

## **REVIVAL**

### **REVIVAL PRINCIPLES IN ACTS**

We want to see at some principles of revival in the book of Acts that caused the growth of the Early Church. In our modern churches, sometimes we find new ways and new methods for church growth. But the bible the word of God is as fresh today as it was in that time. I believe that only biblical methods would suffice to bring the revival that God has. We cannot replace the methods or the principles that brought church growth in the New Testament in our modern days today. Gospel presentations using modern forms of entertainment are not suitable to bring church growth. In many churches today, Christians are trying to copy the world to attract the world into the church. That's not the way the bible people did it. There is no way we are going to follow that kind of method. We are not going to be like the world in order to win the world. We have to be more like God in order to win the world. So in the bible in the book of Acts we want to see some factors involved that brought church growth.

Lets look at Acts 2. One of the first principles in Acts 2 is when the Holy Spirit came down on the day of Pentecost. Acts 2:2 *And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

Not only were there a hundred and twenty disciples but also there were other people there. Look at what the other people said at their first encounter. Verse 5 *And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven.* It so happens also to be a Jewish festival. *And when the sound occurred,* what sound was that? That was the sound of a rushing mighty wind. Not only did the hundred and twenty people heard but also the multitude that was there heard the sound. They heard a supernatural sound. The multitude came together and was confused. Notice that it was not just the manifestation that brought the revival. There was something else. The sound that they heard did not convert them. It only confused them. The sign that they saw did not bring them to be born again. Something else had to take place to bring them the new birth.

Verse 7 *Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia. Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs – we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."* They were all amazed and astounded but they were not converted until Peter stood up and began to preach the word of God. He began to declare to them the word of life.

After he declared that word the bible tells us in verse 37 *Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"* The sound didn't cut their heart. The manifestation of the strange sign of sound didn't cut their heart. It only astounded them. But when the preaching of the word came forth they were pierced and cut in their heart. They were asking what should we do? They were convicted.

#### **Declaring the Word**

The first principle that brings revival and growth is the preaching of the Word. I mean God can perform signs and wonders, give visions, and work many other

manifestations but nothing can replace the preaching of the word. It is God's primary method by which He brings revival. Now that task doesn't just belong to an apostle. It doesn't belong to a five-fold minister alone. We will see here in this book of Acts that the secret of revival is first to go forth and announce the Good News. The word *preach* also means to announce. Sometimes we have made the word *preach* into something religious. When we talk about preaching, we imagine a three-point sermon and a poem. We imagine the bible student, the bible graduate or the full time worker preaching the word and they are called preachers. We forgot that the word *preach* means to announce something and unless you announce the rest doesn't come. God has given the church a simple job. We are not the ones who do the signs. God through the Holy Spirit is the one who does all the miracles. We are called to announce the word, to declare, to proclaim the word of God. Unless the word is proclaimed the sound of the rushing mighty wind does not help. Unless the word of God is proclaimed, the strange signs and wonders, dreams, visions, tongues that God does among unbelievers, will not convict the heart of men.

You say, "I don't know what to announce." You have one simple method, "Jesus is alive, Jesus lives, He is raised from the dead. He can do signs and wonders today." Announce to the world "Jesus is alive" announce in your family "Jesus is alive" See the key message that the apostles announced is that Jesus is alive and He is able to do anything that we need Him to do because He is alive. We serve a living God - we don't just serve a dead religion. We don't just serve a creed and doctrine. We serve a Person and that Person is raised from the dead and is seated at the right hand of God. He is alive. When we announce and proclaim the good news that Jesus lives and He is alive, something begins to take place in the atmosphere around us. Something that is more powerful than human words. It is not just our words. It is the announcement that heralds His coming. That is what we are announcing. Jesus is alive; He can come into your heart. He can come into your being. He can heal you because He is alive. He can solve your problem because He is alive. Have you announced that? Has it been announced to the people around us?

You ask, "Who am I to announce that Jesus is alive?" You are a child of the living God. You are the redeemed of the Lord. You are the chosen and the elite body of Christ to go forth and proclaim. One of the things that is taking place very subtly and which I believe is the result of satanic work is the muzzling up of Christians - until we do not declare wherever we can that Jesus is alive. He is Lord and He is

among us. You keep announcing and keep proclaiming, He will back you up. But if you don't do that, He doesn't show up.

That took place the moment Peter preaches the word that Jesus is alive. He says we are not drunk it is because He is risen. He is alive and this phenomena that you see is what He has sent down to us because He is alive. Everywhere the disciples went, they proclaimed that Jesus is alive - be it a strange town or new place where nobody has heard the message. Just proclaim Jesus is alive and watch the result. But if you don't proclaim it, you don't see the result. We are not called to argue. We are not called to debate. We are not called to prove to people that Jesus is alive. We are just called to announce. They want to argue, "How do you know?" Just say, "I am not debating I am just telling you He is alive." And if you choose to believe Him you will find out that He lives. We are just called to announce.

