

29 *Vision*

29vision.co.za



New Sound!



2020

BOOK ONE

The FOUNDATION



The “29” Vision

Johann van der Hoven

You may find some portions in this book repeated later, if you do, it bears repeating and is done so because the Holy Spirit so chose it to be, laying emphasis on what He wants to imprint into our hearts.

DO YOU KNOW WHY?

The Lord asked me, *"Do you know what My intention with the ACTS 29 Vision is?"*

What is the purpose of this Vision and why do I desire to see it come into being fulfilled?"

Then He continued to say ...

"THE ACTS 29 VISION is the purest expression of what I had intended for My people to experience as My authentic plan and purpose for them to know when coming together in corporate communion and worship.

It is the Purest expression of My Word. The purest expression in Revelation. The purest in being Scripturally correct. It is Pure in Worship. Pure in the Spirit. Pure in the demonstration of My Power and in the manifestation of My Person and Presence. Pure in signs, wonders & miracles of My Spirit."

He continued, *"The very reason for the Vision is to return My people to what I originally had in mind for them. For them to recapture what had been taken from them and what they had lost by religion and compromise. It is the return to the hope of having the future I had destined for them. The hope of their present day and of their tomorrow's being filled with My Presence!"*

"It is a return to My will."

The 29 VISION - The Return To our Hope For Today & Tomorrow.

When you read this Vision, read it with the present understanding that it is a Vision, not a new institution, "church" or origination. It serves the entire Body of Christ, it is a call for us to recapture of what has been allocated for us from Heaven, what has been freely given, but as you will come to see, has many times been suffocated by religion and the ideas of men.

It is then also important to understand that we have to identify the wrongs and to consider where we have lost track of God's ways, in order to identify the right and to choose to allow the Holy Spirit to renew our thoughts and to reorder our ways back into the Heart of the Father.

Nothing that is written in this Vision is written to criticise, or to beat anyone with a stick. That is not the spirit or the intention of this writing and where there is hard realities we have to face and acknowledge, it is necessary for us to face them and to acknowledge what was wrong, so we may embrace what is right.

HOW THE VISION WILL COME TO PASS

The Holy Spirit very clearly spoke to my heart and said that a *NEW SOUND!* will be released on earth in 2020. This *NEW SOUND!* will be the sound of the restoration of His true and authentic church in the earth. 2020 will be a year of the beginning of the return of the

church of Jesus Christ to being the authentic people filled and fired with His Holy Spirit.

There is a great time of jubilation and Blessing that awaits the church of Jesus Christ this coming year. The Holy Spirit is coming back among His people in a Mighty Wave and a Holy Wind from Heaven that is going to cause the church to explode into a new and unknown (*in our time at least!*) outpouring and dimension of Glory that is going to cause peoples hearts' to be on fire for God as never before seen in this country and around the world.

It starts in 2020 - the year of the outpouring of God's Glory!

HOW WILL IT BE?

The Holy Spirit has said that it will come to pass as He will gather His people in corporate meetings from across denominations, and as they will gather, hungry for His Spirit in these meetings, He will pour out His Glory upon them. Great Supernatural signs, wonders and miracles will be witnessed and experienced in these gatherings. Healings, miracles and unusual signs will be the "*bread*" broken and served from the Presence of the Lord, as great personal encounters with the Holy Spirit will be experienced. The Word will come alive in people and will again become the reality by which they live. Great prophecies (*living Words from Heaven to earth*) will go forth and some will come into fulfillment within minutes of being spoken inside of the very meetings they were released.

People will leave with the Presence of God and will see the Living Manifestation of the Living God being produced in their lives as great Revelations will come and as they will experience and encounter the miracles of God performed in their own personal lives. They will see the Blessing, favour and the Power of God upon them as His hand rests upon them.

This will all happen because of a fresh Revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ within their hearts as the Holy Spirit will break the Word for them to experience in living Revelation as they have never seen or understood it before, and as His Presence will flood their hearts with Love, compassion and fill them with Heaven's Glory.

This will not happen in the institutionalised organisms as they currently exist, so that no one would be able to claim a doctrinal advantage and so no one would be able to take personal glory for this Heavenly work of the Holy Spirit. It will happen outside of all existing structures, in meetings where all God's children will gather independantly of affiliation to any specific group or church, to meet with the Holy Spirit and to be filled and satisfied with His Goodness! *However, says the Lord - they will all be affected by My move at the end!*

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UNDERSTANDING THE ACTS 29 VISION

When reading through this Vision, I am sure that you will firmly agree with me that everything that is contained in this book is exactly what God intended and instructed His church to do! This Vision is nothing new, in fact, all that it is a cry from the Father's heart for His people to lay a hold of what He had intended to be from the very start and to see it through.

The very reason for the 29 Vision is because of the failure of the religious institution that is supposed to be the Ekklesia, the living body of Christ in the earth today, and the living organism that God had ordained it to be, whereby His will could be established on earth through the equipping of the saints (ordinary believers), so that they could go forth as spiritually mature disciples of Jesus Christ to make disciples who they could bring to maturity in the Spirit also.

This was God's initial instruction to those disciples who had walked with Him and who He had poured Himself into - "Go and make disciples of all men".

Yet it is an absolute truth that that is the furthest thing from what the Lord had instructed which the religious institutions of our day are keeping themselves busy with. They are not making spiritual disciples in the Lord, neither are they bringing God's people to the place of being mature in the Spirit! In fact the level of teaching and preaching in most religious institutions today (referring to the so called "churches", which I cannot call the true church, because they simply are not, and therefore refer to as "religious institutions", which they are), is lowering the standard of those who are attending and leading people into a false religious worship and a compromised lifestyle to secure their attendance and to ensure that they remain financially afloat. Those who are not going in that direction are for the better part going back to "the old time religion", and in the process both are missing the Father's heart! He does not want us to go back to what was, but to move on into what we ought to become. Neither does He want us to compromise the first principles, but to grow from them, deepening our walk with Him and growing into new and fresh Revelation that will usher us into greater dimensions of His Glory being revealed and made evident within the lives of those who are joined to Him.

The 29 Vision then is the Holy Spirit calling on those who recognise the season and the great need that exists among believers to rebuild upon God's original foundations, while at the same time allowing the Holy Spirit to lead us in His present day Revelation, so we may grow to become the living body God had envisioned us to be and that we may grow to the level of maturity that He had destined us to be a part of in 2017 and beyond!

Because the religious institutions have failed, ***though there be some true churches also who are after the heart of the Father***, it is undeniable that they are in the minority and have become a scarce reality, for the most part, compromise and false teaching is at the order of the day, and the religious institution, by enlarge continues to fail in accomplishing the very reason and purpose that God had created it for, He is raising up a "new tree", a

fresh planting from the Lord alongside that which has failed that will grow to become all that the Father's heart intended it to be. Money, status, titles and position has become the main drive and is up for sale to those who serve their peers aright, who "sow" as they should and who are faithful in hailing their leaders as "kings". It has become a monopoly controlled by leaders who are no less than spiritual "mafia", who hoodwink the system and controls who features and who does not. Many who never get to have a first hand look behind the curtains of the "whited robes" of religious worship and the way by which the services are presented that all seem to be "Kosher", fail to know what really happens behind closed doors. While those who have had the experience of seeing the truth for what it is will fully acknowledge what I write here as being a hundred percent accurate and true.

This book will explore the many times in history where God had intervened to bring reformation when the institutionalised church had failed Him, and what the response was to those whom He had sent. It will also explore why reformation is needed today and what it is that His reformation will bring about in our day.

The "29" Vision is a Vision which was inspired from the very heart of God for each one of His children. The Vision belongs to no one except to God and to everyone who would make it their own.

"29" Vision is not an organisation or a religious institution, it is God's heart and present will being expressed to His people by His Holy Spirit. Anyone and everyone who is willing can therefore make this Vision a part of themselves, their local congregation or begin their own missionary movement to reach their communities, by using this Vision as the foundation upon which to build God's Kingdom on earth and established this dream from God's heart in their communities, cities and nations.

Pioneering God's heart

Introducing something new is never easy. There are different reasons for that. One being that it is "new", and people are not always comfortable with "new". When something old and established is suddenly challenged by a new kid on the block it sometimes takes time for people to both see and acknowledge where it is coming from and why it is needed.

Pioneering a work of the Holy Spirit therefore is never easy, though it may be very necessary!

It is therefore very important to understand how a Vision works, in order not to become despondent during the trying times of seeing the Vision coming into the realm of Spirit to being birthed into the realm of the world we live in.

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UNDERSTANDING THE CORE OF THIS VISION

Creating Spirit-pools

There was a time when the evangelist could go out and win souls and where he could commit those souls to the local churches for their care and happily go along to the next harvest field. Sadly today, for the most part, those times no longer exist. Doing that today would in many cases result in abortion or spiritual murder of an innocent new born soul. The danger exists that the new soul will either be left out in the cold to starve and die, or be introduced to false teaching, or even worse, will be conformed to a dead religious system where he or she will be taught to do church without God and accept it to be the standard and norm of being "on fire" for God!

I speak from first-hand experience!

If the Church was doing what the Church should be doing, there would be no need for me to be doing anything more than casting out devils, healing the sick and seeing the lost run to Christ. The very reason God began speaking to me with regards to ACTS 29, was because I saw young and old who had come to Christ, after being radically set free and delivered, being left out in the cold to die by churches who simply cared about nothing else except having a "good time".

It was then when the Holy Spirit opened my eyes to see what had become of the Church and how far off the mark it has become. It was when the Lord took me behind the curtains of the perfect services, that I came to see the wrong motives, the corruption and the distorted values and the compromise of leaders who live for name, fame and wealth. When I saw how people became no more than numbers securing the income of churches to meet the budget, and how so-called pastors would entertain sin and unrighteousness, in many cases becoming as unrighteous themselves as those they harboured in unrighteousness. When I saw the manipulation of the Holy Spirit to fit into man-made programs and how services were orchestrated to meet what the people wanted as programs of entertainment, how the music changed and the messages were conformed to soothe the ears of what the masses want to hear, how truth became compromised and how room was made for blatant error, and how people were being openly deceived for the sake of keeping the pockets of pastors stuffed with money, that I realised why God was saying that what He had intended as a good tree, had for the most part become rotten from the roots up!

It was then that the Lord began to speak to me about Spiritual fountains that needed to be established, where those who seek to grow in the Lord and who are thirsty for deeper Revelation and an intimate walk in His Presence, and who seek to be filled with His Glory, and serve Him from the heart, could come together as brothers and sisters outside of what exists and has been polluted, to be satisfied and nourished in a healthy environment

focused purely on Christ and where the Holy Spirit would have the freedom to move freely and unrestrained. Where pure truth would come as the Holy Spirit Himself would once again be allowed to lead and to teach from Heaven above and people would again come to know and discover what it truly means to walk in His Love.

The Lord would soon confirm the Vision on several occasions and in notable Visions that would follow. I will share some of them with you later in this book.

