

The Canadian Revival - Part 4

by Bill McLeod

Bill McLeod discusses the transformative power of revival, emphasizing the need for humility and the impact of personal testimonies on the community's faith journey.

Duration: 8:57

Scripture: Acts 10:34

Topics: "Personal Repentance", "Spiritual Revival"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the transformative power of revival and personal repentance, showcasing how genuine change in Christians can lead to the salvation of others. It highlights the importance of humility, self-reflection, and surrender to God's work in our lives, ultimately leading to the manifestation of God's grace and the spread of His kingdom through changed hearts.

Transcript

And she was saved at that particular time, found Christ as her personal Savior. So, God was no respecter of persons from many different religious backgrounds. People were finding Christ.

Interesting, though, seven weeks and not once in seven weeks was a gospel message preached. I mean, the gospel was not preached once in seven weeks, but it was referred to, I mean, most of the messages that we had, Ralph and Lou, they would say something about the gospel and the message, but the messages were to Christians. When Christians are right with God, He has no problem reaching the lost, and they knew that.

And so people were being saved in every meeting because Christians were getting revived, and people... I'll give you an example. There was a lady, they called her Mrs. Bible because she knew her Bible so well, and she was attending her meetings. This was after the revival in Saskatoon, because we were going all over the country, myself and other pastors and other people holding revival meetings.

And I was in Brandon, Manitoba. There were ten churches that went together for meetings. We had, we still went for three weeks, had a wonderful time there.

And this woman was attending the meetings, and one night during the sharing time, we always had a sharing time in the meeting when people had been revived, would come to the pulpit and tell what God had done in their life. So we made the rules very clear. We said, look, don't preach and don't be long.

If you can't find the landing field, we'll help you come down. We warned them. And so this lady got up to give a testimony, but she got preaching, and so we stopped her and asked her to sign off.

We did it as gently as possible, and she was very sweet about it and went to her seat, but inside she was seething with anger. And she went home and told her husband what happened. He wasn't a Christian.

None of her kids were Christians, and that's one thing she couldn't understand. Everybody else knew how she knew her Bible well, but her own family didn't believe it. And so she was really upset about that.

But she told her husband, I will never go back to those meetings again. I will never give my testimony in public again. Well, this happened on Monday or Tuesday.

She was back on Thursday, because in the meantime, God had been working in her heart and showing her the monstrous pride she had. So when she came Thursday night, she came to the pulpit, and she confessed her pride, and she just wept, and she said, I've been filled with stinking pride, and I need to be forgiven. Can you people forgive me? She said, you know, I may know my Bible well, but I don't know my own heart well or God well either, and she asked for forgiveness.

And do you know what happened? All her family, her three kids and her husband, found Christ as their Savior within seven days. You see, they were not rejecting the Christ of the Bible. They were rejecting the Christ they saw in her.

They saw the pride, and they didn't want that kind of a Christ. And I say that because many times the problem is not for the unsafe people we're praying for. The problem is in our own hearts that we're not walking, we're not a light.

We're not shining for Christ the way we should be. We're full of pride or whatever, or self-seeking, and constantly God can't use us. And that's a major problem.

It was certainly in her life. There are many things like that happening around the country. One pastor, I remember, he came one night to give his testimony, and he got to the Pope, and he broke down and began to weep, and he said, You know, many of you people have been giving testimonies and telling how you had something against me, the pastor.

And he said, It was fine at the start, but then I began to wonder, How come all these people have something against me? Maybe there's something wrong in me. So he said, One night I asked God to show me if there's anything wrong in me. And he said he showed me and was just filled with pride.

And then he took about ten minutes, because he wept so much he could hardly speak, as he confessed his pride to the congregation and asked their forgiveness. And that precipitated a powerful movement in the whole congregation at that particular time. So God was at work one night.

A boy, maybe eight or nine years of age, came running up on the platform, right to the pulpit, and so Ralph Sotero moved over and let him have the mic, and this kid began to preach. And he was very overcome. He was weeping, but he was begging the sinners to give their hearts to Jesus and begging the Christians to deal with their sin and get right with God.

