

GGN is a fellowship of ministers and churches that advocate the gospel of the grace of Jesus Christ – Jesus alone, grace alone, faith alone. Our purpose is twofold: to help the church rediscover Jesus and to take this message to the world.

FEBRUARY 2009

Your Sanctification Has Moved Inside— HE LIVES IN YOU!

Have you ever moved to another house? Did you have to clean the house yourself before you moved in just to make sure it was totally clean before you and your family would settle down there?

This is a good picture of what God did before He moved inside of you. To make sure His house – you – was totally clean, He cleansed the house Himself. Our cleansing could never have been good enough – only the blood of Jesus could do the job perfectly.

This is the good news! You are now cleansed and holy – so holy that the Holy God lives in you. Eph 1:4 says we are "holy and without blame before Him."

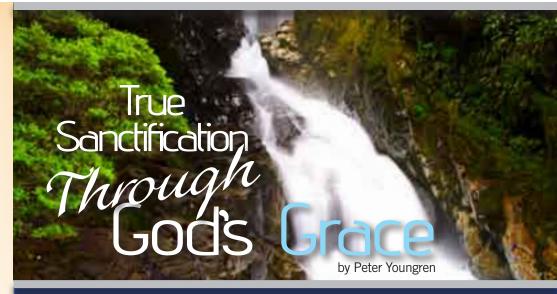
What is the fruit of the fact that you are already cleansed by Him and He now lives in you? This newsletter contains teachings about *sanctification*, a topic that for some has become a burden and a reason for condemnation. However, Jesus said that He didn't come to condemn but to save, and His burden is not heavy but light. As we have seen in area after area, Jesus Himself is the answer and the solution. Could it be the same with *sanctification*? Let's ask the Lord for increased insight and revelation as we study the teachings in this newsletter.

Also, let the news go out that the GGN web now contains translations

in French, Spanish, Swahili and Chinese.



Mary Felde *E∂itor*



Believers desire to live fruitful and godly lives, so why do we fail? What is the solution?

"But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God – and righteousness and sanctification and redemption – that, as it is written, He who glories, let him glory in the Lord" (1 Cor 1:30 – 31).

The teaching that we are righteous through Jesus Christ without our own merits often leads to a question, "How can we be righteous without doing righteous deeds first?" Let's turn the question around, "How could Jesus have been made sin without committing any sinful deed?" After all, the Bible tells us that when Jesus went to the cross He was made sin. How is this possible? The answer is: it was the work of God. God took the world's sins and put them on Jesus. We are made righteous the same way – it is the work of God. We become new creations in Christ Iesus without our own merits.

Some may think that we avoid the

question of sin, but that's not the case. On the contrary, we are teaching how true sanctification comes.

TRULY SANCTIFIED

How do we get victory over sin? How are we sanctified? Let me show from God's Word the only power that sets us free from sin and sanctifies us – God's grace. Some preachers like to use two words that Paul doesn't mention: positional and experiential. Those teachers say that positionally we are sanctified in Jesus; He has become our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. But at the same time they say that we are not experientially sanctified.

Remember, Paul is writing this to the Corinthians, and we know there were many sins and conflicts in Corinth. Yet, the Corinthians were told, as a completed fact, that Jesus Christ has

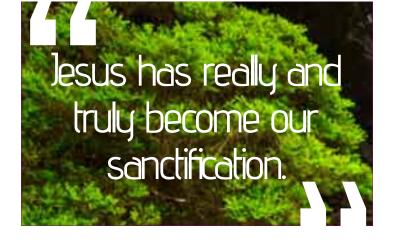
become their wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. He doesn't use the words positional and experiential. speaks about Jesus, sanctification, as a reality. Jesus has really and truly become our sanctification. sanctification comes through grace, no one can glory of himself, but only

he who glories "let him glory in the Lord." If we claim that we only have a position as sanctified, it becomes meaningless – because we live in the realm of experience. I'm not interested in Jesus as a mere theological position, but what Jesus Christ is in me now, in reality, that means something.

