

MASTER KEYS FOR REVIVAL

Our textbook and locator of the master keys for spiritual revival is the Bible.

The book of Acts is the best place to start your search as you study. You will find a written history of the early church revivals and their spiritual effectiveness worldwide. If there was a measuring stick for revival, then we would certainly find it in the book of Acts. If there are rules or master keys for success then these master keys are written within the text of this book. The Bible student must extract these master keys or principles in his studies. For example: When our prayer life is as dedicated as those who were apart of the “early church”, then we (the church) will experience real revival.

If we are not doing what the believers were doing in the book of Acts then the same success is not possible.

There are no absolutes to usher in revival, as every ministry and move of God is different.

However the power and success of preaching by the apostles gives us the first master key.

The most effective means to implement revival is the preaching of the gospel.

Some of the master keys are written in bolded text.

Acts 2:1 And when the day of **Pentecost** was fully come, they were **all with one accord in one place**.

There was a full Pentecost (a full revival) when they determined to stay in unity. They were in the same place for 10 days.

They were all looking for the same spiritual infilling by the Holy Spirit.

Acts 3:12 And when Peter saw *it*, he answered unto the people, **Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this?** or why look ye so earnestly on us, **as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?**

Peter determined that the glory for this mighty miracle belonged to God. Humility is absolute. Pride is totally lost within the spirit of revival.

Act 7:2 And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; **The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham**, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Charran,

Act 7:3 And said unto him, **Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall shew thee.**

Act 7:4 Then came he out of the land of the Chaldaeans, and dwelt in Charran: and from thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell.

Act 7:5 And he gave him none inheritance in it, no, not *so much as to set his foot on*: yet he promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when *as yet* he had no child.

Stephen's preaching included a quotation from (Gen 12:1-2).
His key points 1. The God of Glory. 2. The faith of Abraham.

Act 14:7 And there they preached the gospel.

Act 14:8 And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked:

Act 14:9 The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed,

Act 14:10 **Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet.** And he leaped and walked.

Here we see two important keys to success.

1. The preaching of the gospel. 2. His confidence in God.

NOTE: His voice characteristic (loud voice).

His prayer and faith expectation: Stand upright on thy feet.

All revival ministers in the book of Acts preached with loud anointed voices. They were expecting signs, wonders and miracles would follow the preaching of the word of God. (Acts 14:7-10)

Acts 19:6 And when Paul had laid *his* hands upon them, **the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.**

7 And all the men were about twelve.

What looked like a chance meeting with twelve men ended as a Pentecost revival where Paul's impartation was received by all twelve disciples. Even though they were ministers, they needed to be filled with the Holy Ghost. During which time they all prophesied.

Prophecy is part of revival and it comes with the speaking of new tongues. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to those that are filled with the Holy Spirit. The gift of prophecy came with this infilling. The new tongues was the expression or overflow of the infilling.

We must do like Paul did. We must impart the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We must challenge all preachers to be filled with the Holy Ghost. We must believe for all preachers to prophesy the word of the Lord.

PROPHECY CAN BE THE PREACHERS CUTTING EDGE.

Acts 10:30 And Cornelius said, Four days ago **I was fasting until this hour**; and at the ninth hour I prayed in my house, and, behold, a man stood before me in bright clothing.

Acts 13:2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.

Act 13:3 And **when they had fasted and prayed**, and laid *their* hands on them, they sent *them* away.

For those believing for a visitation from God, fasting was a master key.

They didn't send out God's ministers without prayer with fasting.

It takes courage to fast....We need to do it often; more than once a month; fasting is not just skipping breakfast.

Tell your stomach who is boss!

The apostles used fasting as a "ministry tool of preparation". It was the "way maker" for the ministers. It gave them the ability to preach with that fire that comes from God. Ministers can change any inabilities in their:

a) Delivery, b) Manner c) Vocalization

A) The delivery of the preacher's message should be like a parcel delivery. It only has one address. We need not receive it and deliver it the second time. The message received of God should be delivered once, with anointing.

B) The apostles had a great manner with their congregations.

i) They looked steadfastly at their audience.

ii) They beckoned with the hand.

iii) Their whole body was yielded to God as a tool in His hand.

