

Rough Notes on Renewal

Insanity: Doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result. Albert Einstein

This is the way revival (renewal) should be. Nothing else will work well.

Isaiah 43:19 Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

“We have met the enemy and he is us.” POGO (Walt Kelly)

“When the solution is simple, God is answering.” Albert Einstein

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

I use the word “Renewal” because “revival” is misunderstood. By renewal I mean going back to what the early church did soon after Jesus went up to heaven alive to sit at God's right hand. Revival simply means more of what we now have. We seem to think that if all Christian churches could greatly increase their membership, that would be wonderful. If all the new members were really born again, it would be wonderful, but not good enough. All the churches would still be doing far below scriptural norms. Jesus died and was raised from the dead for better than that. I include all Bible believing churches in this. Evangelical, Pentecostal,

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charismatic or independent have all failed in different ways. George Barna has documented this very well. His website has huge amounts of information in this area. Christians and Christianity have been under harsh and severe attack for almost 2,000 years. Christians have seen the attacks intensify. God wants to answer, but the body of Christ here on earth is not ready. We are unprepared. We need renewal.

How do we get back to the spiritual strength of the first Christians? Not possible, you say. It must be, because scripture demands it. God has better things for us if we will only obey. How do we obey so that every Christian gets spiritually better and stronger? The simple answer is to follow directions. We need for all born again Christians to get as filled with the Holy Spirit as possible and stay in that condition for a lifetime. Not an easy thing to do, it seems. What is the Bible believer's way of doing this? Our condition is not God's fault, it is the fault of born again Christians. We have all failed God in different ways. We are and have been spiritually weak, each in our own way.

The only way to be spiritually intelligent is to be filled with the spirit at all times. This is not easy. We fight the world, the flesh and the devil to get it done. We should have a general goal to obey all New Testament commands. This means we must be very thoroughly familiar with the New Testament. We must work and study and fast and pray to understand it. This is the job of a lifetime. Leaders must insist on this. How in the Body of Christ does God otherwise make way for this to happen? It is much more than an individual project.

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Individualism has been carried to excess in our culture. God wants Christians to work together as real teams with real unity which should be better than worldly unity. This means we must change the way we meet together to conform to the New Testament. People are failing to find God because the Body of Christ is working so poorly. If Christians worked 100% scripturally, many more people would be saved. Give up all traditions of men, if you want to see more souls saved and more spiritual strength. If we keep doing the same things in the same way conditions will only get worse. We must make permanent changes that are deep and real. Preachers in blue jeans are not a solution, but they are also not the problem. This is a job only for the Body of Christ. No one else can help. The only things we have are the Holy Spirit and the Bible. We must use them fully. No group or denomination is doing this. All have gone astray. We all need to repent of overall failure.

Some Christians believe they have the right to declare some scripture null and void. Why? Christian spiritual foundations have influenced many modern economies in the world. All things hold together in Jesus (Col 1:17). Weaker spirituality will result in weaker economies, no matter what policy changes are made. If we fail to make real spiritual change, economic hardship looms. I believe God wants to start a world-wide renewal in the near future. This will need to involve all born again Christians in the world. It will not ever happen unless we prepare. We must start soon and keep working until Jesus returns. Even if it takes 400 years. If we are not prepared, God will not move.

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How to Prepare

1 Corinthians Chapters 12-14, 1 Corinthians 14:26

Renewal will start where preparation is made. We must give up most large meetings. They make Christians passive and make it difficult for the Holy Spirit to be in control. We need to stop putting man in control and allow the Holy Spirit room to work. Leaders in these meetings will need to learn about this way of leading without domination. Do not let fear control you. The size should be from around ten (10) people to about thirty (30) people. These numbers are estimates. Meetings should be primarily prayer oriented. Do not be afraid of silence. There should be no special or prepared order of worship. People need time to learn. Everyone in the meeting is allowed to make a contribution; one prayer helps. One scripture helps. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Anyone can start a song. Do not be afraid. Keep out all musical instruments and all recorded music. A cappella only. Anyone can start a song and teach it; musical instruments tend to control things, but the Holy Spirit must be in control. Leaders take note and take care. Pray for any spiritual gifts you can believe in. Are there 27? I don't know. Pray for everything good you can find in the New Testament. We are creating a net for many fish. (John 21:6) We need in the United States about 400,000 of these groups (20 people per group on average). Also, we need about 8 million worldwide; also 20 each, average. I don't know when Renewal will start.

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Sound systems, even very small ones, are not allowed. They should never be needed.

Do not give up on these meetings. The Holy Spirit will help you. Never give up, only believe.

Pray for all good things from the New Testament. I choose to call these Alpha-Omega Groups.

Others may call them something else. So be it. Don't be a very spiritually lazy person. Make this work. It is not that hard. Don't be afraid of silence. There is no harm in it. Pray for spiritual gifts, to the extent you have faith to do so. They are real. Many find it easy to pray for healing.

