

THE BAPTISM AND REVIVALISM

Some further information needs to be shared concerning the greatly publicized and much admired Revival in Wales which blazed from the fall of 1904 through the spring of 1905. The material comes direct from the leaders involved, and it is not necessary to comment upon the obvious influence of the Baptism of the Spirit upon this Revival.

“Mr. Evan Robert’s message at the commencement of the Welsh Revival was essentially to believers, urging upon them the need of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, and it was only later in the Revival that, for various reasons, he dealt with the unsaved. Today, again, his chief burden is the Church of Christ, especially that they may learn how to overcome the powers of darkness, ignorance of whose ways, he says, was one reason why he was diverted from his commission to the Church, and turned to the general and more superficial work of the later days of the Revival.” — J. Penn-Lewis (1910 *Overcomer*, p. 152.)

“The mistake during the Revival in Wales was to become occupied with the **effects** of Revival, and not watch and pray in protecting and guarding the cause of Revival. The Spirit-baptized souls, at present locked up in spirit, or side-tracked through Satanic deceptions, are still those who would be the instruments through whom God could work, were they but set free. Useless now, but priceless in maturity, and experience and knowledge for guiding and guarding of a revived Church, when they are once more liberated for true co-working with the Holy Spirit of God.” (*War On the Saints*, p. 278.)

“It is with great thankfulness to God that we print in this issue of *The Overcomer* a paper by Mr. Evan Roberts urging prayerful consideration of the subject of the working of demons among the children of God. Mr. Roberts keenly recognizes that in the Revival of Wales there was much mixture in many of the manifestations, and we ourselves saw during the Revival—as doubtless others did—much that we uneasily felt not to be of God, but we did not know then how to ‘prove the spirits,’ nor how they could mislead children of God.

“All who pray for Revival must face the truth, which experience in every country emphasizes as undoubted fact, that **two streams** from the spirit world

come whenever the 'heavens are opened,' unless the children of God know how to discern the working of the Holy Spirit from lying spirits. There were two streams in Wales almost from the beginning of the Revival, and the late Dr. Worrell stated that his close scrutiny of the Pentecostal movement in Los Angeles led him also to discern that there were two currents at work in the movement there. As we have carefully watched and examined individual cases for the last three years, it is growing upon us that there is also the possibility of two powers at work in the **individual**, i.e., God the Holy Spirit in the centre of the man, and demons fastened upon the circumference, either mind, or body, wherever certain conditions admit their entry." —J. Penn-Lewis (1910 Overcomer, pp. 15, 38.)

"There is a cloud of pessimism and depression upon Wales just now. There is power locked up in God's faithful children enough to shake the land again, if that power could only break through the weight which has come upon it. Were not most of us ignorant when the supernatural forces fell upon the land? Were we not as those who were walking in a strange realm, knowing little what was happening? We did not understand clearly about the principalities and powers, and, in our ignorance, all these dark hosts gathered around, and they slowly stole again upon the land that God had claimed. They stole upon the Church, and upon the living witnesses, and bore upon them the crushing weight of opposition and darkness, criticism, unkindness and coldness." —J. Penn-Lewis (1910 Over-comer, p. 142.)

"The hindrance to Revival at the present time lies, not only in this opposition of the powers of darkness, but in the present condition of the most spiritual section of the Church, through whom alone God can work in Revival power. These are believers who know the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and were liberated in spirit in the Revival, but are now driven back into themselves by the pressure of the enemy in the atmosphere, or else are in captivity to the foe through his counterfeits. In past Revivals people have sometimes been driven into asylums. There ought to come a Revival which will bring souls out of them!

"When I visited Wales in April last (1910) it was upon me to move freely about and amongst the people blest in the late Revival, and help them by my own experience during the past six years, but I found the conflict with the powers

of darkness too great to permit of this, and so I returned to Leicester to further pray the matter through.

“When I again visited Wales in August and met numbers of those whom God had blest in the 1904 Revival, and found how they had failed to maintain the spiritual position gained in the Revival, it was again clear to me that specially trained men was the need. The **light** was now wanted by many of the Revival converts to release the **life** which is in them—life now checked from outflow for lack of light upon their own condition and things around them.” —Evan Roberts (1910 *Overcomer*, pp. 9, 177.)

“The aftermath of the Revival in Wales revealed numbers of ‘honest souls’ swept off their feet by evil supernatural powers, which they were not able to discern from the true working of God. And later still than the Welsh Revival, there have been other ‘movements,’ with large numbers of earnest servants of God swept into deception, through the wiles of deceiving spirits counterfeiting the workings of God; all ‘honest souls’ deceived by the subtle foe, and certain to be led into still deeper deception, notwithstanding their honesty and earnestness, if they are not awakened to ‘return to soberness’ and recovery out of the snare of the devil into which they have fallen.