As we began obeying and pursuing the Vision, the Holy Spirit began unfolding exactly what He wanted accomplished through ACTS 29 and detailed the following things to my heart:

EQUIPPING

*** Spiritual discipleship**

The Lord said to me that most of the discipling going on in the established religious institutions of our day, is not the kind of discipling that He had in mind at all. He said that instead of raising up Spiritual and Spirit-filled disciples, who would grow into mature saints through whom the Holy Spirit could influence others to come to repentance and who would be able to lead other disciples to maturity, as He had commanded it to be done, people were being made into religious puppets, groomed to find their place within the institutionalised body, where they are being taught how to behave as proper religious "Christians".

Instead of being led into the deeper life in Christ and being developed to become mature in the Spirit and the ways of God, they are taught to "give in the offering" and how to behave as a good Christian following all the church's rules. How to fit in, clap your hands and do the right thing at the right time. They were being conformed to a religious system!

The Holy Spirit spoke clearly in mandating ACTS 29 to become a model whereby Spiritual disciples would rise.

Men and women who have come to grow and to know the Lord intimately for themselves, and who by the process of their own maturing through receiving Spirit-Inspired teaching, among other impartations of the Holy Spirit, would be equipped to go and make true Spirit-led and filled disciples of our Lord.

THE RESTORATION OF:

*** Fellowship & communion**

The Holy Spirit pointed out how some modern day churches were filled to the brim with broken people whom no one ever attended to or try to heal.

In the chase after numbers, the Vision of God's heart of a Body who would share fellowship and communion, where each would be in a place of being cared for, it had been replaced by creating mega structures where people come and leave as strangers, having no more that joins them together than identifying that they belong to the same place that has the logo on the building.

The Lord said that He wanted to restore fellowship and communion among His children, where they again would be breaking bread from house to house, and where His Love would again prevail among one another as it burned in their hearts.

*** God's family**

The Holy Spirit went on to show me how what was intended to be God's family, had become no more than a commercial branded institution, divided along the lines of favourite pastors, religious entertainment and talent.

God's family had been comprised! The intimate bond between brothers and sisters who are bound together by the same Spirit and flooded with the Father's Love, have been sacrificed on the altars of popularity and a superficial invention void of living out the true heartbeat of the Gospel, which is God's Love among His people. Not a kind of love that merely lives on in words, or that loves from a distance, but the Love that lays its life down for one another.

The Holy Spirit clearly spoke to my heart and called for God's family to be restored to the way He intended for it to be at the very beginning, where it was about people and His Spirit within them, shared among each other in authentic relationships born from the Spirit.

*** Personal Intimacy with God**

In an arena where, for the most part, personal intimacy with God has become a matter of singing and swaying on the right music, while flashing strobe-lights are synced to the rhythm of the beat, and where religious praying has become the standard and the norm of communication with God. Where corporate times of worship replace personal times of deep intimacy with the Holy Spirit, the need to truly come to know God in Person for yourself and to do so without any form of entertainment needed, has become one of the greatest needs of our time.

Knowing God and His voice, living in the place of true intimacy with the Holy Spirit, understanding solitude with Him where His Presence is experienced in overwhelming silence and where people are taught to walk and to live in the harmony of unbroken fellowship and Union with the Holy Spirit, has for many become an unknown reality, and something the Holy Spirit desperately seeks to be restored.

*** Prophetic teaching**

Much of what the Holy Spirit today shares from Heaven as Revelation from the Father's heart is unknown upon the ears of many who have become accustomed to the low end of being fed and groomed on teaching from the flesh.

A sudden injection of Spirit Inspired truth is too much for many to stomach, who have become used to the pattern of preaching where most of what is taught and said, have been taught and said, and is only seasoned with a new flavour or spice as it is presented again and again.

Something new and never before heard, is alien and seems wrong and out of place, because if it were true and real, why is it not being taught by anyone else?

God's Spirit has been limited in Revelation! True prophetic preaching, preaching as the Spirit gives utterance, preaching from Heaven to earth, where the Father speaks His heart and leads His people into Blessings never before encountered, secrets never before shared, Power never before demonstrated and Presence never before manifested, has become an almost unthinkable possibility as the safe zones of religion has anchored the ship from sailing the open seas of an ever-changing landscape of discovering as we grow in dimensions of Glory, from Glory to Glory.

God's intention was for us to move, not to be anchored. To pioneer. To discover. To live in Him and to live in awe as we see what our eyes have never seen, to perceive what our hearts could never dream and to hear things directly from His heart that would cause our hearts to swell with His Love.

The Holy Spirit is sharing fresh Heavenly Bread, broken by Christ Himself to feed His people with Spiritual food and to satisfy the hungry, and He is doing it by prophetic teaching, revealing new, as well as old truths, that have been lost under the dusty sheets of religion.

*** Personal growth in Union with Christ**

The Lord desires people to grow to the place where they need no more than His indwelling Presence to lead them and to teach them. One may immediately ask, what then is the purpose of teachers? The answer is simple - to teach people how to walk in this Truth! That is our greatest responsibility as teachers, teaching others to grow into a deep, personal intimacy with God where they are led of the Holy Spirit and taught of the Spirit. Where personal growth is the standard of their walk with God. Where the Spirit uses teachers to bless them on their journey, but where they need no more than the Anointing to teach them and to lead them from within themselves.

Today most people are dependent upon their leader or pastor to hear from God. For many the Scriptures have become the only means by which they "hear" from God. Subsequently many today do not walk in fresh Revelation, because they simply are too afraid to step out of the known security of what they have come to believe by the teachings of men, without realising that they have been robbed from the riches of Christ and the mysteries of the Kingdom that cannot be shared, known and obtained other than by the teaching of the Holy Spirit through Revelation.

The Father still seeks true worshippers and by His Spirit He is breaking every religious chain and religious prison foundation in those who yield to His purpose and plan for them.

*** Personal care**

Finally, the ACTS 29 Vision is not about great numbers, whether there be many (or few) who share this Vision and join this extended Christ-family.

This Vision is about providing for the personal hunger of individuals who seek to be satisfied on God's best. Who are not satisfied with a little bit of rain, but who seek to be saturated with the fullness of His Presence and Glory. Those individuals are those who join themselves to the Acts 29 Vision and family, for themselves, irrespective of how many or how few others join or not. They come solely because of their own need and hunger and rejoice to join hearts and hands with those who share the same desire.

realm of the Spirit, or in the realm of the natural!

- *Group discussion notes*

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WHY REFORMATION HAS TO COME!

"REFORMATION" is not a word that is common to our time, or commonly used, especially not when it comes to the Church of Christ, and yet reformation has always been a part of Christian history and what has defined us as the Church of Christ living in the revealed will of our Father in Heaven. God has always been reforming His Church to keep them timely with His plan, will and purpose for them. It is through being formed that we continue to grow and are prepared to climb higher up the mountain of God's Presence!

WHAT IS REFORMATION?

"Go down to the potter's shop, and I will speak to you there. "So, I did as He told me and found the potter working at his wheel. But the jar he was making did not turn out as he had hoped, so he crushed it into a lump of clay again and started over". - Jer18:1&2

REFORMATION is God's plan and purpose to bring us back to the original destiny He has formed us to fulfil. It is the Potter taking hold of the lump of clay that has swung loose from the wheel and has as a result become a miss-formed lump, pressing it back onto His wheel, re-forming it into the original beautiful vessel He had purposed and envisioned it to become.

So, reformation is not always a pleasant experience! In many cases it is a stern rebuke! It is His Hands leaning heavily upon us to shape us to become the form He had intended for us to be. Many times, the hardness and unwillingness of the clay to co-operate in the Potter's Hand, make it more unpleasant and the harder to be formed into perfection. But as a patient Father, God continues to press and to re-form us into what He intended for us to be.

Reformation is not always unpleasant though! The Potter deals with many kinds of clay and at different stages of formation, there are also those who go through reformation to experience the greater Glory of His Presence, who have been formed already and who have allowed Him to shape them into His Dream, who now are being taken from Glory to Glory to behold Him in new and majestic revelations of His Glory and His Presence being unveiled, as the Potter's Hand is gently at work in them, completing the final touches to His almost finished Masterpiece! Such reformation means being brought into greater revelation and into new realms of His Glory!

Reformation is to be re-formed to an original intent



God deals with all kinds of clay, soft and pliable clay and also hard clay that does not easily yield to the Potter's hand.

Reformation is a process unique to the pliability of the clay in the hands of the Potter. For some it is a hard process where they are being pressed against to be shaped and for others it is a pleasant experience as they willingly yield themselves to be shaped according to the Vision of the Potter, moulding them into His Own and unique Masterpiece!

In essence then reformation has ***two main objectives*** with one single goal to achieve.

It presses the lump that has been miss-formed back into shape and it ***continues to form the perfect vessel*** into the ***perfection of alignment*** with the original Vision of the Sculptor.

You are likely to hear more and more of the word "REFORMATION" in the years to come. Not from church circles, but from those whom God has called to lead His Church into a new dispensation of revelation. In fact, reformation is already being spear-headed by those whom God has called as pioneers and Visionaries at the forefront of His move to sweep His children into the revelation of walking in His Presence, being led of His Holy Spirit and be among the living Church in whom He dwells in Living Encounter as the Living God.

The Church who hears God's Voice and is led to walk in the Garden of His Presence! The Church of the supernatural, of signs, wonders and of manifested miracles in the Presence of a Manifested Jesus!

Reformation HAS TO COME because God's people HAVE TO BECOME all He intended for them to be and experience all they were destined to experience in Him!

There are those who are hungry enough for Jesus, to follow Him!

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FIVE REASONS WHY REFORMATION HAS TO COME...

1 The world needs to be saved!

Reformation has to come, because the world needs to see Christ in real manifestation through His followers. Jesus needs to come ALIVE and be experienced in His resurrected Life through His Church once again.

Jesus' last prayer on earth to His Father was that those who would come to believe on Him would become ONE with Him and with the Father (Know the true experience of being united in the Holy Spirit and that all of God as a result would be seen and experienced through them, so that "the world may believe and know that He had been sent by His Father to save them and to restore them unto Himself".

The Only way in which the world will believe in Christ, is when they will see a Living Jesus being demonstrated and Manifested in us and through us. When all of God will become visible in His Character, Nature and Personality within us being demonstrated through our lives.

In order for this to happen, God needs to reform us and bring us to the place where we are changed and transformed into His Image and likeness.

***"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me."* - 1 John 17:21-23**

2 God's people need to be freed!

Reformation has to come, because religion has to die! "Churchianity" has to be exposed for all that it is – **DEATH!**

God's people need to be touched with His Word, His Spirit and the freedom that only His Life affords them to experience in Him.

Without intimacy with God we have only a form of godliness and no Power to live in Christ. A Gospel void of God's Life-giving Power, void of His reality and the experience of His Life-Power surging through us and transforming us into His Likeness and into His Life.

God wants to lead His people out of the experience of religion and of religious performance, where we serve God in form and in rituals such as "going to church", attending the "prayer meeting" and reading our Bibles every day – To knowing Him in His reality in our lives and experiencing a vibrant Power-filled life in His Presence as His

Spirit leads us, reveals Him to us and demonstrates His Reality through us.

It is the deepest desire of God's heart that we will know Him intimately and that we will be a part of His Living Church on earth, filled with His Life surging through our very veins as we walk in union with Him and are daily transformed into His Likeness and Image and thereby influence and transform the atmosphere of the world around us to see Him and to experience His Reality in and through our lives.

