



REPORTS FROM THE FIELD EMPOWERNOTES

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HOW **NOT** TO BLOW OUT THE FLAME OF REVIVAL

Dr. G and Jolynn have carried on a faith ministry for over 8 years now—on nearly every continent. Everywhere they go, the Gugliotto’s point people to Christ and stir up intense interest in Bible study and prayer. Recently, one of their online students spoke with his pastor to arrange for them to conduct a workshop there.

The Gugliotto’s had spoken there about five years ago; but while the congregation responded favorably at the time, the pastor told the student: “*They didn’t connect with the people here. I’m not interested in bringing them back.*” While the Gugliotto’s aren’t perfect, they went to that church to connect its’ people with the God of the Bible—so they would stay con-nected; but the congregation focused instead on them, and squandered the potential benefits from their visit. What went wrong?

Why did the people start out so strongly—as they do at most churches—only to pass up the opportunity for *revival* the LORD brought to them?

The pastor’s claim, based on the less than enthusiastic opinion of some members, isn’t anything new. Churches often blame evangelists and revivalists for any short-lived results. But the pastor’s refusal to accept the student’s exciting report about his weekly, online study group and our meetings that he attended at a nearby church, exposes the greatest obstacle to revival facing Christians, today: *complacency*. Self-satisfaction will be the death for many of us.

Who Needs Revival?

Sin is a difficult concept for some Christians. While a few unwisely excuse their shortcomings, far more find it even harder to admit they *still* sin after conversion.

The apostle Paul addressed this issue when he scolded the Romans: “*Therefore you are without excuse, every one of you who passes judgment, for in that you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things (2:1).*” Everybody sins; so when we condemn someone else we also condemn ourselves, since we are sinners too! If we sin less than we used to, give the credit to Christ. As Paul says, “*we live by faith*” in Christ (1:17); so any improvements in us come from dependence on Him.

Jesus is, after all, “*The way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Him (John 14:6).*” Yet, some people actually think that belonging to a particular *church*, believing certain *doctrines*, or practicing an approved *lifestyle* determines whether or not they enter the Kingdom.

A Class to Remember

Many self-satisfied people interpret the Bible by what they already know, senselessly expecting the text to fit their incomplete theology—and miss the joy of hearing God’s voice in the text, to learn its’ meaning straight from the writer’s inspired words!

Who Needs Revival (Cont’d.)

When Jesus calls on His disciples to: “Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matthew 6:33),” He urges them to *crave (seek)* **two** things: (1) the utopia when God will rule the world without opposition; and (2) God’s *personal* righteousness—the righteousness that comes from God—because *any* righteousness we come up with is no better than *filthy rags* (Isaiah 64:6). When Paul says that God’s righteousness comes to us through the Good News about Jesus (Romans 1:16, 17), he simply echoes what Jeremiah said, long ago: “*The LORD is our righteousness (23:5).*” Christians should *crave the Kingdom and Christ*; we can’t wait for this present evil age to end, and we can’t get enough of Jesus.

The Spirit makes it possible for Christ to meet this need we have for constant interaction with Him, by strengthening our inner person (the new, converted us), “*so Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith (Eph 3:16).*” In this way, Christ is able to move in and settle down in our hearts to personally direct our transformation.

As a result, we can: (1) develop a full appreciation for the love God has shown us in the death, burial, and resurrection of His beloved Son; and (2) become all that God wants us to be (3:17-19).

The person we used to be was crucified with Christ, to destroy the body ruled by sin—and make room for the new us—a project that requires the old person to stay on his cross until he dies. Our new person needs constant support to outlast the “old man;” so the Spirit continuously supplies our new person with strength to stay connected to Christ until we are filled with all the fullness of God and there is no room left for “our former self.” We must never be self-satisfied; we must die and experience revival every day.

How Do We Prepare for Revival?

Some people think the Spirit works in spite of us; and sometimes he does—when He uses us. But to work inside of us, He needs our cooperation; we have to want a partnership with the Spirit—even if we are His junior partners. Revival doesn’t just happen; we must prepare for it.

Why must God’s people *prepare* for revival? Shouldn’t their current relationship with the Spirit provide enough of a connection for Him to juice their link with Christ? The answer, sad to say, is, “**No!**” and the prophet Hosea explained **why** to the people of God in his day. He advised them: “*Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of unfailing love, and break up your fallow ground; for it is time to*

Prepare for Revival (Cont’d.)

seek the LORD, until he comes and showers righteousness on you (10:12).”