DEAD TO SIN

We read, "...reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom 6:11). Notice Paul says "reckon." This is not a mere theological point of view, but something much more real. To reckon something is to really count on it. In other words, really count on the fact that you are dead to sin. He continues, "For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live" (Rom 8:13). If we try to be holy through our own power and might, it will only lead into death. But if we practice the New Covenant, the covenant of the Spirit, it will produce life. The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. We can live this new life in Christ only if we allow the Holy Spirit to be our Helper.

When you stand before a confusing situation, be still and confess Jesus Christ is your wisdom. It doesn't take a long time. You don't have to pray for an hour to "have a breakthrough" or to get "wisdom anointing." Jesus Christ is your wisdom right there on the spot. You will be amazed how His wisdom will manifest in you. You will discover that by appealing to Him the answer will come very quickly even to very difficult situations.



When you are tempted to sin, be still and confess Jesus Christ is your righteousness. You don't have to fight. When you take a few moments confessing that He is your righteousness, you will notice how His life manifests in you.

The victory is not won by saying "NO" to sin, but by saying "YES" to Jesus. The more we say "no" to sin, the more we will be aware of sin. The more we say "yes" to Jesus, the more we will be aware of Jesus, and that's when sin loses its grip.

Our sanctification rests on Jesus Christ, and what He has done. It doesn't depend on you - it depends on Him. Look at His finished work.

If you have low self-esteem and you feel unworthy, be still and confess Jesus is your redemption. You will experience how His life, strength and joy manifest in you.

"MAN-MADE" METHODS

There are "man-made" methods, even in the charismatic world, of sanctification. One pastor said, "If you have a habitual sin, you have a demon." That is not what the New Testament teaches. We read of a person, who did what he didn't want to do (Romans chapter 7), but the chapter doesn't mention one single demon. Instead, this person describes a person who is trying to fulfill God's commandments in his own strength. The more he tried to fulfill the Law in his own strength, the worse the situation became. The only solution to this "wretched" person was God's abundant grace. The more we see Jesus Christ revealed in us, the more victory manifests in our life.

The spiritual armor in Ephesians chapter 6 deals with God's grace. The helmet talks about salvation – we are saved by grace. The breastplate points to righteousness –

Jesus is our righteousness. The belt is the truth – Jesus said, "I'm the truth." The sword speaks about the Spirit – we live in the covenant of the Spirit, not of the letter. The shoes symbolize the Gospel of peace – the peace that Jesus' blood has purchased for us.

I saw a book titled *Christian – Set Yourself Free*. Have you ever heard anything so absurd? Is this our covenant? Should we set ourselves free? Many will try, but when they try to make themselves holy and free, they never become really free. They may feel like they are free for a short period of time, and then they are seeking freedom again.

It's popular to use the phrase "JUST SAY NO." This teaching emphasizes that our own willpower can make us holy. When our will wrestles with sin, our willpower will always lose. If our own willpower could produce sanctification, Jesus' death and resurrection was in vain.

OUR PART

Many will ask, "What should we do? Surely we have to do something?" Yes, it is important we understand our part. We believe and receive what Jesus has already prepared for us, and allow Him to work in us. This is so radical, that I'll give you a few Bible verses to back it up.

"May the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it" (1 Thess 5:23 – 24). Who sanctifies you completely? – "The God of peace."

Who is faithful? – "He who calls you."

Sanctification is not based on our efforts, but it's God's work in us.

"May the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen" (Heb 13:20 – 21).

Who makes us complete in every good work to do His will? – "The God of peace."

people. The holiness and sanctification that manifests through Jesus is not frightening – it is attractive.

When Moses came down from the mountain of Sinai, people ran away because of fear. When Jesus came down from the mountain of transfiguration we read: "When they saw Him, all the people were greatly amazed, and running to Him, greeted Him" (Mark 9:15).

The glory of the Old Testament was frightening, but the glory of the New Testament is attractive.

