

A Vision for Revival
Pastor Gary Piercy, PhD
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In the words of Amos, I am neither a prophet nor the son of a prophet (7:14). I can only report my experience and leave everything else in God's hands. In the mid-1990s, two friends and I visited Niagara Falls while attending the Toronto Airport Vineyard revival occurring at that time. We went to the Canadian side of the falls where I watched the enormous volume of water pouring over the side of the cliff creating the falls. The force and volume of water falling over cliff seemed unstoppable. Little did I realize the Lord would use that sight to awaken my heart to revival.

That night, we made our way to the church to participate in worship. After the sermon a member of the ministry team prayed for me, after which I found myself waiting quietly before the Lord. While waiting upon the Lord, my mind replayed the scene of the water falling over the cliffs of Niagara. I could vividly see the unstoppable and powerful force of the water cascading over the edge of the cliff. The massive volume of water pouring over the side seemed a force that could certainly overcome every obstacle in its path. While rehearsing that scene in my mind, the Lord impressed upon me that it was in this same way that he would pour out of his Spirit. The Lord's impression left me speechless. After the service, my friends and I went to a restaurant to eat; however, I remained overwhelmed by my experience and found myself unable to express my experience. Eventually, through tears I told my friends what I believed the Lord had shown me.

In 1996, in a state of depression, I resigned from the church, resigned my ordination, and moved home to Texas where I worked in our family business. I continued attending church with my family; however, I was not actively seeking the

Lord. However, God did not forsake me and through a series of events, in 2003, I once again began worshipping. Through worship, the Holy Spirit touched me, healed my spirit, and renewed my desire to fulfill God's calling upon my life eventually leading to my reinstatement in the denomination from which I had resigned and the beginning of a new church in January 2005.

In 2008, the Lord began challenging and leading me to many changes in my life and ministry. In June 2009, I went on a ministry trip to South Wales preaching in many churches witnessing the touch of the Spirit in the churches. Returning to Texas, the Lord began moving in the lives of the people at our church resulting in people coming to Christ and renewal in the lives of many believers. In May 2010, the Lord directed me to Habakkuk in which I reacquainted myself with the prophet's prayer, "Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord. Renew them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy" (3:2). Additionally, I read God's word to Habakkuk saying, "For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea" (2:14). Further, as I read the Book of Acts, I began realizing our desperate need for the present power of the Holy Spirit in our midst if we are to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). I also began praying the prayer of the early church saying, Lord "enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus" (Acts 4:29-30).

On June 7, 2010, I returned to South Wales to participate in ministry a second time. I carried the same message to these churches that I was proclaiming at home. I proclaimed the message that we need the present power of the Holy Spirit in the Church once again. I realized that the revivals of the past, including the Welsh revival, the Azusa Street Revival, the Jesus Movement of the 1960s and 1970s, the Toronto Blessing, and the Brownsville Revival, though great in their day, could not change the

present generation. I saw those revivals as *pockets of revival* as opposed to “cover[ing] the earth as the waters cover the sea” (Habakkuk 2:14). Further, the Lord proclaimed, “I will pour out my Spirit upon all people” (2:28). *All people* have yet to experience the glory of the Lord! As a result, I believe that God has an even greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit for this generation. I pray Habakkuk’s prayer, “Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord. Renew them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy” (3:2).

I returned home on June 15, 2010 and continued praying and seeking the Lord with regard to the great need for the present power of the Holy Spirit in the Church. The Lord began reminding me of the Niagara Falls experience of the mid-1990s. Once again, I saw in my mind’s eye the unstoppable power of the water flowing over the edge of the cliff and the Lord’s impression that in this way he was going to pour out of his Spirit. Such an outpouring of the Holy Spirit would be an unstoppable force that overcomes every obstacle to bring the saving power of Jesus Christ to world. On Thursday, June 24, 2010 after praying with my wife, I sensed the Lord directing me back to Habakkuk to these words: “Then the Lord replied: Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay” (2: 2-3). Thus, based on my experience at Niagara Falls, and what I believe God is showing me in his word, I am proclaiming that God will pour out of his Spirit in such a way that nothing will stop his Glory from covering the earth as the waters cover the sea in our generation.

Thus, I determined to write down what I believe is the Lord’s desire. I was uncertain as to the exact timing of our trip to Niagara Falls in the mid-1990s, but I checked with my friends in Illinois who went with me. It turned out that one of them keeps a diary and as a result, she was able to go back in her diary and find the exact day

that we visited Niagara Falls. The date was June 23, 1995, exactly 15 years and 1 day before the date the Lord directed me to write this account. I could not make this up!

For those in the ministry, I understand rules of exegesis and hermeneutics. I understand that there will be skeptics and some will ridicule my essay as unfounded. I would imagine if I were not the one writing this, that I would probably be among the skeptics and it is doubtful I would take the time to read the paper. However, though you may not accept what I believe the Lord is showing me, perhaps you could agree that the world of 2010 desperately needs a great spiritual awakening for which the Church of 2010 seems ill equipped as we have become little more than social gatherings void of the present power of the Holy Spirit.

I seek nothing but the glory of the Lord for this generation. I desire nothing other than to participate in God's tangible, genuine, present, biblical, and spiritual awakening for this generation. I have heard about past revivals. I have experienced God's touch in Toronto and Brownsville. Yet, past experiences do nothing for present needs. This generation needs the Holy Spirit's present power.

If you are hungry for God and desire to participate in a life-changing, culture-changing, and world-changing outpouring of the Holy Spirit, I invite you to join with me as I pray and seek God's face. I know there are many things that we could do to prepare the way for the revival God will send. However, here are four things we can do to be catalysts of the revival in our generation.

First – Repent. Life and church as usual cannot continue if we expect different results. It is time to “throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles” (Hebrews 12:1). If we were on a sinking ship, and had to throw off unnecessary things to stay afloat, many things that we once considered important would become much less important in the light of life and death. How much closer must we come to lifeless

religion before we begin to throw off the sin that is killing us? Nothing that we value can be of greater worth than the genuine presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

- “Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord” (Acts 3:19).
- “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land” (2 Chronicles 7:14).

Second – Pray continually (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Pray the Word.

- “Lord...enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus” (Acts 4:29-30).
- Lord, let “the earth be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea” (Habakkuk 2:14).
- “Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, O Lord. Renew them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath remember mercy” (Habakkuk 3:2).

Third – Have faith and believe that it is God’s will to save the lost and to pour out of his Spirit today.

- “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him” (Hebrews 11:6).
- God is “not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).
- “For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea” (Habakkuk 2:14).

- “I will pour out my Spirit on all people” (Joel 2:28).
- “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish will give him a snake instead? Of if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion. If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him” (Luke 11:11-13).

Fourth – Receive

- Jesus breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit” (John 20:22).

I pray the Lord uses this essay to encourage you to press in to know the Lord (Hosea 6:3).