



Divine Moments

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“Give me one divine moment when God acts, and I say that moment is far superior to all the human efforts of man throughout the centuries.” Dennis Kinlaw on the Asbury Revival 1970 Revival & Hunger for the Word of God

We have lived during the last three weeks through an unusual period of spiritual ministry from God to our own hearts. He was gracious to give us great preaching, but he was infinitely more gracious in giving himself to us during that week, to minister to us and to touch and to transform many of our lives.

Now the big question is, how do we maintain the gains from a week like that. Really, our concern should not be primarily to maintain them, but rather our concern should be to advance and enlarge any beach heads that we have made or that God has been able to make in a time like the revival. Our thinking should not be how do we hold on to what we have received, but how do we expand it, enlarge it and gain more from God.

There are some things that are necessary if this is to be accomplished and one of them is that we must maintain our own independent, individual spiritual lives in such a way that we are growing, maturing Christians. For that to be true, there must be a feeding of the inner person, just as three times a day, normally, we eat food. One of the beautiful things to me is the way God has designed the life of the church. There is no question but that he is an artist and that he is a lover. He is a father, and at the heart of the church is the Lord's Supper.

Wherever you go around the world, wherever you find Christians, sooner or later you will find them partaking of the Lord's Supper. Where bread is given and the cup is given, and we are told, “This is my body which was broken for you, and this is my blood which was shed for you and for the remission of your sins.” We are told that God longs for us to partake of his life and for his life to be taken into us and then for his life to become our life. That process takes place by our partaking of his flesh and blood. In Him, we find eternal life.

Now usually, we think of this in connection with the Communion service, but you know, I think that the way most of us find ourselves fed on God's own life is through living daily, consistently, regularly in the word of God. You will remember that it was Luther who said that the Bible is the manger in which you find the child Jesus. And if you are going to know Christ, you will have to find him there because this is the medium through which He is brought to us as far as our understanding and as far as our knowing Him is concerned.

When John the Apostle spoke about Jesus, he called him the Word of God. "In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God and the word was God." And so, John, the one that was the beloved disciple, posed a very close and a very intimate relationship between the written word of scripture and the living word of God, the Lord Jesus himself.

I think it is fair to say that you can tell very well a person's attitude towards the one by his attitude towards the other, and you can sense something of a person's dependence on one by his dependence on the other. And you can know something of a person's love and participation in the one by his love for and participation in the other. Throughout the history of the Church these two have been related. We need it. We need it if we are to live.

I think one of the ways that you can know whether a person is a Christian or not, whether he has really been born from above, is by the appetite that is within him for the Word of God. If a person has no appetite for scripture, there is a good question as to whether he has any appetite for God. And one of the things that many of us found was that the day that Christ came into our hearts, we began to find rising within us the demand for, the appetite for, the love for the scripture.

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