

If Christ be in you...

*Romans 8:11 - And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.*

*Matthew 10:1 - Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.*

*Matthew 10:8 - Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.*

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

The Book of Acts is the record of the early church, evangelizing the world around them. They actually did what they were told to do. There was little organizational structure, ecclesiastical rules or denominational distinctives. They did not have a denoted hierarchy with rules of office, in fact Paul started churches and within a month or so move on to another place, leaving new converts to replicate what he had started.

How different is this from our complex and well-structured church of today. But they had one thing that we seem to have lost in our day, they recognized the power of His presence and the personal gifting of what His presence in them was all about. They did not study the works of Christ as much as they 'DID' the works of the indwelling presence of Christ.

In our modern church life, we create programs for this that and the other, we hold seminars for a variety of well-meaning things and we have a regular place of assembly, a staff to facilitate our endeavors and structured leadership to hold it all together. We are organized, sophisticated, and make certain that our gathering is professionally presented. We are good at doing church.

But I ask, do we still heal the sick, raise the dead, drive out evil spirits, and present Christ as the all-sufficient savior who is present, powerful, and available?

The fact is, wherever we go He is there, as certainly as He was with the disciples before His resurrection. He is with us to work through us at the same dynamic level of power as at any time in history. The creator God is still creating, is still manifesting His power and presence – if we will but recognize Him and release Him through us.

Possibly our clamor for a revival reveals our lack of perception, that He is here, now and available to continue His redeeming work through us. If so, then 'Revival' is not a movement of God but a realization on our part of the Power of His abiding presence.