3 False religion needs to be expelled!

A great reason why Reformation has to come, is because people need to be freed from the lies and the deceptions of the doctrines of devils that have infiltrated God's supposed house and that are leading millions around the world into the darkness of believing that they may depend upon what Christ has done on the cross for them, without becoming a part of what He has done, and without becoming the living witnesses and examples of what He has done in a world sinking into wickedness.

We have to be brought back into the Truth to the point where we are no longer professors of the Truth only, but where we are the Truth in living demonstration in this world! Where we show-case the Life of Christ and the difference of what His Light has brought about in us by ***EXPELLING*** the darkness from ourselves and from our lives!

God's people have to be brought into revelation and union with Him, so that they will begin to discern everything that is not a part of Him and that is not unified with Him. In other words, everything false that is being presented as Himself, that is in actual fact not Him or from Him at all!

Satan is a master strategist and his strategy is to present the deception in such a way that it seems to be the Truth and to deceive millions thereby. He does not confront God's Truth, but rather infiltrates it from within, presenting his own perverted and deceptive version of the Truth in order to thereby make people believe that they are in fact in right-standing with God and are in fact still following Him, while slowly being led onto a path that will ultimately deceive them to the point where they will believe they are right, whilst being totally in the wrong.

The Holy Spirit is raising up a Standard against the evil flood of deception that has infiltrated the Body of Christ and His Church and is poisoning them with candy-coated error, that "sounds just like the Truth!"

4 God's people need to walk with Him!

God's people have to be led into His New Life and LIVE in the reality of His LIFE! Too many people know God only as in the Bible they read, the preacher they listen to and the new spiritual book they read. They have no intimate knowledge of God and no experience of the reality of fellowship with His Holy Spirit.

We need to bring people out of worshipping what they do not know, to lead them into a

life filled with the reality and the Presence of the Living God.

There is a far deeper revelation of God which He wants us to come to know than just merely being saved and going to Heaven. Jesus came so that we may know Him and be reconciled and united with Him in a relationship of walking with Him as our Father and knowing Him intimately as our God!

Without this Living reality being realised in the lives of God's people, we live incomplete lives, without the fellowship He has called us to experience and to have with Him in Person!

In this season of reformation, God is restoring His intimacy with His people – LEADING THEM AWAY from the place of merely knowing Him through church and church programs, sermons and worship-songs being offered in religious programs executed to perfection – and bringing us into the place of knowing Him Face to face, in a Living revelation of His Person and His Presence and being flooded with His Personality and Character. People are coming to EXPERIENCE the Living Jesus and it is transforming their entire relationship-walk with Him!

5 God has a dream-Church!

Reformation must come, because God has a dream-Church that He birthed through His Son and whom He is expectantly waiting for to come into the fullness of all He desired them to be!

As you continue to read through this manual, aimed at providing you with the basic essentials of what this reformation will consist of, how it is going to unfold, how it is going to affect you and what you can expect to experience through the process of being a part of God's reforming process. Keep this at the centre of all you will read, hear and discover between these pages. Remember that God has a dream Church and that He is beckoning you to become a part of the new last reformation and of the Vision of becoming the last - day Church who will once again discover the pleasant lines that were laid down by the first Church recorded in the book of the Acts of the Holy Spirit through His people.

That chapter 29 of the book of Acts is not something optional to be written, but that we HAVE to write it, not in pen or ink, but in becoming the living reality of that which God wants to perform through us in this generation and that by doing so, the testimonies of our lives in fulfilling this great calling and commission, will be recorded in God's Book of testimony in Heaven!

Acts chapter 29 is not something that will ever be written or added to our Bibles, but God has a greater purpose for us than that. It is His will for us to allow Him to write our story in His Book of Remembrance!

Let each one of us make sure that God has a story to record about our lives. That we were a part of those who came together in the last days to come back into His ways and in doing so, to become the Voice of One crying in the wilderness of our churches, our society, our

world, but above all, in the hearts of His sons and His daughters!

- Group discussion notes

[illegible]

What does God's "dream-Church" look like?

1 A church of ACT- ion

God's Church has never been intended as a building being occupied on Sundays for a couple of hours. God's Church is also not people who are visitors to such a venue. God's Church has always been a Church of ACTION - No wonder then that the book telling us about the birth of this Church is called the Book of ACTS! It is called so because it tells us about the ACT-ions of the Holy Spirit within the hearts of believers and their re-ACT- ion to His actions performed within them.

The first Church was a Church on the move with God. We as the last Church can be no less than that!

2 A Church of Intimacy

The first Church knew God in a real and intimate way. He spoke to them, moved through them, moved them and demonstrated the Life of His Son through them.

We are called to be more than they were!

We need to be a people who KNOW God! Many today want to know His Power, but fail to seek to know Him. The secret is not in knowing His Power, it is to know Him and when you do – You will also know His Power!

Intimacy means becoming ONE WITH, it means being CHANGED INTO, it is nothing less than becoming One with Jesus. As we go through this process we are CHANGED and TRANSFORMED to come into the LIKENESS of CHRIST and therefore we begin to walk as He walked, talk as He talked and act as He acted!

3 A Church of fellowship (separation)

The greatest lack in the Church today is being in fellowship with God! This is an ironic statement isn't it? But it is so true! We are in fellowship with the building, with the pastor, with the wonderful worship-team, with each other. We are in fellowship with Christian television and with every program of the Church. We are in fellowship with everything, except with the Lord Himself!

We lack the ability to be alone with God, to be separated to Him in solitude and because we have lost the reality of being alone with God, we are also unable to separate our homes and our lives from the world around us!

4 A Church of Living experience

Miracles, signs and wonders were an everyday occurrence in the first Church. They knew the Power of God because they lived in experience of God! God was REAL to them and in them! The more REAL God is IN YOU, the MORE REAL He will be to you and the more REAL

HE WILL BE THROUGH YOU!

Today we suffer with a lack of God's reality being experienced by His people. To most He is either in heaven or "lives in them", but He is never experienced as being PRESENT with them!

In other words, to most believers God is a 'mystical God', they do not know how to handle Him in PRESENT TENSE when He shows up and because of their limited perception of who He really is, they are limited in what they believe CAN or CANNOT happen!

We need to bring believers into the REALITY that God is not only in us, but that He is in fact also AMONG us! He walks among us and in our Presence, close enough to touch, close enough to commune with! He IS A PRESENT AND A REAL GOD AND CAN BE EXPERIENCED AS SUCH!

One of our greatest ambitions is to teach people this REALITY and to bring them to the place of living with the Lord in such a unity!

5 A Church of holiness

Un-holiness is the direct result of being separated from God's Presence! For it is impossible for someone who is united with the Lord to be living in an unholy state without repenting of such a place through the inner conviction brought by the Holy Spirit and by God's Love stirring within us the desire to come into and to live in right standing with Him.

When God brings people into unity with Himself and fills them with His Presence, they are made holy as He is holy and within this place of unbroken fellowship they begin to live in a place where they no longer have to strive to be holy, but simply remain in Him as He remains in them!

It is the Vision and mission of God's Spirit that we are to expose people to this unity with the Lord and teach them how to enter into such true fellowship with Him in united unbroken holiness!

- Group discussion notes

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ACTS 29 – WHERE DID IT ALL BEGIN TO GO WRONG?

INTRODUCTION TO THE “29 VISION” FROM THE UNDERSTANDING OF WHERE THE CHURCH WENT WRONG AND WHAT GOD WANTS TO DO TO RESTORE HER TO HER FORMER BEAUTY!

God loves His people with an undying love! He loved His people before Christ, in Christ and He loves us still, after Christ! There is simply no measure to His love for His people.

Because He loves us so, it is also a Biblical fact that can be found throughout all history, that whenever something threatened to steal His people away from His Presence, He would act quickly to warn His people of their erring ways and He would act swiftly against that which was busy leading them astray.

So, we see both these scenarios being so real in Bible times, especially in the days of the Old Testament prophets. We see them both crying for His people, warning His people and crying out against the sin that wanted to beset His people. This to me is the perfect picture of the servant of God bearing and reflecting the heart of God.

God is compassionately in love with His people, God is fearsomely protective of their freedom and God burns with Holy indignation against all who would rob them from freely worshipping Him.

This ministry however does not stop in the Old Testament, it carries right over into the ministry of John, who came to announce the Kingdom of God on earth and Jesus as the King of that Kingdom, and it carries over into the very ministry of Christ Jesus Himself!

In fact, most of what Jesus preached was to liberate God's people from the bondage that would control and manipulate them and keep them from knowing Him and from truly being able to worship Him in the reality of His Person and Spirit!

There has throughout time been an enemy which has been used as satan's greatest ally in his fight against God's people and in his endless efforts to bring separation between God and His people. To make sure that people would never return to the place where they once enjoyed walking in the knowledge of knowing God intimately and walking with Him in His Garden of His Presence!

This enemy has been the most unlikely ally that one could ever imagine that would help satan to accomplish his goal. In his effort to corrupt the whole world, he also worked out a master plan wherewith he would corrupt God's people and, in the process, even get them to help him achieve his ultimate goal.

How would he do this? He would infiltrate them by becoming their best friend! Craftily he would not aim to try and stop them from serving God, he would move them from the place of worship, to the place of religious rituals and religious duty.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 sets of three horizontal dashed lines.

Historical Background of Revival & Church

A long time ago God laid out the foundations of what would be called His Church. A group of believers who would come together at different times and at different places to worship in one accord and to experience the Glory of God in their midst. Mighty visitations took place in every meeting with great signs, wonders and miracles following the Presence of Jesus in their midst, as they have also followed Him and His Presence on earth.

Throughout time, this simplistic way of worshipping the Lord was hijacked by a sophisticated system created by man, who was out to convince these Spirit-led people that they needed to “*up their game*” if they wanted to continue playing a relevant role in their world. They were led into believing that what they had was outdated and too simple to function effectively, that they needed some much needed 'upgrades'. And so, the Church became the creation of the hands of men, rather than the Body of Christ on earth.

Soon the very principle of the Church, being Spirit-filled believers, who are the living temples of God, was completely undone and forgotten! And so, people began backsliding from their place of living intimately with God, experiencing His Presence within them daily and moment by moment – To become church dwellers, people who would live like everyone else in their society, and who would gather together a few times a week in church (buildings), to enter and try to experience the Presence and Power of God.

The devil had concocted a plan to render the whole concept of the Church powerless, and to corrupt God's original intention of having His people filled with Himself and His Power all the time!

People lost contact with God and became used to religious gatherings and worship, they no longer could experience God speaking to their hearts, they gathered together and appointed one man who would mediate between them and God. They became the sitting ducks who would now be led by what their church, church board and pastor would say and lead them to do. The Holy Spirit had no more control over His people and their leaders were no longer governed by the Spirit but became governed by the rules and regulations of the order of which-ever institution they were associated with. The leaders of these assemblies would now need to attend colleges of these assemblies, depending on which one they would join, and would be schooled in the traditions and beliefs of their assemblies, in order to train those in their congregations to believe and to act and behave in accordance with what they have been trained at their seminaries.

Again, the Holy Spirit had been excluded from His people! They were taught and led by men who went to school, rather than being schooled in the ways of the Spirit!

