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Many of you are tired, not many of you, wonderful, that's great, maybe you've been getting lots of sleep, that's good. I want to talk to you about something very dear to my heart this morning and it's based on partly at least on Psalm 126, you can turn there in your Bibles if you'd like to and kind of hold that scripture and we'll be getting to it in a little bit, Psalm 126. Margaret Atwood is a famous novelist of Canada.

Her books sell not only in Canada but all over the United States and around the world. She is a very wealthy lady. Her novels are basically not fit for a Christian to read, so I'm not mentioning her to advise you to read them.

And I haven't read them myself, I've just read the book reviews. Margaret Atwood wrote a novel in which she pictured the Christian coalition in the United States finally winning and putting a president in the White House who was a total real evangelical Christian who believed in holiness. After he came into the White House in her novel, the laws in the United States were changed and were turned back to what we had when I was a child, so that rape could be punishable by death, adultery was a crime, and all of the laws that existed in the United States when I was a child were put back into effect as this, quote, Christian government attempted to force Christianity upon the United States.

Riots broke out and the United States was engulfed in a bloodbath beyond our imagination as the ungodly population of the United States rebelled against being forced to live by Christian laws. Just a novel. Just a novel written by a very ungodly but very brilliant woman who could see what many Christians do not seem able to see.

And that is that it has never been possible to force the ungodly to live godly lives. That's not how you live a godly life. You know that.

People live godly lives because they become godly, right? And you don't become godly because your government has certain laws. Now, you may obey some laws by the threat of punishment, but it would be impossible. And we need to face this, because if we don't face it, we become a deceived people who put our hope in the help that comes from, well, let's be Old Testament, from Egypt, or from Assyria, or from Babylon, or some other such place.

And we convince ourselves that if we can throw all of our energies and all of our finances and all of our prayers behind efforts at reform, that we will somehow turn the clock back and turn around Canada and the United States and restore them to the wonderful atmosphere of righteousness that they had at one time. And you say, well, Pastor Sipley, are you against the efforts at reform? No, oh no. And if you knew me well, you would know how far from that I would be.

For as a pastor, I have taken some very, very strong stands in my life. And in the city of Regina, I have been on talk shows two and a half hours at a time, with all the phone lines open, and

answering the callers on the subject of homosexuality or abortion or whatever the main issue of the day might be. I've had the phones backed up 20 minutes at a stretch, every light on, as I talked and gave the scriptural position on those issues.

When our friend who goes around opening abortion houses was in Regina, we advertised in the newspaper that I would answer him the following Sunday night. And we planted a college student in his audience with a tape recorder, and we taped his lecture, and I answered every issue that he raised in my Sunday night sermon to a full house. And I want to say, I have never hesitated to walk into the office of the head educational representative in our province or our state or our city or whatever, and demand that they abide by the law.

I have rescued our children, our high schoolers, and insisted that our laws and our children be protected. So I want you to know, and I'm not going to waste a lot of time with it, but I want you to know I'm not speaking against taking a stand for righteousness. I believe God's people should always be on the side of righteousness.

Amen? And I think God's men should not spend their time, their whole time preaching on those issues, but when the issues rise, they should know what the Bible says, take a stand in their pulpit, preach on the issues, take a public stand, all those things. And those I have done. We raised the issue so powerfully in the city of Akron one time that we almost broke the major newspaper of the city of Akron.

In fact, we could have broken it had we wished to do so. And we did that on a homosexual issue, and I spent personal time with the editor in which he backed down from all his positions and gave in to us and was really shaken. So I'm saying that as a man of God, I have always taken those stands and always will.

But, but I have no illusions that getting together, writing letters, voting, and doing all those things you ought to do, understand. And trying to put righteous men in the legislature and in the parliament, we ought to do that. And if I were a Canadian citizen, I would already be a member of the Reform Party.

And the man who is the head of that party in Saskatchewan is a member of our church. But my friends, all of those things in themselves, good and right and proper for Christians who are citizens, will not turn the tide and will not do what must be done in North America. And we have to see this, we must see it.

If you read the four Gospels, you will find Jesus confronting the evil issues of that day, but never, never with political action, is that right? If you study the book of Acts, you will find the apostles confronting the issues of that day, standing before kings, Paul actually standing before Caesar, the Roman Emperor. Sounds like the Old Testament. But never with political action with the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ to produce change.

And it was not political action that produced change and brought down the Roman Empire. It

was Christianity. It was vigorous, godly, spirit-filled, powerful Christianity that brought down the Roman Empire.

And my friends, let us take a stand for everything that's righteous. And please don't, I have to, I don't like to name things, I'll have to because somebody will misinterpret me. I think that the work of focusing the family is a great work, okay, and I'm afraid somebody will sit here and think I'm attacking them and I am not.

I think it's a magnificent work. I think that man is doing a tremendous work for God, all right? Does that help you? I want to clear that away. And people in churches I've pastored, they've been behind it all the way and I'm behind it all the way and I think it's magnificent, okay? But having said those things, what we have to see is that revival is the only answer.

You see, it's easier, it's easier for me to give my energies to reform than it is for me to give my life to revival. You say, why is that? Because I can be involved in reform and not really be a surrendered spirit-filled Christian. I can be involved in reform to the hilt all the way and I can have sin in my life and I can not pray and I can have compromise in my Christian life on every side and I don't have to be Holy Ghost filled and I don't have to have the power and anointing of God upon me to be involved in reform and to push social and political reform.

I can do all those things with the utmost energy. I can march in the streets and I can lecture and proclaim and do all those things and not be 100% committed to God. But I'll tell you what, as soon as you decide that you're going to go after revival, ah, that's a whole different issue.

Now we're talking about nothing but the power of Almighty God and that means that I have to get my heart and life right with God. That means I have to get clean, that I have to forgive, that I have to love, that I have to go to the cross, that I have to give up the self-life, that I have to be crucified with Christ and be filled with the Holy Spirit and become a man or woman of prayer and be willing to give my life. And that demands from me far more than would ever be demanded from me in reform.

