

October 16, 2015

As a congregation we have focused on a "Move of God" for the last two years but were not sure how this would manifest. We studied the Welsh Revival, prayed for a divine visitation that would make our lives more like Christ so we could fulfil the commission of reaching the lost and we studied Rick Joyner's book, "The Call" in order to have the vision of total commitment to God's plans and purposes. But what would be the signs and evidence that our prayers are being answered?

Some of us have participated in the "Moves of God" over the years and are aware that we are looking for something greater, deeper and more permanent than what we had experienced in the past. The initial danger would be to expect a repeat of historical events or our own experiences, so let us look at some of the things that are happening almost "under the radar."

We have had numerous prophetic words indicating that what we will be moving into will be different than the past and because we were not given the specifics we will have to continue pursuing God in order to find His purpose.

I have been struck by several situations that are different from any others in my personal experience such as the number of people attending the prayer meetings. We are currently running with 30% of those attending and many of them have never been part of this type of meeting before. Secondly, the participation of those who prayed was 100% this last Tuesday. There is a passion and desire for public prayer; sometimes we gather around each other to pray, lay hands on one another while others we anoint with oil. We are enjoying the freedom in sharing testimony of both our successes and failures as the love we have for each other spills over into our fellowship times. We are experiencing the manifest presence of God in all our gatherings and the awareness is increasing particularly in the Sunday Worship time. The prophetic is being released in a more sensitive way. There is a demonstration of "body ministry" among more of the congregation. As a result we are discovering teaching and preaching giftings amongst us that are encouraging and edifying us all.

Those who already have a teaching gift are speaking above and beyond their usual level. From my own experience I am at a loss to explain why I can prepare for hours pages of typed notes and scripture references only to find that when I come to deliver the "word" pours out of me like water without specific reference to the structure of my notes. This has happened so many times that I must attribute it to God's manifest presence in our gatherings. By saying this, I don't mean ignore the study and process of teaching that has been my style; it's the new that complements the old, not replaces it.

I was meditating on these issues before God in prayer and this is what came to me; "As I looked up, my heart and mind were open and I experienced an awareness of God's presence beyond anything I had previously encountered." It then occurred to me that I've been in this place regularly in recent months; I have been entering a greater consciousness of God. The word I sensed from God was "The word was becoming flesh in me." I was becoming the word of God in the flesh. At first I recoiled from the thoughts because I was immediately aware that I was only a sinner saved by grace - heresy!!! I thought, is this pride? But then a peace flooded my thoughts as I recognised the work of the Spirit. I was unaware that "Christ was being formed in me" to a greater degree and that these manifestations and anointing were the evidence of that work.

The wonderful process of being conformed to the image of Christ is happening to us all and because we are sorting to make Jesus the centre of our lives, the centre of His church we hardly noticed that work being done. His Holy Spirit has been operating in us "under the radar."

What then is our future? Just as this process has been partially hidden to us, so I believe we are to trust Him for each step and continue to be Christ centric in all that we do. We should not change direction until we are assured from the Spirit of God that "This is the way, walk in it."

All past "revivals" have had a Divine impact that has lasted for a period of time. The Welsh Revival lasted ten months although the effects are still with us today. But I sense that God is working more progressively till "The Word becomes flesh" in us and just as Jesus was both the word of God and the expression of God in the flesh so we will be the image and expression of Jesus to the lost.

Whether there will be a moment in time, another Pentecost we do not know but the way to make the encounters with God permanent is that we are changed, conformed to the image of Christ. We are becoming a bride for his Son, "without spot or wrinkle."

"Teach me thy way, O Lord and lead me in a plain path." PSALM 27: 1 KJ

Shalom.

Ron Harris

