

The Old Paths

"Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." -Jeremiah 6:16

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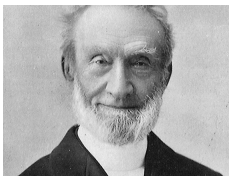
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Many Still Lack The Fire!

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Page 1

The Power of the Holy Spirit



"Are you renewed by the Holy Spirit?"

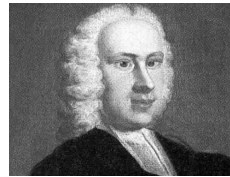
Page 2

Total Commitment

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Page 3

True Conversion



It is his Spirit must convert you, come to Christ...

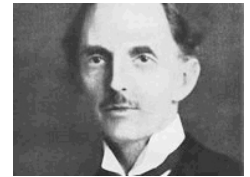
Page 4

What Kind of Revival?

The revival we need is a revival of holiness, in which the consecration of the whole being is to the service of Christ, and that for the whole life shall be counted possible.

Page 5

Stirring Quotes



Be challenged and changed by these stirring quotes

Page 6

Many Still Lack The Fire!



It is true that Pentecost, historically, took place once for all. So did Calvary. But each individual must personally appropriate the blood by faith and so must each believer receive by faith the Spirit for power. The promise of the Spirit is received by faith (Gal. 3: 14). It is an experience of spiritual thirst, then coming to Christ, drinking of the Spirit by faith, believing and overflowing (John 7: 37-39). So the blood and bread must be accompanied by fire. We have fundamentalism and facts; we have activity and earnestness and sincerity; we even have blood-washed and blood-nourished Christians, well-taught in the Word, WHO STILL LACK FIRE. Some are prejudiced against it, identifying any defi-

nite experience of the Spirit with fanaticism. Some see nothing but a gradual growth in grace. Some mistake the indwelling of the Spirit for the infilling. Some have "received" with a cheap and easy "believism" who somehow did not receive after all. For many reasons the church is largely behind closed doors as before Pentecost, and believers try to stir up a fire from their own sparks instead of being set on fire of God.

We are not here advocating some wild and weird emotional experience, but we do hold that he who seeks to burn out for God will have to go deeper than sentence prayers and occasional wishful thinking. There must be a holy burning and a consuming longing for the fullness of the Spirit. Tears and fastings and all night prayers have no value of themselves, but God will reward the man who forgets all else seeking the double portion of "power with God and men." It is not that God is stingy and must be coaxed, for He "giveth liberally and upbraideth not." It is that we ourselves are so shallow and sinful that we need to tarry before Him until our restless natures can be stilled and the clamor of outside voices be deadened so that we can hear His voice. Such a state is not easily reached, and the men God uses have paid a price in wrestlings and prevailing prayer. But it is such men who rise from their knees confident of His power and go forth to speak with authority and not as the scribes.

I saw a human life ablaze with God; I felt a power divine As through an empty vessel of frail clay I

saw God's glory shine. Then woke I from a dream, and cried aloud: "My Father, give to me The blessing of a life consumed by God, That I may live for Thee!"

Vance Havner Maxim's:

"It is one of the ironies of the ministry that the very man who works in God's name is often hardest put to find time for God. The parents of Jesus lost Him at church, and they were not the last ones to lose Him there. "

The church is so subnormal that if it ever got back to the New Testament normal it would seem to people to be abnormal.

Vance Havner (1901-1986). In describing his own ministry, Mr. Havner claims that he is not a preacher, nor an evangelist, nor a teacher, nor an orator, nor a prophet. He claims that he is simply an "exhorter." This probably is an apt description of Vance Havner, whose sharp, incisive wit and unyielding proclamation of God's message to all men. His message is primarily to the church, Bible-centered exhortation to faith and obedience, and is marked by practical admonition. His emphasis is on revival among Christians was one of the earmarks of this man's ministry before God..



The Power of the Holy Spirit

“Are you renewed by the Holy Spirit?”

The Holy Spirit was given on the day of Pentecost to the church in her collective capacity, to abide with her forever, and has not been taken away, notwithstanding our many failings. Just as the fiery pillar was not taken from the Israelites, notwithstanding their many provocations, so the blessed Spirit of God has not been taken away from the church. Moreover God has given His Spirit to the individual believer to all who put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

But though the Spirit dwells in the church of Christ as to her collective capacity, and in the individual believer, nevertheless it is fitting and suitable and right on the part of the children of God that they should ask God again and again, and with great earnestness, that He would work mightily by His Spirit.

