

Revolution!

Everything about the God of the universe is utterly revolutionary, and that includes His relationship with human beings upon this earth. Far too often, the life of a believer becomes sluggish, even stagnant, spiritual things are taken for granted, and the routine of day-to-day living takes its toll on us all. From time to time, nothing short of a spiritual revolution needs to occur to wake up and galvanize God's people. Today is just such a time!

by Jim Rector

The great ministry of John the Baptist was quite unusual in several respects. His advent fulfilled a divine prophecy uttered by Isaiah some 750 years earlier. He came to prepare the way before the Messiah. And, very interestingly, his focus was not on the world, but on turning the hearts of the people of God back to Him! He was, in fact, the catalyst and harbinger of nothing less than a

SPIRITUAL REVOLUTION
nearly 2000 years ago!

WHAT IS A REVOLUTION?

Of course, we are all familiar with the word *revolution* itself. We are probably aware that the movement of celestial bodies in a particular orbit is generally

referred to a revolution. Although it is not the main thrust of this article, even in this most basic aspect, there is a spiritual connotation to the word *revolution*. Here's what I mean.

Satan the devil has, without doubt, been the single greatest negative influence upon mankind. We can see the results of his handiwork in virtually every

facet of human life, from politics and government, to the social order, to economic policies, to all forms of even religion.

He has devised a system or a certain method by which he operates in the human sphere. His strategy is to influence man in such a way as to ensnare the unsuspecting, and thus place humans under his control. His *modus operandi* has been to inspire and establish a particular form of government, whereby a powerful elite element is created to implement control over the masses. Everything about his method focus power, money, influence, and domination into the hands of the select few over the downtrodden many. You will find that this approach or a variation thereof permeates virtually every aspect of society, both ancient and modern.

Satan's objective is to enslave mankind through the utilization of such a system, deceive them into believing that it is actually for their own good and protection, and then subsequently and ultimately keep them from knowing the full truth about God and His plan for the human race.

Within the context of our earlier definition of the word *revolution*, that is, the movement of a body in an orbit or plane, we could easily describe Satan's approach as pyramidal in design. In other words, rulership from the topdown, with the few being at the top being held up and supported by

those under them. This is the nature of a pyramidal structure. It severely limits, if not altogether prohibits, movement or motion, so there is nothing very *revolutionary* about it! Rather than allow freedom, the pyramidal concept restricts and constrains people. There is therefore no room or conducive atmosphere and opportunity for growth or change. In fact, a pyramid is virtually symbolic of an unchangeable object--and this precisely the state Satan seeks to achieve in every human life.

God, on the other, clearly operates on an entirely different level. In opposition to the Satanic model, God has revealed the relationship that He desires in the structure of His very creation. Everything in nature is in *motion*. Consequently, the stodgy pyramidal approach will not work. Rather, God has devised something quite different. It is seen most evidently in such things as the arrangement of the atom or the solar system or a spiral galaxy. Notice that from the very building blocks of matter to the incomprehensible size and scope of the galaxies, the same pattern is to be found. Everything is revolving around something else. Everything has its orbit.

God is a God of *revolution*. In His scheme of things, motion and movement are integral to the proper operation of His entire plan. These significant models in nature are extremely important and instructive for us

when it comes to things of the Spirit.

Unlike the pyramidal form of Satan's kingdom, where the few rule over and control the hapless many, God's model is one in which He occupies the central position, but rather than oppressing his subjects by forcing them into the confining pyramid, He permits them to *revolve* around Him, thus allowing them access to actually move and go somewhere, yet still remain within His sphere of influence. Because He is at the center and all things revolve around Him, He is still in control, but he shares that control with all who are in orbit around Him. Each body is directly related to and connected to the nucleus, held there by the invisible power of the Holy Spirit.

Just as one atom is able to join or be connected with other atoms to form a molecule, so it is in God's economy. Those who are in revolution around Him are able to interact with other individuals or groups and form a spiritual entity that is greater than the original. And just as the universe is constantly expanding outwardly, so also are we believers given the opportunity to freely extend ourselves and our own sphere of influence to other areas and other people.

God's model is infinitely better and more productive than Satan's. Of course, it will always be more daring and daunting. It will always be more difficult and

uncomfortable. It will always appear to be more risky and challenging. But the fruit will also be infinitely and incomparably greater.

