

New Life Renewal

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL MINISTRY

WINTER - February 2004

CHARISMATIC REVIVAL

By Vince C. Dorazio

Whenver we hear the word revival spoken, some people might immediately vision the "old-time" revival tent meetings of years past. They might vision loud speaking preachers who traveled from town to town, state to state, setting up their tents in open fields. Then, for the next few days they would gather as many of the town's people into their tent and preach the Christian Bible. Usually their messages were filled with "hellfire and brimstone." Their purpose was to give the people a reason to live their lives on "the straight and narrow" according to Christian values. Basically, to restore a better way of life than what they had become used to living.

On the other hand, someone else's reaction to hearing of a person who has been revived might relate it to a medical emergency. They might think of someone who has had a heart attack, and their heart has stopped beating. They envision a medical team of doctors and nurses standing over a person with electrical paddles in hand to "shock" the patient's heart back to life! It restarts life back into their heart and restores their breathing. Revival has given them a second chance, maybe a third.

So, in a sense, revival is to bring back to life what once was. Revival is not only to restore new life, but also to give the person life more abundantly!

Jesus said, "I have come that you might have life, and have it to the fullest!" (John 10:10)

When Jesus came, He came to restore what once was. He came to restore New Life! This time He came with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. And on the day of His ascension into Heaven, He told the Apostles to wait for the fulfillment of His Father's promise. (Acts 1:4) On that first day of Pentecost, while the Apostles were in the upper room the Holy Spirit descended upon them in a mighty way.

"Suddenly, from up in the sky, there came a noise like a strong driving wind which was heard through the house where they were seated. Tongues as of fire appeared, which parted and came to rest on each of them. All were filled with the Holy Spirit! They began to express themselves in foreign tongues and make bold proclamations as

the Spirit prompted them!" (Acts 2:1-4)

That day, the Apostles lives were revived to new life. It was as if God was standing over them with His spiritual paddles and shocked them with the Holy Spirit! Their lives now had taken on new meanings. Their lives were revived and restored to a new way of living. They were excited about receiving the Holy Spirit and wanted to share this new experience with everyone. And so they went out into the streets and began speaking to everyone about their new experience of God's Holy Spirit. They were not afraid of what others would say about them, or that people would laugh at them. They were revived and wanted only to tell of the miracles of God through Jesus!

Many people who heard them came forward and asked how they too could receive what they had experienced. Upon accepting Jesus as their Savior, they too received the Holy Spirit. In the following months and years, many more began accepting Jesus as their Savior. They too were revived with a New Life with Jesus and the Holy Spirit!

Two thousand years have now past since that great Day of Pentecost, and much has happened . . . and also not happened. For instance, thousands of people were coming to know Jesus as the Messiah and receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. They were active in using the gifts of the Holy Spirit on a daily basis. It became a normal part of their Christian life. But

over the centuries the Holy Spirit has become more dormant in people's lives as the church has become more organized. The gifts of the Holy Spirit do not flow in the people of God as they once did.

Over the years there have been many forms of renewal. The Church has gone through many stages and is in constant renewal and change. But the Church can change only as fast as it's people change. For after all, the people are the church. Without the people there would only be a dead organization. When I speak of change or renewal, I speak of spiritual change and spiritual renewal. And what we need today in the Church is a Spiritual Change and a Spiritual Renewal in our lives. We need to be spiritually revived just like the Apostles were revived on that first day of Pentecost two thousand years ago.

In the late 1960's and early 1970's, we were blessed with a revival of the Holy Spirit. We refer to it today as the Charismatic Renewal. People from many different Christian denominations became involved, and suddenly it seemed that everyone was praising God in tongues and many healings were taking place. For a while, it seemed as if the Holy Spirit was working in everyone's lives. People were getting renewed and receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit! Prayer groups were springing up everywhere and large numbers of people were attending Holy Spirit Conferences and Days of Renewal.

But in such a short time, things began to change. Prayer groups began to fade, and people stopped talking about the works of the Holy Spirit. There was less and less involvement as people began going back to their old ways. Charismatic Renewal was beginning to become a thing of the past. What is needed now, more than ever, is a Revival In Charismatic Renewal!

SPIRITUAL TUNE-UP

At one time or another everyone experiences a little sluggishness in his or her life. On the highway of life things sometimes seem to get a little bumpy and rough. Day to day activities seem so routine and boring at times. We are like a used car going down the same roads over and over again, not noticing that we are in need of some repairs. We might need an alignment and some new spark plugs to keep properly maintained. If not maintained periodically, we won't operate efficiently.

Back in the days when cars were built simpler, they still needed regular maintenance and tune-ups. A tune-up meant more than replacing spark plugs. There was a distributor that contained points and a rotor. The points were gapped to a certain tolerance and the rotor spun around inside the distributor making contact with wires connected to the spark plugs. By maintaining these parts a couple of times a year, the car would run more efficiently.

Cars today are built with electronic distributors and many computerized parts. Even though

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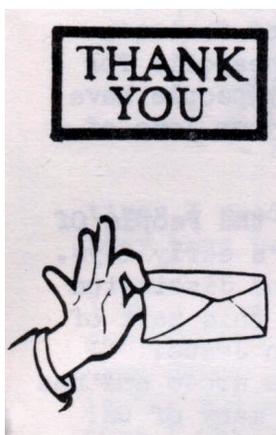
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these parts last much longer, if the car isn't properly maintained and tuned-up, it becomes nothing more than a pile of computerized junk. No good, and good for nothing!

Just like the used car, we, as Christians, need regular maintenance. When we begin

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experiencing the day-to-day routines and feelings that nothing spiritual is happening, maybe, we might need a good alignment and tune-up, Maybe we've experienced our prayer meetings have dwindled in size, and the Holy Spirit doesn't seem as active as before. Or maybe our prayer life has become shallow, and Sunday church seems the same as last Sunday. When any of these feelings begin happening, then it is time for a spiritual tune-up! We are in need of a spiritual spark in our lives. Maybe, what we need today is an "old-time" Charismatic Revival Meeting! It is time for a CHARISMATIC REVIVAL!

In writing this newsletter, it is my prayer that the fire of the Holy Spirit might also touch you, and you may begin using His

gifts more so than ever before. This newsletter is intended to reach out to everyone and anyone who is interested in renewing their personal life, and sharing it with others. It is intended to help you to revive your Charismatic gifts and to share them with other people, and help them to make a firm decision and acceptance to follow Jesus! It is intended for those already in renewal to reaffirm their lives, and to help others to do the same. It is far more than just attending Sunday church, as we know it to be. It is a time of NEW LIFE!

May God Bless You
Abundantly With His
New Life!