

I HAVE SEEN THE GLORY

By: Phillip Hayes

"So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD" [1Kings 8:11].

We hear much about the Glory of the Lord today. I believe every Christian and certainly every Pastor would love to see the "Glory of the Lord" fall in their houses of worship. However does the modern church have a clue what would really happen if God's Glory fell among us?

Modern church folks have been programmed to think God is a Santa Claus or genie that will give them all the money, prosperity and material things they desire. Because of this mind set, their ideas of God's Glory would probably be materialistic! No doubt they would envision gold dust falling from the ceiling or one hundred dollar bills gently cascading down from above! They may think God's Glory is a laughing spirit that would cause them to laugh hysterically or perhaps give them chill bumps!

Thank God we do have passages of scripture in God's Word that lets us understand just what God's Glory would accomplish when manifested. I think about Moses when he approached the burning bush. God spoke out of the bush and told Moses to take off his shoes for he was standing on Holy ground. God's

Glory was being manifested in that bush and the Glory was Holy and made the very earth Moses was standing on Holy!

Our opening scripture in First Kings verifies this. When the Glory filled the house of the Lord in that era, the priests couldn't even stand in its presence. Never forget, the Glory is Holy!

I believe what fell on the Day of Pentecost was the Glory of God. It filled all the house and tongues of fire sat upon each of them that were assembled there. They began speaking in tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance and they staggered under God's Power so much so that people thought they were all drunk.

From that upper room in Jerusalem, the Glory filled the entire earth as those few fire baptized individuals spread God's Holy Glory. *"But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD" [Numbers 14:21].*

As others were impacted by God's Glory it produced a Holy People that hated sin and ungodliness. The definition of the word "church" is "the called out". They had been "sought out" and "called out" by God Himself! They had separated themselves and had come out from among the world! They were God's Holy People! *"And they shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the LORD: and thou shalt be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken" [Isaiah 62:12].*

I believe God's Glory is going to fall once again in these last days! It's not going to produce a worldly, money loving carnal people but a Holy Separated People just as it produced in the early church.

Because of television and the internet Pentecostal and Charismatic teachings has flooded the world. Multiplied millions today say they have been baptized in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues. Unfortunately this modern experience isn't producing the same results as the baptism of the Holy Ghost did in the early church. As a matter of fact this modern "experience" is producing just the opposite results.

In these troublesome, dangerous, evil days you would think every Christian would be "hastening to the coming of our Lord." However, in my view most Christians and especially American Christians are not anticipating the soon return of Jesus Christ. The majority of Christians believe the "rapture" could happen any second and they will be snatched up to heaven and not have to face any persecutions or tribulations. If the church today was truly looking for Jesus to come any second, I believe their lives would reflect it. Revival fires would be exploding! Prayer meetings would have as many people attending as their Sunday morning services! Get ready to meet God and a return to holiness would be the mainstay message of Pastors everywhere! This is not happening folks!

We need what the Glory of God produced in the early church! I know what it is as I have experienced it personally! The Glory will change lives!

So much has happened over the years! Fifty plus years ago it seemed everywhere you went revival fires were raging. "JESUS IS COMING SOON" signs were everywhere you looked. From prayer meetings and Bible studies; to tents, auditoriums, and churches, people were reaching out to God.

Back then, if there was a revival going on you would have to get to church an hour early to get a seat! An hour before church the place would be packed with many lying prostrate on the floor, travailing in prayer for a move of God.

Back then it was a common thing to see people being baptized in the Holy Ghost! When was the last time you saw someone receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost that actually transformed them? I remember the Presence of God being so powerful among the people that sinners would come with tears pouring down their faces, sometimes running, sometimes crawling to the front when the altar call was given. I remember seeing them delivered when they got up from the altars! Yes they were! In the early seventies I remember a tent meeting in Mobile, Alabama where some very worldly and ungodly hippies came by. They heard, they repented, they were delivered and they were filled! I saw those young girls cut their blue jeans and sewed them together in order to make long skirts to wear. They were not told how to dress; the conviction of the Holy Ghost was present! The tents were filled with Holy Ghost saints that lived holy lives. The Glory was there!

