

7 Important Lessons From the Azusa Street Revival

Author's Note: In 2005, I was asked to edit the Azusa Street Papers, published between 1906-08, for publication and write an introductory chapter. The book was subsequently published by Charisma House under the title Fire on the Earth: Eyewitness Reports from the Azusa Street Revival, and used as the official book for the Azusa Centennial held in Los Angeles in 2006.

In doing the research, which required reading through those papers again and again, certain emphases and themes stood out—emphases and themes that need to be revisited by those seeking revival in our day.

I have, therefore, categorized below quotes from those old Azusa Street Papers, known as The Apostolic Faith, that will guide us in our quest for revival in the 21st century. —Eddie Hyatt

1. Stay focused on Jesus

“We do not have time to preach anything else but Christ. The Holy Spirit has not time to magnify anything but the Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are simply a voice shouting, “Behold the Lamb of God!” When we commence shouting something else, then Christ will die in us. If Christ be lifted up, he will draw all men unto Himself” (January 1907).

2. Measure Everything by the Word

“We are measuring everything by the Word, every experience must measure up with the Bible. Some say that is going too far, but if we have lived too close to the Word, we will settle that with the Lord when we meet Him in the air” (September 1907).

“Do we need to study the Bible as much after receiving the Holy Ghost? Yes, if not we become fanatical or many times will be led by deceptive spirits and begin to have revelations and dreams contrary to the Word, and begin to prophesy and think ourselves some great one, bigger than some other Christians. But by reading the Bible prayerfully, waiting before God, we become just humble little children, and we never feel that we have got more than the least of God’s children” (October 1907- January 1908).

“The Corinthian church was one of Paul’s most gifted churches, and just as it is today, where a church is very gifted, the only safeguard from deceptive spirits is by rightly dividing the Word of God, to keep out of fanaticism. We must rightly divide the Scriptures and compare Scripture with Scripture so that there is no confusion, and no deceptive spirit or wrong teaching may creep in”(January 1908).

3. Flow with the Spirit Without Becoming Fanatical

“Many times when we were receiving this blessed Pentecost, we all used to break out in tongues; but we have learned to be quieter with the gift. Often when God sends a blessed wave upon us, we all may speak in tongues for a while, but we will not keep it up while preaching service is going on, for we want to be obedient to the Word, that everything may be done decently and in order and without confusion” (January 1907).

“The demonstrations are not the shouting, clapping, or jumping so often seen in the camp meetings. There is a shaking such as the early Quakers had and which the old Methodists called the “jerks.” It is while under the power of the Spirit you see the hands raised and hear speaking in tongues. While one sings a song learned from heaven with a shining face, the tears will trickle down other faces” (October 1906).

4. Avoid Pride; Stay Humble

“We humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God and

constantly search the Scriptures to know His whole will and plan" (October 1906).

"There is no pope, Doweism or Sanfordism, but we are all little children knowing only Jesus and Him crucified. This work is carried on by the people of Los Angeles that God has united by the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit" (December 1906).

(Note from E. Hyatt: The references to "Doweism" and "Sanfordism" pertain to John Alexander Dowie and Frank Sanford, two of the most famous, charismatic ministers of the day who projected themselves as special end-time apostles and prophets).

5. Avoid Exaggerations

"Correction: We want to correct some errors that were in the last published report from Portland. It was stated that one hundred were baptized at the evening camp meeting. The saints believe there were not so many. The insane persons that were brought for healing were not fully healed, or else through lack in our faith and through weakness lost their healing. The saints want the simple truth stated about the work. Amen! May no one from any place send in a report that is overstated but rather let it be understated" (January 1908).

6. Realize that You Can Receive Directly from God

"Is it necessary to have hands laid on in order to receive the Holy Ghost? No, you can receive Him in your private closet. The gift of the Holy Ghost comes by faith in the Word of God. You may receive the Holy Ghost right now, that is, if you are sanctified. Take your Bible, turn to Acts 1:5, 'For John truly baptized with water, but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.' Read this verse of Scripture and cry out to the Father, 'Lord Jesus, baptize me with the Holy Ghost,' and believe the Lord with all your heart, and the power will fall" (October 1907- January 1908).

7. Equality of Women with Men in the New Era of the Spirit

“Before Pentecost, the woman could only go into the ‘court of the women’ and not into the inner court. But when our Lord poured out Pentecost, He brought all those faithful women with the other disciples into the upper room, and God baptized them all in the same room and made no difference. All the women received the anointed oil of the Holy Ghost and were able to preach the same as men. They both were co-workers in Eden and both fell into sin; so they both have to come together and work in the gospel” (January 1908). {eo}

If you would like to learn more about the Azusa Street Revival, and revival throughout Christian history, check out my book 2000 Years of Charismatic Christianity. To learn more about how revival impacted the founding of America, check out my book Pilgrims and Patriots. Both books are available from Amazon and my website at . To inquire about scheduling me to speak on the subject of revival/spiritual awakening, send an email to dreddiehyatt@.

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