What I have just described to you is exactly the Church of our day (*the religious system*). A system far removed from the original intent of what God had in mind for His people. A system in bondage to the rules, decisions and regulations of men, by men. A system governed by religion and religious ideas, not by the Holy Spirit. A system at war with

anyone who would dare to break the status quo and step up to say that what is happening is wrong and is keeping people from the Presence and the Spirit of God.

In this workbook we will begin at the very beginning of what God had in mind and work all the way through history, all the way through to our present time, identifying what went wrong that brought us to where we presently are today.

We will also explore the restoration of what God had originally intended and how He is busy restoring His Church upon the original foundations that once were laid for it to rest on, for all time and eternity.

I pray that this book and the revelation it carries will be a transforming force, Mightily used by the Holy Spirit to break your own personal prison doors open and to lead you into the newness and the freedom that only a life lived in true worship in the revelation of Jesus Christ can bring.

- *Group discussion notes*

Examples of God's Reformation being resisted by religion throughout history.

It is not unusual for reformers and reformation to be withstood at times when God send men and women to establish something new in the face of what has become obsolete by the doing of men, who have taken control of what God had initially initiated from Above.

In fact, as you will see in this portion of the Vision, it has virtually been a reality throughout all of history. It is almost a given fact that the religious order of the day is likely to oppose what the Holy Spirit will bring and introduce, if it at all is anything different to what has become accepted and celebrated by the religious order of the day. It happened as early as the times of the prophets, who were sent as God's reformers in their day, it continued with Jesus, who was by and large rejected by the house of God and its leaders in His day, and it continued with the apostles in their day. In fact, it still continues today and it is something that is unlikely to ever change!

There are of course different reasons for such a new work of the Lord to be resisted, and for the most part the reasons are based upon the private fears, personal ambitions and selfish control of those who have been established in the present order of things, who fear losing their position and the comfort that they have become accustomed to.

Let us examine history and also learn from it, and it is my prayer, that in seeing the truth, it will become a key for you to open your heart at this time for what God is presently doing in our generation, and what He desires to accomplish among His people.

WHAT IS REVIVAL?

Many today have a total ***misconception about revival*** and what it really means and is sent to do. Revival has never been something that came ***from the Church***, it has always ***come to the Church*** when it has become a religious institution controlled by men, rather than being a living organism led by the Holy Spirit. It has always come to oppose what is projected as being true, but in reality is completely false. It has always been sent at a time when what is held to be true and taught to be true, was in fact not the Truth at all. Revival comes to turn men and women back to God and to His ways. Whenever religion has come to replace the Holy Spirit and true worship, God has sent men and women to point His people back to the true beacons of the Holy Spirit, laid throughout history. Revival comes to liberate people and to lead them into the knowledge of the Living God. It has and will always come as a reformation. A revolution. Calling men and women from a system that had lost all Truth and relevance in its practices and motives and had lost the heart and the Message of God and of the Truth.

Not one single true revival where God's Spirit was poured out, ever occurred without the leaders and the people of such a revival being severely persecuted by the Church or the religious order of their day. Not one single revival was ever welcomed or embraced by the Church, but occurred outside of its jurisdiction, being branded as heretical and its leaders

dismissed as being renegades, rebels and false prophets.

Persecution from the Church in times of revival can be found all throughout history. Allow me to share just a few accounts with you.

The Wesleyan revival

Here follows a short account of what Mr. Wesley and his followers suffered at the hands of the English Church in 1739.

From 1739 onward Wesley was persecuted by clergymen and magistrates, attacked in sermon, tract, and book, mobbed by the populace, often in controversy, always at work among the neglected and needy, and ever increasing. He and his followers were denounced as promulgators of strange doctrines, fomenters of religious disturbances; as blind fanatics, leading the people astray, claiming miraculous gifts, inveighing against the clergy of the Church of England, and endeavoring to re-establish popery. Wesley was frequently mobbed, and great violence was done both to the persons and property of his followers.

Seeing, however, that the Church failed in its duty to call sinners to repentance, that its clergymen were worldly minded, and that souls were perishing in their sins, he regarded himself as commissioned of God to warn men to flee from the wrath to come; and no opposition, or persecution, or obstacles were permitted by him to prevail against the divine urgency and authority of his commission.

Unwilling that ungodly men should perish in their sins and unable to reach them from the pulpits of the Church, he began field-preaching. Seeing that he and the few clergymen co-operating with him could not do the work that needed to be done, he was led, as early as 1739, to approve tacitly, soon after openly, of lay preaching; and men who were not ordained by the Church were permitted to preach.

At more or less the same time George Whitefield, another revivalist, who today is recognized as the man who led the first 'Great Awakening', also suffered severe persecution from the Church, here is an account of his story.

"Faithful men of God have always been the object of vicious attacks from hateful and malicious people. They have always been maligned, slandered, denounced, called every evil name in the book, and accused of all wickedness. Yet, biblical history and Church history remember these great men of God while their critics are forgotten forever.

In the same way, modern men of God who stand solidly for the truth of the Gospel, are maligned, slandered and denounced. But the foundation of God remains secure. The gates of Hell will never prevail against the Church or her faithful ministers of the Gospel.

Whitefield is remembered today as a man mightily used by God in one of the greatest times of Revival in English history.

While George Whitefield is praised today, he was often maligned and persecuted in his own generation. Rev. Reeves wrote an insightful article on the abuse heaped upon Whitefield during his ministry.

Let all true ministers of the gospel take note that if Whitefield, Spurgeon, and indeed, our Lord himself, did not escape slanderous abuse and malicious attacks, then why should we think that we shall escape persecution?

The following is part of the Dudley Reeves' article "George Whitefield in Scotland" (Banner of Truth, no. 162, March 1977, pgs. 27-28)

In 1742, Whitefield suffered an onslaught of pamphlets aimed against him. This was no new experience to him, for in the six years he had been a minister there had possibly been as many as 160 pamphlets directed at him in England and America, in addition to the sermons, magazine articles and news reports attacking him and his work. The Scots Magazine itself had joined in the jibes before Whitefield became known to Scotland in person. Many of the 160 pamphlets were written by fellow ministers, many contained scurrilous personal abuse and some had descended to the indecent and the obscene. In 1742 the Seceders' understandable anger towards Whitefield turned into inexcusable abuse. In June, Adam Gib, one of their ministers, published his 75-page pamphlet against Whitefield. Part of the title reads:

"A WARNING against Countenancing the Ministrations of Mr. George

Whitefield...Wherein are shown, that Mr. Whitefield is no minister of Jesus Christ; that his Call and Coming to Scotland are scandalous; that his Practice is disorderly and fertile of Disorder; that his whole Doctrine is, and his Success must be diabolical; so that People ought to avoid him from Duty to God, to the Church, to themselves, to Fellow-men, to Posterity, and to him."

In 1744 a Seceder accused Whitefield of "dreadful Error, flagrant Enthusiasm, gross Delusion, and horrid Blasphemies" and making "filthy lucre" his chief aim."

The Great Awakening saw the division in New England between the "New Lights," who supported the revival, and the "Old Lights," who opposed it. The Middle Colonies had a split among the Presbyterians between the "New Sides" and the "Old Sides." Wesley and Whitefield faced opposition from the religious establishment.

"While in affliction's furnace,

And passing through the fire,

Thy love we praise, which knows our days,

And ever brings us nigher.

*We clap our hands exulting
In Thine almighty favour;
The love divine which made us Thine
Shall keep us Thine forever. "*

- Written by Charles Wesley reflecting on what he and his brother John went through daily.

The Cain Ridge Revivals (Red River Revival)

We learn the following written by Peter Cartwright a famous frontier evangelist.

"I have seen more than a hundred sinners fall like dead men under one powerful sermon, and I have seen and heard more than five hundred Christians all shouting aloud the high praises of God at once; and I will venture to assert that many happy thousands were awakened and converted to God at these camp meetings. Some sinners mocked, some of the old dry professors opposed, some of the old starched Presbyterian preachers preached against these exercises, but still the work went on and spread almost in every direction, gathering additional force, until our country seemed all coming home to God."

In the Great Revival, laymen seem to have been used as much as ministers, with men, women, and even children being greatly used of God. "

The Kentucky revival in 1800 also suffered great persecution from the Church because of what God was doing there, the following record tells us why they were persecuted.

"On Saturday evening a powerful enthusiasm swept the crowd. Men, women and children shrieked and fainted.

Preachers shouted to the crowd and urged repentance. Some of the penitents became hysterical.

Light-headedness was common. Individuals began to jerk. Scoffers stood by and mocked.

Sunday morning began calmly enough with communion. But soon, under the preaching and hymns of a Methodist minister, the crowds grew emotional. Many fell to their knees, crying for forgiveness.

People counselled one another on spiritual matters.

They sang, shouted, danced, groaned or wept uncontrollably. Some fell into deep comas. Instead of breaking up on Sunday, services continued through the night and into the following week, lasting until this day Thursday August 6, 1801, with as many as 25,000 attending.

Thousands confessed the Lord.

The Azusa street revival

Here is what we know about what happened there -

“After William Seymour began preaching at the “Azusa Stable” , a monumental revival began. People fell under the power of God and rose speaking in tongues.

Worshippers, both men and women, shouted, wept, danced, fell into trances, spoke and sang in tongues and interpreted [what had been said in tongues] into English.

The Holy Ghost was so powerful at “Azusa Stable” , men would come under conviction within two or three blocks of the mission. Persons were baptised in the Holy Ghost on their seats in the assembly room as well as in the “tarrying room” upstairs. When the Holy Ghost would make an altar call, men all over the building would be slain in the Spirit.

Service attendance grew from approximately a dozen persons – African-American and Caucasian-American – to hundreds and thousands from the Los Angeles area. People of every race and nationality were found in the crowds that converged on the mission. No respect of persons was found among the worshippers. The rich and educated were the same as the poor and uneducated. Pride, self-assertion and self-importance could not survive there.

Races were completely integrated. There was no racial prejudice in the service. African-Americans, Caucasian-Americans, Chinese and Jews attended the services. Because of this, Frank Bartleman believed and exclaimed, “The colour line is washed away in the Blood!”

Eventually, the services ran day and night. The building was never closed or locked. Each night service was packed out.

Holiness meetings, tents and missions closed for lack of attendance. Special prayer meetings broke out everywhere. People would meet early in the morning and start singing. S. Henry McGowan, son of Seymour’s friend, W. H. McGowan, recalled of the singing, “...oh what singing!”

People were excited about what God was doing in their midst. Those who had been filled with the Holy Ghost testified about it. They said how wonderful it was. After the testimonies, someone would preach and tell what God had promised.

The meetings would go on almost all night. If people were hungry, they would leave and get something to eat and return as soon as possible. W. H. McGowan hauled bricks as an occupation. Often, he would stop and listen to the service while working. Sometimes, he

would get so caught up in what was going on, he would forget to go back to work! McGowan characterized the meetings as the “love of God” .

Opposition to the revival arose from newspaper reporters, denominational leaders and critics who did not like the emotional aspects of the meeting.

Meetings were described as “wild scenes” of a new “sect of fanatics” . Seymour was maligned as “an old coloured exhorter” who “acted as major-domo of the company” and hypnotized unbelievers with his “stony optic” eye.