“These supernatural forces of Satan are the true Revival hindrance. The power of God which broke forth in Wales, with all the marks of the days of Pentecost, was checked and hindered from going on to its fullest purpose. The inroad of the powers of darkness found the Christians of the twentieth century, with few exceptions, unable to recognize, and deal with them. Evil spirit possession has followed, and checked every similar Revival throughout the centuries since Pentecost. Mixed ‘manifestations’ have come upon the Church of God, since the Revival in Wales; for, almost without exception, in every land where Revival has broken out, within a very brief period of time the counterfeit stream has mingled with the true.” (War On the Saints, pp. 45, 48, 101.)

“It is a great responsibility to pray for Revival. Supposing there was an immediate world-wide Revival, the devil would dash it at once with his counterfeits! If Revival came, and you do not understand how to beat back the powers of darkness, you would be worse off than before, for the Satanic forces would be rampant.” —E. Roberts (1910 *Overcomer*, p. 5.)

“‘Revival’ and the ‘Baptism of the Spirit’ mean the same thing. If every child of God received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, there would be Revival. Revival is an influx of the Spirit, as on the Day of Pentecost, on the one hand, and it is an outflow of the Holy Spirit through the organ of man’s spirit on the other.”
—J. P-L. (1912 Overcomer, p. 105.)

“The period in the believer’s life wherein he receives the Baptism of the Spirit is the special time of danger from the evil supernatural world, and the Baptism of the Spirit is the essence of Revival. Revival dawn, is, therefore, the great moment for deceiving spirits to find entrance into the believer by deception through counterfeits, resulting sometimes in possession. The hour of Revival is a time of crisis and possible catastrophe.

“Revival is the hour and power of God, **and of the Devil**, for the descent of the Divine power brings the accompanying onslaught of evil supernatural powers. Revival itself is the hour of God, but when the Divine power appears to pass away, and evil supernatural powers manifest their workings in a man, or a church, or a country, then men marvel that the devil’s work should be where God has been so manifest, not knowing that the devil was planting his seeds, and doing his work, from the very dawn of the Revival. Revival ebb began with its flow, but all unseen.

“To put it in the bluntest language, the Revival hour is the occasion for demons to obtain possession of spiritual believers, and Revival ceases because of such possession. The most spiritual believers, baptized with the Holy Spirit, and most fitted to be used of God in Revival service, may become deceived and possessed by demons in their outer being through accepting the counterfeits of Satan.

“The history of all Revivals of the past shows that Revival minus war on Satan and his wicked spirits, must always appear to end in partial failure through the mixed results, consequent upon Satanic counterfeits of the working of the Holy Spirit. The Church, therefore, sorely needs believers equipped with knowledge and discernment, to meet the Satanic counterfeits which invariably follow the advent of Revival, knowing the symptoms of Satanic deception and possession, and able to resist the powers of darkness, and teach the children of God the way of victory over them, as well as aggressive warfare upon them. War upon the attacking spirits of evil is indispensable for maintaining the

health, sanity and spiritual power of those who are revived.” (War On the Saints, pp. 48-134.)

“Mr. Roberts said that he sees a vast number of spiritual believers who needed deliverance from the powers of darkness, because they had become entangled by the counterfeits of Satan. For Revival in England, meetings should be held specially for believers to receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost; as it was clear to him that many have taken it by faith, who did not know it actually in experience.” (1911 Overcomer, p. 124.)

“There is danger of widespread ‘confessions of sin’ during times of Revival, when almost a ‘wave’ of ‘confession’ passes over a community, and the depths of sinful lives are exposed to the gaze of others; through this enabling the lying spirits to disseminate the very poison of the pit into the atmosphere, and into the minds of the listeners.” (War On the Saints, p. 134.)

“It is deeply touching that the truths given in the pages of The Overcomer by Mr. Evan Roberts concerning the deception and possession of believers through accepting Satan’s counterfeits, should reach one of the ‘children of the Welsh Revival’ thus wrecked by the enemy. Mr. Robert’s ceaseless burden of prayer for the past several years has been for believers in this condition.” —J. P-L. (1912 Overcomer, p. 171.)

“All Revivals that have come about through any known instruments, have had their rise through those who bear witness to some definite experience which they may, or may not, describe as a ‘Baptism of the Holy Spirit.’ Finney, for instance, and others who are well known.” —J. Penn-Lewis (1912 Overcomer, p. 82.)