The disciples of Jesus Christ never realized the power in the preaching or proclamation of the Lord. Some of them will be persecuted and will be scattered abroad. As they scattered abroad and on the way as they ran away from the persecution they were talking about Jesus. The bible tells us in the book of Acts 8:4 *Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.* They proclaimed the word of God. Jesus is alive. He lives today the kingdom of God reigns. Jesus is risen from the dead. You know why Satan tries to muzzle up the Christians? He doesn't like to hear that. The greatest victory in the universe over Satan is when Jesus was raised from the dead. That's what he doesn't like to hear. When the disciples of Jesus even today even though we lived nearly two thousand years after that event, if we declare the same thing Jesus will come into our lives.

I find that there are a lot of doubts among Christians because they have a religion, not a relationship with Jesus. When we gather together, it's a religion. When we do Christian things, we are religious. We are so religious that if Jesus were to appear, we would be surprised. But He is here all the time. Just because He is invisible doesn't mean He is not there. When we have a problem we remember everything but that Jesus is alive. We remember the twenty laws of healing, the thirty laws of prayers and we forgot that He is alive. All those laws are to lead you to a personal contact with Him. The disciples were surprised as they went out to announce and preach the word that the preaching of the word created an atmosphere for revival to

come forth. If you want revival in your office, in your home, wherever you are - it doesn't matter how dead you feel the place is - all you have to do is proclaim the word. By all means do all your intercession, do all your wrestling against principalities, darkness of this age and wicked rulers in high places, that is necessary. But we must also proclaim even before we intercede. If you proclaim that Jesus is alive, you will find a difference. You can go to a place that is as dead as a doornail. Step in and say Jesus is alive, I love you Jesus and then you start praying in tongues. Look at the difference. Announce first the defeat of the enemy. We need to proclaim. We need to declare. Many times after you declared it there are no more demons around to fight. It is different. The fight is different. It is a quality fight. Never heard of quality fight? It's the fight you could say the fight of faith. If we could use the modern language we would say it a "no sweat" fight because your fight is different.

Many times when you enter a place to minister, the people are not so expectant. Their minds are wondering whether it can be true or not. All it takes is one person with a heart big enough and a voice loud enough to proclaim Jesus is alive. Then, all their thoughts that are against God will disappear. The consciousness that He is alive must be proclaimed constantly in our homes and wherever we are. Proclaim it first in every place that you step on. Some of us get over spiritual until we go to hard places and then we become sensitive about demonic oppression. You go to notorious red light districts and you experience headache and feel there are massive spiritual battles to fight. You come back and talk about a great battle you had in that area. But it was more likely that you were merely having a big fat headache.

Can you imagine Jesus having a headache when He was making His rounds to the towns in Israel? The apostle Paul walked through the temples of the Greek. As he was looking at all the idols, he cries, "O my headache," and he struggles with the pain. What a spiritual battle. Let me give you a powerful key to fight spiritual battles. If the church of Jesus Christ is constantly beset with demonic oppression, there is no way we are going to win the war. It's all right to be sensitive to the spirit but it's not all right when you are opened to symptoms of attack of the enemy. Your spiritual immune system is not working. You know what Paul did. He went on the top of Mars hill and I could summarize his message. He says, "Jesus is alive." Paul in the book of Acts 18 proclaims the resurrection from the dead. Did he fight with principalities and powers? Let me tell you there would probably be Greek

mythological demons there in that temple that they worshipped for a long time. But Paul didn't care about demons. By the time you preach the gospel they are no more around because they don't want to hear the gospel.

If anyone of you is doing deliverance and if there is not enough proclaiming of Jesus, there won't be enough presence of Jesus. When you step into the room there is a demon power. You know demonic power also declare the wrong thing on the negative side. The demon says, "I am stronger than you," then those of little faith will be frightened by the words of the demon. "You have no power over me." The demons know this principle and they declare it into the atmosphere. If you don't declare back let me tell you what will happen. You will begin to work under an oppressive atmosphere. I mean they are there declaring their power. You reply boldly, "Shut up, shut up in Jesus name." It can be quite a struggle.

Do like what David did. When Goliath stood up and said, "I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field." What did David do? He counter declared and proclaimed. He sent out His word. Remember the key - sent forth the word. He said, "You have defied the living God." Then he said, "I give all the flesh of the Philistines to the birds of the air and to the beasts of the field." He declared it and it went out into the spiritual atmosphere. The angels of God can say, "Now I can do something." God cannot do a work until you proclaim and declare. We must declare and when we declare and proclaim, the angels are set in motion for us. What happens if David had done like some of us would do? When Goliath tells David, "You small little boy," "I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field," and all kinds of derogatory remarks, David cowers in his little corner and makes a personal confession. It wouldn't help. It was not just the stone that was necessary. It was the words that David said. He needed to proclaim into the atmosphere for revival and deliverance to flow forth that day. So David was bold. I believe if David had not spoken against the words of the enemy, he may not have the victory that we see he had.