African-American women were described as “coloured mammys” who gurgled “wordless talk in a frenzy of religious zeal” .

One “foreign-born reporter” who had come to the meeting to report on the “circus-like” revival left convinced of the authenticity of speaking in tongues. While he was there, an ignorant woman rose to her feet, looked at him, spoke in his native language and told him secrets only he could have known.

Concerning persecution from the press, Bartleman wrote they “wrote us up shamefully” . However, he never considered such persecution to be a threat to the revival.

Wherever the Spirit of the Lord was moving, there has been severe persecution throughout all of history.

In South Africa

John G Lake

Who brought the Fire of God over from Azusa street revival in America arrived here in 1908, commissioned and sent by the Lord. He did not arrive in favourable conditions. The local religious institutions and their leaders did not support John and he faced severe persecution. In addition to his troubles in Africa, his American opposers saw it fit to begin spreading rumours about him and his work in Africa, which caused his supporters to withdraw their support. As a result, John could not support the missionary families who were connected with them and who were carrying the Message of the Gospel and of His Fire in South Africa. The missionaries made a decision that they would return to their mission stations irrespective of whether they were to receive any support from John or not and whether they would live or die. A few months later John had to bury several of them and their children, having sown their lives unselfishly for the Kingdom and the Word of God.

John noted this as the reason why the work the Lord sent him to accomplish in Africa was able to spread so rapidly and had such a deep impact in this nation.

*Please note that these missionaries were not in an “uncivilized country” by the standards of the rest of Africa. There were cities and people and “Christians” in South Africa, and yet they being called so, were no more civilised in their behaviour than the worst so-called “uncivilised people” of Africa!

These Christians sat back without so much as lifting a finger while children and their parents starved to death on their doorstep! This is what religion looks like in its resolve against God and His sent soldiers.

Rassie Erasmus, who really picked up the Torch of revival in the 1950/1960's had this to say about his experience of being ridiculed and persecuted by religion and its leaders...

“They attempt to bring every negative thing they can find against me, to tie it to me like a rotten piece of meat to be dragged behind me through the streets wherever I go. But Jesus has washed me in His Blood and no preacher or priest will convince me otherwise!”

“First, they crown you, then they crucify you!”

“Sometimes as a man of God, you get so tired of the hardness of hearts, the rebelliousness of those whom you are called to minister to and the religious persecution from those who are supposed to be holding your hands up, that you, as Moses, feel like just smashing the stone tablets to pieces and going back up into the mountain to be with God!”

So severe was the persecution against Rassie from the Pentecostal churches for preaching the truth about their dead and stale condition at the time, that he at one time was committed to Weskoppies, a psychiatric hospital, for care. The religious system and its leaders kept the pressure up until they had succeeded to drive him out of the ministry and back into the world from where He was powerfully saved. By the grace of God, Rassie’s relationship with the Lord was restored before he went home to be with the Lord.

Nicky van der Westhuizen, a young South African preacher in the 1980's picked up the mantle of revival in South Africa and went through the same calling and was persecuted for it. He lost his way, and eventually fell into sin, never to finish what God had sent him to accomplish. He was called for revival in South Africa, to break away from the mould of the religious system and to lead people to the fresh waters of the Holy Spirit. To carry the Torch of liberty throughout the land and to feed the hungry and nourish the thirsty. Belonging to the ranks of the PPC church, he broke away and established new and non-denominational churches where people could worship God without the weight of religion and religious rules that were keeping them from fully doing so. The religious crowd crucified him for daring to break away from their system and for daring to “split” their circle and for leading people out from their midst. He was branded a rebel and became an enemy of the 'house of God'. They were at war with him all the way to his grave. That was the price he paid for revival!

*That was what revival was and still is today! God needs to bring His people and this nation to the hills of green pastures and stilled waters, the only way to do that is to send His Fire and to find a man and a woman who will be willing to carry the Torch of His Spirit and ignite it wherever they are sent to go! Several others (such as Neels **Prinsloo**, among others) also followed God's Voice during that era of time, being awakened into revival by the Holy Spirit.*

It is noteworthy that everything that has ever happened that was notable from Heaven, seemed to happen outside of the formal church institutions – Is that not a strange and interesting thing in its own right? Does it not tell us something from Heaven?

Revival always comes as the fuller's soap and the refiner's Fire. It comes to clean out and to wash away. It cleans what is precious and washes out every blot that is not!

In my own early ministry, having also been called to the ministry of revival, I had it no differently! I have noted throughout those years that wherever God had sent me into the world of the religious, it has always been to sweep with His Broom! It has always been to clean out His house! And it has always resulted in the tables being overturned, men and women being freed and the rest being left to die slowly!

Ever since the earliest days of Christianity, when the Holy Spirit was moving among the people, whenever the religious institutions and churches of those times had no answer for them, they were stoned and persecuted in word and in deed.

Every revival that ever arose brought reformation along with it. Every revival that ever rose, came as a result of a backslidden church system, a cold-hearted Church (system) that had lost its passion for the lost and began caring more for its own self than its own people and for the world around it. Every revival brought with it judgement to those who were leading these churches and who had become no less than hungry wolves, feeding themselves fat from the people, reconstructing God's house as a place of merchandising money and into a den of thievery, exploiting people for their own cause in the Name of God. Every revival has come to expose these evils and evil men, and to bring liberty to those who were under siege by these men and this evil system and had nowhere else to turn.

That was the function of revival, from the earliest times, right up to now. It is and always has been the liberation of people, a freeing of those imprisoned and bound in the darkness of an imprisoning system. The word revival, although only mentioned once in the Scriptures, can be seen in action from the earliest of Bible times. The prophets were the revivalists of their day. Speaking God's Word among His people, denouncing the religious system of their time, addressing priests and kings for exploiting the people of God.

They were also the prophetic voices that saw thousands of years into the future proclaiming the coming of a Messiah, who would in His time, lead people into freedom and would draw them out from religious oppression.

John the Baptist was the last of them, who proclaimed the ministry of Christ as being a

ministry wherewith the house of God would be sifted. A ministry that would sift out the grain from the chaff and bring it together into God's Kingdom and burn up the chaff with Fire.

This was what Jesus came to do!

Revival came as He stood in contrast to the religious leaders and system of His time, denouncing them as no less than heartless 'snakes' and 'vipers', who were 'whitened tombs' full of dead men's bones. Who had a form of godliness, behind which they hid selfish hearts and evil motives. He denounced them as caring only for themselves, and not for the needy and the poor. The religious system in the time of Jesus, that was ruling over God's people, had once again, like in the times of Ezekiel, Jeremiah and others, taken control over God's people, and was again serving itself and its leaders, at the expense of God and His people!

The early Church in the Book of Acts came through the ministry of Jesus and stood in stark contrast to the religious system of its day, displaying the Living God in the face of dead religious worship. Showing the world a people possessed by God and inhabited by His Spirit. They were now the new dwelling place of the Spirit. A dwelling place not made by human hands. This open-display of God dwelling and living in the lives of people, with Mighty signs, wonders and miracles to attest to this fact, was not pleasantly welcomed by the religious circles and leaders of the day. Soon they were again severely persecuted by the system and branded as heretics.

It went extremely well with the living Church of God on earth for many years. They grew in grace and in the knowledge of God and were *“inwardly renewed, day by day”* .

In conclusion -

Revival - The Historical Facts.

Throughout the ages we see the accounts and testimonies of God's Divine intervention at times throughout history. These times came as a result of gross sin and a reluctance of the Church to fulfil its high calling at a time of desperate spiritual need. Whenever we see the Church slumbering and riddled with compromise, unable and unwilling to stand in the world and to boldly sell out to the Message of the Gospel of Jesus, we see God intervening through a time of visitation.

It is also notable to see that these times of revival never came **from** within the Church, but always came **to** the Church. They were born in the hearts of men and women who were sickened at heart over the condition of the world around them and the unwillingness of the Church to care enough to do anything about it.

Revival never fell out of the sky, it was and still is something that is birthed into, and born out of the hearts of men and women who have heard the cry of the Spirit within their heart. Whose eyes have been washed with God's tears to see the world around them through His eyes. They were those who laid their head on the chest of the Father and have heard His sigh, and who have become one with the rhythm of His heart. These uniquely touched men and women became the Fire-brands of the Holy Spirit and of the Father's Heart, to touch the nations of the world with an unknown reality that they themselves had come to encounter! The reality of a Living God, who seeks to visit His people in His Living Presence and Power!

These men and women raised up in defiance of all that had become acceptable as religious worship and the norm of Christianity, to bring again that which had been lost so many years before. They were those who walked along the beacons left by Spirit-led men who had gone before, found the old and sure ways of the Lord, and discovered the Torch of the Spirit, where it had been left by the previous generation who knew God in the Power of His Might and in the Presence of His Spirit.

They were those who rose against the tide of religious persecution that would greet them, to bring again to those who would have an ear to hear, and who's eyes would be open to see, the reality of a Living God in all of His Splendour, Glory and Radiating Love!

Such men of the past today are recorded in our modern-day history books.

Today they are celebrated as heroes - In their time, they were persecuted as workers of unrighteousness! Today we call them our friends and men of God - Back then they were ridiculed, ill-spoken off and ex-communicated from the religious institutions of their day.

Revival has always brought out the worst side of the Church and the leaders of its day. It has done so, because the very purpose of revival is to purge and to expose what lay behind the whitened tombs of religious rhetoric, and to reveal the stench of dead men's bones among those who proclaim to be celebrating the way of eternal life!

Revival comes as God's broom, it comes to clean His house, to gather together those who truly love Him - To forsake the false, the lukewarm and to burn up the places that are designated for His worship, but in reality are no more than spiritual graveyards!

Today, not much has changed! Those who seek to have more of God, and who hunger and thirst for His righteousness, are still a problem to the religious order of the day. They are the 'troublemakers', as were their predecessors, the stirrers and those branded to be 'renegades', 'lone-rangers' and 'orphan-spirits'.

People who no longer fit the religious moulds that men have created, whereby all modern religious worship has to pass through. People who no longer fit into their neatly arranged, orchestrated and organized programs, organizations and religious companies.

Fortunately, history favours the few! It records the men of God who walked with Him, amidst a generation walking away from Him. It tells the stories and celebrates the lives of

those 'lone-rangers' such as Jeremiah, Isaiah, Elijah, John the Baptist, Jesus, the twelve who followed Him, Paul and many more. It continues in more modern times to speak about and record the lives of the Whitefield's, the Wesley's, the Lake's, Wigglesworth's and many, many more who chose to defy what was presented as being God's best, but never was - And chose to know Him at any cost!

CHANGE DESPERATELY NEEDS TO COME!

ACTS 29 is a Vision that is born from the heart of the Father, not to be another new fashion statement, but to be that which will establish His people in His will, His Word and His Presence in this late hour we are living in. Each season requires a unique visitation from Heaven, a unique sound, a unique Word and a unique and fitting Presence of the Lord to meet the need of that specific season. If failed to be pressed into, we end up with rotten manna and stale bread - yesterday's move and Revelation that is not sufficient to serve the needs of God's people at this present time and in this present hour.

Before we aim to change anything, we have to know why it needs to change. Many times, people change things for no good reason except to introduce their own ideas, others change things to create a new fashion or trend.

