

199532 currentsignsofrevival alfrees

A preacher, a pastor, a missionary, an evangelist, former president of our denomination, a man with a heart for God. Alf, come and share with us. Thank you, Dennis.

I love you, brother. Dennis Bells and I worked together for some time at Banfield and I have a growing appreciation for him and just hoped 100 percent that he someday would become the DS. I thought, well, if I have a good friend, I'll have some favors anyway.

I just rejoice in being with you this morning. Really, my heart is humbled as I look back over Henry Shore with his well-prepared, well-honed manuscript preaching powerfully under the anointing of God. And then when Will was with us, he just opened the word and let it fly.

And so many expressed appreciation for him. Well, I do for both men. But when Will was here, I sat on the edge of that bench just wondering what he would say next.

And I say this, and maybe you'll agree with me. I loved his innuendos. I think they were powerful.

You know, if you caught on to them, they really packed the message. And he told us what he thought of us. And I appreciate that so much.

For 47 years, I've walked and worked and worshiped among you. And I thank God for it. I'd like to at least take this opportunity to thank you for your love and kindness during this past year as we went through the loss of three generations of our family.

But God was good. He didn't promise to take us around it, but he would take us through it. And I'm also thankful for your prayers during the last four years when I've gone through one episode after another.

But I want to tell you this morning that I'm strong in the Lord, trusting Him. I think I'm in my right mind. I'm never sure.

But of course, I got to ask David about that. And may the Lord just grant his blessing. I've had a word prepared for quite some time that I've never used before.

And I would like to share with you first on the current signs of revival. And of course, there has to be a volume of notes or that to remember what is taking place. And then I want to share on the birth pangs of revival.

I believe that this has come in God's timing. God knows that the last two or three weeks I have wished a hundred times that Dennis had not invited me to preach. But then again, in my heart, I recognize that all things work together for good to them that love the Lord.

And we have different gifts and we recognize these and appreciate them. But in the current

signs of revival, the key sentence I would like to use revival is the sense of Christ's presence. And that is that is the characteristic of what is prized by God's people.

I preached so many times on what is revival, what are the follow up to what is a follow up to revival. But I believe that the overwhelming chief characteristic of revival is the presence of the Lord Jesus. An overwhelming sense of Christ's presence.

I mean that he makes himself manifest among us. That is seeing Christ visibly participate in the worship of the church. And I'm going to ask you this question that has really been on my mind the last few weeks and particularly in preparation for this time.

As we think of this camp meeting, what difference would it make if Jesus were sitting here on the platform? What would you do? Would you just look at him? Would you wonder? Would you worship? Would you want him to worship, us to worship in the way that he commanded us to worship? Well, let's look at what is known as the signs of revival around the country. And then I'll give you eight things that will happen if Jesus were to be here in revival presence. I think of what God is doing today in revival because J. Edward Knorr pointed out this way that revival is a process that usually takes place over 15 to 20 years.

He said there are trigger points in revival and they increase and build as we personally seek the power of the Holy Spirit. Now I heard J. Edward Knorr and share with him in a convention in Calcutta some 25 years ago, and I heard him then talk this way. And I realized that he is a great student of revival, written many books, and has given us a tremendous overview.

In fact, as a result of his teaching, I taught for an entire year at Cary Baptist Church in the Cary Baptist Bible College. Now you say, what are you? Are you a Baptist? Well, you can figure out by the time I'm finished. And then he outlined the cause of revival.

I used his textbooks and they were wonderful. But I'm looking over the scene today. Where is God working? Where are the touch points of revival? Well, I think that one touch point of revival is among the promise keepers.

When 70,000 men gathered together just recently and not a man stood there untouched. When they all joined each other's hands and raised their arms for 20 long minutes and praise and worship of Christ, with tears streaming down their cheeks, with commitment to Christ. By the way, already the criticism of the promise keepers is coming.

And they claim that there is a return to a strong male image with male domination. And you're going to hear all kinds of things sorted through because there may be some of it. Nothing is perfect.

Then, of course, I think of the 50 day adventure that was promoted by David Maines and others. That is David Maines of the USA. I think of on campus and that's where I come in.