We depend entirely on the power of the Holy Spirit for the conversion of sinners. There might be the most mighty preacher as to the knowledge of the scriptures and the clearness with which he sets forth the truth; yet if the Spirit of God is not pleased to

bless the word, he may preach for months, and yet there will be no blessing. Are you renewed by the Holy Spirit?

This is the momentous point, whether through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ we are partakers of the Holy Spirit or not. If any man have not the Spirit of Christ he is none of His. Whatever we have, if we have not the Holy Spirit, we do not belong to Christ. In whatever way we seek to resemble the disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ we may be in the habit of reading our Bibles, of bowing our knees, of singing together with them, of meeting together with them, of partaking with them at the Lord's supper, we may be reckoned among them as disciples and yet with all this, far from God. With all this unregenerate. With all this, wanting the Spirit of Christ. With all this, not born again through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Talkers we may be, in outward appearance like the children of God, but if the heart is unrenewed, if there be no faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for the salvation of our souls, through which we are born

again and renewed by the power of the Holy Spirit, so that the Holy Spirit takes our bodies and makes them His temple if this is not the case, we are yet far from God and His kingdom.

George Muller (1805-1898). George Muller was an ordinary man, but his undeniable faith, implicit trust and love for God has the same impact on the world today as when he died in 1898. This continues to be an inspiration and witness to all who commit their lives to God. Muller had in his lifetime over half a million direct answers to prayer recorded and prayed in over 1.5 million pounds to support orphanages with children. Muller has left an legacy of what an normal Christian's faith can accomplish when it is set upon God and His promises.



Total Commitment

"What's needed today is an army."

"These Men who have upset the world have come here also!" (Acts 17:6).

There's a great emptiness in the world, and in the hearts of all men. This is the void that Jesus is meant to fill, in every nation as King, and in every man's heart as Lord. If the void remains, then men and nations will seek desperately to fill it with something else that will fulfill them. Satan is always willing and ready to provide an alternate, a counterfeit peace. The greatest danger about a counterfeit is that it looks just like the real thing, but has no value whatsoever.

Christianity swept the world in the first century A.D. It is the force of truth that was meant to answer and quench the thirst in all mankind for a reason and purpose to life. The thing that made the good news so believable to those who heard it at that time was not the message itself ... but the messengers! Charles Finney once wrote "Christians themselves are the greatest reason for accepting Christ. But they are also the greatest excuse for rejecting Him."

