

WHEN REVIVAL COMES

REVIVAL

Turn to Acts 2. We just have two little points to share with you this morning to seal and augment that which God is doing in your life. Acts 2:1-4 *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 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.*

They have been waiting for ten days and suddenly the Spirit of God began to move. There is a suddenness to it. There are two areas that we want to look at this morning on revival. They are No. 1 suddenly. No. 2 is structure. Now the two go hand in hand. In any move of God the two will flow together.

One of our close friends, a pastor in New Zealand, had been praying and fasting for many years. He has a little church in a main city in New Zealand. For many years they have longed for a move of God. But about three years ago God began to do something in the church. Their worship became more dynamic. I visited them very much earlier and then the second time and then the third time. I have been there three times. On the second visit the move of God was on. You could feel it. You could see it. It seems like over several weeks the growth exploded. The church was packed. When I visited him on the second trip it was in the midst of the move of God. You could feel the revival in the air. I visited him again the

third time. This time it was different. Things had happened and they were down in their numbers from before. When we went out for lunch he told me the lesson that he learned. First of all, he experienced the suddenness of God's move. But then he said that they were not able to contain the move of God. Is it possible that when revival comes the people cannot contain the move of God? Yes, it is. That is point two the structure. When you have new wine you need new wine skins. New wine cannot be placed in old wine skins. When God gives new wine there ought to be new wine skins ready to contain the new wine.

Suddenly

Lets look at this first point *suddenly*. The bible says on the Day of Pentecost had fully come they were all with one accord in one place Acts 2:2. *And suddenly*. I don't know why God has to do it that way. I don't know why the move of God comes in a great gush. But we do know that He does it that way. We could have some understanding from the word but as usual in this life we understand in part. We perceive in part. For God is so great He is so big and mighty and beyond our finite mind. We need to be prepared for what God wants to do when God moves. God does it suddenly.

Why does it happen suddenly? I could only try to give a small picture of that. There are other things that are big in the spirit world. But here is the picture that I have of why it's suddenly. The main reason is because of the greatness, the awesomeness, and the power of God. To a small little ant walking next to you every movement of yours is quite suddenly. When you walk even no matter how slow, to the ant it goes boom, boom. So, in terms of magnitude, we feel that suddenness. When you dam up a mighty river, the water pressure is so great there is no such thing as a little opening a little at a time. When there is a crack there is no such thing as a little trickle of water flowing down. One tiny little crack in the wall and suddenly bang an explosion comes. What is an explosion? What causes explosion? Explosions are caused by the sudden expansion of gases and energy. That is why scientists discover gun-power, dynamite, hydrogen and nuclear energy and all these things have so much energy that that when there is a chemical reaction. The quickness of the gas being released is so fast that we hear it as an explosion and the force released is so powerful it can break objects and kill people. That's because there is

so much energy inside the components when they react. When they discovered dynamite they found a way to slow down that volatile liquid by mixing it with special clay but yet when it's lighted up it's still powerful.

In the same way try to imagine that God is big and awesome in magnitude in many ways. If God were to just lift one little finger of His, bang, the whole universe will feel it. All God has to do is just laugh. The energy is released and all His enemies will be scattered. That's how big Almighty God is. I am trying to give an understanding because we all know that suddenness is not necessarily the way God plans things. It's felt that way on the receiving end. But primarily because of the greatness of His energy one small move by God to us is like an earthquake. His voice can shake the earth. He has to temper his voice. No matter how much He temper it yet the energy released is so powerful to us it is suddenly. I am trying to explain why suddenly as much as I can. But we are not concentrating on the why as a preparation. We need to know that when the Spirit of God moves it is suddenly.

In what way is it suddenly? It is like day and night. Have you notice that even when the sun rises or when the sun sets, the sunlight either suddenly burst forth on the horizon or suddenly fade into darkness? There is suddenness to the light and darkness. There is suddenness in the move of the Spirit. Although there is an area where you can see some gradual things yet there is suddenness to the move of God. The message that God has in revival is you cannot say that you will prepare only when the time comes near. You must stay prepared. You can't say, "I'll wait till the Spirit of God is moving mightily then I will join," because by that time it is too late. It is important that when God is ready to move that we are ready.

Look at Acts 2:1 They were all with one accord in one place. They were waiting in one place. They were ready in one place. Waiting on God and a readiness for revival must be there. Only the ready will be called. We must be ready. You can call it waiting on God or whatever you want. The first important thing is we must be ready. There is something about the way God moves that He tells us to be ready. We have so many messages telling us be ready, be prepared. God wants His people to be ready.