Faith was evident in manner. Stephen's course was plotted by his faith in God. He knew the direction of his daily walk. He simply walked by the Spirit.

C) Vocalization is something that the minister must improve. It is his choice. Weak voices need to be strengthened. David records that he "lifted up his voice". We must discipline our voices for the ministry. Without "the lifted voice" there is no effectiveness in ministry.

Many of the gifts of the Spirit are "voice activated". These gifts work by anointed voices that have been lifted up by the Spirit. The natural ambassador is usually a good communicator. How much more important it should be for the ambassadors of Christ to possess communication abilities by the Spirit.

God wants to use our mouths as a "revival instrument".

God can only use a disciplined mouth. A disciplined mouth is the extension of a disciplined life.

1Ti 4:13 Till I come, **give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.**

1Ti 4:14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

1Ti 4:15 Meditate upon these things; **give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.**

Spiritual gifting is usually considered more desirable than natural gifting or talents. These gifts should not be taken for granted.

2Tim 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, **a workman** that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**

God expects us to study in order that the word of truth is the only words that proceed from our mouths. Personality has little in common with usability. When we vocalize our inability we will minimize our effectiveness in capturing the attention of our audience. Every minister who “rightly divides the word of truth” can be assured that whenever he or she preaches, the congregation will retain and remember much more of the content of the message, even after many years.

Dead preaching is like stale air; that causes drowsiness. So open the windows of heaven with revival preaching and allow a freshness of Word impartation into the midst of God’s people.

Luk 4:32 And they were astonished at his doctrine: for **his word was with power.**

Luk 4:36 And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, **What a word is this!** for with authority **and power** he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.

There will even be more impartation if the revelatory gifts have been in operation during the meeting. Expect God to speak; in prophecy, through vision, by the word of knowledge. Allow the word of Faith to lift the people to a new level that revival can begin. All the gifts of the Holy Spirit can be interlinked and usually work together for the best “revival results”.

God can only anoint faith. So, the use of the gifts of the Holy Spirit must be by faith. When used skillfully, these gifts will have a supernatural flow. They should flow from God’s river with ease.

If there is no faith, there is no anointing. If there is no anointing, there is no revival.

God desires immediate results. A miracle is better than a gradual healing.

The anointed altar: An altar is any place allotted by the minister of the gospel; where God can meet the needs of the people. It can be in an open field, the front of the church, or even a lounge room. Clear a pathway and expect God to anoint that place with visitation. Every place that Abram pitched his tent, he built an altar place. The Bible says that Abram called out to God and God visited him, at the altar place even with angelic visitation.

GEN 12:7 And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and **there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto Him.**
8 And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, *having* Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there **he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD.**

The minister is responsible for building his own anointed altar. One may ask..HOW?

Imagine that you are a radar operator with the important job of gathering immediate incoming information. Your sole task is to look for and find foreign objects or “blips” on your radar screen. Hundreds are depending on your ability to see every “blip”. You dare not miss one unusual thing. Altar work has some similarities. Your screen is the Holy Spirit. The “blips” are those things that God shows you in your spirit. Your purpose is to see and hear everything a “seer” would see and hear. When we see and hear with ease, and follow the incoming messages, then God begins His unique method of building an anointed altar at the designated place. Whilst the preacher is allowing the gifts of the Spirit to flow through him to the people, healing is taking place. God is at work as His anointed river is washing, reviving and healing those at the altar area. If we wait on God before the meeting, we will not miss any needs in the congregation. God will show us what needs to be done at His “anointed altar”. If it were possible to see everything that God sees and we were able to be lifted to that level of Faith, God would meet every need in the service.

Remember, imagination is not the voice of God. God is speaking His creative word every moment of every minute twenty-four hours of every day: However, if God is not speaking to you, then God has nothing to say to his people. We can only speak what God reveals. Otherwise, we will cut off the anointing at the altar place. The minister who is flowing in God’s river will only reveal what God is truly saying in a spirit of love.

The gifts belong to the body of Christ. They are for the edification of the body. Hence we are bound by the perimeters of love.

Ministerial maturity demands ministerial ethics; the same ministerial ethics that were employed by the Apostles in the book of Acts.