

GOD IS MOVING US INTO REVIVAL IN NORTHLAND

(Shiloah Christian Ministries – Hikurangi – 21/4/02 –EKB)

Readings: *Ps 85:6, Ps 138:7, Is 57:15, Hab 3:2, Ps 119:25, Hos 6:2.*

We are **moving into Revival** now in Northland. God is doing this.

By Revival we mean:

Restoring to fulness of life that which is in need of fulness of life.

Restoring the church to what it is meant to be.

Restoring the church to what we see the church is in the Book of Acts.

Example:

In January 1975, we were in a camp of about sixty members of our church on the Papamoa Beach Domain. About 6pm one evening, some of us went to swim in the surf. There was a man lying face down in the waves, washing backwards and forwards. They pulled him out, and carried him into our camp, where Grant, a doctor with us, tried to revive him if that was possible. Soon Grant decided to get him to hospital. We put him in the back of our station wagon with Grant, who continued to work on him as I drove as fast as possible to the hospital. With the aid of oxygen and resuscitation he was **revived back to life.**

In the book of Acts we see the church as it is meant to be, in the fulness of the life of God.

What is a church like when it has been REVIVED?

- It is a church of **PRAYER**, *Ac 1:14,15. (For ten days they prayed together.)*
[Jesus was crucified on Good Friday, He died and was buried in the tomb. On Easter Sunday He was raised again from the Dead and for forty days, hundreds of believers saw Him in His resurrected Body, *Ac 1:3, 1Cor 15:3-8*. At the end of the forty days He ascended into heaven to be seated at the right hand of God, *Ac 1:11, Heb 1:3*. From the day He ascended, His 120 disciples, men and women, **went to the upper room, Ac 1:13, and prayed for ten days.** They were waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit to empower them to take the Gospel of the Kingdom to the nation of Israel and to the Gentiles, *Ac 1:4,5,8*.]
- It is a church of **full commitment to do God's will**, *Ac 1:4,12-15, 4:20, 5:29*.
- It is a church **full of the Holy Spirit**, *Ac 2:1-4, 4:31*.
- It is a church **full of boldness to speak out God's Word on the streets and among the people**, *Ac 2:4-8,11, 4:29-31, 8:4*.
[From the day Jesus was crucified, His followers were very fearful and hid away, *Jn 20:19*, but after they were filled with the Holy Spirit, they were full of boldness.]
- It is a church **full of the preaching of God's Word out on the streets and among the people**, *Ac 2:14-40, 3:12-26, 4:8-12,19,20, 5:25,29-32*.
- It is a church **where many are saved and added to God's Kingdom**, *Ac 2:41,47, 4:4, 5:14*.
- It is a church **full of praise to God**, *Ac 2:11,47*.
- It is a church **where each new believer is disciplined to maturity in Christ**, *Ac 2:42,46*.
- It is a church of **humility, servanthood and caring for one another**, *Ac 2:43,44,45*.
- It is a church of **oneness and unity**, without envy, and the works of the flesh, *Ac 2:44,46,47*.
- It is a church of **power, miracles and healings**, *Ac 2:43, 3:6, 4:33, 5:12,15,16*.
- It is a church of **seeking the face of God**, *Ac 4:23-31*, **hearing His voice and being His witnesses**, *Ac 22:14,15*.

The Church in Revival witnesses, and preaches the Gospel of the Kingdom of God,
Mk 1:14,15.

This is the Good News of the Authority, Rule and reign of the Lord Jesus Christ. True freedom is living in the will of God.

Example: When I was 11 years old, my Sunday School teacher led me to personal faith in Christ as my Saviour from the guilt of sin and eternal hell, *Jn 3:16, 1Pet 2:24, 1Pet 3:18*. During the teenage years, however, I became entangled in activities and relationships that were not pleasing to God. One day, when I was 19 years old in a large Christian meeting at University, Jesus Christ came and stood in front of me. He said, “If you keep going the way you are, your relationship with Me will come to an end.” For 3 days I thought through the implications of surrendering my life totally to Christ. I, then, lay face down before Him and gave Him everything. From then on my Christian life went steadily uphill instead of downhill as before. Freedom is living in the will of God.

Jesus preached the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, *Mat 4:23, 9:35, 24:14, Mk 1:14,15*. In *Lk 11:2* He told us to pray for the Kingdom of God to come and His will to be done.

Faith in the Gospel of the Kingdom of God brings into peoples’ lives **full surrender to the Lordship of Christ, *Mat 7:21, Lk 6:46, Col 1:13***, and obedience to His will.

Jesus said, “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all your needs will be met.” *Mat 6:33*.

Faith in **the Kingdom of God brings into our lives righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, *Rom 14:17, Lk 17:20,21***.

In this way, the Church in Revival, witnessing, sharing and preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, **brings the rule of Christ into the hearts, lives, homes and families of many people.**

This strongly impacts on society values, behaviour, trends, standards and what Jesus told us to pray for becomes, in some measure, a present reality, *Lk 11:2*.

The Church of Jesus Christ in Revival is the vehicle to establish the Kingdom rule of God in the earth.

When God created Adam and Eve, He gave them full authority over the earth to govern it as His agents. He gave them His authority to rule on His behalf and establish His Kingdom and will, *Gen 1:26-28, Ps 8:4-8, Heb 2:6-8, Ps 115:16*. In *Gen 3:1-6*, man fell before the tempting lies of satan, disobeyed God’s command, *Gen 2:17*, and the authority man had been given by God was transferred to satan. Now satan became the “ruler of this world”, *Jn 12:31, 14:30*. The result was that God’s ability to work through man to establish His Kingdom in all the earth was severely limited.

God’s answer to this great dilemma was to send a Second Man, *1Cor 15:47*, Jesus Christ, who totally obeyed God, and restored the Kingdom of God and His rule in the earth, *Mat 12:28, Mat 10:7,8, Mat 4:17,23*. In Himself, He was the rule and reign of God in the earth. Through the Man, Christ Jesus, *1Tim 2:5*, who was also true God, *Tit 2:13, Jn 8:58, Is 9:6*, God’s rule and Kingdom was restored to the earth.

Through His death for our sins, *1Pet 2:24, 1Pet 3:18, 1Cor 15:3,4*, His burial and resurrection, everyone who believes in Him and is baptized in His Name, *Ac 2:38,39, Ac 8:16, Ac 19:5, Rom 6:3, Gal 3:27*, becomes “IN CHRIST”, *2Cor 5:17*, in His Kingdom, *Col 1:13*, in His rule and reign, *Rom 5:17*. Those in Christ are His agents to restore the Kingdom of God in the earth, *Lk 11:2*.

Every believer in Christ, and with Christ, is the ONE NEW MAN, *Eph 2:15*, which will fill the earth with the glory of God, *Num 14:21, Hab 2:14, Rev 11:15, Dan 2:35*.