

Holy Fire or Unholy Sparks?

A 'temcat' study

What are we told will bring true Revival?

"Let us give more time to the study of the Bible. We do not understand the word as we should. The book of Revelation opens with an injunction to us to understand the instruction that it contains. "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy," God declares, "and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand." **When we as a people understand what this book means to us, there will be seen among us a great revival. We do not understand fully the lessons that it teaches, notwithstanding the injunction given us to search and study it.**" {TM 113.2}

In the cases that we have documented in SOP where a genuine and dramatic demonstration of the Holy Spirit was seen, read carefully and notice what the people were doing and notice that not one of those meetings were called solely to 'pray for the Holy Spirit', but all were for preaching and study of the Word, God's law in practical godliness, and prophecy.

Holy Spirit Quotes:

Sunday the **power of God** came upon us like a mighty rushing wind. All arose upon their feet and praised God with a loud voice; it was something as it was when the foundation of the house of God was laid. **The voice of weeping could not be told from the voice of shouting.** It was a triumphant time; all were strengthened and refreshed. I never witnessed such a powerful time before.--Letter 28, 1850, p. 1. (To the church in Brother Hasting's home, November 7, 1850.) {5MR 226.2}

Our last conference was one of deep interest. Two were dug from beneath the rubbish. The **present truth was presented in its clear light** and it found way to the hearts of the erring. **Before the meeting closed all were upon their knees,** some were crying for mercy that had been cold-hearted and indifferent, others were begging for a closer walk with God and for salvation. It was as powerful a time as I ever witnessed; **the slaying power of God was in our midst.** Shouts of victory filled the dwelling. The saints here seem to be rising and growing in grace and knowledge of the truth.--Letter 30, 1850, p. 1.

We were united in praying last evening for the Spirit of the Lord to fall upon us. God heard our earnest cries. I was taken off in vision. I saw how great and holy God was. Said the angel, "**Walk carefully before Him,** for He is high and lifted up and the train of His glory fills the temple." I saw that everything in heaven was in perfect order. Said the angel, "Look ye; Christ is the head; move in order, move in order. **Have a meaning to everything.**" Said the angel, "Behold ye, and know how perfect, how beautiful the order in heaven; follow it." . . .

I saw that **the exercises were in great danger of being adulterated,** and their former opinion and knowledge governing in a measure their exercise, therefore **implicit confidence could not be placed in these exercises.** **But if anyone was lost to**

everything around him, and should be in the state that Paul was in, whether in the body or out of the body, he could not tell, and God communicate to him through His angels, there would be then no danger of a mistake. {5MR 227.3}

Notice that 'exercises' here refer to these experiences where the Holy Spirit was demonstrated—she was warned that focusing on seeking this could lead to false practices and implicit confidence was not to be placed in these demonstrations as Satan could introduce a counterfeit. Impressions received had to be carefully tested by the Word.

I saw that we should strive at all times to be free from unhealthy and unnecessary excitement. I saw that there was great danger of leaving the Word of God and resting down and **trusting in exercises.** I saw that God had moved by His Spirit upon your company in some of their exercises and their promptings; but **I saw danger ahead.** . . . {5MR 227.4}

I saw that the burden of the message now **was the truth.** The **Word of God should be strictly followed** and held up to the people of God. And it would be beautiful and lovely if God's people should be brought into a strait [place], to see the workings of God through exercises of visions. I saw the burden of the message should be the first, second, and third angels' messages, and those who had any hope in God would **yield to the force of that truth.....** I saw if Israel moved steadily along, **going according to Bible order,** they would be as terrible as an army with banners.--Ms 11, 1850, pp. 1-3.....

I saw that the spirit that both Bennet and Libby possessed while Brother and Sister Phillips were in union with them, was an **unclean spirit and an unholy spirit,** and Brother and Sister O have not as yet realized and admitted and shaken it off. **The spirit moved strongly on the feelings,** and **these feelings, many of them, are yet cherished as sacred,** [indited by] the Holy Ghost. {5MR 228.5}

But many times when it was upon Brother and Sister Phillips, **they knew not what spirit they were of.** At the time these **men were professing so much of the Holy Ghost,** especially Bennet, his life was corrupt, his heart vile. I was shown that a great many have been entirely thrown off their balance by not understanding the spirit that some of these [seemingly] very good and professedly holy men possessed. That they have felt the influence of and received great blessings through the influence of their prayers and apparent faith. {5MR 229.1}

