

# A TIME OF REFRESHING

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By: Phillip Hayes

*"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord" [Acts 3:19].*

I'm looking forward to a soul saving healing and deliverance refreshing from the Lord! A revival that will be the greatest move of God since the day of Pentecost. A chosen people will soon arise with healing, miracles, signs and wonders. ". . . . And who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this? [Esther 4:14]. Are you one of those called for such a time as this?

Jesus is coming soon and He wants His house to be full! (See Luke 14:23). The prophet Zechariah prophesied that at evening time there would be light (See Zechariah 14:7).

In these dark last days we desperately need to let the Light of the Gospel shine through us! In Saint John chapter eight, verse twelve, Jesus declared He was the Light of the world. In Saint John chapter nine, verse five, Jesus said, "As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world".

Although Jesus has ascended to Heaven, He remains the Light of the world as long as the church lets their Light shine. Jesus, speaking of His chosen said, "Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" [Matthew 5:14-16].

Before Christ comes, the Word of God has promised a “times” of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. I believe these “times of refreshing” that is promised is a world-wide revival that will sweep millions into the Kingdom of God! Let’s read our opening scripture again. *“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began” [Acts 3:19-21].*

These verses of scripture all indicate a tremendous move of God just prior to the second coming of our Lord Jesus! The manifestation (or revealing) of God’s many sons is at hand. I believe these end time sons of God will demonstrate the same restoration power that turned the world upside down in apostolic times.

Satan has blinded the eyes of many, but he is about to lose his grip on lost humanity. *“In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them” [2Corinthians 4:4].*

An awakening is now occurring within the souls of God’s born again church. Many are now realizing the awesome power that God has placed within our born again spirits!

We must release the power we possess that mankind might be saved, healed and delivered.

Jesus could do nothing of Himself. I know this is hard for some of you to accept, but this is what we must realize. He released the Power of God that was within Him and the sick were healed, the dumb spoke, the blind saw and the dead were raised!

*“Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I*

do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things" [St. John 8:28]. Emphasis mine.

Just as Jesus could do nothing without the Father, and we can certainly do nothing without Him!

"Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works" [St. John 14:10]. Emphasis mine.

Again, the Lord Jesus is plain. The Father that dwelt in Christ was the One performing the miracles.

Just as it was with Jesus, we can do no miracles except the same Power is in us. This is why the baptism of the Holy Ghost is necessary.

The promise of the Holy Ghost is for every believer (Acts 2:39)! God is expecting every believer to be baptized in the Holy Ghost and simply believe in what He has already placed in us! If you haven't been baptized in the Holy Ghost, raise your hands in faith and believe for Him to baptize you now! Remember, God promised to baptize you, and He cannot lie!

I know Pentecostals love to talk about speaking with tongues. But there is much more than tongues that comes with the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Miracle working Power comes when you are baptized in the Holy Ghost!

John the Baptist never performed a miracle, and as far as we know, never spoke in tongues! Yet, he was filled with the Holy Ghost from his mother's womb. *"For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb"* [Luke 1:15].

Do you realize that the Lord Jesus never performed a miracle until after His baptism at the river Jordan? According to Saint John chapter two, verse eleven, the first miracle Jesus performed was turning water into wine. I certainly do not want to offend anyone, but if you can

understand how our Lord manifested the Power of God, you will see how it will work in your own walk with God.

Bible scholars tell us that Jesus walked over seventy miles to be baptized in water. His purpose was plain, Jesus said, *"It becometh us to fulfil all righteousness"*. But there was more that would be accomplished, much more! Look at what happened at His baptism. *"And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him. And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased"* [Matthew 3:16-17].

