

General Topics :: AOG official statement on Lakeland**AOG official statement on Lakeland - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2008/6/7 14:42**

This is from Dr. Woods of the Assemblies of God:

http://ag.org/top/General_Superintendent/Statement_on_Revival.cfm

FROM THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

From time to time, the General Council receives inquiries desiring comment on various revivals or ministries held in both Assemblies of God and non-Assemblies of God churches.

Rather than attempting to comment on any specific series of meetings, I feel it would be preferable to provide some Scriptural guidelines for assessment. I have great confidence in the maturity of Assemblies of God pastors and laity to make their own judgments and heed the admonition of the Apostle Paul: Do not put out the Spirit's fire; do not treat prophecies with contempt. Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:19-22).

The Assemblies of God is irrevocably committed to the inspiration of Scripture, that the Bible provides the assessment tools needed for evaluating doctrine and experience, and is deeply hungry for the continued filling and empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

Our former general superintendent, Thomas F. Zimmerman, once compared the Holy Spirit to a mighty river, and the Scriptures to the banks of that river. Brother Zimmerman said that great harm occurs when the river overruns the banks, but that the river does great good when it stays within the banks.

Thus, it is well for us to look at the safeguards the Bible provides in helping us "test everything." Here are the questions we should always ask.

Is Jesus Christ exalted? The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to testify about Christ; and to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and the judgment to come (John 15:26, 16:). To the Corinthian church that had become overly enamored with charismatic manifestations, the Apostle Paul reminded them that "I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2).

Thus, the focus for any lasting revival always must be on Jesus. The Holy Spirit has not come to glorify Himself, or any human or angelic personality.

Is the Word of God proclaimed? Every revival with lasting effect has always been rooted in the preaching of God's Word. This is in keeping with the spread of the Gospel in the early Church as recorded in Acts.

• Following the first persecution, they "spoke the word of God boldly" (4:31).

• Following the second persecution and flogging, "day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped preaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ" (5:42).

• After the selection of deacons, "the word of God spread" (6:7).

• Resulting from Saul's persecution of the church, "those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went" (8:4).

• Samaria "accepted the word of God" (8:14).

• The Gentiles of Cornelius' household "received the word of God" (11:1).

• Paul and Barnabas preached "the word of God" on their first missionary journey and "the word of God spread throughout the whole region" (13:46, 49).

• Before departing for their second missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas and many others "taught and preached the word of the Lord" at Antioch (14:35).

• The Holy Spirit kept Paul and Barnabas from "preaching the word in the province of Asia" (16:6).

• The Bereans "received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true" (17:11); Paul "was preaching the word of God at Berea" (17:13).

• At Corinth, "Paul stayed for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God" (18:11).

• Through Paul's ministry at Ephesus, "all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord" (19:10).

• Paul's farewell words to the Ephesians elders are: "For I have not hesitated to proclaim to you the whole will of God" (20:27).

It is clear from the above references that great focus was given in the early Church to the preaching of the Word, sometimes also identified as proclaiming the Gospel. This is consistent with the first commitment of the early Church following the day of Pentecost – "they devoted themselves to the apostles' doctrine . . ." (Acts 2:42).

Thus, a doctrinal test for any revival is whether the content of the preaching is the same as Jesus and the apostles. The Word of God stands over personal viewpoints. Any Biblical revival must "contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints" (Jude 3). If so-called truth is being proclaimed that cannot be found in Scripture, then that proclamation violates the specific announcement of Scripture that the faith "was once for all entrusted" and such a proclamation also deviates from the apostles' fidelity to preach the Word, and from the early Church's devotion to the apostles' doctrine.

The Azusa Revival (1906-1909) unabashedly proclaimed that the sure plumb line of truth was God's revealed and written Word. Elder Seymour and others were criticized sharply for their insistence on "checking everything out with the Word." But, they were unashamed. In fact, Seymour responded to these criticisms in the September, 1907, issue of *The Apostolic Faith*.

"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.