None of these reasons should however be the motivation to bring change, especially where the Kingdom of God and the Church on earth is concerned.

We really only have one valid reason to change anything when it comes to God's Church on earth and that is to change it back to God's original design! Our only right in changing anything as far as God's work and Church is concerned is that things have gone horribly wrong and off its course!

When looking at the Church today and the condition of many of God's children, I think that you will have to agree with me that something, somewhere, has gone terribly wrong!

When we look at the condition of the Church in our day and time and compare it with the condition of God's people in the first Church as it is recorded in the book of Acts, the differences could not be more starkly contrasted!

4 REASONS FOR CHANGE TO COME

- 1 SOULS NEED TO BE DISCIPLED
- 2 THE HUNGRY NEEDS TO BE FED
- 3 SUSTAINABLE POOLS NEED TO BE CREATED
- 4 DISCIPLES NEED TO BE EQUIPPED TO MAKE DISCIPLES

1 – SOULS NEED TO BE DISCIPLED

From 1999 I have been ministering mass revival meetings in South Africa. Many of these meetings saw anything between 2000 and sometimes even up to 5000 people in attendance over a four-day period of time, and were hosted in tents as well as community halls throughout the Cape provinces. Many wonderful and extraordinary signs, wonders and miracles occurred in these meetings and thousands over the past years have come to the Lord and rededicated their lives to Christ as altars were packed when the Power of the Holy Spirit began working in the hearts of many.

During the latter part of these years of revival meetings, the Holy Spirit began challenging me with questions that burdened my heart - *"What happens to them when I leave? Where would they go, who would look after them and how will they continue to burn with the Fire that they had received and that had touched their lives in such a drastic and radical way?"* As most other people would, I assumed that the local churches would assume the responsibility of lending the much-needed support to these burning hearts, especially and more so where they live in communities ridden with alcoholism and abuse, drug abuse and the likes.

Sadly, most of the time, this is not the case!

This tendency I witnessed across the spectrum, irrespective of skin colour or background. The problem lies at the heart of the leaders and is in no way isolated to any specific ethnic group.

This burden rested heavily on my heart as I would minister from place to place. During those years I was an evangelist and a revivalist, my ministry was not to plant churches, or pastoral in nature at the time. The very nature of my ministry suggested that God had called me at that time to move and to ignite His Fire in the hearts of as many people as I had access to. My ministry was to serve the greater Body, and those lost in the world, to bring people to Christ, and to ignite the Fire of the Holy Spirit in those who already were in Christ. To stir in them a new passion to serve God passionately and to glow with His Fire and radiate with His Glory.

So, to plant churches was for me, at that time, out of the question, as that would constrain me and require of me to stay in a place until such time as I could move on to the next place.

Yet, this burden kept resting heavily on my heart.

What would the solution be?

The final moment came for me when I hosted a four-day revival in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. Here we saw a Mighty breakthrough of the Holy Spirit, as thousands gathered over these four days. The hall could hold no more than around seven hundred people and yet we saw up to 1000 people cram themselves in, with the foyer some nights overflowing into the street. Great and Mighty things happened in these meetings as many, who were

demon possessed, were set free. Supernatural healings and miracles were notable as some who had no ear drums received creative miracles from Jesus, and others who had been deaf for as long as fifteen years, heard for the very first time! Many, many miracles were recorded. Up to half the hall would pack the altars nightly as people were convicted by the Holy Spirit and turned their lives over to Jesus.

After these meetings, I handed a thick stack of decision-cards to one of the local pastors who had undertaken to work with us. He would follow those people up to make sure that they would be cared for spiritually.

He never did!

News reached me a few weeks later that the entire pack of decision cards went into the bin!

Nothing further was done about it. When I heard this, it shook me as the faces and scenes of deliverance of those precious young people I had ministered to, kept playing out in front of my eyes. What would happen to them? Would they now simply be allowed to be led astray by the hundreds of others doing drugs in the community surrounding them, having no one to help them to stand strong? No one to pray with them? No one to encourage them when things got tough?

I realised that although I won the battle on those four nights, the devil had now been given an advantage and opportunity to try and gain back his lost property over the following months and years.

Then God began stirring my heart, He asked me directly - ***“So what become of these in your crusades? What will happen to them when you leave after every crusade? Will they just be left to drift back into the darkness? I began seeing the faces of those whom the Lord had delivered out of demon possession, drug addiction and yes, even satanism. What would happen to them? Where will they go?”***

As God stirred my heart with His compassion for these precious souls, I knew that something had to be done and that something had to change. Soon afterwards my journey began towards God's intended Vision and plan, as another revival ended with broken hearts and souls left neglected because of the pastor of the congregation fearing that he would lose his position and income and succumbing to the will of his church board to crush the meetings and to return to "church as normal". Soon after the Holy Spirit led me along His way and the “ACTS 29 Vision” would be birthed within my heart.

Initially I understood the Vision only in terms of serving those who came out of revival and needed a place to fellowship and to grow. However, as time went on, the Holy Spirit unfolded the full extent of the Vision, and how He wanted to restore all that had been lost from His original purpose and plan with His people.

Today I am functioning in the ministry of apostolic and prophetic teaching, and the Holy Spirit operates in the full spectrum of His gifts in serving His people. ACTS 29 Vision is

there to serve all of those who hunger and thirst after God and seek to know Him in a more profound and intimate way, and we are feasting together as we are seated at His table, feasting on what He serves up by His Spirit.

ACTS 29 Vision has become a Vision impacting the lives of those who share in the wonder of God's original intent with His Church and His people, as they are bound together as a great big family, filled with His Love and saturated with His Presence!

MOVING BEYOND REVIVAL

There however is far more to the ACTS 29 Vision than the need created by revival. It reaches beyond the field of evangelism and of revival. It is an apostolic mission that carries God's heart in prophetic teaching. ACTS 29 carries God's New Sound in the earth today, in prophetic teaching, in Word, in Song and in the multi-faceted gifts of the Holy Spirit in operation. This Vision carries the fresh working of God from Heaven to earth, to feed His people with fresh Revelation and a fresh demonstration of His Power and manifestation of His Presence.

As those who connect with the Vision come into Heaven's new season, they are swept into realms of Glory and a new inner vibration of the Holy Spirit, never before known and experienced! They come into the now and the present, the true and the authentic, to know and experience their Heavenly Father as they had never before!

The Vision is to spread this Love and to bring the Vision into every community in South Africa, to serve those who are passionate about knowing the Lord in a non-religious, pure and Spirit-filled life. Every campaign, every seminar, every conference, every tent crusade that we launch, carries the ACTS 29 Vision into the nations and inspires those who are touched by the Holy Spirit to join hands and to become a Spirit-pool flowing with Living Water to their community.

- Group discussion notes

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2 – THE HUNGRY NEEDS TO BE FED

God's people are spiritually starving to death inside the buildings we call “*the church*”. It is clear that something has to change! Somewhere we have lost the true meaning of being the Church and have found ourselves on the slippery slopes of having to depend upon keeping people happy and entertained to keep them in church, or lose them to others who do!

There seems to be a lack of interest from many to go to church and if they do, they want to be entertained when doing so.

So, churches have become more of an entertainment show than really being a place where people are impacted and effected to grow into a deeper revelation and relationship with Jesus.

People are tired of religion and religious duties as much as they are tired of being entertained! There is a genuine hunger and thirst after True and the Authentic

Christ(-ianity) !

We see churches dressing up in spectacular light-show extravagances, worship teams becoming more contemporary and showcasing a style that is more fitting to the contemporary music scene. We see pastors preaching more presentable sermons, relating to the practical survival of people in a modern-day world. We see 'extreme' topics being side-lined in favour of 'good, wholesome and hearty' messages of encouragement and upliftment.

To the untrained eye, this all seems very good and healthy. The reality, however, could not be further from the truth. Looking with spiritual eyes, we see that the Church has become an empty shell as far as spiritual substance is concerned. People are being fed on junk food and the results are showing. The emphasis is on having a good time and not on growing closer to God. The sermons address man and his happiness and does not deal with the growth and the development of man to become more spiritual at all.

If we want to be honest, we have to admit that the focus has changed to being more materialistic and being happy as individuals in this world. This has caused the *church (religious institutions)* to move from being a place of spiritual reformation, to being a place of conformation.

The sad fact is that the very problem had become an evil cycle, producing more and more people that are less spiritual and more carnal, and a *church (religious institutions)* aiming to influence and cater to people on a more carnal (naturally stimulating) platform, than really caring enough about their spiritual condition and salvation.

The result of this evil cycle is that the **TRUE CHURCH (*the people of God*)** in some cases has become more sinful and worldly and less concerned about it! To cater for this state of affairs, the *religious institutions* have prompted themselves to turn a blind eye to carnality

and sin and to find ways in which to compromise the Word of God and to water it down in order to make room for the people, in their present state of sin and carnality, justifying them and preaching sermons that affirm God's love and grace extended to them, irrespective of their sin.

As we continue to look at this picture, it grows darker and darker, riddled with unrighteousness and blatant compromise.

The Church is moving closer to the world and further away from a Living God calling them to righteousness and holiness, and as a result the people are becoming more worldly and less holy. The Word of God is being bent, twisted and sometimes plainly ignored and buried if it cannot be argued away or ignored for what it plainly states.

Sinfulness and even the open practise of sin in *religious institutions* are becoming the norm as we see more and more *religious institutions* and their leaders opening up to things which the Word of God clearly brands as sin and as the very things that will at the end condemn men and women to an eternal hell.

Sexuality and sexual confusion, abortion, casual drinking, immorality and pastors marrying people whom the Holy Scriptures forbids to be joined together, are among only a few of the things which we see being welcomed and accepted in many *churches (religious institutions)* today.

So clearly things are out of order and far removed from what we see as God's original Church and the testimony and account that we have of how they lived and behaved. In fact, it is becoming increasingly more difficult to find any resemblance (anything that looks like) the Word of God in many of the main stream *religious institutions of our time!*

Having identified the main problems we face, our question now has to move from being "WHY DOES CHANGE NEED TO COME?... to asking, "

HOW DID WE GET TO WHERE WE ARE AND HOW DO WE GET BACK TO WHERE WE NEED TO BE? "

- Group discussion notes

[illegible]

3 – SUSTAINABLE POOLS NEED TO BE CREATED

Sustainable pools of the Spirit need to be established in communities where those hungry and thirsty for a deeper walk in Christ can come to be satisfied.

Most of what we see in churches today, as I have previously described, is a state of boredom that needs to be satisfied all the time. There has to be a constant flow of programs and events to keep people feeling a part of the organisation. They need to feel that they “belong” and that they are part of a family.

So, the aim is to build a relationship with people around a building that exists and to somehow find a way to make the cold bricks to be warmed up so that people would love to come there, find their friends there and that a strong social network would be built with close relations keeping people happy and excited to come to church. Church became a community of people, sharing the same beliefs, the same values and living together as a happy family in support of a building and an organisation they saw as their own, a leader they followed and a vision they believed in.

Any pastor will tell you that I have probably just captured the best definition of what their dream church would be, that they have ever heard. In fact, some of them will find the words of what they wanted, but never knew how to express, until now!