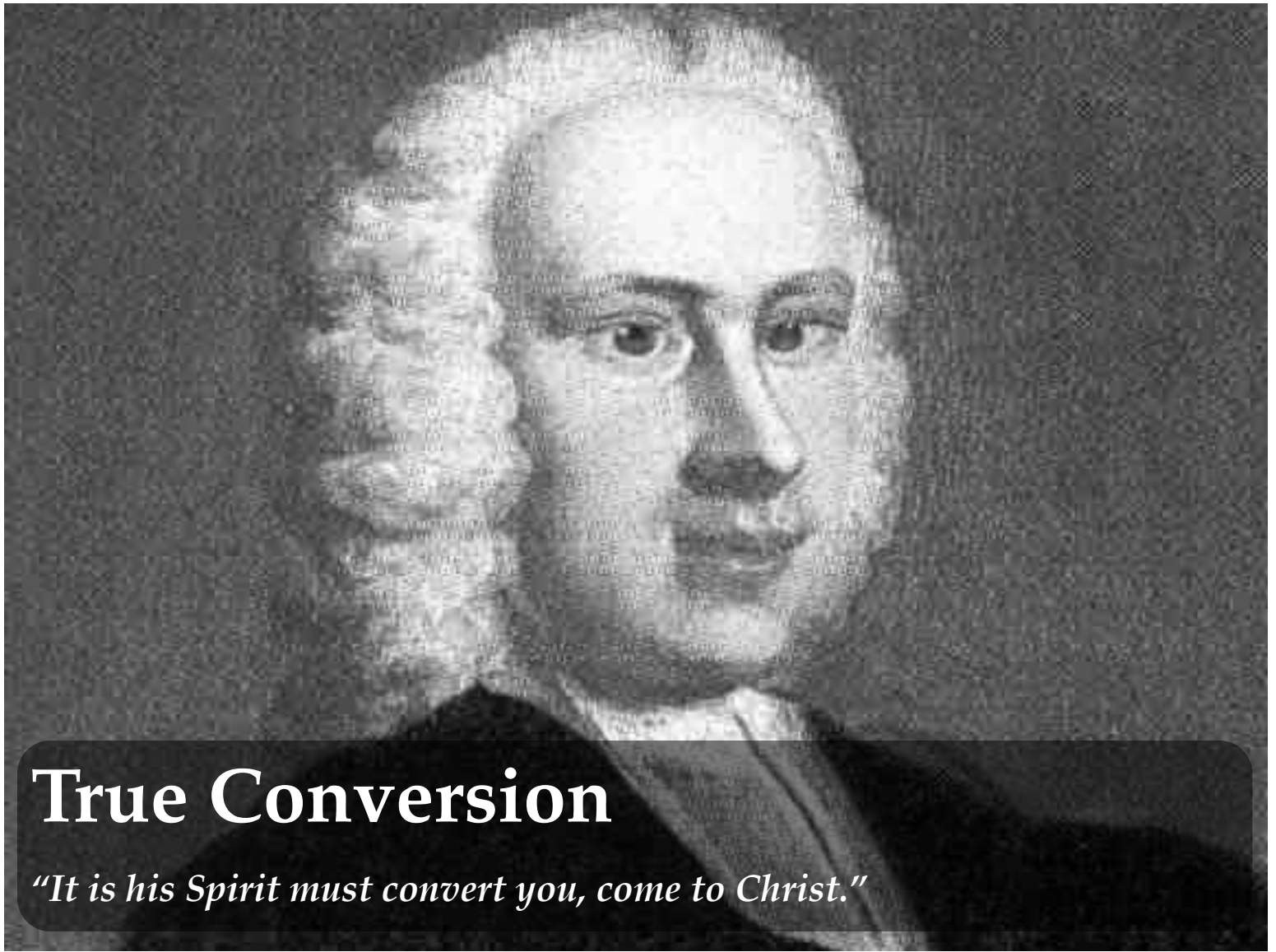
What made the early Christians so convincing? What was it that made 3,000 people convert in one day and be baptized in a city hostile to the Gospel... a city that had murdered their Lord only weeks before? (Acts 2:41) It was their commitment. It was their lifestyle. It was the Holy Spirit breathing the life and image of Jesus into a people who literally had left everything, were willing to suffer anything, and were ready to give all they had (possessions, time, even blood) to anyone to prove that their message was the only truth that could save men's souls from eternal suffering!

What's needed today is an army. A truly Christian force, armed to the teeth with love and the power of God, completely trusting God to meet their needs and lead them into battle and victory! God has commanded the Church to "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation"! (Mark 16:15).

"So because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth." (Revelation 3:16). We are in grave danger of being judged as the

Church in Laodicea. Remember, there are two runners in the race - Revival and Judgment. Let us get on our knees and win!

Keith Green (1953-1982). Keith Green is best known as an Christian musician that preformed before thousands of people in his life-time. But truly Keith was an radical follower of Jesus Christ, his whole heart and passion in life was to glorify Jesus. He was mentored by Leonard Ravenhill and influenced many people. This quote gives the essence of his desire: "I repent of ever having recorded one single song, and ever having performed one concert, if my music, and more importantly, my life has not provoked you into Godly jealousy or to sell out more completely to Jesus!"



True Conversion

"It is his Spirit must convert you, come to Christ."

If any of you are graceless, Christless, unconverted creatures, I charge you not to touch it, I fence it in the name of God; here is a flaming sword turning every way to keep you from this bread of life, till ye are turned to Jesus Christ. And therefore, as I suppose many of you are unconverted, and graceless, go home! And away to your closets, and down with your stubborn hearts before God; if ye have not done lit before, let this be the night. Or, do not stay till ye go home; begin now, while standing here; pray to God, and let the language of thy heart be, Lord convert me! Lord make me a little child, Lord Jesus let me not be banished from thy kingdom! My dear friends, there is a great deal more implied in the words, than is expressed: when Christ says, "Ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven," it is as much to say, "ye shall certainly go to hell, ye shall certainly be damned, and dwell in the blackness of darkness for ever, ye shall go where the worm dies not, and where the fire is not quenched."