Miraculous manifestations are never the test of a true revival – fidelity to God's Word is the test. Jesus Himself said there would be many who would do miracles in His name and even cast out demons, but He does not know them (Matthew 7:15-23). Jesus warned that "many false prophets will appear and deceive many people" (Matthew 24:11). Paul warns, "If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, he is conceited and understands nothing" (1 Timothy 6:3). To the Galatians, Paul writes: "But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned (Galatians 1:). Paul also warns us: "Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions. He has lost connections with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow" (Colossians 2:18-19). Peter warns us that "there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies . . . Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute. In their greed these teachers will exploit you with stories they have made up." (2 Peter 2:1-3).

In summary, the message must always be examined. If the message and the messenger line up with God's Word, then the revival is on safe Biblical ground and it should and must be embraced. If not, then even though miracles and manifestations occur, it should be avoided.

This raises the question of how can healings and miracles occur if the message and/or messenger are not consistent with Scripture. The attribution for the healings and miracles is the grace of God and his mercy for hurting people.

3. Are persons repenting of sin, and being baptized in water and the Holy Spirit? Repentance has been called the first word of the Gospel because it is the initial response called for by John the Baptist (Matthew 3:2), Jesus (Matthew 4:17), the Twelve (Mark 6:12), Jesus after His resurrection (Luke 24:47), Peter (Acts 2:36), and Paul (Acts 26:20). With repentance comes baptism in water and the overwhelming or baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38-39).

Unless these initiatory events of the Christian life occur, along with the sanctifying work of the Spirit that leads to a holy life – then the miracles, crowds, and enthusiasm will quickly wane.

Of course, there are additional questions that can be raised, but my purpose is to give some starter reflections for those who have honest hearts to "test all things" as Paul admonished. If the above three questions cannot be answered with a resounding yes, then perhaps other questions are unnecessary.

The modern Pentecostal revival is now over 100 years old. Within that revival, there have been some significant centers

General Topics :: AOG official statement on Lakeland

of activity. For example, the Azusa Street Revival generated a missionary movement whose effects we still see today. The Charismatic Renewal brought refreshing both to Pentecostal and non-Pentecostal believers. However, there have also been some tornadoes that have brought destruction. In other words – there have been good winds and ill winds.

It is our responsibility to maintain a deep hunger for God and to keep our focus on the mission He has given us: to bring glory to God, to evangelize the lost, and to make disciples. We cannot do this on our own. We need the empowerment of the Holy Spirit along with the signs that follow those who believe.

Someone has said that revivals are like child birth. They are messy, but you like the final result. Certainly, every revival has been marked by some elements that would be regarded as extreme. Dr. J. Edwin Orr, who studied and wrote more on the history of revivals than anyone else in Christian history, told me once that revivals are like a cabin on the Maine coast that has been shuttered up for the winter. When the winds begin to blow, the first thing that begins to make noise is all the loose hinges and shutters. And, that may well be the case – so we must be cautious at the initial onset of a revival to let some “loose hinges and shutters” have their freedom – but, ultimately, if the revival is to have enduring fruitfulness, it must be pastored carefully with doctrinal soundness, moral and financial accountability, and care to give publicity to Christ rather than to the revival.

The Azusa Street revival had such enduring fruitfulness precisely because the three questions raised above can be well answered – both then and now: Christ was exalted, the Word of God was the plumb line, and people responded to the Gospel with repentance, and baptism in water and in the Spirit. And, like the early Church, they were full of the Holy Spirit and went everywhere to share the Good News!

Let us keep the prayer of Habakkuk (3:2) in our hearts and on our lips:

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.

Your brother in Christ,
George O. Wood
with the concurrence of the Executive Presbytery of
The General Council of the Assemblies of God

Re: AOG official statement on Lakeland - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2008/6/7 19:37

Quote:
-----The Azusa Revival (1906-1909) unabashedly proclaimed that the sure plumb line of truth was God's revealed and written Word. Elder Seymour and others were criticized sharply for their insistence on "checking everything out with the Word." But, they were unashamed. In fact, Seymour responded to these criticisms in the September, 1907, issue of The Apostolic Faith.

