

# General Suggestions for Post-Summit Days

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Often after God has met with us in revival, we wonder how we can continue, maintain, and go further in our pilgrimage. Revival does not usually leave us like the air from a tire through a blowout—instead it happens more gradually, like a slow leak, sometimes without notice until we are flat!

These instructions are presented in hope that through learning from the mistakes of others, we can be better suited to continue in the fresh work of God's Spirit in our hearts.

## 1. **Don't play or feel "holier than thou."**

We must constantly remind ourselves that *it is only by the grace of God that we have met Him in a fresh new way during this time*. Certainly that has happened in part because we set aside the time to do so, but revival is a supernatural work of God accomplished in the hearts of His children. We must not become haughty or "puffed up" with our new personal knowledge of Him. *This is probably the quickest way to stop the revival God is sending!*

## 2. **Stand firm on God's truth.**

In the days of Nehemiah, God put into his heart to care for the welfare of His people in Jerusalem. But everyone in Jerusalem was not pleased to see someone trying to change the present condition. *Some people like things just the way they are!*

When Nehemiah began to set things in order, some of the comfortable folks got upset and openly opposed him. Two in particular stood out: Sanballat and Tobiah. They laughed, scorned, despised, and mocked the people as they

worked; yet the work went on. At one point they openly threatened them and came together to fight against the workers. Then they tried a little compromise, hoping to at least slow down the work; but Nehemiah refused to meet with them. *He had put his hand to the plow and could not afford to look back.*

As you might imagine, in that kind of atmosphere, God began to move in great measure in a revival among the people. The time came when Nehemiah deemed it necessary to go back to Artaxerxes and bring him an account of the work and to assure him of his intentions. During this time, report came to Nehemiah that the work had ceased and the revival was waning, so Nehemiah returned to find out why.

Upon entering the temple, he discovered why the revival had ceased. The people had allowed Tobiah (*who had demonstrated earlier that he had no heart for the work of God*) to come back into the temple and get comfortable again in that hallowed place. Nehemiah knew what to do in order for God to continue to have His way. He threw Tobiah and all of his "stuff" out, cleansed the temple, replaced all the vessels of the Lord in the chamber—and the revival continued.

Do not be afraid to require uprightness and integrity of those who lead in spiritual matters within the church. Those who lead this church, whether on the platform, in the classroom, or in the committee meetings, should be people who have new life breathed into their soul through revival!

### 3. **Love—not sin, but the sinner.**

In the right sense, we must be able to model our fresh awareness of the work of God in one's soul. If we become insensitive to where people may actually be living (spiritually speaking), we will be unable to convey to them the heart of God and His longing to meet with them personally. Therefore we must be able to receive them lovingly, without excusing their sin and wrong priorities. The Bible says, "A word spoken in due season, how good is it," and, "Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that

against thinking that if we do not have the same intensity in our weekly services as in our special services, that must mean God has stopped sending revival.

We must also guard our hearts against comparing our church teachers and preachers with those who come for special meetings such as we have just completed. It is God who calls and God who enables each man and woman with distinct giftings for the ministry He has called them to perform. Give your staff, teachers, and ministers freedom to be *what* and *who* God has intended them to be.

Also, give them freedom to adjust to what God wants for this church after these days are over. Should your pastoral staff choose to use some of the tools we have introduced during these days, give them liberty to do so. Many churches where we have ministered now have a prayer room for their regular services; many use prayer cards, and many use a screen for choruses and hymns, because they have seen the benefit for the corporate body.

*May God use these suggestions and warnings to help each of us continue our daily walk with Him. We will be praying for you; please return the blessing!*

*surgery without anesthesia!” We have basically gone through major surgery during these days. Obviously, you don’t go out after serious surgery and run a marathon the next week. Even if the spirit is willing, the flesh is still weak!*

Give your body time to catch up with what has happened in your spirit. Don’t allow your physical feelings to dictate to your spirit what to do. Continue on in your daily obedience to God. Remember, *when you are physically tired is usually the time when you will battle the most with temptation and doubt.*

#### 10. **Those who testify often become the “targets” of the enemy.**

This should not stop us from telling others what God is doing in our lives. It is understandable that if Satan wants to counterattack what God has done in people’s lives, he will attack those who have been most visible in their obedience to God. This is his way of trying to discount the work of revival.