The Spirit of God descended on Him! The Spirit did not come out of Him, it DESCENDED (come down) and LIGHTING (resort; be set) upon Him. *"John also testified, "I saw the Spirit coming down from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him"* [St. John 1:32]. The Spirit CAME DOWN and REMAINED on Him. Glory to God! This is a wonderful picture of the baptism of the Holy Ghost! I firmly believe Jesus had the Spirit of God in Him from His conception. His Father was the Holy Ghost (Matthew 1:18, 20)

What transpired at river Jordan was an example that every believer should experience. Baptism in water and baptism in the Spirit. Jesus is our pattern!

We can conclude that this is what the writer of Acts was referring to when he said, *"That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him"* [Acts 10:37-38].

Look closely. After the baptism that John preached, God anointed Jesus with the Holy Ghost and with power! He went about doing good, healing all that were oppressed of the devil. His ministry actually began after the Holy Ghost

came upon Him when He was baptized by John! When the Holy Spirit descended upon Him and remained was how God anointed Jesus with the Holy Ghost and with power. Power comes with the baptism of the Holy Ghost! The disciples received Power after the Holy Ghost came upon them! (See Acts 1:8).

Most assuredly, God was with Jesus; and if you are baptized in the Holy Ghost. God has not only anointed you with power, God is with you and God is also in you!!

*"And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people" [2Corinthians 6:16].*

Most times, Christians act as if God lives beyond the planet Pluto somewhere. Many Christians beg, cry, and scream at God as if He is hard of hearing. They say we can't seem to get a prayer through to God; that the heavens seem to be as brass.

My friends, not only does God hear you He knows what you will pray for before you even pray! He does not require you to beg, cry or yell at Him. He requires you to ask in faith, believing you have received whatever you are asking of Him. *"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" [Mark 11:24].*

*"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" [Romans 8:1].*

The problem most Christians have is they simply do not believe the Word of God. They live in condemnation ninety percent of the time because they are walking in the flesh. You cannot please God in the flesh!

*"Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God" [Romans 8:7-8].*

The carnal mind, your natural reasoning is an enemy to God!

You are attempting to do the work of God in your own strength and understanding and this is why nothing is happening. If you continue fighting against principalities, powers, spiritual wickedness and the darkness of this world in the flesh, you are going to lose the battle.

Jesus said, *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father"* [St. John 14:12].

You know, that should settle it for all of us! Jesus said it! Believe it! Quit making excuses! If we are not doing what Jesus said we could do, it is because we are walking in the flesh rather than walking in the spirit!

I realize some of you don't have a clue to what I am saying. You don't have any idea how to walk in the spirit. I am going to make it as plain as I can!

If you are a Christian, you have been born again. Plain and simple! You may have or may not have been baptized in the Holy Ghost yet. That is between you and God.

If you have been born again your inner man (your spirit) was what was born again. God lives in your spirit. *"But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit"* [1Corinthians 6:17]. Your spirit is ONE with God!

Your natural mind has not been born again. This is why we have the option of allowing the mind of Christ to be in us. *"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus"* [Philippians 2:5].

Walking in the flesh, is walking or living with a carnal mind. Your mind, your philosophy is whatever the world or circumstances dictate to you. You accept what others say rather than what the Word of God says. You believe in evolution and call yourself a Christian because you have a carnal mind.

A doctor tells you that you have terminal cancer and have three months to live. If you accept it without praying and asking God's opinion of this diagnosis, you are walking in the flesh. You have a carnal mind!

Don't walk in the flesh! Walk in the spirit! How do you do it?

Walking in the spirit is your doorway to actually living in the Word of God. In Saint John chapter fifteen, verse seven Jesus said, *"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you"*. Nothing will be impossible for you when you abide in Him! *"Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth"* [Mark 9:23]. What are you going to believe, the Word or the flesh?

Most born again, Spirit filled Christians live their entire Christian lives allowing their inner man to be dormant. Because of this, they never experience real deliverance in their circumstances. They tend to blame everyone for their failures instead of looking within themselves.

Let me say it this way. I am faced with difficulties and decisions on an everyday basis that I don't have the answers. I am sure most of you are the same. Most times, I really don't know what to do!