In the book of Exodus when God was about to move, He demonstrated His power in the ten plagues. Exodus 11:1 *And the Lord said to Moses, "I will bring one more plague on Pharaoh and on Egypt. Afterward he will let you go from here. When he lets you go, he will surely drive you out of here altogether. Speak now in the hearing of the people, and let every man ask from his neighbor and every woman from her neighbor articles of silver and articles of gold."* So all of them must be ready. Chapter 12 He tells them about the Passover lamb. Then in verse 6 *Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. And they shall take some of the blood and put it on the doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire – its head with its legs and its entrails.* Then verse 11 *And thus you shall eat it; with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It is the Lord's Passover.* The Lord was getting them ready. He didn't tell them to leave but He tells them to be ready to leave by being clothed for action and wearing sandals for moving at short notice. How would you like it if the Lord were to tell you to eat your dinner dressed with your shoes on? God wants us to be ready at all times. We must be ready when God moves. Ready to move along when He moves. If you don't move along when He moves, you get left behind. God doesn't wait for those who haven't waited on Him. God will move on and we need to follow the pillar of cloud and move along with Him. We must be ready.

We ask ourselves this question. We pray for revival. We ask for revival. How do you expect revival to come? A lot of people think revival comes slowly. As it's coming I will be ready. Are you ready now? A lot of people are not ready. When the revival comes it's going to come suddenly. You won't have a lot of time to think about what next to do. All these things must be preplanned. You must be ready in the move that God has.

Secondly, in line with suddenness, there is the timing of God. In Acts 2:1 *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come.* There is a season that God has planned for every place. When that season comes, when the timing comes God will unleash into the spirit realm a mighty power force that can be tapped. But how will it be tapped? Point one is readiness, point two is timing and point three is place. Being in the

right place where God is moving is vitally important. There is such a thing as being in the right place when God is moving. If you are in the right time and are ready but are in the wrong place, then when the revival comes suddenly, you still won't be in.

There is scriptural backing for that. When the time had come for God to move in Israel through David's life there were some who still did not discern what God was doing. There was actually a mighty move that was going on. The bible tells us in the book of I Chronicles in the growth of the army of David in chapter 12:32 bear in mind that from verse 23 onward David was already king. *Now these were the numbers of the divisions that were equipped for war, and came to David at Hebron to turn over the kingdom of Saul to him, according to the word of the Lord.* So there were many people from different tribes coming to David. He was building them as an army likened to the army of God. These people came to David because they knew the time, they knew the season and they were ready. They were men of war and they came to the right place. Where was the other place? Abner was in the north with Ish-Bosheth. They were in the wrong place. Abner could have been a mighty warrior for God. He ended up a warrior for man. Saul used him but later, he died an early death because he didn't find the right place. He tried to but it was too late. We know the story why Abner died early. He killed Asahel the brother of David's mighty chief Joab. But if you look very carefully Asahel was killed during the time when they should have joined David and not fight with David. If Abner had not tried to set up his own kingdom, there would be no fight. If Abner had recognized that king Saul was dead and David was anointed to take Saul's place, he would join David's army. Asahel need not be killed. He died because of the civil war that was created. But Abner was in the losing team. We need to be in the right place.

That is why sometimes when God moves for some strange reason He makes you go to that place. I remember in the early days of the Charismatic movement as a Baptist student. Since I wanted more of the Spirit I had to go to the Charismatics. But by going there I would be misunderstood as a Baptist. Why should I join the Charismatics? I wanted to be in the right place where there was the move of God. You pay a price to be in the right place. Then later as God dealt with my life in 1981 and the word of faith movement and the things of the Spirit touched me, God placed it in our hearts to visit some ministries. God told us to go to US and we went all the way there from Malaysia to stay for some time with John Osteen. Then we

went over to Tulsa and we visited Kenneth Hagin's ministry and attended his school of healing. Why? We were in his camp meeting. Why? God wanted us to be there to receive whatever God had for our lives. I remember in 1981 when I came back home, I was a different person. I had a different anointing. Why should God send me all the way there and bring me back? Because of His word - we must be in one accord in one place. We must be at the right place. Don't take exception to the fact when the Spirit came upon the seventy elders in Moses' time that the two outside the camp also received the Spirit of God too. That was an exception and not the norm. What the bible didn't tell you was there were many others outside the camp that didn't get anything. When God moves be there. We go to where God is. First draw nigh onto God and then go to wherever He sends us to. We have to be where God is. You say I got the Spirit of God at home, yes keep it. Sometimes when you want to grow in God, God will make you go to some places. God will make you be in those places.