We need to declare, we need to proclaim. Why is that so? In the book of Roman chapter 1, we see that this is God's pattern. We cannot run away. We cannot avoid. See once you learned this principle, you can apply it to any situation. Perhaps you are a worship leader and everyone seems depressed and oppressed during a

service. You want to lead worship and it may take about ten songs before they are lifted up in the spirit. The songs were all building up the engine. It would be so much better if you declare into the atmosphere that is above everyone's head and say, "Jesus is alive." "We declare He is Lord and King and Savior." When the word goes forth the atmosphere is broken and within your first song, you take off rather than struggle during the first ten songs.

There is a truth here about the power of the spoken word, which is necessary for revival. That is why we must proclaim what God tells us. It is not just a prophecy. What is a prophecy for? Is the prophecy just information to us in advance? That's what we always take it. A prophecy is information for us in advance. That's true, that's part of the reason why God gave prophecy. But another major part of why God gives prophecy is that the spoken word has to be delivered into the spiritual realm. God will have His people proclaim it forth to prove it. Remember Ezekiel and the dead bones? Did the prophecy that he spoke was it just for information or was there life in the prophecy? There was a life released. God asked, "Son of man, can these bones live?" Of course they can. God told him to prophesy. When he prophesied, life came in. God did not give prophecy just for information. He gives prophecy to deliver the spoken word into an atmosphere to begin the revival and the work of God and to bring things into the order of God.

Rom. 1:16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jews first and also for the Greek.* Now let's look at the word *gospel*. The word *gospel* basically means good news. *For I am not ashamed of the good news of Christ.* What good news of Christ? The resurrection of Jesus. *For it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jews first and also for the Greek.* There you have it the good news – it is about Jesus Christ being risen from the dead. A stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Greeks but it's the good news He is alive. What did he say about the gospel of Jesus? The good news of Jesus is the power of God. When we declare it, the power of God is turned on. When you enter into worship or enter into prayer without proclaiming, it is just like trying to use a player without turning the switch on. We got to first turn the switch on. Sometimes when the atmosphere is fine and the people are saturated in God's word, you don't need any more proclamation. You can just launch off. But there are times you could literally see in the spirit the things that are hanging around people's head and you need to proclaim it in order for the power of God to be

released.

In the book Hebrews 11 we are told that all things are held together by the word of God. By faith we know that all things are made by the word. They are held together by the word. That is why when God wants to do something new, He will speak forth the word. However because of the way He has made up this system of the earth and the way He has delegated power to Adam's descendants, He needs human vessels to take His word in their mouth and declare it. Wasn't it what He told Joshua in Joshua 1:8 *This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.* Your success depends on the word in your mouth and declaring it before God. That's the reason why many Christians don't have success. They are not declaring the word. They are not announcing it Jesus is alive or any part of the word to glorify God.

Lets turn to the book of Galatians and see the principle that is necessary there. Gal. 3:2 *This only I want to learn from you; Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?* You all know the answer. It is by the hearing of faith, not by works. The same goes for signs and wonders and miracles. Why is it that there are not more miracles today? Look at verse 5 *Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?* You all know the answer; it's by the hearing of faith. Now what is the hearing of faith? The hearing of faith is what he is talking about in Rom. 10 all the time. Look at Rom. 10:17 *So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.* If you look very carefully at the whole context he is talking about the presence of God. It says in verse 8 *But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith which we preach); that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.* When we begin to proclaim Him; proclaim His word it sets an atmosphere for revival, for conviction for the Spirit of God to move. The bible says in Galatians is for receiving the Holy Spirit for the miracles to take place. The reason why there are not enough miracles is that we don't proclaim it and therefore there is no expectation for it.

One of the laws in operating anointing is this, as Benny Hinn shared in one of his books, that when the Spirit of God tells you that He is going to do something, you must say it. It is important for you to say it because by saying it you set a seal on it. God knows you have received it and heard it. The devil knows that you know it and the angels are released to perform it. This is why every time God gives a direction and God tells to do certain things, I would declare it. If you were in the Sabah revival you recognized that before that thing took place, I declared it. I proclaimed what God showed me in a vision and said on the last night, "This is going to take place and I expect this is going to take place." God said it, I believed it, and I declared it. There were things that took place and the presence of God came on that last night. After I declared it the afternoon when I went back and prayed, the presence of God was hanging all over me. Expectancy came on the people because they know it has been spoken. They know that this is real. This is a declaration by God received by men. We must proclaim, we must declare.

In a meeting in Wellington in our last session there, there were some visitors that came in. I just declared it and proclaimed Jesus and what He can do. Just talking about Jesus. There was this elderly lady. As I was talking about Jesus and said that Jesus is here in this auditorium, suddenly her ears popped up and she could hear. No prayer was said. We were just talking about Jesus. When I talk about Jesus, people's faith rises. As their faith rise, her ears heard a pop sound and she was healed of her deafness. At the end of the meeting she came and said she could hear. Then she said that as I was talking about Jesus, she saw an aura come all around the place and she just got healed.

