

REVIVAL AND THE END TIME GLORY OF GOD

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WILLIAM PORTER URGES US TO PREPARE FOR THE COMING WORLDWIDE MOVE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BEFORE JESUS RETURNS.

Revivals are real! They are concrete historical events, recorded by eyewitnesses and dissected by historians. Revivals are seasons of Holy Spirit outpourings in the life of the church, where people experience the power and presence of God in an extraordinary way. A number of things can happen in such seasons: churches can be stirred to fresh life and mission, large numbers of people can come to faith in Christ, miracles and healing can occur and, for a short period of time, those caught up in revivals can feel as though they are living in the church of the book of Acts again.

I would like to encourage you to believe that a great time of revival is coming! That is my personal conviction for the British Isles. I have been burdened with this conviction for the last thirty years but something shifted radically for me in 2007, when it dawned on me that the revival we are praying for is not just a shot in the arm for a weary church. God is preparing his church right now for the promised End Time revival, which will usher in the return of Jesus!

God promised his people outpourings of the Spirit in Joel 2:28-32, which began at Pentecost and is a valid promise for

every generation. I believe that the greatest outpouring of the Spirit will occur for the generation of the church which is alive when Jesus returns! I believe that time is very, very close! I want to suggest six things which will characterise the church in this coming End Time revival. They marked the early church, and it is a fitting Holy Spirit bookend that they could likewise mark the End Time church generation.

1) THE CHURCH WILL BE KNOWN FOR THE PRESENCE AND GLORY OF THE LORD.

In Habakkuk 2:14 and Isaiah 11:9, the Lord promises a time when 'the earth will be filled with the glory of God as the waters cover the sea'. The dedication of the holy places of tabernacle and temple in Israel were accompanied by signs of God's glory, the cloud and fire of his presence. The church in the book of Acts was birthed in glorious signs of the Spirit's fire and power. I believe the weighty glory of God and his beautiful presence will increasingly rest on his church as they gather and as they witness and that society will start to notice the Holy Spirit's tangible presence upon the church.

2) THE CHURCH WILL BE RADICAL IN THEIR DEVOTION TO THE LORD AND TO EACH OTHER.

Revelation 14:1-5 mentions a mysterious number of 144,000 End Time radical followers of Jesus - those who have an unusual devotion and commitment to the Lord in the last generation.

Malachi 4:5-6 also speaks of an Elijah-like reconciling ministry preceding the Lord's coming. There is a measure of this Malachi prophecy which awaits an End Time fulfilment, and suggests a profound Holy Spirit move of love, reconciliation and unity amongst true believers, marking the church.

3) THE CHURCH WILL SPREAD THE GOSPEL IN WORD AND POWER.

The early disciples were thrust out of the upper room, filled with God and babbling in tongues, their hearts on fire with the message of the gospel. For his people to be his witnesses to the end of the earth, Jesus knew they would need Holy Spirit power (Acts 1:8). The DNA of such gospel sharing, as the apostle Paul wrote, was both a clear proclamation of Jesus and powerful signs of healing and miracles (Romans 15:18-19). This End Time revival will be a revival in word and power, bringing a harvest of millions of people to faith in Jesus and many healings and miracles alongside it.

4) THE CHURCH WILL EXPRESS GOD'S HEART FOR THE POOR AND BROKEN.

It was said of the church in the book of Acts, that 'there was no needy person among them' (Acts 4:34). In this coming End Time revival, I believe that God will anoint churches and ministries to meet social needs or respond to crises, in ways that are beyond society's ability to provide. Healing of broken lives and minds - beautiful emotional healing



- will characterise the church, as will provision for the poor. This aspect of End Time revival will reveal the Father's heart for people in an amazing way and draw people to faith in him.



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5) THE CHURCH WILL BE REFINED BY GREAT PERSECUTION AND FALLING AWAY.

The early church lived and grew through persecution and tribulation. Jesus spoke of a great falling away of people from faith (Matthew 24:10-14) due to deception, increase of wickedness and persecution. As the power of God increases, and as Christians witness boldly, there will be a consequent refining of the End Time church. I believe the worldwide church in the End Times will be hated and loved in almost equal measure for the radical commitment to God which they stand for.

6) THE CHURCH WILL MATURE IN GROWTH AND INFLUENCE.

The marks of maturity of the church for the apostle Paul, were a unity of faith, depth of knowing the Lord, Christlikeness, strength of belief, great love and clear growth (Ephesians 4:12-16). The End Time revival will bring a maturity to the church; the growth of the church will not be shallow or boastful, but deep and humble - a myriad of worldwide believers, mature in faith and deeply in love with the Lord. This church will also be mature in influence, bringing supernatural wisdom and divine solutions to pressing issues of the day.

So, these are six characteristics of the church in this coming End Time revival. The purpose of this revival is to display God's glory, that as many people as possible will turn to him in saving faith. God is on the move - the Spirit could come as suddenly as he did at Pentecost! We are living in a sober and privileged time, a time close to the return of the Lord. God's glory is rising over the earth. Expect the stirring of the Spirit, expect a spiritual awakening to come to our land. Prepare for this coming End Time revival!

The Revd Dr William Porter leads the team at Beacon House of Prayer, Stoke on Trent and helps to coordinate the UK Houses of Prayer Network. He lives in Stoke on Trent and is married to Karen with two teenage children. He got his PhD in revival missiology from Sheffield and, after seven years in Methodist circuit ministry, has spent the last ten years developing a house of prayer and networking across prayer streams in the nation.



QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION | GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What have you either read in books, heard of from around the world, or experienced personally of times of revival or outpourings of the Spirit?
2. How can we encourage our churches to be open to the fresh breath of the Spirit in our life and mission today?
3. What would you say were the signs pointing to Jesus' 2nd coming being near rather than far away?
4. How does this article either challenge, stimulate or encourage you personally?