I have been to several colleges the past year, two years, conducting a revival series. In one

college that I attended, it was a fairly large university. The professors gathered together and when the president invited me, they said, well, Alfrese's had his day.

He's over the hill. Who in the world would ever invite him on campus to preach for an entire week? And I'm very thankful to say that when the week was over, the professors gathered together and said, Al, thank you very much. You took us to the edge and you almost pushed us over.

And I thank God for that. They didn't say anything about the good preaching. I don't think they thought it was good.

But I thank God for what has happened and the movement of God, which I'll talk about on campus, what I've seen, what God is doing in the confession of sin, in the manifestation of gifts, in the manifestation of the moving of God physically and spiritually, and in marvelous, marvelous healing. And I would like to share all that with you as signs of revival, but may not have the chance. And then, of course, you're wondering, well, Al, what about the vineyard movement? You haven't mentioned that.

The vineyard movement has turned out to be a great movement of God overseas. When people attend vineyard, and I've not been to one vineyard service, 75% of the people are from overseas. And God is touching the Anglican Church in England such as never before.

And it's not just through one section or one parish, as they say. It is through several. And we remember this, that in order to reach some people, you have to go into extremes.

And the extreme finds us in the center of God's will. Because, you know, if you're tired and sleepy, for some people, it takes a real bomb blast to wake them up. I do want to make an observation.

Of course, I've made these many times, and you may agree with me, you may not. That's quite all right. I've been looking at the manifestation of God through the vineyard movement.

And I've said, Lord, why is it that you are taking the animal world to praise your name? And now, this is personal opinion. The Lord said to me, even though it's personal, they're not praising my name. They're revealing the state of their spirituality.

And I said, what do you mean, Lord? Well, shortly after that, a very prominent engineer and businessman from a big corporation in the U.S. came in contact with us. And he said, I traveled with some of my friends to the vineyard movement. And I was there in my fine suit and tie and pin and everything else, and looking on and thinking, this is wonderful.

And who would ever have believed that God brought me to my knees, and I bent over, and I was picking like a hen in a barnyard? Now, just picture it. And he said, God said to me, Sam, that's exactly what you've been doing in the church. And you are a poultry yard Christian.

You're around seed picking all the time. And all you can say is, this is right and this is wrong, and I agree with this, and I disagree with that. And I realized I was a highly critical man, and God caused me to fall on my knees and pick seed like a pen.

When people roar out, why are they roaring? Well, I only know this. The devil goes about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. And I think that some people that have gone through this have been devouring Christians, roaring like a lion, consuming the church.

Just take it for what it's worth. But it seems more logical to me that the Lord is talking, showing some people how high and mighty they are. And dear friends, in the signs of revival, even though some things may happen extreme, some things we do not care for, be very careful not to criticize what God is doing.

You may be blaspheming the Holy Spirit, and the very thing you blaspheme about will be the very thing that God will get you to do. Well, we're off to a great start, aren't we? Yes, I look back on the signs of revival. Could I just reminisce once? I go back to 1972, to the great movement of God that the Lord gave us here at Standard Church, or at Standard Camp.

We were here, you remember, until the second service in the afternoon, with people lined up testifying, confessing their sins. At the same time, a number of the younger men then, which are the older men now, around 50 or so, are the men who were wonderfully filled with the Spirit. Some of your pastors that you may not be aware of, that they went one by one over to a hall, to a fellowship hall, and God touched them.

And they said to me, Al, come over and get in with us. I said, listen, if God is touching you, I want to remain removed, and I just thank God for what He's doing. And these are men today that I believe in our church are moving in sensitivity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Revival is a process. And friends, I believe, for what I've observed, that we are going to move into this revival era, or else we are going to remain as spectators doing spectator sport. And I have an idea, at least 50% of us in the night service are doing spectator sport, looking on, wanting to be entertained.

When Brother Will sang the great hymns and asked us to sing with him, there weren't many mouths moving. What is God saying? Well, you are looking on at a man, and he's entertaining you. And that's not what God wants.

You see, the hometown boy can say that. If someone would come in from outside and say it, I, with you, would throw him out the door. Well, let's look on some of these signs of revival that God may be bringing to us, and we thank Him that He is, and we worship Him.