Don't be discouraged if a person isn't transformed overnight. God didn't send Jesus to change people's behavior, but to give us a new heart. As soon as the heart changes, the behavior will change as well.

Paul writes, "May our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work" (2 Thess 2:16 – 17).

Who is going to establish us in every good work?

- The "Lord Jesus Christ

Himself." When we try to become holy through our own efforts, it leads into restlessness and troubles. God's way gives us positive results – "everlasting consolation and good hope" through God's "grace."

GIVE HIM GLORY

How do we avoid lusts and ungodly behavior? Paul writes, "Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart" (2 Tim 2:22). Many read only the first four words: "Flee also youthful lusts." If we stop there, we will fail. The key is to say "YES" to righteousness, faith, love and peace.

If a baby cries, it doesn't help if we

say, "stop crying." Instead, we try to direct the baby's attention elsewhere by singing or shaking a key ring. Suddenly the baby forgets why he was crying in the first place! The way to the victory over sin is by not trying to conquer sin through our own strength, but "pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness" (1 Tim 6:11). We will focus on Jesus' righteousness, godliness, faith and love in us.

"The Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!" (2 Tim 4:18)

Who delivers me from evil? – "The Lord." Who preserves me? – "The Lord."

What do we do? – "We give Him glory forever and ever."

"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen" (Jude, v. 24 – 25).

Who is able to keep you from stumbling? Who is able to present you faultless? – "God our Savior."

What is our part? – "Give Him glory, majesty, dominion and power, now and forever."

Sanctification is not what we can do, but what Jesus does in us. Our job is simply to believe and entrust ourselves to Him. We can live a holy life, but not in our own strength. True sanctification is Jesus' life in us.

JESUS' LIFE WORKS!

If we try to be holy through our own power and might, it will only lead into death.

Who makes us to do what is pleasing in God's sight? – "The great Shepherd."

How does He sanctify us? – "Through the blood of the everlasting covenant."

What should we do? – Give Him "glory forever and ever."

So it all depends on Jesus. He is our righteousness, redemption, sanctification and wisdom.

The works of God were sometimes frightening in the Old Testament. Do you remember when God thundered in the mountain of Sinai? They were all in a state of panic, including Moses. Sinai was a demonstration of God's holiness and it scared the

PETER YOUNGRENSenior Pastor of

Senior Pastor of
Celebration Church, Canada
Founder of
Celebration Ministries
Member of
GGN Board of Directors
www.peteryoungren.org



When the Law is no longer the guide to our Christian life, how shall we then manage to live godly lives? What are the keys to sanctification?



ne of the important questions people ask when they hear about freedom from the Law is what guidelines people should then follow in order to live a fruitful and good Christian life. One needs to have some ground rules, or not?

This is where the Word gives some very important answers!

WALKING IN HIM

Simply read for yourself: "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, CONTINUE TO LIVE IN HIM, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. SEE TO IT THAT NO-ONE TAKES YOU CAPTIVE through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic

principles of this world RATHER THAN ON CHRIST. For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority" (Col. 2:6-10).

The fundamental thought here is that our walk through life has its full and complete focus in Him, Christ, in the same way as He is the only way to salvation. There isn't one way to salvation and another way to sanctification. JESUS is the way to both. The first Christians were called THE WAY. This way is Christ Jesus. He is the way to the Father, but He is also the road we are walking on!

More correctly: We walk in Him, we are IN HIM, and He is in us.

CHRIST IS OUR LIFE

When Christ is our life, we can base our walk on the new creation, being renewed to knowledge according to the image of Him who created it (Col. 3:4-10).

This is the foundation for all the

admonitions of the apostle Paul correctly place. Throughout all his letters, Paul points out that the key to the walk is the new creation. The new creation has the love of God poured out in its heart and can therefore walk in the law of Christ, the law of love. Paul explains what this means in practical life by many specific examples. For instance, we shall not lie, commit adultery or be angry. It is, therefore, a provoking thought that so many Christians are angry all the time!

