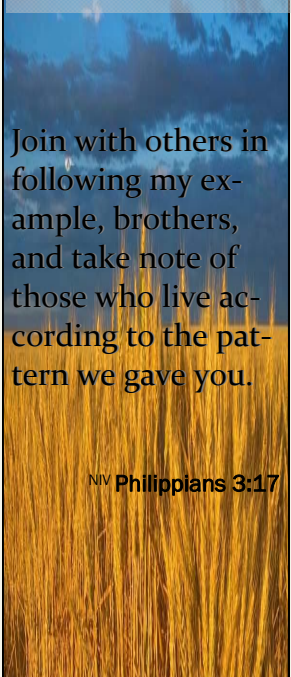


The Revivalist

A M I N I S T R Y O F T H E R I V E R ' S E D G E C H U R C H



Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.

NIV Philippians 3:17

I N T H I S I S S U E :

The Examples	1
The Examples <i>continued</i>	2
Summer Storms	3
About Us	4

T H E E X A M P L E S

Over the years I have often been overwhelmed at the very thought of what revival would actually entail, that is to say, what it would look like as it unfolds before our very eyes. Obviously it will be full of surprises, twists and turns in so many ways it would be hard to imagine, but the truth is, we are not clueless; we have examples!

The scriptures do not exist for intellectual stimulation, but they are given for teaching, for instruction, for correction and as Paul declares to Timothy "...That the man of God may be thoroughly furnished unto every good work."

During the last week I found myself stuck on the mountain in Alaska, waiting out bad weather, looking for a break in the clouds so our plane could yank us out, but it gave me time to go through 13 of Saint Paul's 14 New Testament epistles (if you are as I am and believe that the Epistle to the Hebrews was authored by Paul), and a few things kept coming out of the woodwork as I went through the words of the Apostle.

Saint Paul was emphatic about the things that mattered, and it is, in my mind at least, one of the elements of revival we see in the glorious example of his life. Emphasis on the things that matter, and dismissal of the things that do not will indeed be a pattern in the midst of real revival.

Paul declared again and again that we need to put on meekness and tender mercies, endeavoring to preserve the unity of faith, loving one another, which he declared was the "bond of perfection." He repeats the need to avoid empty arguments, and speculations. The never

ending circle of pointless questions that never profited anyone, and he always points the believer back to the same path: make use of your time, watch and pray. Walk in righteousness, not in the same fashion that we walked as Gentiles, or people of this age.

Paul's example which he very often points to, as well as the example of those who served with him, is one that he repeatedly urges the early Christians to follow, and this is something that must come to the surface once again, that is we must have a group of leaders who can truly point to their own lives and say "Do this just like I am doing it and you will not fail!"

I am not talking about someone being simply arrogant as I have seen so many "Full Gospel" preachers and teachers over the years who would say that in a heartbeat, simply because they were persuaded that they were doing everything perfectly, but I don't remember any of them being able to boast of the type of fruit that Paul spoke of concerning his own life, or the life of his fellow ministers.

The Apostle places the emphasis on suffering hardship, without bitterness or envy. Enduring the cold, the fastings, the hunger, the pain, lack of clothing, persecutions on every side, including those claiming the faith, all of these things were faced with humility and patient faith that was settled on the glory to come. The list of hardships is daunting to say the least and Paul counts them as nothing in comparison to the glory to come, but he sees the suffering as nothing but fellowship with Christ, indeed he sees every difficulty as another opportunity to know Christ on a deeper level than those who live according to the flesh.

THE EXAMPLES

It is a disgrace, but most of us have never known anyone that really challenged our position as Paul did those early Christians. I came into the faith and found myself yearning for leadership that would actually challenge me to go that radical New Testament route, but I quickly found the establishment had no intent on going anywhere other than the land of mundane religion.

I have not really recovered from the abysmal lack of leadership I found in the Church, but I am also aware that the spirit of God opens our eyes to prepare us for the callings upon our own lives as well. I understand that I am called to live beyond the pale, to actually go to that place that I always expected a leader to walk me through, and to live this walk in the Spirit to the degree that I can say without shame "Come and follow me like I am following Christ!"

