



New Life Renewal

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL MINISTRY

April 2003 (Spring Edition)

WE HAD HOPE

By Vince C. Dorazio

Recently, I heard from a friend of mine who went to a committee meeting at church. Before the meeting started as they were talking, someone mentioned that they haven't heard anything about the Charismatic Renewal for quite a while and wondered what had happened to it. Saying, "There used to be so many people involved, but now you don't see or hear much about them any more." Another person responded, "Maybe it really wasn't needed anymore." **HOW SAD! HOW SAD THAT WAS FOR ME TO HEAR! HOW SAD THAT IS FOR YOU TO HEAR ALSO!!!!**

I liken that story to Jesus' time when after He was crucified, when those who were with Him were not visible anymore. People might have said, "I wonder what has happened to all those people who were following Him believing He was the Messiah?" And someone else responded, "Maybe He wasn't the Messiah after all. Maybe He wasn't the Christ. Maybe He wasn't really needed!"

HOW SAD! HOW SAD THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN TO HEAR! HOW SAD THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN FOR US TO HEAR TODAY!!

Yet that is what is being said about the Charismatic Renewal. If that is true and the Charismatic Renewal wasn't really needed, then I ask **"WHY DID GOD GIVE IT TO US IN THE FIRST PLACE?"**

Like the Apostles after Jesus' crucifixion, did we in Charismatic Renewal retreat to our safe place? Did we retreat to our upper room prayer groups, where we are comfortable with each other? That's what the Apostles did. They retreated to their upper room and a safe environment where they were comfortable with each other. Afraid to speak out for fear of what others might think of them. Is this what we are doing

**MY GREATEST
JOY IS HOPING
FOR THE VISION
YET TO COME**

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today in the Charismatic Renewal? Afraid to speak out about Charismatic Renewal for fear of what people might say or think about us?

I could hear the Apostles today; **“We had hope that the Synagogues and Pharisees would receive Him as the Messiah.**

We had hope that the Kingdom of God would be here!

WE HAD HOPE!”

Is this what we in the Charismatic Renewal are saying today?

“We had hope that our churches and priests would receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and be part of the Charismatic Renewal.”

“We had hope that the Renewal would change the church!”

“We had hope that many people would receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and the Kingdom of God would be here!

“WE HAD HOPE!”

But God did intervene. In the safety of their upper room prayer group God confronted the Apostles.

Wake up from your sleep! Get up from your slumber! AWAKE!

NOW IS THE APPOINTED TIME TO ANNOUNCE THE GOOD NEWS!

God sent the Holy Spirit and zapped them from their dormancy and immediately with tongues of fire; they went into the streets proclaiming the good news of Jesus! He had revived them from their safe place and sent them into

the world, and everyone who heard and believed in their born again faith became believers also! And daily the Lord added to their numbers! (Act 2☺)

And God has also zapped us today with His Holy Spirit with tongues of fire in the Charismatic Renewal! God is confronting us in our safe places. He wants us not to worry or fear what others might say or think about us. God is telling us to **“WAKE UP FROM OUR SLUMBER! AWAKE, NOW IS THE APPOINTED TIME TO ANNOUNCE THE REVIVAL OF THE CHARISMATIC RENEWAL!”** He wants us to go out into the whole world and announce the Good News of Jesus the Messiah, Jesus the Christ, Jesus the King of kings! He wants us to tell everyone about our born again faith! **God has given us hope!**

PARABLE

There was a man who was a born again Christian, faithful in attending church every week, going to prayer meetings, and evangelizing Jesus to everyone. Finally he died and an angel escorted him to the Father’s Throne, with Jesus and the Holy Spirit sitting at His right hand. Standing before the Almighty and seeing Him face to face for the first time, God asked him, **“Why should you enter My kingdom?”**

The person stood there just about ready to answer, when Jesus stood up and said, **“Father, this person is one of us!”** And then, Jesus taking the person

by the hand led him into the Kingdom of Heaven!

Jesus said, **“Whoever acknowledges Me before men, I will acknowledge before My Father in Heaven. Whoever disowns Me before men, I will disown before My Father in Heaven.”** (Matthew 10:29ff) (Mark 8:38) (Luke 12:8)

But you might say, “Vince, I’m no evangelist! I’m no Billy Graham! I could never do that!” I say you can. In fact you do it every day and don’t even realize you are doing it. Every time you share about what the Holy Spirit is doing in your life daily, you are evangelizing. Every time you tell someone that Jesus is the center of your life, you are evangelizing. Every time you tell someone you are a “born-again charismatic” Christian, you are evangelizing! Every time you tell someone about how the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and Charismatic Renewal has revived your life, you are evangelizing. And before long, they will want what you have. They will want the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. They will want the gifts God has given to you. **They will want Jesus!**

God did not give us His Holy

Spirit Renewal to let it lay dormant or just to throw it up for grabs. He gave us His Holy Spirit Renewal to bring it to others. He has chosen you to be His messenger. His ambassador. Remember what Jesus said, **“It was not you who chose me, it was I who chose you to go forth and bear fruit, and your fruit must endure, so that all you ask the Father in My name will be given to you!”** (John 15:16)

What an honor it is to be chosen to be an ambassador for Jesus. Not everyone gets that opportunity, but you have been chosen. Imagine, everywhere you go people will recognize you as Jesus’ representative. You carry His message of salvation. Everyone who sees you sees Jesus in you and wants what you have. They will want Jesus and the gifts of the Holy Spirit! They will want revival in Charismatic Renewal!

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations. Baptize them in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Teach them to carry out everything I have taught you, and know that I am with you always until the end of the world!” (Matthew 28:19-20)

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