Do you hear what I'm saying? And so it's a lot easier to get caught up and give my life to that movement than to get caught up and give my life to the matter of revival. Now what I want to do this morning, and I'm going to do it as quickly as I can, I want to take you on my own personal journey, okay? And kind of give a testimony this morning about where God has taken me in regard to revival and tell you about the revival in our church in Akron. And then what I hope to do, I'm going to really try to do, is give you time for a few questions on the subject of revival, if I can.

Okay, you like that idea? I hope so because I'm going to do it. You're wonderful to speak to, really you are. All right, let's go back.

My first experience of revival came when I was about 15 years old. Now I thank God I grew up in a Christian home. Some of you didn't have that privilege, but I did, and I thank God for it.

And I had parents that loved the Lord. And in fact, if you read my book on healing, you will see that when I was six months old, I was dying with bronchial pneumonia, and I should have been dead, and God healed me, and so here I am. There have been six times in my life when I faced death face to face, should have died, God brought me through, here I am, so he had a purpose.

When I was 15 years old, my father was pastoring a church in West Hempstead, Long Island. The parsonage was right across the street from the church, and I was already a Christian teenager, and all of our family went to prayer meeting, I mean, that's just what we did. And so on Wednesday night, we went to prayer meeting, and so it was Wednesday night.

And so about five minutes before prayer meeting time, I came out of the front door of our house to walk across the street and go over to the church for prayer meeting. But as I came out of the house to look toward the church, I saw something that absolutely astounded me. The entire parking lot of the church was packed with cars.

And in every direction that I looked, there were cars parked up and down the streets and around the triangle, and every direction there were cars. And I stood there looking at all these cars, and I said to myself, this is Wednesday night. What are all these cars doing at the church? I never saw that many cars at the church Sunday morning.

Wednesday night, are you kidding? For prayer meeting? No way. So with great wonder in my mind, I walked slowly across the street, opened the door, went into the auditorium, then I got my second surprise. The church was packed.

In fact, I just managed to find a seat in a corner at the back, and I'm not sure but what it was the last one. I thought, wow, what is going on in this church on prayer meeting night? After a little bit, it was time to start, and they sang a song and had a prayer, I guess, and my father got up. He was the pastor.

And he said, now we have a special speaker with us tonight. He has just come back from the revival in Norway, and he and his wife and child have settled here in our city. His name is Armand Guesswine, and he's going to share with us at this time.

I was 15, and Armand Guesswine was a young man then. He walked up to the front of the church. I had never seen him before.

And he put his foot up on the pew in front of the, he didn't go up to the pulpit. He started out doing everything wrong, and he stood down in front, he put his foot up on the pew, and he leaned on his knee, and he started to talk to us. And I thought, oh my, he doesn't know how to act in church.

But he talked to us, I think, for probably about 20 minutes, and I do not know what he said, except I think he told about the revival in Norway. But I know what happened. Before he stopped, and finally he stopped talking, I think because it was necessary.

And that entire building was filled with weeping, sobbing, broken people, because when Armand Guesswine walked up to the front of that church, God came in the sanctuary. Now I don't understand that entirely, except that it seems that the presence of God in an unusual way seems to be with people sometimes when they've been in revival, and wherever they go, the presence of God just seems to go with them. And if they walk into a building, it seems like God walks in with them.

And so that place was filled with the presence of God, and I sat there in absolute awe as a Christian teenager, with the tears just streaming down my face, not really even knowing why exactly, that I found myself absolutely broken in the presence of God. And God's presence was so real everywhere, and everywhere I looked, I saw the people of that church weeping and sobbing and broken before God. And I looked up at the front, and there were two men in the front with their arms around each other, crying on each other's shoulders, and I knew those two men were enemies.

You know, preacher's kids know quite a bit. And they were reconciled, and so were people all over the place getting reconciled, and God filled that place. Now my friends, God started something in my life that night that has never ceased to this day.

He put a hunger for the manifest presence of God in my heart that nothing else would ever be able to satisfy. There is something so utterly attractive about the presence of God that every time you get a taste of the presence of God, you want more. I'm not talking about what you believe, I'm not talking about doctrine, I'm not even talking about what happens in the service, I'm talking about God.

And we go about our way in life, you know, and it's so mundane, and it's so, as one lady said, life is so daily. And you know, the world is all around us, and we kind of lose the sense of God. But if you're ever in a place when God fills the building with His presence, there is something so attractive about it, something so, that draws you to Him.

And you never can forget it. And so from that day on, there was something in my heart that said, wow, being in the presence of God is really different. I mean, He's real.

This isn't just a story, you know, this isn't some religion. God is real. I mean, He was in that building.

He's real. I mean, you felt like you could touch Him with your hands. And in His presence, His holiness was so intense that all your sin was exposed, and you felt like you might as well confess it openly because you couldn't cover it anyway.

And I said in my heart, I want to know God. I was a Christian, but I said in my heart, I want to know God. Well, it was only about a year later when I was 16 at a watch night service, same church, same place, in the middle of the watch night service, which always went on until after midnight, New Year's.

And I left the church for some reason, went over to our house, and while I was there, God cornered me, and He said, I want you. And that's where I was called to the ministry, and I said yes to Him. So I went off to Bible college, and I trained for the ministry, and by the time I was 22, I was pastoring my first church.

And while I was 22, I got married to my dear friend Anita, who is still my wife, my first and only. And we'll have been married 45 years in September. And so the years went by.

The churches went by. God blessed. We saw some good things happen.

We saw some people get saved. We saw some churches grow. We saw some people blessed.

And then as God began to teach me about divine healing and some other things, we began to see some miracles happen, and people started to get healed now and then. And then we saw people giving their lives to the Lord. And then I remember I was preparing for my ordination.

And I won't tell you that now, because I'm going to tell you about that tomorrow morning when I'm going to preach on the subject, how to receive the Holy Spirit. But while I was preparing for my ordination, in the middle of the night, God met me and filled me with His Holy Spirit. Well that was another step in the hunger of my heart to know God.

And then the ministry continued. The churches passed by. And the blessings increased, and the size of the churches increased, and the ministry increased, and the crowds of people increased, and so forth.