At times, Israelites became so content with crops that they stopped planting land they previously plowed. To prepare ground for a fresh planting, they dragged a harrow over it, to break up clods of dried earth, remove weeds, and sink seeds scattered on the surface, into it. Hosea accused God’s people of being so self-satisfied, that they let their hearts dry up and become too hard for planting. So, he urged them to break break up the dried soil, remove weeds, and sink the seed of God’s righteousness, His Word, into their hardened hearts. In other words, if they prepared their hearts, God would water the seed of His Word to produce righteousness in them.

How do believers prepare their hardened hearts for planting God’s Word to produce a fresh crop of righteousness? Hosea told God’s people they had

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Scoring Points for Jesus

Prepare for Revival (Cont'd.)

planted wickedness and reaped evil (10:13). Since we have been too content with ourselves and our ways to notice the problem, we can break up our self-satisfied hearts by asking the LORD to *search* them for any *wicked* ways, and then to lead us in His way—the everlasting one, like David did in Psalm 139. We should let Him see our sins of omission—what we should have done but didn't do, as well as our sins of commission—when we fell short of the mark and missed sharing the prize of deeper transformation. We must do this one sin at a time: we committed them one by one, and we should repent of them the same way, as the Spirit brings up each sin. Unless you are right with God again and filled with the Spirit, you cannot help others to find the joy of forgiveness and restored fellowship with God.

**WE LOOK FORWARD
TO YOUR ONGOING,
TIMELY SUPPORT
ON AUGUST 1st**

In the past, we lacked the means to follow up in such a way that those who had attended our workshops could *follow through, master the skills we showed them, and conduct true, biblical, evangelistic-discipleship in their areas*. Now we have several signs pointing to the wonderful future God has planned for us.

Online Study Groups

An Old Friend Climbs Aboard

We recently contacted one of our long time supporters and friend, Henry Martinez of Livermore, CA to discuss the success of our online study groups. When we explained how easy it was to join, he wasted no time downloading Skype and phoned Tommi Emerson, our Online Group Coordinator from Billings, MT for set up instructions. Henry joined us online the next evening and enjoyed it so much, that one of our mutual friends phoned to tell us how excited he was. When Dr. G spoke with him, again, Henry not only raved about QuikStudy, but he also claimed, after years of struggling with firsthand study, "*I finally get it!*" Then he remembered a workshop he attended at a very large church that expressed **enormous** enthusiasm for our old, *Simplified* study method—but failed to capitalize on the spirit of revival—and moaned: "*If only you could have followed up like this with that church; they would still be going great guns today!*" Since then, he has taken it upon himself to ask churches we have served in the past to invite us back. Our *powerful calls for revival, the easier-than-ever QuikStudy method, and our new ability to follow up over the Internet* has convinced Henry that we should revisit every congregation to connect them again with the God of the Bible. He sees the potential we now have to prolong the benefits of workshops and to help them develop the skills they need to stay connected with Christ from now on.

Confused or Enlightened?

Hi Everyone:

I'm really enjoying studying my Bible with the new techniques I'm learning. As I worked on the Textsheet to color-code Romans 7:14-25 this week, I kept going back and making changes. Every time I would see something different and I thought it was because I was getting confused. When I mentioned it to Pastor Lee, he explained that it was because the Holy Spirit was leading me to new thoughts each time. That made study even more exciting and I praise the Lord for His working with and through me.

Thank you Jesus for directing me to this new way to study,

Loni Fischer Mooers

Two special notes: After going into remission last year, word has come to us that longtime friend, Elder Gerri Patzer is battling cancer again. Please put him back on your prayer lists. **Also**, radio ministry, Voice of Prophecy has undergone a major leadership change and needs your prayer support!