I receive many angry letters from people insisting on keeping the Law. The solution for getting rid of short-temperedness is that we have put off the old self and put on the new self, as Eph. 4:20-24 explains. It is in this context that Paul says: "Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor,

for we are all members of one body. 'In your anger do not sin': Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold" (Eph. 4:25-27).

The solution is simply the new creation; the

There isn't one way to salvation and another way to sanctification.

new self has a new nature. We live a life which would be impossible without Christ in us.

The problem pointed to, by Paul, is that some people do no grasp the fundamental thought that the new life and the new self are the keys to a right life. Instead, they take Paul's admonitions and make a new set of rules out of them. By doing that, one has already lost the focus on Christ, the cross, the new self and the fruit of the Spirit.

In order to stress this, Paul says: "Since you died with Christ to the basic principles of this world, WHY...DO YOU SUBMIT TO ITS RULES: 'Do not handle! Do not taste! Do not touch!' (Col. 2:20)

The need that Christians feel for a set of rules is going, in itself, astray from the life in Christ. He wants us to live by Him, walk in Him, be dependent upon the Spirit of God in everyday life as well as on special occasions. He will show us, when we need it, what we shall do or say. The key is developing a fellowship with the Holy Spirit.

If we live by the Spirit, we will not fulfill the desires of the flesh.

THE POWER OF THE CROSS

There are some simple, but powerful keys to the sanctification. I have already shown you that one key is walking in Him.

The essentials of the life of Christ are His death and resurrection. The word of the CROSS is a force of God. The sad thing is that some preachers and theologians want to reduce the importance of the cross. But we proclaim a crucified Christ. He still carries the marks from the cross!

On the cross Jesus took away all sin,



sickness and condemnation.

On the cross, the old self was crucified with Him. That is why Paul teaches that practical sanctification is using the power from the cross: "For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God" (Col. 3:3). "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed..." (Col. 3:5).

"But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, SINCE YOU HAVE TAKEN OFF YOUR OLD SELF WITH ITS PRACTICES AND HAVE PUT ON THE NEW SELF..." (Col. 3:8-10).

Can you see the point? He relates his admonitions to the new self and simply explains what it means in practical life. But by that, he has also said that it will work only for those being born-again! What counts is being a new creation (Gal. 6:15).

CHRIST IS OUR SANCTIFICATION

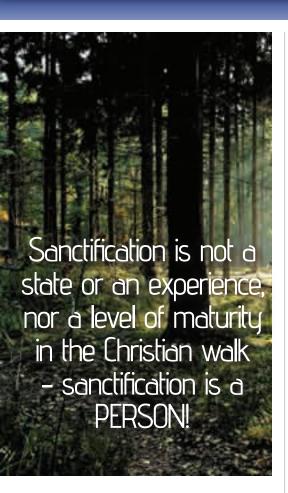
In order that no one shall boast of his or her self in human pride, God has made sure that CHRIST is the only workable way! Unfortunately, pride and arrogance spreads from some Christians who have not grasped that "Christ is our sanctification". When some Christians speak about holiness, they do it in a way similar to that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law. One of their tactics is trying to catch you with their words. But that sort of "sanctification" does not have the aroma of Christ, but of those who wanted to stone sinners.

However, 1 Cor. 1:30-31 is a precious revelation: "It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God - that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. Therefore, as it is written: 'Let him who boasts boast in the Lord.' "

Because we are in Christ, HE is our sanctification! Sanctification is not a state or an experience, nor a level of maturity in the Christian walk – sanctification is a PERSON! The day when we grasp that, is one of the most important days in our lives.

The question is then: I suppose this must be visible in life and behavior, Åge?

On the cross, the old self was crucified with Him.



The answer is: Of course, but how does that happen? By CHRIST BEING FORMED IN US! He who is our sanctification, lives in us. So the sanctification becomes visible by HIM being formed in us, and THAT is a lifelong process...

The key and the secret is "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27).

