

~Other Speakers M-R: Revival Email List:**An Open Vision - May 1994****-Tim Mather.**

- > One of the most frustrating byproducts of deliverance ministry is the
- > aftercare. For years, clients have undergone deliverance and then return
- > to their home. They frequently return saying, "I'm never going in the
- > again. It's too dark there. We want to come with you." Of course, our
- > response to such requests has been to put them into home groups (we call
- > them Life Groups) where they can participate in ministry while healing
- > from their wounds. The structured church offers nothing but a return to
- > the religious bondage from which they have been set free. In these
- > experiences, we have discovered Father's heart for His people. He is
- > drawing us into the home to worship, to learn, and to minister to others
- > who need the liberty only found in Him.
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- > Several years ago, I found myself in the middle of an open vision. This
- > vision has become the expression of our mission. I share it with you to
- > both challenge and encourage you in your open church vision.
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- > As I looked, I could see the backs of a crowd of people to my left. They
- > were intently looking in the same direction away from me. It was obvious
- > they were engaged in worship--some with hands raised, some with bowed
- > heads, most were singing. I watched myself disappear into the crowd and
- > reappear dragging a dead person by the collar. I dragged the person
- > across the street and laid him on his back with his head against the
- > curb. I continued to enter and reappear with more dead people until
- > there was a long line of bodies lying side by side along the curb.
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- > All at once, I began to weep over them because they were dead. Then, I
- > walked out before them, raised my hands and spoke over them. I could not
- > hear what was said, but immediately, they all sat up. For the next few
- > minutes, they began to recover and make their way, one by one, to a
- > standing position. It took some longer than others, but eventually, they
- > were all standing.
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- > As their recovery process was proceeding, I disappeared once again into
- > the throng and began dragging more dead people out. When those from the
- > first group were able to stand and then walk, they joined me in dragging
- > more and more bodies out of the throng. Each time the area along the
- > curb was full, I stepped forward, raised my arms and spoke. The whole
- > line of bodies would sit up alive, work their way to a standing
- > position, and eventually help us in our work.
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- > Before long, my view began to pan back to see the extent of the crowd
- > worshipping off to my left. There were hundreds of thousands, maybe even
- > millions, gathered around a circular object in the middle. This object
- > was domed toward its center and was turning very slowly around, much
- > like a merry-go-round. It emanated a bright light that the people
- > worshiped. At the center of the object stood a brilliant angel with his
- > arms outstretched receiving the adoration of the crowd. The people were
- > worshipping the angel in a myriad of worship styles and traditions, from
- > the solemn to the exuberant. As I looked closer, the Holy Spirit opened
- > my eyes to see that the angel was not an angel of light after all but a
- > dark angel appearing as an angel of light. The people were worshipping
- > this dark angel, not knowing that it was a spirit of false religion.
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- > Then, Father showed me what it meant:
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- > The crowds of people were not the throngs of some cult religion. Rather,
- > they were major portions of the Church of Jesus Christ upon the earth.
- > They were actively involved in their own methods of worship without
- > regard for the source of the light. They were going about their church
- > business--some vigorously, some lethargically--but all with some level
- > of commitment. Most of the worship and church business was being done
- > out of guilt without a true and intimate relationship with the one
- > honored. These are the religious lost.
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- > I was sent into the crowd to retrieve those who had died in the middle
- > of worship of the dark angel. They were the ones who KNEW they were
- > dead, not those who thought that their religious activities still held
- > some life. This is a picture of the people and denominations that no
- > longer make any hypocritical pretense of spirituality. They knew there
- > is no life and they had become desperate for the return of the Holy
- > Spirit breathing life into their dried bones. It is a mystery how I knew
- > which ones to drag out of the crowd, though it was evident this
- > identification came from the Holy Spirit.
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- > The act of speaking to the dead bodies brought them back to life. This
- > pictures the mission statement of Jesus when He read Isaiah 61 for those
- > gathered in the temple. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he
- > hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to
- > heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and
- > recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are
- > bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord" (Luke 4:18-19 KJV).
- > As the people became whole enough to stand, they were immediately put to
- > work dragging more dead out of the crowd and bringing others to
- > wholeness.
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- > A spirit of false religion, that is, witchcraft, has deceived much of
- > the Church. This spirit appears as an angel of light, but its true
- > motivation is binding the worshipers in darkness. I began to understand
- > that the spirit of witchcraft was manifesting in the Church as control
- > and religious spirits, using manipulation and false spiritual authority.
- > Well-meaning leaders had taken control of the sheep in an effort to keep
- > them on the path of righteousness. However, this control and
- > manipulation is what keeps the Church impotent as an army and distanced
- > them from the One with whom an intimate relationship should be
- > developed. The man-made religious system designed to maintain the sheep
- > is the very thing that has drained out the power and intimacy of the
- > Body of Christ.
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- > Our mission is made crystal clear in this vision: to reach into the
- > organized religious system and bring out those who have been made
- > desperate to know the life-giving breath of the Living God in spite of
- > the bondage of their doctrine and in spite of their theological
- > training. The harvesters miraculously find those who are dead and
- > desperate, raise them from the dead, and the Lord of the Harvest sends
- > them into the harvest fields to bring the true light of salvation and
- > wholeness to the multitudes who will otherwise die in their deceptive
- > religious stupor.