Connecting people with the God of the Bible—to stay connected, since 2000

On Fire for the Lord

A Lesson from the Context

Here are some updated guidelines for describing how passages *lead up to* and *prepare* the way for one another when you target a passage for study at the top of QuikStudy Worksheet 2. To see the connection, look for what the passages have in common:

- If they **share** *same* or *similar* words, phrases, people, places, things, or ideas. These **catchwords** often appear at the end of one passage and at the start of the other, and attract our attention when we see that **one** in the *first* passage matches **one** in the *other*. For example, in Psalms 23 and 24:
 - Psalm 23 *closes* with the thought of “*dwelling in the house of the LORD, forever*”
 - Psalm 24 talks about a city with “*everlasting doors*”
 - Our eyes “**draw**” an imaginary line between the words “*forever*” and “*everlasting*” that links both Psalms to each other
- If words, phrases, people, places, things, or ideas in one are *opposites* of those in the other, as in the case of Romans 1:24-32 and 2:1-4:
 - Romans 1:24-32 *closes* with the word “**approve**”
 - Romans 2:1-4 *opens* with the word “**condemn**”
 - These *opposite* words establish a **literary bridge** between the passages
- If the writer **repeats** items, remember that passages often **link together** with words, phrases, people, places, things, or ideas they *repeat and share*
 - The bridge between “**approve**” in 1:24-32 and “**condemn**” in 2:1-4, sets up *repeated* references to “**judging**” in Romans 2:1-4 [*judge* (3X in 2:1), *judgment* (1X in 2:2), and *judge* (1X) + *judgment* (1X in 2:3)]
 - The **link** between **condemn** and **judge** confirms **linkage** between the two passages

SPECIAL HINT: Some writers, like Paul, use summaries at the *end* of passages to transition from one to another—a catchword in the summary at the *end* of the passage **before** links it to a catchword at the *beginning* of the *next*. Such is the case with the word “**approve**” at the *end* of Romans 1:24-32 and the *opposite* word “**condemn**” at the *beginning* of 2:1-4.

Exciting Developments

One of our faithful online students, Darrell Wilson, writes:

Dear Pastor Lee:

I'm very thankful for the opportunity to learn to study the bible in a more in depth way. I want Jesus to be more real to me and to all people. This study has Jesus at its very core. What a blessing! Since I joined this online Bible study, a thought has been in the back of my mind: this would be a good way to study with people from all denominations, helping them to know Jesus and drawing them into a closer relationship with Him. God prompted me to ask a few people to see if they would be interested in learning how to study the bible. The response was very positive! If God wants this to happen, He will help to get enough people together to start a group. So far there are 15 people who have indicated they are anxious to learn, with more a possibility. Praise God!

One week after this email, Darrell sent us 18 names to contact. We'll report what happened—next month!

August 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31 <- July	1 Study Romans for 3ABN TV Edit DVD's	2 Preaching at Reno 2PM Online Study
3 A day with the LORD and my family	4 Study Romans for 3ABN TV Edit DVD's 4PM, 7PM Online	5 Study Romans for 3ABN TV Edit DVD's 6PM Online Study	6 Study Romans for 3ABN TV Edit DVD's	7 Study Romans for 3ABN TV Edit DVD's 8PM Online Study	8 Study Romans for 3ABN TV Edit DVD's	9 Preaching 2PM Online Study
10 A day with the LORD and my family	11 Study Romans for 3ABN TV Edit DVD's 7PM Online Study	12 Study Romans for 3ABN TV Edit DVD's 6PM Online Study	13 Study Romans for 3ABN TV Edit DVD's	14 Travel to Fairfield, CA 8PM Online Study	15 Digging Deeper Workshop at Fairfield, CA	16 Digging Deeper Workshop at Fairfield, CA
17 Digging Deeper Workshop at Fairfield, CA	18 Digging Deeper Workshop at Fairfield, CA 4PM Online Study	19 Digging Deeper Workshop at Fairfield, CA Study Romans	20 Digging Deeper Workshop at Fairfield, CA Study Romans	21 Digging Deeper Workshop at Fairfield, CA Study Romans	22 Digging Deeper Workshop at Fairfield, CA Study Romans	23 Digging Deeper Workshop at Fairfield, CA
24 Travel to Reno	25 Study Romans for 3ABN TV Edit DVD's 4PM, 7PM Online	26 Study Romans for 3ABN TV Edit DVD's 6PM Online Study	27 Study Romans for 3ABN TV Edit DVD's	28 Study Romans for 3ABN TV Edit DVD's 8PM Online Study	29 Study Romans for 3ABN TV Edit DVD's	30 Preaching 2PM Online Study
31 A day with the LORD and my family	1 -> September	2	3	4	5	6

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