And then came 1971. Now for many years I had wanted to see revival in the churches I pastored. There were good things happening in those churches, but I knew that was not revival.

And so I got a hold of every book I could get my hands on on revival, and I started to develop a big section of books on revival, and I never will forget when I read Charles Finney's autobiography. Oh, wow. I read that autobiography, and as I read it, my heart just burned, and I found the tears running down my face, and I found myself sobbing and crying and saying, oh my God, oh, I didn't know anything could be like that.

This man would walk into a factory and stand there and look at someone who was running a machine, and they would turn and look at him, and suddenly their hands would get confused and they couldn't run the machine, and the tears would start to run down their face, and they'd break right down and start to repent, and he hadn't even opened his mouth. And the presence of God would sweep right through the factory, and everybody would start to weep, and they'd have to shut down the machines and call a general meeting, and the whole factory would have a revival. That's not a silly story.

That happened everywhere the man went. Power, blessing, thousands converted. I read that thing.

Then I got a hold of Revival Lectures by Charles Finney, and I read those, and oh, then I got under conviction. When I began to read what he had to say about what brings revival, I said, oh my God, and I'm a pastor, and I want revival in my churches, and look at me. Look at how far I am from what I should be.

Look how careless I am, and how selfish I am, and how worldly I am, and how careless I am about prayer and everything. And my heart began to yearn to be right with God, and to repent, and to be clean, and to see revival. Well, I made some experiments.

Oh my. Some of my experiments. Please, I'm going to tell you about it, but don't you try it that way.

It was all the wrong way. I was pastoring a church down in Alabama. I pastored in Alabama for 13 years.

And you all, you know, you don't do too bad with it, but you still haven't learned how to sing Amazing Grace. I'm not sure you can until you've been in Alabama a while, and then you learn how to sing Amazing Grace. You're not just supposed to sing it, you know, you're supposed to sing, Amazing Grace.

You didn't know that's the way you were supposed to sing it, but that's great. And so I was pastoring in Alabama, and I was at this church, and I thought, boy, we've got to have revival. And I mean, I fasted and prayed.

I didn't know how to fast, and I almost made myself sick because I wanted to fast and pray, and I went at it all wrong without any instruction, but I tried anyway, and I lost about 50 pounds in six months, which I needed to lose, by the way. But nevertheless, and then I thought, I've got to get right with everybody, and there was a man in that church, and he and I just didn't like each other. Now there were lots of good reasons why I didn't like him, you understand.

I can't figure out why he didn't like me. I'm sure he could tell you, but yes, I'm just kidding, there were lots of reasons. And so we just didn't like each other, and he was on the church board.

And I thought, man, this is all wrong, I've got to get right with that man. So I thought, well, I have to go to him and confess my sin and ask his forgiveness and try to get reconciled, get straightened out. So I went to him, and I didn't know how to go at it, so I just said, you know, I don't understand it, but I don't like you.

Now, please don't try it, don't do it like that. And you know, he just looked at me, he wasn't too happy, and I said, you know, I haven't liked you for a long time, ever since I've been here. And I could tell the feeling was mutual.

And I said, but I know it's wrong, and God's really convicted me about it, and I've really prayed about it, and I've asked God to forgive me, and I want to ask you to forgive me, because that's

wrong, and I want to ask you to forgive me, and I want to get that straightened out. And he looked at me a little bit, and he said, okay, I forgive you. I said, all right, thanks a lot, and I prayed, and I left.

Well, by the time a couple of weeks had gone by, I didn't like him any better than I did before. And I thought, man, there's something wrong, this isn't working. Now I'd never heard the sermon on forgiveness that I preach, and I'd never heard the one on divine love that I preached last night.

I had no idea how to go at this. But I thought, well, something is still wrong with me, I must not have done it right, or something, because I still don't like him any better than before, and so I still get angry at him, and I still get irritated at him, and he just gets me upset, and I'd better just go and talk to him again. So I went to him a second time, and I said, I don't understand it, but I still don't like you.

And he got really upset this time, and he said, well, you know, what's the matter? Well, you know, I hadn't really tried to decide what was the matter. And so we talked about it a little bit, and I couldn't figure it out, and then he told me a few things that were wrong with me, which I needed to hear, because they were. And so we were doing a little better, you know, but still didn't know how to go at it, and so I asked him to forgive me, and he said he would, and so I went away.

Well, I still didn't like him, and I don't think he liked me any better either. And so a couple weeks later, I went back to him for the third time. You see why I said don't do what I'm about to say? I'm telling you this because I want to encourage you in your efforts to meet God, and I don't want you to think that somebody like me that stands up here in this pulpit has just always had it all together and done everything all right.

I mean, that's not the way it is, and it still isn't, okay? I want you to see that we all struggle with these things. And so I went back to him the third time, and he got angry. Now the man had a bad temper anyway, just to show you how bad his temper was.

He had a cow that he milked, and he sold the milk even though he worked in the steel mills. And one morning, he had the entire kitchen cupboard covered with big jars of milk, and he was filling the last one, and he spilled some of the milk, and he got so mad, he said spill then, and he swept the whole business onto the kitchen floor. Milk glass and milk for the gallons, okay? So you understand it was him and not me, you know.

You understand. And I'm glad he didn't hit me, because I'd probably still have a broken jaw. But he pointed his finger at me, and his eyes were blazing, and he said, Preacher, if you've got a problem, you take care of it, but don't you come back to me again.

Oh boy. I went home. I was heart sick.

I said, Oh my God, I want revival. I don't know how to do this. It's not working.

I fasted and prayed. I tried to get right with this man. I don't know how to do any of this.

It isn't working. I got very discouraged. Ever get discouraged? Well, then God started to teach me.

I said, Lord, there's something I don't know. Well, my goodness, there were a lot of things I didn't know. There are still a lot of things I don't know.

Amen? Come on, say amen. You've been listening to me. You say, yeah, there's a few things I can teach you.

I don't doubt it. The longer you learn, the more you know you don't know, you know. So I said, Oh God, I'm so stupid and ignorant and bungling, and I just need you to teach me.

Please begin to teach me. And it was just about then God started to teach me about divine love. Oh, I said, you mean I can love this man without liking him? And God said, sure.