What do I do? I go to the Word of God in prayer asking the Lord to impart the knowledge and wisdom I need.

The Word of God tells us: *"Ye have an unction (anointing) from the Holy One, and ye know all things"* [1John 2:20]. But as my mind rationalizes that powerful verse, my human reasoning says I don't! Now, should I believe the Word, or my own thoughts?

Here is where the battle line is drawn. The Word says, "believe it". My mind literally screams, "reject it". This is the battle of flesh and spirit.

When you decide to believe the Word and reject the carnal philosophy your mind is speaking, the battle is won.

You are now agreeing with the Word and with your inner spirit man. You will now know what to do!

God has already placed all the knowledge, wisdom and power you will ever need in your spirit man.

I can remember many, many situations where I was at a loss what to do. Once I was framing a house for a client which had a very difficult roof system. The men working with me didn't have a clue as to how to make it work, and neither did I. I was actually depending on one of the men that had years of experience, and I had very little.

We left work that evening facing the reality that come morning, we would need to do something.

Before going to bed that night I prayed and asked God to show me how to frame that roof system. You might think this is crazy, but in my mind, I knew God knew everything, and I believed He would help me.

As I woke the next morning, I saw plainly how to frame that roof! It was like those plans came alive in my mind! I could see the rafters coming together and the exact cut that would have to be made on each member!

That day, it all came together perfectly! You see, God does have all the answers to all our questions and problems.

Some years back, I had separated myself to fast and pray for thirty days. I determined to be alone and not speak to anyone during this time. It would be water only fast, no juices or anything of that nature. After my fast, I thought, "I didn't receive anything!" I didn't get a visitation from an angel. I didn't hear a voice. Why, I didn't even get a fresh revelation!"

Suddenly, this powerful impression flooded my mind, "I have given you the fullness of the revelation of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." Wow! I didn't think I had received anything! Please understand, God speaks to our spirits, Spirit to spirit. He placed His revelation in my spirit, not in my natural mind.



I know that through Christ I know all things. Yes I do! I know that I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me. Yes I can! I can heal the sick. I can cast out devils. I can open blind eyes. I can open deaf ears. I can raise the dead. YES I CAN! I am a new creature in Christ. Yes I am. I am born again. Yes I am! I am saved, sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost throughout eternity. Yes I am! I know that I am perfect. Yes I am!

How can I say all those things? Because these are the things the Word has plainly said I can do through the Spirit that is in me.

Your mind is probably rebelling in opposition to everything I have just said!

If we do not understand these principles of spirit and flesh, we will never be able to fulfill His command to go into all the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Most preachers travelling the world today are preaching a watered down version of the real Gospel. Most are using enticing fancy words to convince the world that true salvation can only be found in Christ. My friends, words are not enough. The church was not born in words only!

*"And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen" [Mark 16:20].* I believe the Lord wants to work with you and I. His desire is to confirm the Word you speak with signs and wonders! *"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever" [Hebrews 13:8].*

Look why they believed the Gospel in apostolic times: *"And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed."* [Acts 8:6-7]

Look how the Apostle Paul described the ministry God had given him: *"And my speech and my preaching was not*

*with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God" [1Corinthians 2:4-5]. And again, "Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ" [Romans 15:19].*

Why would we think it should be any different today? Do you really think mere words will convince the Buddhists, the heathen, or the nation of Islam that Jesus is the Christ, and salvation is only achieved through Him? It took more than words two thousand years ago, and it will take more than words today! It is going to take the same Power that was manifested then.w

*"God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?" [Hebrews 2:4].*

Signs, wonders, miracles and gifts of the Holy Ghost confirmed and bore witness of the Gospel they preached.

The world of two thousand years ago was turned upside down with a few men and women that were radical enough to believe they could do all things through Christ.

*"And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also" [Acts 17:6].*

Here is our confirmation and mandate: *"But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal" [1Corinthians 12:7].* You've got it! Use it!

**BE BLESSED & BE A BLESSING!**

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