Please do this. Stay away from large meetings. They seem good, but they make you passive and spiritually weak. Pray for renewal every day.

If you don't have official leaders, don't worry. Learn to let the Holy Spirit lead. Pray at every meeting to all be filled continually with the Holy Spirit. Pray always for spiritual gifts, but most of all for God's love. (1 Corinthians 13) Leaders will emerge. Look primarily for Godly character to find leaders. The best speakers may or may not be leaders. God will make it clear to you who He wants.

Scripture came to us by revelation, not prophecy. Prophecy is based on 1 Corinthians 14:3, edification, exhortation and comfort are the basis of all prophecy. It is sometimes about the future, but does not have to be. The future aspect can also be Word of Knowledge. Real unity and real love among all Christians are absolutely essential. An outward show of love on Sunday only is not good enough. Inward reality is a must. Any gift from God is very valuable, therefore, all gifts from God are essential to God's plan and purpose here on earth. There is no

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good reason to say spiritual gifts cannot be active in today's world. Arguments from silence are very weak or invalid altogether. You must be careful how you define each gift. There may be as many as 27 Spiritual gifts. Pray to receive them if God wills it for you.

You must be willing to accept God's will for whatever he gives you. It may be something you are not comfortable with. Trust the Holy Spirit to teach you how to use it. Do not go beyond or outside of what is written down in the New Testament. The Word is there for good reason. Gifts are up to God, not us. These Alpha-Omega Meetings are probably very different from what Christians are used to in all other small group meetings previously. Pray in meetings and at other times for Spiritual gifts and baptism in the Holy Spirit. Pray "if they are real" if you are not sure. God will answer. Many Christians may have to repent. Read all the lists of sins in the New Testament to see if any of them fit you. Galatians is a good place to start. There are several other New Testament lists. Read them all. Alpha-Omega Meetings must take the place of all other meetings. We must be spiritually stronger.

Much of what we do in the modern church we get from the Greeks and Romans. This is not good. We must cut all these things out and become only scriptural. This should work as described in 1 Corinthians 14 in perfect unity as Jesus prayed in John 17, but those types of meetings do not exist in the world. The "women be silent" verse in 1 Corinthians 14 can be explained. Woman and wife are the same Greek word, so let wives and husbands sit together.

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Problem solved. Some will argue, but that is a good solution. We need this 1 Corinthians 14 meeting to get spiritually stronger. What we have now is a “C-“ at best and an “F” at worst. There are no “A's” or “B's”. The Pentecostal and Charismatics are wrong in their own way, as are the Evangelicals. All of them fall short and miss the mark. This is not what Jesus is going to come back for. If we fail to do this and make it work, there is no plan B. There is no other option. Nothing else will work well.

As Christianity grows weaker, so will the economy of the whole world. The Holy Spirit undergirds the economy everywhere. Policy will not save us. J.M. Keynes does not have an answer. We will not be able to recover by ourselves. Renewal is our only hope. The Alpha-Omega Working Group meetings will work if done correctly. We need millions of these groups all over the world. Never stop them. Good leadership is essential. If you want to know what a leader looks like, look at Jesus. He is the best. All Christians should be filled with the Holy Spirit at all times. Pray for this always. Musical instruments and recorded music are only forbidden in Alpha-Omega Meetings, not outside of them. Dancing is also forbidden inside meetings, but not outside. This is for Holy music and dancing only, not pagan or any secular types of worship. If they do not see God's love in you, they are not likely to believe anything you say. So, be filled with the Spirit at all times. Faith works through love or outside of love. Through is better. Leaders need to pray. That is primary.

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Sons of Light will prevail to the end. Having God's love for someone does not mean that you agree with their beliefs or their actions! Jesus, Paul, Peter and many other early Christians never agreed with pagans or spiritual leaders even though they had God's love for pagans and other non-believers. You should have God's love for non-Christians. You should not agree with their beliefs or actions. "Holy" means separate from sin. We are to be a Holy people because of Jesus Christ and his death and rising from the dead. Jesus was fully God and fully man. He is our salvation. The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin; therefore, repent.

Alpha-Omega Working Group meetings should be based mainly on 1 Corinthians 14. Ask for Spiritual gifts, but work in prayer even before the gifts are given by the Holy Spirit. Corporate prayer must always be a main priority. Do not neglect it. The location of the meeting should be anywhere the members of the meeting can agree is a good place to meet. A church building is not required, but is OK. Be sure you observe legalities. Wherever you meet, be sure it is fully legal to meet there.

