

Revival Now - Dying to Live!

By Dr. Charles R. Solomon, *contributing writer*

PROLOGUE and THE CHURCH – A SLEEPING GIANT (a poem)

In the late 1960's, God gave me the *Wheel and Line* diagrams as a way of communicating the message of the cross (and revival) to the average believer. When first beginning a faith ministry of discipleship/counseling, with no promise of financial support and a family of five, there were few encouragers, but many 'Job's friends'! Most thought I was daffy, but God changed lives from the beginning and spread the ministry around the world! As a result, there are many spin-off ministries, here and abroad, with many books following the lead of *Handbook to Happiness* since 1971.

The most consistent criticism was not the results, but that it was 'too simplistic'; and that appellation has followed us to the present day. My response has been and is, "Amen! If a Ph.D. were necessary to lay hold of scriptural truth, the vast majority would be left out!" Indeed, after 45 years of Spirit-honored ministry here and abroad, we have yet to be accepted as one of the major players on the discipleship/counseling scene!

Since I was not taken seriously by presenting such a simple answer to those with major problems, it is likely that the same evaluation will be leveled as I intend to present the same simple answer to entire churches for revival, as witness the remainder of this small book! However, I will continue to follow God's leading and trust Him to convince the naysayers as He is wont to do!

After half a lifetime of experience, I can confidently avow that revival is ours for the asking, as we *deny ourselves and take up the cross* (Luke 9:23) and experience resurrection life. However, most are rather attached to their lives and are accustomed to living them—even living for the Lord! So, the Comforter must discomfort the comfortable, while comforting the uncomfortable (2 Cor. 1:3-4)!

THE CHURCH — A SLEEPING GIANT

Our country's in deep trouble,
With the Church its only hope;
But Sunday morning Christianity
Only teaches how to cope!

With Islam's making deep inroads,
The Church must be deeper still;
Emotional appeals and responses
Must give way to the domain of the will.

Many earnestly pray for revival
But, unknowingly, bypass the cross;
While praying 2 Chron. 7:14 is laudable,
Old Covenant teaching will be but loss.

Preaching the cross, the power of God, (1 Cor. 1:18)
Is that which is urgently needed;
The omission of this vital tenet
Means God's command has gone unheeded.

With His command is His empowering
As the flesh is dealt a death blow, (Gal. 2:20; 5:24)
From our seating in heavenly places, (Eph. 2:6)
Resurrection power can, then, flow!

For God's power to be respected,
Transformed lives must be the norm;
If the Church is to gain respect,
Righteousness must be more than form! (2 Tim.3:5)

With New Covenant teaching a scarcity,
Our supply line has been hampered;
Having not learned to feed ourselves,
Today's Christians have been pampered.

Since few Christians are disciplined,
Taking up the cross is little taught;
Decades of Old Covenant teaching
Means the teaching of grace must be caught!

So, a crash course must be launched
That life in the Spirit might prevail; (Gal.5:16)
The 'exchanged life movement' has fronted
That believers abundant life might avail. (John 10:10)

God's hand is not shortened,
Victorious life His saints to give;
As we repent and take up the cross, (Luke 14:27)
He His life through us will live.

As he lives His life, which only is meet,
God's love and power will be displayed;
As believers partake of His life,
Victory in Christ will be arrayed!

God bides His time in Heaven
Awaiting us on Him to call;
As we *deny ourselves and take up the cross*, (Luke 9:23)
We will find "*Christ is all, and in all.*" (Col. 3:11)

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