But no matter how good this seems and sounds, this was never the Church of Jesus Christ or the Church of the New Testament! The Church has never been a place where people go to worship God. It has never been about a place where people gather as a family. It has never been a social meeting place or a place where we make friends. It was never about 300 people supporting one man and his institution’s vision!

Although we find the Love of Christ flowing freely among His people when we read the book of Acts, and although brothers and sisters were in complete unity and unified in the mission and vision which Jesus had given them. Although they supported the apostles in their task and shared their vision. Although all of these elements were present in the early Church also – There were some major differences as well ...

- The early Church was a mission Church that trained people to go into the harvest fields and to build God's Kingdom.

- The early Church was united in Christ and thereby united in their Love for each other and His Vision.

- *Why is this different from the description I gave you earlier of how the traditional system of church functions today?*

They did not just fellowship together, they fellowshiped together in Him, giving everything they owned to be sold and distributed among each other. A clear sign that JESUS was the focus of every heart and out of those hearts united with His and in His

Love, knitted together with each other, true and genuine fellowship and unselfish love flowed. They were united in Him and His cause and willing to personally sacrifice of themselves and to sacrifice together corporately to see His Vision come to pass and being fulfilled –

They gathered, worshipped and to fellowship together for a reason and the reason was JESUS!

They did not just get together as people with the same beliefs gathering under the same roof to be united by their church and to discover each other as friends in a social setting where good Bible believing and decent Christians came together to meet around their common values.

- GOD'S CHURCH HAS ALWAYS BEEN A MISSION CHURCH!

- GOD'S CHURCH HAS ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT PEOPLE, NOT BUILDINGS!

- GOD'S CHURCH HAS ALWAYS BEEN A CHURCH OF VISION!

- GOD'S CHURCH HAS ALWAYS BEEN FULLY SOLD OUT TO HIM, INDIVIDUALLY IN SACRIFICE, AS WELL AS CORPORATELY IN HIS VISION!

Every member of His Church is a member of His Body! A part of Him – Moving together with Him, acting upon His impulses, being moved by His will, responding to His thoughts, fulfilling His desires and going where He goes!

4 – DISCIPLES NEED TO BE EQUIPPED TO MAKE DISCIPLES

Each of us has a function and as we learn to give ourselves to Jesus in surrender, we come into the place of readiness for Him to school us into that part He has called us to function in as His Body. We cannot function before we have not learned to become One with Him and to function in unity with Him, being willing to move in unison with where He is going and wants to do. The cramps need to be addressed first in the things that still prevent us to flow effortlessly with Him. As we learn in this process of yielding ourselves in dying to our desires and the cravings of our self and in gratifying ourselves, we come into the place of being a unified member of His Body on earth. Fully obedient in sacrificial living and worship, with hearts sold out to His will and seeking nothing more than the satisfaction of His Presence and His favour and approval in our lives, by being made One with Him in thought, in will and in surrender. In this perfect state of perfect death and perfect Life, we find perfect peace!

When we come to this unique Living Life-Experience with the Master, we find ourselves in the company of the disciples, laying their lives (the substance that pertained to everything they were and everything they owned and everything that was a part of themselves – A TOTAL SURRENDER OF SELF TO CHRIST at the feet of the apostles.

Then we find ourselves in the company of the apostles being severely beaten and

This is the LIFE required to being a functioning member of Christ's Body! This is what makes us the Church of Christ and the Body of Christ on earth, willing to follow and willing to sacrifice as we do. Without these qualities we can never call ourselves the “Body of Christ” , we may gather together, sing and clap our hands, talk in tongues and have wonderful “meetings” , but without sacrifice, surrender and becoming one with Him in will and in action, we are no more than a dead corpse!

God has a plan for YOUR life through this Vision. We, by the leading and the help of the Holy Spirit, desire to lead you into this transition in your life that will help you becoming all He has destined for you!

- Group discussion notes

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with ten horizontal dashed lines, typical of primary-ruled notebook paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 sets of three horizontal dashed lines.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 sets of three horizontal dashed lines.

HOW TO SHARE THE VISION

ACTS 29 Vision is not an institution or an organisation, it is a VISION for His People. It is there for everyone who seeks to embrace the Vision and all that it contains as Blessings for each who will hunger to receive. As visionaries, we lead the Vision, but do not reserve ownership of it.

CORPORATE FELLOWSHIPS

Out of corporate meetings where the Lord is going to ignite the hearts of His people, a great need will come for fellowship. Many will open their homes to become informal places of meeting with the Lord and will do so without interfering with their own church hours or programs. As a result churches will experience their meetings exploding with newly Spirit-filled people.

PERSONAL GROWTH AND FELLOWSHIP

The same is true when it comes to those who long for a deeper personal walk with the Lord. Listen to the teachings, follow what the Lord is doing in the Vision by becoming an active part of the ministry with us.

MISSION

It is our mission to help as many people as we can to share in the Vision and to be equipped as ordinary people to become vessels through whom restoration, salvation, deliverance and personal growth may be experienced by all who come, where they can grow in true intimacy with God and where they are able to mature in Revelation by the Holy Spirit. It is also our mission to equip those who share the Vision to become disciples who are able to produce other disciples and bring them to maturity also.

- It is also our mission to establish the 29 Vision in the hearts of God's people everywhere.
- To provide an environment wherein people can be free to worship God in the freedom and liberty of the Holy Spirit, without any limitation.
- To provide in-depth personal teaching for growth, as well as ministry-equipping by means of both teaching- as well as practical training programs in order to prepare people to play an active role in ministry.

The 29 Vision is there for the equipping of the saints. To motivate and equip them to become and to be all who God made and intended them to become.

- Group discussion notes

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 sets of three horizontal dashed lines.

HOW DO CHANGE MY COMMUNITY?



How to begin a Fellowship from where you are.

"29" Vision



HOW DO CHANGE MY COMMUNITY?

29 Vision
FELLOWSHIPS

How to begin a Fellowship from
where you are.

“29” Vision

Begin where
you are!



Find a House
in need. Offer
to come &
pray!

Take your friends
and go and minister
to their need. Lead
that person to Jesus,
Or even their entire
home. Ask them if
you can come back.



How to begin a Fellowship from
where you are.

“29” Vision

Begin where
you are!

Invite some of your
work mates.

Hand out some Flyers or place some in
strategic places such as clinics the local
cafe or store.

Offer prayer or counselling and when people
respond go and minister to them and
draw them into the fellowship.

Place a small add in
your local paper.

Make up a poster and
place it in the local
supermarket.

29 Vision
FELLOWSHIPS

How to begin a Fellowship from
where you are.

"29" Vision

Talk!

Begin where
you are!

Talk!

Talk!

Talk!

Talk!

TELL PEOPLE WHAT THE LORD IS DOING!

- Share your experiences with others.
- Share the testimonies!
- Get others excited about what God could do for them!

GET THE WORD OUT.

Talk!

Talk!

Talk!

HOW TO OVERCOME THE FEAR OF SPEAKING TO PEOPLE ABOUT JESUS -

This is a short version of a separate book that will soon follow, dealing with effective evangelism in every sphere, from launching campaigns, to experiencing a real and authentic visitation of God in meetings. How the Holy Spirit flows. How the Gifts function when the Holy Spirit flows and how you can flow in the Spirit and operate in the Gifts when He flows!

This extract will however be useful for the specific purpose of dealing with personal evangelism and talking to people face to face about Jesus.

RULE NUMBER 01

Usually the greatest drawback that prevents people from talking to others about Christ is their fear of doing something wrong. Fear of not doing it right and not knowing what to say and fear of being rejected when they do.

So how do we overcome this fear?

There is a golden rule – NEVER FORCE ANYTHING TO GO SOMEWHERE BECAUSE YOU FEEL OBLIGED TO PERFORM!

Whenever you evangelise it should be done under the leading and direction of the Holy Spirit! He should be the Master-evangelist that is nudging you to come close to someone so that He can speak His Word into their hearts. This is the first and most important lesson about evangelism you could ever learn. If YOU are the one planning to do the evangelism, you are doomed to failure – Even when you 'succeed'!

What does that mean? Well it simply means that even if you were to succeed in bringing someone to the point of “giving their heart to Jesus” , they may not be born-again of the Spirit and may in fact never give Jesus anything more than just their heart.

There is only One Evangelist and that is the Holy Spirit unlocking hearts and bringing conviction to the hearts of sinners and unbelievers. Jesus said, “Without Me you can do nothing” and on another occasion, “No man comes to Me unless the Father first draws him” .

Without the Holy Spirit we FAIL! You and I cannot save anyone, nor can we see what really happens in the heart of an unbeliever and whether there is a real new birth happening on the inside of them – This only God knows and only the Holy Spirit can accomplish! It is therefore imperative that HE is the One working when we are dealing with souls, and never us! People are never saved through quoting Scriptures from the Bible. They are also not saved when they pray a prayer or repeat a phrase of Scripture after us. There is NO

profession in the world that could ever save anyone's soul! There is ONLY ONE WAY to be saved and that is through an INNER working of the Holy Spirit in the life of a man or woman, bringing themselves to repentance and birthing within them a brand-new life!

This work ONLY God Himself can do!

Religion and the traditions of men have taught us many ways of making "converts", even using the Bible to try and accomplish this - There however remains only one way to bring someone to regeneration and to true salvation - You must be "BORN AGAIN!"

So, with this information at hand, what is the practical application and implication of what we have come to know?

LESSON 01

Do not go out on the streets to "go and evangelise" unless you have a clear impression from God to do so!

When Jesus said "GO" , He did not mean that you should simply run into streets and cities and preach on every street corner in order to fulfil the 'Great Commission' . He gave His disciples this great commission with the clear understanding that they should not attempt undertaking it by themselves!

He clearly gave them strict instructions and directions, telling them to go to Jerusalem and to "wait" until they would receive the Holy Spirit and His Power. Only after this had occurred, they would be ready and authorised for their mission. So why was this so important to Jesus? Was it because they would not be able to evangelise without the Power of the Holy Spirit? Many would say "yes" !

However, they in fact did minister before the Holy Spirit was poured out and with great success!

So, what was the reason that they had to wait for the Holy Spirit, if Christ could simply give them the Power and Authority and send them in an instant?

WHY WAIT?

I believe the reason why Jesus wanted them to wait, was that they needed a new LEADER! He was going to His Father and while He was with them, He was leading them. He would tell them, "we are going over to the other side" , or, "Come aside and rest for a while" .

He was leading them step by step, every moment. Now He was leaving and they would need another "Friend, Comforter, Leader and Teacher", the HOLY SPIRIT!

The Holy Spirit would speak to Ananias and tell him to go down to the street called Straight to find one Saul of Tarsus, praying, to lay his hands on him so that he may receive the Holy

Spirit. The Holy Spirit would lead Philip to find an Ethiopian Eunuch riding on a wagon, who would be ready and receptive for the Message of the Gospel and would be baptised, receiving the Holy Spirit that very same day!

The Holy Spirit would guide Peter through a Heavenly Vision to go to the Italian family of Cornelius, so the Holy Spirit may also fall upon them and save their entire household!

The Holy Spirit would guide Paul on every one of his missions and show him visions, such as the Macedonian man beckoning him to “come over here” . The Holy Spirit would warn them, lead them where to go and when, to safely guide them along God's planned journeys for them.