At first you may not have leaders, but God will eventually raise them. Look for leaders who are like Jesus. Character is the most important thing. Read 1 Timothy and 2 Timothy for examples of what New Testament leadership is supposed to be. Leaders cannot always be "nice". God will eventually raise up the best leaders. There is no time limit. No animal noises. No pointless laughter. No gold dust. Be holy in all things. Honor God. Be like Jesus Christ. If you do work for Jesus outside of meetings use a separate non-profit secular corporation to do

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things that are needed. All Christians should live in a constant state of repentance.

Charismatics think they are on a ten lane highway. Evangelicals think they are on a tight rope.

Both are wrong. It is a narrow path. This is doable and it will work, just have faith. It must and shall be done, but by how many? I do not know. Every group counts.

Maybe it is only for the Christians who have dropped out of organized religion over the last 20 years or so. Maybe they will be desperate enough to find the courage to take a chance on something new and strange. Those Christians who are locked in to a church by a contract they have signed will find this very difficult. Being “nice” is good but not good enough. You get burned out very quickly that way. You must be filled with the love of God and the holiness of God. This is what works. When God's love and holiness pour from the inside out, you don't get burned out. Stay full. Be Holy. Holy means separated from Sin. Pray without ceasing.

Many Christians claim to want revival. Renewal is what God wants. Are Christians willing to pay the price? I wish everyone understood how important 1 Corinthians 14 meetings are to the Body of Christ in the whole world, but it is only by revelation that anyone can deeply understand. On the good side, any Christian can have this revelation. It is not limited. Pray and fast for this revelation. These meetings are, by far, the best way for groups to function spiritually. Everyone will benefit.

Why do we go to such extremes to get someone saved and then treat them badly? We tend to ignore people's problems once they are saved. We only seem to want them to show

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up at meetings, give money and be quiet and do as they are told. This is not a very good way to obey God or to grow to spiritual maturity. They need to learn to take real Spiritual responsibility. Do we really focus on loving each other with the Love of God? We do not; at least not that I have seen very often. We need real spiritual unity based on God's love.

My definition of sin: something you know you are supposed to do or not, and that you have the power to do or not, and you do the opposite of God's will. I wonder why I am writing all this down. Even if it is widely published and widely read (which seems doubtful); it seems likely to be ignored or mocked or both.

I only bother to write because the Holy Spirit has pushed me very hard to do so. Maybe God will work a miracle. The net will not break if we make it as described in 1 Corinthians 14. Many fish can be caught. (John 21). Many New Testament sins and virtues are listed in the New Testament. This is not legalism. The bottom line is that Christianity in the United States fails to live up to what is written in the New Testament. Mostly it does not even try. We must, at the very least, have obedience to all of the New Testament as a real goal. If we fail to do this we fail God.

Start with Alpha-Omega Working Groups and build from that base. It is our only chance. It is not legalism. Christianity is not meant to be practiced alone. We are intended for the good of our brothers and sisters in Christ. Most New Testament letters were written to large groups of Christians. We need real unity. It would be wrong to try to put them (Christians) to some

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sort of test to see if they were full of the Holy Spirit. God will put all of us to the test to show us where we need to mature. God already knows. We need to stop the excuses and do the job as written in the New Testament! Has this ever been done? Has it been tried? In the United States is the command "Love your neighbor as yourself" the usual thing or the very rare thing among Christians? Most people would say very rare, I believe. It should be very common.

We need to mature scripturally. On the face of it, obeying the New Testament is impossible. There are so many extreme commands in the New Testament. I will not even attempt to list them. No human can live up to them. Without God there is no hope. Spiritual gifts are required if a human is to understand God. If a pagan and a Christian can do the same job equally well, then it does not require spiritual gifts to do that job, but gifts might help do it better. Spiritual discernment (1 Corinthians 12:10, 1 Corinthians 14:29) is very important and is a gift from the Holy Spirit. Revelation is not a gift in the usual sense, but it comes only from God. 1 Corinthians 13 love is very rare. We love money, safety and comfort. Prayer is Work. Do the Work.

There is more to heaven than we know or can suppose. Whatever your dream, heaven is better. Salvation is freely given because of Jesus's sacrifice, but many other things of great value must be earned. If you miss out on these other rewards, you will be sad and disappointed in your loss. God only has good things. Be sure to earn them. No one has ever been an expert on God. Jesus was God, so we cannot count Him. Some people are more

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Spiritually mature. Some are better educated, but no one knows all the most important things about God. Therefore, we all need each other.

We should respect Holy Spirit educated people, but we should not expect perfection.

Alpha-Omega Meetings will push everyone far out of their comfort zone, but it must be done if we are to get better spiritually. What other way is there for everyone to get spiritually stronger? We have tried many things over the years. What has really worked for all Christians? Preaching in blue jeans is not a solution, even though there is nothing wrong with it. Leaders with the character of Jesus are needed. They are rare, so we must develop more of them. Alpha-Omega Meetings are, by far, the best way to do this.

Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. We focus too much on the mind and too little on the heart. We must have balance. We are top-heavy with head knowledge. Why are we so cold hearted about what the New Testament requires of all Christians? Are we fearful? Of what? Holiness? Maybe we are afraid God will not back us up if we step out in faith. Remember, we are supposed to work in groups, not primarily as individuals, to do the work of God. Focus on teams that can solve problems, not just do activities. We need to learn how Christians with spiritual gifts can work together as one team.

Do not be passive. Being at peace and being passive are not the same thing. Passive is almost the same as giving up. Never give up. Jesus will never give up on you. Even if you hate yourself, God still loves you. Really. The Body of Christ here on earth (that is all born again

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Christians) must sustain everything in prayer and good works (spiritual and physical) or all systems, both natural and manmade, will grow weaker. This includes all systems of government, economics and the military. Chaos will win. There will be no recovery. This is not inevitable. It can be very different and much better. It really is up to Christians to make things work well. This may seem strange and counter-intuitive to many, but I believe it is the correct understanding of the New Testament.

Be humble in the gifts God has given you. Pride, for a Christian, makes no sense. Never discount the importance of ordinary friendship among Christians. It is much more than ordinary. Millions of Christians need to read this document. If you want to see more people saved, build up in all possible ways those who already are saved. The result will be amazing. The renewal should break out in places with many Alpha-Omega Working Groups. We don't know where in the world that will be. There may be small numbers to start.

Make sure by very secret vote that everyone is comfortable with the place and time of the Alpha-Omega Meetings. This is very important. Make sure the vote is secret. No one should know how anyone else votes. No one should tell anyone, even leaders, how they voted. This includes all family members. Children who do not attend meetings do not vote. Meetings will last as long as the Holy Spirit wants them to last, but people can come and go as need be. Also vote on the number of people in the meeting (minimum and maximum). This may vary over time. Don't give up on Alpha-Omega Meetings. Scripture never changes. Focus on it.

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These are not ordinary small group meetings. They are very special. They are far more fully scriptural than any other type of meeting, except for the Lord's Supper. These two can be done at the same time, but only if everyone wants to. It is a matter of choice. We need real spiritual power, and this is the best way to get it. Maybe the only way. If you deny that this scripture is for present day, you risk losing God's love in 1 Corinthians 13. They work together! Please try to avoid building buildings unless buildings are, for some reason, absolutely essential. Buildings are much more likely to be needed in poor countries than in rich countries. If you get caught up in raising money for a building, you might neglect spiritual things. Sometimes buildings may be essential, but take care that everyone agrees by secret vote (paper ballot only), not only the leaders. Everyone must agree to raise the money for a building. There are other good uses for money. Pray and fast about how to spend money.

We must all learn how to encourage one another from scripture, which should be mostly from the New Testament. All Christians need this every day. We will suffer without encouragement. All of us must learn this and be sure to do it. The love of God needs more expression. Pray about the best ways to do this. There is more than one way. Alpha-Omega Meetings are an excellent way for everyone to be like Jesus Christ. God is HOLY. Be like Him. God is love (1 Corinthians 13). Be filled. This can be a solution to many problems, if we will grab hold of it. Our society needs healing and this is the best and only way I know of to do it. Nothing else can work.

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What everyone desperately needs is to encounter the love of God in another person.

We must always be filled with the love of God.

We are a new creation in Christ Jesus. Therefore, the old creation (old man) must, at some point, die. This death happens at baptism. It is a real death, not symbolic. It is the baptism of Jesus on the cross.

Leaders must be baptized in the Holy Spirit. All of them. All leaders must be baptized in fire, pure and holy. They cannot function as Christian leaders without these two things. They are essential. PRAY for them, over and over again. Purge out all sin.

I have a theory about baptism and the Holy Spirit. If humans have a spirit, a soul and a body, which is what the New Testament says, then my theory makes sense. When a human is born again, the Holy Spirit unites with the human spirit to form a new creation. A second event may take place one second later or many years later. The soul is drenched or bathed in the Holy Spirit. It may, at times, seem like the two events are the same, but they are not.

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Alpha-Omega Working Groups Key Verse 1 Corinthians 14:26 “What then brothers?

When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.” Everyone contribute. PRAY! The principle approach is a very flawed method. It is far too “man centered.” We are supposed to obey commands and claim promises. These two things should be the basis of all Christian life from the New Testament. Other ways do not work well.

The Way Forward

There is a dark and bloody way for the Body of Christ in USA to go forward in the future. The path is built on Alpha-Omega meetings as the foundation. All other ways fail.

We are rapidly reaching a tipping point in the United States, maybe within ten years.

We need to wake up and see that socialism is not the answer; renewal can be, if we will do it as unto the Lord Jesus.

Prayer is a good work. Do the good work.