

From Revival to Resurrection Power

On Saturday, March 6, during a time of worship, the Lord  spoke to my heart. I was caught up in His presence when the voice of God spoke these three things to me:

1. Church gatherings are about to experience a fresh wind of God's Spirit as whole meetings will be caught up in His manifest presence.
2. Mantles are soon to be released over the church, empowering people to do extraordinary things for the kingdom of God. Those who have been in a place of hiding and preparation are about to come forth in power.
3. The voice of the Lord will be heard not only from the pulpit, through anointed preaching and teaching, but also from the pews. A fresh anointing for the corporate prophetic utterance is about to be revived. God's voice will be heard through His people.

As I pondered these three revelations, the Lord began to speak to my heart about a shift that is coming in our mindsets concerning revival. God is transitioning the church from a "revival culture" to a "resurrection power culture."

A culture is a set of beliefs, values, practices, mindsets, actions, and behaviors practiced and esteemed by a group of people. Culture marks and characterizes your way of life. But before you can understand the difference between revival culture and resurrection power culture, you need to be aware of the spiritual season we are entering.

Prophetically, God is bringing His people into the time of the "Third Day." I want to explain to you what this means and how it will impact your life in this next season.

Hosea the prophet talks about the process of transitioning

from the First to the Second to the Third Day and what each day signifies. Hosea's prophecy can apply on multiple levels, as prophecy often does. It can apply to your personal journey in God as well as to the corporate journey and process of God's people.

Hosea 6:1-2 says, "Come and let us return to the Lord, for He has torn so that He may heal us; He has stricken so that He may bind us up. After two days He will revive us (quicken us, give us life); on the third day He will raise us up that we may live before Him" [Is. 26:19; Ezek. 37:1-10] (*The Amplified Bible*).

DAY ONE

"Come and let us return to the Lord."

The first day is marked by a turning to the Lord. It is all about rending our hearts and fully repenting of everything that grieves God's heart in our lives.

Acts 3:19 declares, "So repent (change your mind and purpose); turn around and return [to God], that your sins may be erased (blotted out, wiped clean), that times of refreshing (of recovering from the effects of heat, of reviving with fresh air) may come from the presence of the Lord."

To repent means to "change your mind and purpose." It means to change your way of thinking and what motivates you. Repentance causes us to turn around and walk in the exact opposite direction of our sin, back toward God.

This complete turning toward God causes all our sins to be cleansed and removed and releases a fresh wind of God's presence in our lives. His refreshing then brings restoration from the effects of sin. True repentance brings not only a change of mind and motive but also a change in behavior. Repentance brings true inner change that produces outward transformation.

DAY TWO

“After two days He will revive us (quicken us, give us life)”

Day Two is marked by revival. Revival means “to quicken and give life,” to bring something that is dead or dying back to life again. Revival is for the church. Revival brings an awakening to the hearts of God’s people. Revival causes us to be filled with the fresh life of God. It stirs us from spiritual complacency and apathy and ignites a zeal in our hearts for the things of God. It creates a passion in us for intimacy with God and for the things that move His heart, such as the lost.

During revival the church is refreshed, restored and set on fire again. Spiritual passion is ignited. God encounters us in a profound and deep way, awakening our hearts for Him. We often experience deep inner healing, freedom and personal victory during this stage. God’s manifest presence becomes real to us as we spend time fellowshiping with Him and just “laying on the floor” under His glory.

Though Day Two is glorious, we can’t stay there! Some love Day Two so much they never want to get off the floor. They love the goose bumps and encounters. They could just stay there forever. Entire “revival cultures” have been formed around Day Two. But God has more for us!

DAY THREE

“On the third day He will raise us up that we may live before Him.”

God is bringing us into “Third-Day living.” On Day One we repent and turn to God. On Day Two we are revived, awakened and refreshed. On Day Three we are raised up to live before Him in power.

God is transitioning the church from a “revival culture” to a

“resurrection power culture.” Day Three is all about being raised up in resurrection power, as the prophet Ezekiel’s experience shows. God took Ezekiel to a valley filled with dry bones and commanded him to prophesy life to them.

“Again He said to me, Prophesy to these bones and say to them, O you dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. [John 5:28] Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath and spirit to enter you, and you shall live; and I will lay sinews upon you and bring up flesh upon you and cover you with skin, and I will put breath and spirit in you, and you [dry bones] shall live; and you shall know, understand, and realize that I am the Lord [the Sovereign Ruler, Who calls forth loyalty and obedient service].

“So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a [thundering] noise and behold, a shaking and trembling and a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And I looked and behold, there were sinews upon [the bones] and flesh came upon them and skin covered them over, but there was no breath or spirit in them.

“Then said He to me, Prophesy to the breath and spirit, son of man, and say to the breath and spirit, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath and spirit, and breathe upon these slain that they may live. So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath and spirit came into [the bones], and they lived and stood up upon their feet, an exceedingly great host [Rev. 11:11]” (Ezek. 37: 4-10).

First there is a divine alignment of the bones. This alignment signifies things being put in their proper places. The bones are shaken and brought together. When we turn in repentance to God, we get rightly aligned and joined to the rest of the body.

Once proper alignment occurs, then God revives the body by breathing into it. This is when He revives and awakens His

people. It's a glorious Second Day.

But then God continues to move, and eventually the body is not only filled with new life but also raised up so that it stands on its feet, an exceedingly great army!

This is the Third Day!

God is causing us to move beyond personal and corporate revival to serve as His great army in the earth. We became so filled to overflowing in the Second Day that now His power, glory and grace overflow from us to everyone around us. We begin to live before Him in resurrection power. We move in His dominion, kingdom authority to see His power go forth in the world around us. We get off the floor from "soaking in His presence" to being mobilized, equipped and empowered to do great and mighty exploits.

It's time to shift and move with the Holy Spirit into the next season. As God revives us, we must move with Him off our comfortable church floors into the world, where His resurrection power will be seen. Get ready to be a part of the Third-Day church that God is raising up in these last days!

About the author: Matt Sorger is a prophetic revivalist who ministers the Word and the power of the Holy Spirit in conferences, prophetic healing revival services and miracle crusades throughout America and around the world. He also hosts pastors and leaders conferences to train and equip leaders in the power of the Holy Spirit and is the host of his own television program, *Power for Life*. In his meetings, many are instantly healed and infused with greater passion for God. Learn more about him and his ministry at .