Fifty years ago the teaching of holy living was simple: We went by the Bible, not man's standards! The Bible taught it was a shame for men to have long hair. Women were to have long hair because long hair was her glory and she should not cut her hair off. Women were not to wear that which pertains (resembles) men's clothing. Women were to dress as women that professed godliness in modest clothing. Simply put, we were to come out from among the world. We were to look holy, dress

holy, talk holy, smell holy and be holy! We were getting ready for something! We were getting ready for the Bride Groom to come!

Yes, I remember when holiness was the expected way of life for every true Christian! It didn't matter your church affiliation! Baptist, Methodist, Pentecostal all wanted to live holy lives. Yes, there were some erroneous teachings during that time. Some went to ridiculous extremes teaching against: perfume, shaving lotion, deodorant; open toed shoes, wedding rings or jewelry of any kind, including watches; against short sleeve garments; colorful clothing, etc., etc., etc! There have always been over zealous people and preachers who will continue to bring unnecessary condemnation. I am not condoning such un-biblical teachings. I am saying that many have left sound Biblical principles of outward holiness. I am convinced there can be no outpouring of God's Glory without holy living!

Look at professing Christians today! Everything goes! There is little or no respect for God's house or themselves. Churches today have no standards; Biblical or otherwise. When women that profess Christ come to church in tight fitting pants, shorts and halters and other revealing apparel something is very, very wrong.

And you know what? What they are calling revival today is a false spirit and a mockery to a Holy God! No moving of God's Spirit! No conviction! No repentance! No prayer life! No dedication! Go to church an hour early this Sunday and I will guarantee you will be alone in that big old parking lot, and the church door will most likely be locked! Most church folks show up about five or ten minutes

before church starts. And it is just about the same everywhere you go! No prayerful preparation to receive what God may have in store for the church.

Listen folks, had I not experienced what I did over fifty years ago, you might be able to deceive me into thinking the church is all right today. But I know what I personally experienced and saw therefore I am convinced the majority of church goers today are far from God.

Let me say this. When I gave my life to the Lord, I was changed. When I received the Holy Ghost, I became a radical. My life was not my own! I no longer wanted the world, or the things of the world. No Sir! All I wanted was more of Jesus! You see, I was the guy that had the little New Testament in his shirt pocket and a bottle of anointing oil in his pocket. Yes, I was the one that always had a Bible on the dash of his car. Yeah, that was me with the anointed handkerchief tied around my steering wheel! I was a believer in the supernatural and everybody knew it! Believe it or not, I was no different from all the others I hung around with. We fasted! We prayed! We travailed! We sought and hungered after God! We loved God, His Word, His Ministers, and each other with a passion. Many of us sold our possessions! We lived as if there was no tomorrow. What was going on? Folks, I believe we were in a real Old Fashioned, Blood Bought, God Sent, Devil Chasing, Sin Killing, Holy Ghost Revival!

This modern day charismatic mess is not going to fool me! I have experienced the real fire of God!

Let me ask you something? Where did all this easy-believe-ism, say the sinners prayer, hocus pocus, worldly gospel come from? God or Satan? These are the two forces that dominate men and

women. One is Good, the other evil! I have another question. If the holiness lifestyle that once dominated almost every denomination at one time or another was wrong or evil, why did God do so much through those men and women in the past? Let me ask it this way. Why is it wrong for today's women of God to dress holy, look holy and have long hair? Have we come to the place that many are calling good evil and evil good? Have we become so deceived that we can no longer discern good and evil? I think this is exactly where most professing Christians have come to.

Oh friends, you just don't know how much I desire to see a real Holy Ghost Revival once again! Oh, to see sinners really repenting of their sins with tears of regret because they have sinned against a Holy God. Oh, to see the tears and shouts of joy when one is filled with the Holy Ghost. Just one more time I would like to see real dedicated saints of God once again coming an hour before church to pray and travail before God for lost souls. I need it! You need it! The world needs it!