I remember when God first called me; I was attending a Baptist church together with some Baptist friends. We went to the rooftop of a four-storey building early in the mornings to pray. The rooftop was a flat area where we could pray. It was important that I go there and pray. It was important that I fellowship with those two brothers of mine. We prayed together. God wanted me there. When I was praying there God spoke to me about my call. I was in the right place at a right time. If I had not joined them to pray every morning, I would have missed the call.

When God moves suddenly and you are in a wrong place you don't receive that which God has in Acts chapter two. Although there were one hundred and twenty in the Upper Room when the Holy Spirit came suddenly, yet the bible tells us that Jesus appeared to more than a hundred and twenty. According I Corinthians 15 it's well over five hundred people Jesus appeared to. Where were the others? They were not there. I don't think that they ever made it into that which God have for their life. They will always remain where they are. But when God moves suddenly we must, firstly be ready. We must, secondly, understand there is a timing not our timing but His timing. Sometimes you wish now is the time. If it is not God's time you can never push God's time. God has His own timing. Thirdly, you must be in the right place. In all of these we must exercise great patience. The Indonesian revival that Mel Tari led, it came suddenly. As they were praying and praying together suddenly the Spirit of God came. Everything that God does, He does so

almost unexpectedly. When God promotes a ministry and launch it off, it is also suddenly. Overnight David became famous in Israel due to one achievement of conquering Goliath. Overnight Joseph became famous through one interpretation of dream. Now Joseph had to be ready. It has to be in God's timing. He wished that could be earlier. Thirdly, you have to be in the right place. If Pharaoh had a problem and Joseph was still somewhere else you wouldn't have that story. But overnight God does it. Some of you are slogging and laboring and meditating for long hours on the word and preparing yourself by praying and fasting. I want you to know that life is built on cycles and each cycle is like an onslaught of what God wants to do overnight.

Oral Roberts became famous overnight. When a gunman wanted to shoot him and missed, it came out in the papers and he captured the attention of the nation overnight. Billy Graham became famous because of one main crusade that he did. God touched the newspaper's editor heart and he wrote an article about Graham. And that one meeting was the key issue that made the whole nation know him. The rest was maintaining his reputation. Renhard Bonke was actually organizing a crusade for other speakers. One night the speaker packed up and left. That one meeting he became famous in Africa when he stood in for that speaker. Thereafter, he started conducting crusades – suddenly. Now as you examine it carefully, these are things nobody else planned. You can't plan for someone to shoot you. You can't plan for God to move the hand of a newspaper's editor to make Graham famous. You don't plan all these things. It was not man who planned for Goliath to be there and for David to be there. Now what happened if David refused to go to see his brother? See we have to be in the right place. He has to be in the right place. What happens if Goliath is there and David is somewhere else?

Please understand it is important to be in the right place. For example if God is moving and God says, "Church, pray." You say, "O, I can pray at home." But what do we mean by corporate prayer? It's important for us to understand that we have to be at the right place. When God moves and you are in the wrong place you can never get back to what God wants to do. You may get a measure of impartation from the rest who were there but it is different when you get it from God. It's important to understand this fact. In those early days we were in Penang. We were praying and we were teaching the word. God opened one door for us to minister in the Abundant Life Center in Kuala Lumpur and overnight we became known to the

Charismatic people. Charismatics from all denominations were attending the Wednesday and Friday lunch hour service at Abundant Life Center at that time. You never know the times and the seasons of God. It is important for us to be where God wants us to be. I remember when I was in Penang. When you are there in that nice seaside city you will not want to move out. I remember how reluctant I was to move out. But God told me to move. If I don't get out and move out I wouldn't be able to do what God wanted me to do and receive what God wanted me to receive. See, one of the places in the nation where the Charismatic move was at that time was in the A.L.C. I had to receive the deposit of whatever God has there. Be where God wants you to be. Flow with God in the right place. When He suddenly moves and we are not there we get left behind. There is no replacement for a place God ordains. We can only obey and be where God wants us to be - to be in the thick of the flow of Almighty God.