The proclamation of the word is important. Parents, you may be fighting the battle of faith in your home. Maybe your child is having sickness or some problem. I ask you this question. Have you declare and proclaimed? I know you fight, I know you travail, but did you declare to the walls, the house, declare everywhere about Jesus? That is the first and foremost thing to do. That is the switch that turns on the power of God. If you want the power of God in this place just declare it. When we do that and keep on praying, we know we can expect signs and wonders in every meeting. If you are leading the worship and while preparing for this worship, you heard from God what God wants to do. You can stand up and declare it. One of the laws of anointing is that you must declare it. What you hear in your closet, you must shout it on the rooftops. You don't say it after it's done. You must say it

before it's done. That's where faith comes. If you are a worship leader and you received from God what God wants to do, you must stand up and say, "God showed me He is going to do wonderful things today." If you know what He wants to do, you have to declare it. That sets the expectation of the people. That releases and turns the switch of faith on. If you are fighting the fight of faith and you haven't declared it, you need to declare. That's why the fight has been so difficult for many people. The most basic foundational keys are not being adhered to. We have not proclaimed the word. I challenge you if your fight have been so difficult declare the promises of God, declare Jesus, proclaim the word, and preach the word right where you are. Go around and proclaim it to the walls. Proclaim it into the atmosphere the air about Jesus.

Imagine yourself as David before Goliath announcing and proclaiming. All the odds are stacked against you just as all the odds were against David but because he believed in his heart and confessed with his mouth, he overcame Goliath. So there is no replacement for the preaching of the word.

In the book of Acts 19 when Paul came to Ephesus he found the disciples there have not received the Holy Spirit yet. He asked them, "Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?" They said, "We have not even heard of Him." How can they receive Him if they haven't heard? Somebody needs to declare it. We need to declare God. The miracles are His responsibility. But you must declare it. As you declare it signs and wonders will follow. Declare it wherever you are. There are not enough declarations and proclamations of Jesus going on. Sometimes when you proclaim it to an unbeliever they may mock and ridicule you. But watch and see. When they are in trouble they will come to you for help. They know there is something different that you have. Sometimes you proclaim and you declare and people expect and they receive. But our responsibility is to speak the word. It's God's responsibility to back up the word. That's what we love to do. We love to declare the word and just stand back and let God do all the wonderful things He says He is going to do. We need to be in co-operation with God.

Brethren, if God has spoken things He wants to do in your family don't be muzzled up. Declare it in your home. When you receive something from the Lord begin to declare it. You know He is alive and you are going to declare it. As you declare it, it

will take place. Far easier than if you didn't declare it. It makes all the difference like between shooting with the lights on and shooting without the lights on. The weapons of your warfare are there. But when you turn on the lights you could see where you are shooting against the enemy because the power switch is on.

One of the first keys in revival is to declare and proclaim. Every pastor, every teacher needs to declare to his or her church what God wants to do. Every minister needs to declare to the people he or she ministers to what God wants to do. If you don't declare it just shows you don't have faith and if you don't have faith you cannot please God. If you cannot please God, God doesn't show up. God requires faith from His people. Doesn't it feel good when you declare? Why does it feel good? It is because it's breaking the atmosphere above. See there is an atmosphere above us, filled with demonic principalities and powers and they exert a strong hold over the people below. They can only be broken by one weapon - the spoken word. Only the spoken word can tear down those things. Nothing else avails. When the spoken word has torn the powers of the air down, then you can do all the other things that you need.

When Jesus Christ faced the devil there was one weapon that He used and only one. Jesus knows about prayer. He used it in Gethsemane but He didn't use it in the temptation. There is only one weapon He used - the power of the spoken word. Praise and worship is powerful but it is used to gain entrance into the presence of God. Now praise and worship causes the enemy according to Psalms 149 to be bound. But how it takes place let me explain. The praise and worship activates the angels and the angels are released to bind the enemy. But nothing surpasses the proclamation of His word. Prayer and intercession is important. But we need to proclaim His word. Then the quality of our praise and worship will be powerful. Then the quality of our prayer will be powerful. Let me tell you as you are sitting right here that if you will receive these words as God is speaking, this is the day and this is the time of your miracle and deliverance. We have entered into the season of signs and wonders in case you do not know. If your faith has it and you hold fast to God, there will be even greater signs and wonders that God continue to work in our midst. Whatever miracle you are expecting from God, today is the day you can receive from God. It's important for us to reach out to God.

We can find the proclamation of the word all over the bible but I only gave a few examples. See even when God released them from jail, they are asked to go forth and declare the word. Look at Acts 5:20 *Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life.* The preaching of the word is important as it set in motion a great multitude of work that God wants. God exalts His word above His name. So lets declare the word that He is alive.

