IN CHRIST’S IMAGE TRAINING CENTER

LEVEL II:
GROWING IN CHRIST

SESSION SEVEN:

VARIETY OF MINISTRIES (cont)
SESSION SEVEN AUDIO MESSAGE:

Spiritual Warfare for the Lost
by Dutch Sheets

Lessons are to be distributed from the Training Center only, please.

ANSWER KEY TO LAST SESSION’S SELF TEST QUESTIONS:

CHAPTER TEN. Anointed for Business.
1.b, 2.c, 3.d, 4.a, 5.d, 6.c, 7.a, 8.b, 9.c.

CHAPTER ELEVEN. How to Change the Spiritual Climate.
1.b, 2.c, 3.c, 4.b, 5.d, 6.c, 7.c, 8.b.
Revival No Coincidence

by Reinhard Bonnke

Twenty-five years ago, as a young missionary in Africa, I sometimes preached to five people. My opportunity to see the impact of the glorious Gospel presented in the “proven” tradition of foreign missions had come. But five people? Beyond our mission there were 450 million souls in Africa, most of whom were ignorant of salvation through Jesus Christ. Yes, they could all be evangelized by the way we were tackling it, but only if they obliged us by staying alive for about 5,000 years!

However, small audiences did not dismay us. Revival could come and save us a lot of trouble. God could rouse Himself to battle. This hope kept us patient and starry-eyed, for had not our spiritual great grandfathers banked upon this with unquestioning faith?

An Unpreached Gospel is Useless

Later, I began questioning this idea. It struck me that the Gospel is not good news to people who don’t hear it—that an unpreached Gospel is no Gospel at all. Another small ray of illumination penetrated my heart: In the New Testament we never read about God going forth on His own, but that, “They went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them” (Mark 16:20, emphasis mine). God acted when they acted. Smith Wigglesworth said, “The Acts of the Apostles was written because the Apostles acted!”

For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him. God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.

—1 Corinthians 1:21 NIV

So, He was waiting for us, and—I couldn’t get away from it—that included me.

I set up a Bible correspondence course, and 50,000 people enrolled. So many! Like a periscope from a submarine, it revealed that I was submerged in an ocean of salvation-hungry humanity. In addition, a vision
followed me. Night after night I saw the entire African continent, washed in the blood of Jesus, country after country.

Wait for revival? We had! The waiting had been done, thoroughly and patiently, through a hundred long years of earnest prayer. Surely God must answer now?

Yet, one more fact faced me—there had never been revival without aggressive evangelism. So, on a seemingly wild impulse, which proved to be of God, I booked a 10,000-seat stadium for a campaign with a church of forty members—10,000 people came! The first ripe wheat. For the first time I witnessed thousands running forward to respond to the call of salvation. God opened my eyes and I actually saw an invisible, mighty wave of Holy Spirit-power arrive in the stadium. A mass baptism in the Holy Spirit, accompanied by many healing miracles, took place. I wept like a boy and vowed to the Lord that in obedience I would move across all of Africa to bring the vision to pass. I reasoned that if God can do that to 10,000 people, He could do it to 450 million.

What we are seeing God do today in Africa is breathtaking. Following the footsteps of giants, we reap with joy where they had sown in tears. We came to Bukavu, first visited by missionary C.T. Studd and still remote in the rain forests of Zaire. There we saw 70,000 people respond to the call of God’s love. David Livingstone prophesied that where he hardly saw a convert, later there would be thousands. So it was. At Blantyre, Malawi, named after the town in Scotland where Livingstone was born, several hundred thousand responded to the call of salvation.

PULLING THE REVIVAL-TRIGGER

Today, witchcraft, occultism and evil make the Gospel as vital as a gun in a snake pit. The devil is on the run as Jesus sets the captives free wholesale. Cool and casual Christianity will do nothing. Nations urgently need the flaming message of the Cross now, not at our leisure.