The process is 1 Thess. 5:23-24, namely that spirit, soul and body are all filled with Christ-life.

THE WORK OF GRACE IN SANCTIFICATION

Therefore, the sanctification is a work of grace. GRACE does this, too! And grace is free, undeserved goodwill and a happy surprise.

The same grace that saves us, teaches us to live godly lives in this world.

HERE IS THE MESSAGE THAT

GIVES THE PROCLAMATION OF GRACE THE CORRECT FOCUS and which many are so slow to hear: "For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. IT TEACHES US to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled upright and godly lives in this present age" (Tit. 2:11-12).

This refutes all those who believe that the proclamation of grace leads to worldliness and a shabby life. In fact, the complete opposite is written, and the Word should have more authority than our opinions or our fears.

GRACE TEACHES US! What a wonderful teacher. Grace succeeds where the "supervision of the Law" in the old covenant did not (Gal. 3:24-25). The Law only tempted and increased sin, while grace leads to the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.

What was impossible for the Law, God did! (Read Rom. 8:1-4)

THE SANCTIFYING WORK THE SPIRIT

In this we touch yet another key to a holy life:

OF

The Holy Spirit lives in us and therefore it is the SANCTIFYING WORK OF THE SPIRIT that produces this life in us.

"But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the SANCTIFYING WORK OF THE SPIRIT and through belief in the truth" (2 Thess. 2:13).

Peter uses the same expression in 1 Pet. 1:2: "The sanctifying work of the Spirit."

It should be very obvious to all of us that it is not the sanctifying work of the Law, but of the Spirit! In the New Covenant we are not in the ministry of the letter, but in the ministry of the Spirit (2 Cor. 3:6-8).

THE SPIRIT has now taken over all functions! The Spirit convinces of sin, while the Law does not. The Spirit gives us a new birth, the Spirit glorifies Christ and the Spirit equips and sanctifies! We live in the COVENANT OF THE SPIRIT, not in the covenant of the letter. We serve in the newness of the Spirit, not in the oldness of the

The sanctification becomes visible by HIM being formed in us,

letter. Here is a big FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE!

The sanctifying work of the Spirit makes the fruit of the Spirit visible. God's love is poured out in us by the Spirit (Rom. 5:5), and it leads to love, joy and peace - fruit that comes with the new life. Jesus gives life; this life gives fruit. All this happens by the Spirit of the Lord. It is as simple as that. It is effective and deep, and it honors Christ in all things.

WALK IN HIM!



ÅGE ÅLESKJÆR
Senior Pastor of
Oslo Kristne Senter, Norway
Member of
GGN Board of Directors

O U T L I N E

TOPIC HOLLINESS by Mary Felde

TEXT: HEBREWS 10:10, 10:14

INTRODUCTION

Holiness is an important topic. Hebrews 12:14 speaks about holiness, saying "holiness, without which no one will see the Lord." There has, therefore, been much teaching about *the need for* holiness. The focus in this outline is *how and when* holiness *is achieved*.

A. YOU ARE HOLY!

1. Who makes you holy – you or God?

Hebr 2:11 For both <u>He who sanctifies</u> and those who are being sanctified...

2. When and how does He make you holy?

Hebr 10:10 By that will we have been sanctified through the

offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Hebr 10:14 For by one offering He has perfected forever

those who are being sanctified.

It is only the blood of Jesus that can cleanse us totally. And this is done once for all. We become holy the moment we are born again.

Jesus' blood is also continually cleansing us.

3. The Bible calls the born-again believers holy. Phil 1:1, Col 1:2, Eph 1:4, Rom 11:16

B. WHAT IS HOLINESS?

- 1. Being cleansed/pure
 - a. So cleansed/pure that you can be in His presence the most Holy place.

Hebr 10:19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus.

We remember how strict this was in the Old Covenant when the High Priest would enter the Holy of Holies by his own holiness (following all the rules of cleansing and offerings).