I don't care whether you like him or not. Really? You don't care? No. God didn't care.

Oh, you mean all you want me to do is love him? That's all I ever ask you to do. Oh, oh, I can do that. Oh, it won't be easy.

You understand? But I can love him. I mean, I can give myself to his legitimate needs as his pastor. No problem.

No problem. And when I came to the place where I saw that, and I made that commitment to God, and I said, I'm going to love that man. I'm going to give myself to his needs.

I'm going to treat him as if he were my best friend, and I'm going to pour my life into him and his family every way I know. And by the way, he only lived half a block from me. I could see his house from my front door.

And I'm going to trust you, Lord, to help me to love him with divine love. The next thing I knew, he was in the veterans' hospital. He had been in the Pacific arena of war, and he had contracted a disease in the bones in his one leg.

And no other man from that Pacific war has ever lived that got that disease. But that man's alive today. No other man has ever lived with that disease.

And he went to the veterans' hospital. They amputated his leg because they were trying to stop the disease, and they took it off up here. But they told his wife, it will only slow it down, we're sorry, but everyone that's ever contracted this has died with it, and we can't do anything about it.

And God said to me, now is your chance to give yourself to that man and his family. And once a week, I took his wife and children and my wife along, and we got into the car and we drove to

Atlanta, Georgia, to the veterans' hospital, and took them and spent the day to visit him in the hospital. We did all we knew to pour our lives into that family.

And when he had the surgery and had his leg amputated, I was sitting by the bed when he was coming out of the anesthetic beside his wife, and she was holding his hand, and he didn't realize I was sitting there. And as soon as he was conscious that she was there, he said, honey, do you know why I lost this leg? And she said, no. And he said, because of the things I've done to our pastor.

Now I don't know that that was true. I mean, I don't know that that's true. All I know is that God had dealt with his heart.

And you know what? I mean, he wouldn't mind me telling this story, because we're dear friends today. God built something between us. And you know what? I don't understand why I didn't like that guy.

He's a great guy. I mean, he's really a wonderful man. I can't understand at all why I don't like, why I didn't like him, because we've been friends for years.

He's a wonderful guy. In fact, that church had me back there to preach in a revival crusade, and I stayed in his home and Max and I went calling together. And in fact, he was still on the board when that church asked me years later to come back as their pastor.

And I didn't go because I didn't think God wanted me to, but we have been friends to this day. In fact, a couple of years ago, we were at my son's place in Akron, Ohio, 4th of July. And he said, mom, I'd like us to make some freezer ice cream like we used to make down in Alabama.

And I figured you would know what the recipe is. And she said, I can't remember the recipe. He said, well, it's got to be that Alabama recipe.

And we said, I know we'll call Joe Campbell. So we got on the phone, long distance from Akron to Alabama, and we got a hold of their number and called him. Pretty soon this woman come on the phone and she said, hello.

And I said, hello, Joe. I said, this is a man out of your past. She said, who is this? I said, this is your old pastor, Dick Sibley.

And she went, ah, Max, come to the phone. By the way, she did give us the recipe. Now they're just dear friends.

I was trying to learn about revival, trying to learn, trying to learn. Well, we saw some blessing. And then finally in 1971, I was pastoring Brown Street Church in Akron, Ohio.

Great church, great history, missionary church, gave tremendously to missions. We had wonderful evangelistic home Bible study ministry going on. We had from six to 12 evangelistic home Bible studies a week going on.

A stream of conversions constantly, Greek Orthodox, Catholic, Lutheran, Episcopalian, all formal churches coming to Christ. Anybody who would have looked at that church would have said, hey, that's a great church, a model church. What could you want more than that? Revival.

I wasn't satisfied. I still wanted revival. Because I'd been there, and I knew what it was like to have God come in the building.

And I knew all the hours of counseling we spent and all the agony we spent trying to help messed up families and messed up lives and messed up marriages. And I knew that if God came on the scene, he could short circuit some of that stuff. And in a few minutes, he could change it.

And I said, I know there's a difference between this good, godly church and revival. There's a difference. And then in 1971, I heard about the revival up here in Canada, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

I didn't know Saskatoon existed. We Americans are ignorant. And I'm sorry to say arrogant.

And I didn't know Saskatchewan existed, or Saskatoon. I said to my wife, listen, all these reports about this great revival going on in Saskatoon, wherever that is, it sounds like the real thing. And I'm just going to find out where it is and get on a plane.

I'm going to fly up there, and wherever it is, I'm going to go get in the middle of it and say, here I am, do it to me. And she said, that's a great idea. Go ahead, no problem.

And then you know what? I don't know why, but God, God must have had a purpose in it. All kinds of things happen. Things started to go wrong in the church, problems that only I could deal with.

My mother got seriously ill. My sister got sick. Everything went wrong, and I could not get away, and I couldn't get there.

And then after I'd run five weeks there and was spreading out across the prairies, it was too late for me to get in whatever had been going on in Saskatoon. And believe me, it had really been a revival. And fifty-nine churches had been touched, and meetings went on all night, and lives were transformed, and God had moved in great power.

And I couldn't get there. Well, Christian Missionary Alliance was having a conference on evangelism in Chicago, and people were coming from all over North America, from Canada and the United States. And I had signed up to go, and so I went.

I got there on a Thursday night, and it was to go Thursday night, Friday, and just Saturday morning, and then we all head back and try to be in our churches on Sunday. I went to the meeting Thursday night, there were three thousand people there, and we sang a few songs, had prayer, and then the leader of the meeting, and there was a big program planned for that

night. You know, all kinds of seminars and special speakers, and you're going to learn how to win the lost, and you know what it's like.

And the leader of the meeting got up and said, Now, before we get into the program tonight, we have two couples here from the revival that's going on in Saskatchewan, and they're just going to come and share with us. That ended the program. Reverend and Mrs. Orthner, he was our district superintendent in that district at that time, they were there, and a lay couple.

Mrs. Orthner walked up to the pulpit, and as soon as she stood there, and I was sitting down there, and I looked at her face, and I said to myself, That's it. There's the glory. There's the glory.