#### Act of Faith

The second principle that causes revival to come forth is found in Acts 3 verse 11. *Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, greatly amazed. So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people; "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus, who you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go. But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses. And His name has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith, which comes through Him, has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.*

After you have proclaimed the word and the atmosphere are created the second thing that will be necessary is an action that glorifies Jesus. Peter initiated an action based on Jesus' name and that brought forth the notable miracle. It's because of that notable miracle the church grew to about five thousand people. But Peter himself declares here the miracle was not due to their godliness or power in verse 12. What is he getting at here? He says this is not done because of a merit system. It is not that you have prayed so many hours and you got credit in your heaven's account and now you draw on the credit system to work the miracle. True, it's important for us to live our life for God so that we can hear God and do what He wants us to do. There is an indirect link in the fact that the more closer we walk with God the more we hear Him and the more we are in a position to obey Him. But particularly he says it is a matter of placing his faith in the name of Jesus and acting on faith in the name of Jesus that resulted in the miracle. To act on something

that God has commanded you to do. To act on something that glorifies Jesus. I summarize it as action that glorifies Jesus. It can be any action. But this is one that that we need to understand about revival. There is a step of faith that is necessary for revival and breakthrough to come forth.

God doesn't want us to just sit down and receive it falling down on our laps. The Promised Land is yours but you got to go and conquer it. In order to conquer it you know what actions to do. The Israelites are not going to conquer the land of Canaan without any action. There need to be action. There are many actions. One of the first actions they have to do is to step into the water before the water parted. You could stand there for donkey years waiting for the water to part it will not part until they put their foot inside then the water will part. You could sit around waiting for God to give you the financial breakthrough, for that ten million dollars breakthrough you want. Nothing will happen until you take your first step of faith. It has to be something done in action and then the miracle can begin in the process. You could sit around and waiting for God to do something for you and expect the revival to come. Although we can pray, listen carefully the prayer; the tuning to God is in order to listen carefully to His voice. When He speaks you can be sure there has to be obedience, whatever He commands us to do.

One of the first actions of the Israelites was to step into the water before the water parted. Then they have a time for the circumcision and the Passover. The other actions were they had to walk around the walls of Jericho before the wall fell. In every place faith is necessary before it takes place. Faith is a fact and faith is an act. However, when people don't hear from God and they act, there is disaster. The Israelites in the time of Samuel were living ungodly lives. Eli the high priest was corrupted and so were his sons, and they were not serving God. When everything goes well, they forget God. They went into all kind of sins and wickedness. When the Philistines attacked them, they quickly looked for God. They quickly carried the ark into battle. They did all the right actions but their lives were not right since there were no relationship with God. You must have a relationship with God before you can act out. When your relationship is firm in God of course your action will come. But the fact is the relationship is not enough you need to act. Moses may say he loves God and he fears God. But God told Moses to go and tell Pharaoh to let His people go. Moses needs to learn to obey God to go. God could have gone Himself but God needs a human vessel. Somebody has to do the going. Somebody

has to do the acting in faith. Whatever God has spoken to you. you need to act out with faith for God to release it in your life. You have to pray and search God for what God is saying to you.

The other act of faith is found in the book of Joshua. Joshua recognized the authority he has. As they were fighting he stopped the sun and the moon. It was like getting an extra day to finish the battle. The sun never went down until they finished the battle. It was so powerful when they began to move in such authority. Sometimes it's like an atmosphere all about you.

See point one is important. These points are following one another. You don't act until the atmosphere is clear. Sometimes the proclamation of the word goes out for quite some time before any action takes place. You got to clear the air. You got to create the atmosphere for God to work. But when it's ripe and action is due, you sense a stirring in your spirit man to take action. You see Peter didn't "feel" like it when he just pulled the lame person up. No, everyday he went to the temple to pray. But one day in the fullness of time when the man asked him for alms, something in his spirit quickened and heaven says now. There was boldness that gripped Peter's life. He looked at the man in his eye and said, "Silver and gold I have none but such as I have give I to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." He pulled the man up. The man was not healed until he pulled him. As he stood up the anklebones were strengthened. That is not something that you just do when you like it. It is something that is prepared and in that fullness of time. There is a fullness of time, some breakthrough, some healing, and some miracle that is coming on your life.

How do I know when that fullness of time comes? No. 1 there will be a holy boldness that is not from yourself or from anyone that will grip your heart, your spirit, and your soul. Something beyond yourself will grip you. When the holy boldness grips you, there is not a single doubt or shadow of a doubt in what God wants you to do. The holy boldness surrounds you and saturates you. You know that you know this is it. However the miracle is not there yet. It's waiting for you to act. You know that this is it. The holy boldness is beyond human fabrication will grip you. You know that's what you are supposed to do. You got to be sensitive to it. You know that it's there. You could command it.

