

Revelation 2:1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; 2 know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

Revelation 3:13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.



Is a Revival Needed in Your Heart?

Brother Charlie Green

Have You Lost Something?

Though we preach the Word of God under the anointing of the Spirit, I am concerned that some people look upon the man who is doing the preaching and fail to realize that the authority comes from the Word of God. Through the message of the Gospel, Jesus Christ is the measuring rod, measuring out His Truth to hearts. If people kick up against the message, they are kicking against Jesus Christ, the Author and the Finisher of our faith.

Dear one, we are living in a day and age when the fear of God and reverence and respect for the man of God, the Word of God, and the Spirit of God have been lost. This is what happened to the people in the Laodicean church. Today we are living in the Laodicean age, and

those spirits are knocking on each of our heart's doors, trying to get us to lose reverence and the fear of God for the message of God. When God's Word goes forth, you need to forget who is preaching and give heed to the message that God has sent. A man's personality has nothing to do with it. If you refuse the Gospel message, you are refusing Jesus Christ. You cannot take just a little portion of Him. Some people want to take only a little bit of the Gospel message that suits their fancy. Brother, sister, you must take it all, whether you like it or not.

If you are not careful, you will get in the same condition that the people in our Scripture lesson did. What was that? Jesus spoke to them from His Word, and His Spirit knocked at their hearts' doors, but they said, in so many words, "We do

not need that." When one gets in that shape, he is in terrible trouble with God. Sad to say, many people are doing the same thing the Laodicean church did. They are talking back to Christ. They put the message on others instead of letting the Holy Spirit write it upon the tables of their hearts. They need a revival in their hearts, but they fail to realize it.

Dear one, is a revival needed in your heart? Do you need a revival that will prick your heart as never before and cause you to be more sensitive to the Spirit of God? Do you need a revival to bring back a fervent prayer life before God Almighty? If you are not careful, you will lose the fervency from your prayer life.

Seek God Earnestly

In Haggai, Chapter 1, we can read about a people who were doing their own thing, They were building their houses and going after the things of the flesh. In Chapter 2 we can see that the Spirit of God stirred the people, and they got back to the place where they ought to have been. Haggai 2:3 says, "Who is left among you that saw this house in her first glory? and how do ye see it now? . . ."

Saint, how do you see the Church of God today? Do you see her in her first glory? Is she just as glorious to you as she was the first time God showed her to you? Though the old ship of Zion has gone through many storms and many battles, I am glad that the Church of God still has her glory and that God is in the midst of her. Jesus Christ is still the Head of the church, and He will lead her on victoriously. Dear one, you need to make sure that you have clean and white garments, spiritually speaking.

The Laodicean church got in such a state that the Christ of Calvary spoke to them and showed them their true condition, but they stood up and talked back to Him. Brother, sister, whenever a circumstance comes along that you do not understand or that you disagree with, do you stand up and talk back or do you fall on your knees before Jesus Christ and seek Him in earnest prayer? In too many cases, people have become as the Laodicean church.

It is necessary that you seek God earnestly and keep first things first when it comes to your worship to God. I can remember back in my home as I was growing up. When people gathered in, the first thing on their hearts and minds was to seek God's face together as a group. I never heard about church problems or another brother or sister's problems. Christian friend, if you truly seek God in the right manner, your primary objective will not be to fo-

cus on the problems around you or what this brother or sister has done. The Bible still teaches that love covers a multitude of sins. Love does not cause one to go around knocking on doors and calling people to talk about a brother or a sister.

People need to get back to 2 Chronicles 7:14, which states, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." Notice that the Lord said, "If my people." Who is that? That is the Church of the Living God. He said "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves" You cannot really seek God unless you humble yourself.

Saint, do you remember how it was when you were convicted of your sins? You were humble, and there was no pride left in you; you were broken, and you humbled yourself at the foot of the Cross and received help. What makes you think it is going to be any different if you receive help from God today? If we want healing for our land and healing for the church, we must humble ourselves and seek God's face in a much greater way. It is one thing to talk about fellowship, but it is another to practice it from the heart. It is time to pull back the covers and let the measuring rod of God's eternal Truth reveal conditions as He sees them. If you do riot allow the measuring rod to real your true condition, you are in bad shape.

Consider Your Ways

Let us go to Haggai, Chapter 1, to see why people lost sight of the glory of the Church of the Living God. Today there is a drifting away from people seeing the beauty of God's house. Why is it so hard to get people to reverence God? This spirit is working on people more than they want to admit, and God wants you to understand and see condi-

tions as they truly are. When a true man of God sees these spirits working on people, he will stand up and cry out, to warn the people of the sword that is coming upon the land. These unclean spirits are working on the people of God.