What happens if we are not ready? If we don't sense God's timing, if we are not at the right place where God wants us to be, God will shake and the things will keep on shaking until it falls into the right place. He may permit things to be done. He may permit shaking to take place. One of the most paradoxical things that is quizzical to our minds is the difference between the permission and the permissive will of God. Hagin once had a fall from the pulpit. His shoulder was hurt. On the way to the hospital God said He would speak to him. Then Jesus appeared to him in an open vision. He said that this thing happened because he was in His permissive will. This is the interesting thing that Jesus said to him when he was lying in hospital. Jesus said that it was the devil that did it to him not Jesus. But Jesus said if He did not permit it, his (Hagin's) attention would not have been arrested. He would not have lived past the age of fifty. Today, at this point of speaking, he is in his seventies. (On September 19, 2003, Kenneth E. Hagin went home to be with the Lord. He was 87. Ed.) Jesus said he would not have lived past the age of fifty if he had carried on walking in His permissive will. Now when he fell, it was not an angel who pushed him down. It was not God who tripped his feet. It was the devil. But God removed part of that protection.

In the bible in the book of Acts I believe that it was time for the church to move on to do something else. There they are in Jerusalem and in Acts 2 there was a move of God. In Acts 3 there was the healing of the lame man. There were many things happened in Acts 5 when God multiplied them and increase them. But God wanted

them to move on. In the book of Acts 8:1 *Now Saul was consenting to his death. At that time a great persecution arose against the church.* I believe that persecution is something that all Christians have to face. But I also believe in God's hand of protection. Although some will be martyrs I believe in God's hand of protection. I believe that sometimes Christians need not suffer some of the things they suffered. It was not God who persecuted them; it was the devil the enemy. Look at the sadness that took place in verse 3 *he made havoc of the church, entering every house, and dragging off men and women, committing them to prison.* There were a lot of unnecessary suffering. I believe it was time for the church to move out but because of tradition, they didn't. Those who were called to preach to the Samaritans and the Gentiles didn't do so because wrong thinking and wrong teaching bound them. God permitted a great persecution, which caused a lot of suffering where men and women were taken to prison. Some of them were killed and many endured suffering but a positive thing took place in verse 4 *Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.*

Some teachers of the word got it wrong. When they read this verse they say they begin to ask God for more persecution so that people would go out. That's a wrong way to go about it. Just because somebody got saved when they had cancer and got healed, are you going to pray for everybody else to get cancer? No it never come from God. Sickness never comes from God. They got it the wrong way. The right picture is that the church is supposed to do something and because the church is not flowing with God, God had to do some shaking. As you read the bible you notice one thing and that is, traditions hold the church captive. God started shaking the church. He permits something to happen and the church was driven out. The people were driven out. They had to pull their roots; they had to move out from where they were. But when they went out they preached the word and God was with them. Notice God shows that He was still with them. Because by doing that they are now in God's will. God's will is where the move of God is. Where was the move of God in Acts 8? It was not so much in Jerusalem any more although God was still there. Whatever way God did was still there. But God has another way.

Remember the revival comes in waves. We have to be sensitive to what God is doing. Which is why the pastor of every church must be sensitive to what God is doing. If God is doing a work of prophecy they must open their church for prophetic movement. If it is praise and worship they must open their church for

praise and worship. That is why denominations dry up and die. They had one move of God and they want to keep it that way for their entire life. We must be opened to what God is doing. The church must have ears to hear what God is doing and flow with the move. Because they were not sensitive to that God permitted the shaking. Let me say this as long as you are not in God's perfect will God will permit things to happen until you are shaken up. A lot of unnecessary sufferings will result. He permits because we permit.

As the church began to do what God wants to do the persecution stopped. In Acts 9 the persecution stopped. The bible says the church had peace. The will of God is for the church to pray to have peace and grace and favor in the land. Now you always have persecutions from some groups but they will never overwhelm you. So the moment it looks like the church is being overwhelmed it was not just a minor persecution but it was a great persecution because the church was not sensitive to what God wants to do. The most dangerous thing is to follow after your own way or follow the advice of people and they are not hearing what the Lord wants to do. We must listen to the Spirit of God. This is something I tread with fear and trembling. I will not let a single person tell me what to do as far as my life and ministry is concerned because I am accountable to God. On my knees I pray, "God, where do you want me to go? What do you want me to do?" I mean if God wants me to be in another place for two years I will go. But if people get sentimental and say, "O Lord, don't let him go," this is wrong. They don't know that staying might mean dying prematurely. We can't, we have to obey God. We must shut ourselves to all the wrong thoughts and only hear what God wants to do and where God wants us to go. It's important for us to hear God.

