

GETTING SPIRITUALLY RENEWED

Hebrews 10:32-33; 12:12

Introduction: All of us have noticed old, gutted out buildings, buildings that haven't been cared for for years, neglect, run down, shabbles, just a faint image of what once was a fine upright, useable building, that perhaps once housed an active business or an apartment in which many families lived, or we drive by an old house that the roof has fallen in and weeds have taken over the once nice yard. We think how awful to see such a waste when these houses and buildings were once so useful, wonder what happened to them. Then again there is something that happens to so many of us called "burn-out." Students get "burned-out" in their studies, employees get "burned-out" at their jobs and even marriages "burn-out." Let's not forget the Christians who get "burned-out" trying to live their Christian lives. It can happen to anyone and it can happen to YOU.

I. "BURN-OUT" IS MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE

1. When a person first becomes a Christian there is excitement, energy, questions, faithfulness in attendance, participation and a willingness to do and try about anything. Remember those good-old days Christian?
2. Gradually that enthusiasm and eagerness fades away and interest begins to ease off a bit. Attendance is not as regular and one's Christian life begins to settle down into a "routine" about like everyone else's.
3. Finally living the Christian life becomes a life-long struggle with some days of doing pretty good and the rest just mediocre, nothing to brag about. This Christian has become like the average Christian now.

II. THE EARLY CHRISTIANS NEEDED A REVIVAL

1. The thrill of hearing and telling the Gospel message had gone. They had been so excited at first and had told everybody they met about Jesus and His coming back soon. But now since Jesus hadn't come back when they expected, the excitement was gone.
 - We have been told that "familiarity breeds contempt" all of us have experienced that. Somewhere, sometime in our lives we have become so familiar with this or that that it isn't interesting as it once was or we don't even notice it anymore.
 - Surrounding beauty of nature, the hills, mountains, rivers, lakes, etc. don't appeal to us as they once did or the thrill of certain music is just not there anymore.
2. For the early Church it seemed as if nothing exciting was happening anymore.
 - They had sacrificed, suffered, "paid the price" and they were beginning to wonder if it was worth what they had been through.
 - "Burn-out" occurs when one feels that he/she is butting his/her head against a brick wall day after day and nothing happens and dreams cease.
 - Christians suffer burn out when they try to "measure" progress in their lives as they try to do what they think God wants them to do and they fail so often.

- Ezekiel (*37:3*) was discouraged and saw only dry bones, the fate of Israel.
- Elijah (*1 Kings 19:4*) was discouraged just after a victory over the pagan prophets and Queen Jezebell.
- Jesus was disappointed (*John 6:67*) when it seemed that everyone had left Him.
- Who has not experienced these feelings?

III. FINDING SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

1. We can draw strength from other Christians (*Hebrews 10:25*)
 - Any Christian who stops attending Church services when discouraged will often NEVER return. Look around your own Church family. Who is missing that once attended?
 - Just being with other Christians brings encouragement and strength, not to mention what your presence might do for someone else who might be struggling as you have been.
2. Regain your sense of "awe" over the Gospel message.
 - Things tend to become "routine" in our lives and if deliberate steps are not taken, so will the spiritual things.
 - Rethink, relive, go back to those earlier times of excitement in your own life, get into God's Word and get back to talking with the Lord, walk with Him, share you day with Him.
3. Return to God's Work. (*1 Kings 19:15-18*)
 - Elijah had run away and hidden himself. God found him and told him to get back to work.
 - His sagging spirit was lifted.

CONCLUSION:

1. Everyone of us has at one time or other suffered "burn-out" and in all probability we will go through it again in some area of our lives.
2. From Church attendance compared to Church Membership Records, it would seem that 75% of the average Church membership needs spiritual renewing for they are showing signs of spiritual "burn-out."
3. If you find that spiritual things aren't as exciting as they once were and you are not as faithful as you once were to your Church, then you need to see about a spiritual renewal.
4. God will keep you busy for Him until He calls you home, so find what He wants you to do and get busy doing it and "burn-out" will go away.