Excellent article in light of these troubling occurrences in Christendom.

Re: AOG official statement on Lakeland - posted by crsschk (), on: 2008/6/7 19:45

Quote:
-----Paul also warns us: “Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions. He has lost connections with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow” (Colossians 2:18-19).

Quote:
-----and care to give publicity to Christ rather than to the revival.

General Topics :: AOG official statement on Lakeland

Re: - posted by hulsej (), on: 2008/6/7 22:14

While brother Wood has made some encouraging statements on the need to examine all things by the Word of God, I would hesitate to call this a statement on Lakeland rather a general statement on revival. Unfortunately this unwillingness to deal directly with issues negatively affecting the AG's was part of the reason I eventually left that organization. This is not the same AG that went head on with the "latter rain" movement or earlier in its history struggled and, through the writings of J. Roswell Flower, rejected the oneness heresy. His statement "trusting" the maturity of the AG pastors to judge rightly shows a lack of leadership on their part.

Let an AG pastor forget or not be able to afford to pay his tithes to the district and I guarantee there will be quick action. Let an AG pastor teach heresy and they trust their maturity.

I guess this is a little personal for me coming from the AG's, and I've also recently lost a best friend to the junk going on in Lakeland.

Re: - posted by KingJimmy (), on: 2008/6/7 22:24

While this statement has much to commend it, I agree with Hulsej that it's really a non-statement. It's as much as a non-statement as Gamaliel's counsel was in Acts 5:38-39 towards the apostles' preaching.

A pastor I once knew said that a lot of this junk pops up when people grow bored with their Christianity. Indeed, they find the faith once and for all handed down to the saints to be boring. They need something more exciting and easy, thus, flock in mass numbers to partake in this.

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2008/6/7 22:45

Yes, I felt the same after listening to Wood. It is not a direct indictment against the deception at Lakeland per se; it's a general statement on revival. Note, I am also a former AG minister, having relinquished my credentials just this year. What you say about tithes is very true - it was almost to the degree of militancy and I just couldn't deal with it anymore. Thankfully, the issue over tithes wasn't the ultimate reason I broke from them, but it certainly was a contributing factor.

The avoidance of naming names in light of what is going on down in Florida is pretty alarming. I would venture to say there are quite a few AG pastors of relative prominence subscribing to this thing in Lakeland, and to call a spade a spade might well cause a lightning bolt of dissent in the camp.

It's the only reason I can think of for not naming the obvious.

Re: AOG official statement on Lakeland - posted by poet (), on: 2008/6/8 0:37

Mr. Wood's article is a step in the right direction.

I sense that his article is a gentle and subtle rebuke for pastors who are sign and wonder happy right now, to come back to earth and smell the sound doctrine flower before they ultimately will be brought out to the wood shed.

Our AG demotion has an official position paper concerning these kinds of teachings and practices.

We will hopefully see if the new leadership is willing to follow through with its policies and official statements.

I have made official complaints about a church in my area and am waiting a reply from the Local General Council.

I'm praying for positive results, and repentance from teachers who teach heresy.

Re: - posted by hulsej (), on: 2008/6/8 1:09

I think a good sermon to listen to that touches on a subject such as this is Dave Wilkerson's "A Call To Anguish"

Re: AOG official statement on Lakeland, on: 2008/6/8 8:02

I spoke to some relatives of ours the other day that attended the Lakeland conference. This woman was prayed for because she has lung problems and nearly died at one time. She was told that God was going to fully heal her of her lung problems but she is still very sick.

Her husband has been seeing angels. I am concerned about this. He says that he has seen stadiums of angels sitting down, some standing, very ancient and wise looking. This next part is what really concerns me. He says there is this angel that sits in a chair in the corner of his bedroom 24/7. I know this is not of God because even the angels themselves tol

d the disciples , " ".... Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." Acts 1:11.

