

What the Spirit Is Saying About the Church

I. THE GREATEST REVIVAL IN ALL HISTORY

- A. We stand at a critical juncture in our nation's history. The Holy Spirit is visiting His people with power as darkness increases. The light is getting brighter as the darkness is becoming darker.
² ***Behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the LORD will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. (Isa. 60:2)***
- B. The greatest revival and crisis in history is soon to come. We look with confidence to God's promises to pour out His Spirit to empower His people to bring the gospel to all nations.
¹⁷ ***It shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams...¹⁸ *I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy...*
²⁰ ***before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. (Acts 2:17-20)******
- ¹⁴ ***This gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. (Mt. 24:14)***
- C. A theological crisis is emerging across America that will perplex many who will be unable to discern between truth and deception (1 Tim. 4:1-3). The Scriptures are clear that many will fall away and depart from the faith in the midst of the crisis, as fear, offense, and deception abound (Mt. 24:9-13; Lk. 21:26; 2 Thes. 2:3; 1 Tim. 4:1-2; 2 Tim. 3:1-7; 4:3-5; 2 Pet. 2:1-3).

II. THE LORD'S INVITATION IN CAIRO, EGYPT IN SEPTEMBER 1982

- A. The Lord visited me in Cairo, Egypt in September 1982 and said: "I will change the understanding and expression of Christianity in the earth in one generation"
- B. ***Changing the understanding***: speaks of the way unbelievers will perceive the Church. Today, many see the Church as boring, irrelevant, and non-threatening (Acts 5:11-13).
¹³ ***Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. (Acts 5:13)***
- C. ***Changing the expression***: speaks of the way the Church expresses its life together as a people of prayer, walking out Sermon on the Mount lifestyles in the power of the Spirit.
- D. God spoke to me about ***four heart standards*** necessary for my future life and ministry. They are not the only values necessary in a New Testament church, but are the ***most neglected*** ones. In 1996, God corrected us as a local church, calling us back to these by using the acronym "IHOP."
1. ***Intercession***: night and day prayer and worship affects our ***time***
2. ***Holiness***: the Sermon on the Mount lifestyle (Mt. 5-7) affects our ***thoughts and attitudes***
3. ***Offerings***: extravagant giving by living simply to give more to the harvest affects our ***money***
4. ***Prophetic***: confidence in God's intervention (provision, protection, direction) and standing boldly in faith for what the Spirit is saying affects our ***security and identity*** (most difficult)

III. WHAT DOES AN END-TIME EXPRESSION OF CHRISTIANITY INCLUDE?

- A. The Spirit is raising up a victorious Church that will walk in the values, doctrine, power, purity, unity, and maturity as modeled by the New Testament Church (Eph. 4:13; 5:27; Rev. 19:7).

²⁷ *That He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. (Eph. 5:27)*

⁷ *For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. (Rev. 19:7)*

- B. It is Church-centered: Jesus is building His Church which functions locally as a spiritual family that walks out love and honors all its members, e.g., gender, age, ethnic, economic, etc. (Mt. 16:18).

¹⁸ *I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. (Mt. 16:18)*

- C. It possesses a missionary spirit: Each ministry is called to work together with others to fulfill the Great Commission. It demonstrates God's love and power to others by winning the lost, healing the sick, doing works of justice (compassion to the poor, fatherless, and oppressed), making disciples, building godly families, serving in the marketplace and working to transform the seven spheres of society: family, education, government (politics, law, and military), economy (business, science, and technology), arts (entertainment and sports), media, and religion.

¹⁹ *Go...and make disciples of all the nations...²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. (Mt. 28:19-20)*

- D. It gives to the poor and does works of justice: This includes feeding the poor, caring for the needy, widows, homeless, and helping to alleviate the oppression of abortion and poverty etc.

- E. It cares for the fatherless: The end-time Church will be characterized by spirit of Elijah (prophecy, power and repentance) with a primary focus on the fatherless. The Holy Spirit is raising up the largest orphan outreach in history. The house of prayer movement will serve orphans. I believe most houses of prayer on earth will embrace God's purpose for orphans.