And she started to speak. And I don't remember whether they got through with all four of those people or not. I do remember hearing that district superintendent come up and say, For the first time in my life I know that I'm filled with the Holy Spirit.

I thought, Whoa, for a district superintendent to say that? Anyway, whether they all got finished, I don't know, but I know in just a few minutes there were 3,000 people weeping in the presence of God, because God came into that place. I saw people down on the floor between the seats, some stretched out full length, some down their knees, some laying over the back of the pew, crying and pleading with God. I saw people up walking all over, getting right with each other, going to other preachers and other lay people, asking forgiveness.

It was a shambles, but a very orderly one. And God was in charge. I have no idea how long it went on.

There wasn't anything else. Nobody dismissed the service. That was it.

And God came into my life in a way that night that I had never known Him. And He did something very special in my heart and life. And I said, Oh God, this is what has to happen to America, North America, all of it.

I thought maybe it's about to happen. Now I understand what God was doing in those places where God touched down, almost like a tornado touching down, in those places where God touched down and gave church revival among Christians. What He was doing, I'm convinced, is He was giving some Christians of today a taste of what it's like, so they would understand when they read the history of the great revivals and they would say, Oh God, do it again and reach the unsaved.

You see, none of us were alive and we can't understand what it's like unless we taste it. And I went back to my church. Oh, I was excited.

I could hardly wait for this thing to get over and I had my airline ticket and I couldn't get home any sooner. And I sat through all those seminars on soul winning and just to be honest, our church really didn't need them. And I was so, and I don't think many other people got much out

of it.

They were so excited about what God had done in their lives, it was all they could talk about. They couldn't wait to get home and tell their church. And so I got home on Saturday night and I went into my pulpit Sunday morning and I told them what had happened.

And I gave an invitation and the whole front of the church filled up with weeping people seeking God. But I knew in my heart that wasn't it. It was fine, but it wasn't revival, not yet.

So I continued to pray. And by the way, we'd had a prayer meeting going for two years, just crying out to God to save our lost families. A few weeks later, I heard that Reverend Northner was in the area and I said, I've got to get him here.

So I caught up with him and I said, you've got to come and speak in our church on a Sunday morning. And so he did. He spoke on Sunday morning, church was packed and I thought, now we're going to have the revival.

This is great. Reverend Northner is here. And of course it didn't matter whether he was there.

Anyway, he told about the revival and it was wonderful and he finished and I gave an invitation. Not one person moved. Not a person.

They just sat there. I couldn't believe it. We went home for lunch and we had Reverend Northner home for lunch and I was so depressed.

I could hardly stand it. And we sat down at the table. I was almost crying.

And I said, oh, brother Northner, nothing happened. He just smiled so sweet and looked at me and he said, now Dick, let God be God. Let God be God.

Oh yes. Oh, we play God so much, don't we? We play God. What a mess.

We're not very good at being God, you know. We don't have anything we need for the, for the position. We better to just resign from it and let somebody do it that can.

And that's God. He's the only one. And so I said, all right, all right, all right.

And I had no idea what God was doing because the next night was Monday night. We still have some time. The next night was Monday night and that night my assistant pastor was over in his office at the church.

Mary Homsher had called him and these people don't mind me using their names and their real names. Mary Homsher had called him and said, I've got to see you. And he said, well, have your husband come and you can come.

We had both counseled with Mary. She'd tried to commit suicide three times. They were both Christians in our church, a Christian couple with children.

And they were both involved in ministry in our church. And we were pretty upset about Mary and we're about to remove her from all Christian ministry because of these problems. And so they came over to his office and he sat talking with them and all at once the thing came to his mind.

Now they both were brought up in Christian homes and David was really a Christian. He looked at Mary and he said, Mary, can you remember a time in your life ever when you personally invited Jesus Christ to come into your heart and life and be your savior? And she sat there and thought for a minute and she looked at him kind of amazed. And she said, no, I really can't.

I was brought up in a Christian home. I've just always thought I was a Christian. I always believed.

No, I can't remember such a time. And as soon as she said that, the Holy Spirit said to him, and what about you, Keith? He was fit to be tied because he couldn't remember it either. Now I have to tell you, this young man grew up in a Christian home, in a Christian missionary alliance church.

He went to NIAC, missionary college, Christian missionary alliance school, graduated, was an assistant pastor for a year, went to Dallas Theological Seminary in Denver and graduated with his master's degree in theology and been with us for two years as our assistant pastor. He believed all the right things and was sure that he thought he was a Christian. Actually what had happened to him was when he was about five years old, he was in a good news club that wasn't handled very well.

And there'd been a talk about heaven and asked, do you want to go to heaven? And if you do come on into this little room for prayer. And he went in there with a bunch of other kids and somebody prayed with them all together. And said, now you're a Christian.

And he went out and said, now I'm a Christian. And whenever he talked to his mother about it, she said, remember you received Christ in the good news club when you were five and they always said, I'm a Christian. Everything he said to Mary, God said to him.

And this sounds funny, but he led her to Christ. He led her to the Lord. She is wonderfully saved.

In fact, about 10 o'clock at night, she called me on the phone, just about shouting, laughing. She said, pastor, I'm saved, I'm saved, I'm saved. And so I rejoiced with her and I had no idea what was going on with my assistant pastor.

He went home and didn't sleep all night. Tuesday morning, 10 o'clock, my secretary said, Keith would like to talk to you. I said, sure.

So Keith came in and sit down. He looked at me and he said, now pastor, I'm afraid this is going to shock you, but, but I don't think I'm saved. I said, well, tell me about it.

So he told me what had happened the night before, how God had dealt with him, how he hadn't slept all night. He told me what he had always pointed back to as his conversion. He said, I can't remember inviting Christ into my life and all I want to come over me, all the fires he had started that I had been putting out, I thought, yeah, I'll bet he's not saved.

And so we talked and said, what do you want to do? And he said, I want to receive Christ. So he got down on his knees and wept before God and poured out his need and received Christ as savior. I thought, Oh, things are starting to happen around here.

Wednesday afternoon, my secretary got home early. Somebody knocked on my door about four o'clock. I said, come in.