Please notice, first of all, in a sign of revival, there is an increased and intense spirit of worship, however it takes place. But you can sense that the body is together, worshipping and praising the Lord Jesus, and doing it with a special anointing and with the move of God. It's not just in the clapping of the hands.

It's not in the raising of the hands. Your hands may be in your pocket, but there is a sense of worship and joy and praise as the people of God gather together to serve Him. As you know, and I'll mention this in passing once, almost three years ago, about two and a half years ago, I had a paralytic stroke.

Lost my speech, use of my arm, use of my leg. And through that time, I was unable to praise the Lord as I would like to. I found that I couldn't stand for worship in the service because I would be too tired to do it.

I tried to clap, and I was clapping like this, and I couldn't strike my hands together. There were words I could not say. Well, I never could say some, but nevertheless, there were some special words.

And I trusted God, and I said, Lord, for me, if ever people are asked to clap their hands, or one person claps their hands, if you will just restore to me my hands again, I will praise you and I will clap. You have to lose something and have it given back to you before you really appreciate it. I said, Lord, if you'll just allow me to stand in worship, I'll never say again, what's wrong with that worship leader? He's had us standing for 20 minutes.

Doesn't he know we're 70 years old? We have to sit. Lose your ability to stand and find out what happens if God gives it back to you. What about preaching? I said, Lord, I'll speak, even if it's in hesitation, and I'll ask every time I preach, please, God, give me clarity of speech.

And when I was taking speech therapy over a number of months, I had to talk, first of all, into a machine. And at last, the therapist said, Alf, that's not the way you say this word. Say it this way.

And I tried. I tried. And I said to her, my dear, you've got to remember, I've said that word this way all my life.

So I don't think that she was very impressed with me. Secondly, there's an outpouring of love for one another in Christ's body. An unusual outpouring.

The demonstration of the life of Jesus Christ through the name of Jesus in honoring his name. I don't need to enlarge on this. Will has been doing that, and certainly Henry Shore did, in a very clear way.

But there is that coming together whereby we have a spirit of understanding and of appreciation for every person in the body. I found that when I went through the time of revival, I could stand before my congregation at Banfield and I look and I just look over slowly like this and look at each person and say, this morning, this Sunday morning, there's not one of you I do not love. I wish they could have said the same, but nevertheless, it was a good try.

And the Lord puts within you an overwhelming love. I had one deacon that always sat, if you're in the back seat, it's all right, but he always sat in the back seat, was armful, looked down at me like that. And he hated praise choruses.

And he loved the hymns where you sing the chorus over five times. And he loved all of that. And he couldn't understand my ways.

And I asked that the Lord would enable me to love him just as he is and to see that maybe his strength is keeping me in line. And I thank God for him. And when I began to thank God for him, I found a reaction taking place.

That's the reason I love to go around the campground and whoever I see at least shake hands, whether we know each other or not, introduce each other. Introduce as the only way that we'll learn to love one another is to know one another. And I found out that those who know me best love me best, even though they may not agree with everything.

There is thirdly, a heightened awareness of holiness accompanied by confession and restitution. Well, you say, can you give us an illustration of this taking place? I'll not name the colleges this morning, but in one college, a young man was a leader of the spiritual life of that college of hundreds of students. Fine, tall, gifted young man.

He came to me in the counseling room and he said this, or in the ministry room, Alf, I have in this last year been involved with 15 girls in this college. And I said, well, I'm thankful to the Lord that you want to confess that. Remember, our work is restoration and to replace you and build you up.

And if you're willing to face up to it, God can use you even though that's happened. And I said, but there's one thing that's necessary. Every girl in this college knows by now that you were involved with these 15 girls because girls tell it.

And I said, you want to hang your head down around most of them. And I said, so get up and confess that you have been involved with 15 individuals. Don't be specific and just say, I need your forgiveness because I've hurt you.

I have discouraged you. I've taken away the desire, no doubt that you have to serve the Lord. And I have the wrong image as spiritual leader.

And he did that. And my friends, the signs of revival were that tears broke out over the whole congregation. They were not in rebuke and condemnation, but they were in forgiveness for a one who said, if I confess my sins, he's faithful and just to forgive my sins and to cleanse me from all unrighteousness.

