



Over the past three weeks friends of the ministry have been experiencing the intensity of the battle that the Lord has called us to. I returned a week ago Friday from dealing with the health issues of my father that left me in place that I thought I would never recover from. I was depleted and exhausted in every area—spiritual, mental, emotional and physical. This week I put myself in bed because I couldn't go any further. Little did I know that the Lord was allowing all of this for a purpose. He was stopping me so He could do some very serious heart surgery. I've shared that it is impossible for the Lord to do major work in our lives without dedicated time set aside for Him to allow Him to do the deep work that He needs to do in our lives to bring sustainable change. I've experienced that over the past two years and I experienced it in an excruciating way this past week. The Lord stepped in and removed and revealed some deep heart issues. In the end it brought freedom...and there is more to come.

The foundation of revival has to do with issues of the heart and change. Decisions have to be made. Placing ourselves on the altar is never easy, but it must be done if we are to see change in our lives. There is no escaping it. Jesus is THE great heart surgeon. Freedom comes when we give Him room and time to deal with deep-seated issues of the heart.

I see this happening with members of my family. Revival is serious business and the Lord is doing a deep work in our family. When the doctor says you need heart surgery, it's time to listen. This week I had to check into the Lord's spiritual hospital. It was so intense I had to tell my mother that I was not going to be available for a couple of days. I had to shut it all down. Given the health related issues that my father has been dealing with you might think that it was too severe. The bottom line is that we can do nothing without Him. He had brought me to that place again. This wasn't the first time.

As He took me offline He began to speak to me. Part of what He revealed is that we cannot place terms on Him for our lives and ministries. When Jesus asked Peter for the use of his boat in Luke chapter 5, he didn't get to choose which part of Him he would allow on board. It wasn't as if Jesus was going to leave a leg on the shore! Peter either accepted all of Him into his boat or Jesus wouldn't have come aboard. We can't have it both ways. Either we are going to take Him on his terms or we are going to prevent Him from doing what needs to be done. He knows what people need! If we are going to be vessels that He can use, we must allow Him to be who He is...and who He is can be found in the pages of the Bible.

The Gospel sounds a clear and loud trumpet blast that Jesus wants to move by the power of His Holy Spirit to take over that which is rightfully His. We were bought with a price. We cannot dictate how the Lord will use us. For revival to come, we must surrender our agenda and submit to His agenda. There is no escaping this foundational truth. His Spirit has been released into the earth to establish His kingdom, but He must begin with us. He wants to do a new work in our lives so He can do a new work through us. The question before you and I today is whether or not we will let Him.

If you want Jesus in your boat you must take all of Him--all of His glory, all of His power, all of His splendor and all of what He wants to do in and through you. He works in and through ordinary people to touch a lost and dying world. Christians, pastors and church leaders that

want revival on their own terms face a simple decision. Change or perish. Allow Him to come on board and on His terms or lose everything. He who seeks to save his life will lose it. If we lose our lives for His sake, we will gain true life. There is no other way.

I don't believe in "trickle down" revival. The Joshua Revival Project is dedicated to bringing the full truth and weight of the Gospel with the full force of the Holy Spirit to bring radical change in people's hearts and lives NOW. I choose to let the rivers of God He entrusted to me and dispensed in me to come out in full force coupled together with His love. People are dying without the truth and the demonstration of the power of God. We were not guaranteed tomorrow. When Jesus came to the earth He brought a message that demanded immediate alignment to the truth. NOW is time and the day of salvation. Jesus' message demands that we repent and believe the gospel. He didn't say, "Repent tomorrow....align yourself with Me tomorrow". I have encountered Christians that have abandoned basic doctrines of Orthodox Christianity simply because they have never personally experienced or witnessed the power of God as set forth in the Word of God. They have come to see the Scripture as mere poetry, devoid of any power, and live their lives that have a form of godliness and ultimately denying the power of God.

When Christians aren't experiencing the presence and power of the Holy Spirit they are at risk. If they are at risk, then everyone around them is at risk. They attempt to do the work of God in the natural with human wisdom and reasoning. That is not the Gospel. Christianity devoid of the power of God is not Christianity as set forth in the Word of God. It is not Orthodox Christianity! There is no substitute for the fire of the Holy Spirit in the Church of Jesus Christ. Nothing will make up for the power of the Holy Spirit. If we believe that any doctrine or form of Church or any system will make up for the power of the Holy Spirit, we are sadly mistaken.

I choose to let the Holy Spirit minister to people the way He wants to, not the way I think He needs to. He knows what needs to be done. I choose not to stand in His way and not to play God...and I say that knowing that every time He wants to move outside of my little box a choice will need to be made and obedience will be demanded. He knows how to minister to masses of people. That was why He asked Simon for the use of his boat in Luke chapter 5. It was only after surrendering the use of his boat that Simon experienced the miracle of large catch of fish. Crossing over into the promises of God demands surrender.

Our heart is the boat He wants to captain. We must make the decision to allow Him to come on board and do what only He can do in and through us. He will build His church, but we will have to allow Him to be Lord. When we do that, He will establish His kingdom in us so that He can establish His kingdom through us.

In Christ,



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*"...the people who know their God will display strength and take action." (Daniel 11:32b)*

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