

But in any case, whichever is the right diagnosis, it can hardly be doubted that the immaturities of the charismatic vision of Christian life can only be cured through a theological deepening that will result in an acuter self-awareness and self-criticism. It is to be hoped that such a deepening will soon come.

9. REVIVAL. The charismatic movement, though a genuine renewing of much that belongs to healthy biblical Christianity, does not exhibit all the features that belong to God's work of revival. While vigorously grasping the joys of firm faith, it knows too little of the awesome searchlight of God's holiness and the consequent godly sorrow of radical repentance. Also, in settling for the joys of faith and the celebrating of gifts the movement has, as it seems, been satisfied too easily and too soon. There is need to go, not back, but on from the point it has currently reached to seek the richer reality of God's reviving visitation, toward which this movement, please God, will prove to have been a step on the way. . . .

Packer goes on to say:

. . . We need to move, not away from, or past, but through and then beyond the charismatic renewal. For Scripture shows that there is more to the renewing of the church than the common charismatic emphases cover.

Scripture points to a recurring process whereby, following upon coldness, carelessness, and unfaithfulness among God's people, God himself acts in sovereignty to restore what was ready to perish by means of the following set of events:

**GOD COMES DOWN.** (See Isaiah 64:1). He makes known his inescapable presence as the Holy One, mighty and majestic, confronting his own people both to humble and to exalt, and reaching out into the wider world in mercy and in judgment.

**GOD'S WORD COMES HOME.** The Bible, its message, and its Christ reestablish the formative and corrective control over faith and life that are theirs by right.

**GOD'S PURITY COMES THROUGH.** As God uses his Word to quicken consciences, the perverseness, ugliness, uncleanness, and guilt of sin are seen and felt with new clarity, and the depth of each person's own sinfulness is realized as never before. Believers are deeply humbled; unbelievers are made to feel that living as they do with sin and without God is intolerable, and the forgiveness of sins becomes the most precious truth in the creed.

**GOD'S PEOPLE COME ALIVE.** Repentance and restitution, faith, hope, and love, joy and peace, praise and prayer, conscious communion with Christ, confident certainty of salvation, uninhibited boldness of testimony, readiness to share, and a spontaneous