

SOS: NEED REVIVAL NOW!

by Paula Leanues

Christianity is not just obeying all the rules and being good and pious. Christianity is shining the Light of the world. Christianity is war. It is kicking the devil clear across the continent and thwarting his evil plans. It is walking in the fulfillment of our desires (John 10:10) and exercising the power to aid others in walking in the fulfillment of theirs.

Christianity is salvation of the soul through Jesus Christ. Christianity is the Gospel in its entirety, from the Spirit baptism of Jesus, which enabled Him to save souls and perform miracles, to the day of Pentecost, when the Church was equipped with the Spirit of God to perform miracles. Christianity is restoration of the soul, heart, mind, and body.

Christianity didn't stop being all these things when the first twelve that Jesus commissioned died from the earth. Christianity is perpetual, and by exercise of its adherents, is intended to grow in intensity of its exploits. Its adherents are also intended to grow in number.

People of our generation have a tendency to think that God isn't looking, Jesus was a great guy who made a great sacrifice, and we can tame the Holy Spirit by not dealing with Him – that is even if we acknowledge Him. We are fine without the guidance of God, we can save ourselves, and we're even finer when we don't have to understand the Third Person of the Trinity.

Christians grasp that there is something seriously morally lacking in our society at large. But the Christian who doesn't go all the way with God is seriously lacking in another way.

The Church is in dire need of the *full* Gospel. The Holy Spirit of God is real. As Christians, we only accomplish anything of any value by the power of His Spirit. Why do Christians stop paying attention at the book of Acts? The devil fears the power of God. Why are Christians just as fearful? Jesus said in John 14:12, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." This is not just a commission of His immediate disciples. This is a commission of future disciples as well, and that's you and I.

Do you want change for the better in our world? It will not be a result of picketing the streets and voting for "the lesser of two evils" in politics. History has proven the opposite. Our society, morally, is as corrupt and

devoid of truth as ever.

When you challenge the truth, you do not make the truth a lie. You make yourself a liar. Christians need the whole truth. We need to desire the whole truth of God, not just the parts that appeal to us. There is only one TRUTH, and that is in the fullness of the Gospel – it does not stop at “born again.” Truth in part gets us saved. Truth in its fullness fulfills the entire purpose of Jesus on earth.

This TRUTH changes lives, families, cities, nations and the world. The power of the day of Pentecost is not just a thing of 2,000 years ago. It is our calling to grab hold of this power and walk in it.

Say you are a parent. If your firstborn child catches his first cold and needs rest and healing, you take care of that child. Say you have a second child a few years down the road. He too catches a cold. You let him deal with it, give him no love, no rest, nothing to help in healing.

Would you really do this? And furthermore, would God the Father do this? The first child is the early Church – the ones who walked in His Power, who were healed, who healed others, who cast out devils, who, at the commission of Jesus, changed the world for the better.

The second child is any generation that followed the early Church generation. Do you really think God, who is the same yesterday, today and forever, is leaving us out here on our own with no power, no healing, no opportunity to heal others, no way to cast out devils, no way to change the world?

Jesus came to earth to give us this power. He went to be with the Father, and He sent us the Comforter, or Holy Spirit, who enables us.

The Church of today is dying. Although not quite the walking dead, we are certainly the “walking disoriented.” We are much alive to the world and its surroundings, but dead to the things of the spirit. We need to be revived. One definition of revival is “The inrush of the Spirit into the body that threatens to become a corpse.” (D.M. Pantou)

A friend asked me not too long ago what is a “good church” to go to. I replied out of frustration, “None.” Then I realized that gave little hope. I followed my reply with, “The Church is in your heart.” I had to explain myself.

There really is NO church, no building that houses worship, that is perfect. But I believe we need to attend, and we need to be around others who are Christians. Even if we are not all operating in the gifts of the Spirit, we are of this same Spirit and should be there to encourage one another.

Not coming against any one Christian denomination, I tell people to make sure they are getting 100% Bible truth when they do walk into a

church building. If you seek God with your whole heart, you will find Him.

Many churches are dying because the people of God are choosing death. (By this I mean spiritual dying, spiritual death.) The Church, those who are part of the Body of Christ, as a whole, regardless of church titles, needs a serious Holy Spirit REVIVAL. Worldly doctrines have infiltrated and church members are getting half-Gospels. This doesn't work. God says in Revelation 3:16, he will spit the "lukewarm" out of His mouth!

It's nice to put on the pretty WalMart dress, open to hymn #257 on a Sunday morning and give the preacher 30 minutes to preach a dead word... But it doesn't honor God.

The intention of God is that we be FLAMES OF FIRE, little extensions of Him, baptized in His Spirit (as what came upon Jesus when His Spirit was over Him "like a dove"), working in HIS POWER.

The greater works we shall do are in Luke 4:18, 19: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord." This means various healings, delivering people from devils, restoring "broken" people – and this in a tremendous way!

Don't you want to help people by making the demons that plague them run away in fear of God's power? Do you know that's available to you? Do you want to stand for good (not just believe in good, but stand for it), combat evil with the weapons of God's warfare?

Ephesians 6:12-18:

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.

We come into war and win every time we use the name of Jesus.

Without His Spirit, we are powerless.

I am mad and saddened that the Church is dying. I insist on seeing the Church in revival, no longer compromising on truth. Are we so complacent with our daily lives, the “things” that we have, the places we go, that we keep the Holy Spirit outside the window, tapping ever so longingly at the glass?