ANOTHER KIND OF REVOLUTION

A revolution of a different kind pertains to the overthrow of a form of government or a social system. We are also quite familiar with this definition, and no doubt, such famous events as the French Revolution, the Russian Revolution, and our own American Revolution, quickly come to mind.

In what way is this kind of revolution related to the spiritual life and calling of the believer? Simply this--when a group of people engage in a political or social revolution, their intent is almost always to throw off the yoke of oppression forced on them by their leaders. Such uprisings have occurred in many parts of the world at various times throughout history, and each time they usually bring with a new order of things.

In the spiritual realm, God not only wants His people to *revolve* around Him as He has ordained their orbits, but He also desires that they always have the freedom to get up and move out whenever He decides to break camp. The problem with the Christian religion is that almost from the outset, it fell into the hands of men. For the most part,

the Church of God was pure for only a very short period of time. Even before the first century was out, the various assemblies so carefully raised up by the apostles and disciples of Christ, had fallen victim to outside influences that weakened the effect of God's Spirit among the membership, and began to concentrate power in the hands of the established clergy.

Ever since those early years, men have had total control over the organized churches, whether one is speaking of the Roman Catholic Church, the Baptist Church, or the Worldwide Church of God. It makes not one whit of difference. They all follow the same ancient Satanic/Babylonish formula of mind control. They all are the product of men, and they almost always get in the way of God openly and freely dealing with His people.

These institutions imprison believers. They, in fact, constitute a major form of slavery or bondage in the lives of many. They pride themselves on their knowledge or the size of their mailing lists or the glamor of their headquarters buildings, or the charisma of their human leader. They dazzle the members with their style, and cast an almost hypnotic trance over their converts. They fill the people's lives and time with all sorts of outside, extracurricular activities, thus providing all the necessary distractions to keep everyone looking the other way, while the leaders do their own

thing at the expense of the membership. It is a sad, sad state of affairs, but one that is genuinely and painfully real.

I believe that the time has come for a true spiritual **REVOLUTION!** I am talking about a real **REVOLT** against those who would control and silence and dumb down God's chosen people. The quickest and most painful way to achieve that end is for true believers to immediately stop sending these corporate churches their money. Believe me, when the bottom line is affected, these self-appointed church leaders will double over in pain, because, for the most part, they know that this is what it's all about anyway! Start depriving them of money, and listen to them start squealing! They will plead, beg, cajole, even demand that the people start sending in more and more. They will say that the work is in a crisis. They will write articles on tithing and long, sad letters asking for more. Nothing so negatively affects church leadership like a drop in the money count.

Thankfully, some today are hearing the clarion call--a call to return unto their God. Soon, another John the Baptist work will come on the scene. That mission will be much like the original, calling God's people to repentance and preparing the way before the great Second Coming of our Lord and Savior. I believe that some of us can and will be a part of such a powerful endeavor.

THE NEW ORDER!

Many people today talk about the coming New World Order. Others refer to the approaching New Age. Well, I want to talk about God's New Order! For a long, long time, God has been patient and kept His cool. He has stood back and watched how men have desecrated His holy things and virtually emasculated His holy people--and He despises what has been happening down through the corridors of time since His Son walked this earth. God will be patient only so long, and He is about to reach the limit!

Whenever there is a revolution, it usually means the end of the old order, and the inauguration of the new. I believe that is precisely what God has in mind for this generation in which we live today. The revolution has already begun, and from the ruins of battle, God is raising up a new and enlivened generation of believers.

This is not a revolution that is being achieved by social protest or the ballot box or guns and ammunition. No, this revolution will be accomplished solely by God through the moving and stirring of the Holy Spirit within the minds and lives of true believers all over this earth.

In God's new order of things, His people will no longer be subject to corporate church organizations or ecclesiastical

hierarchies. They will be a people set free from such bondage, but who clearly sense the great responsibility that comes with this liberty!

God's new order will not operate by the conventions and traditions of the past, but rather will spring forth by the direct motivation of the Holy Spirit. Those who can pick up on this movement will powerfully return to their God, let Him break them in all the right places, submit themselves for His preparation, and go forward unimpeded in His service.