When we were teaching on the gifts of the Holy Spirit in Singapore and particularly, on working of miracles and the gift of healing, a person came into the meeting on crutches. I don't do that under normal circumstances unless led by the Spirit. He was there and I could feel the boldness coming. When you are in that atmosphere you don't even doubt. There is not even a shadow of a doubt. I am not talking about exercising faith. There is no room for that you know. You are so sure if that person didn't move you would have kicked that person and make that person walk. That's the kind of boldness I sensed, you know it. You are so sure of it that you would even force that person to move. This is not something you can play around. Don't go around injuring people. When the holy boldness is not from God, then it is coming from your own zeal. You go about in the hospital, pull out the patient's tubes and kick that person off his bed, he will have to be transferred from normal unit to I.C.U. But there is a knowing that comes and I could only identify with first of all a holy boldness that comes. I grabbed that person's hand and literally pulled that person up and down the platform with me to walk. He took a few steps up and down before he says, "I am healed."

It was the same with our brother Thomas. It was in the second night and I knew it in my spirit. I heard Jesus; some said they saw Jesus. I heard the voice of Jesus. I know exactly what I must do. There was not even a doubt. I wouldn't even care if nobody believed that. I called him up and I don't know his symptom but I knew what I must tell him what to do. According to him, lately he could not bend and his wife had to help him to change his clothes. His doctor was going to put metal braces on his back. Incidentally he has written to me and told me he is completely healed. When he came back, he told his doctor that he was not going to put this metal in his back. He was going to believe God. What was he doing? He was declaring his healing. When he went back the doctor x-rayed him and found complete healing. I knew what I was going to do. "Brother Thomas, bend in Jesus name." No *ifs*, no *buts*.

Now in the anointing sometimes you can pick up what people are thinking. I knew that he had pain when he bends. Then I look at his eyes I could see it was real faith. Then the Lord said to tell him to bend down two times. Once is not enough. Then

the second time as he bend, I knew the pain was slackening but it was still there. As he walked back to his seat, I knew that I had obeyed the Lord. I knew that was the breakthrough he needed. The strange thing was that night when he went home, he changed his own clothes by himself. He found he could really bend. The next day as he was crossing the road, a taxi came by and he ran for it. As he ran, he suddenly remember he couldn't run before. He was just healed.

It's important for us to understand that there is a point when God wants you to act. Sometimes, it could be one notable miracle. It could be one thing that breaks the atmosphere of doubt and unbelief. I mean if we have three or four people who recently been healed miraculously to come up and testify what God has done, what does it create? It creates an atmosphere for other people to be healed. Why, because the doubts they had are broken. Once you have a breakthrough in a particular area of healing, it becomes something permanent on our inside. It is a breakthrough on your inside in your spirit. It's important for us to understand that principle.

In Acts it took a sign and a wonder to cause faith in the people. But that sign and wonder started in the heart and mind of the apostle Peter. It says his faith in the name of Jesus. I mean he was just fully obeying the instruction of the Lord. He was not doing something based on his own strength but based on the name of Jesus.

Paul in Acts 14 did the same thing. Although he did not convert all the people but he certainly had results for the whole city was shaken up. Later on a church was planted in that area. Acts 14:8 *And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked. This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, said with a loud voice, "Stand up straight on your feet!" And he leaped and walked.* One miracle was the turning point, a breakthrough. Revival is overcoming the forces of the enemy. We are in the spiritual battle. Sometimes one move, one act, one release of faith in some area somewhere is necessary for what I call the breakthrough point for the revival to start flowing. It could be in any place anywhere. But the breakthrough point must come.

Turn to II Samuel 5:17 *Now when the Philistines heard that they had anointed David king over Israel, all the Philistines went up to search for David. And David heard of it and went down to the stronghold. The Philistines also went and deployed themselves in the Valley of Rephaim. So David inquired of the Lord, saying, "Shall I go up against the Philistines? Will You deliver them into my hand?" And the Lord said to David, "Go up for I will doubtless deliver the Philistines into your hand." So David went to Baal Perazim, and David defeated them there; and he said, "The Lord has broken through my enemies before me, like a breakthrough of water." Therefore he called the name of that place Baal Perazim.*

I want you to know that this is among the first battles that David fought. Here he was being tested. It could be just like it was your first time preaching, your first time song leading, your first time praying for the sick, and your first time casting out demons. Here David was like fighting his first battle. He had another earlier battle, which was on a small scale, which one of his soldiers did mainly, trying to conquer Jerusalem. But here he is fighting a people who had been constantly at war against the Israelites. In fact the Philistines were the last group that was oppressing Israel before the monarchy came. There have to be a first breakthrough.

Very strangely Satan would fight you tooth and nail to prevent your first breakthrough because he knows once you get the hang of the first one it's easy for the rest to come. That is why the first time you ever exercise faith, let's say, for financial breakthrough or some other area, it's hard to come. That's why the first time when you cast out a demon it seems hard to come. That's why the first time you pray for the sick it seems hard to come. That's why the first time you want to win a soul, it seems so hard. But once you get the hang of it, you have a breakthrough. What we are saying today is that the breakthrough does not come automatically. It takes hearing from God and it takes obedience to the particular instructions that God asked you to do. You must listen.