And I don't think that we always need to do that. But dear friends, one of the signs of revival is an awareness of holiness accompanied by prayer and by restitution. I went to another college and at least 5% of the young men there confessed to homosexual tendencies and homosexual practice.

And do you know that in every major congregation you meet, it is estimated that at least 5% of people have this problem. Maybe unconfessed, maybe just a desire, maybe in full practice. But

one of the sad things is that, and I want to be careful when I say this, our evangelical churches are shot full with that and with sexual abuse.

No wonder it's hard to bring about revival. No wonder it's hard to demonstrate holiness. And I think primarily because if anyone confesses to sin, we put them, as Will said, on probation.

And we tell them that they have to confess it now in front of the whole church. My dear friends, I am not for that the least. I believe that when someone comes in repentance and confession, that you follow them through in counseling and teaching and you keep an eye on them and you help them not to condemn them, but that they might be formed into the image of Christ and into the bonds of Jesus.

Think about it. Think of what we do. We're like the Pharisees that dragged that woman in front of the whole crowd.

And we get someone, we drag them in front of the crowd and we say, do you see what kind of a sinner she is? There has to be a place of restoration and forgiveness and follow-up and accountability. And the fourth thing is there's an eager renewal of all outlets of Christian service. A eager renewal.

Have you wondered why you have such few workers in your church? There has to be an eager renewal for that outlet of Christian service. I found that most of the time, if you do not have workers, you do not have because you do not ask. I find also because there is no revival spirit among the people.

If you have a movement for God, people want to join that movement, but they don't want to be part of something that's going nowhere. And consequently, few workers and few commitments. Yes, I understand that in that they have what is known as the gifts of God's Spirit in operation, which usually do not include, and oh, you're going to get me for this, music and writing, but they're supernatural gifts of the Spirit.

And God says to the church that is eager to participate, there are no spectator sports in this place. All must be involved in Christ's service. It is not saying I'm going to church to hear the preacher, hear the singer and to see what's going on.

Or for Sunday morning smorgasbord, when after all I've worked hard all week and I've come for the pastor to feed me. My friends, there is no such thing. We listen and participate so we can go out and use what they said.

There is the preaching and hearing of the word of God. Fifthly, under the anointing of the spirit, should I should I say this to you that more people are buying Bibles today than ever before. If you happen to show them a variety of Bibles.

Also, there's a change taking place in North America. As you know, I'm quite often three or four years ahead and saying some of this. But friends, people are not looking today for what I'm

doing, a lecture style sermon.

They want participation and the stories are the but the sermons are backed up by stories and drama. And maybe missing what God has for this generation, because this is a heart generation, not a head generation. And I have a son, a son-in-law that's well up in IBM.

I have another son-in-law that's teaching law. And I thank God for them. I have a son.

He was in a million dollar business now. And I listen to what they have to say. I have a daughter that's a marriage counselor and therapist, all believers.

And I sit down with them, as I did with my son last night. And he runs through a business deal that he's making for a million dollars. And he said, I hardly know what to do about the relationship because sometimes people change their minds so quickly.

And I listen to what this IBM man has to say about a seven million dollar deal and how they do it. And I realize they're so full of head. They've heard so much their head is just whirling.

But they come in wanting their heart filled, wanting to be anointed, touched, inspired, lifted up, energized, instructed how to walk with God. They're not interested in your Sunday morning lecture. You say, well, some are.

Well, maybe so. But my friend, this is a generation that we got to reach for God. And we have to realize that it has to be in relevant terms, that communication anointed by the spirit of God and right where people are.

These men want to know, how do I overcome depression? How do I live for God in front of so many critical executives? How can I live for God when they want to put in some radical terms in a business offer to undermine it? It's not quite straightforward. What do I do? What do I do when I have 50 students in front of me in a law class and they need to know when they're arguing, how do I teach them ethical law? You see, that's where people are today. And I found out that most of the people from my congregation knew more than I know.

But one thing I had to know, I had to know the terms of the spirit and of living with God and how to communicate and how to take that word and make it real to them as well. And then how to make the word live, maybe through drama and singing, you know, maybe loud singing, maybe quiet singing, but it's being communicated. Yes, and the sixth thing, there is a growing boldness in prayer that affects the church.

