

LET THERE BE LIGHT

24 October 2010

PREFACE

We all fail to live up to our potential as Christians. We believe God's word and know it to be true, but we don't appropriate it for ourselves. The Word says, "**Meditate on these things.**" That means we are to think deeply about the things of God. In the context of my message, it means don't just believe God's promises, but dwell on them, think about them until they become a part of you and you can then live out their reality in your life.

WHO ARE WE?

My message today is titled '**Let there be light**'; and I trust that by the time I finish, you will have a better understanding of the light that is within you.

Look around you in the church, what do you see? Do you see ordinary people saved by grace, just as you are? Do you feel that you are nothing special, that you have nothing to offer, that your talent is limited? Well Jesus said, "**There is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; but whoever is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.**" Is He talking about you? Of course He is for He also said, "**The kingdom of God is within you**"

Therefore we are not ordinary, even though we tend to see ourselves as such. That is the mistake that we make. We allow the humility we must have, to extinguish the light that is in us; but **how does God see us?**

We read in **1 Peter** "**But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light.**"

We are God's special possession; He has made us his own. When we look at the night sky we see darkness punctuated by the bright light of the stars. When God looks upon the world he sees darkness with the bright points of light shining from His people as a reflected glory of the Christ within us.

"We are the cities set on a hill whose light cannot be hidden. We are the salt that enriches the lives of all we meet." We are those of whom Jesus said, "**You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you shall be my witnesses.**" That power word is *dunamis* from which the word dynamite is derived. We are to be that dynamic force for good in the world that will draw men to Jesus.

WHAT DO WE HAVE?

In **Romans** we read "**The Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you: that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**" That word *abound* means we should be overflowing with the hope that is within us.

We should not be able to contain the joy that we have, because of the wonder of our salvation and the promises of God which are ours to claim and experience.

The church at Ephesus lost the joy of their first love and Jesus said repent or I will come and remove you. He is saying we must recover the zeal we once had, renew the joy in our hearts as when we first believed. It is not something we can do for ourselves, it is a work of grace, but we must desire it.

We must believe **that God will send again the tongues of fire, so that like the two on the road to Emmaus, our hearts might burn within us: As *“God’s Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God.”***

REVIVE US AGAIN

The word says, *“One shall chase a thousand and two shall put ten thousand to flight.”* If a congregation like this can only believe together for God to work amongst us, there is no telling how great a work He will accomplish. The world is in need of revival and revival has to start somewhere. You may ask why here and not rather in one of the big churches? For one thing we have never seen a true revival starting in a major church. I think it is because people would tend to credit that church instead of all the glory going to God.

If we want to look at a true revival, we have to start back 100 years ago to when the focus was on pleasing God and not on pleasing the congregation. **Unity, humility and repentance seemed to be the key to experiencing God’s grace.**

- In a small town in Wales, there was a young man named **Evan Roberts**, who left school at the age of 11 to work in the coal mines with his father. After 12 years he was called into the ministry and he had been seeking God for revival. In 1904 revival broke out, and in 6 months **150,000 were saved in Wales, out of a population of 2 million. That is equivalent to nearly 4 million being saved in South Africa.** The pubs were emptied, the police had no work, and the ponies in the mines didn’t understand the miners’ commands, because they had stopped swearing at them. The revival was said to have swept through the world like a hurricane.
- Following this, in 1906 in Azusa St, Los Angeles, a revival was birthed under a pastor called **William Seymour**. He was a humble black man, the one eyed son of plantation slaves. They worshipped in a converted old stable. The congregation, something like ours, was a mix of mainly poor Blacks, Whites, Hispanics and American Indians. **This was a Pentecostal revival and from here Pentecostalism spread worldwide and birthed the AOG of which you are a part, and today there are 500 million Pentecostals.**

- The last revival was more recent, on the remote, windswept island of Lewis to the west of Scotland. This was an island of only 10,000 inhabitants, where a few people had been seeking God for revival. In particular there were two elderly sisters one aged 82 and crippled with arthritis and the other 84 and blind. Unable to attend church they spent weeks at home in prayer for revival. In 1949, a great revival broke out amongst this humble country people, led by the preacher **Duncan Campbell**.
- **Here dozens of unsaved people were wakened from their beds in the middle of the night and fled to the churches crying out to God for mercy. They were under the conviction of sin.** One Friday night a hundred young people were at a dance when the Spirit of God moved and they fled from the dance to the church. Services went on all through the night for weeks and people were going straight from church to their work. The revival lasted for three years but its effect is still felt in the islands today. This was the last significant revival in the Western world, **some 60 years ago.**
- One thing to note from all of these revivals was that they did not result in mega churches like we see today. Instead **they resulted in missionary work and church establishment all over the world. Just as it was 2,000 years ago after the day of Pentecost.**

Why should it not happen here in this humble, mixed congregation? Where I see no one seeking recognition, but we all are looking to God for our supply? Can you not feel that here in George there is already the beginning of a move of unity taking place in the churches? *“There is the sound of marching in the mulberry trees.”* The army of God is ready, preparing the way before us. It just needs a spark to set the fire blazing. It just needs us to come together in faith, to dwell in unity and to believe God to change the hearts of men and women.

APOSTASY OF THE CHURCH

The world is changing around us; the whole of Europe is deep into unbelief. The balance of power is changing dramatically in the world and nation after nation is going deeper into debt. However, the Bible predicts a worse situation.