And then he couldn't say any more. He just stood there crying. So his dad came up and took him by the arm and led him back to his seat.

And nobody thought this was unusual, but nobody thought it was wrong, because obviously God had spoken through this kid. And in times of revival, you can't tell God how to handle it. You have to just back off.

Let me tell you something that happened to me in one of the meetings where God was so powerful at work. I didn't hear a voice. I didn't see anything.

Don't misunderstand me. But I had powerful impressions on my heart, and God was saying something like this, There's a coffin here on the platform. I want you to climb into it and lay there.

Now, you can keep the lid open, but if you get out of the coffin, everything stops. Don't get in my way. Just lay there and watch.

Watch what I'm doing. And so in that kind of a sense, I realized I'm not to get in God's way. Just let him do what he's doing.

And so God was working this hard and working that hard. Somebody would come and give their testimony, what God had done for them. And then God might want us to give an invitation right then.

Has anybody here been spoken? You come and say six, eight people would come to kneel at the altar after having heard this testimony, and maybe before preaching. And sometimes there was no time for preaching at all. But only in seven weeks, there was only maybe two or three nights where there was no preaching, where it was God was working so powerfully.

That was in Saskatoon. And mostly there was preaching, perhaps 40 minutes of preaching Bible truths directed to Christians. Now, I said something a little while ago about God having no problem saving sinners when Christians are right with God.

Let me give you an example. I was down in Buenos Aires in Argentina, and there were six Baptist groups that met together. They used to get together one of their six different Baptist groups.

They'd meet together once a year for a fellowship weekend. They were meeting in Rosario, which is a city of a million and a half, I think, in Argentina, and for a weekend announced to speak. And here's how God set this thing up.

The year before I came, when they had their annual get-together, when they compared notes, they discovered that the average church in those six Baptist groups had only won two people to Christ in a whole 12-month period. And so they had a time of confession. They confessed to God, this is terrible, we need revival.

So here's what they did. Now, listen carefully because God did something very unusual here. They set up a committee who was to arrange dates for the following year when they were going to meet together, where they would meet, when they would meet, and the dates.

And then they told the committee, you're not to choose a speaker. You're just to pray, and we'll all pray that God will send someone to us that knows something about revival. I didn't know anything about them.

They didn't know a thing about me. So I get down there. And I spoke at a Southern Baptist seminary in Buenos Aires, and a professor came running up after us and said, what are you doing this weekend? And he mentioned this weekend.

I got my book out. He said, it's the only weekend I don't have anything. Why? I was there for two months, you know.

And it was that weekend when they were having their annual get-together. And so God, He just put that whole thing together that was wonderful. And so, of course, I was speaking through an interpreter.

I couldn't give invitations. The church was seated 1,000 or more. It was packed with those people standing at the back and the chairs in the aisles and all this, and so we couldn't give invitations.

So in the last meeting, I simply said, now, if God has spoken to your heart and you need to be saved, stay behind when others leave. If you're a Christian and God has spoken to your heart and you want to experience the infilling of the Spirit of God, you stay behind. About 700 people stayed behind.

The interpreter got so excited, he was jumping up off the floor. It was kind of difficult to handle from the platform, 700 people. We did the best we could.

And I'll give you one example of what happened in that meeting. A pastor got touched by God and went back to Buenos Aires. He had a Baptist church of about 500 people.

He began praying day and night. I think he fasted and prayed for several days and actually for a week or two in all for revival, and revival broke. And everybody in the congregation was touched and revived by God, and it was a good thing because one of the men in his testimony confessed he had been planning to shoot the preacher.

I don't know what the details were or why, but that's the feeling he had. So if they hadn't had a revival, they'd have had a dead preacher. And so then after the church got touched, listen carefully, 200 sinners were saved in two weeks with no special means at all.

Sinners were knocking on the door of this pastor day and night. It was so hectic, he phoned the preacher.

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