



When God Does Something New Sunday July 27, 2008

While there is nothing new under the sun, there are times when God does "new things" in our midst. These are "new" to us, not new to God.

Ecclesiastes 1:9

That which has been is what will be, That which is done is what will be done, And there is nothing new under the sun.

Isaiah 43:19

Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert.

It is interesting to note how people respond to a new thing God does in their day.

The day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-16

vs 5: "...Jews, devout men.." These were devout men, men who feared God
some reactions when God does something new:

vs 6: "...were confused..."

vs 7: "...were all amazed and marveled..."

vs 12 "...were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"

vs 13: "...mocking..."

We see four different reactions to a new thing that God was doing. These were devout men, and yet they were confused (is it of God or is it of the devil?), marveled (this is supernatural indeed!), perplexed (this does not fit into our reasoning and logic!) and mocking (this cannot be of God!).

Saul and Jesus of Nazareth

Saul was a very devout Jew, highly schooled, highly trained – and yet he persecuted the followers of Jesus of Nazareth – as though Jesus was a false teacher, etc.

1 Timothy 1:13

although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.

Even highly devout, highly learned men (like Saul) can be ignorant and in unbelief when it comes to recognizing the new thing that God is doing!

Peter and the gospel to the Gentiles

Matthew 10:5,6

5 These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans.

6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Acts 10:9-20



Jesus' first instruction to Peter was to minister only to the nation of Israel. However, He left the disciples with a subsequent instruction to go into all the world (Mark 16:15). Peter, was "stuck" with the old instruction while God was ready to do a new thing – take the gospel to the gentiles! The Lord has to some how get his attention to the new thing being released on the earth!

Church History

- Lessons from history impart wisdom. We learn from the mistakes of others and avoid them in our time.
- History enables us to accurately interpret the present.
- Knowing history encourages our faith. We have faith that if God did it in the past, He can do it again!

Reformation : Restoring salvation by faith

John Hus (1373-1415) lived about 100 years before Martin Luther. John Hus was a professor at the University of Prague, and was pastor of the Bethlehem Chapel, the most influential church in Prague. 100 years before Luther, John Hus preached justification by faith and the supreme authority of Scriptures. His preaching angered the church hierarchy and he was burned at the stake as a heretic in 1415!

About 100 years later, on October 31, 1517, Martin Luther (1483-1546) a priest and professor of Theology, nailed his Ninety-five Theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany, which challenged the authority of the Roman Catholic Church. He concluded the Scriptures as final authority, salvation by faith alone rather than church appointed works and sacraments, opposed the selling of indulgences. About the same time there was a reformation led by Ulrich Zwingli (1484-1531) in Zurich, Switzerland.

Luther and Zwingli were referred to as *halfway men* because both of them still retained much of the old order.

Luther and Zwingli did not have all their theology right. Doctrinal errors:

- Church liturgy/Mass
- Halted the destruction of images
- Infant Baptism
- Cessationism

They had revelation – but they were not perfect in every area of their theology. Do we discard therefore discard Luther? Absolutely Not! We still regard him as a man whom God used to bring about the reformation.

Anabaptists means "one who rebaptizes". Insisted baptism for believers opposed the idea of infant baptism. Believed the prophethood of all believers, that all believers could minister. They were severely persecuted both by the Roman Catholic church and the reformed protestants.

Restoring the gifts of the Spirit

Edward Irving (1792-1834) a highly educated man, around 1830 preached about the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and the fact that the power that gave Christ victory of sin and satan was not inherent diety but the presence of the Holy Spirit and therefore His earthly life is a prototype which every



Christian can experience. As he preached this in his at Regent Square church and people were filled with the Spirit with tongues...he was locked out of his church May 04, 1831. He was called a heretic, found guilty and excommunicated from the church of Scotland.

About 70 yrs later 1906, God used a man named William Seymour and the Azusa street revival to restore the baptism in the Holy Spirit and the Pentecostal experience to the Church.

Summary

Two important lessons we must learn from history:

- When ever God used a man to restore a "new" truth (it really was not "new" because it was already in the Scriptures and something the Early Church walked in, but it was "new" in their day) – they were called heretics and excommunicated by the prevailing religious system!
- Even though God used them to restore a specific truth to the Body – they were still not perfect in their theology. We do not disregard them just because of doctrinal faults in other areas.

Application

Personal

God wants to do new things in your life. Things that eyes have not seen, ears have not heard and man has not imagined. How will you respond to the new things God wants to release through you? Are you going to be confused and remain undecided? Are you going to be perplexed and therefore reject it? Or will you allow God to do the new thing – whatever it may be- change your life's plan, change what you have thought all along because of your upbringing, theology, etc.

The Body of Christ Today

In our life time we are going to see God progressively release "new things" in order to bring the Church to where He wants it to be.

In fact, God is doing a new thing right now in our day. He is changing how church looks. We are in the day of the saints – when every saint (child of God) will be equipped and released to do the works of Jesus. We are in a day when signs, wonders and miracles are being revived and released through the church. And again this is not a new thing. The Early Church walked in this!

God is releasing a new thing in the area of worship – where there is more and more spontaneous prophetic Spirit-inspired worship. We are moving away from becoming dependent on hymn books, LCD projectors, etc and coming into a time of Spirit-inspired, straight from the heart, praise and worship to God. And yet this is not a new thing – the Early Church did it this way!

New Wineskin for new wine

A new wineskin is required to contain new wine (Matthew 9:16,17). If you are unwilling to change and hold on to the old wine skin, you will not experience the new wine – the new thing that God is releasing in the earth today!

We must move on with the new thing that God is doing.

Of course, we must test to see if something is truly of God. Is Jesus being worshipped? Is Jesus being glorified and exalted as Lord above all and as the only Lord? Then this is of the Spirit of



God. Are souls being saved through faith in the cross of Jesus Christ? Are people brought into a deeper reverence, passion and intimacy with God? Are the sick being healed through the power of Jesus' name? Then this is of God.

About Todd Bentley and the Lakeland Outpouring

Does it glorify Jesus? *Yes.*

Who do they worship and exalt? *Undoubtedly Jesus our Lord!*

Do they preach the word? *Yes.*

Is it of God? *Yes.*

Is everything being taught at Lakeland correct? *I personally do not know 'everything' that is being taught. While there could be errors, from what I have personally heard (not what others have reported they have heard), I have no reason to doubt what is being taught.*

Are there excesses: hyper-emotionalism, hype, mistakes? *Yes!*

Should we discard what God has done in Lakeland because of the excesses and errors?

Absolutely, No!

Will you encourage me to be associated with Todd Bentley and FFM? *Yes!*

Ashish Raichur



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>