A lady walked in and sat down and burst into tears. I looked at her and I thought, I don't know who she is. She wept and wept awhile.

And finally she stopped. She said, I bet you don't know who I am. And I said, no, I said, come in.

A lady walked in and sat down and burst into tears. I looked at her and I thought, I don't know who she is. I bet you don't know who I am.

And I said, no, I don't. She said, you don't know me, but I know you. She said, I lived in this community a year ago.

And one of your evangelism teams came into our home and shared the gospel of Christ with us. She said, my husband is an alcoholic and we did not respond to the message. And she said, my husband and I fought so badly that a few months later I left him and I took my children I went down south and we have been living, and I think it was Virginia, I forget occasionally which state it was, and we've been living down there.

And she said this morning at 5 o'clock God woke me up and said, you get up, you get your 16-year-old son to drive the car, and you drive back to Akron, Ohio, and you go see Reverend Sibley and you get saved. And they had been driving all day long, and they had just gotten there. Now I want you to know that was not the normal experience in my ministry.

I started to pay attention. I said, when God is God, He can do amazing things, can't He? And so I led that dear lady to the Lord. Then I went to prayer meeting that night.

In prayer meeting I was giving a Bible study and all at once one of our housewives just stood to her feet, I guess she was about 27 or 8, and started to weep and sob and confess her sins and get right with God. All I could do was stand there. I didn't know what was going on, and when she finished she sat down, and I didn't know any better than to go on with my Bible study.

I'd never been there before. So I did. Over in the youth group, Keith had given his testimony and three of our teenagers received Christ as their Savior.

Well, by Sunday morning, it had gone, of course, through the grapevine, all through the church,

and I'll tell you that place was packed, and the balcony was full, and it was electric in there. Well, we wasted the first, you know, half hour with the preliminaries. I didn't understand that, but we sang, and we prayed, and we did all the stuff, and took the offering, and you know, nothing wrong with those things, they're fine, but we just didn't need them that morning.

And then I had planned, I said with Keith, would you like to share with the congregation? And he said, sure, I should do that. So, at that point, right before I preached, which I never did, by the way, right before I preached, I said, now our assistant pastor has something to share, and he came to the pulpit, and he shared what God had done in his life. And when he finished, the choir always went down.

I don't want people behind me sleeping, and chewing gum when I'm preaching. So, they always, in my churches, they go down. They never stay up behind me.

And the only time they do, is when it's packed to suffocation, and we have two rows of chairs in the front and back, and there's not another place to sit. Okay. And then I say, now you behave back here.

You know, or I'll make you go outside. So, anyway, they were sitting down front, and so when he finished, I looked, and there was Mary sitting there, and her eyes were just full of tears, and I thought, oh, she should say something. I said, Mary, would you like to share? Yeah, she come up, and she shared what God had done for her, and how she was saved, and then she went and sat down.

And now, I didn't plan this. I said, would anyone else like to share? And when I said that, God came into that sanctuary. He just came in.

I mean, he just filled that place. He was everywhere. And immediately, a young lady stood up in the middle of the congregation and began to weep, and she wept, and then she began to confess her sins, and I mean, she confessed them publicly, and she poured them out before God, and wept, and prayed, and cried out for mercy, and when she was finished, she thanked God and praised Him.

And then she sat down. As soon as she was down, somebody else was up. And then they did the same thing, and when they sat down, somebody else was up doing the same thing.

And pretty soon, all over that congregation were just quiet sobbing, and weeping, and brokenness before God. And I just stood there looking out, and everybody was weeping, and praying, and some people were down on the floor, and they were over the pews, and it was very quiet and orderly, and you could tell God was in control. And I just stood there, and I laughed, and I laughed, and I laughed, and I laughed.

I said, my name was changed to Isaac because he has caused me to laugh. That's what Isaac means is laughter, you know. You know, Sarah laughed when God said, you'll have a son, and so he was called laughter.

Oh my, what a day, what a day. After a while, a football player sitting at the back got up, and came running down, and just fell at the altar, just utterly broken, and crying for mercy, and begging God to forgive him for his sins and wickedness, and when he did that, I said, would anybody else like to come? And the whole front of the church filled up, the platform filled up, the prayer room filled up, the pews, every place you could think of, and the whole front of the church was full of weeping people, and the whole back of the balcony, every place, people were weeping, and people standing, confessing their sins, repenting, getting right with God, and then sitting down, husbands and wives with their arms around each other, getting right. People in the church that didn't love each other, getting right.

That went on, and it went on, and it went on, and it went on, and and somebody says, what did you do? I just, for one time, I had enough sense to do the right thing. Nothing. I just stayed out of the way.

After a while, somebody suddenly come up, and stood beside me at the pulpit, and said, can I share what God has done in my life this morning? And I said, sure, and I stepped aside, and they started to share. Pretty soon, a big line of people formed, and now you have to see the picture. Here's this line of people formed.

They're giving their testimonies at the mic. Still, all over the congregation, people are praying. All over the front, they're praying.

Still, people are standing up back here, confessing their sins, and weeping, and getting right with God, and people are giving testimonies from the pulpit. You say, my, it must have been bedlam. No, it was very quiet, actually.

It was very quiet. It was very orderly. It was as if a supreme power had absolute control over everything that was being done there, and in fact, that is what was happening.

The presence of God manifest. About 20 after 1, I looked at my watch, and I thought, it's 20 after 1. No sermon, no nothing. 20 after 1. Nobody wanting to go home? Now, I didn't know anything, so I said, folks, it's 20 after 1. Maybe we should dismiss in prayer, and go home, and we'll come back tonight for the evening service.

Of course, nobody objected, because they didn't know what to do either. So, so I prayed, dismissed them. They all went home.

That afternoon, my phone rang. Somebody said, Pastor Sibley, did you have revival at your church this morning? I said, yeah, as far as I can tell. They said, will you come over? Our service is an hour before yours tonight.

Will you come over and share with us before you go to your evening service? I said, sure. So I went over to this church, and I got up at 6 o'clock, and I told them what had happened, and then I looked at my watch, and about quarter to 7, when our service was, I said, now, if you want to meet God, you just come, and they start swarming around the front of the church, and

I said goodbye, and I left. And there they were, praying, and weeping, and getting right with God.

