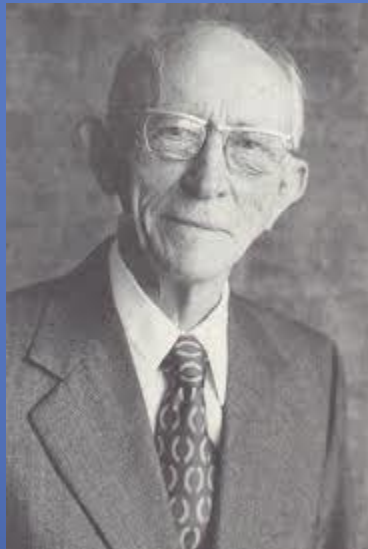


The Evidence of Revival

Acts 5:1-6

The wrong reason for re-vival

“Re” “*vival*” is not
the normal Christian experience



Why such a negative story?

- Ascension – Prayer
- Descent of the Holy Spirit – Church
- Offering the Power of Christ – Ministry

1. I must face what restricts Life

4:32-35

- Believed and Proclaimed the Resurrection
- One heart and soul
- Great grace
- Mutual generosity
- No grasping for 'goods'

Problem: Two opposing characters

Barnabas

- Joseph of Cyprus, Levite
- Son of encouragement
- Owns and sells land
- Brought the money
- Laid it at apostle's feet

Ananias/Sapphira

- “Grace of God” “beautiful”
- Own and sold land
- Kept back some
- With full knowledge
- laid it at the apostle's feet

What's the problem?

- Can have:
 - the right title
 - the right crowd
 - the same powerful worship
 - the same good works
 - gifts to God
 - enjoy the same blessings
- And still have a wrong spirit

What they did

- Deliberately premeditated (9)
“taking care of my family”
- Kept back part of the price (3)
- Lied (3, 4); tested (9)
- At the feet – seeking praise of others (2)

Hypocrisy –

outer compensation for inner emptiness

Is there a deeper problem?

- All filled with the Holy Spirit (4:31)
- Satan has filled your heart (3)
- Conceived this deed in your heart (4)
- Was it not under your control? (4)

2. He must give me what restores life

- Christ-less “*churchianity*”
- Need the reality of a
Spirit-filled church
- Out-break of true Christianity



Life at the 'root' of my deadness

- Why do you lie? Cheat? Grasp for yourself?
- A void
- Revival is not simply quitting – it is the restoring of His life

Freedom that the Spirit Brings

- Gives a vision for what is possible
- Pours out His Life
- Brings a love that confronts all else
- Produces a sensitivity to real needs
- Frees us from attachment to things
- Pursues any heart “static”

Wesley on “mystery of iniquity”

Experience/Doctrine AND Conduct

- Achan and Ananias Spirit-filled
- State = Church persecution
- civil religion real, individual
- ritual justification
- “No insistence on an entire change in
tempers and lives – the Mind of Christ!”

3. I must receive what re-orient's life

Conviction of specific sin

Humble Yourself

Name sin for what it is

Repent

Embrace forgiveness and restoration

Obey Him step by step

Seek His Face, His Kingdom

Revival begins with the best people!

- In Church (11) - Truly 'called out'?
- Greatest scandal:
 low-grade Christian living
- Last thing Jesus said...
- Disposition is as bad as commission

Detachment-Attachment

- Unless a person detaches himself from sin through repentance and renunciation he must die with it.
- Unless a person attaches himself to the Spirit of Jesus they will never be able to fully live detached from things

The clearest evidence of Revival: Outflowing from the Inflowing

- How does the Spirit start a fire?

He is looking for a few who are willing to be shown for who they are by the Holy Spirit?

Are we willing to take Jesus seriously?

Can we let the Holy Spirit do what He wants to do?

Evidence of revival

- Barnabas – selfless, faithful, encourager
named so by others who saw integrity
[no self-righteousness or praise of other]
- Awe-filled Fear – aware that it is possible to
treat the things of God with (5, 11 church and
community) Freedom for someone else who is
dire need

Deliverance of the Sick and Infirm 5:12-16