The Lord God impress it upon your souls! May an arrow dipped in the blood of Christ, reach every

unconverted sinner's heart! May God fulfill the text to every one of your souls! It is he alone that can do it. If ye confess your sins, and leave them, and lay hold on the Lord Jesus Christ, the Spirit of God shall be given you; if you will go and say, turn me, O my God! Thou knowest not, O man, what the return of God may be to thee.

I would continue my discourse till midnight. And however some of you may hate me without a cause, would to God every one in this congregation was as much concerned for himself, as at present I feel myself concerned for him. O that my head were waters, O that mine eyes were a fountain of tears, that I might weep over an unconverted, graceless, wicked, and adulterous generation. Precious souls, for God's sake think what will become of you when ye die, if you die without being converted; if ye go hence without the wedding garment, God will strike you speechless, and ye shall be banished from his presence for ever and ever.

I know ye cannot dwell with everlasting burnings; behold then I show you a way of escape; Jesus is

the way, Jesus is the truth, the Lord Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life. It is his Spirit must convert you, come to Christ, and ye shall have it; and may God for Christ's sake give it to you all, and convert you, that we may all meet in that day.

George Whitefield (1714-1770). It is said his voice could be heard a mile away, and his open-air preaching reached as many as 100,000 in one gathering! it was said of his preaching that, "He seldom if ever got through a sermon without tears." Whitefield was a key figure in the great awakening revivals in america and history has found few that are equal to his passion and power with God. More than 18,000 sermons were to follow in his lifetime, an average of 500 a year. He preached at times until he coughed up blood, and at the risk of death he preached on with passion for the lost.



What Kind of Revival?

"The revival we need is a revival of holiness."

How is the church to be lifted up to the abundant life in Christ, which will fit her for the work that God is putting before Her? Nothing will help but a revival, nothing less than a tremendous spiritual revival. Great tides of spiritual energy must be put into motion if this work is to be accomplished. Now there may be great differences in what we understand by revival. Many will think of the work of evangelists like Moody and Torrey. We need a different and mightier revival than those were.

In them the chief object was the conversion of sinners, and incidentally, the quickening of believers. But the revival that we need calls for a deeper and more entire upheaval of the Church. The great defect of those revivals was that the converts were received into a Church that was not living on the high level of consecration and holiness, and speedily sank down to the average standard of ordinary religious life. Even the believers who had been roused by it, also gradually returned to their former life of clouded fellowship and lack of power to testify for Christ.

The revival we need is a revival of holiness, in which the consecration of the whole being is to the service of Christ, and that for the whole life shall be counted possible. And for this there will be needed a new style of preaching in which the promises of God to dwell in His people, and to sanctify them for Himself, will take a place which they do not now have.

A holiness revival! What was the great evangelistic revival in England through Whitefield and Wesley but this? They had together at Oxford been members of the "Holy Club". With their whole heart they had sought deliverance from the guilt of sin, but also from the power of sin. When their eyes were opened to see how faith can claim the whole Christ in all fullness, they found the key to the preaching which was so mightily effectual for the salvation of men. What John Wesley did for the Methodism, General Booth, and his disciple, did for the Salvation Army. Looking at the material on which he had to work, it was amazing how, with his teaching of the clean heart and full salvation, he

was able to inspire tens of thousands with a true devotion to Christ and the lost. There may be great differences of doctrine, but no one can be blind to the seal God has set upon the intense desire to preach a full salvation and an entire consecration.

Andrew Murray (1828-1917). Few men have ever impacted more souls for the cause of the Spirit-filled life than Andrew Murray. He was arguably the Church's most prolific writer on the subject of prayer and the Deeper Life, publishing some 240 books between 1858 and 1917. Several of these books have been translated into as many as fifteen different languages. Even today his writings are still shaping the way multitudes of hungry Christians think about prayer and the Spirit-filled life. One of the focal points of his ministry was about the secret work of prayer.

John Wesley



"Give me one hundred preachers who fear nothing but sin and desire nothing but God, and I care not whether they be clergymen or laymen, they alone will shake the gates of Hell and set up the kingdom of Heaven upon Earth."