If you want the whole truth, you’ll be desperate for it. Not until you are desperate for it will you find it. If you want a building in which to wear your nice clothes and sing your favorite hymns in, thinking your mere attendance is going to please God, you’ve missed it. Millions of heretics, fools and self-righteous also attend the building. And God has more faith in you than to expect this of you!

I notice more and more people who are getting desperate for goodness and truth and a change in the Body of Christ are not even going to church anymore, because they are fed up with hypocrisy they see among their peers. This doesn’t have to happen.

If you want change, make it. Light a candle instead of cursing the dark. Get in prayer. Ask God to breathe new life into His people. Take a stand, no matter what the cost. According to James 4:7, if we know to do good, and we do not do this good, it is sin.

We read in Joel 2:13: “And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the LORD your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth him of the evil.”

According to Charles Spurgeon, “Garment-rendering and other outward signs of religious emotion, are easily manifested and are frequently hypocritical; but to feel true repentance is far more difficult, and consequently far less common. Men will attend to the most multiplied and minute ceremonial regulations – for such things are pleasing to the flesh...”

“HEART-RENDING is divinely wrought and solemnly felt. It is a secret grief which is personally experienced, not in mere form, but as a deep, soul-moving work of the Holy Spirit upon the inmost heart of each believer. It is not a matter to be merely talked of and believed in, but keenly and sensitively felt in every living child of the living God. It is powerfully humiliating, and completely sin-purging; but then it is sweetly preparative for those gracious consolations which proud unhumbled spirits are unable to receive; and it is distinctly discriminating, for it belongs to the elect of God, and to them alone.”

Are you here yet? Can you get yourself here? This is where revival begins.

Leonard Ravenhill wrote the following in *Why Revival Tarries*, 1959.

How far have we come even since then?:

“America cannot fall - because she is already fallen! This goes for Britain, too. She cannot go into slavery—because her people are fettered at the moment in the chains of self-forged, self-chosen moral anarchy. Here are millions, diseased morally, with no longing for healing. Here are men paying for shadows at the price of their immortal souls.

“An unprecedented tidal wave of commandment-breaking, God-defying, soul-destroying iniquity sweeps the ocean of human affairs. Never before have men in the masses sold their souls to the devil at such bargain prices. ‘There is none. . . that stirreth up himself to take hold of Thee’ (Isaiah 64:7). What hell-born mesmerism holds them? How does the spell bind? Who brainwashed them? Why don't they wake and stir themselves? If the Church had something vital and victorious to offer, these men who choose golf clubs by day and night clubs by night, they might be drawn from these fleshpots.

“This is an hour in need of burning hearts, bursting lips and brimming eyes! If we were a tenth as spiritual as we think we are, our streets would be filled each Sunday with throngs of believers marching to Zion - with sacks on their bodies and ashes on their shaking heads, shaking at the calamity that has brought the Church to be the unlovely, unnerved, unproductive thing that she is!

“If we wept as much in the prayer closet as devout Jews have done at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem, we would now be enjoying a prevailing, purging revival! If we would return to apostolic practice - waiting upon the Lord for apostolic power - we could then go forth to apostolic possibilities! This is the hour when we are asked over and over again, ‘Is everybody happy?’ God's purpose for us is not happiness, but HOLINESS!

“Could a mariner sit idle if he heard the drowning cry? Could a doctor sit in comfort and just let his patients die? Could a fireman sit idle, let men burn and give no hand?

“Can you sit at ease in Zion with the world around you DAMNED?”

Maria Woodworth-Etter, from one of her sermons, “The Spirit Reveals The Deep Things of God,” early 1900's:

“When the power of the Spirit has been so maligned, it is time for you to take a stand for the truth. When a ship is in danger, the sailors come to the front, if they are not cowards. Let us come to the front, not run away.”

John G. Lake, 1935:

“Christianity was not to be stinted in her giving. She was not to be a beggar. She was to be a giver. She had something from heaven to give that the world did not have. She had something to give that would bring

deliverance to the world. Jesus was putting His program of deliverance in force through the Church.

“The man is a bold man who undertakes to carry out this program of Jesus. The Christian who never has faith enough in God to undertake it, I fear is of the cowardly type. I am afraid modern Christianity stands indicted at the bar of God for cowardliness because of fear to undertake the program of Jesus.

“Friends, that is why we urge upon men the necessity of the baptism of the Holy Ghost. It is the only thing that brings the heavenly equipment to the hearts of men, that makes them equal to this program and the possibility of carrying it out.”

The revival in Wales in 1904 began because a group of Christians, hungry in the spirit, from one small church, began praying continually for a move of God.

The result of this move of God?

“Long standing debts were paid... stolen goods returned... striking cases of restitution were made... stocks of Welch and English Bibles were sold out... prayer meetings were held in coal mines, in trains and trams and places of business... works managers bore testimony of the change of conduct of their employees... magistrates in several places were presented with white gloves, signifying that there were utterly no cases to try... cursing and profanity were so diminished that several slowdowns were reported in the coal mines, for so many men gave up using foul language that the pit ponies dragging the coal trucks in the mine tunnels did not understand what was being said to them and stood still, confused.” (J. Edwin Orr, *The Flaming Tongue*)

Do you want to change your world?