to be forgiven for your sins? Do you want to belong to God's kingdom? Pray to Jesus now and tell Him that you believe in Him, that you believe that He died for you and that He rose from the dead. Ask Him to forgive you for your sins. Tell Him that you want to belong to His kingdom. Tell Him that you do not want to go through life without Him. Tell Him that you want to follow Him and obey Him. Tell that you want to learn all of His ways of living and then obey His ways even when it is hard to do so. Tell Him that you need Him from this day on. He loves you.

**Shawn Stevens**

References: King James Version