"The neglect of prayer is a grand hindrance to holiness."

"Bear up the hands that hang down, by faith and prayer; support the tottering knees. Have you any days of fasting and prayer? Storm the throne of grace and persevere therein, and mercy will come down."

"You have nothing to do but to save souls. Therefore spend and be spent in this work. And go not only to those that need you, but to those that need you most...It is not your business to preach so many times, and to take care of this or that society; but to save as many souls as you can; to bring as many sinners as you possibly can to repentance."

"God will do nothing but in answer to prayer."

"I value all things only by the price they shall gain in eternity."

A.W. Tozer



"We need a baptism of clear seeing. We desperately need seers who can see through the mist--Christian leaders with prophetic vision. Unless they come soon it will be too late for this generation. And if they do come we will no doubt crucify a few of them in the name of our worldly orthodoxy."

"Have you noticed how much praying for revival has been going on of late - and how little revival has resulted? I believe the problem is that we have been trying to substitute praying for obeying, and it simply will not work. To pray for revival while ignoring the plain precept laid down in Scripture is to waste a lot of words and get nothing for our trouble. Prayer will become effective when we stop using it as a substitute for obedience."

"I want deliberately to encourage this mighty longing after God. The lack of it has brought us to our present low estate. The stiff and wooden quality about our religious lives is a result of our lack of holy desire. Acute desire must be present or there will be no manifestation of Christ to His people. He waits to be wanted. Too bad that with many of us He waits so long, so very long, in vain."

Matthew Henry



"Some people do not like to hear much of repentance; but I think it is so necessary that if I should die in the pulpit, I would desire to die preaching repentance, and if out of the pulpit I would desire to die practicing it."

"You may as soon find a living man without breath as a living saint without prayer."

"The prayers and supplications that Christ offered up were, joined with strong cries and tears, herein setting us example not only to pray, but to be fervent and importunate in prayer. How many dry prayers, how few wet ones, do we offer up to God!"

"Some people do not like to hear much of repentance; but I think it is so necessary that if I should die in the pulpit, I would desire to die preaching repentance, and if out of the pulpit I would desire to die practicing it."

"It is good for us to keep some account of our prayers, that we may not unsay them in our practice."

"No attribute of God is more dreadful to sinners than His holiness"

Leonard Ravenhill



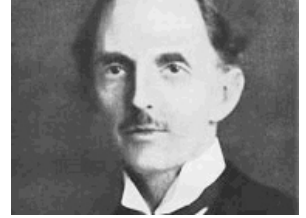
"The true man of God is heartsick, grieved at the worldliness of the Church...grieved at the toleration of sin in the Church, grieved at the prayerlessness in the Church. He is disturbed that the corporate prayer of the Church no longer pulls down the strongholds of the devil."

"If weak in prayer we are weak everywhere."

"A man may study because his brain is hungry for knowledge, even Bible knowledge. But he prays because his soul is hungry for God."

"Do the Pentecostals look back with shame as they remember when they dwelt across the theological tracks, but with the glory of the Lord in their midst? When they had a normal church life, which meant nights of prayers, followed by signs and wonders, and diverse miracles, and genuine gifts of the Holy Ghost? When they were not clock watchers, and their meetings lasted for hours, saturated with holy power? Have we no tears for these memories, or shame that our children know nothing of such power?"

C.T. Studd



"We Christians too often substitute prayer for playing the game. Prayer is good; but when used as a substitute for obedience, it is nothing but a blatant hypocrisy, a despicable Pharisaism...To your knees, man! and to your Bible! Decide at once! Don't hedge! Time flies! Cease your insults to God, quit consulting flesh and blood. Stop your lame, lying, and cowardly excuses. Enlist! "

"How little chance the Holy Ghost has nowadays. The churches and missionary societies have so bound Him in red tape that they practically ask Him to sit in a corner while they do the work themselves."

Christ's call is to save the lost, not the stiff-necked; He came not to call scoffers but sinners to repentance; not to build and furnish comfortable chapels, churches, and cathedrals at home in which to rock Christian professors to sleep by means of clever essays, stereotyped prayers, and artistic musical performances, but to capture men from the devil's clutches and the very jaws of Hell. This can be accomplished only by a red-hot, unconventional, unfettered devotion, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to the Lord Jesus Christ.

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