Let me illustrate things that are still going on so that you could understand it better. I am believing God for expansion in the ministry and for more finances to come in. The Lord spoke to me this year, "Son, I want you to expand. I want you to do more. I want you to give up more." So what do I do? I commit myself to more monthly giving than I ever had before. I commit myself at a great cost. We need to learn how to achieve the breakthrough. I mean I could pray for donkey years for it to take

place and it will not come if I don't pay heed to God's instructions. But when I heard God I knew exactly what I must do. Then once I do it, I would also declare it. I mean giving is nothing if you just give once in a while. But if you commit yourself to giving constantly, it's different. God challenged me. I say, "Lord God, I want to believe You for housing for the staff, housing for the people and be able to bless ministers coming in. We will rent places for people first." If we have faith to begin to exercise to pay the rent, we would have faith for the mortgage payment in the future to actually buy off those places. Talk about the wealth of the world coming to the hands of the righteous. It's not going to drop on your lap. There are a lot of people, a lot of businessmen believing God for more money. They say they are going to give money for God's work but they never start giving. They will never get anything in return. You got to start now. I am not talking about foolishly selling your house, your car until all you have is your birthday suit. We got to pray. But I know what God spoke to me. God said, "Son, if you do this for the bible students, you do this for the staff, I will bless you with houses and land." But I had to start now.

A lot of people believe for breakthrough but they never achieve that because they are sitting down waiting for the water to part. The water will not part. Don't be like Moses hanging around the Red Sea. God said, "Moses, what is that in your hand? Don't cry to Me, use it. Use what you have first." There is no doubt if you are believing God for financial breakthrough you will have to deal with your giving level. Your giving level is also your receiving level. The same spoon that you give is the same spoon that you receive back. The same measure you give is the same measure that God uses to bless you back. If you believe God for healing you got to listen to what God asked you to do. There will be something that you have to do. You must do it constantly everyday. It doesn't matter what it is. You have to do it. The first time it's difficult because this has to do with breakthrough. But the revival that God has in your life will bring revival to many people. If you have a personal revival in your life the revival will affect those around you and those whom you know. It starts somewhere. I don't know what you are believing God for. But for some of you your breakthrough time may be round the corner.

David asked the Lord what must he do. The Lord told him specifically what he must do. It is his first major battle. From that day onward the tide was turned. David realized that this was a great breakthrough. They have been tested and they

fought and they got a breakthrough.

So we see in the book of Acts two times it occurred in Acts 3 and Acts 14. That faithfulness to act out in faith brought forth a revival that touched many other lives. In Acts 14 although there was opposition but finally a church was planted. There is no doubt about it the people were stirred. In Acts 3 the healing of that one man was the one breakthrough that caused the revival to explode even more. Always we are going from one breakthrough to another. I am not going to be the one who is satisfied with what I am. I want to press on for more of God. Press on into something more in God. We must press on and on into the things that God has for our lives for greater and greater breakthroughs. The breakthrough of the past becomes our common experience. Then we have more breakthroughs in the future coming up.

That's the second breakthrough and it came from faith in the name of Jesus. The breakthrough comes from works that we do in the name of Jesus. You must believe it just like Elisha. Elisha believed he had Elijah's mantle. He rolled up that mantle and he hit it, saying, "Where is the God of Elijah?" When the water parted, he became more confident in using the anointing that was on his life.

Some of you are getting breakthroughs in the gifts of the Spirit. God starts speaking to your life. God starts revealing people's problems and sicknesses to you. You are waiting for God. God is waiting for you. You never declare it and you never tap on those gifts. Your spiritual life comes to a stand still. I thank God for people like sister Anna who use to come and prophesy here. I think she has tapped on something powerful. So that now she is like a mouthpiece for God. You know she loves the Lord. So every time when it comes to prophesying she hears the Lord. I love her prophecies. But I am sure the first time she did, it must have been difficult. We expect that as the church grows some of you will become like her. I mean not going up to say something that you want to say and not what God wants to say. Or something that the Lord said to you but not to the rest of us. But being sensitive to the Lord so that your gifts could become operational.

In every service, I am expected to preach and to operate in the gift of teaching. I cannot stand up and say, "Well, ladies and gentlemen, the gift is not operating today." We expect the pastor to teach and preach. How about the gift that God gives to each one of you every Sunday? We expect it of the song leader. They must step on the gift of song leading and worship. They cannot stand up and say, "Sorry, the gift is not operating today." What about the other gifts? What about the gift of prophecy, which some of you have? You say, "I am shy I don't want to be there every Sunday." What happens if I say I am shy and don't want to be there every Sunday? The song leader comes and say, "I am shy I don't want to be there every Sunday." Remember this the gifts of the Spirit are given to each one as the Spirit wills. There may be some gifts God wants you to do. Of course if it is hospitality be hospitable. If the gift of prophecy you make sure you prepare yourself and come up. You say but God doesn't seem to give anything. Then you stand ready. It's all right if we see you regularly. Didn't the bible says some are the mouth some are the nose. So if you are the mouth keep on speaking. It's nothing wrong. We are just recognizing your gifts. We should not complain when people become specialized in different things. God has a gift for you. Please don't let that gift be neglected. Don't just let the few of us doing all those things and receiving more and more blessings because the more we give the more blessed you are.