Revival will never shift the blame onto others, even though everyone is guilty! We must seek and allow the Spirit of God to revive us, to bring us, as individuals to the place that others are actually looking at our lives and saying "Wow, I never heard it like that before and I certainly have never seen anyone living it like that before!"

The world laughs at the Church's claim to truth and right, because most of what they have displayed before them is a comical farce, and while some goofy prosperity preacher would try to convince them that their abundant earthly wealth is a sign of God's approval, most of the world is expecting far different from those who believe. Mother Theresa will be remembered by many more than 1,000 prosperity preachers heaped together on the pages of history.

Revival hinges on individuals not only hungering for such, but responding to such when God begins to come down upon the scene. It is not some overpowering move of God's hand that is just random, nor is it independent of our actions or movements of the will. Although some would describe revival in such a fashion, we have no real biblical or historical basis for believing that God is going to overcome the lackadaisical Church with His sovereign power and produce the wonderful results of revival without the co-operation of his saints. We cannot even consider Pentecost without considering the fact that the believers were gathered together for 10 days of prayer that reduced their numbers substantially, and though Pentecost is not technically a revival, the build up to this and the results are quite similar.

Our well known historical revivals have all had their leaders, their intercessors and radical hunger, and they do indeed pave the way before us with wondrous examples, but having the

examples before us is not enough, we must respond to the inward working of the Spirit and the demands of these examples that we may make the mark on this generation that the Father has called us to make.

Consider what it is that you are leaving in your wake, what attribute of your life is it that others may look at and want to emulate. The Apostle was not concerned that others would look with envy upon his worldly success, because the man who said he had often been cold, hungry, thirsty and sleepless had little in the way of earthly possessions. Instead he tells us to consider the manner in which he lived, his diligence in obeying the heavenly vision, the love which was demonstrated at the risk of life, the unceasing efforts to care for every believer, every congregation.

Beloved I pray that I will be able to say "Watch and pray like this, until revival comes." For surely I know that my faith is woefully lacking if someone is not inspired to go beyond the norm. If someone is not provoked to pray more in the Spirit, to abandon the focus on self while on their knees, if they are not compelled to break out of the cycle of empty religious routine, then what have I done?

I understand to some degree the enormity of the call of God on my life (the call is no less for you!), and I also understand that my example is impotent if I do not respond to that call with my whole being. This is what inspires others beloved; radical devotion to the task that is placed before us. No one is inspired by half-hearted efforts; unfeigned love.

The time is upon us to love more deeply, to give more freely, to hunger for the spiritual gifts more sincerely, to labor more fervently to walk in faith, patience, humility. Let us change the impression that this generation has burned in their minds in regards to the Church, the people of God, and let us recognize and move with the demand of the Holy Spirit to live a life that is worthy of imitation!

If no one wants to be like me, I can hardly imagine that I am living like Jesus, how about you? Tough question, yes, but let us pray and labor without ceasing to set the new example!

OPEN UP THE GATES!

TONY DINGESS



SUMMER STORMS

I find menacing skies so beautiful and summer storms are at the top of the list of my favorite things. The aroma of the ozone, not to mention the dirt, before and after a storm are more pleasingly pleasant to me than the honeysuckle, if you can imagine that. The power and force of the thunder, lightning and wind bring to me possibilities and the magnitude of the storms that may announce the return of our King. It is then I become like a duck and find I am just beginning to learn of hope found in puddles.

I had the great pleasure of being a witness to a powerful storm earlier in the summer. It was magnificent. And I had the good luck of being able to drive over Blair Mountain after the deluge.

Just as I started the incline up the mountain and saw the tree in the road. You see I wasn't paying any attention to the traffic or the lack thereof, as I was only seeing the beauty after the storm.

Everything was a radiant green and the smell was wonderful. The aftermath of the environment being disrupted was magnificent. It seems that everything was washed clean and rearranged. It was these thoughts that held me captive, the beauty of the disruption. So, what to do about the "disruption" of that tree?