Then I went back over to our church, and then we sang one hymn. We had one prayer, and I said, would someone like to share? You know, it was beautiful how God is. It was just like a parenthesis.

God said, he doesn't know any better, and the whole revival was just on again. I mean, it was just poof. It was just like we had never stopped.

The whole congregation was weeping, and sobbing, and people were confessing their sins, and getting right with God, and coming to the front, and the whole thing just went right on, just as if we had never interrupted it. Now, of course, I'd never interrupt it. I wouldn't think of it.

If that happened in a service where I was, we'd just stay right there as long as we wanted to stay. But I didn't know any better then. But stay out of the way as much as possible.

My friends, it didn't matter what we tried to do. If we tried to have a prayer meeting, we have revival. If we tried to have a communion service, we had revival.

It didn't matter what we tried to do. The next Sunday morning was Communion Sunday, and you know how we are. You have to do everything at just the right time, you know, and so it was Communion Sunday, and so we planned Communion Sunday, and we tried to have communion, and we sort of had it, but it didn't work as it normally did.

Because as soon as we tried to do anything, God was there. And he got in our way. He wasn't very interested in what we were trying to do.

He was interested in what he was trying to do. Isn't that funny, how the two things could be different? Especially when we're doing religious things. But they can.

Remember, in Isaiah, he said, I hate your new moons. I hate your feasts. I hate your solemn assemblies.

I hate all your religious rituals. I hate the whole business that makes me sick to my stomach. You say, weren't they doing the right things? Absolutely.

They were doing the things God had commanded them to do, all the right things. But they weren't right. They weren't right.

That makes a difference. And now God was interrupting all of our things, and he just took over. Let me tell you a couple of stories out of that.

Even if we don't get to the questions, you've got to hear some of these things. On that first morning, Pat Jarrett was sitting there. Pat Jarrett now had gone to Bible College to play basketball.

Great athlete. And he lied about being saved. Because, of course, you have to put on there that you're Christian, you know.

He lied about that, and he got in, and he played basketball. But he couldn't stand the atmosphere. So he lacked 20 hours of graduating from NIAC, and he just gave it up and came home.

He married a wonderful Christian girl in the church. He had a very fine job, a good year. He had a beautiful brand-new brick ranch-style home.

He had three lovely children, and he had it made. Except that he was not saved. He sat in my church and copied my sermon outlines on four-by-six cards for five years without being a Christian.

I mean, he got the illustrations and everything. When he finally got straightened out, he didn't need to prepare a sermon for five years. No, I'm kidding.

And there he was. And when God came into that building, God found him instantly. And boy, he came down that side aisle.

He went into that prayer room, and he broke up before God, and he was gloriously saved. But Pat, having been an athlete for so many years, he had arthritis in every major joint in his body. Elbows, shoulders, knees, legs, ankles.

He was a mess with arthritis. And there were times when he was in agony all over his body. On that second Sunday morning, we were having communion.

Now, in our community services, what we normally do is, when we go to partake of the bread, we say, now Christ's body was broken for our bodies, that we might be healed. And if you're here this morning, and you sense that God is leading you to trust him for your healing, you just stand where you are and stay there. And while we're partaking of the bread, we'll pray for you, and we'll trust God for your healing.

So we did that. And understand, this is in the midst of revival, with people weeping and getting right with God, and it's just an unusual situation. And so, a bunch of people stood up.

Now, if you want to see people get healed, you get a revival going. And Pat stood to his feet. And we partook of the bread, and I started to pray.

And he said, when I started to pray, it was just like a hot liquid started at the top of his head and went right down through his body and out his feet. And God healed every bone in his body. I mean, God healed him.

That's been quite a few years. It was 1972, and he is still well and has never had a pain since. The next Sunday, the revival was still on.

And the whole front of the place was full of weeping people, and here's Pat again. And I went to Pat, and I said, well, Pat, what are you here for this time? He said, I didn't want to do it, but God got me. I've got to give up my job and sell my home and go back to Bible college and go into the ministry.

And he yielded his life to God, and he's been an Alliance pastor all these years, serving the Lord. On the Monday morning after the first Sunday of that revival, I was sitting in my office, and my phone rang. A young woman on the other end said, pastor, can I bring my husband over to see you? And then I realized who it was.

I had married the couple. She was in a Christian home. He was a Lutheran boy.

She wouldn't date him unless he came to church with her, and only would she date him at church. He came to church, heard the gospel, was totally saved, really wonderfully saved, and I married them later. She said, can I bring my husband over to see you? I said, well, why do you need to bring your husband over to see me? Can't he come over himself? And she said, I don't think so.

I said, why? She said, he's bent over almost double and can't straighten up. I said, well, is he in pain? She said, he doesn't seem to be. I said, well, maybe you need to take him to the emergency at the hospital.

She said, no, I don't think that's his problem, and he doesn't either. And I said, well, bring him over. So she brought him over.

He come in, bent over, holding his tummy, couldn't straighten up. I mean it. And he sat down in a chair, and I said, Glenn, what's the trouble? He said, I don't know.

And we sat there and talked for a while, and I didn't know, so I just stopped and bowed my head, and I silently said, Lord, what is the matter with this young man? And God said in my spirit, ask him about his father. And I said, Glenn, tell me about your father. And he looked at me, and he said, I hate him.

Oh. I said, tell me about it. So he told me about a life of violence and beatings and cursing and being told he'd never amount to anything and that he was worthless and so forth.

I said, Glenn, where does your father live? And he said, about ten miles outside of town. He has a farm out there. I said, you're gonna have to get back in the car and have your wife drive you out there, and you're gonna have to go and ask your father to forgive you for your hatred, and you're gonna have to forgive him.

He said, I can't! And before I realized what I said, I said, well, if you want to stay bent over double the rest of your life, go ahead. He didn't want to do that, so he decided to go. And they got in the car, and they drove out there, and he told me later, he went up to the door, and he still held bent over, and his wife rang the doorbell, and the door opened, and there was his

mother, and he said, his dad home, and she said, he's out in the kitchen, and she hollered for him, said, Glenn is here, and he got up from the kitchen table and started through the house, and Glenn started through the house when he saw his father straightened up.