No doubt if you have a spiritual being sitting in the corner of your bedroom 24/7 your mind is going to be preoccupied with that. What do you think? How do you get these unwanted guests out of your home? Right now they do believe they are angels but I am trying to show them this is not of God. Once they come to the reality of the truth they will have to deal with this problem in their home.

Re: No ... - posted by crsschk (), on: 2008/6/8 10:12

Quote:

-----She was told that God was going to fully heal her of her lung problems but she is still very sick.

This pompous, arrogant, puffed up mindset ... It is not faith but presumption and what ultimately is the byproduct of it all .. The shipwreck created by these people and what do they really care while they are off staggering about in their signs and wonders, having a grand old time in their quasi-spiritual euphoria..

Once again these are the ramifications that will not be looked at and dealt with. How many more?

There is no weightiness of understanding to these flippantly uttered words, no grasp that they are telling this woman a falsehood straight faced and when it doesn't come to pass it is cast behind their back and forgotten, if it hasn't been forgotten already. It is incredulous and damnable. Might the Lord heal her in spite of them and might He never let them hear of it ...

What's worse is even how this husband seemingly is caught up unaware and sees no dichotomy between what is being told to his wife yet still very sick and an audience of angels ... ministering spirits?

This verse again;

Paul also warns us: "Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions. He has lost connections with the Head, from whom the whole body, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow" (Colossians 2:18-19).

This is precisely what this Bentley fellow has done and is spreading about. He has *gone into great detail about what he has seen and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions. He has lost connections with the Head, from whom the whole body ...*

Sister if the Lord enables you to guide them into all truth and the reality of that truth I would think the unwanted guests would also be dislodged from their moorings, they have never been able to tolerate the Spirit of truth when it is present and will flee from it ...

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. 1Jn 4:1-3

Re:, on: 2008/6/8 10:34

I think the statement, if you can call it that, was scriptural, but failed to address the Lakeland Revival. I think in that perspective it was weak and spineless.

Krispy

Re: AOG official statement on Lakeland - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2008/6/8 12:08

People that are silent, especially someone that can be a "leader" or a Shepard or teacher, or a large magazine or tv station that are "silent" are to me a very worrying thing.

Isa 62:6 I have set watchmen upon thy walls, O Jerusalem, which shall never hold their peace day nor night: ye that make mention of the LORD, keep not silence,

It is often so that the people who keep silent are the ones causing division by their silence.

Re: - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2008/6/8 15:17

Dear Christian,

"...And give him no rest, till he establish, and till he make Jerusalem a praise in the earth."

And give him no rest

Isn't this talking about praying to God? Rather than talking to each other for weeks and months on end?

Re: - posted by hmmhmm (), on: 2008/6/8 16:45

Quote:

ChrisJD wrote:

Isn't this talking about praying to God? Rather than talking to each other for weeks and months on end?

Probably you are right brother,

but still i think a Shepard should warn his flock from danger, not circle around it and hope his flock wont go there.

Pro 27:23 Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds.

Re: - posted by ccchhrrriiss (), on: 2008/6/8 22:50

Hello all...

I think that it is error to judge the statement as being anything more or less than what it contained. It wasn't specific in mentioning Lakeland -- because the problem is NOT confined to Lakeland. This issue is a problem in Florida, Texas, California, Kenya and India -- and everywhere that there is a misconception about "revival." Once this situation goes the way of Pensacola (whether this year or within the next few years), there will be some other Church in some other town which will do its best to become the "next great outpouring."

The problem, in my opinion, is a misunderstanding of the nature of revival. The problem with the modern Church -- especially the Pentecostal/Charismatic brethren -- is that they have a presupposed idea of what revival is supposed to look like. They truly believe that a revival is a meeting where they see supposedly "supernatural" occurrences, people sing happy, fast-paced songs, the adults and youth become excited and involved in Church activities, and the building is filled for each meeting. Of course, Slers realize that this is not revival at all. Anyone who has read *Why Revival Tarries* or *Hungry for More of Jesus* realizes that revival is an awakening of an individual's heart and mind to the things of God. It is not a gimmick, a promotion, an incident, or a boast. It is a realization. It is when men, women and children (both individually and then collectively) wake up to realize the futility of their ways and will call upon the Name of the Lord in truth just so they can know and please Him.