The rest are just wondering, "When I am going to be blessed?" If you don't use your gifts and you are not faithful to that which God gives nothing more comes. Whatever gifts God has given, be they visions, prophecy, there is a place and a time for every gift to function. We expect that this will be a church where everyone finds his or her gifts. It is not necessary that all of us be in the public ministry. But when you have found your gifts and a place or position that God wants you to be, it's a breakthrough in your life. We are saved, we are healed, we are delivered, we are set free, and we are anointed, appointed to do what God wants us to do. If you are called to be a missionary, what are you doing about it? You don't sit around. You got to start proclaiming. Then you got to start listening to God and getting deep in God to listen to anything that God wants you to do. There could be a breakthrough. That one obedience in your life could mean a revival that is coming forth. Some times it's so small and insignificant and we don't realize it.

In the book of Acts we are look at Acts 18:18 *So Paul still remained a good while. Then he took leave of the brethren and sailed for Syria and Priscilla and Aquila were with him. He*

*had his hair cut off at Cenchrea, for he had taken a vow. And he came to Ephesus, and left them there; but he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. Now this is his first time to Ephesus. Paul may not realize the great revival that was going to come to Ephesus. But there he was. He was just there. Verse 20 When they asked him to stay a longer time with them, he did not consent. Obviously he himself didn't realize the greatness of the revival that God has pre-destined for Ephesus. Verse 21 but took leave of them, saying I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem; but I will return again to you, God willing. If he only knew that he was in the very city where the biggest revival was about to break forth. Do not despise the day of small things. Paul himself never realized at that time that this very city that he said he would return again if God is willing would be the key to his biggest revival that he has ever participated in his life. He just went on to Caesarea and he never came by to Ephesus until some time later. We do not know the time span exactly from Acts 18 to 19. But you could safely presume that it was plus and minus about a year or so.*

The greatest miracle could be on your doorstep in your life right now. I know one of the biggest things about to happen I can't tell what it is here. There are a few things that God is telling me that I am doing now. Something bigger but I can't tell what it is yet. Some of you could be on the very threshold of revival in your life and you never realized it. All you have to do is to be in the right place, doing the right thing, in the right time. Tremendous things are about to take place this year. I know for myself particularly this is going to be fantastic far beyond anything before. For some of your life that breakthrough that revival, God has spoken sometime in your life is coming forth. You need to get ready for it. It looks so insignificant. Some of the little things that God asked you to do, do not despise them. I mean, it was such a little insignificant trip that Paul is making to Ephesus and how many believers were there in Acts 19:7 - only twelve. Do not despise the day of little things. Don't ever do so. Because behind that are some of the biggest revivals that this earth has ever seen.

That burning bush was a small thing. Moses was just taking care of his sheep and he noticed this burning bush. It's just a small thing. But behind that bush was the message of his life. Just like Moses, you respond to that little burning bush in your life and ask yourself why it burns and does not consume. Let me go and see why it burns and was not consumed. He was going to check it out in the natural. But he had his biggest breakthrough in his entire life. It has always astounded me how the

greatest supernatural signs and wonders and miracles occurred in such common ordinary way. That the key to them lay in the most ordinary circumstances. I mean what's the big deal about this man saying, "Give me alms?" No big deal. What so special about the beggar in Acts 3 who stretched out his hands and saying to Peter and John to give him some alms? Peter could have just reached into his pocket. That day was a prayer meeting and he did not have silver and gold with him. He says, "Silver and gold have I not, but what I have I give you. In the Name of Jesus of Nazareth, rise up and walk. " That was a big breakthrough for the church.

Maybe your uncle or your sister was calling you to go to visit somebody in the hospital. Visiting the sick is one of the most mundane ordinary little human things that you would do out of compassion. From there comes the biggest miracle and revival that changed the world you didn't expect. The breakthrough switch is so ordinary you will never expect it to happen. If we are not warned we can miss it. That may postpone that breakthrough for another cycle, which sometimes is forty years or sometimes, it is ten and sometimes it is five. But don't miss out on the Holy Spirit; stay tuned. One fine day when nobody expects it God shows up. It can be anywhere. It could be in your home fellowship doing something ordinary, regularly, routinely and faithfully. God shows up powerfully. It inaugurates a move of God. What's so special about one hundred and twenty people praying for ten days? But at the end of those ten days something supernatural took place that even the unbelievers could hear the sound. Listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit and don't miss out on the ordinary. They are the windows and the doors to the extraordinary that God have.

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