⁵ *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.⁶ And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse. (Mal. 4:5-6)*

- F. It functions in God's power: It walks in supernatural ministry by functioning in the spiritual gifts and using our authority in Christ. We will not regularly function in the gifts until we earnestly desire them by praying for them and using them in the day of small beginnings. Everyone is called to prophesy and function in the gifts of the Spirit.

¹ *Concerning spiritual gifts...I do not want you to be ignorant...⁷ The manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one...³¹ Earnestly desire the best gifts.^{14:1} Desire spiritual gifts...³¹ You can all prophesy.³⁹ Desire earnestly to prophesy... (1 Cor. 12:1, 7, 31; 14:1, 32, 39)*

- G. Each believer must be taught to receive healing and freedom and then to keep it by personally exercising the authority that they receive in Christ by standing on the Word (Eph. 6:11-17).

- H. **It proclaims the supremacy of Jesus:** It magnifies Jesus' majesty, beauty, and worthiness. The conflict in the end times centers around defining who Jesus is and how we love Him. We must love God on His terms. Love for God is loyalty to His truth as seen in Jesus. Our love must be expressed in alliance with the Jesus of the Bible. We magnify His deity thus His right to establish absolute standards for which the nations are accountable to Him. He is the only way of salvation.
- I. **It embraces wholeheartedness:** It makes disciples that walk out Sermon on the Mount lifestyles (Mt. 5-7). The Spirit is restoring the first commandment to first place in the Church. Cultivating love for Jesus is the first priority and the first emphasis of the Spirit. This love will overflow in God's people so that they walk out the second commandment and Great Commission. Jesus defined loving God as being deeply rooted in a spirit of obedience (Jn. 14:21).
³⁷ *Jesus said to him, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment."* (Mt. 22:37-38)
- J. **It embraces persecution:** Scripture promises that all who are godly will suffer persecution and receive rewards (Mt. 5:10-12; 2 Tim. 3:12).
¹² *Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.* (2 Tim. 3:12)
- K. **It engages in God's purpose for Israel:** Jesus' return is contingent on Jewish people turning to Him. In other words, the timing of Jesus' second coming is linked to the salvation of Israel.
¹⁹ *Repent...be converted, that your [Israel] sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, ²⁰ and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you [Israel]...²¹ whom heaven must receive [retain] until the times of restoration of all things [Millennium] which God has spoken by...His holy prophets...* (Acts 3:19-21)
- L. Jesus prophesied that He would not come back to Jerusalem (from which He will rule the earth) until the leaders of Israel asked Him to reign over them as their Messianic King
³⁹ *You shall see Me no more till you say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"* (Mt. 23:39)
1. The battle for Jerusalem is a spiritual, political, and military battle for the control of Jerusalem and the salvation of the Jewish people which is deeply connected to Jesus' return (Rom. 11:26). This is one of the most significant battlefronts in the spirit today.
 2. It will be ended by Jesus' second coming to reign over the whole earth and to cast Satan into prison (Rev. 19:11-20:3). The highest issue in serving God's purpose for Israel is ***obeying Jesus' sovereign leadership.*** We love Him, thus we want to do what He does and love what He loves. God requires the Church to stand with Israel in their coming persecution (Rev. 12:17; Dan. 7:21, 25; 8:24; 11:33-35; 12:7; Rev. 6:9-11).