A boldness. What is taking place today? Well, there are concerts of prayer. There are summits of prayer.

And individually in local churches, there is an increase of a prayer concern. And we need to pray, oh God, help us to understand the terms of prayer and to pray in the spirit and to pray with knowledge. When I was first saved, as you know, out of a checkered background, I was in

the Clarksburg church.

And that was when they had it on the second floor and it's closed now. And the preacher looked to me and he said, Al, will you lead us in prayer? And I was always very frank and I said, well, I'd be glad to if I knew what to say. And he said, you're really in tough shape, aren't you? I said, I sure am.

I've never prayed. Wouldn't you like to have heard Saul or Paul when he was in that room for the three days and three nights? And God said to Ananias, and behold, he prays. And notice in that language, the Lord said then he said, behold, he prayeth.

And and I can't imagine how he prayed. I can't imagine what he said. Maybe it was like Mel Trotter that said after he had been saved of Pacific Garden Mission, what did you say when you prayed, Mel? I said, God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

And the old saint of God said, you can't pray that way. It's not dispensationally correct. And Mel Trotter said, I was so hungry and I wanted somebody, I want to help.

And I wanted Jesus so much. I think if I looked up and said, and Mary had a little lamb, its fleece was white as snow, that God knowing that was all I knew, he would have heard me and would have saved me by his grace. There is nothing more joyful than participating in prayer and knowing that God is there.

What an opportunity to introduce others to the Lord Jesus Christ. What an opportunity to introduce others to prayer. What a privilege just to come before the Lord and talk.

I had a man in my service that in our church, many of you will know him, he'd been divorced four times and married the fifth time. And he got saved. And his philosophy is God hates divorce.

He said, certainly that's not what we have to go through. And I wish things were different. And I said to him, Dave, you need to pray in church.

Oh, I couldn't open my mouth. I said, you do. And I said, one of these Sundays I'm going to get after you.

And he was standing in the front seat with his eyes closed, of course, saying amen to everybody else's prayer on the left of the platform. And I looked down at him. And of course, the DS didn't know anything about this.

And when I confronted him, I said, Dave, God wants you to pray this morning. So pray. And he shook his head and he said no.

And I said, yes, it's not no, it's yes. And he opened his mouth to pray. And I'll tell you, prayed the simplest, childlike, most beautiful prayer that I'd ever heard.

And since that time, he's one of the first ones to pray every time. I wouldn't advise you to do that. I just felt led of the Lord, you know.

Then there is a remarkable ease in witness and in evangelism and certainly a positive influence on that non-church community. Whether we like it or not, today is the day to be seeker sensitive. Not with a traditional church, without it.

Don't ever introduce that type of a service into a regular Sunday morning service. Get them apart, have it on Saturday night, as Henry Shore has it, with 300 people on Saturday night in a Saturday night live that would never be accepted on Sunday morning. And people coming in there who need God.

I preached there on a Saturday night and what a joy it was. But I have found out that when you try and mix them, it's disaster. So don't mix them, just do it.

A seeker sensitive. And I'm going to ask the question now, are you able to reproduce? Can you tell the wonderful works of Jesus? Are you able to entreat others to come to Jesus? It is natural. It's a way of life.

You don't have to be a talker. You don't have to put it in great theological terms, but you need to put it in a way that people understand and it becomes truly a way of life. But friends, last of all, there is a consensus despite outward circumstances of the of an unusual sense of well-being and holiness and wholeness.

Let me explain this. Do you have a sense of wholeness in the camp? Do you have a sense of spiritual well-being? Do you have a feeling that this is what Jesus wants? Are you sure that he is approving of what we do and how we're thinking? There are many of our churches I go to friends. I have a feeling of wholeness and well-being.

I have many of our churches that I go to that I realize there is not wholeness and well-being and it's not critical. It's to have a sense of revival, to find the current signs of revival. And on these eight things that I've mentioned to you, these are eight of the current signs of revival that when you see them appear, you can understand that the Lord is appearing in his church and revealing himself.

It's a sense of process. It doesn't happen overnight and everything does not happen at once, but thank God it does happen. Dennis, what time do we finish? Oh, that's okay.