Many pastors want a revival that will result in a full congregation of pews. Evangelists often want a revival that will have the most "public decisions" (where people are "led" in the "Sinner's Prayer" -- as if that act alone could actually save their sinful souls). Individuals often want a "revival" that will fill them full of "happiness, purpose and joy." But none of this is revival. The modern Church is flocking to "revivals" in which each individual within the congregation remains asleep. Rather than waking up and being revitalized by the knowledge of God -- these congregants are content to stay asleep and smile in their dreams.

Have you ever watched any one of the "crusades" by Benny Hinn in India? Over 100,000 people showed up -- all in embrace of the theatrics. I've seen some footage of men preaching in Africa where nearly a million people showed up to observe a display of "miracles." While the "miracles" that were reported to have taken place are sketchy at best -- it is extremely indicative of the hunger of people for such things. Jesus illustrated the futility of the heart when some would follow Him to see the miracles that He would perform. Yet when Jesus -- the epicenter or true revival -- preached, people left in a hurry! When He told the flock to "eat His flesh and drink His blood," his "congregation" dwindled down to just twelve men -- and one was a devil (John chapter 6).

I've always found it interesting that Christians in America will flock to meetings where the Lord supposedly shows up to perform the miraculous. Whether in Lakeland, Pensacola, Toronto, Kansas City, etc..., these famous gatherings demonstrate the willingness of people who name the Name of Jesus to flock toward any hypothetical display of the "supernatural." I've found it ironic that the same type of people seldom show up to a meeting where a man can simply preach the truths found in the Word of God.

When I truly met the Lord when I was a teen, many of my fellow Church-going friends thought that it was weird that I was so attracted to preachers rather than Christian concerts. They thought it was weird that I preferred a prayer meeting over a Christian festival. They thought it was weird that I preferred *Why Revival Tarries* to the chaff that is found on the bookshelves at most Christian Bookstores. Yet I always thought that it was cool to meet people of similar interest. There was only a handful at the Church where I grew up. However, I found others during mission trips, visits to other congregations, trips to Churches near my grandmother's house, etc... It made me realize that I wasn't alone in my hunger for more of Christ. I also realized that most of those believers also felt ostracized in their congregations because of their convictions. They too were called "judgmental" when they quietly wept at "revival meetings" that more closely resembled pep rallies, paltry displays of the "supernatural" and cheerleading classes rather than spiritual wake up calls.

I will say that I agree with the words of the Superintendent of the Assemblies of God. I no longer attend an A/G congregation. There are a few areas within the Assemblies of God with which I disagree with them on doctrinal issues (or feel enough uncertainly about mandating such doctrines). However, the fellowship, as a whole, has been pretty sound (in my opinion). They do, to their shame, allow too much "local discretion" for pastors and local congregations. I suppose that they do this so that they do not have to maintain a rather imposing measuring stick for each and every wind of doctrine that floats around. It is a whole lot easier to embrace the affirmative than to point at each and every thing that is negative.

It would take too much time to point out every errant idea, revival or philosophy. They would begin to look like a well-meaning *Gestapo* by keeping a public "black list" that contained the names of allegedly questionable doctrines or supposedly errant preachers, congregations or "revivals." Such a thing would require full time "investigators" upon which we would need to rely upon their testimony. And because men are fallible and inclined toward their own fallible knowledge and levels of maturity, there is a danger of these investigators being wrong or claiming that something is "not of God" when it actually is.