Take heed of **(2 Timothy 3:1-5)** *“But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control: Brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God. **Having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!**”*

What do you think of these verses? Do you think yes, I see the world going that way? Well you would be wrong; the world has always been that way. These verses speak of the church not of the world. **Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God;** how can that be the world because they don't know God? **Having a form of godliness;** the world has no such form. **No, it speaks of a church which has lost its way, and denies the power of God to change hearts and minds and bring about repentance.** It speaks of a church which has embraced a **Christless religion**, a religion of form without substance.

That is why revival needs to come and soon, that God's people might know the **conviction of sin** again, that the church might become **separate from the world**. The focus of revival is not on soul winning, it's about the conviction of sin and this leads to souls being saved.

THE LIGHT WITHIN US

We are not to hide our light under a bed but we are to place it on a lamp stand that it may bring light to all around us. **2 Corinthians** says, *"For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has **shone in our hearts** to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."*

What this means is that **God**, whose first miracle after the creation of heaven and earth was to say let there be light and light shone upon the earth; **has brought the light of Christ into our hearts.**

That light is already there, we don't have to do anything to bring it. We have to remember who we are and the power and light that indwells us, and that light will overflow into the world around us. The joy of the Lord will so overwhelm us that wherever we are, the world will see the light of Christ in us.

Jesus said, *"Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works."* Notice it is not **make** your light shine but simply **LET** your light shine, Christ in you will **make** it happen. He has made provision for us in every area of our lives. We only have to submit to His will. **It's because we don't live out the life that is in us, that we often fail to realise the promises of God when we pray.** In effect God says, live the way I tell you and I will bless you as I have promised.

The beauty of it is we are not dependent on ourselves. **The power, the light, the gifts** are all given by God and we only have to release them into the world. All we need is faith. Again we don't have to work up some kind of faith in each and every promise of God; **our faith has to be in Christ alone.** Through that faith we simply believe that everything He says is true and it will become real in our lives.

GOD'S REPRESENTATIVES

In **2 Corinthians** we read that **we are ambassadors for Christ**. When Christ was on earth He was God's ambassador, his representative. Now we each represent Christ here on earth. We have the power and authority that the Pope himself claims. Just understand that; if you look at the honour and respect that the Pope gets from millions, as Christ's ambassador, then realise that it is you that has that authority.

We have the sacred duty of representing Christ to the world. We are the bridge between the pathway to hell and the highway to heaven. **We must accept who we are in Christ, and then we can believe that *"All things are possible."***

We must be like Paul and the apostles so that they say about us *"These who have turned the world upside down have come here too."*

HEED THE WARNING

We must take to heart the word of God to the church of Laodicea *"Because you are lukewarm I will spue you out of my mouth."* This is the word to the church of today, the church that has lost its zeal. The church that sits in comfortable complacency, observing the moral decay of the world we live in and thankful that we are not a part of it; yet doing nothing to bring the light and the hope of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ to them.

AWAKE TO THE LIGHT

We must echo the words of the **Psalmist** and say, *"Will You not revive us again, that Your people may rejoice in You?"* And we must cry out with **Isaiah** *"Oh, that You would rend the heavens! That You would come down! That the mountains might shake at Your presence."*

Soon we will not be looking for His coming, for He will come for His own and we will rise up to meet Him *"and so shall we ever be with the Lord."* Let us *"Redeem the time, for the days are evil."* Remember that all whom we fail to reach with the gospel of Christ, including family members, will one day face the wrath of God. We read in **Ephesians**, *Therefore He says, "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light."*

OUR GLORIOUS CALLING

In the New Jerusalem there will be no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord will be our light and we will reign as kings and priests forever with Him. Now is the time to practice living in that light, only the light can keep us separate from the darkness of the world. Only the light of the glorious gospel of Christ can draw the world from its path of destruction.

In Acts we read: *For so the Lord has commanded us: "I HAVE SET YOU AS A LIGHT TO THE GENTILES THAT YOU SHOULD BE FOR SALVATION TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH."* Further we hearken again to the words of Isaiah *"Arise, shine; for **your** light has come, and the glory of the LORD is risen upon **you**. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over **you** and His glory will be seen upon **you**. The Gentiles shall come to **your** light, and kings to the brightness of **your** rising.*

It is **you** God is speaking about, not someone else. Take these glorious promises and apply them in your life.

CONCLUSION

To conclude, just remember what I have reminded you of. You **are** kings and priests and you **have** the power that raised Christ from the dead living within you. You **are** more than conquerors through Him who loves you. You not only are assured of victory, but in that victory God will be glorified in **you**. You are His chosen ones, His elect.

"Only believe", for with God all things are truly possible. Know who you are and the glory that is within you. Rise up, *"For you have come into the kingdom for such a time as this."* In a world filled with uncertainty and fear, we alone know our destiny and the glory that awaits us. Live in that certain knowledge and blessed hope. If you believe, put your trust in Him who is right now amongst us and His light will surely be seen in you.

Look again at those around you and see through the eye of faith, not ordinary people but *"sons and daughters of the living God:"* a people who one day *"will shine forth like the sun in the kingdom of their Father."* A life saving force that will bring hope to a lost world and joy where there once was despair. That is your purpose and your destiny, *"Christ in you, the hope of Glory."*