Are you tired? Let's stand and sing a verse of revivals again, shall we? Thus saith the Lord. And we'll go on from there. I'm going to make a confession to you.

That's the sign of revival. We have five children when all four were born. See, one said it's twins, so it had to be four when all four were born.

I was away conducting evangelistic meetings somewhere and in order to see my second girl,

one week after she was born, my wife traveled all the way to Elkhart, Indiana to show me my lovely second daughter. Oh, you say, Alf, are you proud of that? No, I feel utterly lost in my spirit because of it. I realized I did not share with my wife as I should.

When I hear of the young men today and when a child is being born, they are right there when it's happening. They see everything. What a closeness, what a oneness, what a joy.

You remember I traveled with Art Perry and that Italian singer who was here and he decided to be there when his wife was giving birth to the second child. He wasn't there for the first one and he stood there and he finally said to his wife, I can't stand it. I can't stand it.

And he said, I'm leaving. She said, you get back here. You should have walked away nine months ago.

That was one of those off-handed illustrations that I had prepared. So, Lord, please forgive me if it wasn't right. And I'll quit at 1130.

Dear friends, this is called spiritual delivery and it's only when you understand the birthing process that you can see the birthing process in your own church. And these are fundamental to that living. In a day when all forms of evil are blatant and there is a sense of deep dissatisfaction within the hearts of people, when they look at the world, this will be first in the birthing process.

The world is being affected far more by society than the church is affecting the world. And when you step back and look, ask yourself the question, Lord, there is blatant evil in the world, but how am I going to affect this world generously, kindly, reverently in the spirit? How can I touch this world around me and not just say, oh, everything is going to the dogs, everything is evil, there is a blatant rebellion against Jesus and everything. How are you affecting your world? You see, we all affect our world in some way.

I was to a wedding just a few months ago. And as I sat at the table with seven Bay Street lawyers, brother, did I ever feel like the little pimple among them? And my neighbor was sitting next to me. The waitress came along and said, you will all have some wine.

And she put the bottles down and she said, let me pour it for you. And I said, no, thank you. Do you have a limon soda? So that's a good thing to do.

It sounds almost real. And. Boy, boy, some of the things will do it terrible.

And they and she said, oh, have some. Don't be don't kill the party. And I said, don't thank you.

Well, with that, my neighbor, who is a Presbyterian and and was himself going to have a glass of wine, said this isn't right for you to do that. He got up and he went out and he got the manager and he said, your waitress embarrassed our pastor by asking him if he wants wine and he doesn't drink. Oh, I was feeling so small by then.

And he came back and apologized. Well, these Bay Street lawyers, all sophisticated, sharp and sharp. And they did find God almost lost his teeth on that one.

And they said, what's wrong with you? Well, I said, gentlemen, it's this way. You have a smiling face. Often at four in the morning, I get a telephone call.

I'm with parents whose son has been killed in a car accident. And I went on like this. And I said, you see, that's all because of booze, alcohol, wine.

So I admit that made there may not be anything wrong with taking a glass of wine, but I register my vote against it because of what I see in the blatant evil of this world. Now, I understand why you drink, because after all, you make your living out of divorces, broken families, car accidents. They all looked at me, but I want to tell you, none of them drank wine at that wedding.

Well, you may say, well, we would not be have such ingenuity. We would not say such things. But you know, a pastor has a very real opportunity here to swear, talk about their girlfriends, what they drink on fishing trip.

You'll have to pardon me. Fishing trips. Oh, God, why did I have a stroke? You understand why I'm embarrassed so many times and most fools would keep their mouth shut, but I can't.

And I said, you wonder why these things happen, but these men do it. And then to stand there after 10 minutes and they say, what do you do? Oh, so I'm a pastor. And then language changes, scenes change, recreation changes, everything.

Pastors have a very real chance to witness, but so do you as believers. And we must remember that God wants us to change the world. Also, in the second in the Birth, Thanksgiving Revival, within core groups of believers, a vision comes alive regarding what could be and the protection.

They have a ministry of prayer, which is started and just a general loving growth in God's Word. For instance, it's wonderful to share information with other believers. It's wonderful also to stay with it in God's Word, to have fellowship groups, to talk together, to promote each other in holiness.

