

"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. " (John 7:37-38).

A certain preacher said that he will never show a person the way of Salvation unless he is desperate and wants it badly. There is wisdom in that. How can you show a man to be saved if he doesn't believe he is lost?

Jesus will pour water upon the thirsty ground. Blessed is he who hunger and thirst after righteousness.

Hunger is the best cook. A person that isn't hungry will find fault with the food.

DL Moody was preaching and afterwards a professor came to him and told him how many grammatical mistakes he had made. Moody replied, "sir I do this with my bad English, what do you do with your good English?"

Langenhoven was a South African parliamentarian and he was brilliant. Once he stood up in the house and said, "half of the members of this house are donkeys". When the speaker told him to retract his words, he replied, "half of the members of this house are not donkeys". However he had one problem - alcohol. He said that all the people were speaking about his drinking problem but no one spoke about his great thirst. He had a great thirst for alcohol.

These days young people also have a great thirst for worldly things and especially pornography. Job said that he had made a covenant with his eyes that he would not even think upon or look at a young woman.

David wrote that he thirsted for God as a deer pants for the waters (Ps 42).

Thirst is wonderful if you thirst for the right things.

If you don't hunger or thirst after righteousness it is because you look at and read the wrong things – things right out of the heart of hell.

May God be gracious to you so that you never lose that blessing that those get who hunger and thirst after righteousness.

If God doesn't pour water on you then there's something wrong with your thirst.

"For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, and floods on the dry ground;" (Is 44:3)

So may God grant that you have a healthy thirst.

If you want revival it is grace, and the grace is this that you may pay the price. Every promise in the Bible has a condition.

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14).

It is amazing that God puts the healing of our land in our hands.

A certain monk had as a vision to save his country, but failed. Then he made the circle smaller to save his circle of friends, but he failed. Then he made the circle smaller to save his family but failed. Finally on his death bed he suddenly realised that he was lost and cried to God to save him and God saved him. Then he said "o that I had started where I ended, then maybe my family would have been saved too".

That's why we say revival begins with yourself and not the next person.

In 1966 I prayed fervently day and night for God to send revival. One night I woke up perspiring because of the great struggle I had. I said I will preach till God's fire come down, but no fire came down.

I felt like the unhappiest man in the world. I read every book on revival I could get hold of, and it was sweet to me.

For twelve years I struggled and preached like that and came to the end of myself. I said to my small Zulu congregation that I was praying for God to work as in the days of old and they should pray too. If God doesn't work I'll have to give up. I've given up my inheritance and was busy with something that doesn't work.

That night when I woke up perspiring I opened the Bible and read the verse which is also the theme of this conference. It shook me.

When I read about the woman asking for the Living water so that she would never thirst again or come to draw water again, I realised that that was a perfect picture of my life. I'd preach for a few months and I'd be empty and will need special services again to fill my bucket. But Jesus said that it won't be like that. If you drink of the water that Jesus gives it will become a spring of Living water in your innermost being that bubbles up unto Eternal Life.

While Jesus was conversing with the woman and she asked for the Living water, Jesus said to the her, "go call your husband". It sounds like a word out of context. She replied that she didn't have a husband. He replied that she spoke the truth for she had had five husbands and the one she lived with wasn't hers. She lived in adultery.

Do you get the point? It's no use asking for the Living water unless that which is wrong in your life have been dealt with. It's nonsense to say you're desiring revival while you have known sin in your life.

As a young boy we had to water a garden. When we opened the tap not a drop of water came out. I went to the reservoir but it was full to the brim. We then unscrewed the tap and lo there was a dead frog in the pipe. As soon as we removed the frog, the water gushed forth and we could water the whole garden.

God's reservoir in heaven is full to the brim. If there's no Living water flowing from your life, there's a blockage in your life, maybe a dead frog.

Stop praying for Living water, but pray that the blockage of sin would be cleansed and dealt with by the precious Blood of Jesus.

In 1966 before God came down and sent revival, He first dealt with the sin in my life. He showed

me my pride, how I lived before men and honoured them more than Him. I broke and cried before the Lord. I saw myself in a vision worshipping in a Hindu temple, bowing before the idols. I forgot that I had been a preacher but broke down before God, crying, "God be merciful to me a sinner". God was merciful and cleansed me. He also started to work in the small Zulu congregation. Husbands and wives would be reconciled to each other. People would apologise the one to the other and put right what they had done wrong.

Then God came down and more happened in the first two weeks than had happened in the previous twelve years of hard preaching.

Jesus said go into all the world and teach them to keep all that I have commanded you (Matt 28:19, 20)

It's no use you teach your congregation the commandments of the Lord Jesus while you don't keep them. Maybe you haven't even taught your family to keep Jesus' commandments. Maybe you yourself don't keep it.

It's one thing to teach people to know God's commandments. It's another thing to teach them to keep them.

Do you have that authority? God said of Abraham, "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgement; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him." (Gen 18:19). He had a big households of hundreds of people.

You need the authority and power of the Holy Spirit to teach others to keep God's commands.

You need to go and teach your house to keep God's commands.