I stop the car in the road and set the brake, leaving the engine running grinning about my all too healthy dose of self interest., looking at that tree and really dreading turning around and going back. I notice the limbs that are lying on the other side of the road are smaller and I grab hold of those and start to pull the downed tree toward me, being aware as to not disturb the break in the trunk thereby bringing the

whole thing down from the mountain on top of me and the car.

I wonder what any other driver is going to think if they happen upon me. Engine running and the stereo blasting to the point any traffic can hear me before they see me, And pulling on a downed tree like I am Goliath!



Revised Standard Version: "For thus says the LORD of hosts: ONCE AGAIN, IN A LITTLE WHILE, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land." Haggai 2:6

After what seems like an eternity, I stop to see if I can be somewhat satisfied that I have moved the tree even a little bit and to try and gauge if there is enough room to pass by on the other side of the road without scratching the paint clean off the passenger side of the car, or getting one of the larger branches caught under it and dragging something loose.

It was then I became aware of the stillness around me and of the song on the stereo singing "Holy, Holy, Holy". I find the "suddenlies" of God more breathtaking than the power of a summer storm. It seems there was nothing but peace in the atmosphere and a gentle breeze rustling around in the trees. I couldn't resist joining in with the stereo praising my Lord. I

would hope if traffic would have come by, they would have stopped and joined in.

As I travel up the mountain I notice the leaves and smaller tree branches all over the road and a few more downed trees but nothing as big as the one coming up the mountain. The ditches were full of water and overflowing in places and streams were running across the road in others. Every twist and turn, had some sort of debris, making it look like the aftermath of a nuclear war. By the time I got to the top of the mountain it was all clear.

That still small sweet voice began to speak and tell me that we have to remove the roadblocks that keep us from going up the mountain to His presence for He is getting ready to pass by. Even if we can only drag a branch or two, energy must be expended and the effort made because too many are seeing the roadblocks and simply turning around and going back down the mountain.

Those that are called to lead will hear the voices of the soldiers behind them crying "Holy is The Lord God Almighty". The Spirit of The Lord wants us to know the trek up the mountain will be difficult. There will be debris here and there. Rubble to be stepped over and mud to get thru. But not to be dismayed for it is only the deadwood being removed. The rubble, wreckage and ruin will in fact be a shaking or removal of the "dead" things. He wants us to know things will be shaken and blown, but only then shall we be in the position to see.

He wants His righteous remnant to stand firm and understand that retreat is not an option. There is much at stake and He is hearing our prayers even if we think otherwise. We must shake off any fear and discouragement as this is simply a distraction. He will send a mighty revival....and the shaking is just part of the cleansing!

Folks I cannot stress this enough for such a time as this : GET READY! GET PREPARED!

HE COMES!

Marti Dolin

WE ARE ON THE WEB AT:
WWW.THE-RIVERSEDGE-CHURCH.COM

THE RIVER'S EDGE CHURCH

REPENTANCE, REFORMATION, REVIVAL, & RESTORATION

Tony & Darlene, Phone: 304-239-0570

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Awake...and God shall give you light!

The River's Edge Church was born out of the desire for the return of the presence of God to the Church in holiness and awesome majesty. We believe that these last days shall be more astonishing than the days of the Book of Acts, and we believe in praying until we experience it!

We are focused on repentance, reformation, revival & restoration. We are praying for the body of Christ on the earth to arise from the death of comfort, self indulgence and greed and to truly allow the Spirit of Judgment & Burning to purify us from all our corruption!

Pray that we obey, and walk through the doors that open unto us. Alleluia!

T H I R S T Y ?

For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my spirit on your offspring, and my blessing upon your descendants" Isaiah 44:3

The River's Edge Church is simply a group of believers with a common purpose; to bring glory to the Father by exalting the Name of Jesus and allowing the Holy Spirit to revive us and others through us. We have no certain location and we simply meet in various homes for prayer, communion, and whatever else the Holy Spirit has in mind from one week to the next.

Please give us a call if you would like to gather with us, or if you would like us to gather with you!

Our Lord is coming!