- M. ***It prepares forerunner messengers:*** It will proclaim Jesus as Bridegroom, King, and Judge and what the Scripture says about the unique dynamics related to Jesus' end-time plan so that people are not offended at Jesus, deceived by the enemy, fearful of the future, nor yield to compromise. Forerunners are "messengers" who function with a specific message in different spheres of life. For example, they are preachers, evangelists, artists (singers, musicians, actors, etc.), writers (internet), media, marketplace, or intercessors as well as those who disciple people one-on-one in the church, marketplace, campus, or home (moms are some of the most important forerunners).
²⁰ The anger of the LORD will not turn back until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. In the latter days you will understand it perfectly. (Jer. 23:20)
- N. ***Its ministries flow from intimacy with God:*** It emphasizes intimacy with God as our Father and Jesus as our Bridegroom King. Jesus revealed the Father, in a Jewish context, which portrayed God as the transcendent creator of Genesis 1. Israel ***trembled*** before His power and holiness. Jesus taught that by understanding the Father's affections, they could have ***confidence*** before Him.
- O. As women are called to be sons of God, so men are called to be the Bride of Christ. Both describe a position of great privilege before God for the redeemed. These privileges do not point to something that is intrinsically male or female, but to that which transcends gender (Gal. 3:28). As ***sons of God***, we are in a position to experience ***God's throne*** as heirs of His power. As the ***Bride of Christ***, we are in a position to experience ***God's heart*** and His deep desire for us. For the first time in history, the Spirit will ***universally emphasize*** our identity as Jesus' Bride.
¹⁷ The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" (Rev. 22:17)
- P. The essence of the message of the Bride of Christ is the revelation of Jesus' ***beauty***, His ***emotions*** for us, and ***commitments*** to us (to share His heart, throne, secrets, and beauty with us) as our Bridegroom God and ***our response of abandonment*** or wholehearted love and obedience to His will. Mutual wholeheartedness is the foundation for intimate partnership with Jesus.
- Q. We must refuse all sensual overtones to the Bride of Christ message. Jesus is not our lover or boyfriend. We do not go on "dates" with Jesus. Receiving the "kiss of God's Word" in Song 1:2 has nothing to do with physically kissing God!!! Neither the spiritual interpretation of the Song of Solomon nor references to the "romance of the gospel" have anything to do with sensuality, but with the adventuresome love that is filled with a spirit of abandonment that sacrificially loves Jesus as seen when Paul and Silas sang songs of love to God in prison (Acts 16:22-26).

IV. THE END-TIME PRAYER MOVEMENT

- A. The Holy Spirit is raising up the greatest prayer and worship movement in history (Isa. 19:20-22; 24:14-16; 25:9; 26:8-9; 27:2-5, 13; 30:18-19; 42:10-13; 43:26; 51:11; 52:8; 62:6-7; Jer. 31:7; 51:8; Joel 2:12-17, 32; Zeph. 2:1-3; Ps. 102:17-20; 122:6; 149:6-9; Zech. 8:20-23; 10:1; 12:10; 13:9; Lk. 18:7-8; Mt. 21:13; Rev. 5:8; 6:9-11; 8:3-5; 9:13; 14:18; 16:7; 18:6; 22:17).
- B. The conflict at the end of the age will be between two "houses of prayer," or two global worship movements. The Antichrist will raise up a worldwide worship movement (Rev. 13:4, 8, 12, 15).

- C. The Spirit is orchestrating a convergence of the missions movement and the prayer movement across the earth today flowing from intimacy with God. Call2All is a missions organization consisting of 1,200 ministries. In January 2008, Call2All hosted a congress in Orlando of 170 CEOs of most of the top mission organizations worldwide. In the first 2 years of Call2All congresses, leaders committed to start over 500,000 new houses of prayer.
- D. God calls or names His people the “house of prayer.” The highest identity of the redeemed throughout eternity is to be a “house of prayer.” In other words, God speaks and moves our heart and then we speak and move His heart. The result is to release God’s resources on earth. The identity of the whole Church is the house of prayer. This is not just true of ministries that focus on 24/7 prayer. God sees all ministries in a city as part of His house of prayer in that city. The Spirit is establishing a culture of prayer in the Church worldwide.
⁷ For My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations. (Isa. 56:7)
- E. Jesus requires night and day prayer for the full release of justice in the Church and society. The work and cost of 24/7 prayer is a practical expression of the commandment to love one another.
⁷ Now shall not God bring about justice for His elect, who cry to Him day and night...? ⁸ I tell you that He will bring about justice for them speedily. (Lk. 18:7-8; NAS)
- F. Justice is God making wrong things right. The two sides of justice are salvation and judgment: Examples of God’s justice that make wrong things right include:
1. **Soul winning:** God’s judgment on the kingdom of darkness is seen when people get saved.
2. **Righteous legislation:** God’s judgment on unrighteous legislation (abortion laws, etc.).
3. **Healing:** God’s judgment on sickness is seen in the manifestation of healing power.
4. **Holiness:** God’s judgment on sin, anger, pornography, drugs, and rebellion, etc.
- G. Isaiah 42:10-15 gives us a clear picture of the place of prophetic singing before Jesus’ return.
¹⁰ Sing to the LORD a new song, and His praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea...you coastlands...¹¹ Let the wilderness and its cities lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar inhabits...¹² Let them...declare His praise in the coastlands.¹³ The LORD shall go forth like a mighty man [Jesus’ coming]; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out, yes, shout aloud; He shall prevail against His enemies. (Isa. 42:10-14)