Structure

When the revival comes, the second point to look at is structure. We only have two little points under structure. Why is structure important to the move of God? Structure involves people and involves organization. Structure doesn't only involve the organization. Structure involves people. Do you know that when the new wine has come it is too late to try to make the wine skin? The structure must already be there. Structure takes time to formulate and to work out. When we see the two move hand in hand there is a move of God that comes suddenly. The other is

structure. Structure is built up through time. When the move of God comes the structure must be finished. If the structure is incomplete, the fruits of the revival may leak out and be lost. Lets say I give you new wine right now. Whatever container you have to contain the new wine is all you will ever get. Remember the widow who was so poor and had no money. Elisha says that oil will multiply. She took that little oil she had left. She filled every vessel she had. When every cup ran out she ask her little boy to go and borrow every vessel he can find. She turned to the boy and asked, "Are there any more vessels?" The boy says no more. It was then that the miracle stopped. If you were the woman you would feel very grateful to what God has done. But if you were human you would say, "Gracious me, I should have got one more." Isn't that how you feel sometimes when you are in business? Lets say you had a land deal. You have the possibility of buying six acres of land. But through your lack of faith and finances, you bought only one acre. Then within a month, when development hit that area, the price went up ten times. You say to yourself that you should have bought six acres.

When God wants to do something He comes suddenly. It will be too late to try to build the structure. The structure must be already built. That was what my friend the pastor faced. He told me he did not have the structure to contain the growth. People were coming in they knew revival was taking place in the church. When I visited the church the second time, it was so packed that there were no chairs for the people to sit. The third time I visited the people were no more there. They were better off during my first visit but not better after my third visit. Why? They had no structure. He said that he didn't have the structure to contain the people. What happen right now if God brings in another thousand people? Do you know that it will create more confusion and more chaos if we don't have the right structure to work it out? Do you know that people also bring more problems? If you cannot have the structure to handle the problem of a thousand people how can you handle two thousand? Because we know that God moves suddenly there is not much we can do about it except to be ready, to know His timing and to be at the right place.

But the other part is knowing what we have to do now. Build the structure, have a vision. Prepare for the revival. If I were to tell you that tomorrow God is going to multiply petrol and if you say you will wait till tomorrow, when tomorrow comes and you try to find a vessel for it, it may be too late. But if you knew that it was going to multiply from twelve midnight until twelve midnight, you would be

preparing the day before and many days before if you knew it early. If I were you I would quickly go and find huge storage tanks for petrol. The structure must be built. Suppose God were to tell you that He is going to cause an anointing to come on your life and that you are going to minister to the world. Your family is not ready. You haven't prepared yourself on all those areas. It suddenly comes and you are thrust out into a ministry. You may not be able to contain and built it.

I read an interesting article about gambling. Gambling is wrong and lottery is wrong because what does not come through your hard work has a curse involved. I read this interesting article about this American couple that won the biggest lottery stake. Within one month he and his wife were divorced. They were not ready to handle wealth. That is why gambling is wrong because if you have money that you didn't work for you will not have the capacity to handle it. Our capacity is only to the level of what we can work for and earn for. If you have more than that you won't have the capacity to handle and without the capacity to handle that, that will destroy you.

We need to build a structure now. Examine what God is saying about your life in the move of God. What are you doing and preparing for the move of God? When I was in the seminary in the early days, something in my heart tells me that I will go forth and teach the word all I can. What did I do? I began to do my homework. I outlined the whole bible as if I really would teach the whole bible. Today I have taught through the bible three times. By the time we teach through the bible all the home work has been done. The other things are just supplementary. What is God saying about the move of God in your life? Are you ready for that? Two things are involved – building up the people and the organization.

So sub-point one people - it takes time to train up people. If suddenly overnight you have an international ministry you will need a staff to handle and plan your evangelistic events. If you quickly get all the wrong people to set up the team, you will find along the way you may have a problem that Benny Hinn himself had. As his ministry grew and he handled more finances, he found that one of his right hand men was pilfering his finances and it came out on the TV. After the TV program, he had that man sacked. But the damages had already been done. Robert Liardon tried to tell him and warn him. But the damage was already done. Which is

why sometimes when we sound a call to our church or to our leaders, "Lets get ready for this, lets all be prepared," because when it comes and we cannot handle it, it may kill us. Which is why I sound to the pastors, to the leaders. I say if we don't begin to develop the capacity to handle another thousand people, when they come we ourselves will become the problem. If we become the problem we got to be dealt with. An organization that is good enough to handle thirty people is not good enough to handle one thousand people. You cannot handle one thousand people the way you handle thirty people. We cannot stick to our own way. We must always be prepared for change, re-structure, grow and prepare.