Haggai 1:2-4 reads, "Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD'S house should be built [these people had gotten a spirit of indifference and neglect concerning the house of God and the work of God]. Then came the word of the LORD by Haggai the prophet, saying, Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your ceiled houses, and this house lie waste?" The Prophet was speaking of God's house. At that time God's work lay dormant because the people had lost their desire and their motivation to work in the house of God, or God's temple, yet they were busy. Jesus said to seek first the Kingdom of God. That does not mean only when you get saved; it means continually, until you lay down the robe of flesh.

The people in Haggai's day were living in their ceiled houses, but they were letting the house of God and the work of God lie desolate. The Prophet came along to stir them. He said in Haggai 1:5, "Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways." God is merciful and considerate. Therefore, he is asking you to consider your ways. How do you see this house? You cannot see the Church of God any more glorious or precious than you value your personal experience with God. Are you lazy and slothful concerning your spiritual house? Do you need a revival of truly seeking God's face for your needs? You need to seek God as never before.

I mentioned a Scripture earlier in this message concerning love. This is an agape love. Let us read what Peter wrote in 1 Peter 4:8: "And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins." That does not mean we should put our approval upon them, but if a

person does commit sin, you ought to work to restore such a one, lest you also be tempted. It is harder for a backslider to get back to God when he has to climb over and under and around things that have been said. If you are not careful, your ears will become as a garbage dump.

"Break Up Your Fallow Ground"

We are living in a very dangerous age. In this battle of Armageddon, the battle is between right and wrong. The devil has one thing in mind, and that is to bring the saints down to where they just talk and do not spend enough time seeking God. Is a revival needed in your heart? Let the measuring rod check you. Do you spend more time talking than you do seeking God in prayer? Jesus, our example, stole away to pray often. He was abused, criticized, spit on, mocked, and scourged. He suffered more than all of us put together would suffer in a lifetime, yet He opened not His mouth. Many times He spent the night on His knees seeking God, seeking His power and strength for the deliverance He needed and for the suffering He had to go through. Jesus saw the value of souls.

How many people are out on the highway of sin because they cannot climb over an old, critical spirit or an old, gossiping spirit? If more people who claim to be saints would pray more and talk less, there would be far fewer problems. It is time to let the measuring rod of God bring the correction that is needed. The Church of God is destined for Heaven. She is on the way, whether you are or not. You are only going to be in the old ship of Zion if you hear the Word and let the Word and the Spirit of God do the pruning, the chastising, and the rebuking that is necessary. The devil is trying to work, and it is time to humble yourself and pray and seek God, and then He will bring healing to our land.

Often it takes real effort to get to

the place where people will humble themselves. Why is that? There is too much pride in their hearts. What do people need to do? Hosea 10:12 instructs, "Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you." What is fallow ground? It is hard ground that needs to be broken up. You need to allow the Word of God to be as a hammer. Have you allowed your heart to become hard?

How does one's heart become hard? One way is by not living the message. When you do not walk in the light that God gives you, your spirit can become insensitive and feel that you have need of nothing. Jesus often speaks through the Word of God to show you a need. If you refuse to obey the Spirit of God, you have too much pride. Once your heart becomes hard, you can become deceived and become as the Laodicean church was. Though the message comes straight to your heart, you will say, "I have need of nothing." The next thing you know, you will be saying, "That's just what the preacher thinks." Well, you can think that for the rest of your living days, but you will end up lost.

The Gospel will let you know right where you are, and then it is up to you to do what you know you ought to do. What are you going to do? Are you going to allow the Word of God to break up your fallow ground? Are you going to allow Him to control your tongue? You said you would go with Him all the way. The only way a revival can take place in your heart is to humble yourself and earnestly seek God in fervent prayer.

Do you need help along any of the lines that I mentioned in this message? Remember, God said, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal the land."

Surrender

This life is so uncertain
Every moment lying fast,
O my dear one, turn to Jesus,
Death and hell will come at
last.

Jesus gives you time to serve
Him
Do not waste these flying
hours;
For they vanish oh, so quickly
Like the dried and withered
flowers.

All your life's a fleeting vapor,
How soon 'twill all be past;
But the joy of serving Jesus
Will the universe outlast.

How the worldly things allure
you,
And old Satan holds you fast.
Turn to Jesus—do it quickly
He'll forgive your guilty past.

He will break the power that
holds you
In a life of sin and shame;
He will give you life eternal,
For that's why from Heaven
He came.

You've been warned by those
who love you,
"Come to Jesus, come just
now."
Do not wait until the death
sweat
Lies so cold upon your brow.

If You gain a world of pleasure
And you lose your soul at last,
You'll regret it then forever
For your dark and guilty past.

Heed the call when first you
hear it;
Don't put off from day to day.
Quickly come to Christ your
Savior
Walk the straight and narrow
way.

Paul T. Tarbert