Through the prophet Isaiah, God proclaims:

"I am the Lord: that is My name, and My glory will I not give to another, neither My praise to graven images. Behold, the former things are come to pass, and NEW THINGS do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them...Remember you not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a NEW THING; now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert" (Isa. 42: 8-9, 43:18-19).

I believe that God is carefully timing a fulfillment of these prophetic words, perhaps in the very time in which we live today. There is every good reason to anticipate that this is the case. God has clearly begun a process of

systematically tearing down the pagan churches, the pagan powers, the pagan idols and images. He is obviously the mode of setting many of His people free. The hope of spiritual renewal is running high among those with eyes that see and ears that hear. We are living in a period where more than enough weaponry exists to destroy the world many times over. And we are almost surely approaching the end of 6000 years of human life on this planet.

John the Baptist prepared the way before the Messiah's first advent. There will also be such a preparation before His Second Coming as well. John came preaching a message of repentance to the people of God, calling for a powerful return to the Creator, and helping to usher in a genuinely new order of spiritual things. It seems abundantly clear that the very same thing will occur before the return of the Savior to this earth is affected.

When God chose the army that would accompany Gideon into battle against the enemies of Israel, He went through a sifting or winnowing process. In the end, after the period of testing was past, He had selected only 300 soldiers out the 32,000 man army. This episode is a remarkable story that is so uniquely applicable to the situation in which the Body of Christ finds itself today.

There remains for some of God's people further battles yet to fight. The end is not here yet.

God is looking for a spiritual revolution among His chosen people. He is looking for those who can catch the greater vision of their calling, one that transcends the mere humdrum routine of daily life, that drives them to their knees in a heartfelt search for more of the true God, that sparks something inside them that perhaps words cannot adequately describe, but that propels them into a higher spiritual realm.

I realize that what I am saying will probably appeal to only a fraction of those who read this article. It may well appear to many that I am hyping the issue, being too dramatic, overreacting, or simply just speculating. After all, haven't we been there, done that? To some, what I say will sound like sour grapes. They will say, "Oh, he's always coming down on the organized churches!" I mean do we really need someone saying that there is a new day coming, that God is about to make a monumental move among His people, that a great awakening and a true spiritual transformation is in the offing for this generation of believers?

Well, I will leave you to make your assessment, but I cannot help but urge as many as possible to start thinking in different terms with respect to this Godly calling and their spiritual lives in His service. We all have had it so easy. Most of us are far more products of the various corporate churches than we are of Christ genuinely living in and

through us. Any sane, honest, thinking believer knows this to be true.

When I speak of God's coming new order, I am not referring to the future Messianic Age. I am talking about a radical departure from the past transpiring **RIGHT NOW!!** My focus is on a changing of the guard and a passing of the baton from the leaders, examples, work, and ways of our former associations. I am urging a break with the past and with the status quo. I am fighting for a people who will open their eyes, see the error of their way, deeply repent, submit to Almighty God, and let Him prepare them for real fruitful use in His service **NOW!** No, the new order of which I speak is something that is needs to occur, and that I believe will occur in our own lifetime.

That new order is going to have a new leader, and His name is Yahshua (Jesus) the Messiah. Through the prophet Ezekiel, God promises:

“Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves, but you feed not the flock. The diseased have you not strengthened, neither have you healed that which was sick, neither have you bound up that which was broken, neither have you brought again that which was driven away; neither have you sought after that which was lost; but with force and cruelty have you ruled over them. And they were scattered, because

their is no shepherd; and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered. My sheep wandered through all the mountains and upon every high hill: yea, My flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them...Thus says the Lord, I, EVEN I will both search My sheep and seek them out...I will feed My flock, and I will cause them to lie down, says the Lord God. I will seek that which was lost, and bring again that which was driven away...And I the Lord will be their God” (Ezek. 34).

The scattering of God's people is going on even as I write this article. It has been ongoing for several years, and it will continue on until He has shaken loose that which will not hold fast. God does, however, promise something powerful for those who are so scattered. He pledges that He, and no man or church, will seek out the battered members of the flock. It is God Almighty who is determined to take the decisive role in this scattering process. He is going to cause the upheaval to work in favor of those submitted to Him, His Son, His Law, His Spirit, and His divine will. The current situation is not, therefore, something that we are going to solve or accomplish. This is God's job, and we absolutely must get out of His way!

