

Dear Friend,

We are all continuing in the pursuit of an outpouring of revival that will sweep a minimum of a billion souls into the kingdom of God before the Lord returns. The Lord has prophesied many things concerning this coming revival. Wonderful things, saying we will actually see greater signs and wonders than the book of Acts. He has said the presence of the Lord will become so manifested in the services it will be difficult for people to even be able to stand. I can hardly share the excitement within me as I look forward to many services like that.

His voice. His presence. All of the Gifts of the Spirit in full manifestation. What wondrous things we are anticipating. But this morning when I first woke up, the Holy Spirit was bringing to my remembrance some very important, foundational things we all learned in the beginning of our walk with the Lord. Remember, Jesus said the Holy Spirit would bring things to our remembrance, and it was almost like I was hearing a recording of some of the pioneers of the faith reminding me of things they learned in their journey into revival.

I was remembering that Smith Wigglesworth said, "I cannot know God by how I feel. I cannot know God by what I see. I cannot know God by my emotions. I can only know God by His Word." Yet those who knew Smith said the very presence of God so emanated from him when he worshipped God, that most men (Christian men who were ministers of the gospel) could not stand to be in the same room for very long. It is one of the great mysteries of the kingdom that "God and His Word are one."

John 1:1 KJV In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Then I was remembering another pioneer who was involved in the great wave of healing evangelists that swept America after World War 2. His name was Kenneth Hagin, and healing miracles were flowing through his ministry at the same time as other famous ministers like Jack Coe, A. A. Allen, and many others. One time during an assembly of many of those men, Kenneth gave a warning which said, "You are building your ministry on the Gifts of the Spirit. I am building mine on the Word of God." He was warning them to make sure their firm foundation was the Word of God rather than just manifestations of the Spirit. His warning turned out to be accurate because His ministry continued and grew unabated until he finally graduated to heaven at a ripe old age without sickness in his body.

I love the presence of God. I still remember the time many years ago when the presence of God came on me so strong during a service in Houston, Texas that it felt like a warm, heavy blanket had been placed on my shoulders. I was still pretty young in the ministry, and I was not accustomed to such an anointing. It was such a presence of God. I staggered like a drunk man. Two men eventually came to hold me up, one on each side. Every person I laid my hand on was slain in the spirit and the healings flowed like water.

I finally got so drunk in the spirit, I could no longer lift my arm to lay my hand on anyone, so the men would lift my arm and place my hand on the people's heads as they came for prayer. The healings continued to flow. One of my best friends was having severe pain in his knee. He came up, took my hand and placed it on his knee. It was instantly healed. During that whole event, I learned one thing for sure; it is nothing in me that heals anybody. I was barely even there. It is the Lord Jesus Christ manifesting the Father through us by the power of the Holy Spirit. Gary was just the vessel Jesus was working through that day.

It would have been a dangerous thing for me to suddenly change the focus of the ministry to the "gift of healing" that was manifested in that service. The Bible does not say He sent His gifts and healed them. It says He sent His WORD and healed them.

Psalm 107:20 KJV He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.

The gifts are the product of the Word ... not the other way around. I love it when my emotions are great on "good days." I love it when I can actually feel the tangible presence of God. But God's Word is just as true on the bad days as on the good. He is with me because the Word says He will never leave me or forsake me. I must know God by His Word, and not rely on emotions, circumstances, or anything else.

Even as we continue to pursue this revival of His presence, let us never forget the foundation of the Word of God. Those whose foundation is the rock build their lives by doing the Word of God, no matter their circumstances or their emotions.

Matthew 7:24-25 KJV Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: [25] And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

THE BEST IS YET TO COME!

Your fellow servant for Christ,

GARY