I think when a church establishes maybe a dozen prayer groups, there's a sign of revival going on. And we have within the group of believers a vision coming alive. But it must be a vision of prayer, talking about what God will do.

My friends, it cannot be the usual cell group in the missionary church, a place of fellowship, a place of opinions and a place of gossip. That's what most cell groups result in. And you have to keep it alive.

You have to talk about Jesus. You have to share a vision. You have to say who Jesus is and

unconditionally look at these people and say, I've been neglectful in this area and I want you to please lay hands on me and pray for me.

No, I won't let everybody lay hands on me because I believe if a person has a wrong spirit, they may transfer that wrong spirit to me. I want men of God to lay hands on me. I want women of God to pray for me and lay on hands.

And the third thing is, in this standing of prayer, God begins to richly anoint with the gifts of the Spirit and there's an overwhelming sense of conviction felt. You say the anointing, the gifts. Yes, I found out that when we move around, the gifts of the Spirit operate in the church in direct proportion to the spiritual life of the church.

I was at a camp in Michigan just a few days ago. Actually, it was over in Muskegon. We had a very fine camp there.

And the Spirit of God was a missionary church camp was moving among us. And I found that when the people came forward and I began to pray, all of a sudden there was stimulated within me a word of knowledge and a word of wisdom. And I could not believe that God was imparting that gift in such unusual power.

I've been to some of our campus and colleges and churches, and I think we're aware of the fact that when the Spirit of God is moving an unusual way, I have seen some of the unusual healings taking place of a leg that had been ripped apart as a result of an accident of a lady who had a curvature of the spine since the age of five in one of our churches. A well-known lady could testify to it, backed up by medical evidence, had that spine straightened. But dear friends, we long for the supernatural.

We long for what God will do happening in a natural way, but it will come in these birth pains as we recognize the gifts of the operation of the Spirit of God. And I said to my church many times, in fact, you can throw me out now, I think would be a wonderful history to say 47 years of preaching in the missionary church. And then Alfre Scott thrown up for the gifts of the spirit.

Would that be good? And I said in my own church that God manifests himself this way among the layman. And there was excitement and the movement. Why did fear fall upon the New Testament church? Because the gifts of the spirit were in operation.

And they're apt to look down and say Ananias or Sapphira and great fear came upon the church and great joy will come because we operate in an organization rather than an organism. And God wants us to come alive, my friends, just as he did in our assembly about four years ago. And I don't mind saying this.

It doesn't happen with some speaking out and saying, thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel. It happens in a very natural way. We talk.

It doesn't happen as a result of a person having some interpretation that's a way out. But do

you remember that Sunday morning service we sat in 600 present in Calgary? And as we were there, the Lord said to me, you go up and stand in between the two district superintendents and speak. And I said, I can't do that, Lord, after I'm the president.

But I am under them. I recognize them as my spirits are covering and I recognize that this morning does. And when I could no longer sit there, I got up and eased my way in very quietly.

They looked at me and I said, does anyone have a word for the Lord this morning? And all was dead silence. And a lady was sitting in the congregation and one pastor said to her she was shaking and said, let's bind the devil. And the other one was on the other side and said, sister, you just let go.

No, but God wants you to do. You've heard that happy for that. That happened to the assembly.

She said, I stood up. And when I stood up, I didn't know what was happening. There was a bald headed gentleman in front of me, and I thought I was going to be ill and I could see his head and I thought I was going on his head.

And she said, instead of that, all of a sudden I began to speak other words. I had never, never done that before. And she spoke out and there was a deadly silence over the whole place.

Paul Smith was there. Blessed be the memory of our dear brother. And in fact, he was so rigid that if anyone in his congregation of the people's church would raise their hands, he'd tell them to put them down.

And it's a woman spoke. I said, does anyone have the interpretation? And a red hot fellow stood up. He said, that's that the Lord, the mountains will flow down to your presence.

He said all this. And I thought if God wanted to say that, he'd tell me in English. And he said that in the word.