Our Savior is called by many titles and many names. Two of those terms are mentioned by

Peter in his first epistle. Reading from I Peter 2, he says:

“For you were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the SHEPHERD AND BISHOP of your souls” (I Pet. 2:25).

Christ is the Good Shepherd--the One around whom God the Father is going to rally His truly awakened and yielded people! I tell you, brethren, this is **REVOLUTIONARY!!** He drawing out a Gideon's army today--believers who are going to give up their hold on the old order and embrace that of the new.

The new order of things will not be human in origin. There will be no ecclesiastical hierarchy. There will be no elite clergy class. Gone will be days when the people of God sit idly by while entrusting the work to someone else.

The new order will be governed directly by the Messiah Himself. He is portrayed as Head of the Body, and that is precisely the function He is about to assume in the lives of many believers today.

The new order of things will be a time of spiritual empowerment of individual believers in each independent assembly or part of the Body. It will be a time when the gifts of the Spirit are better understood, recognized, received, and utilized as God intended.

The new order will no longer have need of manmade rules, conventions, and traditions. It will not require great spacious offices, fancy college campuses, a corrupt ecclesiastical bureaucracy, or a multi-million dollar payroll. Always remember that God can accomplish more good through a single truly submitted and obedient servant, than a whole corporate church could do with a host of highly credentialed ministers and the most sophisticated and powerful media tools. Brethren, our God is an awesome God!!

THE GREATEST REVOLUTION!

We have spoken of two forms of revolution--1) to revolve in an orbit, and 2) to revolt and overthrow an oppressive system of bondage. Both of these definitions of the word *revolution* have direct and distinct applications to our relationship with God and each other, as well as our personal spiritual lives in God's service.

There is, however, yet another *revolution* that must transpire in the lives of all true believers. Perhaps it is best and most succinctly put by the apostle Paul when he said:

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a LIVING SACRIFICE, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be

not conformed to this world; but be you TRANSFORMED by the RENEWING of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God” (Rom.12:1-2).

Now you know where I am coming from in this matter. Aside from the first two forms of revolution, this third and most important kind must be achieved, if we are to really please God, and be used fully as His servants upon this earth.

The Scriptures call for nothing short of a genuine spiritual **REVOLUTION** to occur in our lives--something that so impacts us that it sends us reeling into a spin; something so profound that it turns the apple cart of our lives upside down!

I am speaking here not of an original calling, when one first comes into contact with God and His Son. That, of course, is a very critical moment. Rather, I am talking about a **GREAT AWAKENING** among those who have indeed received the calling. I am referring to a genuine raising of the spiritual conscience and awareness of God's people. I mean a heartfelt repentance, a returning unto our first love, a transformation that changes us from lukewarm, pampered weaklings into firebrands for the Living God!

A perfect example of what I mean is seen in the remarkable transformation that occurred in the

life of the apostle Peter. He was privileged to walk side-by-side with the Messiah Himself. He witnessed great miracles performed, and watched how the Savior handled every person and every situation perfectly. He was an eye-witness of the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. He even had been granted the power to work miracles himself. When the chips were down, however, it was Peter who adamantly and with swearing and cursing denied he even knew Christ, in order to save his own skin. Yet on the day of Pentecost, something happened to this man that exceeded every other experience he had received in his life. It transcended in its impact all other events that had occurred to Peter. He encountered something that day that changed him forever. His life was truly **REVOLUTIONIZED!!**

The spiritual revolution to which I refer is one that will involve an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in an unprecedented fashion in our personal experience. It will have the power to literally transform each of us, and the result will reveal themselves in the formation of the Body of Christ precisely as the Bible describes it as being.

Remember the earlier quotation of Paul in Romans 12:1-2, where he speaks of spiritual transformation? I believe that there is a connection between those initial verses and the ones that follow. Notice the context of

this passage, and see if you draw the same conclusions:

“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God has dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office; so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us” (Rom. 12:3-6).

I believe that the spiritual transformation spoken of in verses 1-2 are directly related to and indeed usher in the state that is described in the succeeding verses, namely, the formation of the Body of Christ as God has ordained.