This statement seems to attempt to better define "revival" than to lambast each and every specific event, idea and doctrine that is false. It is better to hold up the original model for revival than to extrapolate upon every other example that may or may not line up with the Truth. I think that this is what the author attempted to do. He is holding up a description of true revival instead of mentioning specific examples of what is false. Because of this, I appreciate his words. In regard to Lakeland, I had never heard of it until I read about it here at SermonIndex. It didn't take too long for me to realize the reported flaws in those meetings; for I am now better aware of what it is that God wants from each of us.

That being said, the Assemblies of God can also be quite strict during "official" collective meetings. For instance, I attended an Assembly of God youth camp in which all of our counselors were strictly forbidden to publicly state that they believe in "holy laughter." They were strict in terms of what a preacher could preach and to prevent some of the more Charismatic antics seen at the close of many Pentecostal services (the expectation of people "falling under the power of God," perpetually "demon-possessed" teenagers, "holy laughter," "dancing in the Spirit," etc...). I remember standing in the back of the camp's "tabernacle" when a guy in front of me started screaming while jumping up and down (with his eyes closed - dancing?). A couple of counselors came and took him to the back and talked with him. I appreciated their attempt to prevent "wildfire" - but I wondered whether they had gone too far. What if someone was just really excited? What if someone started to cry out to God for forgiveness? Would they have been pulled aside too? Anyway, it just shows that the A/G can, at times, be quite specific in regard to meetings. But I don't know that I would want the A/G (or anyone else) telling me just what I can or cannot believe.

However, I think that this was the intent of the statement on Revival. Whereas Krispy found the statement to be "weak and spineless," I think that the author spoke rather directly about the big picture. The root of this problem is not Lakeland - or even the specific doctrinal flaws of that particular meeting. It isn't about any other specific meetings or behavior. In my opinion, it is an attempt by the Superintendent of that particular "fellowship" (the A/G tends to shy away from the word "denomination") to hold a guiding line by better defining *what revival is* rather than specific local examples of *what revival is not*.

I think that the author described the root quite well. If we can comprehend this, then there would be less of a likelihood of embracing (or entertaining) error.

:-)

Re: AG "statement", on: 2008/6/9 2:30

Out of the sweeping fires of Azusa, came a national move of Pentecost that was summarily recognized as **Apostolic**. The early brothers recognized a need for direction, and a maintenance of holiness in doctrine and spirit, in order that this young child not be devoured by the Evil one.

You can read, and see some of the photo's here at SI, when they convened in the early "Camp meetings", to work out the hows and whys, in order to take the commission to "Go and make disciples", in a pure way. It must have been very exciting for the multitudes of young people, to actually take the book of acts embodied in their own faith across the country, and then the world.

Most of us here have been influenced by this move right here. It may not have maintained its coherency as a move, if this support system wasn't established, there by, "The assembly of God." There were others, also, but they had the Apostolic mindset of unity held in place by the enforcement of discipline in a pure biblical manner, along with the support of Godly and holy leaders. They saw the purity of the Apostles as a mandate for true success and ran with it.

There were 25,000 full time evangelists at work in America at one time, at its height, all under the guidelines and dire

catives of this counsel, and thousands of Churches sprang up. It spread around the World, with many, many new wineskins springing up everywhere. This may have been the most significant move of God in a few hundred years, in measure of impact.

How in the world can you oversee your churches without being specific? It's like forgetting your children's names, and expecting them to work to accomplish the chores they need to do, to keep the house in order, with your ideas you thought out yesterday, without telling them!..or worse being afraid to, in that they may be offended.

There have been hundreds of "De-frocked" AG Pastors throughout the years, and credentials withdrawn. These were all specific. Why not here? I remember Jimmy Swaggart, and it seemed that they handled his sin in a biblical manner, in the face of a great storm from the national media. Jimmy's face was everywhere.

Times have changed. I am sorry, but God has moved on, and out of this organization. They are not reprobate, as the United Methodists are,, but I think this compromise, this general whisper of "Be nice now, "cause this may be bad" , spoken as it were to the wind, is an indicator that they are heading that way.

I think of Eli, who refused to discipline his most wicked and vile son's, as they ministered at the Alter. Things went well for a while, but he ended up with a broken neck and a grandson named Ichabod.