Presidents and leaders observe the miraculous benefits conferred by the Gospel upon their peoples, and welcome us personally. In March 1990, our northerly thrust reached almost to the Sahara Desert at Ouagadougou, capital of Burkina Faso (formerly Upper Volta); a country noted for its occultism. The President brought us into his home twice. Gatherings totaled 800,000 people in six meetings, with almost a quarter million people in the culminating service. Most of them professed Jesus Christ, including many Muslims and animists. Similarly, in August of 1990, in the Nigerian city of Kaduna, 500,000 people gathered in a single service—a total of 1.67 million in six meetings. The response to the power-Gospel is absolutely awesome!
Today there is a divine promise in my heart that we shall see one million souls converted in a single meeting. We are acquiring sound systems to reach crowds bigger than perhaps ever addressed before on earth by one man face to face. Arrogant presumption? If the Crucified One is to “see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied,” as Isaiah 53:11 states, dare we think in smaller terms? Would He be “satisfied” with anything less? Why should the servants of God plan like Lilliputians?

**Flash-Flood 1**

God says, “For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea” (Hab 2:14). How do the waters cover the sea? So thoroughly that there is not a single dry spot on the bottom of the sea! This clearly illustrates God’s plan. The knowledge of His glory, power and salvation will be spread across the world like a flash flood. There won’t be a single dry spot, no ignorant country, city, town, village, family or individual. “The whole earth is full of His glory,” cried the seraphim (Isa 6:3).

This decade must become the culmination of a century of global evangelism and revival, the consummation of the toils and tears of former generations of God’s anointed. The church is a lifeboat, not a pleasure boat. Entertainers are not needed or wanted. From the captain to the cook, all hands are needed on deck for soul saving. The church that does not seek the lost is “lost” itself. Some excuse themselves saying that in today’s pluralistic societies the Christian half can never penetrate the other half. But, was not our situation anticipated by God?

People ask, “What is God saying to the church today?” Why is that a problem? Does God speak so inaudibly? He says nothing today that is not in His Word already. I know one thing that God is saying. If our prophets are true, they will be voicing the same urgency as Jesus Christ and echoing the same Great Commission: “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15).

**Evangelists Sought**

Evangelists? Thousands of them are in church jobs to which God never called them. It is time for the body of Christ to boldly reaffirm the “office of evangelist.” Some pastors become angry if you ask why God has given evangelists. The fact remains forever that God’s concern today, as at Calvary, is the salvation of souls. And when Jesus Christ ascended into heaven, He established the work of evangelists within the church to help accomplish this great work (Eph 4:8–16).

The past holds tragedies. When doors opened, some Christian workers were found jealously guarding their monopoly as did gold miners their claim. Sometimes rivalries ruined revivals. The harvest must not
go unreaped while reapers merely defend their “own” flock. Christ did not die to give people a career but to save the lost.

This is not a book of means and methods, but of spiritual principles. God will give you resourcefulness. There are as many methods as He directs. We need more imaginative approaches, rather than people doing things by “tried and proved” methods—including methods I have tried and proved. Methods that have made little impact in the past are not likely to produce an impact now. Plodding along mechanically might be called faithfulness, but our primary concern in evangelism is effectiveness, not a twisted type of faithfulness.

During my years as an evangelist and missionary I have discovered a number of limiting factors hindering the Gospel. Although I do not address these directly in this book, I know from experience that many of the “traditional and accepted” methods of evangelism have remained unchanged for generations. Others are doctrines and sentiments which tell us to “leave it all to God.” Some insist God’s way is revival, but they fail to carry out the Great Commission in the meantime. Some think that if people are to be saved, they will be saved anyway.

Suppose such doctrines are wrong! What an awful risk—to rest the eternal destiny of souls upon a controversial interpretation of Scripture or turn of a Greek verb. One can be dead right, but dead nonetheless! We dare not neglect the task of evangelism. I would rather use a method despised by man but approved by God, than a method approved by man that gets no results.

It is for this reason I make no apology for this book. I am not writing to be approved by man. I am writing to share God’s anointing on all those who are ready to step out in faith. The temperature of this book runs hot—very hot. Its flames will scorch. Some who read these pages would do well to take out fire insurance, for I guarantee many old concepts will be set to the torch.

My message is not one-sided, but it does come from a singleness of heart. I hammer away at the Great Commission, for I know it cannot be overemphasized. I cry to God day and night for greater effectiveness in winning our generation for Him. Evangelism by Fire is the only feasible solution.

I constantly scan the horizons for other anointed men and women who may take up this challenge of the Word of God for Holy Spirit evangelism. I believe the best is yet to be. The time is coming soon when the whole world will resound with the praises of our God and Savior. In all nations and in every language, the day is almost here when every tongue will confess that, “Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Phil 2:11).
This book is filled with the things God has taught me, and allowed me to experience over the years. I’m writing for one reason alone—to inspire others to “do the work of an evangelist” (2 Tim 4:5). I have laid out the principles necessary for any Holy Spirit ministry. Read it, not to discover how I operate in my evangelism crusades, but to discover how God operates through anyone willing to follow His plan.