One of the things that we continue to do is to keep on expanding. Keep on preparing for the things that we need to do next. Many people when they see revival on the move of God they say praise God. They don't understand that there were much homework that we did even before those things come. I mean I have set targets and scheduled things to do. Not only for myself but even for all the staff. I got a plan. For example my staff is staying just a few doors from me. We have a house that is leased for two years. But in my plan by next year I must begin thinking about where they are going to stay the next year. I don't have to wait for the lease to end in two years time as it would be too late. These are all structural planning for growth. It may be twice the size of our staff and we got to plan and ask the Lord how we are going to fit in. Remember it is not just adding more staff. The more staff you add the more you got to structure each staff's job description. You don't just throw thirty people into a room and tell them to work. So we have to begin planning and preparing. That's the organizational part.

Now lets give some scriptures. David had to get his army out before he was appointed king. It took him thirty over years to build an army. Saul reigned forty years. Saul fell after a few years being king. That was when David was anointed. So it's thirty over years. When Saul fell David was anointed king and sometime later he was promoted and joined Saul's army, then he was driven out and he became a fugitive. As a fugitive in the cave of Adulam an army was being built. It took him thirty over years to build that army. But when the time was ripe, when Saul died and Jonathan died, David had the core group and they were the mighty men of David. All the other army revolves around the mighty men. When David was in trouble, when David was challenged the thirty mighty men stood with him. When David's son rebelled against him the thirty mighty men were more loyal than

his family. These are men who had been through with David in hard and tough times. It took him a long time to build that structure. That structure carried him throughout his life. When he fell the structure still works. If you build a structure properly when you fall that structure still carries you. When David fell into sin, when he almost lost his entire kingdom, when he should have been condemned and his son was seeking his own life that structure carried him. Because structure involves people and organization.

It takes time to train people. It's measured in years. Some of you in business know what it is like. It is not just a matter of employing staff. It is having people with a vision. Who could be a part of that vision? Who could have a loyalty born of the Spirit of God? That takes time. Time to mould these people. Sometimes along the way they make mistakes like David's mighty men. Out of his six hundred men, two hundred of them were left behind and four hundred went on to Ziklag to seize the booty. They were fighting among them and David said, "No, those who went will share with those who did not go." It became a principle in his army that those who went share with those left behind. It's important for us to take note that these are things David developed. When you deal with people you need to develop people's principles and ethics. When you have a structure you need rules and regulations to run a structure. All these don't come overnight. Overnight you can go and interview a hundred people and hire fifty. But overnight you cannot come up with a kind of rules and regulations to run the organization. Overnight you cannot have that kind of loyalty, that kind of faithfulness that a team is built over the years. If overnight you hire fifty good people, the fifty will go through many cycles of problems and quarrelling and it may take another ten or twenty years to form them. By that time some will leave, some would stay. By that time you would have gone through many heartaches. You nearly died. Build the structure now for what God wants to do.

For example when we started the Christian school, we had a vision. We know that from this church, the five-fold ministry will go all over the world. Our five-fold ministers are usually married people with children who have a basic need the same like any one who is not in the ministry. They need food, clothing and an education. How are you going to school your children if you were a missionary? See we have to build all these structures out. These are things that we foresee. These are things that we planned. Which is why when the five-fold ministry began to increase, we

provided a way for the ministers' children to grow and get educated in God. They could run the basic skill. Then at a certain point when they are matured they lock into the normal system of education. They become people who could glorify God. These are all things that we are planning. Remember some structures take thirty years to forty years to build. I had the patience to slowly do it for example the Christian school. We are not here for a short term to make a quick thing. We are here permanently as a church, a local fellowship, and a permanent group of leaders. We are not here for a short run. We are here for a marathon race until the kingdom of God comes. So we got to cater for all those various things.

Structure in God involves people and it involves organization. You notice that in the book of Acts 6 that as the church grew, the apostles had to make decisions to alter the structure of the way they do things. As they altered the structure of their organization, God blessed them and they grew. They had all the right people coming up in the right places. The bible says that after the structure was set up and they appointed the seven deacons in verse 6 and 7 *Whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.* The apostles found a right structure for God to grow the church. If they had done that earlier they could have avoided the quarrelling. According to some historical records, because of that misunderstanding, from that day onward there has been some sort of bickering that continues to exist between the Hellenist Christians and the Jewish Christians. It could have been avoided in the first place if the structure had been prepared.