I wonder if you feel the same way I do about the Body of Christ. In your tenure in the Church of God, how often do you recall the assembly of believers fitting the description of the Bible? Has it been your experience that the Church was functioning smoothly, efficiently, and powerfully, with all members having a God-given, God-inspired part to play? Haven't you sensed the lack of real spiritual empowerment? Haven't you longed for the kind of unity and cooperation and division of labor that Paul speaks of in Romans 12 and I Corinthians 12? I tell you,

brethren, that in my 34 years in this walk I have never participated in the kind of situation that is described in the Scriptures with respect to the Body of Christ. And I fully believe the reason for that is quite simply that long ago men took control of the church and the people of God, and have succeeded in so stifling the work of the Holy Spirit, that it has been impossible to achieve a perfectly functioning Body. The transformation or **REVOLUTION**, if you will, that necessarily must precede the empowerment of the Body has not been permitted to take place in our lives--at least, that is, until **NOW!**

Paul, writing to the believers in Ephesus, makes the following statement:

“Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him: the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own

right hand in the heavenly places” (Eph. 1:15-20).

It would be so easy to overlook or gloss over this passage of Scripture. After all, it sort of sounds like a lot of other sayings in the Bible. There is, however, something very significant about Paul’s inspired statements here.

First of all, he was writing to true believers, baptized and converted people of God. He admires their faith and love. He gives thanks to God for them. He could easily have left off right there and moved on to other things, but he didn’t. He was moved to reach out to these Ephesian believers for something more. He wanted them to receive something that they had yet to experience in their spiritual walk. He spoke to them of the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God. He talked about their spiritual eyes becoming enlightened so that they could sense and know the riches of God’s glory. He wanted them to experience the greatness of the mighty power of God in their personal lives!

This seems to me a remarkable passage of Scripture, because it clearly demonstrates that believers can be faithful and loving, yet still have great need to press on in their quest for more of God and His Son; that true believers can have the Spirit and be in God’s good graces, yet still lack many great spiritual dimensions in their lives.

Perhaps that is the very reason that Paul told the Galatian brethren:

“My little children, of whom I travail in birth again UNTIL CHRIST BE FORMED IN YOU” (Gal.4:19).

You mean it is possible to be a believer, be in the one true Church, and still not have Christ in you? Absolutely **YES!!** This is a classic mistake many have made, assuming that because one or two things were in place in their lives, that everything else was present as well. This is simply not the case, and this sort of reasoning leads one to live a soft, easy Christian life, not feeling the need and urge to seek God with all one’s heart and might, falsely assuming that what one has is all there is.

This is undoubtedly where many, if not most, of God’s people are today. They do believe, they have been baptized, they have basic knowledge, but they have not really gone on very far in their quest for more of God in their lives--and the Scriptures plainly tell us that there is indeed much more that God desires that we have and experience in our calling in this life.

For this to occur, we must be made aware of our needs and of God’s will for our lives. We have to catch a greater glimpse of what God is capable of actually accomplishing through each of us in His service. We have to become more strongly identified with

Christ and the power that He can make available to us. It will require us to believe for things that we heretofore have not been able to do, and to enter into arenas where we were afraid to go. It will challenge us at every turn, and it will cause many to shun us as religious nuts or extremists. I remind you that when Christ made the statement in Matthew 24 that the love of many would wax cold, the word He used was *agape*. He was saying that it would be the love of God that would diminish among believers.

God has begun to repeat on a spiritual scale the kind of liberation He accomplished for ancient Israel when He delivered them from the bondage of Egypt. We are coming to see that there are many Egypts from which we must depart, and especially the bondage of enslavement to and worship of mere men.

The wilderness that followed Israel’s deliverance was to have been a time of special preparation, a time when God would come down and reveal Himself to His chosen people, a time when a bunch of refugees and slaves would be turned into a kingdom of priests. That ancient generation let the chance of a lifetime pass them by. We believers, upon whom the ends of the world are come, are warned in the book of Hebrews to pay special heed to what happened to Israel at that crucial, precarious time in their history. We read in **Hebrews 3:7:**

“Wherefore, as the Holy Spirit says, TODAY if you will hear His voice, harden not your hearts as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: when your fathers tempted Me, proved Me, and saw My works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do always err in their heart; and they have not known My ways. So I swore in My wrath, They shall not enter into My rest. TAKE HEED, brethren, lest there be in you and evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the Living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called Today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin...Let us therefore fear, lest a promise being left us of entering into His rest, any of you should seem to come short of it...Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief” (Heb. 3:7-13, 4:1, 11).