Why would he tell me something that that is otherwise it would have to be in keeping with the word, but certainly not that. So I said, does anyone have the interpretation? In other words, your interpretation is wrong. Does anyone have the right one? And a well-known pastor amongst it up and said, there are five ministers in the missionary church who are guilty of immorality.

And if they'll forgive, if they'll find forgiveness, God will bless the church before that assembly was over. Three had made an admission admission, but in two months, two more had. That's why I feel that we're going through the birth pains revival.

It hurts my friends. Sometimes it hurts our knowledge, hurts our dignity. And I was afraid that as the president of the whole conference, I thought, are you willing to lay your life on the line for this? And I said, yes, Lord, you cause your gifts to operate in a good way in the way that you would have to honor your name.

And I'll recognize your gifts. I thank you, Lord. Believers then experience the forgiveness of sins, plus a new spirit of victory.

And on non-believers are strikingly converted. When the birth pains are going on, you go through the first three or four, you can believe that there will be a mighty wave of converts. And as I conducted crusades across the country, I think as you friends know, during that period of time, there were about 150 area wide citywide crusades.

And when the people prayed and believe God and trusted him and were almost to the end of their way, I saw each place a mighty wave of converts. People said, oh, it's a wonderful evangelistic meeting. I said, no, it's a wonderful time of prayer and revival.

I was in Salmon Arm, British Columbia, when seven doctors of a medical center, all unsaved, all seven came forward and gave their life to Christ one night. Someone said, boy, that must have been powerful preaching. No, I found that with me, it's not that.

But I found powerful anointing because the Holy Spirit work through believers experience flood and wind, and it will spread supernaturally when the fires begin to fall. My friends, this tabernacle in the evening could not contain half the people of the missionary church. I know hundreds of missionary church people.

I've lived with you for a long time, and I know them, and I never see them at standard camp. Why is that? They may not like the camp. They may not like the hard benches.

They may not like the waiting around all day, knowing not what to do. There are a lot of reasons. They're too busy.

They have so many issues in life. But my friends, you send that revival spirit, and there will be floods, fire, and wind. And you'll have to put chairs in here while you say, ah, that's just trying to provoke us to motivation.

No, my friend, it's trying to provoke us to the spiritual energy of fire and dynamic that will bring people in. I found out that the churches that really fill in in the most remote places are the places where revival fires are burning. But they always begin with a special presence, a sense of God's presence.

Harold and Berthy, you remember some of those good days in the old Banfield Church before we built the new one. We used to have Arabs, Jews, black people, Buddhists, hippies walk into the church. They'd come to the door, and they did shed tears, not even the Christian.

And they'd say, at last I'm home. Well, I wasn't worried about my sermon and the style of the service. They were well prepared because there was an overwhelming sense of God's presence.

You're attracted back to these grounds, not because of the trees in the building. You're attracted back because it's holy ground, because you sense the presence of God. But my

friends, let that presence be felt to all in sundry who come around, love them, pray for them, make it a place of prayer, a place of conviction, a place of life, a place of the Word, a place where high standards are held up, a place where we're directly spoke to do.

And I believe, friends, that God can bless Stainer Camp as no other place on earth. I come every year because I'm committed to you, not because I'm just committed to the camp. And then, last of all, there's a renewed commitment to ministry on the part of all true believers that results also in great social benefits.

We begin to look out and understand people are in need, people broken. And we say to someone that hasn't got the social benefits, come and stay in my cottage with me. Come and stay in my trailer, in my tent.

Come and I'll sleep in the tent and you sleep in my trailer, better still. Come to camp and it won't cost you anything. I'll buy all of your meal tickets while we're there.

Come because I want you to enjoy the presence of Jesus, because I love being with the people of God. And you will when you get in there and you sense the singing and the presence and the ministry of God's Word and life and people that are energetic and feel that this is the best thing since sliced bread. Well, you'll find that it will contaminate others in the real way.

It's contagious. See how you haven't changed very much. My friends, I feel it deeply and all of these things.

Why? Because I have been with you and I have served you all of my life and I've tried to be one among you and I love you in Christ Jesus, but I long to see God working in an unusual way. Will you determine to go through the birth pangs of revival? They're only six, but they're very, very important. And as you do, believe it or not, you'll finally produce the child as God allows you to.