I don't rejoice in this. God hasn't failed, no not an iota, nor is He distressed over this Satanic activity in Lakeland. He does have His eyes open though, watching to see if there are any who mourn and weep over the destruction done, and the heart to warn and protect.

Read Ezekiel 34 again. He has found true Shepherds somewhere, and I'm afraid, they have all left Springfield.

Re: - posted by ccchhrrriiiss (), on: 2008/6/10 21:57

Hi BrotherTom...

Quote:
-----There have been hundreds of "De-frocked" AG Pastors throughout the years, and credentials withdrawn. These were all specific. Why not here? I remember Jimmy Swaggart, and it seemed that they handled his sin in a biblical manner, in the face of a great storm from the national media. Jimmy's face was everywhere.

Times have changed. I am sorry, but God has moved on, and out of this organization. They are not reprobate, as the United Methodists are,, but I think this compromise, this general whisper of "Be nice now, "cause this may be bad" , spoken as it were to the wind, is an indicator that they are heading that way.

...or perhaps the leaders of the Assemblies of God just don't know what to make of it all?

After reading the statement, I don't discern that the author and Superintendent was taking a "Be nice now, "cause this may be bad" type of approach. Rather, it seems that he would prefer to make the distinction between a true move of God and those that are invented by the efforts of man (or worse). It seems that this statement was simply meant to draw a picture of what revival is— so that we can be able to spot a fake if and when the time necessitates. While walking through the "wilderness of this world" (as Bunyan would say), do we really need a person to draw up a map that identifies each and every portentous destination? Wouldn't it be better to simply receive pure instructions for our journey toward our holy destination (with a few warnings on the road as we go along)?

Regarding this entire "Lakeland" matter, I only know what I have read on this website (along with information obtained from a couple of the accompanying links). Of course, I wouldn't endorse what I read or what I saw. Why? It isn't because of what my friends at SermonIndex have said. Rather, it is because I am maturing in my knowledge of the heart of God. It doesn't resemble the type of revival that I feel that the Lord desires. That is grounds enough for me to "stay away." However, I might run the risk of "barring false witness" if I were to say something specific regarding Lakeland that wasn't entirely based upon fact.

"To everything there is a season..." (Ecclesiastes 3:1). There is certainly a time to speak out AGAINST unrighteousness and perversions of the Gospel. However, there is still a need to "be slow to speak." Just as Paul warned Timothy about being hasty in regards to the "laying on of hands," so this letter might reflect the desire of the A/G Superintendent

dent about being a bit hasty in pronouncing judgment in this matter. He could have easily said that the entire matter is "from the Devil." But could he say such things with utter certainty? Perhaps he simply feels that caution is the best course of action for the time being— until this matter is fully investigated?

If the leaders of the Assemblies of God have not attended the Lakeland meetings, what would be the best course of action for them? Would it be to publicly address those meetings in their entirety in a specific manner of judgment— or to urgently caution believers toward the Truth? From this article, it seems that the General Superintendent decided that the latter would be a more prudent immediate decision— at least until some investigation could be done regarding the truth of the matter.

Sometimes, I think that we are often "preaching to the choir." Most of the believers who frequent this website are quite knowledgeable about revival (at least enough to recognize fraud when we see it). I wonder: How many of us are willing to go to the people involved in the Lakeland meetings and "explain the Word of the Lord more adequately" to them? I suppose that the Superintendent of the A/G, through this statement, might feel that this issue is much larger than Lakeland. There are Pentecostal believers who seem inclined to flock to "the next new thing." Perhaps this statement was meant to help identify a real revival— so that the readers might use it as a primer that would help them decipher a supposed "revival" in the future?

For this reason, I appreciate the statement. It seems to me that such a statement is vitally important in today's Church. After all, isn't this what *Why Revival Tarries* was trying to accomplish? It was meant to identify a real revival (and how it comes about), so that we would stop our pursuits of fickle, man-made revivals and the ongoing service in lifeless religion?