It has stumbled many an honest soul, and here they have grounded and made shipwreck of faith. **They trusted to feeling, to an influence or power that was brought to bear upon their feelings.....** I saw the great danger of those who have been connected with this spirit setting down this or that as the power of God, and "knowing" this to be His power, and if they yield this or that they give up their whole Christian experience. . . . {5MR 229.3}

What I understood about those quotes is that there was a GENUINE manifestation of mighty power among some of the first believers that was enough to cause them to lay prostrate with weeping and tears (not laughter) etc...but later, because men would STILL have BABYLON in their lives (nowadays entertainment industry is a major component of Babylon) and then be praying for that experience again, the

UNHOLY angels would be there to COUNTERFEIT, and the WRONG spirit would take over in that person's life, might I dare say POSSESSED?...

So that is why the angel in the vision cautioned that it was important to OBEY THE TRUTH, stressing the THREE ANGELS MESSAGES AS THE MOST IMPORTANT: (come out of Babylon) rather than PRAY FOR AN EXPERIENCE.. So now we have a bunch of worldly SDA's during that 7-7-07 thing praying for an experience of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, while still participating in the pleasures of Babylon. There will be some who are truly blessed but the majority will be deceived into thinking they have received the Holy Spirit and latter rain, when in fact it is the counterfeit. THIS WILL BE SPIRITUALISM in a most powerful form.

In each genuine case they were listening to the clear presentation of Bible truth which stirred the consciences of the listeners and brought on earnest prayers of repentance and contrition. In no genuine case had they met together only for the purpose of praying 'for the Holy Spirit'. It was for the study of the 'law and the prophets'.

NO PRECEDENT

We have **NO precedent anywhere in Bible or SOP** of holding any meeting and having the people come and **have the Pastors or Elders go around and anoint them** in any way. We DO have plenty of that going on in the Roman church and also in Paganism and Spiritualism.

Some say that the Bible does not forbid it so it is OK. But the Bible says:

De 4:2 Ye **shall not add unto the word** which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Notice this inspired account of the Great Apostasy:

“The very beginning of the great apostasy was in **seeking to supplement the authority of God by that of the church**. Rome began by **enjoining what God had not forbidden**, and she ended by forbidding what he had explicitly enjoined.” {GC88 289.2}

Notice the first part -- The very beginning of the great apostasy was in **seeking to supplement the authority of God by that of the church**.

PONTIFEX MAXIMUS

Now, if I want to have the Holy Spirit to work in my life, Whom should I go to and arrange this?

John 14:13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

Jesus told me that I should go to the Father in the name of Jesus and ask for the Holy Spirit—correct? Now IF I instead decide to go to a meeting in the church, and I get down on my knees and I am asking for a pastor or elder to anoint me so that I might be

able to get the Holy Spirit—what am I doing? Am I not placing the power of a man between me and God? Am I not looking to supplement the authority of God with the authority of the church??

I am indeed! And I also am saying by doing this that this Elder or Pastor has some power more than what I have and therefore it is right for that pastor or elder to STAND BETWEEN ME AND GOD! To bridge the gap between me and God!! To be my Pontifex Maximus—my bridge builder between me and God!

When Jesus died the earthly priesthood was forever ended—no man any longer has the right or the need to stand between me and my God—Jesus is the intercessor and all true Christians are a royal priesthood. The partition was torn down when Jesus died and in 1844 when Christ passed into the Most Holy, His followers are to follow Him by faith and to ‘come boldly before the throne of grace’, we do not need anyone to build bridges for us to come before our Redeemer! No Elder or Pastor has any power that any true believer does not already have, they have no privileges that the true believer does not also have.

There is only one barrier that can stop you from being able to come boldly before that throne of mercy and NO human can do anything about that but yourself—that is the barrier of unforsaken and unconfessed sin!

Isaiah 59:2 “But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”

The answer is to do what the message of great reformers always was—**repent, turn from your sin and turn to Jesus for forgiveness and cleansing**—the cry for forgiveness and deliverance from sin will always be heard and answered if it is genuine.

Joining prayers together or praying one for another in the true Bible way, does not say that the one believer somehow has an avenue to God that the other one does not. But, when I kneel down and await an elder or pastor to anoint me or place hands on me to confer some blessing, I am clearly inferring that he or she has an avenue to God that is not open to common me. This is the Great Apostasy all over again! Placing a man on the throne of my life, where only God should be! Placing a man between me and my Saviour!