So what should we do? *Pray diligently for those who are public in their obedience, and remember to love and encourage them regularly.* Share with them how God has used their obedience to challenge you, and be willing to enter into their accountability team so that the work of God in their souls stays fresh.

#### 11. **Yield your expectations to God.**

Many times during a fresh and deep work of the Spirit in our lives, we will have one, two, or three nights that are “emotional highs” in our pilgrimage. Maybe it was a night when you came to such a level of surrender that “the dam broke” and there was a great release for you.

It could be very dangerous for you to return to your regular church services and expect that the same level of release has to be there as in the summit services. God works through both. He must not be boxed in by our feelings, or be expected to work the same way in different circumstances. Guard your heart

is in you, with meekness and fear.” Love is not merely an emotional feeling expressed; it involves investing myself in others. Love *not merely in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth.*

“When you speak, you should speak the truth; however, you should not always speak the truth. *You should only speak the truth when you can speak the truth in love!*”

#### 4. **Be a role model.**

Be an example to them, as Paul exhorted Timothy: “*Be thou an example of the believer in word, in behavior, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*” Live out the changes daily before them.

Life breeds life—let your new relationship with the Lord become an attraction to their life. As the salt of the earth, let your life make others thirsty for the Living Water of the life of Jesus.

*“I’d rather see a sermon than to hear one any day.*

*I’d rather one would walk with me than merely show the way!”*

#### 5. **Ask questions rather than making statements.**

We must learn how to express our concerns for others in the form of questions. Someone has wisely observed that “*an accusation hardens the will, but a question appeals to the conscience.*” Whenever we make dogmatic statements to people, we tend to put them on the defensive, which in turn closes off their spirit; consequently we lose their ear and their heart.

History shows that when people attack revival or revival meetings, they usually will not attack *the message* (it is sort of awkward to be seen as having a problem with the truth of Scripture); instead they will have a problem with either *the*

men of revival (in this case, Life Action) or the methods of revival (the prayer room, the way we handle the invitations, the type of music we use, length of services, etc.). Remember, it is not your duty to defend Life Action or any of our methodology. Give them the freedom of their opinions.

If, however, they point out something we have done during these days that is in violation of the Scriptures, then please assure them of our desire as a ministry to be biblical in what we do, and challenge them to write directly to us through our headquarters address. We certainly desire to learn and grow to be all that God intends.

#### 6. Follow the Scriptures.

This statement may seem unnecessary, but we want to emphasize two specific areas of concern. Follow the Scriptures, especially when placing people in positions of *church leadership*, and in the process of *discipline and restoration of erring believers*.

When you are asked for advice concerning raising up men for deacons, Sunday school teachers, or some position of influence within the church, be sure you know and follow the clear leading of the Scriptures. The Bible speaks specifically about the requirements to be a deacon; for example, in 1 Timothy 3 and Acts 6. Study those passages, pray, and then offer your recommendations on the basis of their life. Do not raise up men to lead the church simply because they are good businessmen, people of social stature within the community, or good givers to church needs. If we want God's blessing in the church, we must follow His instructions for choosing leaders.

Secondly, when someone is in disobedience within the body, God has left us specific instructions to tell us how to restore, or if necessary, to discipline them. Read, study, understand, and follow such Scriptures as Galatians 6:1-3; Matthew 18:15-18; and 1 Corinthians 5.

#### 7. "Choose your battles."

Please notice very quickly that this does not say "**Look for battles**"! We have our work cut out for us in full measure just doing battle against our adversary, the devil. We must learn within the body of Christ to leave room for difference of opinion when it comes to areas of disagreement where the Scriptures are not clear.

In other words, we must avoid fighting over non-essential preferences. Learn to distinguish between clear biblical convictions and personal preferences. Biblical convictions will have several distinctions about them:

- a. They are based on the *direct teaching of the Bible*.
- b. They will *never change because of circumstances*.
- c. They will be *consistent in all areas of your life*.

#### 8. Keep on encouraging one another.

Let's face it—we need each other! That's why God put you in a body known as the local church. A study of 1 Corinthians 12 will quickly show that every part of the body needs the rest of the body. Therefore, don't try to go it alone!

Study the "one anothers" of Scripture (there are about 50 of them in the New Testament; for example, exhort one another, comfort one another, forgive one another, teach and admonish one another), and begin depending on others within your church.

#### 9. Remember, "**Tiredness makes cowards of us all**."

Someone said this about revival: "*I feel like I've gone through open heart*