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March 18 "Open Windows" by T. Austin Sparks

Once more (it is a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land; and I will shake all nations, and they s hall come to the Desire of All Nations. (Haggai 2:6,7)

It seems a terrible thing, even to think, but as we have touched so very much of what is called 'Christianity' we are boun d to believe that, because vast numbers who call themselves Christian are in an utterly false position, and the system its elf has become so largely an earthly, traditional, formal, and unspiritual thing, this worldwide shaking is quite necessary and will be eventually justified. If we were writing a treatise, we could show that what is called 'Christianity' is really the gr eatest enemy of Christ.

It will be seen that it is not a matter of substituting another and better system for an old and poor or bad one. Some peop le seem to think that it is all, or largely, a matter of the order, technique, and form, and if we returned to the "New Testam ent" form or order of churches, all would be well. The fact is that, while certain things characterized the New Testament c hurches, the New Testament does not give us a complete pattern according to which churches are to be set up or forme d! There is no blue-print for churches in the New Testament, and to try to form New Testament churches is only to creat e another system which may be as legal, sectarian and dead as others. Churches, like the Church, are organisms which spring out of Life, which Life itself springs out of the Cross of Christ wrought into the very being of believers. Unless belie vers are crucified people, there can be no true expression of the Church.

By T. Austin-Sparks from: Things Which Will Be Shaken