Now look carefully through the Bible and SOP and you will find much counsel on revival and reformation—none of it entails holding ‘anointing services’ or mass meetings only for the purpose of praying for the Holy Spirit.

SUBSTITUTING THE LITERAL FOR THE SPIRITUAL

Taking the idea that somehow it is pleasing to God if I make a ritual anointing service to anoint eyes etc. to represent the instructions give in Revelation 3 is galloping in the direction of Rome. It was a big part of the Great Apostasy to start substituting literal rituals and ceremonies for spiritual truths. It is more pleasing to the carnal heart to do rituals and take part in ceremonies than to search the Word on one’s knees and humble the heart quietly in the closet of personal devotion and make that entire surrender of self.

PROPHECY UNTO THEM

The best example for end time revival is found in Ezekiel 37 where we see a vast valley of dry bones and Ezekiel was told to do something:

Ezekiel 37:4 Again he said unto me, **Prophecy upon these bones**, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, **hear the word of the LORD**.

He was to prophesy unto them—speak the words of prophecy from the Word of God to them! And what did he do? Did he anoint them and pray over them?

Eze 37:7 So **I prophesied as I was commanded**: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.

He did as he was commanded—he did not try doing it his own way, he prophesied to them the Word of God.

Notice, as he prophesied—presented prophecy from the Word of God, they first came together. Then he prophesied to the Wind and they came to life and stood up a mighty army. That Wind is the Latter Rain, the Holy Spirit which comes in its fullness at the time of the Sunday Law crisis. And we see the mighty army, the 144000 standing there. But first, because of the prophesying, they come together. In our day we say, they get their act together. The true study of Present Truth prophecy causes those who seriously do it to come together and get their lives in order. It brings a power, a solidity with it and things change, priorities change, lives change.

Notice:

“Let us give more time to the study of the Bible. We do not understand the word as we should. **The book of Revelation** opens with an injunction to us to understand the instruction that it contains. "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy," God declares, "and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand." **When we as a people understand what this book means to us, there will be seen among us a great revival.** We do not understand fully the lessons that it teaches, notwithstanding the injunction given us to search and study it.” {TM 113.2}

Remember that Daniel and Revelation are one book and also that all the prophets prophesied more for our day than the time they lived in. The study of Prophecy has power to bring revival that all the empty praying for the Holy Spirit and rituality will never be able to do.

In Jesus day, what did Jesus show to the men on the way to Emmaus that brought courage and revival to them?

Lu 24:25 Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: 26 Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? 27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

He showed them prophecy. He told them they were fools if they did not understand and believe prophecy.

Now on the day of Pentecost, what was the Power that resulted in thousands being converted? ‘Oh’, you say, ‘it was the Holy Spirit’. Yes, but what was the message the

disciples brought to the people? Did they tell them to have marathon prayer meetings or anointing ceremonies and get the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues? No, no! **They presented PROPHECY** to the people and showed them **how prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus' life and ministry and in their rejection and crucifixion of Jesus**. The **Present Truth of fulfilled prophecy** brought power to the message and the people were pricked in their hearts and repented and were baptized.

In the time of the Millerites, what was the power of their message? **It was prophecy**, and in 1840 was added the **extra power of fulfilled prophecy** as the Ottoman Empire lost its independence right exactly on schedule and the Millerite meetings went from having a few dozen people attending to many hundreds attending. And in those days Present Truth prophecy brought a revival.

But for most of Adventism today, **prophecy is a dead letter**. Few have even been taught it at all and of those few who have, the greatest majority have been taught incorrectly and the message that brought the great power into the Advent Movement of the 1840s is no longer understood.

But we live in the time when that message is being revived and all who turn their eyes upon the Word and study out the understandings of the pioneers and the message of the Midnight Cry are finding it has power for today and brings power and **revival to all who honestly study it out for themselves and accept it as Present Truth**. **The power of fulfilled Prophecy is there for us today** as prophetic events took place in 1989 and 2001 but Laodecia largely slept on.

RUNNING WITHOUT A MESSAGE

There is a story found in the Bible in 2 Samuel 18, which comes vividly to my mind as I hear all the talk in Adventism about 'witnessing'.

A man was sent to run and carry a message from the battlefield to the King. But there was another man there who begged to run also. He begged so hard that the general let him run and he ran so hard and so fast that he got ahead of the man that had the message. But when he got there—it was all in vain, **because he had no message to bear, all he did was run**.