The blood of Jesus must have made a huge difference, since we now may boldly enter!

b. So cleansed/pure that God Himself, through the Holy Spirit, can live in you.1 Cor 3:16, 1 Cor 6:19, John 14:23, Col 1:27

The blood of Jesus must have done a perfect work cleansing us!

Illustration: Sometimes we have to clean the house ourselves before we move in. That is what God did with His new house – you!

The Holy Spirit doesn't move in and out. He has come to stay forever. John 14:16.

2. Set aside for His use

We are all set aside for His use.

It's not "us working for Him," but He working through us!

C. YOU ARE HOLY, THEREFORE, LIVE AS HOLY

1. Notice the order!

We don't live holy to *become* holy, but because we *are* holy already.

2. Know who you are.

The Apostle Paul often encouraged people to live holy and right based on the fact that they had already become new creations and that God had already moved inside of them. (E.g. 1 Cor 6:12-20.)

The Holy one lives in and through you.
 He produces in you the right lifestyle.
 As you yield to Him, His life will be increasingly formed in you.
 Col 1:27, Gal 2:20, Phil 2:13, Gal 4:19

D. THE CHURCH / THE BODY OF CHRIST IS HOLY, TOO

1. The whole Body is holy. Rom 11:16

2. Jesus sanctified the Church when He gave Himself for the Church. Eph 5:25-27

CONCLUSION:

Grow in the awareness of what God has already done with you. He has already made you holy, and then He moved inside of you to help you live accordingly - not in your own strength, but Christ in you. Righteousness is you in Christ; sanctification is Christ in you.

Gospel Revolution Seminars 2009

NAIROBI

At The Kenyatta Itnl Conference Center KICC March 18-20, 2009—Four sessions daily Day sessions: 8:30am, 10:30am, 11:30am Evening sessions: 6:00pm

REGISTER AT: C.C.C. P.O. BOX 71489 0062 NAIROBI, KENYA OR

CALL: 0727531111 | 0735784065 | 020780897

SMS: 0722843769 | 0738609079 EMAIL: kiccnairobiseminar@yahoo.co.uk

KISUMU

KPC MILIMANI March 23-24 8:30am-12:30pm DAILY

TO REGISTER, CALL:
BISHOP LISTER OKINDA: 0728823307
APOSTLE DAVID KWEYU: 0729339017
MAIL: NEW WINE MINISTRIES
P.O. BOX 9612 - 40100 KISUMU, KENYA

EMAIL: KISUMUSEMINAR@YAHOO.COM.

SAVED, HEALED, ANOINTED, PROSPEROUS, SUCCESSFUL—ALL BY GRACE!

There is an awakening across the world. People are rediscovering the Gospel Of The Grace of Jesus. Pastor Peter Youngren has taught 291,000 pastor and leaders. Pastor Åge leads the largest church in Norway. Don't miss this unforgettable seminar in Nairobi. PASTORS AND LEADERS ACROSS THE SWAHILI SPEAKING WORLD ARE INVITED.

DYNAMIC, JESUS-CENTERED TV WatchCelebrate.tv



available online 24/7

with T.L. Osborn, Peter Ljunggren, Åge Åleskjær, Joseph Prince, Linda Bergling and more!

LET'S GET ACQUAINTED

Rest for the Weary

s a young minister of the Gospel, I had great zeal for the Lord and wanted to do so many things -sometimes at the same time. When I saw how desperately the world needs to hear about Jesus, I did whatever I could to get the message out. I frequently went to the downtown area of my hometown, Ottawa, Canada, to hand out food and tracts to homeless people and to share Jesus with street kids.

On one such occasion, a group of us from youth went out to an ice sculpting festival on the famous Rideau Canal in Ottawa. I felt compelled to preach the Gospel. So I stopped all the people passing by until I gathered a crowd, and then I stood in the middle and screamed at the top of my lungs with tears flowing down my face "God loves Canada, and revival is on the way." I was so desperate to see my nation come to Jesus. I heard about the promised move of God that is coming. I sang songs about it, read about it, and heard preaching on it. I then concluded that if revival does not come, there would be no hope for Canada.