V. DAVID’S REVELATION OF WORSHIP: LED BY FULL-TIME SINGERS AND MUSICIANS

- A. David received revelation into how God wanted worship (1 Chr. 28:11-19). After David became king he set up a tabernacle of worship in Jerusalem (2 Sam. 6; 1 Chr. 15). He set Levites before the ark (which spoke of God’s presence) to worship God night and day (1 Chr. 16:1, 4).
- B. David established a full-time occupation for singers, musicians, and gatekeepers (administration).
³⁷ So he left Asaph and his brothers there before the ark of the covenant of the LORD to minister before the ark regularly, as every day's work required... (1 Chr. 16:37)

- C. David established the full-time occupation for singers, musicians, gatekeepers (administration). David provided financial support so that singers could sing as a full-time occupation. David established 4,000 full-time paid musicians, 288 singers, and 4,000 gatekeepers.
- ³⁷ *So he left Asaph and his brothers there before the ark of the covenant of the Lord to minister before ark regularly, as every day's work required (1 Chr. 16:37)*
- ³³ *These are the singers...who lodged in the chambers, and were free from other duties; for they were employed in that work day and night. (1 Chr. 9:33)*
- D. David commanded God's people to uphold the order of worship according to the revelation that he received, because it was God's command (2 Chr. 29:25; 35:4, 15; Ezra 3:10; Neh. 12:45).
- ²⁵ *Hezekiah...stationed Levites in the house of the Lord with stringed instruments... according to the commandment of David...for thus was the commandment of the Lord. (2 Chr. 29:25)*
- E. Solomon upheld the order of worship according to the revelation that his father David received.
- ¹⁴ *According to the order of David his father, he appointed...Levites for their duties (to praise and serve before the priests)...for so David the man of God had commanded. (2 Chr. 8:14)*
- F. When Israel went astray, God raised up spiritual reformers with a vision to restore worship as David commanded it. All of the 7 "revivals" in OT times restored Davidic worship. For example, Hezekiah's revival (about 725 BC) included restoring singers/musicians as David commanded. Jehoshaphat's reform (about 870 BC) included establishing singers and musicians (2 Chr. 20:19-28). Jehoiada restored worship in the order of David (about 835 B.C) with singers (2 Chr. 23:18).
- G. Josiah's revival (about 625 BC) restored full-time singers and musicians as David commanded.
- ³ *He said to the Levites...⁴ "Prepare yourselves...following the instruction of David..."¹⁵ The singers...were in their places, according to the command of David... (2 Chr. 35:3-15)*
- H. Ezra and Nehemiah (445 BC) established full-time singers and musicians as David commanded.
- ²⁴ *The Levites...give thanks...according to the command of David...⁴⁵ The singers and the gatekeepers kept the charge of God...according to the command of David... (Neh. 12:24, 45)*
- I. God commanded Israel to financially support the singers (2 Chr. 8:14; 31:5-16; Neh. 11:23; 12:44-47; 13:5-12). The order of worship that God commanded David to embrace is timeless, such as establishing the full-time occupation of singers and musicians in God's house. The Spirit has not emphasized this throughout church history, but is now calling ministries to embrace this.
- ⁴⁷ *In the days of Zerubbabel and in the days of Nehemiah all Israel gave the portions [finances] for the singers and the gatekeepers, a portion for each day. (Neh. 12:44-47)*
- ⁵ *The tithes...were commanded to be given to the Levites and singers and gatekeepers...¹⁰ I realized that the portions for the Levites had not been given them; for each of the Levites and the singers who did the work had gone back to his field.¹¹ So I contended with the rulers, and said, "Why is the house of God forsaken?" I gathered them together and set them in their place.¹² Then all Judah brought the tithe...to the storehouse... (Neh. 13:5-12)*