Yes, mine eyes have seen the glory of the Lord. I have seen great things and I believe the Lord is soon coming. Who will pray? Who will once again begin to travail? Who will forsake all and sell out for God?

Today people are hurting everywhere. I see it in their eyes. Oh, they act like everything is O.K. They now drive nice fancy cars and live in comfortable homes. It seems they have everything they want, but inside they are hurting. You see, God in the only One that can fill that empty place in a person's soul. Many today are trying to find peace in prosperity. There is no peace in materialism! You

can be a multi-millionaire and still be unhappy, unfulfilled and miserable.

I believe our Lord very accurately described the condition we find ourselves in today. It is so very sad. We must awaken to the truth. And the truth is the church and ministry as a whole is just plain old back slid!

I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. [Revelation 3:15-18]

Lukewarm! That's it! That is the condition of the church today! Not cold, but still religious; we go to church as a favor to our family or friend, or we go to fulfill some other carnal obligation. Some go to be recognized and feel that the Pastor should be very thankful that they showed up. Many go to church because they think it's what you are supposed to do. It is also so very sad that most people that do attend church could not tell you what the minister preached the day after the sermon was given. Most do not even know what their particular church teaches. They are not hot! Not on fire for the Lord. Not cold, not hot, just a sickening lukewarm.

We say we are rich! We're prosperous! We have money! We have material things! We have got

plenty of stuff, we are full, we don't need anything, "We're blessed", we say.

But Jesus says, *"thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked."*

This is what I see! Wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked people spiritually! Outwardly, we may look prosperous and well, but what's going on inside?

Today, instead of the Glory falling in our midst, churches are having teaching seminars that teach you how to speak in tongues and prophesy. Ministers use to pray and seek God for a message to give the people, but today they simply go on-line and retrieve a "message" off the internet, or find a "good message" out of the sermon book they purchased at the Bible Book Store. Instead of prayer meetings, they have "singles night" and "teen night". Many churches today now have coffee shops, gymnasiums and arcades with video games and such to appease and entertain their people. Church today is no more than a carnal club house! I am told if you don't have these programs and entertaining events, you can't have a church. Well, if that is so (and it may be with this modern bunch), I sure don't want a church!

Church is a place you come to worship God. It is a Holy place where God's Glory should reside! It's where you come to meditate and pray and learn God's Word. It is a place you come to for healing of the body and soul. Church is God's house, not some carnal club house!

Yes, Mine Eyes Have Seen The Glory Of The Lord! The Glory of the Lord is not in this modern church. God's Divine Presence cannot be found in such unrighteous and worldly surroundings. God's

Holy Presence can be felt where dedicated, honest, praying, God seeking men and women are assembled. That's where I want to be! I want to be among those that are sincerely seeking and hungering after God.

Yes, I have seen what a Real Revival is all about! Thank God, I have seen men and women delivered by the power of God. A Real Revival brings true repentance. I have seen them throw away their cigarettes and tobacco! I have seen drug addicts and drunkards forsake their drugs and alcohol. I have seen men and women forsake their sins and live holy blameless lives. I have seen the sick healed, the lame to walk, the deaf to hear. I have seen cancers disappear, and heart trouble healed. Yes, I have seen Real Revival!

I refuse to be fooled by all the religion I see! When the Glory of God comes down, miracles happen, lives are changed, and Jesus Christ is exalted and honored. People that use to hate, hate no longer; love, compassion and forgiveness fills their lives. This is what we need! A real Holy Ghost Revival.

I expect it to happen every time I take the pulpit! An old song says, "Send down the rain Lord, send down the rain! Send down that Holy Ghost rain! We need the rain Lord, we need the rain!"

Isn't that what you want my friends? Don't be fooled dear ones. Hold on to what is right. Our loved ones, our neighbors, and the world's only hope is for a real revival that will transform them.

Let us believe and pray much for God to send His righteous rain on this last day harvest. Let's "*Declare his glory among the heathen; his marvelous works among all nations*" [1Chronicles 16:24].