How can we then today propose to go without the Holy Spirit?! How can we use the Scripture as our authorisation, if they received the exact same Words, directly from the mouth of Jesus and yet had to wait for the Holy Spirit to come and to lead them into the will and plan of Father?

WE CANNOT!

That is the long and the short of it and if we do, we will be doing exactly what Jesus told those who went without the proper authorisation from Heaven to go and make converts after their own traditions.

WE NEED THE HOLY SPIRIT TO LEAD US AND WHEN HE IS NOT LEADING US, WE NEED TO STAY PUT UNTIL HE DOES! God needs to undertake the work through us. We move when He moves and we move with Him.

DO EVERYTHING by His Inspiration!

The most important thing is not **that** you go, but **when** you go! You have to speak and act as Jesus did. He moved only when His Father was on the move and He did and said what He saw and heard. Nothing more and nothing less. When we allow Jesus to live through us in the same way as He did on earth, by the Inspiration and guidance of the same Holy Spirit Who led Him, we can be assured of and expect the same results!

BE LED!

So, before you begin speaking to your colleagues at work about Jesus, make sure that it is Jesus that is nudging you to speak to them. In that way, the Words will not be yours and empty and void of Power, but they will be the very Words of the Father, Voiced through His Holy Spirit through you as His instrument!

THIS SHOULD ALREADY BLOW A HUGE DENT INTO THE FEAR-FACTOR OF BEING AFRAID TO DO THINGS WRONG WHEN SPEAKING TO OTHERS! IT SHOULD ALSO ELIMINATE THE FEAR OF SPEAKING TO PEOPLE, knowing that it will not be you who will be required to do anything, but rather that you will yield yourself to the Holy Spirit who sends you, to speak through you!

Acting in obedience makes all the difference, because when you act in obedience, All of Heaven is ready to rally alongside you as God comes to Act with you!

TESTIFY ... IT'S SO EASY!

Why is it easy?

Because to testify is to tell a story! It is sharing real events that happened in your own life or in the life of someone you know or have heard about.

Testimonies are some of the most effective ways of sharing Jesus. We do not serve a 'dead' religion, but a Living God who loves to show Himself Alive in our lives. So, we have much to tell and when we do tell others about His miracles, His Goodness and His undertakings for us, as well as for others, we share real realities that they can relate to and that may speak directly into their circumstances or situations of need.

Listen attentively when others share their problems and challenges with you. Listen both to them and to what they are telling you. At the same time listen attentively to what the Holy Spirit may be leading you to share with them or to tell them.

It may not always be a testimony that you share, it may just be a Word of encouragement or something they may need to bring them hope. These are the ways where we share the Gospel, not as a religious mess(age) requiring someone to kneel out in order to avoid hell, but in being an extension of the Hands and the Heart of Jesus to heal them and to mend their broken lives.

People are looking for answers in desperate situations. God wants to be that Answer to them through you and through me – Let's be that to them and be available to the Lord!

TESTIMONIES CHANGE LIVES!

They are Powerful because when we tell them, we do so with passion and with conviction in our Words. Our eyes, bodies and expression, affirms that every word we share is real and true and we enter the place of “boldly declaring the works of God”!

So, do you remember what Peter did on the day of Pentecost? Have you read how bold he was in delivering his Message to those thousands listening attentively to every word he spoke? Have you read what he preached to them?

Why was he so bold and why could he speak with such conviction and Power?

Because Peter was speaking from living experience and from the heart! He was not delivering a sermon that he had prepared, he was telling about JESUS the CHRIST, whom he had spent three years with and had intimately been acquainted with in Person, in life, in ministry and in death and Resurrection!

This was no fictional character he spoke of. This was no trained or prepared message he was delivering. The Words poured forth out of Him in Power and with Holy Spirit-unction

and conviction and they pierced the hearts of those listening like sharpened flaming arrows, propelled forth from the very Lips of God Himself!

Wow! What an impact when God is the One speaking and Acting and when we can speak forth from the very core of our being and from the depth of our own hearts and experiences with the Lord Jesus!

Three thousand (3,000!) souls were immediately pierced by God's convicting Word flowing through the lips of Peter and were brought to repentance and salvation on the spot! The Bible does not give us this information, but it must have been one of the largest baptismal services in the history of the Church, shortly followed by three thousand voices flowing in the sweet Heavenly tongues of the Holy Spirit – Heaven on earth indeed!

It all began with a man who had encountered an experience and who spoke forth from that Christ Jesus who he had experienced and had come to know!

Your testimony of salvation, of miracles experienced and of God's comfort and care, carry tremendous Heavenly authority and Power, because they were orchestrated and performed from Heaven and by God Himself! Heaven will rally around them when you tell of His Wonders performed!

This was the “boldness” operating in the disciples and what gave them authority from Above – They KNEW Jesus and told people of all they knew to be true!

We evangelize to you that which was from the beginning, that which we have heard and we have seen, that which we have perceived with our eyes and we have touched with our hands- Him who is The Word of Life. - 1 John 1:1 (Aramaic Bible in Plain English)

- Group discussion notes

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 sets of three horizontal dashed lines.

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal dashed lines, typical of primary school handwriting practice paper. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the entire width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings present.

-A final word on the Acts 29 Vision ...

The Book of Acts ends at chapter 28.

...Or does it?

The Lord has spoken to our hearts and pointed out that there is no "amen" concluding or ending the Book of Acts, because it was never meant to end! He directed us to "write chapter 29" and to continue to do the first works as He had laid it out for His first disciples to do.

*Acts 29 is an inspired Vision, bringing real grass-roots transformation in the lives of people.
It is the true Church in action through people, to people!*

It is a model empowering each and every disciple to become an authentic disciple!

It is a living organism of people who have been touched and inspired by Heaven and through whom God is reaching nations, cities, communities, houses, families and individuals.

- Group discussion notes

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THE JOURNEY OF FACING OUR GIANTS!

“Vision ” by its very definition implies a journey that beckons us to follow. It never promises instant gratification or instant results, but rather it asks us to walk in faith towards a promised reward at the end!

“Vision ” therefore can be directly translated as a set of events to unfold, a journey towards a completed end and the receiving of an end goal to be reached and completed at the end of our journey with God.

BEGINNING TO END!

A Vision demands tenacity, courage and the willingness to swim against the stream, with the endurance to continue no matter how strong the currents may begin to flow to try and force us in the opposite direction from where we are determined to go.

As we continue to follow the journey in a God-inspired Vision and follow His Spirit leading us into His Vision, we sometimes also discover so much more than we ever thought would be a part of our experience and of the initial journey we set out to follow Him in.

We are likely to find ourselves at times being side-lined in something that seems to be taking us into a whole different direction to the Vision which God initially gave us and which seems to be a whole new project in itself. It may even at times seem as though we are actually changing direction from what the Lord initially told us and as if something “new ” was now coming into being.

This however is in most cases not so at all! Most people do not realise that a Vision always goes in the same direction, but most likely will not be going there in a straight line! There will be much to be explored and many new avenues the Holy Spirit will lead us to fully explore and become acquainted with on our way into His Vision.

A VISION ALWAYS EXPANDS AS WE BEGIN TO FOLLOW!

THE OUTCOME DEPENDS SOLELY UPON YOU!

A final thought I want to leave you with is to always remember that the outcome of any Vision never depends upon God! It does not depend upon Him because in inspiring His Vision to our hearts, He has already expressed and made known His will to us. It solely depends upon us, whether we will see His Vision released into our hearts to become a reality or not, because it relies upon our obedience to follow Him in His will and to become the vehicles through whom His expressed will in Vision may become a reality.

“29 ” Vision will be the beginning of a personal journey to explore in what the Holy Spirit will have in store for each individual!



Understanding Vision -

Vision always goes in one direction,
but hardly ever goes there in a straight line!

The Direction remains the same, although God may expand the Vision into various avenues to be fully developed and explored on your journey towards the end.

The Vision is likely
to expand and grow
as you follow.

New unexpected
avenues will open as
you continue going in
the same direction.

"29" Vision



Understanding Vision -

Following a Vision of God will lead you to explore avenues that you never thought you would and develop skills essential to being able to reach your final destination and goal.

Many of those who are called to a Vision, want to reach the end as soon as they can, while rushing past all the gold in experience gained and being developed to become the visionaries they will need to be in order to make it to their goal!

God's Visions never begin outside of those whom He calls. It is developed in us and completed in us, before it can be completed in others.

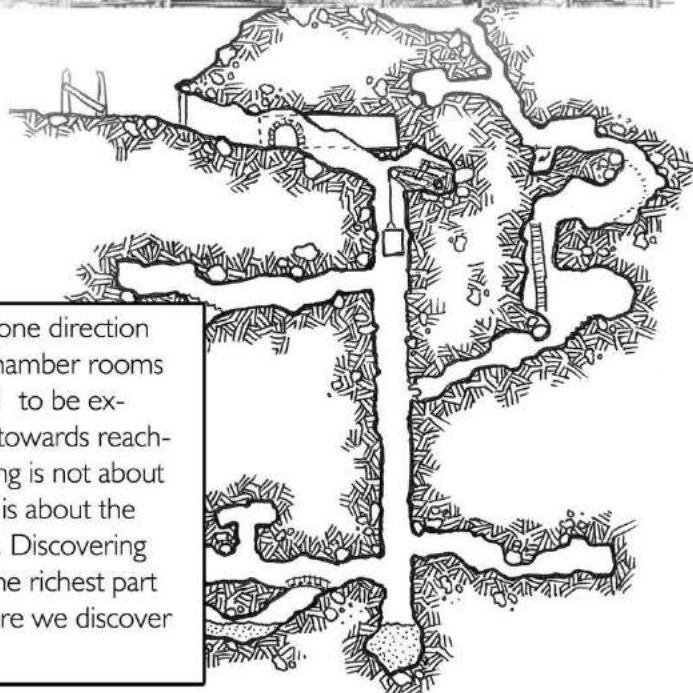
Like Abraham, Moses, Joseph and David, allow the Vision God has for you to mould you and to shape you!

The richest part of any Vision is not to reach it's goal, it is the wealth of experience you gain by being moulded into what God needs you to become to be His visionary and sent messenger

Like a gold mine, we are digging in one direction and yet we are discovering many chamber rooms filled with precious jewels that need to be explored and fully mined on our way towards reaching the end of our destination. Mining is not about reaching the bottom of the mine, it is about the journey of discovery towards there. Discovering these chambers in God's Vision is the richest part of our journey, for it is in them where we discover the gold!



"29" Vision





29 Vision
FELLOWSHIPS

After long interim periods of consistently following faithfully against the tide, sudden bursts of acceleration will come that will seem to propel you into the next dimension of the Vision, almost as if you are breaking through sound barriers and shift into a higher dimensions with lightning speed!

“29” Vision Understanding Vision

As you continue in Vision, you will break through into supernatural advancements as the Lord brings you into times of acceleration through Divine Favour, opening doors and by Divine appointments that He has established along your way before you took the first step in following His Vision for your life! He predestined your end before He called you to begin walking in His plan for you and He will unfold His already prepared provisions for you, as you continue to walk in obedience to His will and the leading of His Holy Spirit.

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Visit us at www.29Vision.co.za for more information.

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