THE IMMENSE PRIVILEGE

The angel who appeared to Cornelius in Acts 10 was not allowed to mention the name of Jesus, or to speak about salvation to the man. That high and holy privilege was (and is) reserved for men—people like you and me. All the angel was allowed to say was, “Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter” (Acts 10:5). This mighty seraphim from deep heaven had to bow to Peter’s higher privilege. It pleases God to call and to send people like you and me.

It has always been this way. God used four evangelists—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John—to write down the story of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Such a pattern is linked, in my mind, to the four men in Old Testament times who carried the ark of the covenant. Carriers of the Gospel change from generation to generation, but the Gospel remains the same. Now we are here, and today it is our turn. God has called you and me. The Gospel needs to be taken to the ends of the earth. This is the Great Commission of the Lord to us—and the King’s business requires haste.

HOW BIG IS HELL?

These chapters are written because I do not believe that God’s plans call for hell to be bigger than heaven. Although Scripture speaks about “many” who are on their way to eternal destruction (Matt 7:13), these same people must be intercepted by men and women preaching the original Gospel. Provision has been made to bring “many sons to glory” (Heb 2:10); and, praise God, Revelation 7:9 speaks of a successful conclusion.

Jesus instructed, “Go . . . and make disciples of all the nations” (Matt 28:19). There is no alternate plan in case the Gospel fails because it won’t! More people are being saved, healed and baptized into the Holy Spirit today than ever before in man’s history. The tempo is increasing, leading to but one conclusion: Jesus is coming soon.

We are not called to go into a battle with the outcome yet to be decided. The battle was won at Calvary. Jesus commanded the disciples: “Pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers” (Matt 9:38), and added, “Go!” He still says it. It is a transferred mandate.
Revival comes from God, yes, but when? When we repent of our plain disobedience and return to the basic task—Evangelism. Every single church activity should relate to turning the world back to God. Why are we waiting? “Rescue the perishing,” or we’ll need rescuing ourselves.

—FROM THE BOOK, Evangelism by Fire, Reinhard Bonnke

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REINHARD BONNKE

For over 25 years, Evangelist Reinhard Bonnke has been conducting crusades in the continent of Africa. In these CfaN (Christ for all Nations) Gospel crusades, he has seen millions of people giving their lives to Christ and witnessed the healing power of God. The purpose of Christ for all Nations is to fulfill the great commission of Jesus Christ by taking the message of salvation to all peoples of the world. Christ for all Nations is primarily known for its crusades in Africa and other third world countries. In addition, the ministry seeks to actively inspire and equip the body of Christ for evangelism through conferences, literature, videos and television. The ministry has one motto: “Hell empty and Heaven full!”

SELF TEST, CHAPTER TWELVE

(Remember, we are looking for answers that correspond with THIS training.
A list of answers will be available.)

1. Yet, one more fact faced me—there had never been revival without aggressive _________.
   a. Sunday school
   b. programs
   c. evangelism
   d. rebuking

2. Today, witchcraft, occultism and evil make the ________ as vital as a gun in a snake pit.
   a. church
   b. music
   c. Gospel
   d. seminars

3. The church is a lifeboat, not a ________ boat.
   a. toy
   b. luxury
   c. fishing
   d. pleasure

4. If our prophets are true, they will be voicing the same urgency as Jesus Christ and echoing the same ________:
   a. sugar-coated Gospel
   b. church traditions
   c. Great Commission
5. What an awful risk— to rest the eternal destiny of souls upon a controversial interpretation of Scripture or turn of a _____ verb.
   a. Greek
   b. Hebrew
   c. action
   d. proper

6. The time is coming soon when the whole world will resound with the ________ of our God and Savior.
   a. clanging symbols
   b. angels
   c. praises
   d. music

7. The angel who appeared to Cornelius in Acts 10 was not allowed to mention the name of Jesus, or to speak about salvation to the man. That high and holy privilege was (and is) reserved for men—people like _________.
   a. Cornelius
   b. Jesus
   c. you and me
   d. Matthew, Mark and Luke

8. Every single church activity should relate to turning the world back to _________.
   a. God
   b. medieval times
   c. the ice age
   d. the big bang