And they both held their arms out and tears streaming down Glenn's face. By the time he got to his father, his father was weeping, and they threw their arms around each other, and wept on each other's shoulders, and wept, and wept, and wept. And he poured out to his dad the bitterness, and hatred, and anger, and said, you know, I'm a Christian, and it's wrong, and I want you to forgive me, and I want you to know, dad, I forgive you for everything.

And they were reconciled. And you know, God has used Glenn ever since. At the present time, he's, he's on the board of a new Alliance Church that is just growing.

They moved to a different community, and God is blessing and using them in his service. And that was the kind of thing we saw happening all over the place. People that thought they were Christians got saved.

See, there's some people who think they're Christians without a valid reason. Now, I don't want anybody to doubt their salvation. Who has a reasonable reason? But it's amazing how we can grow up with religious surroundings and think we're Christians and never be born of God.

And so people got saved, marriages got straightened out, people surrendered to the Lord, lives were changed, and God had moved for three weeks without an evangelist, without a crusade, without promotion, without a plan. God had come among us in revival power. Now, my friends, God wants to do that in every church in North America.

Do you believe that? He really does. I've had the privilege now for many years of pastoring two churches that experienced revival. That one that I've just told you about, and then I came to Regina, and they had experienced the revival of 71.

And I want to tell you there is a world of difference between that kind of a church, if the pastor and the leaders have known how to go on and teach their people and lead them on afterwards. You better have tracks ready to run on when God moves. Both of those churches were ready to go for God.

Both of them were already doing all the right things. Churches that are not doing the right things and think they can have a revival and that will cure them and make them do the right things, will find out that all it will do is produce a division in the church between the haves and the have-nots. But if a church is already being obedient to God and trying to do the things God has called the church to do, and then they have revival.

It's like taking a brand new automobile and filling it with gas and pushing on the on the pedal. Then it has the power to run and to see things happen for God. Why did God do that in that church and then that some churches in Saskatoon and in Regina and here and there in various places? Why did God do all of that? My friends, I believe God did it because he had to say to

Christians of this generation, I still do this.

This is not just something for the history books. Don't you believe when you hear somebody preach on prophecy and say this is the Laodicean period and now we're in the last days. My friend, the last days are from Pentecost to the coming of Christ and I can prove that to you without any controversy from the scriptures.

Those are the last days. All the way from Pentecost to the return of Christ and that's the period of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. That's the time of revival and revivals are in order until Jesus splits the skies.

And we've got to believe it and be committed to it and pay whatever price it takes. And I believe God was saying in those days and he's still saying and somebody says that's still happening. Yes, it is.

Yes, it is. A man was in a Suteric Crusade. He was a Texas rancher and he was in a Suteric Crusade where God moved in great power and he still is moving in great power in some of those Crusades and God turned his life totally inside out as a Christian and transformed him and he went home and he was a rancher for a little while longer and God said no more.

Sell the ranch. I want you in the ministry and he sold the ranch and he went into the ministry and he started pastoring a little church in a place called Alliance, Nebraska. About 3,000 people in the town and he started getting the pastors together in that town and this man was thoroughly revived.

And as he loved those other pastors of other churches and prayed with them and confronted them and dealt with them about their sin and their need, they started to get revived and he got this little group of pastors right with God. And they begin to pray for revival and they begin to pray for not only church revival but for the kind of spills over into the community. And when they thought they were prayed up and ready they invited a team to come in, an evangelistic team that I don't think nobody, anybody's ever heard of.

I mean, they had no great reputation. They just, they sing and play instruments and do a little preaching. I mean, nothing outstanding.

And they come in for a 10-day crusade and they had never experienced a revival. Boy, they didn't know what they were in for. And they came in and started to play their instruments and sing their songs and preach their messages and God came on the scene.

And that meeting went for seven weeks. People were driving a hundred miles to get there and there were over a thousand conversions. See, that's just a taste of what he wants to do all over North America.

Have you known recently of a city with 3,000 people in it that had a seven-week evangelistic crusade because he couldn't stop it and had people driving a hundred miles to get there and

had a thousand conversions? You know what? The conversions are still going on in that community. That's what has to happen. God is saying to us and was saying in 71, he said it at Asbury.

He said it in Saskatoon. He said it in Akron. He said it here and there all over the place.

He said, look church, look, I'm showing you what it's like to have Almighty God come on the scene in power and what he can do. Because I want you to believe in it with all your heart and be willing to get serious about your Christian life and pay the price and get clean and get filled with the Spirit and become a man or woman of prayer and get your people in your church praying and really holding on to God. Because what I want to do is the same thing, but I want to do it greater than you've ever seen it and have it spill over into the world just like I have done all through history.

And I want to save millions of people in North America and save it from my just wrath and judgment. And my friend, it's the only thing that will save it. And so may God get us encouraged, excited, and determined to give our lives to him so thoroughly that there'll be a personal revival and then it'll start spreading out to our family maybe.

Our husband or wife, our friends, a little circle who are willing to pay the price, a little bigger circle, our church, our community. And one of these nights or one of these days, I'm going to be somewhere and I'm going to pick up the phone, you know, and somebody's going to say, Pastor, it started to happen. It's spreading like fire.

And we'll be seeing people getting saved in our major cities like they did in New York City, 10,000 a week or 100,000 a week. And God will change this continent by his power. We'll have to get the question some other time.

It's two minutes to 12. Let's bow. Stand.

Let's stand. Oh Lord, I pray for my brothers and sisters. I know that you have been stirring in many their hearts something new that they've never experienced.

A new longing, a new thirst, a new hunger, a new determination to pay the price. Oh God, increase it, I pray. Increase it.

Increase it. Increase it. Let it grow.

Let the hunger grow. Let the thirst increase. Let the burning, let that little fire that's burning and turning over inside of them.

Let that fire get bigger and bigger and bigger until it consumes their life. And in your mercy, bring us the revival we must have. In Jesus name we pray.

Amen. God bless you. See you later.