IN SEARCH FOR REVIVAL

I waited months, then years, for the anticipated event that would be the solution to all of our problems. But as the months and years went by, I became more and more frustrated because revival never came. We were told if the pattern is right, the glory will fall. So we worked hard to get the pattern right. I read about great men and women of God that God used mightily in the past and tried to imitate them. I also searched the Scriptures for promises of the great "move of God" at the end times. I proclaimed them and memorized them, but revival never came.

As a solution, many demands were put on us by well-intentioned brothers and sisters in the Lord to ever be pressing forward for that elusive breakthrough which will bring all of the things we seek and thus bring satisfaction to our souls. It was as if God was a cruel master who needs to be appeased through various rituals so that He would satisfy us with His blessings. I became so introspective and self-conscience which in turn made me sin-conscience. I fed on condemnation which made me walk upright for just a moment, then I would crash again. Condemnation can be a power motivator to live a holy life for just a time. Then when you crash, it's even worse than before.

We were then bombarded with 7 steps, 12 keys and 20 secrets to a better life. So in response, I bought the CD albums, read the books, and literally ran across North America from one conference to another revival meeting hungry and thirsty for more. But yet again I failed to see change in my own life, let alone in my city. I become even more restless. "There must be more," I reasoned, "there has to be more." Then certain questions started to arise in my mind. Why hasn't the prophesied move of God materialized? What's the hold up? What is it going to take? What's the price I have to pay for revival?

"NO SWEAT ALLOWED"

Now I realize that I was working hard to bring change to my life and my city in my own strength and wisdom. So God had to wait until I was totally frustrated and gave up before he started to reveal Jesus to me. God will stand by and watch as long as man is "sweating away" in his efforts. But when we stop, He starts. Did you know that the priests in the Old Covenant were not allowed to sweat? They were a picture or a shadow of a New Covenant believer who has totally rested from his own works and has totally relied in the finished work of Christ.

Then God jolted me with a revelation of the seated Christ. Do you know that Jesus is resting at the right hand of God as you read this sentence? God made Jesus sit, and there is no prayer or plea that would get Him off His seat. No wonder all my prayers pleading with God to move were never answered. He has finished His work to bring my salvation, healing, deliverance and all blessings while He was on earth. He was

crucified, buried, resurrected, exalted, and He has been sitting ever since. Do you see Jesus now? Totally at rest.

THE MAIN POINT

Then I kept on reading towards Ephesians 2:6 and my eyes were opened. I discovered that in Christ I have also entered my rest. I am also seated with Him. So I reasoned, if Jesus is sitting down, I will sit down, too. No one is going to get me off of this seat. God made me sit down. You see, friend, in my frantic search for revival, I had forgotten the main point. "What is the main point?" you may ask. Hebrews 8:1 says: "The point of what we are saying is this: We do have such a high priest, who sat down at the right hand of the throne of Majesty in heaven." Jesus is the main point. He finished the work two thousand years ago. Now He rests. As long as we are chasing seven steps for revival and running across the world to the next new thing happening, we will never understand

As long as we are chasing seven steps for revival and running across the world to the next new thing happening, we will never understand what it means to rest in Him

what it means to rest in Him. If I need 12 keys for my blessing, that indirectly means Jesus has not finished the work for my blessing - I have to add more works to His. Good news, friend, His works are finished. Anything else added to them are dead works.

"Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest..." (Hebrews 4:11). Now I know my response is to comply and cooperate with Him as He does all the work through me. Let Jesus take all the glory and no flesh boast in His

sight.



Gola Tiruneh Missionary, Dean of Celebration Bible College, Medan, Indonesia

EDITOR: Mary Felde, GRAPHIC DESIGN: Lindsay Allison For more information on GGN visit www.GlobalGraceNetwork.org Global Grace Network, P.O. Box 490, Niagara Falls, NY 14303, US