The apostle Paul was a believer who never gave up the quest for more of God and His Son. He was never satisfied with a certain level or attainment of spiritual growth. He told the Ephesians:

“He Himself appointed some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers. His intention was the perfecting of the saints, that they should do the work of ministering toward building up

Christ’s Body, until we all attain oneness in the faith, and in the comprehension of the full and accurate knowledge of the Son of God; that we all might arrive at really mature manhood...which is nothing less than the standard of CHRIST’S OWN PERFECTION...Let us grow up in every way and in all things unto Him, who is the Head, even Christ. For because of Him the whole Body, joined and firmly knit together by the joints and ligaments with which it is supplied when each part is working properly, grows to full maturity, building itself up in love” (Eph. 4:11-16).

I love that passage of Scripture, because it tells me something very special, not just about Paul as an example for us all, but also about God. He has more than we could ever imagine or hope for, and there is nothing that He purposely withholds from us, as long as we will trust Him implicitly and allow Him to prepare us to receive all things. The more we press in, the more excited God gets. The more we draw close, the more He moves toward us. The more we push the envelope, daring to go into uncharted territory with Him, the more light and revelation and empowerment we will receive.

There should never come a time when you or I grow bored or tired in the things of God. There should never come a time when we find ourselves settling down into yet another comfortable spiritual

rut or plateau or safe haven. There should never come a time when we’ve got it made, that we have arrived, that we have attained.

There’s another special passage of Scripture that I really like. It is found in Philippians 3, and reads as follows:

“I count everything as loss compared to the possession of the priceless privilege of knowing Christ Jesus My Lord, and of becoming more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him...that I may be found in Him, not having any righteousness that can be called my own, but possessing that genuine righteousness which comes through faith in Christ. For my determined purpose is that I may know Him...perceiving the wonders of His person more clearly. And that I may in that same way come to know the power outflowing from His resurrection; and that I may also share His sufferings as to be continually transformed to His death. That if possible I may attain to the resurrection out from among the dead. Not that I have already attained this ideal or am already made perfect, but I press on to lay hold of and make my own, that for which Christ Jesus has laid hold of me. I do not consider, brethren, that I captured and made it my own yet; but one thing I do--forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal

to win the supreme prize to which God in Christ Jesus is calling us. So let all of us who are spiritually mature and full-grown have this mind and hold these convictions” (Phil. 3:8-15).

I hope that you will consider the word **REVOLUTION** as you contemplate your spiritual life and calling, as you analyze and examine your current spiritual status and relationship with God.

How badly, how desperately, how greatly, how deeply, how genuinely, do we really want more and more of Christ in our lives? David said he panted after God like a deer pants for the water springs, like a man about to perish in a dry and desolate place. I urge all of us to begin going before God and putting all our cards on the table, leveling with Him about who are and where we are and how we are in His sight. Start speaking with boldness to God about what you want that He has and that you can only get from Him. Start asking Him to prepare you to receive the things for which you believe. Be on the watch for His hand in your life, and ready at a moment's notice to strike the camp and follow Him wherever He leads you.

The times we live in are dangerous and deceptive, but they are some of the greatest days for spiritual growth and service. Soon, another John the Baptist work will be raised up. It will

involve a spiritual revolution, and will prepare the way before the Second Coming of the Messiah. Whether you or I will be a part of such an endeavor remains to be seen. But I can tell you is that God is awfully busy right now, preparing a people for His great name. I would say that the signs of the times dictate that we may well be far nearer the end of this age than we might wish to think.

With that possibility in mind, let us dedicate ourselves to returning unto our God with all our heart and mind and energy. Let us hold lightly the things of this life, and redeem the time in seeking God's true will for our lives in the coming months and years. Let us begin to believe that we are indeed what the Bible says — a royal priesthood, a people who can do all things through Christ Who strengthens them, and more than conquerors through Him that loved us.