A CALL TO RETURN

DESPERATE TIMES CALL FOR DESPERATE MEASURES, and this is such a time for the American Church. The world sees that something is desperately wrong in our nation, but knows not how to fix it. This is because the answer cannot be found by worldly means or wisdom. America's only hope lies in a wholehearted return to the God who made her great, in a genuine revival of Biblical proportions.

"Revival" is a word often used in the Church today, and perhaps more often misused. So what is "a revival?" A revival, as demonstrated in the history of God's people (both in Scripture and in the Church), is:

- A sovereign move of the Most High God;
- Orchestrated by God, not man;
- "Not worked up, but prayed down" as Leonard Ravenhill once said. We cooperate with God by persistent, prevailing prayer. However, we do not create nor earn a revival;
- A RETURN of God's people to Himself through repentance;
- A RETURN of God's power and presence to His Church, resulting in God's name being glorified, God's people being revitalized in love, faith and obedience, and in the lost being brought to a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Genuine revival will (must) include:

- Conviction of sin, leading to the cleansing of our lives and a heart's desire to please God;
- A rekindling of love for Christ; lukewarmth destroyed, passion restored;
- A burden for souls, leading to salvation. A true revival not only revives the saved, but saves the lost;
- Restored hunger for and experience of the Spirit's power and presence in our lives and churches;
- Societal transformation. Genuine revival of the magnitude to which we refer (and which we so desperately need) must bear the fruit of godly change in the society around us;
- Cleansing the altar of God's Church. This invites the Spirit's fire to fall, and endues God's people with His power once again. Such a Church is impossible for the world to ignore or explain away, for true spiritual power demands a response, whether love or hatred.

A.W. Tozer wrote, "We must know again that awe-inspiring mystery which comes upon men and churches when they are full of the power of God." This is the great need of our day, and the purpose of this book is to be one of the many voices humbly and lovingly urging the people fo God to return.

It is a return to our FIRST LOVE, to faith-filled fellowship with Christ, to the power of the Spirit, and to our intended place of authority and Godly influence. Such a return is America's only hope.

It is time to seek the Lord.