In our day, **Adventism has largely lost its message**. It has just bits and pieces of what was once a powerful and connected message. Friends, **it does no good to run if you don't have a message to bear**. Maybe some of the witnesses may be faster and showier than those who are spending their time searching the Word for that prophetic message, but when these latter ones do go forth—**they have something to say and that message has power to bring a revival**, because it is in **obedience** to what we have been told we are to do.

We have a message of fulfilled prophecy today—but few know it and many who hear it turn deaf ears. But all the deaf ears in the world will not turn back this message—it will triumph and those who accept and run with it, will triumph with it. **Those who reject and ridicule it are passing judgment on themselves**.

PRAYING TO SATAN

Friends, **the power of the Advent Movement is prophecy**, we are the **people of prophecy**—never the ritualism and hoopla of the RCC and the fallen churches. Return to our roots and find there the power and revival in the **More Sure Word of Prophecy**. Adventism is not to follow Babylon and do its rituals and present its programs. After Jesus entered into the Most Holy Place in 1844, the churches that rejected that prophetic message were left praying to an empty apartment because Jesus was no longer there and **Satan, not God was answering their prayers!** Can any good ever come from prayers answered by Satan? Never! I urge you to read carefully and prayerfully the following quotation from the earliest days of Adventism. It has a warning in it that applies with greater force today than ever before!

“Then Jesus shewed me the **difference between faith and feeling**. And I saw those who rose up with Jesus send up their faith to Jesus in the Holiest, and praying, Father give us thy spirit. Then Jesus would breathe on them the Holy Ghost. In the breath was light, power and much love, joy and peace. Then I turned to look at the company who were still bowed before the throne. They did not know that Jesus had left it. **Satan appeared to be by the throne trying to carry on the work of God**. I saw them look up to the throne and pray, My Father give us thy spirit. Then Satan would breathe on them an unholy influence. In it there was light and much power, but no sweet love, joy and peace. **Satan's object was to keep them deceived and to draw back and deceive God's children**. I saw one after another leave the company who were praying to Jesus in the Holiest, go and join those before the throne and **they at once received the unholy influence of Satan.**” {DS, March 14, 1846 par. 1}

Who were the ones praying to the empty apartment and ending up with Satan answering their prayers? **They are the Protestant churches who rejected the Midnight Cry Message and the sanctuary and judgment message**. They are the churches of Babylon. If the churches of Babylon are **praying to an empty room and their prayers are being answered by Satan**, do you think that we need to go to them to learn how to have successful meetings and how to build up our churches?? No Way!

It is very clear in scripture that the Holy Spirit is only given to those who repent and return to the covenant of obedience to the Commandments—all of them. Therefore, can Sunday keeping, Sabbath breaking churches tell us how to get the power of the Holy Spirit? No way!

Now there is something even more serious in the above passage—what happens when an advent believer stops believing in the true advent message and **stops praying by faith to Jesus in the Most Holy Place and goes and joins the group praying to the empty apartment where Satan is answering their prayers??**

“I saw one after another leave the company who were praying to Jesus in the Holiest, go and join those before the throne and **they at once received the unholy influence of Satan.**”

What is she describing here? **She is showing us a movement taking place where Adventists who formerly believed in the Judgment hour message**, change their mind and go and join the other group who are praying to Satan and immediately Satan places his unholy influence on them. Friends—**what is very solemn here is that they never**

come back! If they are praying to Satan and Satan places his unholy influence on them—they are LOST!

These are serious times and we **MUST know the difference between Holy Fire and sparks of man's kindling.** I urge all to search the real scriptures—the true Authorized KJV Bible, and the Spirit of Prophecy like your life depended on it—because it does! Take no man's word for it—take no popular preacher's say so. **We are told at the end that people who follow popular preachers will find themselves lost and will rend in pieces the very men they once idolized and followed.**

Take the inspired word and read it on your knees with earnest prayer that you may understand and apply it to your life. Surrender all; cast away every pet sin, EVERY indulgence and entertainment. Admit that Jesus is right about you and that you **ARE poor, blind, miserable and naked** and you will not have to go anywhere to receive the Holy Spirit—He will be at your side and you will **KNOW** it. And don't try to 'witness' as if it is some good work you need to perform—remember, **it is no good to run—until you have a message to carry.**