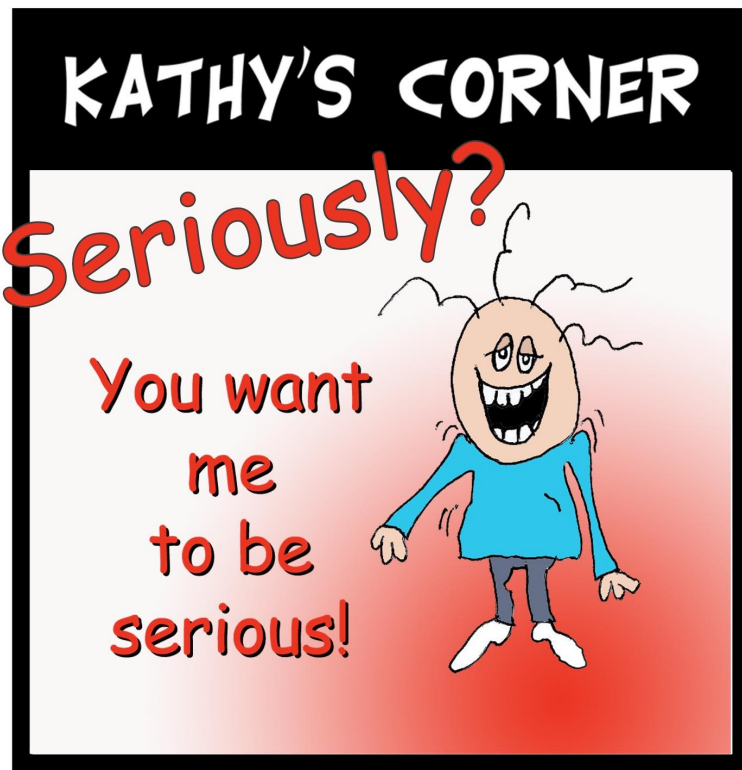


I had two visions this morning. The first is still very much a mystery to me. The other sparked this article. In the second vision I saw a picture of small building with a bright red roof with large, bold text over it that said, “Pavel’s History.” This was also a mystery to me as I had never heard the name Pavel. As I searched on Google, I found many different persons with this name. Hours could be spent studying them all, but I think I found what the Lord was indicating by the vision. I have found my prayer life to be much less than desirable, and have been asking God for help in this area. It turns out I was led to a video of a Pavel, the son of another Pavel, who was a true prayer warrior. The story reveals the dad spent whole nights in prayer. Once when the boy asked his father why he prayed so much part of his answer was, **“Well, son, I pray until I am filled with**

the Holy Spirit to the degree that I can sense God’s voice, that I am in tune and God can inspire me, talk to me, and I can hear His voice and He can lead me and use me;” and he would say, **“God could never use me unless I am connected...as soon as I disconnect satan can attack me, but when I am connected satan has no access to me.”** This prayer warrior heard God tell him to build a new church (their old one was in terrible condition). This was against the law in his communist country. Many were afraid to do it, but he was sure he had heard from the Lord. The others joined him after prayer. Long story short, he was arrested, given an opportunity to say he wouldn’t serve the Lord as he had been, which he refused to do. The police were ordered to kill him, but God miraculously interfered by an auto accident which killed the one who gave that order—his assistant called immediately to tell them not to kill him out of fear of what God would do to them next, as he recognized this truly was a man of God. There were many miracles saving him as he continued the Lord’s work, but ultimately he was martyred where people couldn’t see it. In secret he was radiated so his body would shut down slowly.

Here I will give my own definition of revival—it is when God is allowed to be God, the Holy Spirit is allowed to live and act through people who are focused on Jesus. They stay focused. Distractions come—we have an enemy. Remember Paige’s reference to the Jews rebuilding the wall with a sword in one hand as they worked with the other. (Nehemiah 4:17) The distractions aren’t allowed to change our focus. God is the one we live for, are persecuted for, are willing to die for. The life required for this is supplied by the Holy Spirit.

In America we see ourselves as a “free” people. Our generation is an independent, self-serving people. Do we really think we are independent of God? This is the insanity many are brought up in. “What do I want to eat, to drink, to wear? Where do I want to go? What do I feel like doing?” This is just a small sample of our daily self-centered lifestyle. Could we, do we, include the Holy Spirit? Hopefully we do, especially in the big things. We are a rebellious people. Many live as if God isn’t in the equation, and they don’t feel as if they have to answer to Him; they still choose to do things they know aren’t good for us—rebellious against common sense when it comes to our bodies (affecting our souls



and spirits, as well); engaging in substance abuse, unhealthy eating, immorality and other sins behind closed doors; and as of late, not even behind closed doors, as our enemy and his demonic influence has become emboldened by our generation's Godlessness and spiritual powerlessness.

We have all lived lives missing the mark. Jesus indeed is our salvation. Revival blessing comes when His people humble themselves and pray and seek His face—His presence, and turn from their wicked ways.

We want something real. We won't find it in the many "How-to" books. They may help a little to see what is possible and what has worked for others, but God's plan for one person's life is not exactly the same for each of our lives, so though we may find some beneficial takeaways, they are not the specific blueprint that God has for your life or mine. Thank God we have the Holy Spirit praying, interceding in us. We need to connect with Him through prayer. What He tells us will be true to God's plumb line-- the holy scriptures.

While we are in His presence—connected, we should be making intercessions for His people, His church, His will, our families, friends, country, and whatever He puts on our hearts. When we know we are in His presence, we know He hears us. We have a promise of His presence "where two or more are gathered in His name," and we can also know His presence as individuals. This is what relationship means. If we aren't close to someone, how well can we hear them? Earlier this week I heard, "You won't hear My voice unless you spend time with me." Isn't this also where our confidence will rise? **"And if we know that he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for."** (1 John 5:15 NIV) David was so aware of this. We wouldn't have most of the Psalms if it wasn't for David and his relationship with the Lord; and they are a huge blessing to us.

Jesus wants to be a blessing through us, also. It is His nature to bless. That nature is in us. It lives in what Paul called the new man that we are instructed to put on. To pray without ceasing will keep us in awareness of Him. As we draw near to Him, so will He come near to us. Do we believe we can be led by the Holy Spirit? If we don't, where is our hope? Doug spoke about the months he spent looking for a place for NUMA to meet; that time he spent looking and that effort could have been saved, as he finally just heard (and obeyed) the Lord's directions.

Let's allow the Holy Spirit to lead. Spend time in prayer. The Holy Spirit will energize our prayers. The time is short. If there are disagreements, if there is pettiness, we need to let these things go and get serious about our Father's business. Will we have a history like Pavel, that God doesn't forget?

"Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." (James 5:16)

Lord, Make our prayers more fervent and more effectual, that You, Lord, will be pleased to answer.